

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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

## ***Weston Colville WhatsApp Group***

Mel and Jo set up the WC Covid-19 Helpers' Group on WhatsApp in March 2020. It has been immensely helpful since then, for passing on information about prescriptions, establishments providing takeaways and deliveries in the early days, local events, offers of help with collections or deliveries, spare plants and seeds, and much much more.

The helpers' group has now been closed down, as any future information can be added to the Weston Colville WhatsApp page. Mel and Jo thanked everyone who had responded to the call for volunteers, and who had helped bring us all closer together. They were in turn thanked by all who had found the group invaluable over the past months.

If you'd like to be added to the village group, please text Jackie on 01223 290076. There is also a Weston Colville FaceBook group.

## ***Tea and Cakes***

We were rewarded for our patience, after postponing for a week, with a beautiful day for our reopening of Tea and Cakes on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. It was lovely to catch up with old friends and meet newcomers to the village. By the time you receive this issue of *Challenge* we will also have met for a second time later in July, weather permitting.

There will be no Tea and Cakes in August, but we look forward to getting together again in September. As the seasons change we will have to review how we meet safely, so please see *Challenge* for details of how we plan to do this. Thank you to everyone who comes along, and the fantastic team of helpers for making this such an enjoyable event.

***Melanie and all at Tea and Cakes***



**St Mary's Church, Weston Colville**

**8<sup>th</sup> August, 4 pm**

Tickets in advance only:

[www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com) / 07732 253311

## ***West Wrating Café***

There will be no café in August. Please look out for updated notices in the next Challenge.

***Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)***

## ***Prescriptions***

Medicines from Granta Medical Practices collected in the West Wrating pack will be delivered to The Chestnut Tree from now on, and can be collected during pub opening hours.

On behalf of everyone in the villages, a massive thank you to the volunteers who have collected and delivered prescriptions since March 2020.



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***West Wrating Oil Syndicate***

There will be a West Wrating Oil Syndicate fill-up this month, with the order cut-off on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at [westwratingoil@gmail.com](mailto:westwratingoil@gmail.com), putting 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. 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](mailto:westwratingoil@gmail.com))

***Weston Colville Oil Co-operative***

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.**

**Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:**

Alastair Douglas (291475, or [salguoda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:salguoda@hotmail.co.uk))

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

Anne Vidler (290010, or [anne.vidler@talk21.com](mailto:anne.vidler@talk21.com))

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day). We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

***Anne Vidler***

***Weston Colville Circular Walk***

A select number came on our July walk and we enjoyed crops of peas, barley whiskers and borage (imagine the lovely colour behind us in the photo).



The next walk will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 10 am, and arrangements for meeting and eating will be in September's **Challenge**. For now, it's a date for your diary if you'd like to join us, as we'll walk if we possibly can and will fill in details anon.

***Jacqueline*** (291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com))



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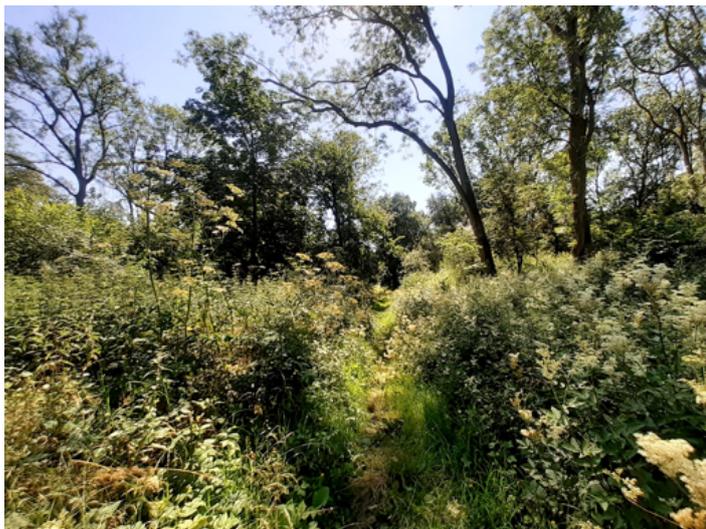
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### ***Celebration of Lower Wood***

Thank you all who have shown an interest. I think there is a sufficient number that we could think about bringing this to pass. Although I am waiting for replies about use of the Reading Room and the church so can't confirm yet, tentative date would be the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October.



