

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating  
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.  
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## **Churchyard Clear-up, St Andrew's**

The autumn clear-up of our beautiful churchyard will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November between 10 am and 12 noon.

Depending on the rules at the time, the usual coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

There was no clear-up in the spring, so the churchyard will need more TLC than usual, so do come along and give a hand.

*Colin McCall (290046)*

## **Parachute Jump to Help Veterans**

On 7<sup>th</sup> November I will be making a tandem parachute jump from 12,000 feet to raise money for the Royal British Legion. I served in the Grenadier Guards from 1986 until 2016, and now live in Weston Colville.



I have sponsorship forms and a JustGiving page; please contact me if you need any further details, or to support my fundraising. My aim is to raise £1,000.

*Stephen Gibson (07527 230590)*

## **National Poetry Day**

On 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30 pm we're hosting an online (Zoom) event to celebrate National Poetry Day.

For enquiries, contact Faye or Jacqueline: [faye@kalmareiki.co.uk](mailto:faye@kalmareiki.co.uk) or [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)



## **Book Exchange at Church End**

Pop in to see what's new – we're keeping a healthy rotation each month from our store.

We'd love more donations, though it's better not to leave bags of books in the phone box as people can't then browse easily. A couple of books can go straight in – if you have more, that's great – please deliver them to one of us, or call Joyce on 07980 404764 to arrange collection.



As we go into autumn, the plan is to keep the door closed as a default, only ajar on fine dry days, and we've put in a dehumidifier. Hopefully, that will be enough to keep books in good condition, and we'll review it as the months go by. We'd love to hear from you with any feedback or questions.

*Joyce, Jackie B, Emma Kaye and Jacqueline  
Community Bookworms*

## **Weston Colville Cinema Club**

We're sorry to say that, with the recent government announcement on the rule of six, Cinema Club will not now take place this month. We'll be back when government guidance allows – watch this space. Meantime, stay safe and well.



*Jacqueline*





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### St Andrew's Building project Update

Now that we have planning approval, we have started essential repairs to the church as well as alterations to provide a new path and level access via the north door, and we would like to update you all on the progress being made.



The most pressing repairs concern the west walls of the nave and south wall of the tower. With the help of the Church Commissioners, who have responsibility for the chancel, we are able to properly reinstate the original protective finishes to the flint rubble walls and thereby protect the fabric of the church for future generations.

Additionally we have for many years been trying to see how best we can achieve safe access to the church by providing level access from the outside for wheelchair users and those with restricted mobility (it is the ultimate intention to provide an accessible toilet and nappy changing facility; however, this will have to come as a later project). The new tarmac will run round the west end of the church to reach the north door. To some extent we will be reinstating level access to the north door as, in fact, the door was reduced in height when the heating pipes were installed at the turn of the last century. We will therefore need to alter the heating pipes and electrical wiring so that they run below the floor level of the nave.

We have also addressed the need for fabric repairs to the west end of the church. This involves repointing the west walls of the nave and associated buttresses together with the first stage of the south elevation of the tower. The need arises from the fact that this has been repointed at some stage in cement mortar (which prevents the fabric from drying out and has been damaging internal finishes). This needs to be taken off and replaced with lime mortar, allowing the walls to dry out. The west wall of the nave on the north side is particularly eroded because it has lost its original render finish where the masonry is deeply eroded and has become loose. The inside of the tower is damp and the tower arch, made of clunch, is eroding. Repointing and rebuilding defective areas of masonry in lime mortar will much improve the situation and make safe the loose and dangerous sections of the walls.

The PCC have been in discussion with their architect as to how best to protect the walls for many years to come. It has been decided that we should bring back the walls to the way they would have been in the Middle Ages and reinstate the render and limewash finishes. It will be a significant change in appearance, but we are advised that this is the right thing to do if



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we want the fabric to remain in good shape for years to come, and to reduce a constant on-going burden of stone repairs. Without getting too technical, the lime render and limewash will act as a poultice and dry out the fabric very much more quickly than pointing alone; it will protect the stonework and improve the internal environment for all who use it – and that cannot be a bad thing.

