

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## *West Wratting Café*

Everyone is welcome on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June in the village hall, 10.30/12 noon, at our regular community café. We serve delicious homemade cakes provided by our loyal band of bakers, and freshly brewed coffee and tea.

We are excited to welcome the Village Hall Lottery organisers, who will be launching the first lottery draw. This will become a regular event at the café on the first Saturday of each month. Good luck to everyone who has signed up to the lottery, in support of our beautiful village hall.

*Sherry & Jan*

## *Tea & Cakes*

Thank you to everyone who came along to our May Tea & Cakes, and enjoyed a chat over a cuppa and some homemade cake.



Our next meeting will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June in the Reading Room, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm. I can't believe we will be half way through this year then.

The table tennis table is being repaired and we will have some new balls, as well as the other games to play with.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

*Val & the Team*

## *Save the Date . . .*

The wonderful troupe 'This is My Theatre' are visiting us again on 21<sup>st</sup> August with their take on 'Pride and Prejudice', celebrating Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. This is a stunning one-act adaptation packed with rivalries, regrets and romance!

You can book tickets now at [https://](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cuemarketing/1528720)

[www.tickettailor.com/events/cuemarketing/1528720](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cuemarketing/1528720)

*Jane Prior*



## **West Wratting Village Hall**

**A VERY Special CURRY Evening June 14th Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.00 start**

**An Exceptional Evening hosted by Gomathy Moorthie from our Village**

Entrance £20 to include Indian starters, vegetarian and chicken curry main course and Indian deserts. Gomathy and her daughter will play the Sitar during the interval. A bar will be available, with a free drink.

**Please support your Village Hall**

**Look out for details in Challenge/Facebook**

**Please contact Doug Clarke, 07818400723, email [dougatgalewood@hotmail.com](mailto:dougatgalewood@hotmail.com)**

**Tickets will be limited.**

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## *Soul Space – Pentecost Quiet Afternoon*

Pentecost (fifty days after Easter) is really the moment when the Christian Church began. The followers of Jesus were empowered to speak in many languages and to share the message of salvation with new-found confidence. Join us at our quiet time for a reflection led by Revd Kathy Bishop as we use peace and tranquility to consider what that event means for us today and how our lives might also be transformed. 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June in St Mary's, Weston Colville.

*Bob Coates (07785 361345)*

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

For May we read 'Prophet Song' by Paul Lynch, the Booker Prize winner in 2023.

Set in Ireland and, specifically, Dublin, this is the story of one woman's fight to keep her life and family together as society disintegrates around her. This dystopian story, reminiscent of 'The Handmaid's Tale' and 'Nineteen Eighty-Four', was described by our readers as harrowing, frightening, thought-provoking, chilling, even depressing but brilliantly and exquisitely written. The style of continuous writing with no paragraphs has a 'stream-of-consciousness' feel which pulls you along.

The main character, Eilish, is an intelligent, well-educated woman, a microbiologist, with teenage and younger children plus a father who seems to be drifting into dementia. However, she is unwilling or unable to admit what is happening around her, and the need to find safety elsewhere. She is determined to hang on to some sort of 'normality' even as her life disintegrates.

It gives you an awareness of the smaller details of the effects on the individual rather than the larger scale events of a war.

Setting it in Ireland, somewhere closer to home than other theatres of war, it acts as a lesson as to how

countries in the grip of an authoritarian takeover descend into violence and chaos with both sides using just as destructive and vicious methods of repression and control. It is a reminder of how people can find themselves pushed into desperate actions and situations when trying to escape from such horrendous events. Very much a lesson for our times which lingers in the mind. Although rather dark and disturbing, well worth reading. Scores were between 8.5 and 9 out of 10.

Our next book is 'Oliver Kitteridge' by Elizabeth Strout, meeting at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm.

***Linda Gorman (290653)***

### ***West Wratting Village Hall***



Thanks to Jan for all the hard work in setting up the lottery and to those who have signed up to support us. We have enough members to go ahead and run the lottery for six months; going forward we will review the possibility of opening the lottery again to new members in December 2025.

