



# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating  
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.  
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**JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – see pages 8 & 9**

## Tea and Cakes

It was lovely to sit outside and catch up with people at May's Tea and Cakes. Looking forward to June's event, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room.



*Val and the team*

## West Wrating Café

Almost £250 was raised at the café in May, and this will support the West Wrating Jubilee street party.

There will be no Saturday morning café in June. Our next West Wrating Café will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

*Sherry (290070) and Jan*

## Weston Colville Heritage Map

As part of my sixth form studies, I have created a heritage map of Weston Colville which will be on display on 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Reading Room during the Queen's Jubilee celebration.

Your feedback on this project is very important to me so I will be present between 10 am and 12 noon and again from 2 until 4 pm, and a notebook for comments will also be available.

Once funding is secured, the intention is that the final version will be on permanent display outside the Reading Room.

*Emily Jackson*

## Book Exchange at Church End

This month's photo shows the phone box in all its newly-decorated and jubilee-ready glory! Thank you to the project team for their hard work in making it look so good.

If you're reading this as soon as your Challenge is delivered, there's a last chance to catch our gardening books which will be 'rotated' on 1<sup>st</sup> June. As usual, if you have books to donate, a handful will fit in the red box on the floor, and if you have a bag of books to put in, just leave them on one of our doorsteps, or call Joyce on 07980 404764. Happy reading!



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

## Volunteers needed to join West Wrating Parish Council

Are you interested in helping shape the life of your village?

Our local environment, road safety, recreational facilities, planning and housing issues are just a few of the areas where we get involved to help make a positive difference to our community.

At the moment the Parish Council is made up of five members of the public, assisted by our Parish Clerk.

Meetings are held on Mondays at 8 pm every two months. If you are interested in joining our team, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

To find out more please contact our Parish Clerk, Jennifer Richards  
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**Weston Colville Circular Walk**

Our May walk took us through Lower Wood, and we just caught the bluebells, which like many things seem to be earlier this spring.

The next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Meet at the Reading Room



at 10 am, BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. Come and join us – all welcome, refreshments available.


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

**Pop-up-pub and Pimp my Fish**

Early warning for your diary: the Reading Room, Weston Colville, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July. It would be nice to meet up on what could be the hottest day of the year!


*Reading Room Committee*

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**West Wrattling Book Club**

We read two books for May: ‘Silverview’ by John le Carré and ‘A Short History of the World According to Sheep’ by Sally Coulthard.

The opinions of ‘Silverview’ ranged from “a sharp well-written spy thriller” to “an OK story” and “took a while to get the gist of the book”. It was thought that one of the main characters, Julian, was not entirely credible. It was reminiscent of his previous book, ‘Our Kind of Traitor’, with ordinary people being drawn into the shadowy world of espionage. Some thought it a good ending while one person was a little confused. We enjoyed the fact that much of the action is in Suffolk, with the usual fun of identifying the places depicted. Scores varied from 3 to 8 out of 10.

In general most of us enjoyed ‘A Short History of the World According to Sheep’, the fascinating and interesting examination of how sheep and wool has affected the development of civilisations, societies and all our lives over the millennia. From Babylonian and Biblical references through the source of lactose intolerance, bog bodies wrapped in woollen cloth, the Highland Clearances to the ‘traditional’ 20<sup>th</sup> century Icelandic sweaters, there is a wealth of intriguing facts. It is a great read for anyone interested in

archaeology, anthropology and social history, or for Trivial Pursuit players. It was suggested that it might have been better edited and, perhaps, lacked a narrative thread and cohesiveness. One person felt it was too much like a text book. Scores were mainly in the range 7.5 – 9 with one 4.

We will meet next on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm to discuss ‘The Wide Sargasso Sea’ by Jean Rhys. We will then have our summer break when we will be reading two books from the Big Jubilee Read book list, ‘The Adoption Papers’ by Jackie Kay and ‘The Nowhere Man’ by Kamala Markandaya, date in September to be announced. Do join us to have a chat and share refreshments while we discuss the books. Don’t worry if you didn’t like them or finish them – your input will still be valued.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

**Free Greenhouse**

I have an aluminium 8' x 6' greenhouse available for free. It's currently assembled and fully glazed, apart from two panes which were lost during the last storm. I can help with dismantling and possibly moving it. If interested, please call me on 290060.

