

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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West Wrattling Saturday Café

A warm welcome is guaranteed!

Do join us for our next monthly Saturday Café in the village hall on Saturday 4th May, 10.30 - 12 noon.

Also guaranteed: delicious homemade cakes, fresh coffee and tea, and of course a chance to chat. There will be table tennis and some toys for the children.

Hope to see you there.

Sherry and Jan

Weston Colville Tea & Cakes

The sun even came out for our April Tea & Cakes – let's hope we can look forward to warmer days ahead.



Our next afternoon meeting will be on Friday 17th May in the Reading Room, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm.

Do come along and enjoy a cup of tea, some delicious homemade cake, and a friendly chat.

We have a table tennis table with new bats, and lots of games for everyone to enjoy.

Val and the Team

Tennis in West Wrattling: New Season 1st May

Great value local tennis club membership for all the family. New members always welcome!

The d'Abo Tennis Club is open to existing, returning and new members from across the local area. Our full-size, all-weather macadam court is located in a peaceful corner of the village recreation ground.

For more information, to sign up and to make court bookings, visit: www.WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk or contact admin@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk.

Cally Wilson

WEST WRATTING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Monday 13th May at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall**

followed by the Parish Council meeting

**The agenda will be posted on the noticeboards
and on the website nearer the time of the meeting.**

Weston Colville Annual Parish Meeting

Parishioners are invited to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** in the Reading Room on Wednesday 1st May at 7 pm, where there will be a presentation about the proposed playground rejuvenation.

The parish council meeting will follow.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

RAF Wrattling Common Memorial

A short open-air service will be held at **12 noon** on **Sunday 26th May** at the memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the commissioning of the airfield. The last Sunday in May was chosen for this annual service as it was the same day in 1943 that the airfield was commissioned.

The memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some relatives of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade.

The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service. For further information please email: rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com

Dan Heath

Farewell and Thank You

This is a very short but significant note to say a MASSIVE thank you to Peter Harris, Bob Coates and Alan Ogden who between them have jointly given a staggering 39 years' voluntary service and sadly are now leaving the Reading Room committee.

Maintaining the interior/exterior of the Reading Room and flat and latterly, the cricket pavilion and equipment; liaising with RR users; undertaking annual health and safety checks; setting up and hosting events; installing all manner of equipment; jet washing; gutter clearing; balancing the books, are just a very, very small list of how you have kept us ship-shape. Without your kindness, dedication and precious personal time, the Reading Room would be a poorer institution.

On behalf of everyone in Weston Colville we wish you all a super retirement. GREAT JOB!

Weston Colville Reading Room
(Charity 1162032)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 20th May
7 - 7.30 pm

Weston Colville Reading Room

This is an open meeting.
Come and find out more about
the Reading Room.

Jan Ogden, Secretary

West Wrating Village Hall Committee Needs You!

We need dynamic, can-do! people to join our committee or, perhaps, you may prefer to be co-opted to help with specific projects such as fund raising, market research or come up with good ideas to promote and expand the use of the hall. If committees are not for you but you have any ideas for potential clubs, activities or social events do contact us.

We are a welcoming, friendly group, working hard to guarantee the future of our lovely village hall, and look forward to hearing from you.

Martin Davey (martin.davey5@btinternet.com),
Di Edwards (dedwards594@btinternet.com)



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Proof of Identity for Voting

As you are no doubt aware, the Police and Crime Commissioner election is taking place on Thursday 2nd May. This will be the first time that it will be compulsory for voters to show a proof of identity. As residents of West Wrating for 40 years we certainly know many people and it will seem very odd for us to ask you to prove your identity, but please bear with us!

Sue & Mick Lock

Council Tax

A clerical error was made on the council tax statement that was sent out to residents. I have spoken to the district council, who have confirmed that they calculated the number of B and D properties incorrectly (they added too many properties) and therefore the amount paid by residents will be lower this year, and adjusted next year, so it will appear higher then. They have confirmed that the parish council precept will be unaffected, which is a relief!

If you have any further questions please contact me.

Jess Ashbridge (clerk@westoncolville.org.uk)

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Chapel Road, Common Road, The Green,

Horseshoe Lane:

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

West Wrattling

Peter Harris (07879 444126 or sowesticom@gmail.com)

West Wrattling Book Club

Our April book was ‘Jamaica Inn’ by Daphne du Maurier, set in 19th century Cornwall on dark, brooding Bodmin Moor and the surrounding area, with weather to match, and centred on the once welcoming but now dark and menacing coaching inn, Jamaica Inn. It is the story of the young woman, Mary Yellan, who travels to live with her aunt after the death of her mother only to find her much changed since her marriage to the rough, violent and sinister Joss Merlyn.

