

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

The next café will be on Saturday 2nd August, from 10.30 until noon in the village hall.

How quickly the August café has come around. We're happy to welcome two of our Christmas Fair contributors: Nicci with her gorgeous 'Innerlather' skin products, and Di Cross with her cards and other goods with her art print designs.

Do join us; we'll be serving our usual homemade cakes, freshly brewed coffee and tea. Everyone welcome.

Sherry & Jan

Tea & Cakes

Thank you everybody who came and cooled off in the Reading Room on a very hot day, enjoying some delicious cakes – thank you also to all the bakers who provided them.



We will be taking a break in August and will start up again on the third Friday of the month, 19th September, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm as usual.

Val & the Team

West Wratting Village Hall

The second lottery draw was held at the Saturday Café on 5th July. Winners came from far afield, ranging from Saffron Walden to Balsham and the village. The winning numbers were: first, 36, second, 16, and third, 24. If you would like to join the lottery please contact Jan at jan.davey5@btinternet.com

If you have ideas for talks, workshops or organised events and would like to help get them started, please do contact me.

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

Martin Davey, Chair (penywaen1@gmail.com)

No 19 Bus Service

Is everyone aware of this service? It runs from Burrough Green to Haverhill via Linton; four buses a day (five in some villages). At Linton you can pick up the X13 half-hourly service to Addenbrookes and Cambridge. The full timetable is displayed at village bus stops.

Ann Twinn

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Ordering deadline: noon, **Sunday 14th September.**

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

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

Chapel Road, Common Road, The Green, Horseshoe Lane:

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

West Wratting

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

Any orders left by email will be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. There is a minimum order of 500 litres. We can no longer order fill ups, due to pre-payment requirements. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm. If you are close to running out, please tell us so we mark you as urgent.

The price will not be known until the order is placed. Once placed we will give you the number to ring to make your payment prior to delivery.

Help Buttercups Collect Tesco Blue Tokens

Buttercups Community Preschool in Balsham has been selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme, offering funding for new play equipment as well as day-to-day consumables. Please collect as many of the Tesco blue tokens as you can in Fulbourn and other Cambridgeshire stores whenever you are in store and pop them into the Buttercups collection box from July to September.



Many local children attend, attended or will attend Buttercups and we need community support to maximise this opportunity. Thank you so much from Kirsty, the team and of course all the children. We'll let you know how we get on later in the autumn.

Charlotte Vallins

Help Needed

westwratting.org.uk needs your help!

Do you know how to use WordPress to create and modify content on a simple website – or would you like to learn how?

Can you spare 1 - 2 hrs each month to keep our village website up to date?

If so, please contact me.

Simon Chandler (07762 232882)

Fundraising for Alzheimer's Society

I've undertaken to complete a half marathon, at a reasonable pace I might add, on 2nd August, in support of the Alzheimer's Society. If anyone feels able to support this cause, please use the Just Giving link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/bridget-durham-1> Many thanks.

Bridget Durham

**Baby Sitting, odd-jobs,
and car washing.**
Competent 15-year-old, Charlie Hodson,
is raising money for his LVC Challenge Trip
West Wratting based.
£10/hour, £10/car
Call 07818033668 for info

St Andrew's Church, West Wratting

We are looking for helpers to keep the church clean and tidy! St Andrew's is open to visitors every day of the year and offers a calm, cool and lovely space.

For many years several members of our village have helped keep the church clean and beautiful. While we have four flower arrangers who ensure the church is decorated every week, our rota of cleaners has diminished to two.

Even if you are not a regular churchgoer we would much appreciate some offers of help. This might mean an hour or two once a month or even once every other month.

If you think you could help please contact:

***Frances Peers (07702 122353,
francespeers@hotmail.co.uk)***

Maureen Clarke (maureenatgalewood@hotmail.com)



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Weston Colville Reading Room – ‘Pub’ Quiz

The next quiz will be on Wednesday 17th September at 8 pm. Could it be your turn to take home the coveted trophy? Come as a fully-formed team, or join one when you arrive. Up to 6 per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com , 291475

Folk evening – Camus

Date saver – the group will be back with us on Saturday 18th October.

