

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## *From the Rectory*

It was with deep sadness we received the news Queen Elizabeth had died in early September. It brought with it a sense of loss on many levels and may take some time to sink in. Queen Elizabeth was the only monarch many of us had known all of our lives. A constant presence in the political and cultural landscape of this country for so long, in times of both peace and adversity. There has been a tangible sense that an era has come to an end; that this country will never be quite the same again.

Yet also something new has begun. When I first heard reference to 'the King' it felt strange! Yet I was very moved listening to the often deeply personal King's address given on the day after the Queen's death, when he reflected on his mother's reign but also pledged himself to follow her example of service and duty. Let us pray for him in his new role, as he takes on a huge privilege and burden, and will need inward strength and guidance to fulfil this role.

In mourning for Queen Elizabeth, we also give thanks. She was an inspiring Christian witness around the world through her Christmas broadcasts and her public conduct. She also connected with our communities in Cambridgeshire at key moments of celebration. Many may remember her visit, already in her nineties, to the plant research centre outside Cambridge when she was determined to plant the tree herself. She went on to open the Royal Papworth Hospital, revealing her commitment to serve and her resilience to meet the demands of her office at an age when most people had retired.

Latterly, as she relied on a shepherd's stick to remain mobile, we continued to see her public service guided by the opening words of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd". Service carried out with a strong sense of



vocation and often with wisdom, humour and joy. As we reflect on some momentous changes in our national landscape and perhaps contemplate more personal changes in our own lives, we may also recognise that Jesus Christ calls each one of us into a life of faith and service, and that this is a vocation we may respond to with thanksgiving and joy.

*Revd Iain McColl*

## *Weston Colville Folk Evening*

We've had a good number of bookings for Camus on 1<sup>st</sup> October in the Reading Room, but if you'd still like to come, at time of going to press, it looks like there should be room.

**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'.

- \* 7.30 pm;
- £5 a ticket (proceeds to Jimmy's Night Shelter);
- \* pay on the door;
- \* refreshments available.

*Jacqueline Douglas*

## *Christmas Bazaar*

Save the date, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, for Weston Colville's Christmas Bazaar in St Mary's Church. More details in November's *Challenge*.

*Weston Colville PCC*

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***The Chestnut Tree***

Unfortunately, along with everyone else, we are currently dealing with unprecedented increases in costs and are having to look at ways to economise to ensure we continue to trade successfully.

We have chosen to address the problem by making savings where we can, rather than just impose price increases, as we understand everyone is feeling the squeeze. Therefore, we have come to the decision to close for ten days whilst we are on holiday. We have, previously, just closed our kitchen, but this is no longer a viable option.

Therefore, we will not be open from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Before we go, we will deliver to your door any prescriptions we have here, and they will continue to be delivered to you by our team whilst we are away. Please note that Lunch Club will be a day earlier, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>.

Although tightening our belts, trade remains buoyant and we are confident we are well placed to weather the storm, yet again, with your continued support! On a brighter note, our Christmas menu will be available shortly, so please consider joining us to celebrate.

*Peter & Rachel*

***Pop-up-pub and Pimp-my-Fish***

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. 5.00 pm onwards.

Come along to the Reading Room and support these two local businesses. The Reading Room facilities will be available to enjoy your meal together with a drink and a chat, and there will be an entertainment area for small children.

*Reading Room Committee*

***St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up***

The autumn churchyard clear-up will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10 am - 12 noon. Everyone is welcome – please come and lend a hand, or just have a chat. As always, doughnuts and coffee will be available.

*Cobby McCall (290046)*

***This is My Theatre***

Save the date! The Christmas performance by ‘This is My Theatre’ will be

**‘The Nutcracker and the Mouse King’**  
on 10<sup>th</sup> December in St Mary’s Church. Time to be confirmed.

Tickets will be available to purchase from their website: [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com)

*Jane Pryor*

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**FRIDAY 7TH OCT**

**Weston Colville Circular Walk**

The next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, meeting at the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards; refreshments available. Come and join us?

*jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475*

**West Wrattling Progressive Supper 2023**

There has been a good response to this so we will go ahead with our Progressive Supper 2023 on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023. If you live in West Wrattling and would like to take part, please let me know.

*Sherry O'Donovan (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)*

**St Andrew's Clayday**

Once again we had a great morning, with 21 guns and a number of supporters.

