

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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West Wrating Café

Saturday 4th April, 10.30 - noon, in the village hall.

Spring is finally here and I'm sure we're all looking forward to some lovely sunshine. Why not stroll down to the village hall and join us for our regular first Saturday café? We serve delicious homemade cakes, freshly brewed coffee and tea. Jackie from 'Wildly Preserved' will be selling her preserves and ferments. Toys are available to occupy the children. We look forward to welcoming you.

Sherry & Jan

Tea & Cakes

It was lovely to see so many happy people chatting together over a cuppa and a piece of delicious cake at our March meeting. Thank you to everyone who helped to set up beforehand and clear up the room afterwards.

Our next Tea & Cakes will be on Friday 17th April in the Reading Room, 3.30 - 5.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Val and the Team

St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

Change of Date – the spring clear-up will take place on Saturday 11th April, 10 am until noon.

The clear-up is normally on Easter Saturday, but with Easter being early this year, this clashes with the village hall Saturday Café on 4th April (thank you, Sherry, for pointing this out to me).

Looking forward to seeing you all. Doughnuts/hot cross buns, tea and coffee will be served, and everyone is welcome.

Cobby (290046)

Weston Colville Reading Room – 'Pub' Quiz

It's almost time for the next quiz - on Wednesday 15th April at 8 pm. There's the Weston Colville trophy to be won! 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

Village History Booklets

I still have copies of the three booklets we've recently produced about Weston Colville in the past and some of the people who have lived there:

- Barbara Atherton (2025) – *A Very Long Time To Know People* (£3)
- Tim Cockerill (2026) – *Weston Colville: Some Glimpses Into Its History* (£4)
- Maureen Garrod (2025) – *Maureen's Memories Of Weston Colville* (£4)

A fourth booklet is currently in the pipeline!

If you would like a copy of one (or more) of the booklets, please just get in touch. They are available in return for suggested donations (see above) towards St Mary's Church.

Gabrielle Cliff Hodges

(gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net, 07979 554758)

Defibrillator Training

Defibrillator training has been booked for Wednesday 15th April, 6 - 8pm in the Reading Room, Weston Colville. All ages are welcome to attend this free training being delivered by Community Heartbeat and hosted by Weston Colville Parish Council.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to Charlie Hodson and Owen McColl for completing their volunteering section of the Bronze Award.

Charlie and Owen worked through the winter months litter-picking, doing path work, and clearing the north part of the churchyard of some very robust nettles. The weather was often wet and windy, but they both battled on. They transformed the northern part of the churchyard, and unearthed some large clumps of snowdrops, which would otherwise have been suffocated by the nettles.



Well done to you both, and thank you for offering to continue the good work. I will take you up on that.

PS Charlie and Owen did some unscientific market research in parallel with their work, on the merits of doughnuts versus chocolate chip muffins. Chocolate chip muffins won by a couple of lengths.

CRM

West Wratting Book Club

The book we read for March was 'The Bridge on the Drina' by Ivo Andrić, the Nobel Laureate, who was born in central Bosnia, a subject of the Ottoman Empire but later identified as Serb. The Everyman's Library edition has an introduction by Misha Glenny, the much-respected former central Europe correspondent for the Guardian and the BBC, and was translated by Lovett Fielding Edwards.

One could describe this book as an early example of 'faction' with its use of fictional and historical characters set against a background of real events. It spans 400 years, the first half covering the long Ottoman period, with the second half describing the shorter period of the Austro-Hungarian occupation and events leading up to the First World War.

We were lucky to have amongst us the person who recommended this book to us who was born in what is

now Serbia and who was able give us more context, help with the geography and, not least, pronunciation of names.

Perhaps the main and all-pervading 'character' is the eponymous bridge, built in the 16th century, which is the permanent seemingly indestructible object around which the local and wider historical events swirl.