The Church Commissioners are paying for all the work on the chancel other than some particular points like cleaning the windows, and making good the window guards. Whilst the scaffolding is up, at the Commissioners' expense, the PCC will repair and make good in a similar manner the crossing wall of the nave, which is our responsibility.

We also intend to reinstate the original sun dial inside the south porch.

How is all this work being funded? We have received commitment from the Church Commissioners for 100% of the cost of the chancel repairs, circa £100,000, and Amey have supported us with a net grant of £80,000. We are also grateful to the CHTC (Cambridge Historic Churches Trust) for a grant of £1,000 and an interest free loan of £15,000 repayable over four years.

As a result, all this work is affordable – just! It has to be carried out now owing to the requirements of the Church Commissioners, but the effect of Covid19 is that we have not been able to hold the intended fund raising events. Our funds are thus very depleted and any support would be very much appreciated.

For further information, please contact any member of the PCC, Simon Thorley, Simon Sampson, Alex Walsham, Gary Birditt, Iain McColl or myself.

For and behalf of the PCC,

**Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)**

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*Ellen Collier*

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## Church Services

We now have a variety of services both online and inside our church buildings. We are delighted to be able to use our buildings regularly now, but we still need to continue to take precautions including social distancing and the wearing of face masks whilst inside. I should also be grateful if anybody planning on attending a service inside would let the relevant churchwarden know in advance, so we can keep an eye on numbers, as we are allowed a maximum of 30 people inside a church building for a service. May I remind you that if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend services inside our churches.

**Revd Iain McColl**



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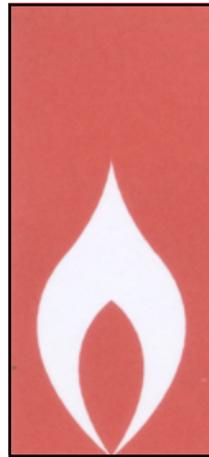
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***Prescriptions from The Chestnut Tree***

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support over the last few months. We have been deeply touched by people's concern and generosity towards us and we are so thankful to be a part of such an amazing community!

As most of you will know, prior to COVID, with the help of volunteers from West Wrattling and Weston Colville, the prescriptions were picked up from Linton Surgery three times a week and patients would then collect them from here at the pub.

Due to lockdown, and also the number of people self isolating, we have instead been delivering prescriptions direct to people's homes. Even though we are now open every day, provision of this service continued as the pub was still operating on reduced hours.

However, I am happy to advise that we will be returning to almost pre-COVID trading times from 1st October. Therefore the service will revert to individuals needing to collect their prescriptions from the pub again, with effect from 1st November. This will give us time to make sure everyone is aware of the change, and a note will accompany all prescriptions delivered in the meantime.

If for any reason you find yourself unable to get to the pub, and there is no one else who can collect for you, then please do give us a ring. We are always happy to deliver if the need arises, however we cannot do so for everyone as it takes up so much of ours and the other volunteers' time. If you feel you need a permanent delivery service then please speak to the pharmacy as there are companies that can provide this service for you.

Our opening hours from October will be:

Monday & Tuesday                    5.30 pm to 10.00 pm  
Wednesday & Thursday  
   12 noon to 2.30 pm, and 5.30 pm to 10.00 pm  
Friday to Sunday                    12 noon to 10.00 pm

We hope this is all clear; any queries, please give us a call during opening hours on 290384.

***Peter & Rachel***

***West Wrattling Oil Syndicate***

There will be a fill-up this month, with the order cut-off on Monday 12th October at 6.30 pm.

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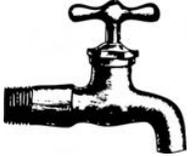
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**West Wratting Book Club**

In September six of us had our first socially-distanced meeting at The Chestnut Tree. The book we read was ‘The Salt Path’ by Raynor Wynn, the story of her and her husband Moth’s walk around the South-West Coast Path. This was precipitated by the loss of their home due to a disastrous investment with a ‘friend’ and Moth’s diagnosis with a degenerative disease, CBD.

