

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Tea and Cakes

Another hot tea and cakes in July. Many thanks to all who attend and contribute.



We are taking a break in August so our next date is Friday 16th September, 3.30 - 5 pm in Weston Colville Reading Room. Have a super summer.

Val and the team

West Wrating Café

Hi everyone! Hopefully you are all enjoying the summer weather.

As it's holiday season there will be no café in August. We will resume on Saturday 3rd September, 10.30 am to noon. We plan to have a produce stall and a plant sale. Looking forward to seeing those who can come.

Sherry (290070) and Jan

Hedgehogs

Several people in Weston Colville have reported hedgehogs in their gardens. This is very good news, given the reports that their numbers have fallen so dramatically in recent years.

Please ensure that any deterrents to less welcome garden visitors, such as rats and slugs, can't be accessed



by unintended victims such as hedgehogs.

Weston Colville Heritage Map

Thank you to everyone who came and supported me at the Jubilee celebrations. I was able to discuss and include new points, which was very useful for my evaluation of the project. I am now in the process of making the final changes to the map in the next couple of weeks, when it will be ready for printing.

Thank you again.

Emily Jackson

West Wrating Book Club

We are currently on our summer break and reading two books from the 'Big Jubilee Read' book list: 'The Adoption Papers' by Jackie Kay and 'The Nowhere Man' by Kamala Markandaya, which we will discuss on Wednesday 14th September at 7.30 pm in The Chestnut Tree. Do join us to have a chat and share refreshments while we discuss the books. Don't worry if you didn't like or finish them – your input will still be valued. Suggestions of books to read are always welcome.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Weston Colville Village Green Group

Those present at the last gathering decided not to meet over the summer holidays – gardening and general life were all cited. There is a provisional meeting in October in the Reading Room with a guest presenter on 'Recycling – are we doing it correctly, and what happens to our recycled waste?' The date will be announced in forthcoming issues of *Challenge*.

If you are interested in joining the group or want to know more about the group, please contact me direct or via the village WhatsApp group.

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

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From the Rectory

This summer has been a time of farewells in our churches! We had leaving services in June for both Jeanine Kennedy, who was ordained on 3rd July at Ely Cathedral (see photo) and is now the curate at St Andrew's Cherry Hinton, and Kathy Bishop. Kathy and many others were in Ely Cathedral to support Jeanine as a new chapter of life and ministry opened up for her. All of these services acknowledged that there is a time and season for everything, and gave thanks for the privilege of using one's gifts to proclaim faith, hope, and love.



Following her last service at the end of June, Kathy is now on sabbatical for six months, so we won't be seeing her lead services in that time, though she may still be around as part of the congregation.

We will miss her prayerful leadership and are very grateful for all she has given in her ministry in our parishes. This sabbatical, however, does provide a time and space in which Kathy may reflect upon how to continue to use her many gifts to minister and serve in a different time and season in her life.

During this summer we also have a special confirmation service which Bishop Dagmar will lead at Balsham Church at 10.30 am on Sunday 14th August. At this service, those being confirmed make a profession of their Christian faith and the Bishop prays for them to be strengthened in the gifts of the Spirit. Two children and three adults are being confirmed, and all are welcome to attend and support them at this exciting time.


Perhaps summer time, and for some the holiday season, is a good time in general to pause and reflect on how we are using our gifts in love and service, and whether a new time or season approaches for us. For whatever time and season we are in, there is always the opportunity, as the Bible puts it, to "encourage one another and build each other up". What an amazing privilege it is then, to share faith, hope and love, as we journey together through life.

Revd Iain McColl

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Deadlines for the next round of grant applications are 1st August 2022 and 1st February 2023.

For more information about what you need to apply, visit <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/how-to-apply>. Apply at <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/wadlow-wind-farm-community-fund>

Viv Atkinson, Grants & Operations Manager

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Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

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There will be a West Wrating Oil Syndicate fill-up this month with an order cut-off at 6.30 pm on Monday 15th August. Place your orders either by email to me at 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)

Weston Colville Parish Council

Items discussed at the meeting on Monday 18th July included:

Flooding – main discussion was deferred until September. Some of the drains along Mill Hill may have been cleared, but it was not certain.