If this does go ahead I will organise a meeting for those interested in contributing. This will probably in the church so there is lots of space. I will suggest some areas, and then people interested in those areas might work together to produce something either for exhibition, performance or activity in one of the venues. How does that sound?

As we have found out in the last 18 months we have a wealth of talent in the village – let's harness it to bring this celebration off. Even if you don't want to contribute, save the date – it should be a fun weekend.

**Jackie Brearley** ([jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk), 290076)  
(also WhatsApp groups for Weston Colville, and Weston Colville Critters)

### ***Friday Night Inn @ The Reading Room***

By popular demand, members of the Reading Room committee are hosting a pub evening to coincide with 'Pimp my Fish' on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 6 - 10 pm. We will be serving local ale, wine and soft drinks. All profits towards improving the village. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Jacksons

### ***Rubbish, Weston Colville***

Thank you to villagers who continue to collect litter in and around our two parishes. The long grass verges will soon be cut back exposing more thrown items, so this is a reminder to everyone that pickers and waste bags are available in the Weston Green telephone box.

A polite comment: would the individual who has removed the 'golden' picker from the phone box kindly replace it. It's been missing for a month.

Jo Jackson

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### **Parish Matters**

As I sit down to write this, our boys in white strip have scored their way against Denmark and are through to the final against Italy. Not since 1066 – no, make that 1966 – have England fought hard enough to reach the closing stages of an international tournament. Gone are the days when fear ruled the roost and pride came before a fall. As we watched for those fifty-five years, often from behind the sofa, we shared injuries of frustration and disappointment. Today however, we have a youthful team of players that swarm together like a flight of bees. They are fearless and intelligent, they communicate as one. If they are proud, they know that good teamwork sits in place of individual pride.

I'm not a great football enthusiast, but like many people I do like to see a team play well. More than this, I'm interested in what makes a good team tick. What can we learn, how can we be inspired by a team of people working well together? Even if you have little or no interest in the sport, this is about so much more than football.

Living as we do in our village communities, we know how important it is for us to live and work together. The pandemic has brought the best out of us in turning our attention to those who need our care and support the most. Through these difficult and challenging times, we have come to know each other in new ways, ways that build and strengthen our community as a team of players. Not that everything is plain sailing. As I finish writing this piece, England suffer defeat in a nail-biting penalty shoot out. There is pain for those who missed goals. Team spirit brings



essential healing not just from the other players, but as a nation we feel their pain. We may not be great supporters of football, but we do all support each other when there is need. In the Christian church, we call this prayer; not just putting your hands together and offering up a few words to God, but being ready to reach out in practical terms to those who need our collective love and support.

*Steven Wheeler*

### **Harvest Songs of Praise**

It's time for West Wrattling to have an all-village event!

Please note the 5<sup>th</sup> September date for your diaries.

*Scilla Harvey*

# Harvest



# Songs of Praise

**West Wrattling Church**

**Sunday 5th September**

**3 pm All very welcome**



Followed by

## Village BBQ &

## Bear Parachute Jump

for everyone

**4 pm in the Church Grounds**

Bring your own meat and drink  
Salads, bread, cake, fruit provided.

### Summer Festival & On the Threshold

On the Threshold, a local arts project collecting doorstep portraits in Weston Colville, drew to a close at the Summer Festival at St Mary's on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July. It was wonderful to see so many of you come to enjoy the huge projection in the church of all the portraits.



I would like to thank the team of 11 volunteer photographers – the project could not have happened without your enthusiasm and time. Also many thanks to all of you who agreed to have your photos taken, often at very short notice!

Here are a few quotes from visitors and participants in the project:

“Connection after isolation in this inspiring, creative way has been wonderful and very heart warming. Thank you so much. Brilliant.”

