

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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West Wrating Café

Hello all, and thanks so much for another successful café! Our donation pot is looking very healthy thanks to everyone's generosity and we are in a position to make a contribution to Granta School's fund-raising for outside furniture.

Our next café is Saturday 1st April in the village hall, 10.30 - 12.00 noon. We're looking to make a contribution to the village street party on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May for the coronation, so we're hoping for a good turn out. We will also have a handmade bird box stall, in aid of Granta school.

Everyone is welcome for hot drinks and our usual lovely homemade cakes.

Sherry and Jan

Tea and Cakes

Thank you to everyone who attended Tea & Cakes on a wet March Friday. Our next meeting after Easter will be on Friday 21st April, 3.30 - 5 pm in the Reading Room.

Val and the Team

Weston Colville Reading Room – ‘Pub’ Quiz

We're holding our next quiz on Wednesday 26th April at 8 pm. Join us to see if you can relieve the inaugural trophy holders of their prize possession? Come as a fully-formed team, or make one when you arrive. Up to 5 per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome; enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com or 291475

St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

The spring clear-up will take place on Easter Saturday, 8th April between 10 am and 12 noon.

Everyone is welcome, and, as usual, hot cross buns, coffee and tea will be available. Looking forward to seeing you.

Cobby McCall (290046)

Get ready for



A fun celebration

Stories and songs for kids of all ages

Egghunt, bonfire, sausage sizzle, tea and cakes afterwards

Sunday 2nd April 4-5

West Wrating Church

Everyone very welcome



Save the date



Coronation Bank Holiday
Monday 8 May 2023

West Wratting Street Party
In the Causeway, from 12 midday
Bring your own BBQ food.
Salads, tea and cakes provided.
Teddy Bear parachute jump and children's games.
Drinks bar
More details to follow.
All Welcome

Scilla.harvey@btinternet.com
Sherry.odonovan@gmail.com

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wratting oil syndicate fill-up this month, with an order cut-off of Monday 10th April at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at westwrattingoil@gmail.com, putting your surname in the subject box, or by phone/text on 07982 291922. I will reply to all communications within 48 hours.

If you require a 'fill-up' please provide a rough estimate of the quantity and also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements. Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cut-off date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill-up, you'll always be buying at the best price.

Phil Tempest (westwrattingoil@gmail.com)

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 23rd April.**

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

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

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Please note we can no longer order fill-ups, due to the pre-payment requirements.

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day). We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. If you are close to running out, please let your contact know.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and we will give you the number for you to ring the supplier to arrange prepayment for your order.

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

Anne Vidler

King's Coronation – Weston Colville

Due to logistical and insurance issues Weston Colville is now not currently planning to run a coronation event; however, the coronation of King Charles III will be marked with a special service in St Mary's Church at 11.00 am on Sunday 7th May. We will be attempting to chime the bells (sadly, they can't be rung) for the first time in many years especially for the occasion. The service will be followed by a celebration with 'fizz' and light refreshments served from our newly refurbished tower kitchenette. Please join us.



Ian Ashbridge, Churchwarden

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West Wrating Book Club

For our March meeting we read 'Landlines' by Raynor Winn. This is the third in her best-selling series of books about her and her husband Moth, and the long-distance trails they walked in remote and challenging parts of the UK and abroad.

This was the most ambitious walk yet – to northwest Scotland and the Cape Wrath Trail, over 200 miles of rocky terrain through Scotland's remotest mountains and lochs. As she said "Walking the Cape Wrath Trail had seemed achievable as we planned the trip in the warmth of a Cornish spring, the sun shining, and the apple blossom about to break . . ." But inevitably, the cold wet weather, the impossible terrain, and the fear for her husband's health made her seriously consider giving up.

They eventually completed the Trail, but immediately embarked on another, and having crossed most of Britain, completed the journey home by picking up the South West Coast Path along the Cornish coast. An incredible thousand mile walk – and apart from the first stage, seemingly all unplanned. It took four months.

What is remarkable is that Moth has been suffering from an incurable neurological illness for a few years, and it appeared his health was declining before they set off. However, Raynor knew that as in the past, long and challenging walks have actually improved his condition, and given him some reprieve and even healing. Will it work this time?

Most of us felt this book was the best of the three. However, the start of the story was full of pain: bleeding feet, cold wet and impossible sounding Scottish mountains, and you longed for them to finish and go home, only to find them setting off on the next

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hard trail, and then the next! (Better maps should have been included.)

