

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## ***Village Resources***

If you need help with shopping, transport, delivering medications (including emergency supplies, eg antibiotics), or anything else, please contact:

**Weston Colville:** Jo Jackson ( 07798 525300) or Mel Stammers (07890 296998). They are also the contacts for the village WhatsApp group for covid-related issues.

There is a separate Weston Colville WhatsApp group for general village issues: contact Jackie Brearley on 07984 655116.

**West Wratting:** Suan Rowland (290788, [suanrowland@btinternet.com](mailto:suanrowland@btinternet.com)) or Donna Gilmour (07986 006129, [donna.gilmour@hotmail.com](mailto:donna.gilmour@hotmail.com))

Weston Colville also has a Facebook page, and both villages have websites.

## ***Mobile Post Office Visits to Weston Colville***

A mobile Post Office comes to Weston Colville every Thursday afternoon between 12.30 and 1.30, and parks in the Reading Room car park.

Unfortunately due to a breakdown it was unable to attend on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. A note advising this was placed on both the Weston Colville WhatsApp groups, but it was clear from the number of people who still turned up that this does not reach everyone.

There will be odd occasions when the Post Office is unable to get to the village, for instance on New Year's Eve. If you want to know if it is not coming please join one of the village WhatsApp groups; see above for details.

***Weston Colville Parish Council***

## ***Christmas Tree Recycling***

Last year the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme collected over 2,500 trees and raised over £36,000; this year it is hoped that the collection will be the greatest success yet, with hopes of raising £40,000 for the Hospice.

A team of 70+ volunteers will be collecting trees between Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January. In exchange, a donation to the Hospice would be warmly welcomed. After costs, 90% of the monies raised will go to the Hospice which provides essential support and end of life care to adults living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition. The remaining 10% will be donated to The Rotary Club of Cambridge, to support further local good causes.

The trees will be chipped at temporary drop off points and used as mulch or taken to local waste recycling centres for composting.

Register your tree (before 10 am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) at [arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling](http://arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling) or call 01223 675888 for more information.

***Alison, Arthur Rank Hospice (01223 675888)***

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

The review of our December book, 'Miss Benson's Beetle' by Rachel Joyce, will appear in the February Challenge. The book for January is 'The Hotel' by Daisy Johnson, to be discussed via Zoom on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January unless otherwise advised. We wish everyone a Happy New Reading Year.

***Linda Gorman***

## ***West Wratting Recreation Ground***

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## Parish Matters

May I start with wishing you all a Happy New Year with the hope that 2021 will be easier for us all and that we will be meeting up with each other again.



To have a big breakthrough with vaccine is a miracle in itself, and although it may take a while to be distributed, thankfully the most vulnerable are at the top of the list. The scientists have worked hard together to beat Covid 19, and here in the Cambridge area there is so much research with medicine, engineering and so on, which we benefit from.

The parishes have changed in the last few months with a greater sense of community in the villages. People have had time to meet their neighbours because of the lockdown. Help has been given to those who had to isolate, which has been much appreciated. For those who have been helping I am sure this has given them a sense of satisfaction and well being, perhaps even a sense of happiness.

Martin Seligman, a psychologist, wrote a book called 'Authentic Happiness'. In it he spoke of a group of

students who came to his class to learn about happiness. He sent his new pupils out on an exercise to see who they could help as they went down the street. All the students reported back that this exercise had gone well, and in fact one of the students was quite put out with the result. When questioned why, his reply was that he had enjoyed it so much that he had made a decision not to become a banker and make loads of money, but choose a different career path altogether.

For 2021 there are new opportunities and horizons for us to explore as we patiently wait for the vaccine to arrive. We have much to be thankful for.

We are thankful especially to Claire, our parish nurse, who has just retired. She highlighted the need for a parish nurse with new initiatives to help give people support in the community and medical advice if needed, and over the years it became clear that this was not a luxury but a necessity.

So whatever situation this finds you in, be encouraged that there is support out there for all of you.

God bless.

**Rev Kathy Bishop**



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## Parish Nurse Vacancy

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For an application pack and full job description please contact Mrs Caroline Walshe on 01223 891443, [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Interviews: mid February

Parish Nurse Training: 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Small Villages Community Warden

My first month as your Small Villages Community Warden has been thoroughly enjoyable. I have been busy linking up with our parish councils, churches and Covid support groups. All your support teams (including me) aimed to make sure that those who were more vulnerable weren't left alone and isolated. I witnessed the effects of little kind gestures and it was truly heart warming.