“such a lovely exhibition at the church. It was a really good experience, including seeing so many people again (in person but also on screen, the photos were terrific). What a pleasure.”

We also had a great time serving teas and cakes, and selling local crafts and produce in aid of St Mary's. We made a fantastic £870 for the church from this effort. Thank you so much to all who helped.



*Jane Pryor/Wheeler*



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Thanks must go to Jane for her hard work in organising On the Threshold. It was a wonderful exhibition, just what we all needed at this time.

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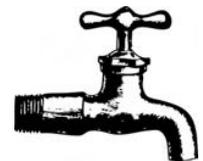
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**Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.**

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**West Wratting Parish Council**

The following is a précis of the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July. The draft minutes can be read on the noticeboards in the village.

**Opportunity for Public Statement:**

Cobby McCall told the parish council that the PCC had been awarded £3,900 from the Wind Farm Fund to purchase a new motor mower which will be maintained by the PCC but available for use by other groups in the village.

He is putting an item in *Challenge* concerning dogs running off footpaths as poults are now being released by the d'Abo estate.

The verges have not been cut, following local government policy. Some field paths have not been reinstated due to weather conditions. The footpaths are being kept clear, and litter continues to be picked up by his team.

**Vacancy for a Councillor:** it is hoped that this position has been filled.

**Finance:** full financial details are shown in the minutes. The internal audit has been carried out satisfactorily and all documents have now gone to the external auditors.

**Maintenance:**

*The Lamb Pub development:* the meeting organised by the developers to discuss their ideas for the development was well attended. Comments are being invited by the parish council and some have already been received.

*Highways:* the drains and gullies have still not been cleared out and the council has asked Cllr Batchelor to expedite this matter and if possible give a date so people can be aware and not leave cars parked over drains.

*Verges:* the local government policy at present is to allow the verges to grow freely apart from where vision is compromised.

**Recreation Ground:**

*Dumping:* most of the rubbish has been taken away by skip but there is still some asbestos and Dist Cllr Harvey has been given details of where it is situated in order for SCDC to clear it.

*Recreation ground gate:* the keypad and padlock are broken, reported to the Sports Pavilion Committee.

*Dug-outs:* a request to review the decision to only erect the dug outs from October to March was discussed. It was agreed that the original decision should stand.

**Traffic issues:**

*SID equipment:* there have been problems with the batteries not lasting, which is being taken up with the manufacturers.

*Parking:* it is against the law to park on white lines and pavements, and best not to park on a bus stop.

**Reports by District & County Cllrs:** these are published on the website.

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the village hall, all welcome.

*Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk)*



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**Highways Update, West Wratting PC**

Early in 2020 the council invited CCC Highways to review proposed improvements. A team including parish councillors, a Highways representative, and local councillor Henry Batchelor walked the roads in the village and discussed the following requirements: extension of the 30 mph limit to beyond the new housing development along Six Mile Bottom Road; a footpath from the new housing development to the junction of Honey Hill and Six Mile Bottom Road and improvements to that junction; village 'gating'; and improved speed limit marking.

The Highways representative reported back that the 30 mph extension would not be approved as it did not comply with CCC policy, and estimated the footpath cost at around £75K which, unfortunately, is far beyond the limits of the parish council budget. A Local Highways Initiative bid was submitted for the other items but unfortunately was not approved. We are considering future options.

Please would everyone using the village hall, recreation ground, or church, or receiving visitors, ensure that vehicles are not driven, illegally, on the pavement and left parked there. The dropped curbs to the recreation ground are marked with a new sign –

please do not park in front of the dropped curbs, and keep the crossing clear at all times.

Please do not place large objects on the verge unless you are clear that you own the land. Highways usually owns the land adjoining the carriageway.

**Footpaths (P3)**

As all walkers will know, the footpaths are very overgrown due to a combination of rain, Sahara dust and sun. We had an early cut about two months ago, and the County Council confirms that the public cutters are contracted to do the second cut before the August Bank Holiday. This is a long way off, so if anyone is able to help with strimming or mowing the paths, this would be a great help. Otherwise, the only solution is to keep walking the paths as much as possible so the grass is gradually trampled down.

