

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Tea and Cakes

Our first Tea and Cakes for a very long time will have to be delayed until 2nd July, because of the wet weather. Nevertheless we are planning a second Tea and Cakes later in July, on the 23rd. This too will be outdoors, so we have an alternative date, the 30th, if it rains. So still looking forward to seeing you all and catching up over a slice of cake and a cuppa, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. Don't forget you will need a mask to use the toilets, and sunscreen or a jumper might be required too.

Melanie and all at Tea and Cakes

West Wrattling Café – UPATE

Following the latest government guidance, we have decided to postpone our first cafe back to August at the earliest. Please look out for updated notices in the next *Challenge*.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

The Secret Garden

'The Secret Garden' will be performed by the This is My Theatre Company in St Mary's Church, Weston Colville on 8th August, at 4 pm.

Book tickets now (www.thisismytheatre.com/secretgardenatwestoncolville) for this lovely performance for all ages by our favourite touring theatre company.

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

The next syndicate order of oil will be in early August when hopefully oil prices will be lower than at present. The cut-off date for ordering will be indicated in the next issue of *Challenge*.

Phil Tempest (westwrattingoil@gmail.com)

West Wrattling Development

The parish council has received a request for discussions from potential purchasers of the Boreham land, thus a possibility of development. The PC is in the process of organising a meeting, to be held in the village hall, which will be a drop-in session with their representatives on hand to answer individual questions. To date no plans have been presented to SCDC for planning permission.

Mira Nichols, Chair, West Wrattling Parish Council

Weston Colville
Summer Festival
A creative celebration of our village
3 - 4 July
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Celebration of Lower Wood

I am using *Challenge* to ask if there is an appetite in the village for a celebration of Lower Wood in the autumn. The wood has been my solace in the last 16 months, and I suspect it has been the same for many.



I would suggest that we have a weekend of celebration, mainly based in the Reading Room, about the wood. It would be good to have lots of aspects and media involved. This might include a potted history of the wood, the birds of the wood (including birdsong), and the fauna and the flora (flowers and trees in particular but not exclusively). This might

also include pieces on coppicing, use of the material, Ash die back etc; anything that is connected with the wood which means something to someone.



I was thinking of photographs, art work, audio pieces, poems and prose about what the wood means to us all collectively and individually. If this goes ahead it would be ideal to have some form of online presence as well.

No celebration would be complete without refreshments but I have no idea what that might look like, given present conditions.

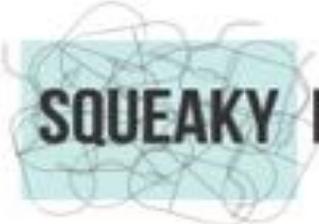
Ideas and comments please!

Jackie Brearley (290076, jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk)

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Weston Colville Circular Walk

It was our first walk for almost a year and a half, and the sun shone.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 3rd July, meeting *outside* the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch, and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room garden afterwards.



Drinks from the bar will be table service (though a word of warning that ‘facilities’ will be out of bounds). The usual British ‘indoors if wet’ won’t apply, sadly, as if it rains we won’t be able to go inside, as a group of more than six.

Come and join us!

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

Open Gardens

Sunday 4th July, 2 - 5 pm, Carlton

Some of our gardens will be open to visitors on Sunday 4th July.

Please come and enjoy them!

Welcome signs will show you which gardens are open. Why not stop in and have a cuppa and



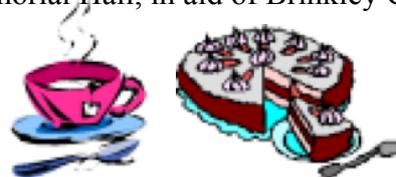
some cake, try your luck on the tombola, buy some plants for your garden and have a look at the village flower display in St Peter’s Church? £5 entry, children under 12 free.

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th July, 2 - 6 pm

The Old Rectory, Brinkley, in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th July, 2 - 5 pm

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West Wrating Book Club

Once again we were able to meet outside at The Chestnut Tree on a pleasantly warm evening to discuss Robert Louis Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde'.

It was written as one of a popular genre of supernatural stories for the Victorian Christmas market. The idea of a 'Jekyll and Hyde' personality has become part of our public psyche but the format and underlying themes of the actual short tale on which so many dramatisations have been based came as a surprise to some of us.