It was good to see the hall being used for an organised children's party, and for a presentation by Dr Jackie Brearley of Wildly Preserved on fermented foods. If you have ideas for talks, workshops or organised events please do contact me or use the booking link on the village website, <https://westwratting.org.uk/village-hall/>

The management committee is looking for new members and officers. Our treasurer would still like to retire soon, as would others. The hall is yours to run; if you are interested please contact me or any committee member.

***Martin Davey, Chair (penywaen1@gmail.com)***

### ***Tennis – New Season Started 1<sup>st</sup> May***

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

The West Wratting 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.westwrattingtennis.co.uk](http://www.westwrattingtennis.co.uk) or contact [secretary@westwrattingtennis.co.uk](mailto:secretary@westwrattingtennis.co.uk).

### **West Wratting Village Hall**

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## Kingsway Solar Community Action

Following our AGM in April 2025, we're pleased to report a rise in membership, reflecting the growing concern within our community.

To keep everyone informed and connected, we've launched a members' WhatsApp Announcements Channel to complement our regular updates on Facebook and to allow us to share important information quickly and directly.

Recent developments in Weston Colville – several residents in Weston Colville have contacted us after receiving letters from agents acting on behalf of the Kingsway Solar project. Where appropriate, we have encouraged landowners to consider granting access, especially when it supports informed decision-making for ecological surveys.

However, we are also aware that certain residents have been issued with a Notice under Section 172, compelling access to their land. This has understandably caused concern. These issues have been raised with local planning and with Pippa Heylings, and we are awaiting further clarification and guidance.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as more information becomes available. If you've received similar correspondence or have concerns, please get in touch. We're currently gathering all related information.

### Step into Nature: June's Call to Action – Butterflies!



Thank you to everyone who's taken part in our *Step into Nature* campaign so far. For June, we're asking you to look out for butterflies, which are important indicators of a healthy environment.

Please keep recording your





sightings—especially anything unusual, rare, or protected. You can log them via *iRecord* to help us gather vital data within a 2 km radius of the proposed Kingsway Solar site. Let's keep showing how much our local wildlife matters!


## Join the National Community Walk – Say No to Kingsway Solar


 Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am.  Meet at West Wratting Rec Ground car park, Bull Lane, West Wratting, CB21 5NP.

KSCA is joining a nationwide walk to raise awareness of the impact of large-scale solar farms like Kingsway Solar. Our local walk in West Wratting features a 2.25 mile route (or 1 mile option), passing through areas directly threatened by the proposed development.

 After the walk, enjoy tea, cake, and a short talk about the solar farm at the village hall.

 Why it matters: over 1,500 hectares of farmland and countryside could be lost.

 BBC coverage expected; let's make our voices heard!

 Volunteers needed for marshalling and refreshments. Please contact us if you can help.

**Stay connected with KSCA** – if you've signed up as a KSCA member – thank you! You can also keep up with the latest news and developments by visiting our website: [kingswayaction.org](https://kingswayaction.org) And don't forget to follow us on Facebook for real-time updates, event info, and ways to get involved.

**Support KSCA** – donations are gratefully received via GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/479e0bd8>) to support our ongoing work in opposing the Kingsway Solar development.

*Ellen Collier*

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### Parish Matters

"Whatever next?"! I seem to hear myself increasingly asking this question as I watch the news, read the newspaper or follow the multiple online sources of information which constantly bombard us.

Certainly, so far this year we seem to have been subjected to a torrent of bad news, depressing forecasts, inhuman behaviour and horrific events that, were I to possess any, would make my hair stand on end! However, before concluding that the world is going to hell in a handcart and abandoning all hope, I have to encourage myself and thereby, I hope, you to pause and for just a moment take stock. I sometimes remind myself that when I was a boy the news was a ten-minute bulletin on the wireless and salacious stories the province of a certain kind of newspaper, so is everything now much worse or, if we can shut out the noise and distraction for a moment, is there something else we need to hear?