They played recently at the St Neots Folk Festival, and a review of their performance from FATEA magazine said: “Their set was both varied and compelling. The musicianship throughout was exceptional, but special mention must go to Edric Ellis. His masterful command of the Northumbrian small pipes and border pipes stirred the audience with such intensity that the sound seemed to swell beyond the room itself – at times almost overwhelming in the best possible way.”

More details in September’s *Challenge*, and on their website: *CAMUS - English folk band*

FREE!



KIDS TENNIS COACHING DAY

d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrating

Friday 8th August, 10am-3pm

d'Abo Tennis Club are delighted to invite you to a free day of tennis lessons provided by Full Swing Tennis Coaching.

Join us for a fun-filled day of free tennis coaching. No experience or membership needed just bring enthusiasm, appropriate clothes and trainers! If you have a racket please do bring it along.

Tots Tennis (Under 5's)	10:00-10:45 AM
8 yrs and under	10:45-11:45 AM
10 yrs and under	12:15-1:15 PM
11-15 yrs	1:15-3:00 PM

Please register for the coaching day by emailing: nicholaaddley@gmail.com

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VISIT: WWW.WESTWRATINGTENNIS.CO.UK

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Kingsway Solar Community Action

Find out what Kingsway Solar Farm could mean for our villages – this August, we're holding a series of public talks about the proposed large-scale solar development and how local residents can get involved to challenge it. Everyone is welcome.

Come along to one of these events, all starting at 7.30 pm:

- 6th August – The Reading Room, Weston Colville
- 11th August – Memorial Hall, Brinkley
- 14th August – Sports Pavilion, Balsham
- 18th August – West Wickham Village Hall.

The statutory consultation for the Kingsway Solar Farm is likely to begin in September and will be open for public comment for six weeks. This is our one and only opportunity to respond to Kingsway's plans, raise concerns and give feedback. Your voice matters: join us to see how you can take a stand and help stop this development.

Have Your Say – Updated Survey Link



We're extending the survey to make sure everyone has the chance to share their views. Tell us how the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm could affect your wellbeing, lifestyle and connection to the area.

Your feedback will help shape our community's response. (<http://bit.ly/3IFWA4o>)

New NSIP Solar Initiative

KSCA is set to join a new initiative, Stop Oversized Solar (SOS), alongside other groups campaigning against large-scale solar projects that fall under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)

planning rules. The initiative aimed to meet with parliamentarians in July to highlight concerns about industrial-scale solar developments. We've contacted Pippa Heylings to urge her to take part.

Step into Nature: Bats and Owls Matter

As part of our Step into Nature campaign, we're shifting focus from July's Bug Hunt to bats and owls this August.

Our local area is home to a rich bat population, including the rare and protected Western Barbastelle. We also have a healthy population of tawny owls and barn owls in the area. Interestingly, Kingsway's surveys haven't recorded any owl activity so far, making your observations even more important.



Please log any sightings on iRecord to build a clearer picture. Even if you're unsure of the species of bat, all records are useful. There's a special page on the website giving further details if you'd like to upload audio recordings (kingswayaction.org: see the news section).

Together we are Stronger –

- Become a KSCA member to stay involved: <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>
- Follow KSCA on Facebook for real-time updates
- Donate via GoFundMe to support our work (<https://gofund.me/479e0bd8>).

Kathy Day

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PRE SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE

Parish Matters

Hello! My name is Alastair France and I've been delighted to be part of the Ministry Team for the Granta Vale villages for the last few months.

I've recently retired from full-time employment and have been exploring my ministry within the Church of England for some years – and now rather feels like the time. I've lived in Stetchworth with my wife, Rebecca for 36 years, where I've been a churchwarden and led services locally in the Raddesley group for many years.

There is a 'discernment' process where the Church and the candidate decide whether going forward towards ordination is the right thing for them both. For those candidates of a 'certain age' who have experience within Church that process can be modified a little so that training can start earlier (although the discernment process is still as rigorous; just some of the process happens at the same time as study). This is called the Elizabeth Pathway and I'm delighted that I've been accepted for this and will commence my formal training with a summer school at the end of August.

I'm also very pleased that I will continue to work with the team here in these villages; the Granta Vale group led by Iain will act as my 'training benefice', although I will continue to lead some services 'up north'. During my study I will also continue (provided I can manage the workload) to be part of the chaplaincy teams supporting river users in the Cambridge area and separately to staff, visitors and passengers at Stansted Airport (neatly covering two of my other interests). My previous career in technology gave me many opportunities to travel and work in interesting places, and I do enjoy drawing on that variety of experiences when leading worship.