*Phil Tempest, West Wrattling*

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### Parish Matters

It seems impossible to imagine that we are half way through 2022, but what a joy it is to see spring flowers, the birds singing and the longer days.



As we celebrate the changing seasons I recently heard on the radio a folk song by the Byrds with the lyrics taken from Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven". On a trip to Bury the next day there it was on the radio again. All of us at times in our lives face change, even when we have had a period of stability, including me! Prior to moving here I spent three years as a curate in the Raddesley group, near Newmarket. And now, after eleven years, I am retiring from this group of parishes, with my final service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am at Balsham church. I plan to take six months off and see where God leads me after that.

It has been a great joy to walk beside so many people over that time. I have completed all the challenges presented with the help of God, and have grown in confidence. I have been able to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice.

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There is so much happening in our fast changing world today. Although the pandemic is subsiding we continue to face climate change and poverty in many parts of our society, and of course the war in Ukraine is never far from our thoughts. But we can respond by being compassionate and showing love to each other. Our churches offer a warm welcome and even a visit to the church when it is empty offers a stillness and much to sustain us when times are difficult. We are all being called to have greater resilience as we work together in the future.

May I wish you all a very happy Jubilee weekend and I look forward to seeing you all as I go about my daily life.

Every blessing,

*Rev Kathy Bishop*

### Nature Notes

Marsh Tits are still deep in the woods, breeding in warm, dark places just like clothes moths. The juveniles will be venturing to your garden feeders by the end of June. Please report any young Marsh Tits to me ( [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) ) or to Challenge. They're easy to spot: slightly smaller than a Blue Tit, greyish body, big black crown like a male Blackcap, lots of pale yellow around the face and a gauche, foolhardy disposition like any early teenager.

Your adult Cuckoos will start to leave the UK this month. Did you know that the famous 'cuck-koo' call made by males varies during the year? The two-note call is a descending minor third in April, but over time the drop in pitch widens to a major third and then a fourth, until by June the Cuckoo can even change its call to an ascending interval. Since the Cuckoo doesn't raise its own chicks and so doesn't have to

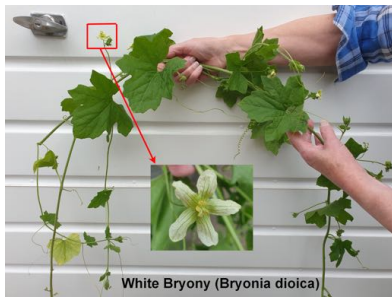


hold territory to feed them, I suspect this apathetic attitude to calling is linked to sex: when mating time is over, the males simply don't care anymore . . .

You may see lots of webs in shrubs whose leaves have been stripped. It's not spiders, but moth caterpillars. Various species can be responsible, eg Spindle Ermine and the infamous Box Tree Moth, but the Browntail Moth needs a special mention. Its caterpillars are hairy, dark brown with a distinct white line down each side, and are 7 mm - 38 mm in length. The hairs cause a nasty skin rash. Here's a photo of one. Avoid!



If you like growing your own veg, I have an unusual hazard for you: White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*). It is a common native climbing weed with five-pointed leaves up to 20 cm across, small white starlike flowers and red to purple berries. The photo shows White



Bryony expertly modelled by my other half Eileen. This plant is poisonous – eating it will give you acute diarrhoea – and it will cross-fertilise with its relative, the Courgette

(aka Zucchini). Courgettes raised from hybrid seed taste very bitter and can give acute stomach-ache. Around 2020, two major seed suppliers, Unwins and Mr Fothergill's, are reported to have unwittingly sold Courgette seed which could have hybridised with White Bryony. According to the BBC and The Sun, illnesses occurred after eating Courgettes grown from this seed, including one hospitalisation. Unwins