In the life of the Church we go through something of a rollercoaster ride of events during the first part of the year starting with God sending his only Son as a



baby into this world to save us from ourselves, we then hear of his amazing life and ministry, plumb the depths of his suffering and death on the cross and are then given the sure promise of eternal life in his Easter resurrection, but, just when we think it is safe, on Ascension Day Jesus disappears back into heaven perhaps leaving us wondering "whatever next". Jesus however never leaves us without hope and on the first Pentecost Sunday the promised comforter in the form of the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and set their hearts and lives on fire, transforming them from an anxious band of believers into an ever-growing, confident church ready to take the good news of Jesus to the farthest corners of the then known world. As we read in the Acts of the Apostles the task was not easy or without significant cost but in the love of God and power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible and the results beyond our wildest dreams. Are we ready for that – whatever next?

*Keith Day*

### Weston Colville 'Pub' Quiz

The May quiz was convincingly won by 'Past Our Hay Day' (pictured) – congratulations!



The two households can now share the trophy until our next quiz on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September.

*Jacqueline Douglas*

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### ***Sawston u3a***

Would you like to learn new skills, meet new friends, entertain, and be entertained?

The u3a could be for you.

Originally formed over 40 years ago by retired people who wanted to stay active both physically and mentally, Sawston Area u3a has a current membership of over 500 and is open to all who are not in full-time employment.

There are over 50 daytime activities on offer, including educational classes, various sports, games, pastimes and craft activities, walks, theatre shows and other outings. Transport for outings is provided from and back to Sawston.

Want to find out more? Come along to our Summer Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Ickleton Village Hall at 2.00 pm or visit our website, <https://sawston-area.u3asite.uk>

***Mike Rowland (290788)***

**West Wrattling Village Hall**



**Planned Social Events for 2025**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>: A Very Special Evening.** Live Indian music and a home cooked three course Indian meal. 6:30 for 7:00pm start, limited number of tickets, see Challenge or contact Doug for details.

**11<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Supper** not wine tasting, save the date, further information to follow.

**Wine Tasting**, following on from the last year, the event is to be repeated with new Fresh Wines. Date to be conformed.

Look out for details in Challenge/Facebook  
Please contact Doug Clarke, 07818400723, email [dougatgalewood@hotmail.com](mailto:dougatgalewood@hotmail.com)

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***Weston Colville Parish Council –  
Chairman's Report, 2024/25 Parish Meeting***

This has been a challenging year with both exciting and worrying developments within the village.

**Replacement of the Green Play Area**

I would like to start with the exciting development first, which is the new playground on the Green with its many and varied activities for all ages. Following a public consultation the subcommittee produced a proposal to redevelop the play area and made several successful applications for grants to support its cost. This is certainly the most ambitious and costly project the council has undertaken in all my years on the council. I would like to especially thank Councillor Pagonis, Councillor Rayner, the clerk Jess Ashbridge, Jo and Daniel Jackson and Amie Jordi for a very successful and well executed project, the results of which are clear for all to see. The new playground has been actively used for a few months now and its official opening will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of May when you are all invited to join us at The Green.

**Kingsway Solar Farm**

The worrying development in the last year has been the proposed Solar Farm development which would potentially surround the village with solar panels. The council is opposed to this and has made robust replies to both the informal consultation by Kingsway and to the scoping process for the Kingsway Solar environmental statement. I am pleased to say that the planning inspectorate included our concerns in the response requested from Kingsway. I would also like to thank all those who helped me with the council response. The council will continue to ensure it is involved in and responds to all aspects of the project as it develops.

**Flooding in the Village**

This has been another successful year for flood prevention in the village, including updating the flood plan for the whole village and getting the County Council Highways department to complete more actions to alleviate flooding in the village, notably the clearing of the Stour behind the old council houses and around the Horseshoe Lane ford. The Reading Room trust and the parish council have also had the ditch by the Green and next to the Reading Room carpark cleared. Flood wardens are still in place and have dealt efficiently with several incidents of

flooding on Common Road. I would like to thank Councillors Garrod and Durham and their fellow flood wardens for their hard work in delivering this. The County Council Flood Risks officer is also continuing his visits to the village and implementing plans which should further reduce flooding in the village.

**Maintenance of Roads and Verges**

The parish council organised its usual verge cutting programme and continued to provide street lighting for the village. Limited progress was also made with getting potholes repaired and gullies and drains cleared. This continues to be a never-ending task and there are still many potholes to fix.