I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next couple of years!

Alastair

A Tribute to Rosemary Westley

Last month the village lost one of its stalwart supporters. Sadly, Rosemary Westley passed away after a debilitating disease. May she rest in peace. On behalf of the church and church wardens we'd like to pay tribute to the extraordinary life she led and the



enormous contribution she made both to church and village life.

After being evacuated from Kent during the war, she arrived in Weston Colville as a young child along with the rest of her family and she has lived nearly all her long life here. It's clear that she had a deep commitment to the work of the church as well as an uncomplicated but profound Christian faith. There are simply countless events to which she has contributed to along with her twin Maureen and her sister Kath. The list is exhausting but included are annual flower festivals, winter lunches and fundraising events, special services at Christmas time, Easter and Remembrance Sunday, and all the hidden work that often goes unrecognised in keeping a small village church alive and in business.

Rosemary and Maureen have been an amazing partnership, serving together as church wardens for over 25 years, singing in the choir for even longer, cleaning and decorating St Mary's Church, and there's hardly ever been an occasion when the twins haven't been directly involved in church activities. There were also many behind-the-scenes activities involving the Ely Diocese and the Synod, requiring attendance at meetings and events, representing Weston Colville in the wider church.

In all this, Rosemary's commitment to her Christian faith, her willingness to do the best for our village, and her loyalty to friends and family have all shone through. She, along with Maureen, have left a legacy unequalled in recent village history and many will mourn her passing. After a very well-attended and moving funeral service on 16th July, she has been laid to rest, joining her beloved Stan Goward in the churchyard.

A life well lived!

Bob Coates

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The council met on Monday 7th July. Full minutes and meeting documents are available at <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

Control of Dogs – Events that occurred on 4th June at the flooding meeting were discussed, where a dog had jumped on Cllr Durham, scratching her leg. Cllr Vidler stressed that his comments in *Challenge* about this were not intended to be a personal criticism, but a criticism of a minority of dog owners, who caused problems due to a lack of control.

Flooding – Cllr Harvey asked whether responsive cutting of the Stour ditch behind The Green/ Horseshoe Lane would be appropriate; it was advised this would be the best approach. Cllr Garrod reported on a meeting on 4th June, with Cllrs Garrod, Durham, Vidler, Brian Heffernan, Simeon Carroll, plus another flooding officer, Cllr Geoff Harvey, Cllr Henry Batchelor, and 3 parishioners. Short term action was to cut a gully in the land opposite Stour House, which had been carried out. Gulleys further up Common Road would be looked into, as they were in a poor state. Highways would write to riparian owners about their duties. Cllr Durham advised that grips on top of Common Road had stalled due to electrical cables.

Footpaths – Footpath 16, at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, closed until December.

MVAS – There had been some extreme speeds recorded, 91mph on Common Road; a very low percentage, but significantly dangerous speeds. High speeds had been recorded by the Recreation Ground of over 50 mph at 5 pm. There was a request for the sign to be added along Common Road, due to children walking to the school bus.

Kingsway Solar – a proposal was put forward to install a temporary mock-up of a solar panel in the village. Members of the Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) group attended and made a report. Where the panel would be situated was discussed, and also the sizing; it was felt that a proposed full-sized panel should be used, not a scaled down version, for maximum impact. It was thought that the panels could be between 3.5 m and 5 m, but Kingsway Solar had not divulged the proposed size.

In West Wrating, the village was consulted for where the panel could be positioned; the mental health aspect had been discussed there. It was suggested attending other sites, to show the infrastructure surrounding the panels and to establish the concerns and comments people had. There would be a meeting in August run by KSCA, to discuss further. Cllr Pagonis suggested using augmented reality glasses, to demonstrate the impact the panels would have.

A report from Pippa Heyling was received (in the meeting documents).

Weston Colville PC would join a Parish Council Alliance instigated by West Wrating PC. A financial contribution had been suggested, and public donations had been received.

Statutory domain – a [.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) domain had been purchased. The website would be moved over to <http://www.westoncolville-pc.gov.uk>. Councillor emails would be moved over. Accounts would be changed to basic email for councillors, but the clerk would retain the full Microsoft Office package.

