

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Tea & Cakes

Thank you to everyone who came along to our March session and enjoyed some lovely home-made cakes.



Thank you also to our amazing team – it would not work without them.

Our next session will be on the last Friday in April, the 25th, as our normal ‘third week’ falls on Good Friday. We will be at The Reading Room between 3.30 and 5.00 pm as usual.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Val Scott and the Team
(290837, valscakesuk@gmail.com)

West Wrattling Café

Saturday 5th April, 10.30 - noon

The clocks have gone forward and spring is definitely here, at last! We're hoping for a lovely sunny morning to welcome everyone to our café; join us in the village hall for homemade cakes, freshly brewed coffee and tea.

Kate will be joining us with Easter crafts from Granta School, and Jackie's Wildly Preserved will be offering a wonderful selection of her delicious produce.

Sherry and Jan

Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust Award 2025

For further information about the trust and the award please contact: Jonathan Drury, 01223 290087.

For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 5th April 2025.

Jonathan Drury

Get ready for



A fun celebration

Stories and songs
for everyone

Egg hunt, bonfire, sausage sizzle,
tea and cakes afterwards

Sunday 13th April 4 pm

West Wrattling Church
Everyone very welcome



Scilla and John Harvey

Easter Day

The Easter Day service at St Mary's, Weston Colville, will begin at 9.30 am on 20th April with a bonfire, from which the flame is transferred to the Paschal Candle and taken inside the church, followed by the congregation – all very symbolic! Let's hope it's not raining!

This will be a great and joyful event led by Revd Hannah Threlfall. Do join us if you can.

Bob Coates

West Wrattling Village Hall



Planned Social Events for 2025

May 8th: Jackie from 'Wildly Preserved' will be doing a fermentation presentation. Doors open 7pm for 7:30 start

May 17th: An Exceptional Evening of BINGO, surprise caller from within the Village?

June 14th: A Very Special Evening. Live authentic Indian music and home cooked curry. Details to follow.

July 19th: A new Event for up to 40 guests, similar to the progressive supper, finishing in the Village Hall for entertainment by a Ukuleles Band.

(All profits to MAGPAS)

11th October: Following the success of the Wine Tasting Evening last year, the event is to be repeated with new Fresh Wines.

Look out for details in Challenge/Facebook

Please contact Doug Clarke, 07818400723, email douqatgalewood@hotmail.com

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West Wrattling Telephone Box

You may have seen other villages' ideas for their iconic red telephone boxes. West Wrattling Parish Council are inviting the residents of West Wrattling to put their creative hats on and think of ways to repurpose our very own telephone box.

Please send your ideas to:

westwrattlingparishcouncil@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Mckenna



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West Wratting Book Club

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to meet in March. We will therefore be discussing ‘The Safekeep’ by Yael van der Wouden, at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 16th April at 7.30 pm.

Linda Gorman (290653)

The Chestnut Tree

Unfortunately, as many of you are aware, Debbie and I were involved in a serious road traffic accident which has resulted in a substantial change of our lifestyle.

As a result we made what was the only sensible decision, to effectively release ourselves from the running of The Chestnut Tree. This was not a decision out of choice but out of necessity. We are extremely grateful for all the help and assistance we have had during this somewhat difficult time, from both staff and patrons.

We are pleased to announce that Jennie Higgins has taken on the tenancy of The Chestnut Tree, becoming the new landlady. Jennie will have already taken over when you read this article and she will be busy putting her own stamp on the premises, which means it will be shut for a short while.

As the only Community Asset in West Wratting, I know how appreciative you all are of your local and the impact it has on all of us, whether it be popping in for a relaxing drink, catching up with acquaintances, having a family meal, collecting your prescription, playing darts or pool, enjoying our music events, or making it to your destination after a walk in the countryside. With Jennie in situ, together with her staff, you are now assured of the continuing success of The Chestnut Tree.

Paul Mower

Kingsway Solar Community Action

Walk. Record. Protect.

Last month, we launched our Step into Nature campaign to stand up to Kingsway Solar’s plans. In March, we asked you to spot hares to help protect their habitat.

This April, we’re asking you to do the same—but also to listen for skylarks. These threatened birds nest in our fields, and we need to show how much they depend on farmland to survive.



Scientists from the RSPB and the University of Cambridge recently found that small-scale solar farms supported more farmland bird species and a higher bird abundance than arable farmland when managed with mixed habitats.

However, while woodpigeons favoured solar farms, skylarks were more common on arable land. This isn’t surprising, as skylarks need long, open sightlines – something solar farms can’t provide.