There has also been considerable growth of hedges and brambles, so, again, if any walkers have hedge clippers or secateurs, it would be a great help if they have time to do some cutting back wherever they walk. I know some walkers already do this, but this an 'all hands to the pump' year, so the more of us that do this, the clearer the paths will be.

Meanwhile, Nigel has cut all cross-field paths, including the path round The Grove and also the path between moat and Lordships fields. Thank you.

**Poult** – I had a call from Nigel, the farm foreman, to say the poults will be released imminently, and he and Charlotte, the gamekeeper, would be very grateful if dogs are kept under close control at all times. They are very aware that most people in the village do behave responsibly, so this is just a gentle reminder.

If you have any problems or queries please give me a ring.

**Cobby (290046)**



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**West Wrating Football**

**The First Team** are currently preparing for the upcoming season, which starts on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, with continuous training sessions and pre-season friendlies.

We have currently played two games, winning both. Our next two games are against higher league opposition Histon FC and Eynesbury United FC – both games being played at home.

We are pleased with the talented group of players we have, and believe we can compete for the league title this season.

As always, we thank everyone for their continuing support for the team and the club.

*Lee Miller, First Team Manager*

**The Reserves** have played two friendlies so far against teams in higher leagues than us. First we won 3 - 2 against Hardwick, then beat Thetford reserves 4 - 0.

We have got some good young players this season, though we just need more players committing. I'd like to thank Mark Lovel and Lewis Lindsey for their efforts on Saturday.

*Kevin Farlie, Reserve Team Manager*

**Cambs League Fixtures:**

Date	Home	Away
10.8.21	WW First	Comberton United
14.8.21	WW First	Great Shelford
17.8.21	Linton Granta	WW First
21.8.21	WW First	Ely City
24.8.21	Foxton	WW First

All are very welcome. As Lee has said, thank you everyone for your continuing support.

*Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary*

**Ride & Stride for Churches**

Like many charities, churches have been affected by the pandemic, particularly through the loss of local fundraising activities and a decrease in grants for major repairs. Help us support this unique heritage by taking part in Ride and Stride on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, between 10 am and 6 pm.

There are numerous ways you can do this:

- Bike, walk or ride around the beautiful Cambridgeshire countryside, stopping off at as many churches and chapels as you can along the way.
- Be a virtual visitor, using the National Churches Trust's explorer website to visit some virtually: <https://www.explorechurches.org/>.
- If Covid-19 restrictions allow, be a 'church welcomer'.

Be sponsored for your visits or time spent volunteering, or simply make a donation to the Trust.

All the information and paperwork you need can be downloaded from <https://camhct.uk>

St Andrew's Church in West Wrating and St Mary's Church in Weston Colville will be open for visitors.

*Simon Thorley, Secretary to West Wrating PCC*

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**West Watting Book Club**

After the usual summer break, our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at The Chestnut Tree to discuss 'The Versions of Us' by Laura Barnet and 'The Wild Silence' by Raynor Wynn, sequel to 'The Salt Path'.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

**Age UK**

Our Small Villages scheme is currently supporting 13 households. If you need support, have a problem that needs solving, or even just a question, please get in touch as I will always try to help you work out a solution. I'm sure the Age UK Information and Advice Team can help as well, and can be contacted directly on 0300 666 9860. I've been busy working with the wonderful Voluntary Network Community Transport Team to get my more mobile service users out and about again. This service is open to all elderly, so if you're interested in registering please get in touch with myself, or the transport team direct on 01638 664304. They provide accompanied door to door service at extremely reasonable prices.



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The Newmarket Day Centre social club for the elderly is open again, and is offering various services such as a beauty salon, chiropodist, cafe and activities. If you want to get out of the house, contact them on 01638 664262 to arrange your visit. As an example, a journey from Weston Colville to the day centre and back using the community transport is approx £7 - £8 return, so a lovely day out with lunch could be on the cards.

I'm keeping an eye out for local clubs and activities for the elderly, so if you know of anything, please let me know.

