

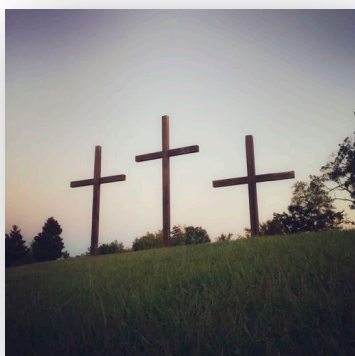
Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

Easter Sunday Services



9.00am

Holy Communion (online)

10.00am

Outdoor Services at
Weston Colville & Hildersham
Holy Communion at West Wickham
Morning Worship at West Wratting

11.00am

Outdoor services at Balsham
& Little Abington

All are welcome to attend!

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Easter Service, St Mary's, Weston Colville

There will be an open air Family Service in the churchyard of St Mary's on Easter Day at 10 am. The service will be led by the Rev Iain McColl and will be followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children.



We look forward to welcoming you all.



St Andrew's Churchyard

The Easter clear-up will be on Saturday 3rd April, 10 am till 12 noon. At time of writing it is uncertain whether coffee and hot cross buns can be served, but if it is within the rules, they will of course be available. Everyone is welcome; looking forward to seeing you.

Colin McCall (290046)

Parish Nurse

My family have grown up in this area, living in Weston Colville and now Balsham for the last fifteen years. My long nursing career within the NHS has been mainly at Addenbrookes's hospital, and more recently health screening in the community. The Parish Nurse role for me is an exciting one, in which my hopes are that I can help as many people as possible, and make a real difference to those of you who are struggling within our community, during these very difficult times. I strongly feel that the future is full of hope and that we have all learnt lessons in how to care about each other once more.

I am looking forward to meeting some of you and supporting you in whatever way I can.



Kim Cox, Parish Nurse

(0749 899 4205, 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com)

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Book Exchange at Church End

Spring is here – so it's out with the old and in with the new! In the second week of April, we bookworms will rotate what's in the Book Exchange, so you have a chance for the next few days to see what's in there now, before we do that.

We should also say that as and when you hear the government confirm that non-essential shops are open (pencilled in as 12th April), we can start taking book donations again, because we'll be able to create space in our store by taking old stock to charity shops. As always, please do not leave boxes/bags of books in the phone box as it only stops others looking at the shelves. We'd ask you to drop them off on one of our doorsteps, or to call Joyce on 07980 404764. Happy reading, and any feedback is always welcome.



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

Village Cricket

Residents of Weston Green may have noticed recent activity at the cricket field on Horseshoe Lane – the village will host cricket again in 2021. Facing similar challenges to clubs up and down the land, WCCC ceased playing senior cricket in 2018, and junior cricket in 2019, but interest in the sport remains strong in the area. Linton Village Cricket Club have been looking for a second home for several years to cope with its growing membership, and over the winter an agreement has been reached for LVCC to take on the ground as a second home. With three



Saturday teams in the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association Leagues, two midweek teams playing in the Haverhill and District Leagues, and a regular Sunday invitational team, the ability to host games alongside the club's current ground in the heart of Linton will be a big boost for them.

Many of Linton's membership have played at Weston Colville in the past, and when the opportunity arose it was greeted with great enthusiasm by all at the club. There will be a lot of work to regenerate the playing surface and some of the facilities, but the chance to help revitalise the ground is something that Linton Village CC are very happy to be involved with. There is the hope that a Linton Village CC team might play a Weston Colville XI early in the summer, to herald the start of the new relationship.

Linton Village CC pride themselves on being a friendly local cricket club offering opportunities to get involved irrespective of age and experience. If any of you have been missing local cricket, are new to the area, or would like to take up the sport, LVCC would be delighted to hear from you. For more information, please contact us at linton.village.cc@gmail.com, and follow the club on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Linton Village Cricket Club



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Reopening of The Chestnut Tree

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to support us during lockdown. It has been an awful time for everyone, we have all been separated from family and friends, and some of us will have lost loved ones to this awful virus. We are beyond grateful to have been living in such an amazing community at this time, and are relieved to finally start looking forward again, so here goes . . .