All except one person, who had read something similar quite recently, thoroughly enjoyed this book, with comments such as “astonishing”, “beautifully written”, and “I loved it”. As well as a description of their physical and emotional journey as they came to terms with their new situation and what the future might bring, it covered the nature, geology and history of the places they travelled through. It was in turns moving, funny, infuriating, informative and inspiring. The different responses of people they met en route were particularly interesting, especially how attitudes varied or changed when they admitted they were homeless. Some of the information quoted about homelessness echoed that in ‘Stuart: a Life Backwards’. We would recommend it as a good read and several of us are looking forward to reading the follow-up book to find out what happened next. Scores were mainly 9, 9.5 and 10 out of 10, with one 7.

For our next book we are returning to a classic, ‘Return of the Native’ by Thomas Hardy, meeting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, hopefully at The Chestnut Tree, depending on circumstances and weather, otherwise via Zoom.

*Linda Gorman*

**West Wratting Clay Day**

This year our annual clay day took place in very windy and overcast conditions providing some very good sport, not in 33<sup>o</sup> C heat as it was last year.

We had a full team of 24 guns including more young shots than in previous years, who shot very straight.

Our thanks go to all the guns for their support, not forgetting Richard and Jackie Clarke who once again organised our event.

We have raised in excess of £2,500 for the St Andrews Restoration fund which is much appreciated by the West Wratting Parochial Church Council.

Please save the date for next year: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

*Simon Sampson*



**Kalma Relaxation Classes**

As soon as I am able to, I will be running my relaxation classes from Weston Colville Reading Room instead of the 'old' locations (Linton, Ashdon, Sawston and Stapleford). The relaxation classes involve guided meditation, reiki and crystal healing. I have had many people try the classes who have never done anything like this before, and they have found the classes wonderful, with benefits on all levels – physical, mental and spiritual.

At the moment, I am gathering names and contact details of people who would like to come to a class when I can get them going again. Classes cost £7.50, last around one hour, and are suitable for all ages as long as you can sit or lie quietly for 45 - 60 mins (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult).

If you would like to find out more or register your interest, please contact me.

*Faye (Faye@kalmareiki.co.uk , 07815 608897)*

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**From the Rectory**

When I was a child a favourite book of mine was called 'A Time of Gifts' by Patrick Leigh Fermor. It is narrated by Leigh Fermor as an older man, looking back on his time as an eighteen-year-old journeying on foot across Europe in the 1930s, from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople. One of the themes of the book is how, as a young man, he had very little materially and carried with him all he needed on his back, yet life itself was adventurous, rich and full of wonder – a time of gifts.



In our current unsettling times, we face many challenges: uncertainties about the future for ourselves and our loved ones, concerns about health, schooling for children, difficulties in our workplaces and in the wider economy. Yet even with all these pressures, we may still hold on to a vision of gift and gratitude. Now my children have returned to their primary school, for example, I am realising all over again how much I enjoy the school run and how grateful I am towards all the staff for the way they encourage the children.

This idea of a time of gifts and daily gratitude is reflected in the harvest thanksgivings which churches across the country are celebrating this autumn. For many, however, they will be celebrations like no other. As we try and work out what the 'rule of six' may mean for our lives, or consider what 'living well' means in these times, communal celebrations take on a new hue. In all of our churches there will be face-to-face services, but we will be limited in numbers. We continue to have Zoom services, but we appreciate not everybody will be able to access these easily. Yet one thing we can still focus on in our harvest thanksgiving is that gratitude before God is central to our worship and shapes our lives as followers of Christ.

The Christian faith has always encouraged us to see our lives, and the time we have, as a gift, something reflected in the Lord's Prayer as we ask for 'our daily bread'. Perhaps the current crisis may focus our hearts and minds on what matters most and even inspire us towards greater gratitude.

It was in uncertain times that St Paul reminded the church to be intentional about three things: "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances".