Highways – the potholes on Chapel Road had been reported. It was noted that the pavements on Horseshoe Lane would be resurfaced in August.



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Dog Waste Bin – a combined litter and dog waste bin had been installed at the end of Horseshoe Lane.

Risk Assessment/Health and Safety – the defibrillator had failed. Options were discussed, and it was determined to follow the suggestions of Community Heartbeat. A new defibrillator and cabinet, £1,620, would be purchased, as the old cabinet was single-skinned and creating condensation. Defibrillators are only viable for approximately 8 years. Cllr Rayner would ask if the Reading Room could apply for a Community Chest grant retrospectively.

Playground – the safety inspection was scheduled for August, through the Play Inspection Company. The playground spending deficit was discussed. The Reading Room will contribute £2,500 towards the deficit, leaving a £4,100 deficit. It had been understood that the parish council would cover the deficit, however, the clerk had failed to minute this.

The **next Parish Council meetings** will be on Wednesday 10th September and 3rd November.

Jess Ashbridge, Weston Colville Parish Clerk

Control of Dogs

At the recent parish council meeting I cited advice given to police officers about the Dangerous Dogs Act (as amended by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) which creates a criminal offence of allowing any dog to be dangerously out of control.

A dog can be regarded as being dangerously out of control on any occasion where it causes fear or apprehension to a person that it may injure them. If a dog does injure a person, including by scratching or bruising, the offence is aggravated and legal action may be taken against the owner and/or the person in charge of the dog at the time.

Andrew Durham



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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.

West Wrattling Parish Council

The parish council convened on Monday 14th July.
Key matters discussed:

Governance and Policy: the council formally adopted updated Health & Safety and Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures. A budget of up to £1,000 (plus VAT) was approved for legal work on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, with thanks to the VHMC for preparing this work.

Finance: a schedule of payments was approved, covering staffing, maintenance, insurance, and community support (including Age UK). The council noted that the total funds held as of 30th June stood at £56,009.76.

Planning: the council received updates on local planning matters, including:

Camgrain – application for installation of solar panels and infrastructure.

Daisy Cottage, High Street – proposal for a two-storey rear extension and associated alterations.

Kingsway Solar Farm: the chair provided an update on the Kingsway Solar Community Action Group (KSCA), noting the value of parishioner correspondence. A webinar with Greater Cambridge

Shared Planning is forthcoming. It was resolved to approve a budget of £11,550 + VAT for legal reports from Richard Buxton Solicitors, fully funded by public donations. The KSCA mock-up display is intended to be located at the village pound, subject to risk assessment.

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion Club (WWSPC):

no new event requests were received. Updates were provided on the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund and ongoing lease and improvement discussions, with the working group to meet again prior to September.

Village Assets and Maintenance: updates included:

- The agility trail could be replaced with s106 funds.
- The defibrillator battery has been replaced and registered on the circuit.
- Pocket park maintenance has been completed, with thanks to Cllr McKenna.
- Repairs to the bus stop guttering are to be undertaken by the chair.
- Bark will be ordered to improve playground surface safety.

Highways, Road Safety and Footpaths: no timeline is currently available for the LHI application.

Investigation continues into additional speed signage for the village. A budget allocation of approximately £8,000 for future signage is to be considered later in the year. No footpath report was received at this meeting.

Councillor Vacancy: the council continues to seek applications for co-option. The deadline is 14th August 2025.

The next meeting of the parish council is scheduled for Monday 8th September, at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Cameron Biggs, Parish Clerk

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District & County Councillor's July Report

Expiry of Postal Votes – following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes no longer apply indefinitely, but expire after a period of three years. Around 15,000 South Cambridgeshire postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026. SCDC may contact affected electors via email, post or text message (or via a combination of means) to raise awareness of the changes and to ensure they have sufficient time to make a new application if they want to before next year's elections. SCDC also plan to include an article in South Cambs Magazine in Autumn 2025. Questions can be emailed to the elections team, elections@scambs.gov.uk

Acorn Anaerobic Digester – the planning application has been rolling through the system for a few years now. It finally came to Suffolk County Council's planning committee and was refused. Since the developers have said they will be appealing the decision, this may not be the last we hear of the plan.