There are some unpleasant but central events as well as amusing occurrences (which can happen even in the darkest times). It was felt that a map would have been helpful. The author uses specific characters and their lives to illustrate the dynamics between people of different religions and ethnicities and how they lived together in comparative harmony until the wider world impinged; in particular, the Habsburgs bringing improvements to living conditions, connectivity and education. However, the ignoring of local traditions and ways of doing things caused confusion, complications and new stresses which emphasised differences, leading to more friction. One person commented on similarities to today as when newspapers became common, the increasing speed of life meant only the headlines were skimmed which could give a distorted picture of what was actually happening, while when something bad occurred in another country anyone who lived in the area was blamed for it, insulted and attacked, which is reminiscent of the way people from particular ethnic groups living in this country are blamed for the actions of the country's government with which they are associated.

This is a long and dense book but well worth the read. As one person commented, an amazing piece of writing, with vivid descriptions which expanded our knowledge of a part of the world and events with which most of us had only a superficial familiarity.

Scores were between 7.5 and 9 out of 10.

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 15th April at 7.30 pm to discuss 'Middlemarch' by George Eliot. Those who were at the recent local history talk at St Mary's, Weston Colville or have seen the accompanying book will know that there is a link between the Hall family and this author.

Linda Gorman (290653)



West Wrattling Village Hall

Charity Number 273557



We have been working with ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England, <https://acre.org.uk/>) which provides professional support to organisations such as village hall committees, who themselves deliver benefits and support to the local community. ACRE provides a quality assurance scheme called **Hallmark** which comprises three levels: **Hallmark 1** looks at how your hall is run day-to-day, including your constitution, policies and procedures; **2** focuses on health and safety, licences, insurance and premises management; and **3** helps you think about your hall's role in the community, forward planning and how you communicate your work. We are delighted to report we achieved our Hallmark 1 accreditation during March this year and plan to submit for level 2 later in the year.

Our Beetle Drive was great fun, with adults and children fully engaged. Twelve beetles were drawn and the winners rewarded with chocolate. An impromptu table tennis competition was held, with the youngest taking part being nearly 4 years old, and the stage was the setting for budding performers!

Lottery winners in March were: first – number 7, second – number 2 and third – number 4. Thanks to everyone for your continued support and thank you to the new members who joined recently. For information and membership contact jan.davey5@btinternet.com

Future Events–

Horse Racing Night, 16th May

Bingo, 18th July

Harvest Supper, 19th September

Wine Event, 21st November.

Martin Davey, Chair (penywaen1@gmail.com)

Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: noon, **Sunday 10th May.**

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 Wrattling

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.

Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust

FINAL CALL – applications for pupils starting university in September 2026 are still invited. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year to the amount of £1,000.

For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury. For an application form please apply via email to Jonathan Drury peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received by 5th April 2026.

Jonathan Drury (01223 290087)



From the Rectory

Spring is a time when we can enjoy seeing new life appearing all around us. This spring, however, has also seen conflict in the Middle East, amid scenes of destruction which have had a ripple effect around the globe; from political instability, fluctuating oil prices and the challenge of bringing home people stranded in places such as Dubai. As we witness these events, we are called to respond in our prayers for peace but perhaps also in committing ourselves anew to the vital work of being peace-makers where we can; in our families, neighbourhoods and places of work.

Spring is also a time when we prepare for and celebrate Easter. Our preparations include Palm Sunday, this year celebrated at a united service in Balsham in late March and featuring two local donkeys! At this service we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Some had expected the Messiah to lead military resistance against the Romans. Jesus, however, proclaims the peaceable kingdom. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and meets the violence of those who plot against him with his sacrifice on the cross.

We will celebrate Easter Day in each of our six churches, including lighting the Easter Fire at Weston Colville church at the beginning of the service there. Easter proclaims the power of God's saving love in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter also reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event which completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.



As we carry forward a vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life, let us be encouraged to speak up for the peaceable Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. We can put into practice both love for our neighbour and also, however difficult, love for our enemies. This is not an optional extra if we are to live in a world where peace prevails in our lives. In doing so, we may also experience something of the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, and share the good news of new life in Christ.