Giving thanks in all circumstances, although not for all circumstances! These are practices of purposeful Christian living which help us to re-discover the gifts we have, even in the hardest times, and help us to value them afresh and to value each other. When we do this, we may remember we live too in a time of gifts, and give thanks to God in all circumstances.

**Revd Iain McColl**



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### Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Since lockdown, many more people have taken up doing jigsaw puzzles. Gill Parry Brown and I would like to set up a Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange. We would ask people to bring jigsaws that they have done, and hopefully find another one that suits them. Initially the jigsaws will be available from the garage (which has no doors) at Nine Chimney House in Balsham. Do please feel free to come up the drive into the garage where hopefully there will be some jigsaws. No doubt the dog will bark!

*Joanna Sanders (893063, [sanderschimneys@uwclub.net](mailto:sanderschimneys@uwclub.net))*

### Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Now that autumn is upon us, your Marsh Tits are fattening up on your sunflower hearts. Blue over Red over Black 'Anastasia', Red over White over Green 'Useless Eustace' and Left Black, Right Yellow 'Dexter' have all been seen on Mill Hill recently.



*Useless Eustace and his breakfast at Joyce's bird bistro*

'Dexter' was ringed way back in March 2016 and is now at least 6 years old, so is our oldest bird still living. She's three times the usual wild lifespan. (It's all the good food you put out folks, which helps them through the winter). We really would like to know if there are any other old timers out there, so please let us know what colour-ringed birds you see at [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com), [m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com) or [Challenge](https://www.facebook.com/Challenge).

On 11<sup>th</sup> August, a vet at Copdock, near Ipswich, found one of Weston Colville's Blue Tits. She sent in the ring number – S907292 – to the BTO, and we were able to tell her that this bird had hatched in 2017 and was ringed in the spring of 2018 by our very own Rachel Durham.

Blue Tits are philopatric - site faithful - and don't usually move far from where they hatched. My last Blue Tit recovery had moved a whopping 2.5 km from London Colney to St Albans), so Rachel's Blue Tit is practically an itinerant, having relocated 50 km ESE to the Suffolk coast. S907292 was 3 years old, which is their typical wild lifespan, so s/he had had a good innings and travelled far more widely than most of its kin.

*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group*

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**West Wrating Parish Council**

The minutes of the parish council meeting held in July were approved and have been displayed on the noticeboards. A short report of the main points appeared in the August issue of *Challenge*, and further details are given below.

The council was able to meet in the village hall following strict procedures.

**Planning:**

S/	M	Wadlow Farm	Resubmission of S/	Approved
01031/ FUL	Latham		2931/19/FL	
S/ 01528/ FUL	S Bain	St Andrews Church	New path & alterations to north door to provide level access	
20/0156 4/FUL	Mr Lodge	Land to SE of Burton End, W Wickham	Installation of a solar farm & assoc. infrastructures incl. access	
20/0189 3/ CLUE D	WWPC	Recreation ground Playground	Cert. of Lawfulness under Section 191	
20/0281 3/ prio3Q	Camgrain	Valley Farm	Change of use to a dwelling house from agric. bldg.	

a) *Pre/0327/19* – replacing the play equipment – a certificate should be received shortly as payment has

  
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now been made following completion of the application. I have had a call from SCDC querying the boundary of the playground and asking why we want this certificate.

b) *20/01564/FUL* – solar farm – the parish council has objected to this on various grounds.

**Finance:**

a) *Final accounts* for 2019/2020 had been distributed and approved for audit in May. All the documentation submitted for audit had been seen by the parish council but official approval was needed due to the cancellation of the May meeting (due to Covid19). All councillors agreed the figures etc and approval was given.

b) *Authorised payments:* shown fully in minutes.

c) *Audit:* the internal audit has been carried out successfully and is now with the External Auditors.