You can record your sightings on iRecord, which allows us to gather data within a 2 km area around the proposed solar farm. You can also use the Merlin app to help identify skylarks by their song. Use the Merlin app to identify skylarks and take a screenshot, then upload it when recording your sighting on iRecord.

Every sighting counts. Let’s join forces to protect our farmland!

Working towards a better, greener solution – MPs are currently discussing large-scale solar farms. In March, KSCA attended a roundtable meeting at the Houses of Parliament to discuss how to present our case, alongside many other campaign groups. This meeting was valuable for networking and sharing insights from other campaigns.

We need your help! If you’re interested in helping us with publicity, fundraising, or if you have expertise to help strengthen our opposition, please get in touch.

Visit the KSCA website for campaign news and updates at kingswayaction.org, or connect with us on Facebook and Instagram.

Ellen Collier

Good Work

Three Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates – Zac Williams-Gray, Matthew Morrow, and Charlie Hodson – plus Thomas Wishart (goodness of his heart) have been hard at it doing community work during the dark winter months. This included:



tidying up the path from West Wrating High Street towards Scarletts Farm; doing a massive amount of work in the churchyard, including some very stubborn nettles, probably saving at least 100m of strimmer wire; clearing tree debris in the



recreation ground; and, above all, several miles of litter picking, including Bull Lane and Mill Road. Also, during half term, while many of their school chums were on the ski slopes or jetting off to other exotic destinations, they cleared litter along the whole length of the West Wrating / Six Mile Bottom Road,

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where they collected 22 bin liners of litter. More recently, they completely cleared a concrete apron along the Weston Colville / Six Mile Bottom Road.

Their work ethic was quite frankly astonishing, and they worked as a team, without supervision.

Well done all of you! The intention, over the Easter holidays, is to do some painting of the metal barriers on the recreation ground (many thanks to Paul McKenna for providing the paint and brushes etc).

A heartfelt thank you from all of us.

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Church Window Restoration

Work continues on St Mary's window restoration project. Thanks to the incredible generosity of parishioners we have made really good progress towards meeting the fund raising target. The work on several of the windows has been completed and anyone visiting the church will observe a remarkable difference in cleanliness and transparency —especially of the heraldic shields. The achievement has been quite amazing.



There is about one third of the glass still to replace and we have hit a snag with the condition of the wooden frame in the tower window. This will delay the completion of that repair and of course, cost more than we had planned! I hope that these pictures taken by the restoration company will reproduce adequately, sufficient to see the details of the rescued fragments of medieval glass from when the tower fell and destroyed them, and the impressive work on the ancient heraldic shields.

We still have a sizeable sum to raise, so if you are able to make a donation, that would be much appreciated.

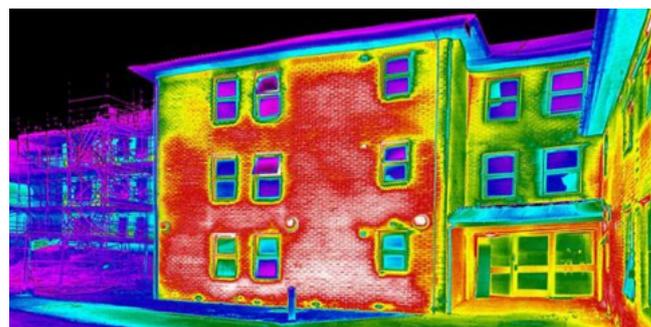
Bob Coates (cheviotbob@me.com)

Legacy IR

How warm was your home this winter?

If the answer is, "Comfortable, but the energy bills won't be!" then help is at hand. Ed Groenhart, a West Wratting resident, has started a new business aimed at helping you to make your home more efficient at keeping the heat in over the winter months (and out if we get another hot summer). Ed has set up Legacy IR, a business that offers interior and external infrared camera assessment to locate areas of heat loss. The assessment takes around an hour and a half for a typical house, with an illustrated report following a few days later. The report takes into account the owner's concerns and aims with regards to rooms that are perhaps used more, or environmental concerns.

Ed continues, "The assessment, combined with a brief chat, allows us to focus on the changes you are willing to make to get your house more energy efficient, thus cutting bills. There are nearly always a few easy wins, like blocking an unused chimney, or draught-proofing a door, that can be made. It's really about making changes that are cost effective. There are often more expensive and intrusive remedies as well, but I leave these in the report for you to consider within the constraints of practicality and budget."