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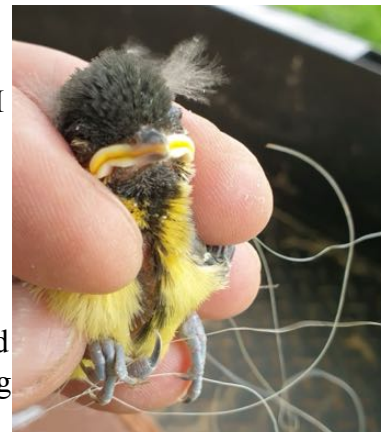
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temporarily suspended sales of the seed for investigation and Mr Fothergill's issued a product recall of batch code 'Aug 20 I'. Best not let White Bryony grow near your veg plot! Read for yourself at <https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2020/07/zucchini-linked-to-rare-poisonings-in-england/> and at <https://www.bhaf.org.uk/content/advice/gardening-advice-a-z/poisonous-courgette-warning>.

And finally, this photo of a Great Tit chick was taken last month during licensed nestbox monitoring. It's about nine days old, halfway through its stay in the nest. Please note the horse hair entangled around the chick, which I carefully removed. Horsehair is almost as strong as steel wire and can easily kill or maim a young bird. Parent birds collect it from stables and paddock fences as nesting material. When you brush your horse or go round a paddock, please think of your feathered friends and try not to leave horsehair anywhere they can pilfer it. Ta muchly . . .



*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group*

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**Weston Colville Green Group**

Our second meeting, at Katrin’s, was as enjoyable and fruitful as the first. We covered a wide range of topics:

**Recycling**

Rosemary had tried to arrange a visit to the Recycling Centre at Milton. Unfortunately they are not doing tours at the moment but Rosemary talked to someone who will come to the village to give us an interactive talk on recycling – ‘What to put where and what happens to it’ sort of thing. She will contact them again to look at possible dates and the proposal was to hold this in the Reading Room with suitable publicity. It will be in July or afterwards.

The Big Plastic Count, organised by Greenpeace, happened 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May and some of us had signed up for this, to contribute data on the sort of plastic that we throw away (surprisingly this data hasn’t been collected before on a large scale).

For those of you unfortunate enough to generate a lot of medicine blister packs, Superdrug will take the empty ones for recycling.

It was pointed out that [www.musicmagpieplc.com/](http://www.musicmagpieplc.com/) will buy old phones, CDs, DVDs etc if you are looking to get rid of outdated media etc. We also talked about

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Repair Cafes. Circular Cambridge organise one and their next event is on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. For more information, see <http://circularcambridge.org/events/cambridge-repair-cafe/>. Transition Cambridge and Cambridge Carbon Footprint also organise a repair café; for info go to <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/cambridge-repair-cafe/>

**Composting and Wormeries**

I have talked to the Suffolk Composters and will follow up with Cambridge with a view to the Master Composters course. The website [Wormery.co.uk](http://Wormery.co.uk) sells wormeries and gives advice on these organic recyclers.

**Refills**

Balsham Post Office do a range of refill products.

We all agreed that it was great to see so many hedgerows and trees being planted by local estates and farmers – thank you!

The next meeting is on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. If you are interested in attending (the meetings last about an hour) or joining the Village Green WhatsApp group please contact me or the Weston Colville Whatsapp group.

**Jackie Brearley (290076, [jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk))**



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### The Balsham Feast

The Balsham Feast is back! And you are invited . . .

The Feast is a biennial event bringing our wider communities and villages together with plenty of fun activities for all ages.

After a gap in 2020, the Feast returns on 2<sup>nd</sup> July on the village



recreation ground, 12.30 -11 pm, with donkey rides, crazy golf, inflatables, classic cars, raptors, teddy bear drops and many more activities.

Refreshments are available throughout the day. A café will be serving cakes, tea, coffee, soft drinks and pizzas during the day. Balsham scouts provide a daytime and evening BBQ and the Black Bull runs the bar.

Music includes the Haverhill Silver Band, The Balsham Singers, the Cambridge University Ceilidh Band and Life and Soul.

All major activities are free of charge.

Alan Herron (Facebook - @balshamfeast)

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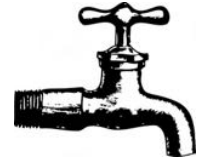
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### Balsham Picture House

BPH's next film will be 'West Side Story' (12) from acclaimed producer and director Steven Spielberg.