But it was also a wonderful overview of the British countryside, its nature and wildlife, as well as the problems of balancing its preservation with solving the urban problems, in particular, homelessness. It was an exciting read to see if they could walk all the way home. It is a remarkable story of courage and resilience! We gave it a score of 7.75 out of 10.

Our next books will be two short books by Claire Keegan: 'Foster' and 'Small Things Like These', meeting on Wednesday 12th April in The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm.

Linda Gorman and Scilla Harvey

Calling all Would-be Paddingtons . . .

If anyone likes homemade marmalade and doesn't make it or didn't get round to it this season, don't panic: I have made A LOT, and have had awards for it in the past! Various varieties, all organic (except the ginger but I suspect that is as well, just can't guarantee it).

- Dark chunky
- Four fruit
- Ginger
- Whole fruit.

If you would like a jar or two please contact me via the village WhatsApp group,

jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk or
01223 290076.

Contributions of £3/jar to cover ingredients would be appreciated.

Jackie Brearley



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Dalila's Bosnian Meal

I've had the pleasure of eating foods from many parts of the world, but Bosnian cuisine was a new one for me, so it was with much excitement and curiosity that I joined a group of around 30 in the Reading Room on a Monday lunchtime for Dalila's Bosnian lunch.



We started with Bey's soup, a wonderful combination of chicken and okra. Dalila explained that as a consequence of its location in the Balkans, Bosnian cooking has many influences, in this case Ottoman.



The soup was followed by lovely slices of pie, either meat or spinach & cheese. "Everyone's grandmother has their own recipe" as Dalila explained. We ended with a sweet dessert, either coconut or walnut infused.



For my first experience of Bosnian food, I'm hooked. It was delicious. I'd like to offer a thank you to Dalila for all her hard work.

Alastair Douglas



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West Wrattling Football

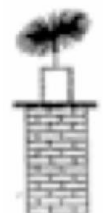
Type	Date / Time	Home Team	Home Team Logo	VS	Away Team Logo	Away Team
L	18/03/23 15:00	West Wrattling First		VS		Wisbech St Mary
PREM	25/03/23 15:00	West Wrattling First		VS		Cambridge University Press First
L	01/04/23 14:00	West Wrattling First		VS		March Town United Reserves
L	08/04/23 14:00	West Wrattling First		VS		Over Sports First
L	11/04/23 18:15	West Wrattling First		VS		Cherry Hinton First
L	15/04/23 15:00	West Wrattling First		VS		Bassingbourn First
L	26/04/23 18:15	Hemingfords United First team		VS		West Wrattling First
L	29/04/23 15:00	Over Sports First		VS		West Wrattling First

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Weston Colville Heritage Map



Part of my sixth form studies involved completing an extended project qualification by developing an artefact or writing a dissertation. During lockdown when we were restricted to one hour of daily exercise, alternative walking routes were shared on the village WhatsApp page. This, along with my interest in history, prompted me to develop the idea of generating a walking map, but when I started researching, I found Weston Colville had much more to offer than just footpaths.

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I decided to generate an artefact and develop a map that represented layers of village history. I added more and more elements and realised I would need a significant amount of help from many people if I were to be successful. The Heritage map started to take shape, and I would like to thank the following people who supported me, offered resources and information and welcomed me into their homes so I may interview them: Tim and Chloe Cockerill for supporting me from the very start and providing lots of information; Roger Whitehead for collating all the village photographs and allowing me to use them; Gabrielle Cliff-Hodges for her book on the Reading Room; Jacqueline Douglas for the 2017/18 Weston Colville History Exhibition resources; Anthony Loates, Maureen Garrod and Rosemary Westley for allowing me to interview them; Mr and Mrs Potter for answering all my questions; Steve Potter for photos and information regarding the cricket club; Richard Adams for providing and clarifying research and dates relating to RAF Wrattling Common; Emma Kaye; Duncan McKay; the parish council; The Reading Room committee for applying for a community chest grant, funding and allowing me to site the map outside the Reading Room; Peter Harris for helping my mum cement it in and lastly, to Jane Jackson who (as my graphic designer) directed me in realising how my map research could be presented. There are many others who offered information and support and I would like to thank you all very much.