Reading Room hedge – the Reading Room Committee had asked for the hedge height to be



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reduced, to aid visibility exiting the car park. Cllr Ashbridge advised he could remove the top growth.

Footpaths – the route of Footpath 21 had not been cut, so wasn't clear, and people were walking up the cut headland. The landowner will be contacted once the field had been harvested to ensure the correct footpath could be followed. The rerouting of Bridleway 14 was raised as the maps had not been updated; it was suggested that the landowners had not wanted to pursue it further.

Platinum Jubilee event – Cllr Ashbridge asked for a further contribution from the parish council to reimburse him for 50% of the cost of providing the lunch. Cllr Durham sold mugs during the Jubilee event, and presented £230.

Defibrillator – the defibrillator has been registered with Webnos and Circuit, at no cost to the council, to ensure that it was registered with the ambulance service. The defibrillator is rescue ready, and had the batteries replaced on 18th July 2022.

Dates of parish council meetings – 1st August (planning), 5th September.

Full minutes and meeting documents can be found at <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

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Weston Colville Folk Evening

On Saturday 1st October, the Reading Room welcomes back 'Camus' (pronounced 'car-mus') featuring our very own David Somerville. Their April concert had to be cancelled due to Covid, but when they played here about three years ago, they were very well received and if you missed it, or if you'd like the chance to see them again, come along!

Lockdown prevented them getting together for many months, but they've been enjoying getting back to playing live music again in recent months and are now working as a four-piece band. They have recently appeared on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and performed at the St Neots and Ely Folk Festivals, the Cambridge Folk Club, and the Black Fen Folk Club in Cambridge.



David Somerville – Northumbrian small pipes, keyboard

Greg Smith – fiddle, viola, vocals

Andrew Burn – melodeon, Northumbrian small pipes, vocals

Brian Cleary – guitar, bouzouki, vocals



The four friends have been playing together in various folk bands for over 40 years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, USA, and Spain, as well as self-penned tunes and songs. As David says: 'If we like the tune we'll play it'.

As their first performance was so popular, rather than donations, we're taking bookings this time:

- * £5 a ticket (proceeds to Jimmy's Night Shelter);
- * book your seat in advance then either pay on the door, or request bank details;
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Jacqueline Douglas



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Nature Notes

Your gardens will be full of young birds now: spotted Robins, ginger Wrens, yellow-faced Tits of all species, and juvenile Goldfinches with brown heads instead of their adult black, white and red clown faces. Sparrowhawks and cats will be on the lookout for easy meals, so please site your feeders within 2 metres of a tall, dense shrub, to give the youngsters a bolt-hole in case of trouble.

July and August is also the time for magnificent Purple Emperor butterflies, pictured below by Iain Leach. They like to fly high in tall woodlands, especially where Sallow is present. Being large (7 - 8 cm across) and territorial, with a bolshie disposition, Purple Emperors will even try to see off birds from their patch. I've seen them in Lower Wood, but not since the Ash Dieback felling. They need salts, preferably from smelly sources, so the Victorians tempted them down from treetops with . . . fox urine. (don't ask!). Both sexes have brown



underwings with a prominent eye spot; the upper wings are



brown in the female, but iridescent purple in the male. More info: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/purple-emperor>.

Speaking of territorial species, there is a pair of Tawny Owls occupying the area around Chapel Road west of the Weston Colville Reading Room. The pair will defend their territory all through autumn and

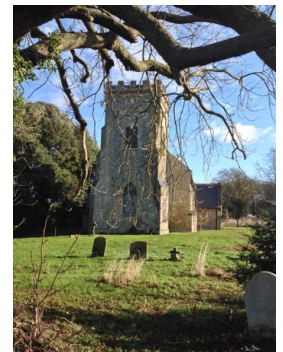
winter with their 'twit-twoo' duet at night, the female's 'kewick' coming immediately before the male's 'whooo'.