The stark reminder in the news recently that nearly half of all houses are inefficient (rated D or worse on their EPC), coupled with older houses typically being more prevalent in the countryside, means Legacy IR is looking to help the owners of period and inter-war (1930s) properties. Legacy IR is running a promotion for local homeowners (valid for appointments in April and May) whereby the assessment and report will cost £75 rather than the standard cost of £200. You can make an enquiry by email (edgroenhart@hotmail.com) or by calling 01223 290885.

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From the Rectory

Spring often feels like a time of renewed hope. Many people say to me it gives them a boost to enter spring, leaving aside debates about when spring actually begins! Maybe it's the palpable sense of new life and lighter days after the darkness of winter. At the time of writing there is an early spring warmth and in our church yards flowers are blossoming. This has been reflected in the Lent activities of our children's church council, who have put together a beautiful collage of photos of new life in spring in the form of a cross, which is on display in Hildersham church until Easter.



From a Christian point of view, this time of Lent and Easter actually marks a journey: from the ashes of sorrow to shouts of gladness; from slavery to freedom; from despair to new life. Preparations for Easter in our churches include Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, riding on a young donkey and greeted by a multitude of joyful people. This year, our Palm Sunday celebrations will include a procession though Hildersham village accompanied by not one, but two donkeys! It promises to be joyous and chaotic, and all are welcome to join in.

We then continue to journey through what is traditionally called Holy Week. Through participating in this, we may identify with Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the suffering on the cross, and then the empty tomb. This culminates in the joy of Easter and the proclamation of the risen Jesus. We will hold services on Easter Day in all of our parishes, including gathering around a bonfire outside Weston Colville church before we light the Easter candle and continue

with Morning Worship, and Holy Communion services in all our other churches.

The lighting of the Easter candle is often accompanied by these words: "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds". This draws us towards worship of the crucified and risen Jesus who is the light of the world, whose Spirit can help us overcome the darkness within. It also reminds us we are called to share the light of Christ in our villages and in the wider world, and why there is always a living hope in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

Friday Prayers - St Mary's

Please leave your prayer requests in the box near the font or mail me directly. There is a short service of Morning Prayer every Friday in St Mary's at 8.45 am. Anyone is welcome to participate. If there is someone who is distressed, in trouble, or unwell, and who you feel needs prayer, please let us know and prayers will be said for them. If it helps, just use first names, or keep things completely anonymous. One of the tasks of the church and the clergy is to pray for people who need comfort and help.

The service comprises readings from the Bible and a psalm set for the day followed by general prayers and about 5 - 10 minutes of specific prayers for issues and people. It's simple and quite informal, but very calm and devotional. We felt it was really important that the village knew and could make use of this opportunity.

Bob Coates, Churchwarden (cheviotbob@me.com)

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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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Tickets are available from the Stable, 65 High Street, Newmarket, CB8 8NA (01638 662311 or 07894 400425) or book them online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ely-newmarket-methodist-circuit/the-passion/e-molyka

Rachel Lewis

Weston Colville Reading Room – 'Pub' Quiz

We're holding our next quiz on Wednesday 14th May at 8 pm. Could you take home the coveted trophy? Come as a fully-formed team, or join one when you arrive. Up to 5 per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 291475

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Balsham Singers Spring Concert

Saturday 17th May at 7.30 pm, Holy Trinity Church

The programme features music from Mozart, Rutter and Haydn, and a selection of modern compositions and special arrangements. Tickets £12 (under 16s £1), including a drink in the interval. Available 1st April from Balsham and Great Abington post offices, and online at: Ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Joanne Stinton

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Weston Colville Parish Council – Biodiversity Policy

Weston Colville Parish Council adopted a biodiversity policy on 3rd March in accordance with Government guidance published in 2023. The objective of the policy is to support activities that conserve and enhance the biodiversity within the parish council envelope. The parish council has direct responsibility only for the small amount of land around the village pond on Mill Hill, so the policy will mainly attempt to support the activities of other bodies or individuals within the parish.

Biodiversity – short for biological diversity – is the variety of all living things and their interactions. Biodiversity changes over time as extinctions occur and new species evolve; it includes all animals, plants, fungi, viruses, bacteria etc.