The language and descriptions are beautiful and evocative, highlighting the contrast between the gentle south coast and the violent roughness of the north, and the dark bleak moorland. These are worth

taking time over, but it can be difficult to do so, such is the desire to find out what will happen next.

Apart from the adventure story, the position of women in society and their treatment in contrast to men is a major theme. This may relate to du Maurier’s own frustrations at not having the freedoms that men had.

Only one person was not inspired to keep reading, finding the descriptions and characters a little overblown. This is a recommended read. Scores were 9 out of 10 except for one 6.

Our next book is ‘A Gentleman in Moscow’ by Amor Towles. We will meet to discuss it on Wednesday 15th May at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to Caitlyn Wishart, who has just completed the community services part of the Bronze Award.

Caitlyn completed several tasks, including a considerable amount of litter picking, clearing fallen twigs and branches on the West Wrattling recreation ground, leaf clearing, and helping clear cut grass in the graveyard areas of St Andrew's Church. The latter was particularly useful, as we found several wild cherry, walnut, oak and beech saplings, which we saved, and in the spring we had a spectacular display of daffodils and primroses.



Thank you, Caitlyn, for all your hard work, and good luck for the future.

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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.

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Parish Matters

It has been a privilege to serve you as a curate for the 18 months I have been here. There have been moments of joy which I have been able to share with people and when life has felt that little bit cruel, to be there with people as they shed tears. Ministry is a privilege, and it has been all mine for the taking which I give thanks to God for.



Throughout the fullness of time, I have come to understand that these villages are more than just villages, they are communities. In the difficult times especially, they come together, pull together to help people out; what an amazing thing.

In the bible, in Paul's letter to the Philippians, he tells the congregation in chapter 19 that he's going to send Timothy to them to give them encouragement and support. Timothy played his part on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Paul said that Timothy "proved himself", in other words he was authentic. Timothy was genuine, he was a tried and tested Christian; he was the real thing. I hope and pray that during my time here, I have been the 'real thing', authentic in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

The time has come for me to move on and be a vicar of a church in Hertfordshire which I look forward to. All that I have learnt here in my ministry will come with me and be built upon in the years to come. Some may say that rural ministry is far from the 'high life' but I disagree and I am thankful that this has been my life; and with a note of hope and a strong amen I thank God that I am able to begin again in the next step of my ministry.

This isn't about closing a book on my time here as curate but to end a chapter, not to say a final goodbye

but rather farewell just for now. So, on that note, I say a heartfelt thank you, and with all my heart God bless you. "For all that has been, thank you, for all that will be, yes!"

Reverend Ben Brady

Susan Unwin

Many of you may remember Sue Unwin and myself when we lived at Larkrise in Weston Colville. We lived there very happily for some 18 years.

I am sorry to say my dear Sue passed away on 15th February and was buried in Overstrand Churchyard, Norfolk, on 21st March at St Michael's Church, just close by to where I now live. I am devastated of course. She became ill last year but her death was unexpected.

Laurence Staig

Soul Space St Mary's

Over the last few years St Mary's Weston Colville has hosted a number of different arts and local community events, alongside church and ministry including Sunday services.

We would like to develop this further under the umbrella of Soul Space St Mary's. The aim is to develop an exciting programme of events for all the community. One of these will be the 'Hope, Darkness Yielding' project (see details below). The Summer Jazz evening on 6th July will be hosted by Soul Space and we look forward to welcoming back the Tim Boniface Trio again.

Keep an eye on **Challenge** for more information nearer the time. If you would like to know more about Soul Space please contact Jane Pryor on janepryor6@gmail.com or Bob Coates on cheviotbob@gmail.com

Jane Pryor

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Easter Egg Painting at St Mary's

This activity was arranged by Gay Redman. Children will always find a welcome at the church, and various other events are planned to keep them happy!



Hope, Darkness Yielding

A local community visual arts project incorporating amateur film footage.

You may remember 'On the Threshold' in 2021 which resulted in a portrait of the village of Weston Colville nearing the end of the pandemic, shown as a large projection in the church.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have a new community arts project planned for spring/summer 2024. The focus is on finding hope in difficult times using film, words and music. All ages will be able to participate through visual art, spoken word and helping with hospitality and invigilation.

At the moment it can be difficult to find hope when worried about the cost of living, the environment or violence in the world – we aim to make a film piece using your images to help us look more hopefully on life.

The finished work will be shown at Soul Space, St Mary's Church, Weston Colville, on the weekend of 6th/7th July. This will coincide with our fabulous jazz concert by Tim Boniface and trio on the Saturday evening.