With a script by screen writer and playwright Tony Kushner, this 2021 OSCAR-winning film is an adaptation of the 1957 hit musical, and tells of forbidden love and the rivalry between the JETS and the SHARKS, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds.



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June; doors open 7 pm and film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute.

Guest visitors £3, annual adult membership £12. Dave's bar will be open for pre-show drinks and nibbles as usual.

Dick Paden



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## **West Wrattling Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

A chance to raise the flag!

**Beacon / Bonfire** ~ do come to the village celebration on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.30 pm for our beacon / bonfire lighting in a field at the top of Honey Hill (CB21 5NQ). You get a great view of other villages and their bonfires from there – and can even see over to Ely. To make it special, we will have our own local horn blower announcing the beacon lighting with a solo fanfare!

*and*

**The Street Party** ~ in The Causeway on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30 pm. Starting with an all-village photo shoot (by the pump), followed by specially prepared party food, tea and cake for everyone. A live music band will be playing all afternoon.

Please bring a bottle if you wish, but soft drink and tea will be served for all. There'll be children's games and competitions on the church grounds.

*and*

**Flower Festival and Songs of Praise** ~ the village church will be open over Saturday and Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June, with a fantastic flower festival including a display from each of the various groups held in the village, eg Keep Fit; Friday-night in the pub; Book Club, etc. A village photo archive and some Jubilee memorabilia will be on view too.

In addition a special Jubilee Songs of Praise will be held in the church from 10.30 to 11.15 am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, led by Amanda Goodman. (Please park cars in the High Street that morning).

### **Please note:**

**The Beacon/Bonfire** ~ a few safety rules that we must be aware of:

1. There are no footpaths up the hill, and it will be nearly dark, so please take care, particularly with

children. Bring a torch. Marshals will be stationed on the road.

2. No food or drink will be permitted on the site. It's working farmland which Robert Covey has kindly given us permission to use.
3. Parents/carers are responsible for children at all times.
4. Please leave the site promptly after the event, as the team will have to ensure the fire is properly extinguished.

**The Street Party** ~ The Causeway will be closed to cars all morning and afternoon. Transport can be offered to anyone who has difficulty in getting to and from The Causeway. Please contact Suan Rowland ([suanrowland@btinternet.com](mailto:suanrowland@btinternet.com)) if you would like a lift.

**Weather** ~ of course the sun will shine – but if wet we'll be in the village hall.

*Scilla Harvey and the Planning Committee*



## **Weston Colville Fun Run**

Meet at the end of Horseshoe Lane for an 8.30 am start on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Free to enter, and medals for younger participants.

Suitable for all ages, with two options:

1. Loop of the cricket pitch (for younger children);
  2. Loop of 3.5 km (for 11 years and over) on the bridle path from Horseshoe Lane towards Willingham Green, returning via the footpath past Lower Wood.
- Marshalled, with route markers.



*Sarah Green (07932 667895)*



## JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Mary's, Weston Colville

3rd, 4th, 5th June

10 am - 5 pm

REFRESHMENTS



### Fun Dog Show

Are you working on your tricks for the 'Best Trick' class? Can your dog resist treats when you are calling them? Who has the waggiest tail in the village?

Just a reminder that the Fun Dog Show will be starting at 3 pm on 5<sup>th</sup> June on the cricket field, with all the other Jubilee celebrations.

Any questions: please contact me, Joyce Oliver, or Sarah Arnold, on the Village WhatsApp site or through my email, [jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk)

See you there – with or without a dog.

*Jackie Brearley*

### Weston Colville Barbecue

To give us an idea of numbers for the barbecue, please complete the tick sheet on the separate flyer.

### Weston Colville Platinum Jubilee Mugs

Anyone wishing to purchase one of the commemorative mugs (£5 each) should contact me. Spares will be allocated on a first come, first served basis until all the mugs have gone.