**MAVS – Speed Indicator Sign**

Following a very generous donation from a parishioner last year the council continues to use its two mobile activated vehicle signs which show the speed of vehicles passing through the village. These have definitely helped to improve road safety, and a considerable amount of data has been collected which worryingly shows a small number of people driving through the village at up to sixty mph.

**Grass and Hedge Maintenance**

The council continued with its programme of grass cutting and hedge trimming around the war memorial, and at the Church End playing field and the play area on The Green.

**Play Areas**

An annual safety inspection of this equipment has also been carried out by an outside expert to ensure it meets current safety standards, with the recommendations raised being implemented alongside all other necessary maintenance work.

**Annual Budget for the Parish**

I regret to report that the council felt it necessary to increase its precept for 2025/26 to provide funds to help fight the proposed solar farm. However, due to an administrative error by South Cambridgeshire district council, the amount payable by parishioners increased significantly more than this to compensate for the reduced charge they made last year.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking all my fellow councillors and our clerk for their time and effort in supporting the work and objectives of the council.

***Ray Vidler, Parish Council Chairman***

## **Weston Colville Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Meeting documents are available at [www.westoncolville.org.uk](http://www.westoncolville.org.uk) and an extract of the minutes is below.

### **Election of Officers:**

Chairman – Cllr Vidler

Vice Chair – Cllr Durham.

### **Determination of Representatives/Responsibilities:**

Financial Overseer – Cllr Garrod

Combined Parishes Meeting Representative – Cllr Vidler and Cllr Durham

Footpaths – Cllr Durham

Tree Warden – Cllr Garrod

Flood Wardens – Cllr Garrod, Cllr Durham, Faye Parker, Peter White, and Alastair Douglas

Playgrounds – Cllr Pagonis, Cllr Rayner, Clerk

MVAS – Cllr Russell

Kingsway Solar Farm Representative/s – Cllr Vidler, and Cllr Durham

Biodiversity – Cllr Garrod

Reading Room Representative – Cllr Rayner

**Flooding** – a report was circulated about the actions on Common Road. It was suggested that the report was sent to the owners of Stour House about digging a ditch across their land to drain into the Stour. The clerk would write to them. Cllr Vidler would chase the Flooding Officer, for an update.

**Footpaths** – Footpath 16 would be closed for six months while building works took place at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane.

**MVAS** (mobile vehicle activated signs) – Cllr Russell had had problems downloading the data, but would circulate it before the next meeting.

**Kingsway Solar Planning Meeting** – Cllr Vidler attended the meeting organised by the Greater Cambridge Planning Department. The case would be determined by the Secretary of State. It was determined that the parish council would register as an Interested Party, to be included in the consultation.

**Village Picnic/Playground Opening** – the Playground Working Group had organised tea and cakes, a fun dog show, candy floss, and music for the event on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Vidler would cut the ribbon on the new playground at 12.30 pm. The Reading Room had agreed that the council could use the recreation ground, and would be operating the bar

during the event. The clerk had checked with Zurich, and the event was covered under the council's insurance, as the gathering was under 2,000 people.

**.gov.uk Domain** – the domain had been paid for, the council was awaiting the switch-over to <http://www.westoncolville-pc.gov.uk>

**Risk Assessment/Health and Safety** – the defibrillator was rescue-ready. The clerk would check the expiry date for the pads.

**Playground** – the Play Inspection Company will be paid £250 + VAT to inspect the play areas; the quote from ROSPA was much higher. A discussion was held surrounding overspend on the new playground, the deficit was £6,331.62. The clerk would approach the Reading Room, to ask if they would split the difference.

**Annual Return 2024/25** – The Internal Audit report was received, with no actions required. The Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement were approved. The Public Inspection of Accounts would occur between 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July. The required documents would be submitted to the external Auditors PKF Littlejohn before the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Dates of the next meetings in 2025 are: 7<sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

*Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*

## **Classic Car Show**

29<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am until 4 pm

Free entry; BBQ; bar

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

## West Wrattling Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the parish council took place on 12<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall.

Cllr Simon Chandler was re-elected as chairman, with Cllr Paul McKenna appointed vice-chairman.