In practical terms for the parish, the policy largely means encouraging residents on an individual and collective basis to maintain and enhance the natural wildlife in the area by considering creating and maintaining environments that are favourable for it. Many people will already have in place wildlife-friendly practices in their gardens, and organisations will maintain areas of responsibility in a wildlife-friendly manner. Such activities include planting wildflower areas in gardens, recreational and public spaces, leaving areas in gardens to ‘go wild’, restricting mowing of grassed areas to allow natural species to thrive, planting indigenous tree and hedge species, and feeding wild birds. In this context, the parish council has recently acquired a free wild cherry tree from the district council and received, free of charge, in early March from the Woodland Trust dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple and dogwood hedging species, all for planting in the area of the

village pond. By encouraging natural indigenous plant life, natural insect life will also flourish and this will in turn support mammal, bird, amphibian and reptile populations which feed on them.

Creating a new pond is a good way to enhance biodiversity and leaving areas of dead tree branches and twigs provides a habitat and refuge for insects and small mammals such as hedgehogs. Consider cultivating a small area for stinging nettles which provide a host for caterpillars of Red Admiral, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies.

One situation in which the parish council can have a direct input to biodiversity issues is in the consideration of planning applications within the parish. The council can highlight any particular wildlife issues for consideration by the planning authorities which may not have been identified by others.

Therefore, the adoption of the policy is mostly seen as a means of conveying messages to the local community about biodiversity matters and to encourage folk to adopt practices to support local wildlife. The parish council has limited expertise on this rather complex topic but is happy to engage with residents to consider what can be done to help the local wildlife.

The full biodiversity policy document can be seen on the parish council website at <https://westoncolville.org.uk>

Note that South Cambridge District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have their own biodiversity policies that can be found on their respective websites.

Weston Colville Parish Council

Weston Colville Parish Council

Extract from the meeting held on Monday 3rd March; full minutes and documents to be found at <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

Items of Interest –

Kingsway Solar Farm: a meeting would be arranged between the County and District Councils and Parish Councils, it was thought this would take place during the week of 17th March. SCDC would be submitting their comments about the land use framework in relation to the proposed solar farm.

Potholes were discussed; it was advised that potholes should continue to be reported on the Highways app.

Flooding – awaiting a further report from the Flooding Officer, for action on Common Road. Discussions were held regarding contacting landowners, including a report that had been provided from Highways. Flood Plan appendices have been updated, and would be added to the website.

Footpaths – proposal to purchase a general topsy bin at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, near the ford, for £417.75, plus annual emptying charge of £104 per annum.

MVAS – data from the MVAS devices was received and discussed. The clerk would investigate finding a coordinator from the police to send the data to. It was determined to leave the older scheme.

Policies – the Biodiversity Policy was approved. Cllr Garrod agreed to take on the role of coordinating biodiversity in the village.

Village Event 2025 – it was decided to move the discussion to the next meeting, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the official opening of the new playground.

Playground – the new playground was completed in February. Acquiring picnic benches for the area was discussed, a budget of up to £500 was approved. Sponsorship and ownership signage have been ordered. The clerk had requested quotes for playground inspections, which would be provided to councillors by email for ratification.

Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2025:

Wednesday 7th May (APM/AGM), 7th July,
Wednesday 10th September, 3rd November.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

West Wrattling Village Hall Lottery

We are launching our lottery on 15th May. Only £4 per month to support our lovely village hall and have a chance to win a cash prize. Contact Jan (Jan.davey5@btinternet.com) or Doug (dougatgalewood@hotmail.com) for further details.

West Wrattling Village Hall Lottery
Support our village hall & try your luck!

Join our brand-new Village Hall Lottery a fun and easy way to help raise funds while giving yourself the chance to win! We'd love for you to be part of this exciting fundraising venture.

How It Works
Just £4 per month to enter, you will receive your membership number with your registration pack

How to Join
Pick up a registration pack at the Village Hall Café:
Sat 5th April | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Sat 3rd May | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Prefer to register directly? Contact us:
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✉ Doug Clarke – dougatgalewood@hotmail.com | 07818 400723

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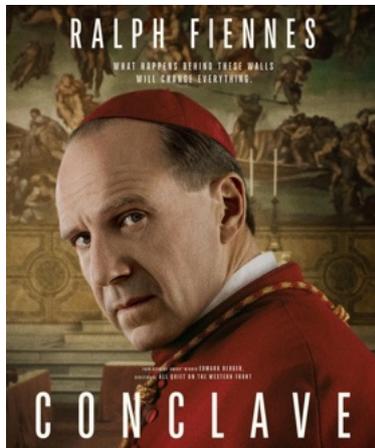
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Balsham Picture House

Saturday 5th April: CONCLAVE (12A). Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake – secrets which could shake the foundations of the church. Award winning film, acclaimed as one of the best films of 2024.