Revd Iain McColl

St Andrew's Church, West Wrattling

Parochial Church Council Annual Meeting: Monday 27th April, 6.30 pm at St Andrew's Church. Any apologies or questions, please contact Simon Thorley (290888, simon@thorley.co).

Thanks

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who joined in with searching for Barley on 18th February. I really appreciate your support in what I understand were awful weather conditions.

I would also like to thank the West Wrattling café community for the generous donation to Granta School following the March café. Our sixth form common room is due an upgrade, so the donation will be put towards new tea, coffee and hot chocolate making equipment to encourage the students to independently make their own hot drinks. Also thanks to all of you who regularly support our various Sixth Form Enterprise projects at the café.

2026 for me marks 30 years of living in West Wrattling and 20 years working at Granta School. I feel it a privilege to be part of both a supportive village community and an inspiring school community.

Kate Cleary



Kingsway Solar Community Action

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Walk event in Weston Colville on 21st March. This has helped the Parish Council Alliance (PCA) raise funds for the legal campaign. During the talk afterwards, the KSCA and PCA panel answered questions from the community about what lies ahead and where matters currently stand with the Kingsway Solar proposal. We had originally been led to believe by Kingsway Solar that the Development Consent Order (DCO) application would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of March, but this may now be delayed.

At the talk, residents were urged to register with the Planning Inspectorate to receive updates. **This is the most important thing to do right now.** Everyone who registers will be notified once the application is submitted. Once submitted, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide whether the application is ‘fit to be accepted’.



If accepted, the proposal moves into the Examination phase – the most important stage of the process, as this is the first opportunity for residents to communicate directly with the Planning Inspectorate.

Parish councils, community groups and individuals then need to register as Interested Parties and tell the Planning Inspectorate what they think (‘submit relevant representations’). We will provide clear guidance on how to do this when the time comes, including workshops and templates. This should be less onerous than writing a full letter during the statutory consultation, but there will only be 30 days to do it. We will be aiming to encourage over 1,000 people to register as Interested Parties.

To receive updates from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), register here: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165>

We also need to support our legal team in appointing independent experts in hydrology, BESS (Battery Energy Storage System), landscape and related areas. Their evidence will be essential to presenting robust, well-founded arguments during the Examination phase. **Please consider pledging funds** here: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction/>

Stickers Now Available – if you would like to continue showing your support for KSCA by displaying a sticker on your bins or elsewhere, please complete the form here: <https://forms.gle/CwbTEc4UdStuKKx58>. We are reprinting these so please indicate your design preference.

Stay Updated – please follow the news page at kingswayaction.org to stay up to date and access links to the AGM presentations and campaign video. Join KSCA at <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>

Kathy Day



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Parish Councillors

If anyone would like to stand as a councillor for either Weston Colville or West Wrating parish council they will need to complete a nomination form and deliver the papers to SCDC, Cambourne between 30th March and 8th April: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-parish-council-elections-england/nominations/completing-your-nomination-papers/nomination-form>

For further information or an informal chat, contact any of the existing councillors or the clerks: clerk@westoncolville-pc.gov.uk, 07779 277647 clerk@westwrating.org.uk

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West Wrating Parish Council

The parish council met on Monday 9th March at the village hall, with councillors, the clerk and four members of the public in attendance.

Public Forum – residents raised concerns about the poor condition of local roads, particularly on The Common, where deteriorating surfaces (not just potholes) are reportedly causing damage to vehicles.

Council & Finance – the council noted its precept submission and upcoming small increases in bank charges. Payments approved included a donation to

Challenge, and training costs for the clerk.

Significant additional donations (over £5,000) were received towards the Kingsway Solar Farm campaign.

Planning – a planning application at 29 The Common for conversion to a holiday let has been refused, while tree works at 4 The Causeway were approved. No other changes were reported.