Key council documents including Standing Orders, Finance and Risk Registers, the Asset Register, IT and Retention Policies were reviewed and approved. The council also agreed its insurance cover for the coming year and approved the annual financial return.

The council sadly accepted the resignation of Cllr Parsons, and the vacancy will be advertised soon.

Council finances remain healthy, with a reported balance of just under £59,000. The annual precept of £14,300 was received.

Regular payments were approved, including a £1,200 annual grant to the village hall, reflecting a recent saving on the council's insurance premium. A £54 contribution was also approved for advertising the village website in the *Challenge* magazine, and a domain transfer to a new web host was agreed.

Planning matters included updates on local applications:

- Approval of dormer designs at Lamb's Yard but rejection of surface water plans.
- Pending application for solar panels at Camgrain.
- Approval for removal of two ash trees at 59A High Street.

Regarding the Kingsway Solar Farm, the council approved commissioning three independent reports (traffic, hydrology, and air quality). Work on a sample solar array exhibition is progressing, with land suitability to be reviewed.

Upcoming events at the sports pavilion were approved, including a family party and the Classic Car Show in June. Progress was reported on lease agreements and funding applications for pavilion maintenance.

The council continues to pursue speed limit reductions and road safety improvements, including re-submitting the 20 mph application.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the village hall.

*Cameron Biggs, Parish Clerk*



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## Balsham Singers

The choir is holding Singing for Fun sessions in the sports pavilion, Balsham, 7.30 pm start. These are open to anyone who would like to come along – choir members or anyone curious about singing in a large group – and would like to give us a go. £5 a session, pay as you go, no commitment, just turn up.

Dates are 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. If you attend all five then the last one is free. We look forward to seeing you there. Music will be taken from musical theatre.

Unfortunately our Come and Sing event scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> June has been cancelled, and those who registered their interest have been notified.

*Joanne Stinton*

## Balsham WI

Our May meeting took us all back to the 1960s, a decade where there was much change both internationally and in this country. Notable events included JFK's assassination, the Aberfan disaster, England winning the World Cup, and man landing on the moon. The WI introduced their famous Keep Britain Tidy campaign, and the WI in Balsham continued to do well, with many new houses being built. There was a large committee in place and regular competitions at monthly meetings, two of which were repeated at our 1960s meeting – prettiest button on a card, and a limerick starting with 'There once was a woman from Balsham'. We received several entries for each category.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30 pm at the Pavilion in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the 1970s.

We are a friendly bunch, and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – [balshamwi@gmail.com](mailto:balshamwi@gmail.com) – or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August we are holding an afternoon tea for past and present members at the Church Institute, in celebration of our centenary this year.

*Debbie Mower*



## IN THE NAME OF BACH

*JS Bach and his Sons*

*Ashley Solomon - Baroque Flute*

*Steven Devine - Harpsichord*



**A Baroque Concert in  
Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham CB21 6BZ  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**

Ashley is Head of Historical Performance at London's Royal College of Music and director of Florilegium.

Steven regularly directs the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

**Tickets at £20 available from**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1322767305619?aff=oddttdtcreator>  
or at the door

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*In Support of the Friends of Holy Trinity Hildersham*



## Linton & District Historical Society

Owing to a last minute cancellation for our final session this season, we are grateful to Dr Richard Paden, a committee member, who stepped in and gave a fascinating lecture on the 'History of Canals', starting with the construction of the Bridgewater Canal, commissioned by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Bridgewater in 1760, right up to the present day. A well presented talk, illustrated with photographs and information, not only of the canals but also the structures and social history alongside them.

The 2025/26 season will start on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

For further details of the LDHS please contact [ldhscambs@gmail.com](mailto:ldhscambs@gmail.com), 01223 893915 or 01223 678835.

*Ian Creek*



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### ***The Meadow Primary School, Balsham***

It has been a truly enriching and exciting time for the children at The Meadow Primary School, with a wide range of activities that have supported their learning, development, and enjoyment across the curriculum.