My aim was to capture the social heritage and add it to the many layers of village history in the buildings and people who have inhabited our parish. I am very proud of what I have achieved and I hope that everyone in your household will find something new of interest about Weston Colville.

Emily Jackson (17yrs 10 months)

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From the Rectory

At the time of writing, in mid-March, we are still beset by wintry storms and the new life and promise of spring seems far off! Snowdrops have appeared and yellow daffodils line the roads, yet cold winds and sleet seem to hold the celebration of spring at bay. It's almost like a scene from C S Lewis' 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', where Narnia labours under a long and baleful winter!



Yet in C S Lewis's Narnia, the tide turns when the main characters, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy discover that Aslan, a Christ figure in these stories, is on the move. His presence gives them courage; which turns into a contagious kind of hope. Spring eventually returns to the land; creatures who have been turned into stone by the witch are reanimated, as Aslan breathes life into them; and evil is defeated.

Easter time in our contemporary lives may seem a world away from such fictional drama and part of our enjoyment of it may derive from holidays, Easter chocolate and family get togethers. All good things! Yet the profound Christian message of Easter points to a far greater depth. It acknowledges that sometimes new life may seem far away and the storms of pain and loss are all too real. Yet it also shows grief and glory are intertwined. Good Friday reminds us that Jesus' trial and crucifixion are actually part of the pattern of God's work of salvation.

Easter also proclaims God's saving love is shown in the resurrection of Jesus. The celebration of Easter, which can never be held at bay, reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end. It's an event which changes everything. The

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resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of trust, service and hope, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

Whilst we will struggle with trials and turbulence in our lives, we may also hold a startling vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life. We may see a deeper level of reality, where love and reconciliation spring forth and are ceaselessly at work. We may therefore act with courage and a contagious kind of hope. For in Christ, all things are made new.

Revd Iain McColl

Choral Evensong

at

Carlton Church

A small village church located in
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CB8 9JZ



Sunday 16th April at 6pm

Introit ~ Mozart Ave Verum

Preces & Responses ~ William Smith

Psalm 84 ~ Parry in E

Evening Canticles ~ Walmisley in D Minor

Anthem ~ Wood ~ This Joyful Eastertide

Easter Hymns

Light refreshments served after the service

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Help for Ukraine

A collection of dried and tinned food, hygiene and medical items for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 22nd April from 9.00 am until 1.00 pm at the Abington Primary School car park. It is being supported by headmaster Guy Underwood and Revd Ian McColl of the Granta Churches.



This follows the hugely successful collection of winter clothing and bedding in January that was included in the 28-ton, four-day UK-Aid convoy of lorries and vans that left on 25th February for Chernihiv, 120 kilometres north of Kyiv. Alan Hilliar co-founder of UK-Aid said ‘We arrived in Chernihiv to floods of tears and hugs of relief. Every person without exception greeted us with tears in their eyes. We visited many places including a devastated family just 18 miles from the Russian border, who had lost their soldier father in Soledar (southern Ukraine) and their home had been destroyed in the bombing; we took food, clothing, computers, shoes, and hygiene supplies. This family is one of millions who need our help and support financially and materially, not to mention mentally. So, on behalf of these people

I would like to thank you all – you cannot imagine how grateful these people are.”

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine creates continuing hardship for those displaced and affected by the war. The current need is for dry food such as pasta, rice, tomato paste, oats, dried and canned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit. Hygiene and medical items are needed too, such as toiletries for adults, children and babies, cleaning materials, washing powders, gels and wipes, shampoo, soap, sanitary towels, nappies, pads, scissors and antibacterial gel as well as medical items such as paracetamol, aspirin, and bandages.

Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also welcome and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 22nd April.

Tony Collett, Saffron Walden Rotary

Items for this Ukraine appeal can be left in St Mary’s Church, Weston Colville, from 17th April (but not before that, because of the ongoing installation work) and they will be taken to the Abington collection point on 22nd April.

Jane Pryor




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West Wratting Parish Council

A parish council meeting was held on 13th March. The full draft minutes are posted on the two noticeboards in the village.

Councillors: due to Cllr Lock's resignation there is a vacancy on the parish council. Please do not hesitate to contact me on j.richards597@btinternet.com for any information about being a councillor.

Planning: decisions have not yet been made on the proposed Boreham development, although work is being carried out on the site possibly in preparation, and there is no decision yet on the proposed new dwelling on the Chestnuts public house site.