Local Government Reorganisation – council leaders have identified preferred options for creating new unitary councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The announcement has been made in response to a national government requirement to replace the current district, county and city councils with simpler unitary councils, instead of two tiers of local government. From April 2028, rather than dealing with separate county, city, and district authorities, residents will access all services – from road maintenance and bin collections to education, planning, social housing, social care, and support with benefits – through a unitary council.

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

CCC: Henry Batchelor (henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

Linton Library

It's not too late to sign your pre-school and primary school aged children up for the Summer Reading Challenge! With a theme of Story Garden, this year's challenge from The Reading Agency invites children to enjoy reading and the great outdoors – and collect stickers! Whilst we have stocks left, Scotsdales are generously providing a free gift to all children who sign up for the free Challenge.

Children should:

- sign up at the library to receive a collector's folder and bookmark
- read six library books of their choice during the holidays
- collect a sticker for each book read.

On finishing they'll receive a certificate and medal (under-3s receive a special sticker medal).

Each Saturday in the holidays we will be running a Craft Activity, 11 - 12.30 pm. Come along to this free event to make Pecking Hens, a Flower Collage, Handprint Tree and Flower mobiles! Parents and carers to stay with their children.

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King

(www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)



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Balsham Picture House

Normal start time of doors open at 7 pm and film 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.

BALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE



Renée Zellweger is back for one last chapter.

Now a single widowed mother she juggles work, parenthood and romance. With the help of friends Bridget navigates encounters with a younger man and a series of awkward interactions with her son's science teacher as she strives to forge a new path in life and love.

Stars include Colin Firth and Hugh Grant

Saturday 2nd Aug.

Our September film night will be Saturday 6th September. Film yet to be chosen.

Dick Paden

Balsham WI

The July WI meeting took us back to the 1980s. The presenters reminded us of world events such as the AIDS epidemic, the Chernobyl disaster, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the Falklands Conflict. Closer to home we also had the royal weddings, the miners' strike, and Live Aid.

During this period the WI made many resolutions concerning health and were one of the first organisations to support AIDS research. Locally Balsham WI were very engaged with their competition entries to the East of England Show, local produce shows, and entering floats into the village



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carnival. There was a thriving rounders team and some very crafty members, as well as a committee of 15! One of these left the Christmas party early one year with labour pains and had a baby within the hour – her husband returned before the end of the meeting with the birth announcement!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September, 7.30 pm at the Pavilion in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the 1990s.

We are a friendly group, 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 – or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI

Are you an ex-member of Balsham WI? If you are and would like to join in our Centenary Celebration Afternoon Tea, 2.30 - 4 pm on Saturday 16th August in Balsham Church Institute, then please email us on balshamwi@gmail.com to let us know that you will be there (and let us know of any dietary requirements). We hope to have as many past and present members as possible at this event.

Debbie Mower

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GRANTA Medical Practices

Flu Vaccinations

The flu vaccination programme starts in October for all eligible adults, except pregnant women and children, who will be offered the vaccination from late September. Pregnant women are vaccinated to protect both mum and baby in first few weeks of life. Children get flu earlier than adults as they are 'super spreaders'.

You should get vaccinated because:

- getting vaccinated against flu can help protect you, your family and friends.
- everyone is susceptible to flu, even if you are in good health and eat well.
- you can be infected with the virus and have no symptoms but can still pass flu virus to others, including family and friends, patients or residents.
- the flu vaccine has a good safety record and will help protect you. It cannot give you flu.
- the impact of flu on frail and vulnerable patients can be fatal and outbreaks can cause severe disruption in communities, care homes and hospitals.

You are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination if you:

- are aged 65 and over
- have certain long term health conditions
- are pregnant
- live in a care home
- are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system.

Additionally, eligible children include:

- children aged 2 to 3 years
- school aged children (reception to year 11)
- children aged 6 months to 17 years with certain long term health conditions.

This year we are also giving the Covid-19 vaccination at the same time as the flu, if you are eligible. You are eligible if you are:

- a resident in a care home for older adults
- aged 75 years and over
- aged 6 months and over and are severely immunocompromised.