Kingsway Solar Farm – the council formally confirmed the appointment of Richard Buxton Solicitors to act on its behalf in relation to the proposed solar farm, within the agreed donation-funded budget. Ongoing oversight will be provided by the Kingsway legal steering group.

Village Facilities & Events – progress on the future structure of the Sports Pavilion Club is ongoing, though discussions have been delayed.

Village Maintenance & Assets –

- quotes are being sought for a new recreation ground gate;
- repairs to the village pump paintwork will be carried out in the spring;
- the annual ROSPA safety inspection will take place in April;
- new signage is being investigated for the village hall.

Road Safety & Footpaths –

- the council has resubmitted its application for a 20 mph speed limit;
- Concerns about potholes and road safety were strongly reiterated;
- The Paths Officer is seeking volunteers to help with litter picking on local footpaths.

Next Meeting – the next parish council meeting will now take place on Monday 18th May at 7.30 pm (rescheduled due to elections).

Cameron Biggs, Clerk (07769 253264)

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Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting was held on Monday 2nd March. Full minutes and meeting documents are available on <https://www.westoncolville-pc.gov.uk>

Flooding – Common Road had not flooded, despite heavy rains, but there had not been any flash flooding. Concerns were raised about the drains on Mill Hill.

Footpaths –the bridge by the ford on Brook Lane had lifted with heavy rains, but was being monitored by Highways. Cllr Durham had not received any response from CCC about the closure of the right of way at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, the original 6-month date for reopening having passed. It was presumed to be closed for the duration of the building work, but CCC had not confirmed that.

MVAS – it was agreed that data should be submitted to the case worker for Pippa Heylings MP, following concerns raised by parishioners. The data showed that 93% of vehicles were travelling under 35 mph on Brinkley Road, and 92% on Mill Hill. The signs would continue to be moved around the entrances/exits of the village and by the recreation ground. It was proposed that the council would send the data to the police as a one off, but it should be explained that the data did not support the issue the parishioner raised, nor did it meet the threshold where we might expect imminent police action.

Kingsway Solar – reports were received from the KSCA AGM, and the PC Alliance meeting on 24th February.

Assisting with opposing the proposals, through contributing towards the legal funds, was discussed. It was determined to discuss budgeting after the elections in May.

Comments for the targeted consultation were submitted before the deadline of 4th February.

A letter from Richard Buxton Solicitors was discussed, and signed, enabling them to act on behalf of the parish council.

Highways – Capitally Funded Highways

Maintenance Scheme – the clerk had expressed an interest in the scheme for resurfacing the pavement along The Green, the collapsed drains on Mill Hill, and also (although outside the parish) the stretch of The Common on either side of Chapel Road. The clerk would chase for an update.

Website – due to changes to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, the website must be compliant with Assertion 10: Digital and Data Compliance. Cllr Pagonis would sort this.

Elections – parish council elections would be taking place in May. The clerk would be attending SCDC with the papers between 30th March and 8th April.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule Consultation – consultation is open until 29th March, and will be completed (<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/cil>).

Risk Assessment/Health and Safety – the defibrillator was rescue-ready. The clerk would arrange defibrillator training on a Saturday.

Biodiversity – a Field Maple had been planted at the pond. A free blossom tree had been received, to commemorate Covid-19; the tree would be planted either on the recreation ground or by the pond on 8th March.

Playground – the inspection reports were received.

Dates for Next Meetings - Wednesday 13th May, 6th July, 7th September, 2nd November. Potential additional (Kingsway) meeting scheduled for 13th April.

Jess Ashbridge, Clerk



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West Wrating Summer Party and Auction of Promises

Saturday, 4th July, 6.30 pm, in the beautiful gardens of 74 High Street, West Wrating

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Advance details of the lots will be published and pre-bids can be accepted.