The film for Saturday 3rd May will be A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (15), the story of Bob Dylan's arrival on the music scene in the early 60s.

Normal start time of doors open at 7 pm and film at 7.30 in the Balsham Church Institute. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments,

Dick Paden

Balsham WI

Following the theme for our centenary year meetings, March was the turn of the 1940s.



Members brought their gas mask holders to the meeting, where we learnt about the shortage of food during wartime which necessitated rationing to ensure fair distribution. We saw the amount of food allowed per person during this period and tried some wartime eggless cakes and some National loaf (without the addition of chalk).

Rationing was still in place for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, and for the 1948 Olympic games. Countries such as the USA brought along extra food for their athletes to supplement the meagre amount offered by the organising authorities which was in line with the calories allowed per person at that time. Rationing did not totally end until 1954.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April; the theme for this meeting will be the 1950s.

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Balsham.

Debbie Mower (balshamwi@gmail.com)

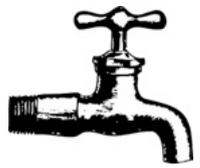
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The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

This month, we had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day with the story 'I Want a Dog' by Jon Agee. The day began with a special assembly where Mrs Butcher, our literacy lead, brought the story to life as she read it to the children. Following this, each class took part in exciting activities inspired by the book. From drawing cleverly disguised animals and engaging in drama performances, to designing habitats and even writing their own books, our pupils had a wonderful day exploring the magic of storytelling.

Another highlight of the month was our much-anticipated PTA fundraising event: Chocolate Bingo! This sold-out evening was a huge success, raising an impressive amount of money that will go towards enriching experiences for our children and funding new playground equipment. Families enjoyed a fantastic night of fun, with some lucky participants heading home with plenty of chocolate prizes. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event!

At the Meadow Primary School, we are committed to becoming more sustainable. To help drive this initiative, we are launching an Eco Committee, which will focus on four key areas: recycling, energy conservation, reducing waste, and enhancing nature. KS2 children are invited to join the committee and work towards making a positive environmental impact under the guidance of Miss Evans. We are excited to see the changes this team will bring – watch this space!

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Linton Village College

To celebrate Science Week, LVC holds a week-long series of events that are designed to inspire and engage our students. Science week has been a long-standing occurrence in the school's calendar.



British Science Week is a 10-day celebration of science and innovation and is an initiative run by the British Science Association. The BSA believes that its remit is to continue to invest in and position the UK as a leader in undertaking research and development in a way that benefits all of society.

Events that took place during LVC's Science Week in March included dissections, 'Shock and Awe' chemistry, a forensic investigation, a Science Fayre, a dance/science collaboration, and a trip to Sizewell B Power Station. There were also a series of assemblies aimed at inspiring students to think about how they might change the world and how science can have an impact on that change.

Alongside this, we entered eight of our top Year 10 mathematicians into the Cambridgeshire Maths Feast, hosted at LVC. The event comprised problem solving, geometry and algebra. Out of twenty-one teams from twelve schools across Cambridgeshire, LVC placed 8th and 10th.

We are enormously proud of our students and their curiosity and academic rigour. As our school is on the doorstep to Cambridge, a city brimming with scientific innovators, pioneers and thought-leaders, we continue to inspire the next generation of scientists and STEM industry personnel.

Laura Heard



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1st Horseheath Brownies

Whilst Barney was recuperating from her stroke, Katie took over the running of the Brownies.

The Brownies have made and eaten pancakes, and enjoyed a sleepover at Duxford Scout hut with other Brownies, Guides and Rainbows from the district, to celebrate World Thinking Day (22nd February, our founder’s birthday). They have also decorated pebbles with positive messages, and started a new skill-builder reflect from the ‘know myself’ theme. This is looking at what we share and what we don’t; for example, do you have an attached or detached earlobe? And when you clasp your hands together is your right or left thumb on the top? Mine has changed, it used to be the right thumb on top but now due to my stroke which affected my left side it is now the left on the top. As for my earlobes, mine are detached as they wobble. If your lobes don’t wobble, then they are attached!

Pauline, Katie & Esther
(horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

For those of us who grow plants from seeds, April is an exciting month. Windowsills get dirty with rows of pots, and the emerging green shoots offer a promise of summer to come.



If you haven’t had a go at propagating before, April is the perfect month to try. We have a free seed table at our monthly meetings so if you don’t know where to start, that might provide the perfect solution. There will even be some plastic pots available at the April meeting if you are short of containers!