Sightings please, of Marsh Tits or anything else which interests you, to cambsmarti@gmail.com or Challenge Thanks!

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

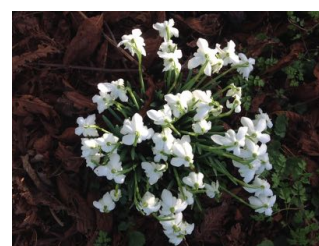
St Mary's Churchyard, Weston Colville

Since January 2022, we've been going to St Mary's churchyard once a month to see what's growing there. So far, we've identified around 70 species: mainly wildflowers, but also some shrubs and trees.



We started in January when there wasn't much to see apart from small green shoots, but there was some red-berried Butcher's Broom out (so-called, apparently, because butchers used to clean their blocks with bundles of it).

In February there was more to see: the first few primroses, cowslips, daisies and violets were



beginning to emerge and there were some drifts and clumps of snowdrops.

In the warmth of this year's March, the churchyard plant life began to burgeon. For example, there were purple and white violets, daisies, lesser celandines, silverweed and comfrey. Amongst other things, we

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also found lords & ladies, teasels (originally used for raising the pile in wool or cloth), ground ivy and speedwell, as well as shrubs or trees such as spindle and holm oak.

In April, parts of the churchyard looked really lovely, especially where the cowslips and primroses were spreading. In the hedgerows round the edges, sometimes against the walls of the church itself, we spotted herb robert, cow parsley, garlic mustard, white nettles, purple honesty and red campion, and much else besides. The ‘candles’ on the horse chestnut tree were by then in flower, too.



In May there was birdsfoot trefoil, bryony, green alkanet, dock and some rather unpleasant-smelling – when crushed – hedge woundwort. We also saw dog roses, elder and wild strawberries, and the first signs of bedstraw in the wild grass sections which had deliberately been

left un-mown to encourage plants like that to grow.

By June, the bedstraw had separated into white bedstraw and ladies bedstraw (so-called, apparently, because it was sometimes added to straw mattresses to make them more fragrant!). We also spotted black meddock and hawkbit as well as lots more nettles and brambles.

When churchyards are not too manicured, they can be very good places for a rich variety of plants to grow and hence encourage biodiversity. During our visits to St Mary’s we’ve seen quite a lot of bees and butterflies (though we haven’t tried to identify them yet). The trees and hedges almost certainly provide cover and nesting sites for some of the many birds and small mammals that also live in the village.

In Flora Britannica (1996), Richard Mabey notes that, historically, parish churches were often one of the focal points for their communities, including activities such as wood-carving and cultivation of medicinal herbs in addition to religious ceremonies and rituals. He says: “The churchyard has also become a sanctuary for plants. At a time when unimproved grassland has all but disappeared across much of agricultural Britain, these small patches of turf . . . are in many parishes the last refuges”.

There is currently renewed interest in churchyard wildlife (see the *Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants* website) and St Mary’s is playing its part with a Bronze Award, showing that the churchyard is starting to be managed specifically for wildlife (eg via organised mowing). There are still patches where plants like nettles grow somewhat over-vigorously and could, perhaps, be cut back a bit so the headstones they’re covering can be seen once again! However, enough wildflowers, plants and trees also need to be left to encourage as much variety of wildlife in the churchyard as possible.

Gabrielle Cliff Hodges & Anne Bragg



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Why not come along to one of our 'Have-a-go' sessions every Thursday at 8 pm, from 22nd September to 13th October, at the Scout Hut, Bottisham, CB25 9BB. For more information or a lift contact Gordon on 01223 833983 or bagman@devilsdykem.org.uk, or visit www.devilsdykem.org.uk



Balsham Gardening Club Have-a-Go Show

With 166 entries in total, we certainly had a very successful show at the Balsham Feast. Especially pleasing were the number of new exhibitors who took part. Whilst the weather prior to the show had not been ideal, fruit, vegetables and flowers of a high standard were on display. The judges were unanimous in their praise of the presentation. A huge



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thank you to everyone who took part and who helped on the day.