*Faye Parker, Age UK Community Warden,  
(07436 102865, faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk)*

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**Nature Notes**

Borage (*Borago officinalis*) is still flowering strongly in the fields. Shakespeare called it the herb for courage. It's worth watching the bees and other insects pollinating the blue flowers when they're highlighted by the evening sun. A fun interactive build-you-own-bumblebee identification key can be found at the Natural History Museum ([https://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/bombus/key\\_british\\_colour.html](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/bombus/key_british_colour.html)).

Your woods, fields and gardens will also be full of young, gauche birds. Tits (of all species) hatched this year are easy to identify: their colours look faded and there's a strong yellowish tinge to them. Of course, the rare young Marsh Tits are of particular interest to us. Sightings, please, to [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) or Challenge. Thanks!

It's not well known that the water surface (the air/water interface) is an acoustic mirror. Sounds in air don't cross easily into water and vice versa, which means we don't hear noise under the waves. A lot of aquatic animals communicate by sound: snapping shrimps; whales which sing to each other across oceans; and herring (before they turn into kippers) talk to each other with . . . farts. (Listen to a conversation here: [www.hakaimagazine.com/news/](http://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/)

*quiet-please-fish-are-flirting!*). Flatulent herring almost caused a diplomatic incident between Sweden and Russia. Strange noises in Stockholm harbour were attributed to Russian submarines, till two Swedish researchers showed that you can get the same noises by putting your ear and a fresh supermarket herring into a bowl of water and gently squeezing the herring. The 2004 Ig Nobel prize for Biology was awarded for this discovery: [www.improbable.com/ig/winners/#ig2004](http://www.improbable.com/ig/winners/#ig2004) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ1Jr6QqSIE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ1Jr6QqSIE).

Sadly, humans are creating incredible amounts of noise pollution underwater. Cavitation (small air bubbles created and destroyed by fast propellers on boats) is one cause, powerful military sonar is another. Sound travels further in water than in air, so noise must be hugely disruptive for underwater creatures even at a distance. Human noise pollution has been posited as a reason for the mass strandings of whales and dolphins along our coasts ([www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/04/cacophony-human-noise-hurting-marine-life-scientists-warn](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/04/cacophony-human-noise-hurting-marine-life-scientists-warn)). So if you're messing about on the water this summer, spare a thought for the life beneath your feet and keep the speed down. Or better still, use a sailing boat.

*Alex Inzani and the aestivating  
South Cambs Ringing Group*

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**Helping Hedgehogs in August**

There is a peak in road deaths as newly independent young seek new areas. Hedgehogs can travel up to 2 km a night. Make sure there are access points to both your garden and your neighbour's garden. We can help them survive by providing fresh food and water each night. Hedgehogs are nocturnal and should not be out during the day. If you see one out, it will most likely need immediate veterinary attention. The only time a hedgehog is OK out during the day is when it's been disturbed and is re-nesting. This will be obvious as the hedgehog will have leaves and grass in its mouth.

For help and advice please contact me or Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital (07505 651968).

**Liz Dams (01792 988898)**

**Balsham WI**

Our July meeting was an outdoor get together on the recreation ground with nine members attending. Despite the clouds it stayed dry for the meeting and only started spitting with rain as we packed up. It was a fun meeting and great to see each other after 11 months of Zoom. We had a fine quiz too. The picnic had a carnival feel as bunting made by members was put up. Debbie Mower was thanked for

assembling the bunting and Bridget Durham for organising the quiz.

We will meet again on 7<sup>th</sup> August at 3.00 pm on the recreation ground for a do-it-yourself cream tea and a game of Bingo. Should be fun!

**Alison Clark (894031)**

**1st Horseheath Brownies**

We have had a very busy time since we returned to face-to-face meetings at the end of May. We made father's day cards, wild bird feeders, mini-bug mansions, learnt how to strike a match safely under adult supervision, plus we carried out the litter pick up around the village which raised over £150 for Crisis. Thank you to all those who contributed to this fundraising.

We will be starting back in September refreshed and revitalised so if you have a seven year old (or older) girl living in your house and they would like to try Brownies please do get in touch, we would love to see the unit grow so more girls can learn life skills for their future. Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just bring themselves.