*Bridget Durham, Weston Colville Parish Council*

### Weston Colville Reading Room Available for Hire



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for information on:

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

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

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

The meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May was the first meeting of the new financial year and although there was an uncontested election there were still formalities to be carried out. Matters discussed included the following:

#### **Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman &**

**Representatives:** Cllr Nichols is to be Chairman.

The position of Vice Chairman was left until the next meeting. Cllrs Roberts and Nichols agreed to continue as the representatives on the Sports Pavilion Committee and Tim Bonfield and Martin Davey, although no longer councillors, said they were happy to be representatives on the Village Hall Committee.

**Planning:** details of planning applications are included in the minutes. There was just one application which had not been dealt with, 22/01473, 1 & 2 Wadlow Cotts, and it was agreed to support this.

#### **Maintenance:**

a) Increases in budget for maintenance: it was agreed that the Tennis Club contribution towards maintenance should be increased from £60 to £70 per year and the WWFC contribution to be increased from £200 to £220.

b) Grass verges & pocket park maintenance contract: Quotes had been received and it was agreed to give the contract to a local business, William Knoweldon Garden Services.

c) Risk assessment of village assets: the parish clerk had carried out a risk assessment of the various assets owned by the village, eg village hall, the pound, the pump shelter, bus shelters etc. All was in good order.

**Village Hall:** Martin Davey had reported that the village hall is being well looked after and is at present well-funded.

**Recreation Ground & Pavilion:** the chairman had two keys for the gate, one she gave to Cllr Chandler and the other she will keep.

#### **Traffic issues & Speed Restriction Equipment:**

Tim Bonfield and Martn Davey will continue with erection of the speed signs poles, the purchase of which is in hand.

**Play Area:** RoSPA had carried out their safety inspection and apart from some minor faults the report was satisfactory.

**Jubilee Celebrations:** the parish council has paid for the insurance needed to hold a street party and will contribute a further £130, making a total of £300.

**Reports by District & County Cllrs:** – the March/April reports are shown on the website. Cllr Harvey was congratulated on being re-elected.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATE FOR THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 8 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL. ALL WELCOME.

The **West Wratting Annual Parish Meeting** was also held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Reports were received from village organisations, and will be in the July issue of *Challenge* and on the village noticeboards.

### ***Weston Colville Parish Council***

The Annual Parish Meeting and AGM were held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The matters discussed included the following:

#### ***Annual Parish Meeting***

**Chairman's Welcome and Annual Report** – the chairman delivered his annual report.

**Parish Nurse Scheme** – Keith Day and Kim Cox delivered a presentation about the Parish Nurse Scheme. They thanked the council for past support. The scheme was church-led, but open to all; 80% of those helped had no faith. Kim Cox works two days a week but could do more. Her main role was as an advocate, delivering whole person healthcare. She has an honorary contract with Granta Medical Practice, and could task GPs to act. Her other role was as an advisor, navigator, and referral agent. She has 80 people on file, with 30 who are seen regularly. Funding comes from personal donations and PC donations.

**Heritage Map** – a parishioner is producing a Heritage Map of Weston Colville as part of an extended project qualification (EPQ) from Hills Road. The project started during lockdown. Material has been gathered from primary and secondary historical sources, and the Reading Room Committee have applied for a Community Chest grant to create the sign. The design of the sign will be finalised after the Platinum Jubilee, and will be on display in the Reading Room on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, for parishioners to look at, and make



suggestions for additional items to be added. There will be a QR code, as not all the detailed information will fit on the map. It will be placed at the Reading Room next to the village sign.

It was suggested by Cllr Durham that permissive paths were added, which could be found on the CCC highways maps. It was suggested an extra copy was printed for inside the Reading Room, to complement the historic maps. Everyone congratulated the parishioner for her efforts.

**Public Comments and Questions** – a parishioner spoke on his report on flooding. He had sent it to the CCC Flood Risk Officer, Brian Heffernan and had met with him.

### ***Annual General Meeting of WCPC***

#### **Election of Officers:**

Chairman Cllr Vidler  
Vice Chair Cllr Durham

#### **Representatives/Responsibilities:**

Financial Overseer Cllr Garrod  
Combined Parishes Meeting Rep Cllr Vidler  
Footpaths – Cllr Durham  
Tree Warden Cllr Garrod  
Flood Wardens Cllrs Garrod, Parker and  
Durham, Alistair Douglas and  
Peter White  
LHI bids Cllrs Ashbridge and Hubbard  
Wadlow Windfarm Rep Cllr Durham

Cllr Harvey was congratulated on being re-elected as District Cllr. He delivered a brief report.