The topic for the talk on 14th April is ‘The Rise and Fall of Cambridgeshire Horticultural Societies’. Jonathan Spain, an historian and author with a particular interest in the allotment movement, is looking at the journey of these societies from the 19th century to the present day. This meeting is a joint event with the West Wickham & District Local History Club.

Having finished planning our programme of summer garden visits, talks and fairs for the year, we are now looking forward to the Plant Sale on 17th May, our big spring event. If you are lucky enough to have some leftover seedlings or are dividing plants in the garden we would be delighted if you’d like to join in. It’s a great way to share leftover plants, find some bargains and enjoy homemade cakes baked by members.

Meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Annual membership of the club is £8 per person, guests £2. Please contact Sue Boase on 07716 401646, wwdgc@westwickham.org

Sally Collins, Vice-chair (wwdgc@westwickham.org)

Linton & District Historical Society

For the March meeting, the society welcomed back Russell Kent who had previously given us an excellent presentation regarding the assassination of JFK, ‘Medical Betrayal’. His talk on ‘The Curiohaus Trials’, 1945 - 1949 in Hamburg, proved equally informative. A fascinating evening and well received by those attending.

Russell gave an insight into this disturbing period of history, using reports, photographs, documents and instructions issued at the time. Victims of this unbelievable cruelty ran into their thousands. It would appear not all the perpetrators who carried out these terrible crimes were brought to justice.

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After its gruesome past, the Curiohaus nowadays has been returned to its original purpose; it was built at the turn of the century as a festival and events venue.

You can read more about JFK Medical Betrayal and the Curiohaus Trials, as Russell has written books on these subjects.

For our next meeting, on Tuesday 15th April, 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall, we will welcome Charmian Thompson from the Haverhill Family History Group who will talk on an equally fascinating subject: ‘Risbridge Workhouse’ – a poor start in life.

For further details of the LDHS please contact ldhscamb@gmail.com or 893915 or 678835.

Margaret Creek

Granta Medical Practices

The Covid-19 vaccine helps protect against Covid-19, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It is offered on the NHS to people at increased risk of getting seriously ill from Covid-19.

This year’s spring booster will be available from 1st April to 17th June, and is recommended for people at risk from Covid-19.

You may be offered the booster if you:

- are aged 75 or over,
- are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment,
- live in a care home for older adults.

NHS UK will contact you directly if you are eligible for the spring booster.

Granta Medical Practices will be delivering Covid-19 vaccines to our own patients and the general public via the National Booking System on NHS UK. Please

may we respectfully ask that you do not try to book directly via our reception as they do not have access to the National Booking System.

We will also be vaccinating older care home residents. Housebound patients will be vaccinated by one of the community services.

If you have any queries about the spring booster or Covid-19 in general, please go to www.nhs.uk

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



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APRIL	9.30 am	11.00 am	Afternoon & Evening
6 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/Alistair Collen</i>	
13 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair France</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair France</i> Palm Sunday Service – Hildersham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Songs of Praise (4.00 pm) – West Wrating, <i>John & Scilla Harvey</i> Taizé service (6.00 pm) – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
20 th EASTER DAY	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion (11.15) – Balsham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
27 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/Rosemary Mead</i>	Holy Communion (BCP) – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Great Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>

Details of all our services can also be found on the website: www.grantavale.org.uk

DIARY

APRIL 2025

- Sat 5 West Wrating Café
Balsham Picture House, ‘Conclave’
Deadline for Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award
- Tues 8 Balsham WI
- Thur 10 LoLs Pizza, Weston Colville
- Sun 13 Easter Family Celebration, St Andrew’s Church
- Mon 14 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 15 Linton & District Historical Society
- Wed 16 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 18 ‘The Passion’, Newmarket
- Sun 20 EASTER DAY
- Fri 25 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room

MAY 2025

- Sat 3 Balsham Picture House, ‘A Complete Unknown’
- Wed 7 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Thur 8 Wildly Preserved presentation, West Wrating
- Mon 12 West Wrating Parish Council
- Wed 14 ‘Pub Quiz’, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Thur 15 West Wrating Village Hall Lottery
- Sat 17 Bingo, West Wrating Village Hall
Balsham Singers Spring Concert

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: Cameron Biggs,
clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com

Black bins: Wednesday 2nd, 16th & 30th April,
Wednesday 14th & 28th May

Green & blue bins: Wednesday 9th & 23rd April,
Wednesday 7th & 21st May,

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday:

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 May issue:

Sunday 20th April