Finance: full details are shown in the draft minutes.

Allocation of possible s106 monies: a list is being drawn up of the possible use of s106 monies towards community projects, eg turning the old bowling green into a training pitch for the youth teams; solar panels on the sports pavilion roof; repairs of the village pump; the pound; and refurbishment of the village sign.

Maintenance:

- a) Highway problems – again the council complained to Dist Cllr Harvey about the numerous potholes in the village and were told there is insufficient

WEST WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of Vacancy for Councillor

1. There is a vacancy on the above Parish Council due to the resignation of Councillor Sue Lock.
2. A By-election will be held to fill the vacancy if, within 14 statutory days (excluding Sunday or Bank Holidays) from the date below, 10 (ten) electors for the West Wratting parish give notice in writing to the Returning Officer claiming such an election.
3. The address of the Returning Officer is:
The Returning Officer,
South Cambridgeshire District Council,
Cambourne Business Park, CB3 6EA
4. If no such notice is given, the West Wratting Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Dated: 18th March 2023

Parish Clerk: Jennifer Richards

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money available. However on 27th March there will be work done on pot holes along Common Road out of West Wratting.

- b) Winter gritting – there are two salt bins full of salt and grit for use on the pavements.

Recreation ground & Pavilion:

- a) Recreation ground gate – it is now much easier to open.
- b) Defibrillator – Cllr Parsons has completed the registration under her name. This equipment is checked by her every week.

Traffic issues & Speed Restriction Equipment: the shared SID equipment is at present not working correctly. WWPC will share the cost of putting this right with the other users.

Play Area: a RoSPA safety inspection will be carried out in April.

Any other business: two young trees have been planted near the Pound in Hayter Close, which is in a Conservation area, despite a request to plant these trees being turned down by the parish council because of the cost of maintaining them once they are fully grown. Where they have been planted there is also the possibility of damage to the Pound because of root growth. These young trees should be removed and if not they will be removed by the parish council.

The Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15th May at 7.30 pm followed by the parish council meeting at 8.15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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

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



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Weston Colville Parish Council

A parish council meeting was held on Monday 6th March. The full minutes and meeting documents can be found on <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

Resignation of Councillors – there had been no interest following the articles in *Challenge* in December and February. Three seats were available. A flyer, printed on coloured paper, will be dropped through every door.

Coronation – there had been no communication from the Reading Room Trust. A village picnic would be held on Sunday 7th May, with the Reading Room providing a bar in the cricket pavilion, and parishioners providing their own food/ seating etc. It was proposed that the parish council would pay to provide a bouncy castle and music for the event, on the proviso that no fee would be paid if the event was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Playground – Cllr Pagonis will accompany David Bracey for the playground inspection.

Dates of Meetings – 3rd April (planning), Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 3rd May.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

District and County Councillors' Report

Acorn Bioenergy Proposal

For those wondering what all of the ‘Muck Off’ (great slogan) signs are relating to in and around Haverhill, these are referring to a proposal by a bio energy company to build a new plant just on the Suffolk side of the border, on the outskirts of Haverhill. The company is called Acorn Bioenergy and their website is <https://www.acornbioenergy.com/> There is a lot of interest in this site, particularly from the Suffolk side of the border, as there are concerns about the environmental impact of the surrounding area, specifically smell, noise, traffic etc.

A planning application is suspected to be submitted this year, which will be decided by Suffolk County Council. It’s an interesting scheme that will have an effect on our area, especially those in the vicinity of the site, so do keep your ear to the ground and feel free to comment on the planning application, when it is submitted and in the public domain.

SCDC: Geoff Harvey (geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

CCC: Henry Batchelor (henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

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Saturday 13th May 2023
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7.30pm

Tickets £10 (under 16’s free) available from choir members, Balsham or Great Abington Post Offices or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Linton & District Historical Society

In February we welcomed Bill Key who shared his 63 years of rowing along the River Cam. Bill, still a keen rower, recalled the history of the Cambridge Bumps, and with the use of a detailed chart explained how ‘bumps’ were awarded to the very competitive teams of rowers. Photographs showed just how dangerous this could be on occasions.

From the ramshackle boathouses of yesteryear through to their modern purpose-built equivalents, Bill gave us an insight into their history, stories and the people involved in this Cambridge tradition.

Today, the Cam remains a popular tourist attraction, both for recreational purposes and for spotting an array of wildlife along its banks.