As a gardening club we are now spending time in our own gardens before we restart in October. Our first speaker will be Robert Brett who is the curator of RHS Garden Hyde Hall. We are very fortunate to have this expert visiting our club and we do hope that we will have a good turnout. If you aren't a member, why not come along as a visitor? You will be made very welcome.

Our date and venue has changed, and our first meeting will be on Wednesday 5th October at 7.30 pm in the Church Institute.

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West Wickham & District Gardening Club

The club will be holding its Annual Show in the village hall on Saturday 13th August. Residents of neighbouring parishes without their own horticultural societies are welcome to enter any or all 38 classes so those of you living in Horseheath, West Wrating and Weston Colville, why not have a go?

Even if you aren't able to enter anything into the show please support us by coming along, from 2.30 pm, to view the exhibits, enjoy the tea and homemade cakes, take part in the raffle, guess the weight of (and win) the cake, and bid for exhibits donated by the exhibitors. The raffle, refreshments and auction are important fund raisers for the club so your generosity is much appreciated.

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 5th August to allow for judging and printing out the entries, which ideally will be submitted digitally.

All the details are in the schedule, which can be viewed and downloaded from the village website (westwickham.org) or by contacting me.

Sue Thurston, (897811, mail@suethurston.co.uk)

Balsham WI

Well, it wasn't quite the sunny evening we had expected for our members' meeting on 12th July but the rain certainly didn't dampen our spirits as we took to the green for a bowls taster evening, courtesy of the Balsham Bowls Club.

We split into groups and some very knowledgeable club members showed us the techniques and explained the rules of the game to us. Each group managed about four 'ends' before rain finally stopped play and we retreated to the pavilion for refreshments and a fun sports quiz.

A huge WI thank you to Balsham Bowls Club for hosting a fantastic evening and for their kind hospitality. For anyone thinking of giving bowls a try, we would thoroughly recommend it!

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm and at present are held in the Pavilion, Balsham.

We don't have an official meeting in August but we are planning a picnic on Balsham Rec on Saturday 6th August at 2.30 pm. Bring your own refreshments and there will be bingo and a quiz.

Sarah Evans (290802)

www.westwratting.org.uk

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2523 Linton Air Cadets

The squadron put in a great effort in our annual wing field day competition at RAF Henlow, competing across an array of key skill areas against the other 27 squadrons in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.



For the ensemble, the cadets serenaded the judges with 'Sweet Caroline'. It was then straight on to some coding and map reading exercises, then Sgt Vellacott led the squad through a full drill routine, calling all movements from memory for the entire sequence. There was then a full leadership task to complete, and the first aid competition where the cadets had to treat multiple casualties in a simulated accident. The event was finished off with a parade, where every squadron in the wing was represented. It was great to be back at a large scale competition and all the cadets did themselves proud.

Also in July we assisted with the Balsham Feast event, where we set up our full flight simulator, and enjoyed showing off all that Linton Squadron has to offer.



We were also lucky enough to have a talk by Cambridge University Air Squadron, on how the cadets can progress and the opportunities available for those moving on to university life.

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

GRANTA Medical Practices

Flu & Covid Vaccines

I can't believe it's that time already, but we are now finalising the 2022 flu clinics! Additionally, we are planning the Covid autumn vaccination campaign.

There are still unanswered questions, such as:

- Who will be eligible for the flu vaccine this year?
- When will the Covid vaccines be delivered to us?
- Will we be able to vaccinate patients with the flu vaccine at the same time as Covid vaccine?
- Will we be able to hold Covid vaccine clinics at each Granta site, as opposed to Sawston only?