Our thanks go to all those who took part and came along for hot weather and a challenging shoot, and supported our cause in raising over £2,000. This would not be possible without Richard and Jackie Clarke at Wadlow Lodge looking after our shooting followed by lunch – many thanks.

*Simon Sampson*

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**West Wrattling Café**

Hi everyone! We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer, and as we move into autumn we look forward to welcoming you to our Saturday morning café in West Wrattling village hall on Saturday 1st October, 10.30 am to noon. There will be homemade cakes, coffee and hot chocolate and of course, a chance to catch up!

*Sherry (290070) and Jan*

**Tea and Cakes**

It was a reflective and busy Tea and Cakes in September, being in the middle of national mourning. It was lovely to see the Reading Room full. Thank you to all who attended and made it a special Tea and Cakes.

The next meeting will be Friday 21st October in the Reading Room, 3.30 - 5.00 pm as usual.

*Val and the team*

**Litter Picking**

Thank you to ALL regular litter pickers in West Wrattling and Weston Colville, and in particular those who have responded to recent calls for assistance. It is so much appreciated by villagers and visitors. More equipment is being sourced.

Just a few points to consider while picking near roads:

1. Always wear something bright in colour
2. Always wear protective/gardening gloves
3. Always use a litter picker and bags
4. Some of the ditches are deep. Save your ankles by borrowing an extendable picker.
5. Do not rely on vehicle drivers to maintain your safety by changing their driving style. Be vigilant and stay on the grass verge where there is one, or close to the road edge.
6. Picking litter beside the roads with small children and dogs in attendance increases accident risk and should be avoided. Luckily, we have plenty of beautiful off-road paths and byways which are much safer.

The litter pickers previously placed in Weston Colville telephone box were removed and despite requests, have not been returned. If you would like to borrow pickers or need collection bags provided by South Cambs please contact me.

*Jo Jackson (291258 or via village WhatsApp) and Cobby McColl*

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**October Lunch Club at The Chestnut Tree**

Peter Causton cooks us a wonderful two course lunch every month, usually on the third Thursday of the month but in October, because they will be away on the 20th, the lunch will be on Wednesday 19th October.

*Suan Rowland (suanrowland@btinternet.com, 290788)*

**West Wrattling Oil Syndicate**

There will not be a West Wrattling oil syndicate order this month. The next order is scheduled for November; details in next month's Challenge.

*Phil Tempest (westwrattlingoil@gmail.com)*

**Christmas Wreaths**

Come and make your Christmas wreath with expert help, and get ahead with the Christmas floral decorations. All materials are provided.

Save the date – Saturday 3rd December, 10 am at St Mary's, Weston Colville. Cost £25, with all proceeds to the church.

The creative session will be followed by soup and sandwiches. Do join us for a great morning! Further details in November's Challenge.

*Philippa Coate*



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### Furniture Available

Due to downsizing and decluttering, I have:

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- ◆ two dressing tables, one dark and one light
- ◆ coffee table, large, dark colour.

Interested? Call me – take a look – make an offer.

*Chris (290547)*

### Home Recycling Workshop

The recycling educational officer from SCDC is presenting a workshop for all recycling issues on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October in the Reading Room, Weston Colville. Come join us with issues/ideas or submit questions via the village WhatsApp group. Tea/coffee provided.

*Village Green Group*

### Recycling of Electrical Items

South Cambs has installed eight new pink recycling banks for small electrical items such as hairdryers, toasters and phones. These are all over the district and Cambridge. The nearest one to us is in the Tesco car park at Fulbourn.

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### ***Parish Paths Partnership***

Due to the dry weather, most of our paths remained manageable throughout the summer. Ploughing and drilling was delayed somewhat by the continuing hard ground, but is well under way. As usual, there may be a time gap between ploughing and drilling before reinstating cross field paths. Ollie Wright, the estate's new manager, will do his best to reinstate them as soon as he can.

Two cross-ditch bridges are in poor shape. The council has been informed and hopefully they will be repaired shortly.

Ollie advises that Lordship Field and Coronation Field will be sowed with flowers (apiarists please note!) in a two year cycle. Meanwhile walkers are welcome to take clippers and cut any brambles etc encroaching on the paths.