As would be expected of this author, it was agreed that it was extremely well written and, although not entirely accurate, it evokes the classic Victorian London of our imagination.

Told from the point of view of Jekyll's lawyer and through him, a mutual doctor friend and, finally, Jekyll himself, the main theme is of a successful, well-respected doctor with a darker side. What this consists of is only hinted at and leaves the reader to draw their own conclusions (a theatre production of the story was taken off at the time of the Whitechapel murders). It touches on the inner identities and duality within us all. Jekyll fears the discovery of this other side and the ruin and disgrace that would follow, so seeks the ultimate distancing of himself from this other side of him. This fits into a background of contemporary interest in consciousness, 'moral insanity' and criminal responsibility, and ideas of the 'criminal' type reflected in the descriptions of Hyde as a subhuman apelike being. Those who might wish to delve deeper into the themes of this and other stories related to them may wish to get the Penguin Classics edition.

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Scores were mainly 8 and 9 with one 7 out of 10. We would particularly recommend this book to those who only know the story from films and other dramatisations.

We will now have our traditional summer break and re-convene on Wednesday 15th 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)

West Wickham

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From the Rectory

I wonder how you felt in response to the news that the final ‘unlocking’, previously proposed for June 21st, was to be delayed? Perhaps you see it as a cautious but prudent step; or maybe a deeply frustrating one. For many businesses around the country, including some within our parishes, it will be tremendously challenging. For those looking forward to larger gatherings including weddings, it may bring real disappointment.



Indeed, it’s been part of our way of life during the pandemic that we’ve sometimes had to take each day and week as it comes, without being able to plan too far in advance. For some there has been a gift in living day by day, but it may bring with it a sense of insecurity, which may lead us to lose heart at times.

Church life has also been a mix of simply taking it week by week as well as trying to plan in advance! In looking ahead, we have recently created a new pattern of worship which we hope will be sustainable and enriching both in this time of crisis and beyond. Within our group of churches on a Sunday we now regularly have, covid rules permitting, 9 am services, one 10.30am service, and usually a 6 pm Evening Prayer. There will also still be a service available online at 10.30am.

Recently, our lay minister in training, Kristi Stewart Elliott, challenged us in a reflection to contemplate these words from our bible reading: "So we do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 4:16). St Paul, who was writing to the church in Corinth, saw this as a vital part of Christian life and of seeing the world in the light of faith in Jesus Christ. Let us also seek to live today, in these still uncertain and turbulent times, as people who ‘do not lose heart’, who may both rejoice in the everyday and also look ahead with hope.

Rev Iain McColl

Gerry Fox

I am saddened to write that Gerry Fox, beloved husband of Tessa from whom we bought this house died in Australia, two weeks ago. Gerry and Tessa were enjoying an extensive road trip at the time. They both loved Weston Colville and visited whenever they returned to the UK.

Margaretha Galt, Thoresby

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Christian Aid

There will be a get-together in aid of Christian Aid on Friday 2nd July in the churchyard at Balsham, from 10.00 until 11.45 am.

Please bring your own drinks/food, or buy from The Teapod, where crêpes and waffles will be available. A raffle will be drawn at 11.30 am.

Please come and support us!

Joanna Sanders (893063, sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

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Nature Notes

This is the time of year to see photogenic baby animals of all descriptions.

Young Marsh Tits will have left their nests now. They have the fearless boldness of youth. If you see them in your garden or in the woods, we'd love to know at cambsmarti@gmail.com or via **Challenge**.

Here is a young Blue Tit, about a week from fledging, taken by Chris Smart during a licensed nestbox survey in June. This chick has a surly expression any human parent would recognise, as it's always hungry because it's growing like mad. Hatching to fledging takes just 15 days in Blue Tits (if only teenagers did the same . . .).



That huge yellow gape encourages Blue Tit parents to push food in from dawn to dusk – 16 hours a day at these latitudes. Rapid growth minimises a chick's time in the nest, when they are most vulnerable to predation.

Some youngsters are not so vulnerable, though. Last month, nocturnal screeching revealed these two fluffy Tawny Owl chicks to Steve Thompson at John O'Gaunt golf club in Beds.