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 Tickets £35 per head, in aid of the fabric of St Andrew's Church

Contact:
 Simon Thorley
 (simon@thorley.co.uk, 07768 625960)
 Fanny Peers
 (francespeers@hotmail.co.uk, 07702 122353)

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for information on:

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

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

Unwanted Tools for a Good Cause

Unwanted tools of any kind are being collected by Saffron Walden Rotary on April 25th, 9.00 – 12.30 pm at Abington School, and delivered to the Ipswich charity **Tools With A Mission (TWAM)** (<https://www.twam.uk>) The tools are refurbished and made into trade kits for people living in extreme poverty, mainly in African countries. The tools, combined with training, help individuals start sustainable businesses and build long-term livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Heavy bulk items can be collected by prior arrangement with Tony Collett between 10.00 and 11.30 am on 25th April; please contact Tony with any query (tony.collett3112@gmail.com or 01223 893447).

Tony says, *“In addition to helping individuals to completely transform their lives and communities the charity prevents over 200 tonnes of tools going to landfill annually. I hope we receive a similar level of wonderful support as we do for our collections for Ukraine.”*

Tony Collett, Saffron Walden Rotary

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Balsham Singers Spring Concert

Tickets for Balsham Singers Spring Concert go on sale on 1st April from Balsham Post Office, members and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

This year's concert will be on Saturday 16th May, 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. The programme includes music by Parry, Wood, The Beatles, and The Carpenters, and is reflective and uplifting in equal measure.

We are grateful to our very loyal audiences. Secure your seat early to avoid disappointment.

Jo Stinton

Balsham Picture House

BALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE

The CHORAL (12A)
Written by Alan Bennett this is a moving story set in WW1 which received great acclaim and starring Ralph Fiennes as the charismatic Dr Guthrie.

A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army.

Sat. Apr. 4th Doors open 7pm

Dick Paden

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The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

Reception and Key Stage 1 children recently took part in a Wonderful Women workshop as part of their history learning. Throughout the term, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been learning about how the achievements of inspiring women from the past helped shape the world. During the workshop, the children learned about Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter and palaeontologist. Through drama, storytelling and movement, the children discovered how Mary's passion for fossils led to important discoveries along the Jurassic Coast. It was a fantastic way for the children to bring history to life while learning about determination and curiosity.

In the same week, the children were also treated to a very special live lesson with wildlife presenter Steve Backshall. Linked to their topic work, he explored the polar regions, the animals that live there and the unique climate of these environments. The children loved hearing from the presenter of 'Deadly 60', asking questions and learning fascinating facts about some of the most extreme places on Earth. It was a brilliant opportunity that sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.

The Meadow Primary School also took part in the Anglian Learning Platform Project 26, where children from across the trust showcased their work at a special event. This year's theme was 'Belonging', and our pupils rose to the challenge, producing some



beautiful and thoughtful pieces of artwork. It was wonderful to see their creativity on display alongside work from other schools.

Parents were invited into school to 'Join the Journey' through a 'No Outsiders' assembly and classroom

workshop. Families experienced an assembly just as the children do, before spending time in class sharing a story from the scheme and completing activities together.

We also celebrated World Book Day with a creative twist this year, as children came to school dressed as a word. We had everything from *fierce* to *dainty* and *athletic*, and it was wonderful to see such imaginative interpretations. Pupils enjoyed sharing stories throughout the day and took part in whole-school activities based on the book 'Dave the Not-So-Brave' by Alex Latimer and Philip Cullen.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Linton Village College

Linton Village College is delighted to announce that we have been awarded the prestigious Platinum Artsmark Award, the highest recognition from Arts Council England. This national accolade celebrates schools that embed exceptional arts, cultural and creative learning across their curriculum, and we are proud to share this achievement with our local community.



Over the past two years, staff and students have worked together to develop an ambitious and enriching arts offering.



Supported by Goldsmiths, University of London, through an immersive professional development programme, we have strengthened creative teaching across the college and expanded opportunities for students to lead and participate in the arts.

Artsmark Assessors commended LVC's 'strong, long-term commitment to the transformative power of the arts', noting the impact our work is having not only within the school but across the wider area.