Neither Ollie nor myself can be aware of any problems on the paths all the time, so do please call us, and we will do our best to remedy the situation.  
***Cobby McCall (290046), Ollie Wright (07885 549176)***

### ***West Wrating Book Club***

After our summer break, we met at The Chestnut Tree to discuss 'The Adoption Papers' by Jackie Kay and 'The Nowhere Man' by Kamala Markandaya.

The first part of 'The Adoption Papers' is the story in verse of the adoption of a black baby by a white Scottish family and contains echoes of the author's own life story. The verses alternate the voices of the birth mother, the adoptive mother and the child, identified by different typefaces. It was agreed that it was an interesting concept but the typefaces had not really helped. Two people did like it more than others, with one enjoying the verse form although the

other agreed it was not really coherent. The second part was a selection of different poems which contained sometimes uncomfortable images from recent decades relating to class and ethnicity. It was a difficult read, some of which might warrant re-reading. Scores were 5 and 7 out of 10.

First published in 1972 but set between the 1940s and 60s, 'The Nowhere Man' was considered a much better read if, as one of our number commented, somewhat uncomfortable and upsetting. With themes of discrimination, scapegoating of immigrants and racist violence, it charts how social and economic problems brought about changes in attitudes to those who as part of the British Empire gave to and suffered so much for Britain and, at first, felt welcomed. Comparisons to 'Small Island' were made by some. It was frightening how unfounded rumours and misunderstandings could lead to such dreadful outcomes. Sadly this is still relevant today with the latter magnified by social media. Although it might seem to be a grim book, it is a powerful and suspenseful read with a dramatic ending. Scores were 8, 9 and 10 out of 10.

Our book for October is 'My Pen is the Wing of a Bird: New Fiction by Afghan Women' with a foreword by Lyse Doucet. We will meet at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

***Linda Gorman (290653)***

### ***Gritting Volunteers Needed, 2022 - 2023***

This is a request for volunteers for this winter season.. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who took part in our Community Gritting Scheme last winter.

For those hearing about the Community Gritting Scheme for the first time, this is a scheme where local volunteers can help to keep their community moving in freezing weather. Under this scheme, the parish or town council decides on specific routes in their area which are important to the local community and agrees them with the county council.

A link to the Community Gritting registration form:  
[http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Community\\_gritting\\_registration\\_form](http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Community_gritting_registration_form) or please contact the parish clerk on:  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com) for further details.

***Mira Nichols, Chair, West Wrating Parish Council***

### **West Wrating Parish Council**

The following is a précis of matters discussed at the parish council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Draft minutes will be found on the noticeboards.

The chairman paid tribute to the Queen following her death, and a minute's silence was held.

#### **Councillors:**

- a) *Co-option of new councillor:* Emma Parsons was proposed and seconded and the council then voted to co-opt her.
- b) *Vice Chairman position:* Cllr Williams-Gray offered to take this position and was accepted by the council.

**Planning:** there had been no new applications.

*22/02487/LBC – 81 High St:* the parish clerk will check with the Conservation officer if planning permission has been given and also check what work is being carried out.

*S/02931/19 – Wadlow Farm Clay Pigeon shooting facility:* following an item in Challenge about late shooting at this facility the parish clerk had been told by Richard Clarke, who is in charge of it, that the opening hours were 8.30 am to 7 pm. No parties were allowed and any infringement would risk his livelihood.

*Proposed development of The Lamb and site owned by Borehams:* there is concern about soil contamination by chemicals. The chairman will contact the SCDC Contaminated Land team.

**Finance:** authorised payments are shown in the draft minutes posted on the noticeboards.

- a) *External auditors:* external auditors have accepted the letter of exemption for a full audit.
- b) *Parish clerk's gratuity:* a vote was taken following the distribution of details and it was agreed a gratuity payment would be made when the clerk resigned or retired.

#### **Maintenance:**

- a) *Highway problems:* a list of all the work needing to be carried out within the village boundary had been sent to Highways several weeks ago, with no response. The parish clerk will write to Lucy Frazer (MP) about this and also about the delay in getting the poles for SID.
- b) *Pocket park:* it was agreed to look into the cost of a new access gate.

c) *Condition of five trees planted this year:* Cllr Lock reported on their condition following a request from SCDC after the very dry summer. Cllr Lock said that two were definitely alive and hoped the other three would soon show signs of life.