The title of Bill’s book ‘Eyes in the Boat’ adds much more to the story of the Cam. This was the first talk he had given; it was well researched and presented in a light-hearted manner.

On Tuesday 18th April we will welcome Richard Gibbons, with the theme ‘The Turning point of WWII’. Linton Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.

Margaret Creek (ldhscambsgmail.com, 893915 or 678835)



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Balsham Picture House

On Saturday 1st April – **The
 Banshees Of Inisherin (15).**

Doors open 7 pm and film at 7.30 in
 Balsham Church Institute; guest
 visitors £3, and annual membership
 £12. Dave’s bar will be open for pre-
 show drinks and nibbles as normal.



Dick Paden

Balsham WI

We welcomed local bee keeper Andrew Durham to our March meeting for a talk on the Asian hornet. The first sighting in Europe of this very invasive and damaging pest was in south-west France in 2005 in a consignment of pottery. Since then the number of nests being reported has grown exponentially and they are now being found in the south of the UK.



It is bigger than a wasp but smaller than the European hornet, and Andrew explained how it can be identified by its yellow legs, mainly black body and yellow face. They are a major threat to honeybees and all other pollinators, not to mention human health, and the climate is changing in favour of them.

It was a fascinating talk, although very concerning, and thanks to Andrew we now know what to look out for and how to report it if we spot one. He also brought along some of his honey for us to purchase, which was most welcome. Refreshments were followed by our Annual Meeting.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th April when we will be joined by Carole Pook for a talk on Coco Chanel.

Sarah Evans (290802)

1st Horseheath Brownies

By the time you read this we will have been to the Jarman Centre for our annual holiday, and I am sure we will have had a great time. The Brownies will have followed a trail around the grounds to find their lunch, made a Mothering Sunday card and gift, and had a go at archery. It is amazing what you can do in 48 hours.

If you have a 7-year old girl, or older, living in your home who might like to join us then please email me and I’ll get in touch. A daughter who is 5 years old could be a Rainbow, or if she is over 10 years old then she could be a Guide; we have units in Linton with space for new Guides.

Pauline and Katie (horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)



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West Wickham & District Gardening Club

This year the Annual Show has been put back a few weeks to **2nd September**, when hopefully the weather may not be quite so hot as it was last August.

An abbreviated Show Schedule can be found on the West Wickham Village website (westwickham.org) but I thought I would highlight a few of the classes to whet your appetite.

This year there will be just one class for the children so they can concentrate all their energies into producing a cracker of an exhibit: a collage of their favourite animal using natural materials. As with last year, the winner will have a T-shirt created for them showing their creation – a unique prize indeed.

The fruit and vegetable classes will feature the usual suspects – potatoes, beans, carrots, onions, tomatoes, top fruit, berries, etc, plus one which you can all aspire to – the rudest shaped vegetable. Tomatoes and carrots are usually the stars in this class, but use your imagination!

The flower classes include entries for roses, dahlias, a single ‘wow’ flower stem, and vases with a selection of stems displayed for various effects. There will be two classes for pot plants and we will repeating last year’s Peoples’ Vote whereby everyone has a chance to pick their favourite scented flower from those entered.

The domestic classes include the usual jams, jellies, marmalade and chutney classes and this year the baking classes feature savoury biscuits, chocolate brownies, a lemon tart, share’n’tear bread and a flower-themed decorated sponge cake.

The three photography classes are on the subjects: Fruits of my labour, After the rain and Contrast.

Exhibits can be entered by members of West Wickham & District Gardening Club, residents of West Wickham and Streetly End (including visiting children and grandchildren) and by residents of neighbouring villages without their own Club; that includes Horseheath, West Wrattling and Weston Colville so do think about taking part – we would love to see you, either as an entrant or as a visitor in the afternoon when there will be refreshments and an auction of produce.

*Sue Thurston, Show Coordinator
(mail@suethurston.co.uk, 897811)*

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Balsham Horticultural Society

Dr Gwenda Kyd was our expert speaker for the March meeting, with an enlightening talk on 'Plants to Drugs'.

She did a chemistry degree in Edinburgh and studied medicinal plants. In 2012 Gwenda worked with a company who were linked with The Cambridge Botanical Gardens looking at chemical compounds that are produced from plants. She became more involved in the gardens and enjoyed taking the public around & sharing her knowledge.