As soon as our questions are answered by NHS England and our local Integrated Care System (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group) we will let you know, and will publicise the vaccine clinic dates and contact our patients directly to arrange appointments.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on sandra.east@nhs.net or 0300 234 5555, option 2.

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Marsh Mail

It was fantastic to welcome our Year 11 students back to celebrate their prom on 1st July, and to invite the community to observe their arrivals. There was a splendid array of outfits and modes of transport, and an enjoyable evening of dancing in the marquee and disco pod. We were fortunate to have the expert services of Mrs Harris, our in-house professional photographer, capturing the glamour and fun of the evening.



Year 11 students also did the college really proud in their involvement in our Summer Soirée at the end of June, managing to squeeze in rehearsals and instrumental practice amongst their revision. It was a wonderful evening, showcasing an array of talent and musical styles across the school. Our music department, including peripatetic teachers, have done a brilliant job of fostering students' capabilities and confidence to achieve such impressive performances.

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We wish all Year 11 students the best for their upcoming exam results day on 25th August. After two years of centre/teacher assessed grades, we are really proud of how our students have conducted themselves during this year's exam season.

There will be a number of site refurbishments taking place over the summer holidays, including roadworks affecting the top of the school drive to support the development of the Cambridge Greenway. Our Sports Centre facilities remain open for community use during the holidays.

Helena Marsh

Jubilee Black Oak Table
'A Table for the Nation'

- 5000 years ago the East Anglian Fens were densely forested by large oak trees which, due to rising seas, fell into the silt of the flooded forest floor and were preserved in the peat.
- In 2012, on a farm at Wissington Fen, near Downham Market, a 5000 year old giant sub-fossilised black, or bog, oak tree, 13.5m (45') was found. It is widely acknowledged that this was just 1% of the original size of the tree.
- The oak was carefully lifted out of the fen and cut into planks which were dried in a purpose-built drying kiln. It took 9 months to remove 400 gallons of water from the wood. This also meant the depth of the planks shrunk by over 50%.
- The dried planks were moved to the Building Crafts College in Stratford, London, where the students helped create the 13m (43') long and 1.5m wide table you see today. The under-structure is created from patinated bronze.
- The Fenland Black Oak Project was set up by a group of volunteers and funded entirely by public donations. It has taken 10 years to preserve and craft the table. The project was led by Hamish Low, from furniture specialists Adamson and Low.
- As the Oak was discovered in 2012, the year of the Diamond Jubilee, and completed in 2022, the year of the Platinum Jubilee, the table has been presented to the nation. The table was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal and will be on display in the North Nave Aisle from 18 May 2022 until March 2023.

www.thefenlandblackoakproject.co.uk

June	9.00 am	10.30 am	6.00 pm
7 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen to preach</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
14 th	Holy Communion – West Wratting, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship (9.30 am) – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Confirmation service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Bishop Dagmar/Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer – West Wratting, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
21 st	Holy Communion – West Wratting, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	United Service of Morning Worship – Hildersham, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Keith Day</i>
28 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	United Service of Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>	

DIARY

August 2022

Mon 1 Wadlow Wind Farm grant application deadline
 Sat 6 Balsham WI picnic
 Sat 13 West Wickham Gardening Club Annual Show
 Mon 15 West Wratting Oil Syndicate order deadline
 Thur 18 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

September 2022

Sat 3 West Wratting Café
 Sun 11 Weston Colville Oil Co-operative order deadline
 Wed 14 West Wratting Book Club
 Fri 16 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
 Sat 25 West Wratting all-village photo

Revd Iain McColl

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

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.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 Wratting Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

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

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 25th Aug, 22nd Sept
 High Street, West Wratting 10.20 - 11.00 am
 Reading Room, Weston Green 11.10 - 11.45 am
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 11.50 - 12.15 pm

Black bins: Monday 8th & 22nd August,
 Monday 5th & 19th September

Blue & Green bins: Mon 1st & 15th, **Tues 30th August**,
 Monday 12th & 26th September

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Editor: Anne Bragg (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.

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