**A Journey Through Faith** – as part of Year 3 and 4's RE learning, pupils recently took part in a fantastic trip to the Cambridge Mosque and C3 Church. This experience gave them a unique opportunity to explore and compare

two very different places of worship. From the breathtaking wooden latticework and serene atmosphere of



Cambridge Mosque to the modern, welcoming design of C3 Church, the children were exposed to incredible examples of religious architecture.

Drawing on their knowledge of Holy Trinity Church in Balsham, the pupils were able to make thoughtful comparisons between all three buildings. Guided tours at each venue allowed the children to learn about the deep symbolism present in the spaces and how people of faith use these buildings in their worship. We are extremely grateful to the venues for being so welcoming and generous with their time – their hospitality made the visits truly memorable.

**Remembering the Past** – in school, we also came together to mark a significant historical event – the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Mrs Butcher launched our celebrations with a special assembly that

reminded the children why this day is so important. It was a heartwarming sight to see the hall filled with a sea of red, white, and blue as the children gathered together. One of the highlights was hearing the beautiful VE Day songs they had learned – their voices filled the room with pride and joy.

**Jumping into Skipping Week** – adding to the spirit of fun and energy this term, we also celebrated Skipping Week. Children were encouraged to practise skipping as much as possible, using both individual

ropes and the big rope. It has been a delight to see so many pupils learning new skills, developing rhythm and coordination, and trying out creative



skipping patterns. Their enthusiasm and progress have been truly inspiring.

At The Meadow Primary, we are proud to offer our pupils such a rich and diverse set of experiences that support their academic learning, personal growth, and physical wellbeing. We warmly welcome anyone who may be able to offer something similar to further enrich the children's experiences—please don't hesitate to contact the school office at [office@meadowprimary.org](mailto:office@meadowprimary.org).

***Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher***



## Linton Village College



In celebration of World Book Day on 6<sup>th</sup> March this year, Heads of English from Anglian Learning Trust schools launched a competition designed to promote reading for pleasure. As part of the Trust, Linton Village College students were invited to submit a creative entry based on a piece of literature that they had read and enjoyed.

LVC's English department was inundated with beautiful paintings, creative collages, extended writing and animations. We were delighted by the quality and originality of the submissions received and it was difficult to whittle the entries down to a final six. After some deliberation, we selected winners from years 7, 8 and 9, and awarded highly commended entries in celebration assemblies with Easter chocolate!

We were delighted that Linton pupil Tony in Year 9 had been selected as overall winner of the Trust competition. Judges praised Tony's "vivid storytelling that is perfectly evocative of the rich, complex, international and intellectual world of Holmes and Watson."

We also say congratulations to seven of our students who have successfully been awarded funding from the Henry Morris Award, which supports independent learning projects. Our students have been successful in gaining funding for a wide variety of projects including a Latin course, filming in Vietnam, research into Polish politics, photography projects, and seeing a London show.



*Successful students for the Henry Morris Award*

Enrichment is a core value at LVC. It is great to celebrate and recognise independent learning achievements that demonstrate students' holistic education beyond the classroom.

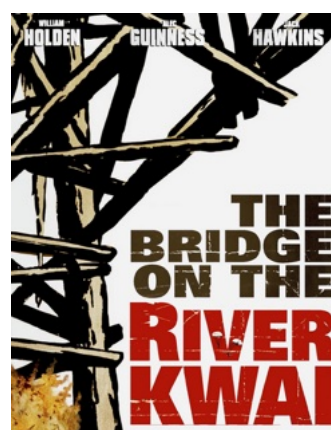
**Laura Heard**

## Balsham Picture House

Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> – MARIA (12). Angelina Jolie stars as Maria Callas in this glamorous moving story of the iconic opera singer in Paris in 1977. Once the world's greatest soprano, Callas now hides in an apartment, having lost her voice and retreated from the world. She dreams of returning to the stage but can her body and mind take the pressure?



Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> – THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI (PG). During WWII, allied POWs in a Japanese internment camp are ordered to build a bridge to accommodate the Burma-Siam railway.



Their instinct is to sabotage the bridge, but under the leadership of Colonel Nicholson they're persuaded the bridge should be built to help morale, spirit. At first, the prisoners admire Nicholson when he bravely endures torture rather than compromise his principles

for the benefit of Japanese Commandant Colonel Saito, but soon they realise it's a monument to Nicholson himself, as well as a form of collaboration with the enemy. Award winning film starring William Holden, Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins.