Our Age UK service users enjoy being able to stay at home in their own surroundings and having someone they can rely on to help them remain independent.

There is space on the Small Villages scheme for more people to join, so if you'd like to try a Community Warden out, please get in touch and we can arrange your two week free trial.

**Faye Parker (07436 102865,  
[faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk))**

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## Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December included the following items.

**Public Participation Session** – a parishioner spoke about the proposed bridge works at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane; disappointment was expressed that there had been no consultation with the residents, and that there were no plans available. It was explained that the area is controlled by Highways, and there is no requirement to consult either the PC or residents, as this is a different situation to a planning application. The works that are due to be carried out include moving and shortening the existing bridge to span the Stour on the right-hand side as you look at it from Horseshoe Lane. Revetments will be created to strengthen the banks. The bridge is to be moved to allow the culvert that feeds into the Stour to be kept clear, which should alleviate flooding.

**Planning** – a presentation was given by Thurlow Estate representatives before the planning application 20/04597/FUL for additional grain store, handling facilities and silos at Weston Woods Farm was discussed by the council. After a discussion it was agreed to support the application.

**Street Lighting** – an update was given stating that five of the nine streetlights have been changed to LEDs, three having had new poles. The remaining lights should be changed soon. Once they have all been changed the running costs can be reviewed and other suppliers investigated.

**Flooding** – there will be a capital project involving the design of new drains at Church End to improve road drainage. The bridge at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane will be closed for three days when the works start in week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January (this date may be postponed depending on the weather/water levels).

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Works had to be postponed on the banks on Common Road beyond 71/72 which were due to be scraped to increase water drainage, but an electricity cable has been identified running close to the surface which means the works may need to be carried out manually.

**Speed Reduction** – a report was received and update provided. Discussions had taken place with a representative of the County's Highways department which determines all Local Highways Improvement (LHI) grant applications. There was a suggestion that a pair of speed humps could be placed between Chapel Road and Horseshoe Lane. High speeds had been recorded on this stretch. Most other areas in the village would not be suitable for active speed reduction due to the width of the road, visibility before bends in the road, hills etc. It was determined that a copy of the guidance would be requested, and that a consultation carried out with the village, to garner the views of residents once some options had been developed. The closing date for the current round of applications is January 2021, so it would be hoped to submit an LHI application for January 2022.

**Matters for Next Agenda** – footpaths, speed reduction consultation, budget, precept.

**Date of Next Meeting** – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

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## GRANTA Medical Practices

As I write this, the COVID-19 vaccine delivery has just begun, with the first vaccines being given yesterday. It suddenly feels like there is hope and a light for us all at the end of this very long, dark tunnel.

The vaccine is currently being offered to patients in priority groups first, namely:

- People aged 80 and over who already have a hospital appointment in the next few weeks
- People who work in care homes
- Health care workers at high risk.

It will be offered more widely as soon as possible. For further information on priorities and delivery schedules please go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

The general public are asked not to contact their GP surgeries regarding the vaccination programme. The NHS will contact everyone direct when it is their turn to have the vaccine.

In the meantime, thank you all for continuing to abide by all the social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene guidance.

We will keep our website and social media channels updated with any developments.

The Linton pharmacy is closed on Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Prescription requests placed on those days will be ready for collection on 6<sup>th</sup> January. The pharmacy reopens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, and prescription requests placed then will be ready for collection on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

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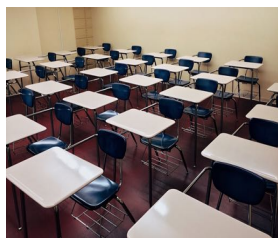


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With predicted GCSE and A-level grades, and lectures watched on Zoom, our young people faced a difficult start to sixth form and university life this year! Let us hope that by September 2021 things may be beginning to resemble normality again. For those from our villages looking to embark on this next chapter of their academic life do please apply to our local trust to get some financial help! We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2021.



Normally one scholarship is awarded each year to the amount of £1,000. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following:-

Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Watlington Common airfield: Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Willingham, West Watlington, Weston Colville and Withersfield.

The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and university offers are known.