**Recreation Ground:** the main issue at present is the parking on roads when WWFC training and matches are held, often without thought of where they park. Chris Wiseman (PCSO) will be contacted for his advice and also it will be mentioned in the letter to Lucy Frazer.

**Play area:** a swing was reported broken. Ben Wilcocks made an emergency repair and then contacted Action & Play, the company who erected the equipment, who came and checked all the swings.

**Youth club:** a request had been made to discuss setting up a youth club. It was felt that the cost of setting this up and getting people to run it on a regular basis would be difficult. Storage of equipment would be a major problem. Those who are interested might like to contact Iain McCall who wrote an article in Challenge.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November and all are welcome.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

### **Volunteers needed to join West Wrating Parish Council**

Are you interested in helping shape the life of your village?

Our local environment, road safety, recreational facilities, planning and housing issues are just a few of the areas where we get involved to help make a positive difference to our community.

At the moment the Parish Council is made up of five members of the public, assisted by our Parish Clerk.

Meetings are held on Mondays at 8 pm every two months. If you are interested in joining our team, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

To find out more please contact our Parish Clerk,  
Jennifer Richards  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com)  
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**Weston Colville Parish Council**

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The full minutes and meeting documents can be found on <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

**Public Participation Session** – a parishioner provided a copy of a report he had created about flooding, and offered to assist the Flooding Committee with drafting a letter for parishioners advising them of their riparian responsibilities, as he felt the County Council leaflet on this was not enough. He had concerns about the wall bordering the Stour on Common Road, and felt that this should be replaced and could be made higher to reduce flooding. He also expressed concerns about the culverts on Common Road, and that ditches were not being kept clear, following hedge cutting for example.

**District and County Council reports** – lengthy discussions were held on the proposed congestion charge to drive into Cambridge. Cllr Batchelor advised that getting as many people as possible to comment on the consultation when it was published would be of benefit. There was also a discussion about SCDC operating a four-day week.

**Flooding** – Cllr Garrod reported that the Flood Plan had been updated, with maps showing the flood zones in the village. The actions had been updated with the digging out of the grips and gulleys on Common Road remaining outstanding. An updated version will be published on the website. Cllr Vidler had received an email from Brian Heffernan with a suggested letter for parishioners, it was suggested that this letter was distributed to all parishioners in the village. Cllr Garrod will draft the letter, for approval at the November meeting.

**SID and LHI** – bidding will reopen at the end of October, but the criteria would be changing, and projects such as acquiring a MVAS sign, or speed reductions, would be separated from bigger projects. Cllr Ashbridge had been asked to speak to the Thurlow Estate about a contribution to the LHI bid. The council was keen to hold applying until a concrete proposal for traffic calming was proposed.

**Footpaths** – changes to the permissive path/bridleway from the bottom of Horseshoe Lane had not been made due to a change in the Rights of Way officers at the County Council. Cllr Durham will remain in touch with the landowners.

**ICO** – following the Internal Audit report, Cllr Pagonis would investigate whether to register with ICO as data controller at an annual cost of £35.

**Risk Assessment/Health and Safety** – the defibrillator was rescue ready on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2022** – 3<sup>rd</sup> October (planning), 7<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December (planning).

*Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*



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**District & County Councillors' Report**

**Cost of Living** – the latest South Cambs magazine contains a two-page spread of information that may be of use, as well as content on the website that points people towards support available: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

**City Access Consultation** – a ‘Sustainable Travel Zone’ road user charge has been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body currently implementing the upgrades to the A1307) for private vehicles between 7 am and 7 pm on weekdays. The plans are part of a package to improve public transport, reduce congestion in the city and help the environment through lower emissions. A £5 congestion charge to drive into and around Cambridge is being considered as part of a ‘once in a generation’ plan to shake up how people travel during the working week.

Whilst driving in the city could be more expensive, the GCP has revealed plans to make buses cheaper. Flat bus fares have been proposed. In Cambridge a bus ticket could cost £1 to travel in the city, with a ticket in the wider ‘travel to work’ area (where we are) to cost £2.

This is still very much a proposal at this stage. What this could mean for us, is cheaper, more frequent bus travel. We would like to hear your thoughts on this, as we represent the views of the electorate here, so please do let us know.