Cllr Garrod reported that despite trying to swap grit bins, a yellow one was in situ behind the bus shelter. A new sack truck had been received. The new drains along Mill Hill were filled with rubbish, Alistair Douglas was to be asked to clear them.

**SID and LHI** – the LHI bid was unsuccessful.

**Footpaths** – the permissive path to Lower Wood from Mill Hill has been rescinded, and walkers should take the footpath again.

**Platinum Jubilee event** – an application for a Community Chest grant was unfortunately unsuccessful.

**Risk Assessment/Health and Safety** – the defibrillator was rescue-ready on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The risk assessment for the Jubilee event would be covered by the Reading Room.

**Playground** – the play equipment safety report from David Bracey was received. Some concerns had been raised, and there would be an update from Cllr Hubbard in July.

**Finance** – £500 will be donated to the Parish Nurse Scheme. It was suggested that accounts for Briggs Gift were changed, as the interest generated was not covering the donations.

The next WCPC meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

*Jess Ashbridge, Weston Colville Parish Clerk*

### ***District and County Councillor's Report***

South Cambridgeshire District Council held elections at the beginning of May and we're both very pleased to say that Geoff was re-elected to represent Balsham, Horseheath, Carlton, West Wrattling, West Wickham and Weston Colville for another four years.

Regardless of who, if anyone, you voted for, Geoff represents everybody in the constituency on the District Council and is really looking forward to continuing to do so.

The full election results across the whole of South Cambridgeshire are: Liberal Democrats – 37 councillors; Conservatives – 7 councillors. No other political parties are represented on the council.

The next upgrade to be implemented on the A1307 is the safer crossing point at the Hildersham junction. This involves putting in a crossing that all non-motorised users (pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) can use. This has begun already and will be fully completed in the summer.

In the last year we have both taken on new responsibilities at the District Council; Henry took on the role of Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, and he is also Chair of Planning Committee at the County Council. Geoff jointly chairs the Environment Committee.

The County Council has now officially moved from its premises at Shire Hall, Cambridge to a new purpose-built office in Alconbury Weald. Shire Hall was sold off to a hotel company with a view to renovating the building. The County Council will still have satellite offices around Cambridgeshire, including one in Cambridge, which will be our closest.

*SCDC – Geoff Harvey, geoff.harvey@gmail.com*

*CCC – Henry Batchelor, henrybatchelor89@gmail.com*

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**Balsham WI**

For our members’ meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May we were joined by Becky from Blissful Steps for a reflexology demonstration.

Becky trained in reflexology during the lockdown and now runs her business part time from her home in Balsham. She explained how reflexology dates back thousands of years, and that massaging areas on the feet corresponding to different parts of the body can bring balance and restoration to the whole body.

She then demonstrated the technique on one of our members, starting with a massage to relax and then movements with the thumb, almost caterpillar-like, moving up the foot. It was clear that our willing volunteer was thoroughly relaxed and enjoyed the treatment. We also had the opportunity to ask questions during the demonstration. We can thoroughly recommend Becky for anyone wanting to try reflexology. The evening ended with the chance to chat and discuss upcoming events.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June and will be a walking tour around some village gardens, which have been kindly opened up to us by their owners. Meet in The Bell carpark at 6.45 pm.

*Sarah Evans (290802)*

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**Linton & District Historical Society**

For the last meeting of our present season of talks we welcomed Abby Lockett from Marie Curie, who spoke to us of the wide range of support they give to people from all walks of life suffering with a wide range of illness, as well as helping families when faced with end of life care for their relatives. Although attendance was low (maybe it was something to do with it being the hottest day of the year so far) an interesting question and answer time followed.