Flu Clinic Dates:

Saturday 27 th September –	Sawston (children and pregnant women only)
Sunday 28 th September –	Royston (children and pregnant women only)
Saturday 4 th October –	Sawston
Sunday 5 th October –	Royston
Saturday 11 th October –	Linton
	Barley
	Shelford
Saturday 18 th October –	Sawston
Sunday 19 th October –	Royston
Saturday 25 th October –	Linton
Saturday 25 th October –	Shelford

All flu clinics run from 8.30 am to 4.45 pm.

To book your flu vaccination please call 0300 234 5555 and choose the Granta site of your choice, or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment.

For further information about the flu vaccination please go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

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The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently put on a spectacular production of Time Lord. The children worked incredibly hard and showcased their talents with confidence and enthusiasm. Their performances were truly memorable, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they achieved. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, carers, and staff who generously gave up their time to support the children both on and off stage – your help made the production a great success.

We'd also like to give a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising a hugely successful Summer Fete. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and a generous donation from Nexteq, we have raised a substantial amount of money. This will go directly towards funding amazing opportunities and enriching experiences that will benefit all of our children in the coming school year.

Our transition days have been a great success. We were thrilled to welcome our new Reception children, helping them settle in and feel excited about starting their school journey. Meanwhile, all other pupils spent two days with their new teachers and in their new classrooms, getting familiar with the next step in their learning adventure. The energy and enthusiasm around school have been wonderful to see, and everyone is looking forward to the new academic year with great anticipation.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated teachers, acting as subject leaders, have been working diligently to integrate creativity across every subject. This approach is something we are truly passionate about, as it ensures that all children have the chance to develop important life skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication, alongside their academic knowledge.

As the summer break approaches, we would like to wish all our families a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year of learning and growth.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Linton Village College

On an extremely hot weekend in July, 42 of our Year 10 students completed a weekend expedition to the Peak District as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award is designed for young people aged 14 and above. Completing the Bronze Award typically takes a minimum of six months and requires dedication and commitment. At LVC, we run our own assessment of the Award, providing coaching, leadership and verification of the qualification.

The scheme has been run at LVC by Mr Barton for the past 15 years, and hundreds of our students have benefited from taking part. We are proud that nearly a third of our Year 10 cohort are registered for the



programme. It offers an important opportunity for personal development and community involvement through four components: volunteering, physical recreation, skills, and an expedition.

Volunteering involves

participants engaging in community service activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy. This could range from helping at local charities to participating in local conservation projects.

We have recently been awarded a certificate from the scheme praising the 429 voluntary hours that our students have given to the local community this year. Well done to all of you!

Physical recreation aims to improve health and fitness, and the **skills** element focuses on developing new talents or honing existing ones. This is about exploring interests and passions, whether it is learning a musical instrument, cooking or even coding.

Our trip to the Peak District for the **expedition** is perhaps the most exciting part of the Bronze Award. Participants plan, train for and undertake this journey in a group. This section is designed to build teamwork, resilience and a sense of adventure. Our students went on two day-long hikes and then spent the nights camping and cooking their own food.

Laura Heard

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Our biggest event of the summer/autumn calendar is just a few weeks away: the club's own Gardening Fair on Saturday 6th September at West Wickham Village Hall.



Building on the success of last year's new format, this is a chance for club members and visitors to get together and have a chat over tea and cake whilst enjoying some gardening-themed stalls and activities.

There will be plants and produce for sale, a raffle, and quizzes, and the photography competition entrants will be displayed and the winners announced. There might even be some flower and vegetable-based competitions to enter on the day.