Initially we are only permitted to open outside from 12th April. Unfortunately, the weather forecast is looking rather unsettled, but we will give it a go and do the best we can. When you arrive please go to the garden, take a seat, and a member of our team will come and take your order. Please remember to bring a mask with you as it will be required for you to use the toilets. We have covered seating for about thirty people and an additional fifteen benches in the garden. We will also be permitted to provide beer to take home again from this date, so if you would like a takeaway only please go to the front door and ring the bell for service.



Given the limited covered space we have, the labour-intensive requirement of full table service, and the unreliability of the great British weather, we will not be serving food during this initial phase of opening. We are just happy to be able to serve our main purpose as a pub in providing people with somewhere to come and enjoy a drink together again.

Takeaways on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays will be suspended from 25th March to allow us the time we need to make the pub and garden ready for opening

after such a long closure. However, we will continue providing takeaway Sunday lunches, so to reserve please just give us a call or send a message on Facebook before 6 pm on the Saturday. Once we are open, after 12th April, if the weather is fine and you would prefer to enjoy your roast with a drink, we will happily serve your food in the garden.

We will not be taking bookings for tables so it will be first come first served. Our hours will be as follows although, if quiet and the weather is poor, we may close a little earlier on occasion.

Monday to Thursday	5.30 pm to 11 pm
Friday	4 pm to 11 pm
Saturday	12 noon to 11 pm
Sunday	12 noon to 8 pm.

As we will not be open at lunchtimes we will, with the assistance of Suan, continue to deliver prescriptions during this time.

Assuming all goes to plan we will be open inside and outside from Monday 17th May. From then onwards we will return to being open our usual hours and serving our full menu again, both lunchtimes and evenings, and you will be able to pre-book tables. We will therefore post a further update next month to clarify everything.

Finally, we can't wait to welcome you all back. You may have noticed that we have been keeping busy, using the time to do work on the pub, so we hope you will like the improvements we have made.

We have missed you all!

Peter and Rachel

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West Wrating Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wrating Oil Syndicate fill-up this month and the order cut-off is Monday 12th April at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at westwratingoil@gmail.com, and put your surname in the subject box, or by phone/text on 07982 291922. I will reply to all communications within 48 hours. If you require a 'fill-up' please provide a rough estimate of the quantity and also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements. In addition to the regular suppliers, I may use BoilerJuice or another order consolidation website, whoever gives the best price. Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cut-off date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill-up, you'll always be buying at the best price.

Phil Tempest (westwratingoil@gmail.com)

West Wrating Book Club

The book for March was 'The Five' by Hallie Rubenhold. This was a book about the five victims of Jack the Ripper. The author wanted to give back to these five women some dignity and show them as individuals and human beings with families, loves, aspirations, needs and fears, not just as victims. This might, at first, seem a somewhat grim subject but, in fact, proved to be a fascinating social study which revealed the lives and backgrounds of these five women, and how they came to be in the situations and leading the lives which were so horribly and cruelly ended. She showed, through a huge amount of detailed research using the census, workhouse and other records, where they had come from, the trajectory of their lives, and the various large and

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small tragedies, coupled with the dreadful conditions in which the poor were forced to live, which brought them to this state. She chose to do this without dwelling on the gory details of their deaths or mentioning the name of their murderer. Anyone who has read the recently published book by the late Alan Brigham, 'A Brush with the Past', will discover that similar conditions were to be found in Cambridge.

All of us considered it well worth reading and couldn't help seeing the parallels with events currently in the news: violence to women, the homeless on our streets who turn to drink and drugs to dull emotional and physical pain, sex trafficking, and poor accommodation. One of us even admitted to it being the first non-fiction book she had actually finished. Comments included "fabulous picture of the 19th Century", "brilliantly told", "thoroughly enjoyed".

This was reflected in scores of 9 and 10 out of 10.

Our next book is 'Underland: A Deep Time Journey' by Robert McFarlane, to be discussed at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14th April via Zoom.