For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury (01223 290968). For an application form please email to:  
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*Jonathan Drury*

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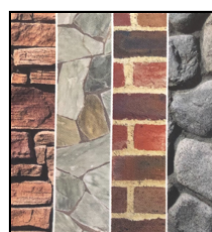
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## Marsh Mail

Despite the restrictions, LVC staff and students are finding ways to bring learning to life in lots of imaginative ways. An example of this is in the Arts. GCSE Dance students are benefiting from virtual links via Teams with A-level students at Abbey Gate Sixth Form College in Bury St Edmunds, and GCSE Music students enjoyed being able to safely perform in a mini open-air Christmas concert at the end of term. The Arts team is also busy preparing students for practical exams, and a Year 7 production of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is underway.

School staff have had to be incredibly innovative to adapt to the challenges of educating our young people in the current context. The prospect of returning to 'normal' later this school year is a welcome relief to staff, students and parents. Learning during lockdown has taught us the value of human relationships and connections, and the importance of the holistic, enriching aspects of education for students' physical and mental health.

However, the phrase 'necessity is the mother of invention' has certainly struck a chord in schools over the last nine months. There are plenty of innovations and developments that have arisen through necessity that we will harness in the future. Developing our use of technology has enabled flipped learning, virtual parents' evenings and click-and-collect library loans. Seeing students living the Linton Learner attributes through their responsible, caring and independent conduct, and staff rallying together with community spirit, will certainly sustain us this term.

**Helena Marsh**



## 2523 Linton Air Cadets

2523 and the entire RAF Air Cadet organisation is set to bounce back in 2021 with an industrious and ambitious training programme at local and national levels.

2021 will see many flying opportunities with our usual allocation of air experience flights and scholarship placement opportunities. Our camp season kicks off in March, and we are hopeful that Easter Camp 2021 will be able to go ahead as planned, paving the way for all of our summer camps too.

With staff using the lockdown to complete additional training, when the squadron does return in the new year we will be better placed than ever to deliver first aid, leadership and BTEC training from across our progressive training syllabus. A list of subjects can be found on our website [www.2523linton.co.uk](http://www.2523linton.co.uk).

Once we are settled back into a routine we will look to expand the squadron by recruiting new cadets, minimum age 12 and in year 8, to start their cadet career.

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## Balsham WI

Covid didn't stop us from having our Christmas party, albeit via Zoom. We all looked very festive wearing our home made Christmas hats, some adorned with flashing lights, and of course we wore the obligatory Christmas jumper, probably all being past the age of feeling self-conscious! We started the evening with members reading out their favourite snippets of Christmas: poems, stories and different memories from Christmas past whilst sipping our favourite tittle and munching on our Christmas snacks. We then enjoyed an ingenious quiz prepared by Bridget Durham, with questions in each round using a different Christmas theme. We finished the evening with an array of the worst possible Christmas cracker jokes we could find. The silver lining of a virtual party was that none of us had to turn out on a filthy December evening and, personally speaking of course, I was able to curl up on the sofa after enjoying a little too much Christmas sherry without having to walk home.

Our next meeting is via Zoom on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm, when Seppe Cassettarai will talk to us about maps and mapping, which promises to be interesting.

*Alison Clarke (894031)*

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## Church Services

Please do keep an eye on our church website, [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk), and our church noticeboards, or perhaps find out by word of mouth, to see the latest information on church services. Contact parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand.

## Horseshoe Lane Ford and Bridge

The CCC Highways Department plans to relocate the footbridge by the ford at the end of Horseshoe Lane from the left bank to the right bank so that it easier to keep the Stour clear of silt, in an effort to alleviate flooding in the village. The work will also involve strengthening the banks of the Stour to stop erosion at this point of the river. The work is planned to take place during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January. If the weather is not suitable or the water level is too high then the work will be postponed. During this work the footbridge will be closed for three days, and the council apologises for any inconvenience caused.

*Weston Colville Parish Council*

Revd Iain McColl

tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 290396 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)

Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister

email: [jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com)

## Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
[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:** Faye Parker,  
[Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk), 07436 102865

## DIARY

### January 2021

Mon 4 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting

Tue 12 Balsham WI

Wed 13 West Wrating Book Club

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**Mobile Post Office:** Thursdays, Reading Room carpark,  
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm  
(EXCEPT FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE)

**Mobile library:** 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> February

High Street, West Wrating 12.15 - 12.45 pm

Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm

Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

**Black bins:** **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** & Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January,  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Blue bins:** **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>** & Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January,  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February

**Green bins:** **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>** January,  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February

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[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.

**February issue's copy date  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**