If you are interested in participating in the project please get in touch with me on janepryor6@gmail.com No technical or film experience is required, just a phone with a decent camera!

This is an Arts Council England funded project.

Jane Pryor

Balsham Singers Spring Concert

The concert will be at 7.30 pm on 18th May in Balsham Parish Church. Tickets £12 (£1 for under 16s), available from Balsham Post Office, Abington Post Office, or www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

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The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

This term, our younger children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will be diving into the world of agriculture with their theme, 'Down on the Farm', exploring the wonders of rural life and the importance of farming. Year 3 and 4 students will embark on a fascinating journey back in time to uncover the mysteries of the Egyptians and other Ancient Civilizations. For our older students in Years 4, 5, and 6, get ready to venture into the heart of the rainforest as we explore the captivating world of Mayan civilisations, unravelling the secrets of this ancient society's remarkable achievements. With such diverse and engaging topics ahead, we're eager to continue to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and inspire a love of learning throughout this term!

Exploring Nature's Classroom: in a whirlwind of discovery and delight, our Year 5 students recently embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to How Hill. From the moment they arrived, excitement filled the air as they prepared to immerse themselves in a world of exploration and learning. One of the highlights of their adventure was the interesting boat trip along the Barton Broad. Drifting serenely through these lush wetlands, our young explorers encountered an array of wildlife among the reeds



while learning about pollution and peat. Armed with nets and buckets, the students also embraced the exhilarating experience of dyke dipping. They delved into the cool waters, discovering an astonishing diversity of aquatic creatures, including water scorpions, water snails and water boatmen. But it wasn't just the watery wonders that captivated our students; they also had the opportunity to delve into traditional crafts like thatching. Under the guidance of skilled instructors, they learned the age-old techniques of weaving together Norfolk reeds to create waterproof, sturdy roofs. With each straw carefully placed, they not only honed their practical skills but also gained an appreciation for the craftsmanship of generations past. Our Year 5 students returned home with not only deepened understanding of the natural world but also having fostered bonds of friendship and camaraderie that will endure for years to come.

Our very own Mini G is now proudly on display as part of the Giraffe Trail around Cambridge! You can find Mini G upstairs in the Grand Arcade, standing tall and ready to greet visitors. We encourage all our students, parents, staff and local community to pop by to say hello to Mini G. The Giraffe Trail is a fantastic opportunity to explore our beautiful city and discover the vibrant community spirit that Cambridge has to offer. From now until 2nd of June, you can join in the fun and see how many giraffes you can spot dotted around Cambridge's streets and landmarks. After the trail ends, Mini G will return to take up residency in our school, bringing with it memories of the exciting journey it embarked on around our city.



Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

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Linton Village College

In March, audiences were treated to an evening of exceptional talent at our annual dance show. With the theme of 'Iconic Singers', over one hundred pupils



from years 7 to 11 performed in an array of genres to the tunes of Frank Sinatra, Amy Winehouse and Elvis Presley.



The audience

feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

"I really felt the emotion and enjoyed the purity the show gifted. A very special evening with a genuinely positive vibe."

"That dance show last night was something else. I thought last year was good but . . ."

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The show also demonstrated the wonderful skills of our student technical and backstage team who artistically delivered the lighting and sound for the show with the support of professional lighting/sound company 'Blueshed'.

Our Dance department is also continuing our partnership with DanceEast, who are currently delivering a series of workshops to our Lower School Dance Company, developing students' performance skills and industry knowledge.

DanceEast have invited us to contribute to a highly prestigious sixth form project this summer involving performance and choreography expertise from professional dancers from the internationally acclaimed Hofesh Shechter Dance Company.

We look forward to seeing the amazing outcomes of our students' work, which will culminate with the opportunity to perform their piece at DanceEast in the autumn.

We are also excited about our involvement in 'Stage 24', Anglian Learning's first ever dance festival which will be hosted at Bottisham Village College in July and will enable schools to showcase dance skills across the Trust.

Helen Frost, Head of Dance

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Balsham WI

At our April meeting we had a social session which included discussing plans for future months and fundraising as well as a Beetle Drive – an old favourite which was enjoyed by all and involved a lot of chatting and laughter. And of course, tea and cake! We also started planning for our Centenary celebrations in 2025.



Our next meeting, on Tuesday May 14th will be a talk on Dementia – what is it, how to avoid it and what to do if it happens! Our speaker will be Maggie Woodhouse, who works in the field at West Suffolk Hospital.

Debbie Mower

Balsham Gardening Club

The club was treated to a fascinating talk by master thatcher Chris Dodson at its meeting on 3rd April. He brought thatching to life with some great anecdotes, as a fourth-generation thatcher and with his oldest son now learning alongside him. As well as photos, Chris brought bundles of reed and straw, and the specialist tools, to show the different types of thatching.