Linda Gorman (290653)



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On the Threshold – a Portrait of Weston Colville in 2021

This is an invitation to participate in a spring community arts project in Weston Colville.

‘On the Threshold’ is a village project that will gather doorstep portraits of every household in Weston Colville. The portraits will be grouped together and projected onto large screens in St Mary’s church in June. All households will be invited to participate if they would like.

We need lots of volunteers of all ages to help take the doorstep portraits on their phones. You don’t need to be an expert – these will be informal pictures of people standing outside their homes.

Our village has grown into a caring and supportive community during the pandemic. This project aims to celebrate that community, both individually and as a village.

We do hope many of you will want to take part, either in having your portraits taken or volunteering as a photographer. If you are keen to volunteer please email Jane Pryor on janepryor6@gmail.com.

Keep an eye on the village Facebook page and WhatsApp group for more updates!

Covid safe precautions will be observed throughout the project.

Jane Wheeler

Kitten Wanted

One or two kittens (up to 12 weeks old) wanted for family in Weston Colville. We have been looking for over a year now but without success. We can offer a loving home with a good sized garden and all home comforts. Any sex or breed considered.

Juliet (290184)

Weston Colville Community Flood Plan – Village Residents’ Consultation, April 2021

Further to surface water flooding incidents in the village around Christmas time, subsequent discussion at the January parish council meeting and an article in the February edition of *Challenge* on Riparian Responsibilities, the parish council has been working on a Community Flood Plan (the Plan) for the village. The Plan is based on a template and guidance from the Environment Agency who have provided some input, although the bulk of the Plan has been developed by a small working group from members of the parish council. The Plan includes an appendix of outstanding actions within the village to mitigate the risk from flooding incidents, who is responsible for those actions and when they might be carried out.

A draft of the Community Flood Plan has been drawn up and the parish council would now like to consult with the village residents on its scope and content. The Plan, appendix and a more detailed explanation of and questions relating to the consultation can be accessed from the parish council website at: <https://westoncolville.org.uk>, or in electronic or hard copy form from the parish clerk at: clerk@westoncolville.org.uk or 01223 291344.

The consultation closes on Friday 23rd April. We look forward to hearing from you.

Weston Colville Parish Council

Lost Property

A pair of Air Pods was found in Lower Wood on 26th February. Please contact Joyce on letterbox170@gmail.com if they are yours.

A Fitbit on a fawn strap was found by the bus stop opposite the Reading Room car park in January. Please contact *Challenge* if it is yours.

www.westwratting.org.uk

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.

From the Rectory

In this strange spring time, as children have returned to school, as businesses begin to re-open and as we gradually inch along a roadmap we hope will lead us out of lockdown, we may be wondering what life will look like on the far side of the Covid pandemic. What is it we long for on the other side? We may long to see friends and family again. We may look forward to a resumption of what we remember as normal; a situation where the threat is over and it's back to where we were.



Yet I also hope some of the strangeness of this time will stay with us. A strangeness which leads us to see things we once took for granted in a fresh light. Which helps us to see that, when we relinquish ideas of being in control, sometimes moments of grace may happen. The strange but tangible way in which people have been brought together, maybe more than ever before, by what has been called the 'solidarity of the shaken'.

As we arrive at Easter in the midst of this, it is good to know we can still come together to worship by

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holding services both inside and outside our church buildings – just as we did at Christmas time – and all are welcome to come along and celebrate the good news of Easter in this way. I also hope this Easter time we may encounter afresh the strange events of the crucifixion and the resurrection, and their power and reality in our lives today.

Easter 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.

We have travelled a hard road over the last year, but as we look ahead with longing towards life beyond lockdown, I hope we may take with us those good things we have witnessed in these strange times and be refreshed in the power of God's Spirit. If we allow ourselves to be open to renewal, we will be in a better place to play our part in whatever creative newness of life lies ahead.