Plants contain chemicals which are bitter & stops predators from eating them. The process of taking chemical compounds from plants to use medicinally has been in use for thousands of years. Records show the use of Chinese herbal medicine dates from 3,000 BC. In India, turmeric was used as early as 4,000 BC.

Ancient Egyptians c1,550 BC described over 850 plant medicines.

Dr Kyd told of a Reverend Stone who, when suffering from the ague while walking in Chipping Norton, took a piece of the bark of a willow tree to nibble, which tasted bitter. He knew that the Cinchona tree (from where quinine was derived) had a bitter taste,

and thought the willow may also have therapeutic properties. He experimented by drying the willow bark and turning into a powder which he gave to several people, and so the discovery of acetylsalicylic acid was made in 1763. It was marketed by Bayer as 'Aspirin' in 1899.

Many common drugs we use today are associated with plants. Foxgloves produce digitalis which became digoxin to regulate the heart; Taxol is produced by yew trees to prevent fungi degrading the yew bark, and two chemotherapy drugs were originally developed from yew trees. Dr Kyd explained that now these drugs are made synthetically in the laboratory. She was looking to see how plants could be grown in poorer countries for use to make medicines, instead of using synthetic methods which are costly for the poorer nations.

Dr Kyd thinks there is still value in looking for more plants to study for their medicinal properties. Currently 50,000 plants are used in medicine.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th April at 7.30 in the Church Institute; speaker TBC.

Harold's gardening tips:

- Prune late flowering clematis. Mulch & feed.
- Prune winter jasmine.
- Prune roses to an outward facing bud & fertilize.
- Lift & divide snowdrops & aconites.
- Plant lily bulbs in pots or in borders.
- Sow broad beans.
- Sow parsnips & shallots unless ground is frozen.

Hazel Leeson



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Meadow School Ofsted Inspection

Shortly after returning from the winter break, we received a visit from Ofsted on two days in January.

I am thrilled to share that we have maintained the ‘Good’ rating that we were awarded after our last inspection in 2017. The report showcases many areas in which our school continues to succeed, including our ambitious curriculum and high standards of behaviour.



You will be able to find the full Ofsted report on our website, but I wanted to share some of my personal highlights with you:

* “Pupils at Meadow Primary School are happy, polite and eager to learn. They enjoy reading and benefit from learning the content of a well-designed curriculum. Pupils are confident to talk about their knowledge and readily give their opinions.”

* “Pupils say that it is a friendly school where everyone looks out for each other. Pupils are safe. If they have any worries, they know whom to talk to. When there are any incidents of unkindness or bullying, pupils are confident that adults will sort it out.”

* “Whether in lessons or out of class pupils behave well. Older pupils undertake a variety of responsibilities that help them to be independent. They enjoy looking after the youngest children during social times. Pupils take pride in keeping their environment clean and tidy.”

* “Pupils show a wider sense of responsibility by planning events to raise money for local and national



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charities. They understand that some people are less fortunate than themselves.”

* “Leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum that enthuses pupils from early years to Year 6.

Leaders have made sure that the curriculum helps pupils to build on the knowledge they have learned without repeating content in the mixed age classes.”

* “Staff support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) effectively. Pupils with SEND fully access the same curriculum as their peers. Pupils focus on specific social, emotional or academic targets. Well-trained staff support pupils sensitively to achieve well.”

* “Reading is at the heart of the curriculum. Children learn the sounds that letters represent when they start in early years. Pupils then quickly apply this learning to spelling and writing words. The phonics programme complements the regular spelling and handwriting sessions. This further equips pupils with the knowledge and skills they need in order to be confident readers and writers.”

We are immensely proud of this success, which has been made possible by the hard work of our colleagues, our pupils and their families, Anglian Learning and the wider school community. The report is a reflection of all the support and dedication you have shown towards Meadow Primary School, and I’d like to take this opportunity to offer my appreciation.

Our school motto is embedded in everything we do, which is clear throughout the report. I am delighted to see that it has captured the happy and caring school we strive to be, and I look forward to building on this further to ensure our pupils continue to reach their full potential.

Nichola Pickford, Headteacher

Marsh Mail



On secondary school offer day, it was great to find out that we are over-subscribed at LVC for Year 7 places in September. We have a waiting list, despite low numbers of 11-year olds in our catchment area. We look forward to meeting our newest recruits on Year 6 move-up days in the summer term.