Highlights included our thriving student leadership programmes, growing cross-curricular projects, and our successful arts and science partnership with the University of Cambridge. Cultural experiences such as the Drama and History visit to Audley End were also praised as examples of our rich offerings.

We're extremely proud to have achieved the Artsmark Platinum Award. This recognition reflects the passion and creativity of our staff and the inclusive, enriching opportunities our students enjoy at LVC. The arts are central to our culture and educational experience.

We extend our congratulations to our students, whose enthusiasm and creativity have been instrumental in achieving this award.

Laura Heard

Balsham WI

Last month saw three members giving a presentation on the very different collections they have, followed by our annual meeting.



Firstly, we had a collection of World War I memorabilia including photos of village families, a nurse's skirt with a tiny waist, and a brass button cleaning tool, amongst other things.

The second collection was of Westerwold Stoneware Pottery which is named after the area in the Rhineland Palatinate in Germany where it was made. This pottery is a greyish colour with cobalt blue decoration and shiny glaze and is used to make many household items. It has been produced from the 15th century to modern times. This collector reported that she had to stop acquiring items due to space limitations, but preparing the talk had piqued her interest into acquiring more!

The final collection was of kimonos. We saw some different styles and were told that they had large sleeves for young girls whereas married woman had shorter sleeves. Kimonos are worn by both sexes of all ages. We saw several child-size garments, including some propaganda kimonos from the wartime era, with the finale being a heavily decorated

wedding kimono embroidered in silver and gold which was modelled by a member.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th April at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Balsham, when our speaker will be from Cambridgeshire Police, with a talk on Fraud Prevention.

The Balsham WI Autumn Fair will be on Saturday 3rd October, 10 am – 2 pm at Balsham Church Institute. If you are interested in a stall at this event, please contact Juliet Bevan (g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk).

Debbie Mower (balshamwi@gmail.com)

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

The early spring has given some lovely opportunities for photos and it feels like a good time for a reminder of the club's annual photo competition. It's open to everyone living in the area and their families, with a closing date of 1st September. All entries will be displayed at our Summer Gardening Fair on **Saturday 12th September**.



This year's categories are **Along the Path**, **Lovely Leaves** and **Sky's the Limit**, all open to interpretation when you're out and about, on holiday or in your garden. Photos must have been taken after 1st October 2025; up to two entries per category, and 50p per entry. The email address for entries and questions is photo@westwickham.org

For this month's talk, on Monday 20th April at 7.30 pm, the fascinating returning speaker Hawk Honey will be telling us all about 'Wasps and their Role in our Gardens'.

Sally Collins (wwdgc@westwickham.org)

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Pump Track in Balsham

Currently there is a fundraising campaign underway to build a new pump track in Balsham. It would provide a fantastic space for local children (and adults!) to enjoy cycling, skating and scooting.

Katherine Willcocks

Linton & District Historical Society

At our March meeting Charmian Thompson from the Haverhill History Group spoke about the Waltons of Haverhill.

In 1865 grateful parishioners made a presentation to the Rev Roberts to mark 50 years serving the Haverhill community. Among the local dignitaries were Ellys Walton, his wife Mary, and their two sons Bendyshe and Robert. Charmian had not come across this prominent family before, and so began some interesting research, which she shared with our society. Using census records, newspaper articles and family portraits, it was apparent they were very much a military family. Their history of 'triumph and tragedy' could be traced to early settlements in

GRANTA Medical Practices

EASTER BANK HOLIDAY
OPENING HOURS ACROSS SITES

ALL PRACTICES CLOSED ON

**Friday 3rd April 2026
Monday 6th April 2026**

Enhanced Access pre-bookable appointments will be available at:

Royston Health Centre
Saturday 4th April
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

PRESCRIPTION ORDERING & COLLECTION

Order on Wednesday 1st April → Collect on Tuesday 7th April
Order on Thursday 2nd April → Collect on Wednesday 8th April

While we are closed, contact NHS 111 for urgent medical advice
For life-threatening emergencies, call 999

Thank you and we wish you a lovely spring weekend



America, Barbados and across to India. 'If walls could talk', no doubt the family home on the outskirts of Haverhill could reveal more. This was an interesting evening explaining how records can build up a family history.