Revd Iain McColl

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Marsh Tit Nature Study

It's now officially spring. The birds have been singing their hearts out for weeks. Daffodils are merely the fifth wave of flowers, after Snowdrops, Aconites, Squills (*Scilla spp*) and Hellebores (Christmas Roses). The sixth – Ramsons or Wild Garlic, *Allium ursinum* – is uncommon locally, which is a shame; the carpet of white flowers is beautiful, the leaves are excellent cooks' flavouring, but the bulbs are disgusting! *Ursus* is Latin for bear, hence the alternative name Bear Leek.

Look out now for the first Orange Tip butterflies and their larval foodplant, Jack-by-the-Hedge (or garlic mustard). Oilseed rape will soon flower, too. All these plants are members of the Brassicaceae (cabbage family), which have a characteristic smell of mustard oils (isothiocyanates). When leaves are damaged, an enzyme myrosinase generates mustard oils from glucosinolate precursors, to defend the plant from being eaten. However, certain herbivores, eg Orange Tip caterpillars and ourselves, have adapted to cope with mustard oils and even seek them out. Flea beetles, a serious pest of oilseed rape, have gone a step further. When they eat oilseed rape, they prevent the plant's myrosinase from converting its glucosinolates into mustard oils and poisoning them. Fascinatingly, the beetles also store the plant's glucosinolates inside their bodies and have their own myrosinase, so the beetles can use the plant's mustard oil weapon for their own defence (<https://www.mpg.de/8195447/flea-beetles-mustard>).

Your Marsh Tits are becoming less reliant on your garden feeders, as natural food becomes more plentiful in the woods. They still come back for their favourite sunflower hearts, though. Their lowly position in the pecking order at the feeders is shown

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by this photo of Green over White over Red 'Henry', who had to wait for a little Blue Tit to finish eating before he could tuck in.



Your Marsh Tit sightings are particularly valuable for our RAS study in the spring and summer. Please keep 'em coming, to Cambsmarti@gmail.com, m_stammers@btinternet.com, or Challenge. Thank you.

Now, a spectacular photo from Duncan Mackay's garden. You've all seen the documentaries of Oxpeckers cleaning the hides of the charismatic megafauna in the Serengeti. It happens here too! This Magpie was pulling very vigorously on something in the Muntjac's sensitive ear – a tick or scab probably – and the deer tolerated the pain without complaint. The deer gets cleaned, the bird gets a meal. Symbiosis in action, right here in Cambs.



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West Watting Parish Council

At the Zoom meeting on 8th March the following items were discussed. The full minutes are displayed on both noticeboards.

Notice of Vacancy for Councillor: there is one vacancy on the parish council of seven councillors. If someone is interested in becoming a councillor and would like to know more about the work of the council, please get in touch with the parish clerk, Jenny Richards, who will be able to give you an outline of how the council functions and the bi-monthly meetings. Details of the present councillors, with email addresses etc, are on the two village noticeboards.

Planning:

					WWPC	SCDC
20/26 07/ HFU L	Mr & Mrs R Dimond	33 The Common	Two new windows, one to rear & one to side elevation		support	approved
20/03 161 S73	Wadlow Farm	Six Mile Bottom Rd	Variation of condition 4	19/8/20	Object with comments	Withdrawn
20/03 450/ FUL	Mr M Shaw	35 The Common	Change of use re S/1493/19	14/9/20	support	approved
20/02 564	Mr Lodge	Land SE of Burton End, W Wickham	Installation of solar farm & assoc. infrastructure	7/9/20	Object with comments.	No decision
20/03 87/PR	Camgrain	Valley Farm House	Change of use of agric. bldg to 1 dwelling house	30/9/20	object	refused

Finance: details of authorised payments are shown in draft minutes on noticeboards. £1,500 was awarded from Wadlow Wind Farm Fund for further SID equipment.

Maintenance – Drains & Gullies: the drains along the High Street have now been cleared by Anglia

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Water, who found much of the blocking was caused by nappies, wipes, and throw-away razors. Please avoid putting such items down the toilets. It is promised the gullies will be cleared out as soon as possible. Unfortunately at present there is no Highways Officer but an appointment will be announced shortly.

