

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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# West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will not be a syndicate order for oil this month. The next syndicate order will be in July.

***Phil Tempest (****westwrattingoil@gmail.com****)***

# VE Day – 8th May 2020

Friday 8th May marks the 75th anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe. An idea is taking hold around the country to commemorate VE Day regardless of current restrictions, with a Virtual Street Party. If you are able, please hold a garden party on 8th May within your household, at any time that is convenient, and if you can safely co-ordinate with any near neighbours, observing all guidelines on social distancing, then please do. Decorate your home in red, white and blue, and have your tea outside. Take some pictures, to form the basis of a display when we get to the community event later in the year. It will be a day for the archives, and one we won’t forget! Join in if you can, and raise a glass to all those, past and present, working for the common good.

## Bridget Durham (290082)

***Weston Colville Oil Co-operative*** Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 3rd May. Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:**

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

**Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:**

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

# West Wratting Tennis Club

The d’Abo Tennis Club in West Wratting is offering free membership for all for the new season, which starts on 1st May.

Members this year will have the chance to enter the club’s Wimbledon ticket ballot next year.

For more information and to register your membership details, visit the club’s website [*www.WestWrattingTennis.co.uk*](http://www.WestWrattingTennis.co.uk/)or email *Admin@WestWrattingTennis.co.uk*

## James Merrells

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# Covid-19 Weston Colville Helpers

More than 50 volunteers have come forward, with communication maintained via a village WhatsApp group run in tandem with the Weston Colville Facebook page. We have helpers shopping for neighbours and new friends, medication collections, daily papers and food box deliveries, a compost drop and seed/plant exchange, *al fresco* music and, if you look closely in windows, a teddy bear hunt.

Government food boxes have been delivered weekly.

1. **Ordering prescriptions and medication collection from Linton Health Centre** – medications are collected every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and delivered to your door. You MUST inform the practice that you wish your medications to be included in the WEST WRATTING DELIVERY PACK. Linton surgery: 891456.
2. **Daily papers and Balsham PO supplies** – opening hours 7 – noon. They do have flour! Papers/ magazines/emergency supplies delivered to your door by Emma Kaye. Order by ringing the PO: 893064.
3. **Fruit and veg boxes** – order from Fisher & Wood by ringing Ruth Hazleman (290543) by 7 pm Tuesday. Payment to company Wednesday, delivered to door Thursday by village volunteers. Box contents available online and WC Facebook page. Veg boxes and other household items also available from Plumbs Dairy.
4. **Fish Shop, Newmarket** – for fresh fish, contact shop direct (07917 365056 or 01638 664560). Door delivery.
5. **Takeaways** – available from The Bull at Burrough Green, The Bell at Balsham, and Red Lion at Brinkley and Horseheath. Menus online. Other pubs are also open.

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STILL OPEN FOR EMERGENCIES

1. **Seed and plant exchange** – on behalf of the Reading Room Committee, a Covid-19 exchange has been set up in the Weston Colville telephone box. If you have too many seed packets or a seedling glut that others could use, consider donating in exchange for plants you could use.

This is not an exhaustive list and many other businesses remain open for delivery.

If you would like to volunteer or join the WhatsApp group contact Jo Jackson for Weston Green (291258 or 07798 525300) or Mel Stammers for Mill Hill/ Church End (291319 or 07890 296998).

paulnicholson418@gmail.com

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# West Wratting Parish Council

This is a short update on recent changes.

**Parish Council Meetings:** there will be no further public parish council meetings until further notice although there will be discussions and decisions made via Zoom. If there are any particular issues you wish to be raised please let me know on *j.richards597@btinternet.com*.

**Recreation ground, Play Area & Sports Pavilion:** our wonderful play area is almost completed but is currently closed, as is the sports pavilion. The recreation ground is open for residents to exercise but please observe social distancing.

**Annual Audit:** this has been postponed until September.

**Precept:** South Cambs District Council have informed the Council that only a quarter rather than half of the precept will be paid in April and the remaining quarter paid in July followed by the second half paid in September.

West Wratting Parish Council (WWPC) would like to say thank you to all those in our community and beyond for all the good neighbour acts helping those who are in need.

WWPC has been in constant discussions with relevant authorities to provide a consistent approach in these unprecedented times, and is acting as a community communications hub. The council seeks to support statutory and emergency services in the local community through the provision of information, local social assistance and communication.

Information is in constant flux and is fast moving.

There is a special page on the village web site for regular updates and links to further help.

## Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk Mira Nichols, WWPC Chair

***Weston Colville Parish Council***

The May parish council meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is due on Monday 6th July at 7.30 in the Reading Room; if Covid 19 restrictions still apply then this meeting may be held virtually.