**Pauline, Katie, & Laurené (horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)**

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## Meadow News

As the academic year draws to a close and the summer holidays begin there is lots to celebrate at school. With all of the challenges this year has thrown at us, the commitment, enthusiasm and unwavering support of the children, parents and staff deserves a mention. If I could give them all a medal then I would. Having to swap to online learning with a few hours' notice is no mean feat, yet they have done it time and again this year.

Each time the children have been our priority to ensure they don't miss out on the things we had planned. Our most recent home learning for three classes came in the last two weeks of term. We had planned food technology and making soup with two of the classes, so ingredients were purchased, delivered and then a live cook-a-long took place online with the children chopping and simmering their ingredients to make soup! We were then treated to some photos of the delights made and eaten for lunch. In another class, the children had composed their own summer poems, and were challenged with reciting them online to the rest of the class with a summer prop. We had children in full wet suits on their body boards in the hot tub, others who had made their own beach with sand in the garden – everyone made a huge effort. We have had full singing and acting rehearsals online for the end of year summer production as they haven't been in school to do it.

The highlight was the sponsored skip, which just happened to take place on the last school day of their isolation. The children gave it their all, skipping online for 10 minutes to raise funds to refresh the playground equipment. Meanwhile, in school the classes who were not isolating were skipping on the playground. Our youngest children were very proud of themselves, having learnt to skip through our



various skipping challenges this year; one young man told me he had skipped one trillion skips today!

With all the restrictions and extra health and safety measures in place, we have, in the last few months, still managed some really exciting trips out or adventures at

school. We managed our first sports day in two years. Sadly, we had no parents in attendance, but we did provide links for some live Zoom sessions so parents and family could watch from home and cheer on their children.



The infants visited South Angle Farm as part of their Geography and Science work; Year 3/4 went to Stibbington to look at rivers and waterways as part of their Geography work; Year 4/5/6 went to Cambridge as part of their Local Detective History and Geography work for a day of punting, mini moo hunting and a treasure hunt. They had a super day and managed to find our mini moo, painted last year as part of the Cows About Cambridge trail. Our moo is in Heffers book shop, if you happen to be passing over the summer and would like to take a peep.

Our Y6 children managed to get away for their week-long residential trip to Norfolk Lakes, where they enjoyed over 20 activities including paddle boarding, rifle shooting, kayaking, and crate stacking, to name but a few. For many of the group it was the longest they had stayed away from home, having not had many opportunities this past 18 months. They were superbly behaved and had 'the best time ever'.



Sadly, our Y5 children didn't quite make their residential as they were still banned when they were due to go. To make up for this, we recently held a

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camp out on the school field for them. A night of games, campfires, s'mores and human table football made up for their missed adventure and a night under canvas was appreciated by all.



It hasn't been an easy year, in fact, in school it has been the hardest ever. Our children, parents and staff have faced every challenge thrown at them with courage, determination, enthusiasm and most importantly a smile. I couldn't be prouder of them or more grateful for their positive attitude. We wish everyone a relaxing summer, and are looking forward to reuniting our school in a more cohesive way for September.

*Nichola Connor*

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## Marsh Mail

It was good to be able to end the summer term with some enriching calendar events such as adjusted sports days for each year group and some day trips. Students really appreciated the experience of taking part in the geography field trip or visiting the theatre. Such events, which might usually be taken for granted, have felt special.

Students also benefited from virtual opportunities such as arts workshops led by West End actors/dancers, and Zooming into a talk with a children's author. While Covid-19 has curtailed some enriching educational activities, it has also encouraged others.

We were able to safely host cluster primary schools to enable some of our Year 6s to benefit from a taster day at LVC. Many other Year 6s have visited us for a school tour.

We were also visited by an Ofsted team in the last full week of term for a monitoring inspection visit. Despite everyone's tiredness at this stage in the academic year, it was good to be able to demonstrate the progress that has been made since our last full inspection in February 2020.