**Recreation Ground & Pavilion:**

a) The WWFC wish to put eight concrete hard stands at the far side of the ground to which dug-outs for reserves are attached during the football season. It was agreed that more detail of this equipment with measurements etc was needed before the parish council could make a decision.

b) The cost of maintenance of the defibrillator should be budgeted for as the parish council are prepared to share this cost.

c) Special request: would whoever is last to leave the recreation ground please check that the gate is closed and locked correctly. Thank you.

**Traffic issues & Speed Restriction Equipment:**

a) An LHI application for gating and Sharks teeth white lining at the three 40mph speed limit signs on the main roads leading directly to the centre of the village with enhanced orange repeater signs and speed limits written on the road is being prepared by Cllr Davey to be submitted before September.

b) Cllrs Davey & Bonfield are applying for funding from Wadlow Windfarm Fund for another SID.

Full details of the 14<sup>th</sup> September meeting will be given in November after they have been approved. At the moment it is uncertain whether or not people other than the council will be able to join the meeting in the village hall.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

## Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September via Zoom. The following items were discussed and where necessary agreed. Full minutes and appendices can be found on <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

### Planning – to be discussed:

20/03135/ FUL	Three Horseshoes Farm	New cartlodge	Awaiting decision No comments
20/02139/ LBC	Pound Farm Chapel Road	Installation of replacement windows	Awaiting decision No comments

### Planning – SCDC decisions:

20/02423/ HFUL	1 The Green	Single storey side and rear extension, externally insulate and render existing ground floor bathroom and enclose existing canopy to the front.	Approved
20/01945/ HFUL	74-75 Common Road	First floor rear extension	Approved
20/02430/ FUL	Ivy House, The Green	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 5 dwellings	Awaiting Decision
20/02593/ OUT	Garage Plot to north of 14 Horseshoes Lane	Outline planning for the development of detached dwelling house with all matters reserved.	Awaiting Decision
20/02775/ HFUL	24 Spring Terrace, Church End	Conversion of existing front garden to a block paved drive to allow parking for 2 vehicles.	Awaiting Decision

**SID and LHI** – no update, as Cllr Hubbard was not present. The SID has been utilised around the village. Cllr Hubbard confirmed that he had resubmitted the LHI for roundels to be painted on the road.

**Footpaths** – the diversion of Footpath 19 has been approved. There will be a process of notification before new signage is put in place. The bridge at the junction of Footpath 18 (Weston Colville Parish) and Footpath 15 (Carlton Parish) has been placed on the list for repair. Concerns have been raised by some parishioners that the pedestrian gap has not been made wide enough, for those that are infirm, between the new gate at the recreation ground on Horseshoe Lane and the hedge. Cllr Jackson will take this to the Reading Room Committee.

**Flooding and Road Drainage** – a report was received. Cllr Ashbridge had a request to meet with George Hay, CCC enforcement officer, on behalf of West Wrattling Estate, to look at the flooding prevention and the moving of the bridge at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, the verges were to be scraped and the ditches dredged with the dredged soil placed on the land, plus other areas of concern in the village. It was determined that Cllrs Durham and Garrod would also attend the meeting. The sunken gully on Mill Hill opposite the wood pile has been reported via the emergency line. Chris Green will be following up the flooding of 1 - 6 Church End, as the previous work had had no effect, and the gullies remain occluded at Church End.

**Playground** – Cllr Jackson has carried out some of the actions indicated on the playground safety report, and is waiting for parts to complete the work required. The grant application from Wadlow Windfarm has been successful, to re-fence the play area on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will instruct Brett Jones to complete the new fence when he is available.

**Matters for Next Agenda** – Grass cutting tenders, street lighting, flooding. The next meeting will be held via Zoom.

**Date of Next Meetings** – 5<sup>th</sup> October (planning), 2<sup>nd</sup> November (via Zoom), 7<sup>th</sup> December (planning).

*Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*  
([clerk@westoncolville.org.uk](mailto:clerk@westoncolville.org.uk))

### Fostering

The county council is constantly on the hunt for more foster carers. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in this, please contact the CCC directly – [fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or 08000 520078.