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

The film evening on July 5<sup>th</sup> concludes the Balsham VE/VJ big lunch day to commemorate 80 years since the ceasing of hostilities in WWII. Balsham had a number of servicemen imprisoned in the Far East and so VJ day was more significant than VE day.

This will be a community picnic lunch with historical ephemera and presentations, teas, ice creams, steam trains and a giant slide plus other activities for all ages, to be held in the Church Institute and Pavilion and recreation ground.

**Dick Paden**

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### WITHERSFIELD VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 21st June 1-4pm



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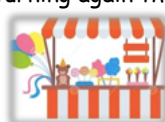
Try your hand at Wellie Wanging, or get a hole on one at Golf, be the best at Bean Bags or Bowls or win a Coconut! There will be so much to see and do!

Sample our teas & cakes, don't forget the Plant Stall, have a go at the Bottle Stall, browse at the book, games & puzzle stall, everyone one is a winner at the Jar Bar, check out the homemade delights at the produce stall and have a rummage in Grannies Attic, the list goes on!

A live band will entertain you, while enjoying the BBQ and the Bar!!! The Border Collies & sheep will be returning again this

year to add to the fun!

Hope to see you there!!



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### West Wickham & District Gardening Club

First of all, we would like to send a huge 'thank you' to everybody who contributed, purchased, chatted to us, drank tea and ate cake to make the May plant sale such a great success! We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.



Now summer is here, we are heading outside for our summer garden visits. Open to members, these are relaxed affairs and a good opportunity to get together at the same time as gaining inspiration from the gardens we visit. Proceeds from both events go to the NGS garden scheme charities.

**Buster's Cottage, Duxford** on 16<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 pm, £10 including refreshments: [www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/bustlers-cottage-cb22/](http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/bustlers-cottage-cb22/) Contact Rio Glyn-Davies for further information ([rioglyndavies@gmail.com](mailto:rioglyndavies@gmail.com)).

**Farm Lodge, Hildersham** on 21<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30 pm, £7.50 including refreshments: <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/47248/farm-lodge> Contact Indi Liepa for further information ([ifliepa@gmail.com](mailto:ifliepa@gmail.com)).

Finally, visit us at the West Wickham Big Garden Party on 5<sup>th</sup> July for helpful advice, quizzes and cakes. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Sally Collins** ([wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org))

### Girlguiding

Girlguiding is the largest organisation for girls and young women in the UK. Girlguiding helps them to find their voice, build skills and confidence. It inspires them to discover the best in themselves and empowers them to make a positive difference in their community.

Girlguiding caters for a range of ages: Rainbows, for girls aged 4 - 7; Brownies, for girls aged 7 - 10; Guides, for girls aged 10 - 14; Rangers, for girls aged 14 - 18. We have spaces available in local units, Horseheath and Linton.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Horseheath Brownies

Barney has returned to Brownies and it's like she hasn't been away. The girls are looking forward to decorating her wheelchair, or as Barney calls it 'pimping her ride'.

We have other exciting things planned for the summer term, hopefully outside in the sunshine.

**Pauline, Katie & Esther**  
([horseheathbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:horseheathbrownies@gmail.com))

### 1<sup>st</sup> Brinkley Guides

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Some of the things we have enjoyed: Water activities, Narrow Boat Weekend, Pyjama Party, Murder Mystery Weekend, Summer Activity Camp, Climbing, Abseiling, Caving, High Ropes, Archery, Bushcraft Skills, International opportunities.

We meet in Brinkley on Tuesday evenings, for ages 10 - 14. For information or to arrange a taster visit contact Grace Bristow (01638 713967, [grace.bristow@talktalk.net](mailto:grace.bristow@talktalk.net)).

**Toni-ann Hammond, Unit Leader**





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### *The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth*

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**School Holiday Activities** with Prestige Sports every weekday in the school holidays from 21<sup>st</sup> July through until 29<sup>th</sup> August. Visit their website (<https://www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com>) to book your children on to this.

**Summer Show**, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July. If you have a Vintage/Classic car or motorbike, please enter it into the show.