A lot has happened in just four terms. Amongst coping with the operational challenges of the pandemic and developing our remote learning provision, we have also made strides in developing SEND teaching practices and raising curriculum and behaviour for learning standards across the school.

The inspectors will share their judgement in an interim progress report in the autumn term which will comment on the impact that governors and leaders have had on these improvement areas from the last inspection as well as ensuring the safeguarding of members of the college community.

We look forward to issuing our Year 11s with their GCSE results on 12<sup>th</sup> August. These results have been generated by Teacher Assessment processes this year. However, this difference in approach doesn't make the grades any less worthy.

It wasn't possible to safely hold the Year 11 Prom as hoped in July so, instead, we will be welcoming back our Leavers in October for a special awards ceremony where we can celebrate achievements of the year group and individuals within it.

*Helena Marsh*



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**2523 Linton Air Cadets**

2523 demonstrated their sporting talent by coming first place in the recent sector sports and archery event. With it being the first time some of our cadets had picked up a bow this was quite an achievement. After performing well across all activities the Linton cadets were able to relax and socialise around the BBQ afterwards.



As we continue to get the squadron back to normality, Flight Lieutenant Tennison was able to present all the awards and badges achieved over lockdown. This included:

3 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, 6 St Johns Youth First Aid, 1 Bronze radio operator, 1 Bronze leadership, 1 Bronze cyber, and 1 Blue music awards; and 2 Leading cadet, 4 Senior cadet, and 3 Master cadet classifications. Congratulations to all the cadets for their achievements.

With more cadets completing final assessments and planning expeditions and with the training programme opening up further we look forward to announcing many more achievements soon.

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

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**Linton Mystery Trail**

Our Ranger unit has devised a Mystery Trail so you can all join in a Girlguiding adventure during the summer. Take the Trail around Linton during August; everyone can take part. Visit The Linton Kitchen and pick up a free Linton Mystery Trail sheet, designed for children of all ages by our very own Linton Rangers (aged 14 - 18 yrs). Solve the clues as you walk around the village. When you've found all the pictures and cracked the secret message take your finished sheet back to the Linton Kitchen to claim your prize. There is a level one sheet (easy) and a more difficult level two sheet; why not try them both?



**Louisa Powell-Owens** ([lintondistrict@gmail.com](mailto:lintondistrict@gmail.com))

**The Ellesmere Centre**

**21st August** - Live band 'Stone Cold Stumble', BBQ and bar open 5 - 8 pm. Tickets (adults £3) are available from the office. This gig will be suitable for all ages and child-friendly with sweets and ice creams and the park to play on. Bring along the whole family.

**4th September** – back by popular demand, Stetchworth's very own **Johnny Wright & Friends**. Weather permitting this will be outside so bring a blanket or chair and a picnic. The bar will be open. Tickets (£3 per adult) are available from the office.

**17th September**, 8 pm – the **Joanna Eden Band**. Joanna will be performing a combination of Latin music and her original songs. Not to be missed. Tickets £12.50

**The Ellesmere Centre**, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
(01638 508212, [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk))

### ***West Wickham & District Gardening Club***

On 12<sup>th</sup> July the club met for the first time since the beginning of last year, when we were invited by Jean and Kit Martin on an evening visit to their wonderful garden at The Mill House in Streetly End. The forecast was for torrential rain but apart from a few drops it was a warm and fine evening.

The house and garden occupy an ancient site, and Jean says that when planting they often find shards of pottery dating back to Roman times. The borders were in full flower and looked stunning with white Ammi, white Monkshood and Macleaya making a special point of interest. Jean and Kit aim to be self sufficient when growing their vegetables, many in the polytunnels, including a large selection of salads, aubergines and beans. We were treated to a glass of wine and snacks to round off a lovely visit.

We now look forward to our Annual Show at West Wickham Village Hall on August 21<sup>st</sup>, details of which are on our website. The club has managed to keep going during lockdown via our Zoom meetings, now ended, and we hope to resume our programme of events in the autumn.