Join us for another popular evening on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall, when Phillip Stott will be speaking about 'The Darwin Family and Cambridge'. Refreshments and raffle on arrival.

For further details of the LDHS please email ldhscams@gmail.com or phone 893915 or 678835.

Margaret Creek

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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Prize Bingo – Friday 24th April. Doors open at 7 pm, eyes down at 7.30 pm. Licensed bar, raffle. Bring your own snacks.

Classic Car Show – do you, or anyone you know, own a classic car or motorbike? If so please come along to our Summer Show on Sunday 5th July Just email us with the details of the vehicle you would like to bring.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
 (01638 508212, office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk*

BALSHAM SINGERS
present their
SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 16th May, 7.30pm
 Holy Trinity Church,
 Balsham, Cambs, CB21 4DS

Music by Parry, Wood, The Beatles and The Carpenters

Tickets £12 adults, £1 under 16s
 available from Balsham or Abington Post Offices, or online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Soup Lunches

This season of Reading Room Soup lunches has reached a natural conclusion with the Easter break.

I'd like to thank those who have set up and laid tables, prepared soup and other goodies, and especially the 30 or so different people who have attended during the season. I hope people have found it a convivial environment, pleasant company, and an opportunity to catch up with fellow villagers. We've had the opportunity to launch films and associated booklets, and also welcomed visitors ranging from fraud experts to journalists from the Sunday Telegraph.

I remain grateful to the Reading Room Trust and ACRE who have been most supportive with financial grants and practical assistance.

The new season will start again in September. However, our funding has been withdrawn, so over the summer we will need to think about alternative methods of making this initiative pay its way.

My thanks to all who have attended and participated in so many ways.

Bob Coates (07785 361345, cheviotbob@me.com)

PS Thanks must also go to Bob, for organising rotas for everyone who helped make food, set up the Reading Room, and clear up, as well as the associated events, publicity, etc – thank you!

Anne

THIS MY THEATRE

Alice's
 Adventures in
WONDERLAND

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
 WESTON COLVILLE**

25th August, 7pm
thisismytheatre.com

 Refreshments Available | Please book in advance

APRIL	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
5 th	Easter Day Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> West Wrating, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> West Wickham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Easter Day Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Hildeersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Little Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	
12 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taizé service – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall /</i> <i>Alastair France</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall / Alastair France</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taizé service – Hildersham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
26 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i> Creative Church – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion (BCP) (11.15 am) – Hildersham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	Evening Prayer – Great Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>

Regular Midweek Services –
Every Tuesday at Hildersham, 7.00 pm,
Silent Space followed by **Compline**
Every Thursday at Balsham, 9.30 am,
Holy Communion (said service)
Every Friday at Weston Colville, 8.45 am,
Morning Prayer

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

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

DIARY

APRIL 2026

Fri 3 Easter Egg Hunt, Buttercups, Balsham Institute
Sat 4 Saturday Café, West Wrating Village Hall
Balsham Picture House, 'The Choral'
Sun 5 Deadline, Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust applications
Sat 11 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
Tues 14 Balsham WI
Wed 15 Defibrillator Training, Reading Room
'Pub Quiz', Weston Colville Reading Room
West Wrating Book Club
Thurs 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
Mon 20 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
Tues 21 Linton & District Historical Society
Fri 24 Bingo, Ellesmere Centre
Sat 25 Unwanted Tools Collection, Abington School
Mon 27 West Wrating PCC AGM

Churchwardens:
St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)
Bob Coates (07785 361345)
St Andrew's (Secretary) Simon Thorley (01223 290888)
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@westwrating.org.uk

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

Black bins: Wednesday 1st, 15th & 29th April,
Wednesday 13th & 27th May
Blue & Green bins: Wednesday 8th & 22nd April,
Wednesday 6th & 20th May

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:
Monday 20th April