As the name Linton and District Society suggests, topics based with a local theme especially are welcomed; if you or you know of someone who is prepared to speak at one of our meetings, please get in touch: 01223 893915, [ldhscamb@gmail.com](mailto:ldhscamb@gmail.com)

On a historical theme – how many of us can remember the Queen’s Coronation Day back in 1953?

As young children we were crammed together with relatives, friends and neighbours around a small black and white television (probably bought especially for this great occasion) watching the proceedings as the rain poured down!

Nonetheless, there was great excitement watching a flickering television screen, taking pride of place on a table in the corner of the living room, with pictures coming all the way from London. How times have changed – almost anyone can now access any event worldwide using the modern devices available.

The Queen, like so many others, has been through some difficult times of late. Let us hope she has a joyful day. If you, your friends and neighbours have planned a get-together to mark this Platinum Jubilee, have a lovely day.

*Margaret Creek (893915, [ldhscamb@gmail.com](mailto:ldhscamb@gmail.com))*

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### *The Meadow, Balsham*

In May, we had the delight of taking our Year 5 and 6 children to the O2 in London to be part of the Young Voices 2022 celebrations. It was an extra special year as it was the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the concerts. We arrived in London to glorious sunshine and had a picnic outside the O2 which helped to build the excitement and anticipation. When we first walked through the doors of the O2, most of the children were in total awe at the size of the venue.

We had four hours of rehearsals which involved singing the medleys and songs we have been practising for months,

learning how to beat box and doing some street dance, then after tea the show began. We were part of a choir of 7,000



children singing for their schools. The audience was even larger – 10,000 people came to watch. The lights, singing, dancing, special guest stars and the atmosphere made it an event to never forget. We couldn't have been prouder of the children. It was an exceptionally long day, not getting back to school until 11.25 at night, but it was absolutely worth it!

It has been fantastic to see the children back once again taking part in competitive sport. We have attended the Bee Netball tournament, St Neots Cross Country relay race, Y5/6 Tag Rugby and Y5/6 Football.

Two years ago, we started experiencing some issues with our swimming pool, then Covid hit and the pool wasn't needed. This year, we had to make a big decision: did we bite the bullet and try to source funds to repair the pool and build new changing rooms, or did we look to swim at a local leisure centre? With the support of our Academy Trust, Anglian Learning, we made the decision to repair and rebuild our pool. Some amazing new changing rooms are being built, and the pool has a wonderful new liner, and is currently being filled up. We are planning to start swimming at the beginning of June and after two years of no swimming we cannot wait!

*Nichola Pickford, Headteacher*

### *Marsh Mail*

A highlight of the summer term so far has been an amazing dance show. Following a fantastic performance of the Grimm Fairy Tales just before Easter, a large cast was involved in a spectacular range of dance performances. Students from all year groups were involved in stunning pieces including original choreography inspired by Malala's campaign for education for girls, Amanda Gorman's inauguration poem, plus musicals including Matilda, Hairspray and La La Land.

Our Year 11s were treated to a re-creation of another musical as the staff of LVC dressed up as the students of Rydell High for the Leavers' goodbye video. Celebrations included a photo reel from Year 7, games on the school field, food, and a visiting ice cream van.

GCSE exams have returned this year following two years of alternative assessment. Our students have started the exam series, which is more spread out than in previous years, with great maturity and focus. We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them back at school dressed up in their finery to enjoy the Prom on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

*Helena Marsh*

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## 2523 Linton Air Cadets

Our cadets had a fantastic time at camp, with activities including fieldcraft,



abseiling, arms drill and flying in an RAF Chinook.

We were lucky enough to visit the British Model Flying Association 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday event at Old Warden airfield, where eight Linton cadets got

a private tour of the Shuttleworth Collection museum and demonstrations in drone racing, virtual reality drone flying and model rocketry. The cadets were even able to be on launch control and launch the rockets themselves. "It was great to be able to have a physical demonstration of rocketry." said Sgt Morris. "We have theoretical space training but seeing the rockets and launching them in person really makes the syllabus come to life."

We have an exciting schedule ahead including powered flying at RAF Cranwell, and sector field day where cadets compete in leadership, first aid, drill and more. Our jubilee parade practice is underway and we look forward to parading the union and squadron standards at several events over the coming months.

**Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer**  
(07943 873272, [training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk))

## The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

The new **Laser Tag Club** for children 6 - 12 yrs old has now started on Fridays 5 - 6 pm and costs £4 per week. Book online at [www.slsportanded.co.uk](http://www.slsportanded.co.uk).

**Music Evening** with Johnny Wright and friends, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 5 - 8 pm.

Bring a blanket; please don't bring your own food and drink as there will be a BBQ and Bar. Entry is free, but please let the centre know if you will be attending.

**Yard Sale**, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am - 2 pm. Refreshments available at the centre. Tables £5 at your address or £10 at the Ellesmere Centre. Please contact us for more details.

**Summer Show** – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 12 - 4 pm.

**The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)**  
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## Carers Week 2022

Carers Week 2022 is on the way from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June. The week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges people face when looking after a family or friend, and recognise the contribution they make to communities.



The theme for Carers Week 2022 is 'Make caring visible, valued and supported'.

Caring Together have a range of activities, workshops and information sessions planned for throughout the week. There are also fun activities planned for young carers in the half-term week before Carers Week.

If you look after a family member or friend, see how you can get involved. Find out more at [caringtogether.org/news/carers-week-events-activities-countdown](http://caringtogether.org/news/carers-week-events-activities-countdown)

If you look after a family member or friend who would benefit from support, please contact Caring Together on 0345 241 0954, [hello@caringtogether.org](mailto:hello@caringtogether.org) or see [caringtogether.org](http://caringtogether.org)

**Jeanette Threadgold, Communications Officer**  
(0345 241 0954, 01480 499090, 07843 327573)

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

### For Sale

Girl's/Ladies' black bike, Carerra Ltd, 27.5" wheels. Excellent condition, £100 ono.

Men's all terra bike, Transeo 3.0 City X GT, excellent condition, £200 ono.

White radiator, 24" square. New, £20.

Bedside chest of drawers, teak/cream. £20.

Phillips flat screen 34" television, £50.

Sony flat screen 34" television, £50.

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[catherineneale9@icloud.com](mailto:catherineneale9@icloud.com)

June	9.00 am	10.30 am	6.00 pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>	<b>Morning Worship for Jubilee Sunday</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> West Wrating, <i>Amanda Goodman</i> Great Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i> Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/</i> <i>Jeanine Kennedy to preach</i> <b>Morning Worship (9.30 am)</b> – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Rev Iain McColl/</i> <i>Jeanine Kennedy to preach</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>United Service of Morning Worship</b> – Hildersham, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>	
26 <sup>th</sup>		<b>United Service of Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/Revd Iain McColl</i> <i>to preach</i>	

Revd Iain McColl  
tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)  
Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest  
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Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister  
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Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister  
email: [jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com)

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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,  
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**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260  
**Community Warden:** Lucy Cameron,  
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**Parish Nurse:** Kim Cox,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

## DIARY

### June 2022

Thur 2 Jubilee Beacon Bonfire, Honey Hill, WWrating  
Fri 3 Music Evening, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth  
Fri 3, Sat 4, Sun 5 Jubilee Flower Festival, St Mary's  
Sat 4, Sun 5 Jubilee Flower Festival, St Andrew's  
Sun 5 Jubilee Celebrations (both villages)  
Sat 11 Balsham Picture House, 'West Side Story'  
Tues 14 Balsham WI  
Wed 15 West Wrating Book Club  
Weston Colville Green Group  
Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room

### July 2022

Fri 1 Pop-up Pub & Pimp my Fish, Weston Colville  
Sat 2 West Wrating Café  
Balsham Feast  
Mon 18 West Wrating Parish Council  
Sat 23 Weston Colville Circular Walk

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

**Mobile library: second Thursday** – 9<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July  
High Street, West Wrating 10.20 - 11.00 am  
Post Office, Weston Green 11.10 - 11.45 am  
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 11.50 - 12.15 pm

**PLEASE NOTE ALTERED DATES AND TIMES  
FOR THE MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS**

**Black bins:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June,  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July

**Blue & Green bins:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> & Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June,  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July

**Editor:** Anne Bragg ([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.

**July issue's copy date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June**