The Lamb Pub: the site has been visited by the Environment Officer, who saw no sign of rats. The front of the site has been tidied up and the public house is still seen as safe by SCDC.

Recreation Ground & Pavilion:

- Breach of rules:** a letter was sent to the chairman concerning six persons playing football together and then entering the Sports Pavilion. A letter of apology was received back promising it would not happen again.
- Defibrillator cost:** it was agreed it would be best if the parish council took over the responsibility for this equipment, if agreed by the WWFC.
- Dumping problem:** Cobby McCall and his team have been clearing brambles etc on the recreation ground and have found considerable rubbish dumped. A letter will be sent to the residents whose properties border the ground to see if they can throw any light on the culprits.

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d) *Broken bin:* this will be replaced.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restriction Equipment:

- a) *LHI application:* Cllr Davey said a decision will be made some time in March. The council's share of the cost will be £1,500.
- b) *SID Purchase:* Cllr Davey, who has investigated the various equipment available, would like to purchase a Morelock SID. The cost would be £3,113 which is more than the Swarco, but it collects more data. A vote was taken and this was agreed.

Village Hall: this has been allowed to be open for the May elections, but otherwise remains closed.

Play area: RoSPA will be carrying out its safety inspection in April.

Reports by District Cllr Harvey & County Cllr Batchelor: these are shown on the website.

The **next parish council meeting** will be held on Monday 10th May at 8 pm but it's uncertain whether it will be a Zoom meeting or held in the village hall. See May's Challenge. All welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk
(01223 665260, j.richards597@btinternet.com)



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Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes 2020

Thank you for the wonderful response to the appeal in 2020; the whole operation went ahead despite many obstacles.



The boxes collected from this area went to: Belarus, Serbia, and Nigeria.

Thank you for bringing great joy to children and giving them a gift of love. This is one of the many stories that was told after the boxes were given out: "at a nursery, children heard about the Christmas story and were delighted to receive shoebox gifts. The parents expressed how thankful they were, and that the children loved the gift boxes very much. One mother stopped the local partner the next day and said that she too had received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift when she was a child, and that it was the most memorable thing from her childhood."

If you want to know more, or to look at the many photos or videos, please go to samaritans-purse.org.uk

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Weston Colville Parish Council

At a meeting of the parish council held on Monday 1st March, the following items were discussed and where relevant agreed.

Public Participation Session – a parishioner spoke about the path between the log pile on Mill Hill and the pond, and whether a working party could be set up to trim back the brambles. The land owner has been contacted about the hedges, but as it had not been done, it would now need to wait until the end of September.

A parishioner thanked Highways and the PC for coordinating the new bridge at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, as the water was running more freely. They asked whether it would be possible to plant bulbs and reseed the area and place a bench on the site of the old bridge. It was thought that the land belonged to Highways, so Cllr Batchelor was asked to approach them for permission.

A parishioner raised flooding concerns near the church, and outside Hall Farm, and asked whether that had been covered in the plan. Cllr Garrod responded that the area had been covered.

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A short presentation was provided by the Ivy House developers. Two parishioners spoke in support of the development – both own neighbouring properties.

Planning

Reference	Address	Proposal	Decision
21/00187/ FUL	Ivy House, CB21 5NT	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 4 dwellings, remodelled access and associated infrastructure	Awaiting Decision PC to support the application
21/00112/ FUL	Weston Green Barn, CB21 5NS	Equine facilities comprising of four stables, tack room, hay and feed store	Awaiting Decision No comments.

Flooding, Road Drainage, the Community Flood Plan – the areas highlighted in red on the Flood Plan were outstanding. Many of the areas were under the responsibility of Highways. Cllr Batchelor suggested the whole document was sent to them.

A call for volunteers to become Flood Wardens will be linked with a consultation on the plan. It was suggested that the Reading Room Committee could be approached, to see if a shed could be erected next to the other sheds in the garden to house sandbags and signs.

Consultation on the Plan will take place in May. The draft Flood Plan will be placed on the website.