Leaving the nest before fledging is called branching and it's common in this species. Don't let the fluffiness fool you into thinking they are defenceless: the powerful raptorial (grasping predatory) feet develop early in Owls and raptors.

I once had the privilege of meeting a fluffy Eagle Owl chick. Its big beak nibbled my finger in an almost ticklish manner. So I let it step onto my hand. It was rather like putting my fingers into a workbench vice with razor-sharp claws. Once bitten, twice shy!

Hoping you enjoy your holidays,

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

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For more information please like and follow Messy Pups Baby Group - Weston Colville Facebook page.

You can also message me directly, Emma Rayner 07487839654



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Balsham WI

We had great fun for our June meeting via Zoom, with Carole Rose from Alpha Bake Cookery, who gave us a fascinating talk about how her business, teaching children cookery, has thrived during lock down. Initially Carole worried about how her business would be affected with the Covid restrictions, but she got to grips with Zoom and another world opened up to her, reaching far more people than before. She has even shared a lesson with someone from Canada! Children under 12 have to be supervised when having a lesson but Zoom has freed up the restrictions of teaching in a classroom environment as there is no wait for a cooker, the children aren't distracted by other children in the classroom, and there are no overheads.

Some of us then made a Raspberry and Cream Tart which was delicious. Carole advised us to put it in the fridge when cooled as it was best eaten cold, but my tart didn't reach the fridge. Scrumptious!

Our next meeting will be on July 10th when we will enjoy a socially distanced picnic with chat and a quiz on the Balsham recreation ground at 12.30. Fingers crossed for a good day.

Alison Clarke (894031)

Girlguiding, Linton District

What a summer term our girls are having: there have been Promise ceremonies, trips to Wandlebury, kayaking, night hiking, and campfires at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. We are also still Zooming as well, having fantastic adventures online and gaining lots of different badges and taking part in all sorts of challenges.



Throughout the summer virtual sleepovers are happening everywhere for girls and adults to take part in either as a unit or just as a family. Sleeping anywhere but your bed has led to dens in gardens, under tables, or putting chairs together with blankets strung with fairy lights. We have also had fashion parades, making outfits out of old bags with every type of neckline imaginable. So much excitement, challenge and adventure, I cannot list it all. If you would like to see more or join in the fun, go to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Louisa Powell-Owens, Linton DC

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2523 Linton Air Cadets

Throughout June we have been enjoying and making the most of the fantastic weather and light evenings. The cadets have started all sorts of practical activities. One of the highlights has been making the most of the new drone technology we have on squadron.



Over a few evenings each cadet has been able to get to grips with the practical piloting techniques on at least one of several drones, which is not only good fun but also aids in the teaching of principles of flight and airmanship.

As we get back fully into the swing of training, nothing focusses a cadet's mind like a promotion board. Officer Commanding, Flight Lieutenant Tennison, is looking for the more senior cadets to step up for promotion. This has led to a flurry of lesson planning from the cadets looking to impress, and we look forward to the cadet-led sessions including sports, uniform and standards, aircraft recognition, space & cyber, and basic first aid training nights – all carefully watched and assessed by squadron staff.

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As we move further into the summer we look forward to continuing our progressive training syllabus and towards events that will see multiple squadrons get together. The first of these events is a sports, archery and bbq day for the local squadrons in our sector. Both staff and cadets look forward to seeing friends and colleagues from other squadrons in this competitive, but fun, setting.

We are still open to new cadets, please get in touch to join today.

Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer
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2021 Flu Clinics

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, having your flu vaccination is more important than ever, because if you are at risk from coronavirus, you are also more at risk of problems from flu. Additionally, if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you are more likely to be seriously ill.

This year the flu vaccine will be given to people who:

- are 50 and over
- have certain health conditions
- are pregnant
- are in long-stay residential care
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- live with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus
- are frontline health or social care workers.

You will be able to book your flu jab from 1st July and, as a Granta patient, you have the flexibility of choosing when and where you would like to go for your vaccination. Clinic dates are as follows:

Saturday 11 th September	Sawston Medical Centre Shelford Health Centre Linton Health Centre
Sunday 12 th September	Market Hill Surgery, Royston
Saturday 9 th October	Sawston Medical Centre Linton Health Centre
Sunday 10 th October	Market Hill Surgery, Royston
Saturday 23 rd October	Shelford Health Centre.