***Rosemary Yallop***

After the disappointments of last year, I am delighted to announce that the club will be holding its **Annual Show** in the village hall on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August**. Residents of neighbouring parishes without their own Horticultural Societies are welcome to enter any of the 37 classes, so those of you living in Horseheath, West Wrating and Weston Colville, why not have a go? There are two classes just for children aged 11 and under to enter (though they are welcome to enter any of the others too), classes for vegetable and fruit and cut flowers, domestic and photography classes. Each entry will only cost you 30p (children's classes are free), and for that you have the opportunity to win a small cash prize or perhaps a trophy and the prestige that comes with it.

Exhibitors need to bring their exhibits to the hall between 9.30 and 11.30 on the day, with entry forms being submitted by 11.00 am. The closing date for the photography classes is 13<sup>th</sup> August to allow for judging and printing out the entries, which ideally will be submitted digitally. All the details are in the schedule.

Even if you aren't able to enter anything, please support us by coming along in the afternoon, from 2.30 pm, to view the exhibits, enjoy the tea and homemade cakes, clap the cup winners at the prize giving, take part in the raffle, and bid for exhibits which have been donated by the exhibitors. The raffle, refreshments and auction are important fund raisers for the club so your generosity is much appreciated.

Although Covid restrictions will have been lifted by the time of the show, we will take appropriate measures to try and ensure the safety of all entrants and visitors.

The schedule can be viewed and downloaded from the village website: [westwickham.org](http://westwickham.org) or by contacting me. I hope to see you there.

***Sue Thurston, Show Coordinator***  
***(41 Streetly End, West Wickham, CB21 4RP***  
***mail@suethurston.co.uk, 01223 897811)***

### ***Lucy Frazer, MP***

I appreciate that parts of my constituency, including West Wrating, are poorly served by the main providers of mobile signal, especially in terms of reliable indoor 4G coverage. I welcome the signing of Shared Rural Network (SRN) agreement between Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and the Government. The deal, which is worth £1 billion, will share investment costs between MNOs and the Government and increase 4G mobile coverage throughout the UK to 95% by the end of 2025, irrespective of what network provider people use. It will be underpinned by a legally binding coverage commitment from each operator. I will feed in areas of poor coverage into the Shared Rural Network programme and continue to press for improvements as soon as possible.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and enjoy this lovely weather! Don't forget if you need help with accessing local services or have a question or a query that I may be able to help with, then please email me on [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk).

***Lucy Frazer QC, MP for South East Cambridgeshire***

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Airmid is a simple, secure app which you can log into using your NHS app login or your SystmOnline account. An NHS app login can also be created directly via Airmid.

Over the next few weeks we are planning to trial this mobile app with a number of pre-selected patients to test its suitability. If you have the NHS app, why not download Airmid and take a look? We would welcome any feedback you may have.

*Sandra East, Head of Patient Services (sandra.east@nhs.net)*

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

**Mobile library:** first Tuesdays – 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept  
 High Street, West Wrattling 12.15 - 12.45 pm  
 Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm  
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

**Black bins:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> August,  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September

**Blue & Green bins:** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, **Tues 31<sup>st</sup>** August  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September

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**Community Warden:** Faye Parker,  
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Within our churches, the ministry team will, in common with many places, be encouraging people to continue to use masks and to social distance within a church service for the time being, with the aim of reviewing this in mid September. We recognise, however, that this is a choice for each individual to make and each person's view will be respected.

## DIARY

### August 2021

- Fri 6 Pimp My Fish, Reading Room carpark
- Sat 7 Balsham WI DIY cream tea
- Sun 8 Secret Garden, St Mary's Church, Weston Colville
- Mon 9 West Wrattling Oil Syndicate order cutoff
- Sat 21 West Wickham Gardening Club Annual Show
- Sun 22 Weston Colville Oil Cooperative order cutoff

### September 2021

- Fri 3 Pimp My Fish, Friday Night Inn, Reading Room
- Sun 5 Harvest Songs of Praise, West Wrattling
- Sat 11 Ride & Stride, Historic Churches
- Wed 15 West Wrattling Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 18 Circular Walk, from outside Reading Room

**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.

**September issue's copy date**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August**