Cllr Durham offered thanks to Cllr Garrod for all the work that had been put in to creating the Flood Plan. Thanks were extended to Cllrs Garrod, Durham and Parker for their contributions, on behalf of the council.

Emergency Plan – Cllr Durham had been asked to coordinate contact details for the emergency plan, and asked cllrs/the clerk to provide phone numbers that

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would be held securely by SCDC and not placed in the public domain.

Pimp My Fish – it was determined that the Pimp My Fish takeaway van could park in the Reading Room carpark on a regular basis. There was an option for a more regular Tuesday evening slot. The clerk was instructed to ensure that no litter would be left in the car park, and also to check with the insurance company. To note post meeting – the car park is covered under the PC's insurance policy, risk assessment was required to be carried out.

AGM/APM – the meeting will be held via Zoom. Cllr Vidler reported the APM needed to be a meeting that was determined by parishioners' comments, suggestions, and motions. It was hoped that providing a presentation about the Flood Plan, and also the traffic calming, would encourage parishioners to attend.

Footpaths – a request had been made by the landowner that steps were provided on the slope of Footpath 7, as people were walking through flower beds to avoid the slippery slope due to the amount of rain that had fallen. The bridge on Footpath 18 had still not been repaired, and the other bridge was in the wrong place. The bridge at College Farm had not been removed; the clerk was instructed to write to the County Council about its removal. The parish council had supported the redirection on the basis that it would be removed.

Training – the clerk has completed and passed her CiLCA qualification. Congratulations were offered. Cllr Vidler attended 'Understanding Annual Meetings' on 9th February, and Cllr Parker has been booked on to New Cllr Training Day on 27th March.

Playground – the fence has been completed, and the money has been received from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. The Project Monitoring Document requires completion. It was determined to appoint David Bracey to carry out the annual playground inspection in April.

Matters for Next Agenda – remove Matt Jackson as signatory, Windfarm Panel Representative, appoint a new internal auditor.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th May (APM/AGM).

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

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A New Dawn

I have just published a book, 'A New Dawn', which follows the seasons with over 100 photographs of vistas, flora and fauna that I took last year over the course of my daily walks in and around Withersfield where I live, and in other areas of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire..



I have had 500 copies printed, and have given half of them to care homes and hospices in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. That leaves 250 copies to sell, which can be ordered (at £15 + P&P) from my website www.photoartdesign.co.uk or by emailing me. The profits of the sales will be shared between the NHS hospital charities at Addenbrookes and The West Suffolk, and The Newmarket Day Centre.

Sue Varian (sue.photoartdesign@gmail.com)

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

The club had another very successful Zoom meeting on Monday 15th March when we invited non members to join us for a beautifully illustrated talk on 'Bell Flowers' by Andrew Ward from Norwell Nurseries in Lincolnshire. We were very pleased that many took this opportunity to enjoy an entirely free evening's entertainment. Zoom presentations give us the chance to book speakers whom we would not normally be able to have since they live too far away.

We have our next Zoom meeting on 19th April, when John Summerfield from Westshores Nurseries in Lincolnshire tells us about vegetable growing; his talk is entitled 'Plant to Pot, Growing Veg for Fun and Flavour'. If you wish to join us send your email address to sueboase@hotmail.co.uk and she will invite you in at 7.15 pm on the evening of the talk.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

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The Meadow

I don't think that a year ago anyone could ever have anticipated the amount of time we wouldn't be open to all of our pupils. As teachers, we come into teaching to work with young people, to educate them not only in the content of the National Curriculum but also in things such as social interactions, trust, friendships, life skills, self-esteem, confidence, and resilience (although the list really is endless). The past year has taught us that face to face interactions are crucial and relationships over a screen are really not the same.