After the talk, Harold Gawthorp gave us some gardening tips. Bulbs need to be fed to make sure they flower next year, and forsythia and winter jasmine should be pruned after flowering. Although the soil is warming up now, there's no rush and still a risk of frost.

We'll be visiting RHS Hyde Hall on 21st May and having a plant stall at the Balsham Feast on 6th July.

This was the last of the club's winter meetings. We'll start up again in October, with Peter Jackson of Scotsdales lined up for the talk.

Andy Mitchell

Balsham Picture House

The May film will be the 2023 and Oscar-awarded film THE HOLDOVERS (15). This will be shown on Saturday May 4th; doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments.

Our film for June will be the acclaimed true story of Sir Nicholas (Nicky) Winton entitled ONE LIFE (12). This will be shown on Saturday June 1st and stars include Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham-Carter.

Dick Paden



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West Wickham & District Gardening Club

We have arranged garden visits:

- Monday 10th June – private evening visit to the walled garden at Grove Lodge, Saffron Walden
- Tuesday 16th July – private afternoon visit to Porter's Lodge Garden and Tearooms, Cavenham.

If you would like to join either of the garden visits, please contact the club (see details below).

Meetings are held at West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of every month.

Sally Collins (wwdgc@westwickham.org)

West Wrattling Open Garden

Peter and Jennifer Heywood recently moved to West Wrattling and have been working hard to create a beautiful accessible garden, with the help of local experts. They are now looking forward to sharing the space at an Open Garden session on Saturday **22nd June, 2 - 4 pm**, and also raising funds for the fabric of our lovely church.

Do pop in and join us at Project House, 19 Padlock Rd, West Wrattling CB215LS. There will be delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee. Donations will be gratefully received.

Jan Davey

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Ely Cathedral Choir

This is a unique opportunity to hear the Boy Choristers of Ely Cathedral locally, since they are giving one of their Diocesan Concerts at St Mary's, Sawston, on Friday, 17th May at 7 pm.

These termly concerts have only just restarted after Covid so this will be very special. The varied programme will be a mix of sacred and secular music, with the choristers under the direction of the Cathedral Director of Music, Edmund Aldhouse, and Organist and Assistant Director of Music, Glen Dempsey.

All are welcome. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection, to be split between the Choir Tour Fund and the work of St Mary's.

To help with the planning of seating and refreshments we should be grateful if those wishing to attend could email their interest (and numbers attending) to office@stmaryssawston.org.uk

We hope to see you there. (There is free 3-hour parking in the Co-op car park, just a short walk away from the church).

Sue Hunting

Linton & District Historical Society

Our last meeting until the autumn will be on Tuesday 21st May: 'Foul Murders of East Anglia' presented by Mike Wabe of Medieval World. Linton Village Hall, at 7.30 pm; refreshments and raffle; visitors and new members always welcome.

Ian Creek



Diocesan Concert
by the
Boy Choristers of Ely Cathedral



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Sandra East, Head of Patient Services
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MAY	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
5 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Revd Ben Brady</i>	
12 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer – West Wrating, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Natalie Davies</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship - West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i> Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Institute, <i>Hannah Threlfall/Rosemary Mead</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Natalie Davies</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>
26 th	Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	

The Deanery Ascension Day service will this year be held at Holy Trinity, Balsham on Thursday 9th May at 7.00 pm. All are warmly welcome to attend and there will be refreshments after the service.

DIARY

MAY 2024

Wed 1 Weston Colville Annual Parish meeting
 Sat 4 West Wrating Café
 Balsham Picture House, 'The Holdovers'
 Sun 12 Oil Co-operative Ordering Deadline
 Mon 13 West Wrating Annual Parish meeting
 Tues 14 Balsham WI
 Wed 15 West Wrating Book Club
 Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Fri 17 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
 Ely Cathedral Choir Concert
 Sat 18 West Wickham Gardening Club Plant Sale
 Balsham Singers Spring Concert
 Mon 20 Reading Room AGM
 Tues 21 Linton & District Historical Society
 Thur 23 Beer Festival, The Chestnut Tree
 Sun 26 RAF Wrating Memorial Service

Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister

07867 515914, hthrelfall82@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

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

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 23rd May, 27th June
 High Street, West Wrating 11.10 - 11.50 am
 Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 pm

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 June issue:

Monday 20th May

Black bins: Wednesday 1st, 15th & 29th May,
 Wednesday 12th & 26th June
Blue & green bins: Wednesday 8th & 22nd May,
 Wednesday 5th & 19th June