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### Marsh Mail

In the last month we have welcomed our newest cohort of LVC students as well as enjoying the reunion with Years 8 - 11 who haven't attended school in person since March. Hearing the buildings alive again with the sound of students learning has been brilliant.

Despite all that has changed at the college, there is still plenty that is reassuringly familiar. While teachers now move around the site between lessons, and school systems may be unrecognisable with staggered timetables, year group zones and many other logistical adjustments, the interactions between students and staff and the college's relational approach continue to make LVC a special place to learn and work.

Some aspects of our community provision have also reopened this month. The youngest site users have returned to Linton Granta Playgroup and Linton Out of School Club. Our Community Sports Centre has also seen an increasing usage since it reopened, with many local clubs restarting.

Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to reinstate all community activities. The enhanced cleaning



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requirements and the need to ensure that year group zones are not compromised means that our Adult Education programme has been cancelled this term. Lettings and other extra-curricular activities have also needed to be put on hold while we focus on ensuring the safe and effective delivery of our core educational provision. We will continue to review this position and hope to be able to recommence evening classes at some stage in the New Year.

The support and understanding of our parents and wider members of the College community at this exceptional time has been very much appreciated.

*Helena Marsh*



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**Flu Clinics** – if you are an ‘at risk’ patient, please make sure you have booked your flu vaccination. All ‘at risk’ patients will receive a flu vaccination.

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If you have any comments please write to me at Granta Sawston or send an email.

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**Balsham WI**

We met up informally in August on Balsham rec with a picnic lunch.

Unfortunately we chose a very wet and windy afternoon; the conditions were so awful it was really quite amusing once we got over being frozen. We enjoyed a light hearted quiz organised by Bridget Durham, and had a very entertaining time despite the weather!

We held a Zoom meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September, and Debbie Mower tried to enlighten us all on the delights of Zoom. She was very patient as most of us really hadn't got much of a clue, and there was a lot of giggling and mild hysteria as we tried to carry out different tasks. To lighten up proceedings we then played Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game which we all really enjoyed. We all learnt tips from Debbie and hopefully after one or two such meetings we may become more familiar with the wonders of Zoom.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October we will have another virtual meeting when I will demonstrate how to make an autumn wreath. If members would like to follow me as I demonstrate, I will deliver to them an oasis ring. The wreath is very easy to make and really doesn't need

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INSPIRING WOMEN

any floral skills at all; all you need is the oasis ring and a selection of evergreen foliage and a mixture of berries and hips and haws from the hedgerow. This wreath can be adapted for Christmas with a few baubles and bows. This will be a fun demonstration as I battle with Zoom and foliage. Please ring me if you would more information.

*Alison Clarke (894031)*

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

We have great news: we can finally meet face-to-face indoors. It has been six months since we last met in person.

Until everything is organised we are continuing with our Zoom meetings. We don't always have the same faces at the meetings but it is good to interact with them on different tasks. So far we have built a compass, followed compass points to make a picture, designed a flag that represents ourselves, and discussed the countryside code and the different customs in each country in relation to what items, such as fruit, you can take on holiday with you.

We still have space if you would like to send your daughter to Brownies; initially it will be online but hopefully by the end of October we will be back together in the same room but safe and socially distanced.

If you would like to know more about Brownies please check out the Girlguiding website ([www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)) or drop us a message on [horseheathbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:horseheathbrownies@gmail.com). Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just being themselves.

*Pauline, Katie and Laurené*



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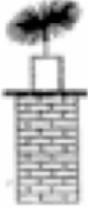
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### 2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps

Linton Squadron continues to meet, with video based parade nights, and has provided a varied and exciting program of virtual events, with Beds and Cambs wing pulling together to provide leadership activities and Duke of Edinburgh training.



Linton cadets have had guest speaker question and answer sessions from senior RAF staff, giving a fantastic insight into the inner workings of the RAF. Our own squadron staff have provided flight planning lessons and delivered training from the British Safety Foundation, too.

Flight Sergeant Sean Keenan has been successful in his application for an Army scholarship. After a rigorous paper sift and impressing the board at initial officer selection, he was selected for a scholarship at his chosen university. An incredible result.