The Annual Parish Meeting due in May is also cancelled, and in line with latest government regulations this will now take place in May 2021.

The Weston Colville Parish Council website will be launched in May, at: [*www.westoncolville.org.uk*](http://www.westoncolville.org.uk/)

***Ray Vidler, Chairman (290010,*** *rvidler@btinternet.com****) Jessica Ashbridge, Clerk (****jess@agrarian.biz****)***

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**Please send us your contributions, events,**

**notices, photos and comments.**

**Directory Parish Council**

**Local Sports Village Hall Events**

**Parish Matters Village Calendar**

**What’s On**

**Parish History**

**Church News**

[**www.westwratting.org.uk**](http://www.westwratting.org.uk/)

**for information on:**

# West Wratting Book Club

Our March book was ‘The Dutch House’ by Ann Patchett. Although we were unable to meet in person, readers sent in their comments by email.

“It was a very interesting exploration of the way a parent's abandonment of a child has such sad and long-lasting affects (very similar theme to our last book 'Where the Crowdads ....'), the consequence being the development of a very intense relationship between siblings, which had negative effects later on. Also history appeared to repeat itself, with Danny repeating some of his father’s mistakes in trying to emulate him.” Other comments included “Another story of its time”, “A man doing what he thought best. No appreciation of why his wife left. A son who

drifted along doing as he was told, by his sister, by his wife, then does what he always wanted.” “I loved it! It’s very intense, but in a compelling way. It seems that Danny loved the wrong parent, channelling his connection to him through the house, through real estate.”

The brother and sister relationship was thought to be very touching even though she pressures him into a profession which he cannot do. The house is a major character, representing continuity and disruption of family and the longing for a home.

About the ending, “Didn’t see that one coming.” About the final chapter, “History repeats itself: Celeste tolerating life in a house she never liked. A satisfying ending.”

Scores ranged from 8 - 9 out of 10, and all would recommend it.

We ‘met’ on 15th April via Zoom to discuss our April book, ‘The English Patient’ by Michael Ondaatje.

The review will appear in June’s .

Challenge

Our next book is ‘Hamnet’ by Maggie O’Farrell which we hope to discuss on Wednesday 13th May, time to be confirmed but about 7 – 7.30 pm. If anyone else would like to join in please contact me on 290653 or those who have my address, by email.

## Linda Gorman

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# From the Rectory

Over the last month many images of rainbows have appeared. This trend was reportedly started online and then adopted by a nurse in this

country who wanted to create a sign of hope for patients and staff in hospitals. Now you can see them on windows, doors and walls; signs of hope for all of us as well as signs of support for our NHS and key workers. This sense of solidarity and hope may also be experienced during the Thursday evening ‘clap for our carers’. It feels very moving to hear this tribute for all those caring for others as the applause ripples through our villages, and to know this is being replicated throughout the country.

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These rainbows remind us that hope and a deeper connection with one another are things we always long for. They also resonate with the hope proclaimed by the Christian faith. As we celebrated an Easter time like no other last month, it gave us an opportunity to reflect deeply on the good news affirmed at Easter and throughout the year; that the risen Christ God is with us and through him we are offered new life. This good news tells us that faith, hope and love may be tangible realities in our lives, whatever the challenges which lie ahead.

During this lockdown we may feel that life will never be the same again. Yet in this, despite all of our difficulties, there may be things to welcome. For we are seeing a flourishing of community in each of our villages; a steadfast determination to support and care for each other; to see the best in one another. So much which we hope will continue the other side of the lockdown, whenever that may be. Let us therefore continue to support networks offering help in our villages; to phone people who may feel isolated; to keep in touch with family and neighbours; to pray for one another. If we do this, the signs of hope and solidarity will continue to flourish and point us towards new life.

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



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# Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

As always, we won't be ringing in the woods in May and June, as our study has shown that local Marsh Tits are breeding now. We'll be ringing in gardens, of course, as soon as we can.

Please watch your garden feeders for the banana- yellow offspring of all the Tit species. If it's yellow where the white bits should be, it's this year's baby.

Joyce's garden bistro had a good showing of Marsh Tits over the last month: Alexandra, Useless Eustace, Dexter and even Czar Nicholas deigned to put in an appearance.

You may see Chaffinches on your own feeders. These are often infected with Scaly Leg, a chalk-like encrustation of toes and feet. This is contagious, so please disinfect feeders if you have such a visitor.

We have also seen some exhibitionist behaviour on Joyce's camera trap. Is this bird full of the joys of spring and pretending it's a Peacock, or just rude?



Keep your eyes peeled for the welcome return of the Swifts in the middle of this month. Let us know if you spot anything interesting, or just amusing,

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at *Cambsmarti@gmail.com*, *m\_stammers@btinternet.com*

or . Thank you.