Current LVC students have engaged brilliantly with sustainable environmental initiatives over the last month. Our Eco Council has planted a mini orchard with fruit trees gifted from the Young Tree Champions Programme, and World Book Day was celebrated with a successful book swap in the library. Meanwhile students have made use of refillable bottles with our new ‘Generation Juice’ machine in the canteen to cut down on single-use plastic and waste.

Other enrichment highlights have included a dissection and a range of explosive experiments during Science Week, and a Comic Relief lunchtime concert involving a range of comedy performances plus live poetry readings and music, which raised over £700 for charity. Our first ever Heritage Festival enabled students to learn about the different cultures that make up LVC, sharing music, activities and food from a range of cultural traditions. Our annual dance show showcased a fabulous range of talent with songs from the movies.

We’ve also celebrated a number of extra-curricular student successes including students’ involvement in dance competitions and Crufts 2023. LVC students’ achievements have also been recognised through certificates at the Roy Burrell Sports Awards and Haverhill Rotary Club Young Citizens Awards.

Helena Marsh

Granta Medical Practices

From 1st April 2023, Royston Health Centre (RHC) will be part of Granta Medical Practices (GMP). The practices are coming together to build on the existing practice strengths, pooling clinical and administrative teams to offer greater resilience and a wider choice of services for our patients. The aim of this is to provide a more stable model for delivering care within Royston and the surrounding villages. Both GMP and RHC have been sharing their values and commitment to high quality clinical care over the past year and a full merger helps provide improved access and choice for our patients.

The same doctors, practice nurses and staff will still be at RHC and you will still be able to see your chosen doctor as usual. For GMP patients, you will now have another surgery to choose from, should you wish to.

For the most part, patients of GMP and RHC should not notice any difference. There will be a slight delay in merging the computer systems (currently estimated around the end of April) but after that any GMP patient may be seen at a GMP surgery of their choice. If there are any specific changes or additions to services we will of course let you know.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via the GMP website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk or feel free to call into one of our surgeries.

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

Net Zero Now



Applications are now open for residents of South Cambridgeshire to take part in Net Zero Now, a free community climate action course. This six-week course, run by Cambridge Carbon Footprint with the support of South Cambridgeshire District Council, will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to help support your local community on its move towards net zero. Applications close on Sunday 30th April. To find out more and to apply, go to: www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/net-zero-now/

Alice Vodden

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2 nd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/Rev Ben Brady</i>	(4.00 pm) Easter Songs of Praise – West Wrating, <i>John & Scilla Harvey/Rev Iain McColl</i>
Thurs 6 th			(7.30 pm) Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
Friday 7 th	Devotional Service – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	(11.30 am) Stations of the Cross – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	(2.00 - 3.00 pm) Last Hour – West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
Easter Day 9th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	
16 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	(6.00 pm) Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
23 rd	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Rev Ben Brady/Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	(6.00 pm) Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
30 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	

DIARY

April 2023

- Sat 1 West Wrating Café
Balsham Picture House
- Sun 2 Fun Easter Celebration, West Wrating Church
- Wed 5 Balsham Horticultural Society
- Sat 8 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
- Sun 9 EASTER SUNDAY
- Mon 10 West Wrating Oil Syndicate order cut-off
- Tues 11 Balsham WI
- Wed 12 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 16 Choral Evensong, Carlton Church
- Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
- Sat 22 Collection for Ukraine
- Sun 23 Weston Colville Oil Co-operative order cut-off

Black bins: Monday 3rd & Tuesday 18th April,
Tues 2nd, Mon 15th & Tues 28th May

Blue & green bins: Wed 12th & Monday 24th April,
Monday 8th & 22nd May

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 27th April, 25th May

High Street, West Wrating	10.20 - 11.00 am
Reading Room, Weston Green	11.10 - 11.45 am
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	11.50 - 12.15 pm

There will be Compline services at 7.30 pm during Holy Week at West Wrating on Mon 3rd, West Wickham on Tuesday 4th, and Weston Colville on Wednesday 5th April.

Revd Iain McColl
01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Rev Ben Brady
01223 344920, revdbenbrady@btinternet.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
01223 290396, steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Churchwardens:
St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

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

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 07779 277647

West Wrating Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Editor: Anne Bragg (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.

Copy date for May issue:
Thursday 20th April