The squadron's new website ([www.2523linton.co.uk](http://www.2523linton.co.uk)) is live, and we welcome anyone those starting year 8 to register their details with us so we can invite them to our squadron open evening upon our return to face-to-face activities, which we hope will be very soon.

**Bradley Wright, Acting Pilot Officer**  
(07943 873272, [training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk))

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### Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Operation Christmas Child is a Christian charity that sends shoe boxes to many parts of the world at Christmas, filled with various items that children would love to receive or use. Last year nearly 11 million were distributed. Each box may be the only gift a child will receive, and often items are treasured for years after, and even into adulthood.



Now is the time to start collecting and putting together items if you want to be part of this wonderful project. There are various ways to get involved:

1. Fill a whole shoebox with the suggested items, or
2. Donate one or two items, or
3. Pack an 'on-line' box, or
4. Make a donation which can be used to buy items or for transport costs.

As there are transport, logistic and admin costs, OCC ask for a donation of £5 for each box. If you pay on line, you will get an email next February to say where your box has gone. Collection week is 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November, and I can arrange collection.

The boxes can be shoeboxes covered with bright coloured paper, or cardboard flat pack boxes are available from me. A label for the box, and leaflets for guidance, are also available, and are on line as well. The boxes are labelled for Boys or Girls, in age groups 2 - 4, 5 - 8 yrs, or 9 - 14 yrs. Suggestions for items to pack (all of which must be new or in excellent condition) include:

**Toys** – doll, toy car/truck, skipping rope, ball, small puzzle, musical instrument, cuddly toy

**School Supplies** – pens, sharpeners, eraser, crayons, notebooks, paper, colouring books, solar calculators, pencils

**Hygiene Items** – toothbrush, wrapped soap, comb, brush, flannel.

**Other** – hat, scarf, gloves, jewellery, socks, T shirt.

NO used, damaged items, no liquids or lotions, no knives or military figures, no chocolate or foods, no fragile items, no political, religious or racial material, no wordy books, no toothpaste or sweets.

**Jane Furlow**  
(893232, 07745 046921, [jane.furlow@gmail.com](mailto:jane.furlow@gmail.com))  
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

**Poppy Appeal**

The latest information (as of mid September) is that paper poppies, plus a limited supply of poppy pins of all descriptions (including VE day 75 and Poppy Appeal 2020), reflective poppies, wrist bands and crosses will be available at static points only, probably from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. If you have any ideas where this would be possible, please contact me.



The official Royal British Legion website <https://www.poppymap.org.uk/> has an interesting collection of products available to purchase, including the poppy pins, with a guaranteed 100% of profits going to the charity.

**Margaret Johnson (07866 813016)**  
**Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser**

**DIARY**

**October 2020**

- Thur 1 Poetry, via Zoom
- Mon 12 West Wrating Oil Syndicate orders deadline
- Wed 14 West Wrating Book Club
- Tues 20 Balsham WI, via Zoom

**November 2020**

- Sat 21 Churchyard clear-up, St Andrew's, West Wrating

**www.westwrating.org.uk**

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[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443  
**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz)  
**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260  
**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205  
**Community Warden:** Carol Poll,  
[carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk) 07436 102865

OCT	9 am	10 am	6 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>		Time of Prayer (West Wrating) <i>Sebastian Bain</i>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Holy Communion (West Wrating) <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Harvest Time of Prayer (Weston Colville) <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Evening Prayer (Balsham) <i>Alistair Collen</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion (Weston Colville) <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship (West Wrating) <i>Sebastian Bain</i>	Time of Prayer (Zoom) <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship (West Wrating) <i>Sebastian Bain</i>	Time of Prayer (Zoom) <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	
<b>Thursdays at 9 pm: Evening Prayer (Compline) via Zoom</b> <i>Steven Wheeler</i>			

**Black bins:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October,  
 Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November  
**Blue & green bins:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October,  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email: [editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk)  
 Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.  
**November issue's copy date**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**