Challenge

## Alex Inzani and the very tidy gardens of the

***South Cambs Ringing Group***



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# The Lockdown Lowdown Quiz

Here’s a short quiz about what you can see and things happening in and around our two villages:

1. According to notices around West Wratting which mention a fictional character from 2017 named ‘Coronavirus’ in which story does this appear?
2. For much of April, there’s been a beautiful ‘carpet’ of what in Weston Colville?
3. Which year does the banner at the Chestnut Tree say it was awarded ‘Pub of the Year’?
4. Where was there a yellow ‘Happy Easter’ banner?
5. Which local pub is offering takeaway fish and chips on a Thursday evening?
6. There have been ‘hunts’ around the world, including in our villages, for what?
7. The signpost at the junction of Mill Hill and Church End in Weston Colville shows the number of miles to six places on the B1052 – can you name them?
8. Where is the food bank in West Wratting?
9. What are the rainbows at the corner of The Causeway in West Wratting drawn with?
10. What can you now find in the phone box in Weston Green?
11. On the signs at the end of the West Wratting High Street, how many miles to Withersfield?
12. There are six images on the village sign in Weston Colville – can you name them?

*Answers on page 8. Enjoy the exercise, and perhaps while you’re looking for the answers, count rainbows in windows, or combine it with the hunt for the answers to question 6?*

# Air Source Heat Pumps

I live in West Wickham, and wanted to reduce my oil bill and become more environmentally friendly. I discovered an offer from Shell, from which I expect to save a tank of oil per year and halve my carbon footprint.

A new Air Source Heat Pump will be installed alongside my oil boiler, with some new metering and intelligent controls. I’ll keep the same radiators and pipes, and the heat pump will provide the bulk of the heat to warm my radiators and hot water cylinder. If I need to boost the heat, the new intelligent controls can bring in the oil boiler.

The offer from Shell (and a similar offer from EdF) will fund the air source heat pump and the installation costs, and in return I sign over the renewable heat incentive to them. I have to find £1,610 for the meters, and this will be repaid to me over seven years.

Shell are keen to create a group who may want an air source heat pump. If that is you, please let me know – at some point in the future they have offered to come along to meet us and talk through the details. In the first instance feel free to email me.

***Martin Kerslake (****mkkerslake.eel@gmail.com****)***

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| Revd Iain McColltel: 890693 email: *mccoll.iain@gmail.com*Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priesttel: 892288 email: *revkathy@hotmail.co.uk*Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister tel: 290396 email: *steven@juicyfruitsuk.com*Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister email: *jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com* |

# Online church services

We are currently streaming two services a week online: Evening Prayer (Compline) on Thursdays at 9 pm, and a service, Time for Prayer, at 10 am each Sunday.

Details of how to access these services are sent out in the twice weekly church newsletter. If you would like to start receiving the newsletter please contact Cazzy Walshe, Parish Administrator, at *7churches.seven@gmail.com*

***Weston Colville Cricket Club*** Even without Covid-19 playing havoc with sport this year, there would have been no cricket at Weston. The club has

seen a decline in players over recent years which brought about the withdrawal of both adult teams. That left the junior section with around 30 members.

At the turn of the year I decided to retire from coaching and team management. Independently, but at the same time, Trevor, who shared the coaching role with me, made the decision to step back from club activities so that he could support his daughter Jasmine as her cricket commitments grew.

With no qualified coaches coming forward to pick up the reins we then set about placing our players with other clubs. This process was well under way until Covid-19 put it on hold. There is no indication if or when recreational cricket will start up again.

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| **Black bins:** Monday 4th & 18th May,Monday 1st 15th & 29th June**Blue bins: Tuesday 12th & 26th May,**Monday 8th & 22nd June,**Green bins:** collections suspended, but may restart on 4th May. Look online for up to date information. |

So with no cricket at Weston this year the club has some big decisions to make. The immediate issue is the maintenance of the ground. For those of us who live outside the village social distancing presents another problem so we intend to engage with our landlords, the Reading Room Trust, to find a short term solution, and then when we are released from lockdown look seriously at what we do next.

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| **Churchwardens:**St Mary’s – Ian Ashbridge (291344) St Andrew’s – Sebastian Bain (403415)**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,*7churches.seven@gmail.com,*01223 891443**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,*jess@agrarian.biz***West Wratting Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,*j.richards597@btinternet.com*, 01223 665260**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,*7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com*, 07498 994205**Community Warden:** Carol Poll,*carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk*07436 102865 |

Regrettably it could mean the end of a club that started in 1864 and provided a facility in the village enjoyed by many.

## Steve Potter

***Answers to Lockdown Lowdown Quiz, page 7***

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| **Editor**: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:*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.**June issue’s copy date****Wednesday 20th May** |