When you ring to book your appointment, please state your preferred date and venue and give your age so that you can be booked in for the most appropriate vaccine.

Please note, we do not currently have dates for the child flu clinics as we are waiting on delivery information.

Having your flu jab at your doctors' surgery is the quickest and most convenient way as there are no forms to fill out – the doctors and nurses have your medical history at their finger-tips.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services
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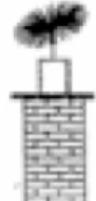
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West Wrattling Parish Meeting

This is a precis of the 2021 Parish Meeting Reports. The full reports can be found on the website and also on the noticeboard.

Chairman's Report: the chairman looked back at the past year and the impact it has had on everyone's lives. She has been so impressed at the way the village community have pulled together supporting those more vulnerable and in need of help with shopping, prescriptions etc. The council has carried out its meetings via Zoom until this May meeting when they met again in the hall.

The refurbished playground is a great success and thanks must go to all those who fundraised in order to add to the grant money successfully applied for.

The chairman thanked Cllrs Davey and Bonfield for their work implementing traffic calming measures; Cllr Lock for coordinating planning issues during the lockdown; Cllrs Roberts and Davey for providing valuable liaison with the Sports Pavilion Committee; and Cllr Bonfield who, with the chairman, works with the village hall committee.

Parish Paths Partnership: Cobby McCall reported that due to the lockdown more people used the

footpaths and in order to give clearer directions, he was able to obtain a quantity of way markers. He thanked his team for all their hard work clearing the footpath near the phone box and also clearing 15 years' worth of rubbish away from the entrance boundary of the recreation ground. He also thanked the Johnson family, Simon Anderson, Raymond Maskell and David Perrin for their important input.

West Wrattling First Friday Bridge: Sheryl O'Donovan hopes to continue the sessions as before as soon as allowed, meeting on the first Friday of each month at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

The Chestnuts Lunch Club: although the Lunch Club was unable to meet after lockdown The Chestnut Tree has continued to cook, and volunteers to deliver, around 30 two-course lunches each month. Suan Rowland who coordinates the attendance numbers also wished to thank The Chestnut Tree, which normally accepted delivery of medicines, for making sure that these were delivered to homes.

There were also reports from the District & County Councillors and these can be seen on the website and the noticeboard.

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk)

SMB GAS

CALOR GAS DELIVERIES



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Newmarket & District Car Club

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Saturday 24th July, 1 - 4 pm

The Newmarket Severals



All welcome; free entry

Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

The Ellesmere Centre Summer Show will be on Sunday 11th July.

Attractions will include: Produce Show, Family Fun, Dog Show, The Kitchenettes Band, BBQ, Raffle, Stalls, Ice Creams, Teas, and Cakes. Show programmes are available in the foyer.

Please come and join us.

**The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
(01638 508212. office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)**

DIARY

July 2021

- Fri 2 Christian Aid coffee morning, Balsham churchyard
Tea & Cakes, Reading Room garden
Pimp My Fish, Reading Room carpark
- Sat 3/Sun 4 Summer Festival, St Mary's, Weston Colville
- Sat 3 Circular Walk, from outside Reading Room
West Wickham Fete & Dog Show
- Sun 4 Sawston Open Gardens
Carlton Open Gardens
- Mon 5 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Sat 10 Balsham WI
- Sun 11 Ellesmere Centre Summer Show
- Mon 12 'Messy Pups' group starts, Reading Room
West Wrating Parish Council meeting
- Sat 17/Sun 18 Open Gardens, tea & cakes, Brinkley
- Fri 23 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room garden
- Sat 24 Classic Car Show, Newmarket

August 2021

- Sun 8 Secret Garden, St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

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, 07779 277647

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

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.

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 Zoom services.

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

Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 6th July, 3rd August
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: Monday 12th & 26th July,
Monday 9th & 23rd August

Blue & Green bins: Monday 5th & 19th July,
Monday 2nd & 16th, **Tuesday 31st August**

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.

**August issue's copy date
Tuesday 20th July**