**Clubs & Classes** – for a full list please visit our website.

*The Ellesmere Centre*, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
(01638 508212, [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk))

### *Linton Library*

In June we'll be joining other Linton groups to celebrate Great Big Green Week, a national celebration of actions to live more sustainably and protect the environment. Pop into the library to make a green heart and pledge your support to our future.

Our Summer Reading Challenge kicks off on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The theme this year is 'Story Garden', and we are thrilled that Scotsdales have arranged for every child who signs up to receive a special gift (which will get everyone planting!). All children aged 0 - 11 years can sign up to take part.

*Vicky Anandraj & Ann King*



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## Get Ready, Go Digital, Stay Connected

Landlines are changing. By January 2027, traditional landlines will be upgraded with digital technology. This national upgrade is known as the Digital Switchover and will mean that landline calls will be made over the



internet instead of the old telephone network.

Telephone providers are responsible for switching customers to the upgraded service, but everyone is encouraged to check if and how the change will affect them, especially those who rely on their landline or use a telecare device.

For many, the change will be simple. All you will have to do is plug your landline phone into a broadband router instead of a traditional phone socket. But for others, especially those who rely on their landline for care alarms, medical devices, or staying in touch, it's important to understand what the change means and what action they need to take in order to stay connected.

Connecting Cambridgeshire is running the Get Ready, Go Digital, Stay Connected campaign to help local residents prepare for, and feel confident about, the change.

The switchover will mainly affect:

- People without an internet connection at home
- Those who rely on a traditional landline not already upgraded to a digital phone service
- Users of telecare and personal alarm systems, eg fall monitors or lifelines.

Three things to do:

1. Contact your phone provider to find out if the change affects you.
2. Need support? Ask a trusted friend or family member to help.
3. Use a personal or fall alarm? Contact your provider to ensure it will still work with the new system.

Look out for scams. The switchover doesn't require upfront payments. If you get a suspicious call, hang up and contact your phone provider using the official number from a recent bill.

Support each other. Know someone who might need help? A quick conversation or offer to help them call their phone provider could make a big difference.

No one should be left behind. Whether it's you, a neighbour or a relative, now is the time to ask the question: is your landline ready?

For more information, visit: [www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover) or scan the QR code.





JUNE	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> –Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/</i> <i>Alastair France</i>	
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Great Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> <b>Café Church</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Taizé service</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Taizé service</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/</i> <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Creative Church (10.00 am)</b> – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah</i> <i>Threlfall/Rosemary Mead</i>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> –Balsham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – Great Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> –Great Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	<b>Evensong</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Alistair Collen</i>

Details of all our services can also be found on the website: [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, **Pentecost Quiet Afternoon**,  
Weston Colville, 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

**Regular Midweek Services –**  
Every Tuesday at Hildersham, 7.00 pm,  
**Silent Space** followed by **Compline**  
Every Friday at Weston Colville, 8.45 am,  
**Morning Prayer**

## DIARY

### JUNE 2025

Sat 7 West Wrating Café  
Pentecost Quiet Afternoon, St Mary's  
Balsham Picture House, 'Maria'  
Sun 8 Community Walk, Say No to Kingsway Solar  
Garden Fete, Burrough Green  
Tues 10 Balsham WI  
Sat 14 Curry Evening, West Wrating Village Hall  
Wed 18 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Thur 19 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Baroque Concert, Hildersham  
Fri 20 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room  
Sat 21 Withersfield Village Fete  
Sun 29 Classic Car Show, West Wrating

**Black bins:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June  
**Green & blue bins:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June

**Revd Iain McColl**  
01223 890693, [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)  
**Revd Hannah Threlfall**, Community Minister  
01223 481090, [RevThrelfall24@outlook.com](mailto:RevThrelfall24@outlook.com)  
**Mr Steven Wheeler**, Licensed Lay Minister  
01223 290396, [stevenwheeler406@gmail.com](mailto:stevenwheeler406@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](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443  
**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[clerk@westoncolville.org.uk](mailto:clerk@westoncolville.org.uk), 07779 277647  
**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Cameron Biggs,  
[clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk))  
Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**Copy date for July issue:**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**