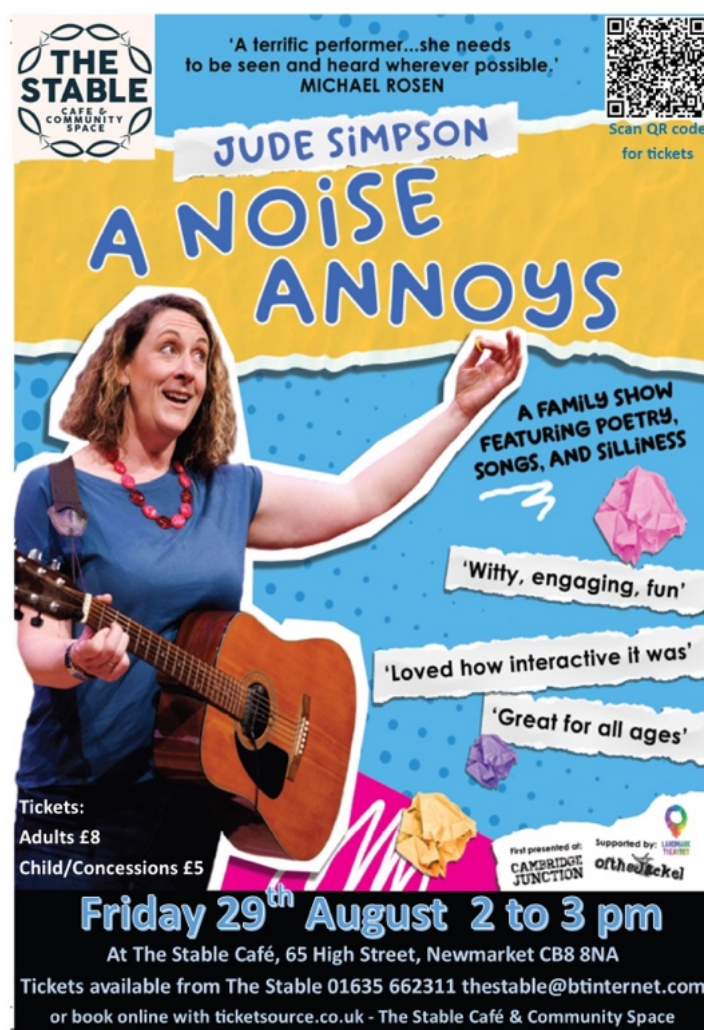
And as if that wasn't enough, we also have a talk on Monday 15th September on the topic of 'In the Garden with William Morris', to be given by Fiona Rose, an accredited lecturer with The Arts Society and member of the Museum Collections committee for The William Morris Society. We are anticipating a large attendance so please turn up early to get a good spot.



Here's a reminder of this year's Photography Competition categories . . . Frozen, Light and Dark, Terrific Trees. All entries to be emailed by Friday 29th August. Contact us on photo@westwickham.org for more details.

For club information or if you'd like to help at one of our events, please contact me.

Sally Collins (wwdgc@westwickham.org)



A Noise Annoys

Jude Simpson is a Spoken Word artist who combines poetry, wordplay and song to entertain and delight audiences. The result is a warm, witty and uplifting act, with wide appeal and a strong feel-good factor.

Anyone who loves Michael Rosen will appreciate Jude's expressive performance style and clever, yet accessible way with words. She has performed with the former children's laureate, and he had this to say about her: "Jude Simpson is funny, sharp, emotional in her work and is a terrific performer. She needs to be seen and heard wherever possible."

Rachel Lewis

AUGUST	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
3 rd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall / Alastair France</i>	
10 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Amanda Palmer</i>	Taizé service – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
17 th	Morning Worship – West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alastair France</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship – Little Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Taizé service – Hildersham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
24 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Jane Butler</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer – Great Abington, <i>Keith Day</i>
31 st	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Pet Service – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion (BCP) (11.15 am) – Hildersham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	

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

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

AUGUST 2025

- Sat 2 West Wrating Café
Balsham Picture House, ‘Mad About the Boy’
Wed 6 Kingsway Solar Public Talk, Weston Colville
Fri 8 Tennis Coaching, West Wrating
Sat 16 Balsham WI Tea Party
Thur 21 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
‘Pride & Prejudice’, St Mary’s
Fri 29 ‘A Noise Annoys’, The Stable, Newmarket

SEPT 2025

- Mon 8 West Wrating Parish Council
Tues 9 Balsham WI
Wed 10 Weston Colville Parish Council
Sun 14 Oil Co-operative Ordering Deadline
Wed 17 Weston Colville Reading Room ‘Pub’ Quiz
Fri 19 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room

Black bins: Wednesday 6th & 20th August,
Wednesday 3rd & 9th September

Green & blue bins: Wednesday 13th & 27th August,
Wednesday 10th & 24th September

Revd Michael Wilcockson, Rural Dean

associate.priest@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Revd Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister

01223 481090, *RevThrelfall24@outlook.com*

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, *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, 01223 891443

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,

clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 07779 277647

West Wrating Parish Clerk: Cameron Biggs,

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*)

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 September issue:

Wednesday 20th August