We have been immensely lucky, our school community has pulled together to ensure we kept going as best as we could. Parents have supported children's learning at home whilst also trying to balance their own jobs and commitments. Teachers have adapted to using technology to deliver the curriculum remotely through live lessons, whilst also still teaching the children of key workers in school. Children at home have learnt to work remotely, accessing Google Classroom and Google Meet, unmuting themselves, turning cameras on and off and doing their work in their own home, whilst still being able to see and chat to their teacher and friends on screen if needed. Children in school have adapted to being in smaller groups, being taught by a mixture of teachers, and perhaps not having their close friends in

school. School staff have adapted to one way systems, bubbles of children, not seeing colleagues in other 'bubbles', taped floors, hand sanitiser everywhere, and wearing face coverings in communal areas.

Children have missed so many rites of passage in their school journey, concerts, trips, residential stays, assemblies, school plays, time with buddies, transition events for moving schools/classes, face to face school council meetings – the list is endless. It is now time to start to use the weeks we have left in school this academic year to make memories and ensure we give every single child the best experience we can. Whilst 'catching up' on learning is important, so is 'catching up' on life experiences.

The joy on the faces of the children and staff on 8th March when all children returned to school was incredible. Friendships were reignited, children were excited to be back in school and learning and playing with their classmates, and teachers were delighted to be talking to children in the flesh rather than on a screen. However much technology has enabled the curriculum to continue to be taught, teaching and interacting in person, having those face to face relationships and social interactions, is vital. The light at the end of the tunnel is now shining much brighter. Vaccines are being rolled out at a truly impressive speed and parents and staff are embracing the lateral flow testing to keep everyone as safe as we can. It is vital that our whole school community continues to follow the rules on lockdown and we go at the steady pace needed to ensure we can keep school open to everyone. We are so close and the future is definitely much brighter.

Whatever the final term of the school year brings, we are determined it will be a good one, and filled with positive memories and experiences for our children.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher



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While much of school life tends to be typified by fairly rigid structures, the last few months have exemplified just how adaptable the school community has been.

Returning to school has enabled everyone to benefit from re-establishing face to face learning routines and reconnecting with each other. Hearing the school alive with the sound of students and staff again has been brilliant.

Adaptation has continued with students adjusting amazingly well to wearing face masks in lessons and engaging responsibly with our rapid mass testing roll out. The transformation of our sports hall into an Asymptomatic Testing Centre, led very capably by our Sports Centre Manager Sam Pollard, has been remarkable, as have the efforts of our team of testing volunteers from our staff and community.

Over forty members of our parent body stepped forward to offer their support as testing assistants. The slick and welcoming operation has been a real triumph. Supporting the schools' reopening, processing 2,572 Lateral Flow Tests has identified



some positive Covid-19 cases that would have otherwise been undetected. Staff and students are now accustomed to testing themselves twice weekly at home.

I have been astonished by and extremely proud of the resilience of our young people, the support of their families, and the commitment of LVC staff to make remote learning and school reopening a success. We look forward to the return of more customary routines as well as continuing to evolve practices that have proven to be really beneficial in these exceptional times.

Helena Marsh



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Balsham WI

For our March meeting via Zoom we enjoyed a very entertaining talk given by Mr David Allen entitled 'Manners Please Dearest'. As soon as his talk began we were all 'in character' attending a charm school in Cavendish Square owned by Mr Hugo Bottomley-Smyth, the year being 1859. Mr Bottomley-Smyth then took us through all the etiquette expected from young ladies in pursuit of a suitable husband. We were advised of toiletries made from arsenic, that would keep our skins looking youthful and fresh! We were taught how to curtsy to our future mothers in law, making sure we held our crinolines up in an elegant manner. Also we were advised how to use our fans in a way which would give signals of encouragement or not. Of course we had to walk correctly, and so practised walking with books on our heads that would help our deportment whilst swinging our arms. The ideal potential husband would be wealthy, owning a town house and a country residence; have a title; a sense of humour; have servants; own many horses and carriages, and last but not least have a well-bred chin! Courtship was chaperoned until an engagement was announced, which would last for at least two years. How things have changed!

Our next meeting will be held via Zoom on 13th April at 7.30 pm. Our speaker will be Janet Morris and her talk will be called 'Horseheath Hall: a Vanished Country House'.

Alison Clarke (894031)

2523 Linton Air Cadets

Having been over a year since we were last able to parade, when face to face activities return, new uniform kitting is high on the agenda!



A comprehensive summer programme of activities has been put together for our return, including radio training, fieldcraft, navigation, coding, first aid and sports. We will soon have the plan for the return of all our favourite activities: flying, gliding and shooting too. We also look forward to welcoming new members to the squadron, both cadets and staff.

For staff, there are many ways to volunteer your time at 2523 Linton Squadron, and not all of them involve uniform. You must be at least 20 years old, and can

get involved in all the RAF Air Cadets has to offer; it is a very rewarding way to volunteer. You may want to just dip in and out to share your life experiences on occasion, or be a more involved member of the team.

For cadets, if you or someone you know is a minimum age of 12 and in year 8 please visit www.2523linton.co.uk and get in touch to join. We have many fantastic opportunities available to you.

In the summer and at the end of all restrictions we look forward to hosting an open evening where new staff and cadets can come in person and see all that we have to offer.

Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer
(07943 873272, training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk)

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Saturday April 10th

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Horseheath Farmers' Market

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(horseheathfarmersmarket@gmail.com , 892001)

Granta Medical Practices Update

GRANTA Medical Practices

All patients in cohorts 1 to 4 should now have been contacted and vaccinated by us. If you haven't, or if you have previously declined the vaccine but have now changed your mind, please call us on 0300 234 5555 (option 2) and you will be prioritised for our next clinic. If you know of anyone who falls into one of these cohorts but has not yet been vaccinated please let us know as soon as possible.

Additionally, we can now vaccinate anyone over the age of 50. Please call us to book your appointment

May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that, if you have booked a vaccine appointment but are not going to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your vaccine to someone else.

We appreciate that everyone wants to know when their appointment will be, and we are working as fast as possible to get through our patient lists. Contacting us before being invited, however, will not make this process move any faster. Please bear with us as our team continues to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

Please remember – you will NEVER be asked for payment for the COVID-19 vaccination. Any text message, letter or telephone call requesting your bank details and/or payment should be ignored. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be susceptible to this type of scam.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes rapidly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance please go to the Government website www.gov.uk and the NHS UK website www.nhs.uk. If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and you do, please help them access the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 01223 627743 or sandra.east@nhs.net

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Church Services

Please do keep an eye on our church website, www.grantavale.org.uk, and our church noticeboards, to see the latest information on church services.

Zoom services are held on Sundays, and other services during the week, such as Compline.

Contact parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on 7churches.seven@gmail.com, if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand, or find out how to log into the services.

1st Horseheath Brownies

Girlguiding are permitting us to resume outdoor meetings from 29th March but I think we will wait until at least May before we start meeting as by then, hopefully, the weather will be warmer and there will be more light in the evenings for our activities.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené
(horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)

Age UK Community Warden

A lot of people I visit are finding this last lap of the pandemic hard, so if you are elderly and need a friendly chat or email conversation please do get in touch.

South Cambridge District Council runs a service called LEAP – Local Energy Advice Partnership. The Age UK Information and Advice Service is open to everyone and is FREE. It is a mine of useful information, and always goes the extra mile to help. If you'd like to know more about either service, get in touch and I will give you all the details, or help to arrange someone to call you.

Faye Parker
(07436 102865, faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk)

Revd Iain McColl

tel: 890693 email: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 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

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 Wrating Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Faye Parker,
Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Parish Nurse: Kim Cox,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

DIARY

April 2021

Sat 3 West Wrating Churchyard clear-up

Sun 4 EASTER SUNDAY

Sat 10 Horseheath Farmers' Market

Mon 12 West Wrating Oil Syndicate order deadline

Wed 14 West Wrating Book Club

Mon 19 West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Tues 13 Balsham WI

Fri 23 Consultation closes on Weston Colville Flood Plan

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park,
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 6th April, 4th May
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: Wednesday 7th & Monday 19th April,
Tuesday 4th & Monday 17th May

Blue & Green bins: Tuesday 13th & Monday 26th April,
Monday 10th & 24th May

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.

May issue's copy date
Tuesday 20th April

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