**Four Day Week Trial** – the District Council has announced that they are going to trial a four-day working week, initially for 470 office workers. The trial will run for three months from January 2023. Detailed planning is underway to improve working practices and to support staff to work more efficiently. Detailed performance measures will be put in place to judge the success of the trial. The expectation is that around £1 million can be saved if staff retention and recruitment improves leading to a reduction in reliance on expensive agency staff.

*Geoff Harvey, SCDC (geoff.harvey@gmail.com)  
 Henry Batchelor, CCC (henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)*

**www.westwratting.org.uk**

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Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

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**Update: Flooding Matters in Weston Colville**

This is just to provide a brief update on matters relating to flooding in the village.

The heavy rainfall incidents in August after a long spell of dry weather provided a reminder of the risk posed by surface flash flooding around the county and closer to home in the village. This recent rainfall was nothing like the extreme event of June 2016, when a number of properties in Weston Colville were badly affected by flooding, but a reminder of what could be in store for us as the climate warms.

While the parish council continually challenges the District and County Councils to maintain the surface drainage systems within the village, the responsibility rests on individual land and property owners to maintain water courses that run both through and adjacent to their properties. These ‘rights and responsibilities of a riparian owner’ are set out in a document produced by Cambridgeshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). This document is referenced in the Weston Colville Community Flood Plan, drawn up two years ago by the parish council and which can be accessed via the parish council website at [www.westoncolville.or.uk](http://www.westoncolville.or.uk). More information on riparian responsibilities can also

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be obtained from the County Council by emailing [floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

The Flood Plan has recently been updated and now includes in the appendices additional maps highlighting the areas in the village which are particularly at risk of flash flooding. It also includes recent actions in the village by the County Council to mitigate flooding, including drain clearance on Mill Hill and the cutting of grips from the road to the ditches along Chapel Road.

Village residents can help mitigate the risk of flooding by helping to keep all drainage ditches clear of vegetation and other impediments and looking out for blocked grids on road gullies (in the August heavy rain, many grids around the village were blocked with straw blown from lorries transporting bales). Straw can easily be removed but mud and stones might need more encouragement! Keeping the gullies clear enables surface water to get into the surface water drainage system and away from property. If you see a blocked grid that you are unable to clear yourself then please contact one of the Flood Wardens listed in the Community Flood Plan; there are five wardens in the village. We can all play a role in helping to mitigate the risk of flooding in our village by keeping our streams and ditches clear and looking out for impediments to drainage from the road surfaces into the drains and ditches. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Hydrosacs and Hydrosnakes (modern day sand bags!) are now available for use by all village residents. They are located in locked bins behind the bus shelter at Weston Green and adjacent to the telephone box and Church End. The Flood Wardens have the digi-codes for the locks and the codes can also be obtained from any member of the parish council.

*Weston Colville Parish Council*

West Wrattling Football Club



First Team Fixtures for October:

Type	Date / Time	Home Team	Away Team
L	01/10/22 15:00	Witchford 96 First	West Wrattling First
CHAL	08/10/22 15:00	Foxton First	West Wrattling First
L	15/10/22 15:00	West Wrattling First	Foxton First
L	22/10/22 15:00	Wisbech St Mary	West Wrattling First
L	29/10/22 15:00	West Wrattling First	Ely City Reserves

Reserves Fixtures for October:

Type	Date / Time	Home Team	Away Team
L	01/10/22 15:00	West Wrattling Reserves	Foxton Reserves
CJUN	08/10/22 15:00	Cambourne Town Men	West Wrattling Reserves
L	15/10/22 15:00	Mott MacDonald First	West Wrattling Reserves
L	22/10/22 15:00	West Wrattling Reserves	Mott MacDonald First
L	29/10/22 15:00	Abington United First	West Wrattling Reserves

Nature Notes

It's the season of mellow fruitfulness. There is a massive crop of haws on Hawthorn trees and hips on the Dog Roses this year.

It is a good time to start feeding the birds again, especially the clueless youngsters who've never yet seen a winter. Marsh Tits are much in evidence at feeders; Joyce Oliver had one feeding on the ground along Mill Hill. Please let us know if you see any, through [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) or **Challenge**.

Photo of the Month goes to Len and Ben Eeles, who spotted a Raven in Church End, Weston Colville on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Ravens are bigger and heavier than Buzzards. The smaller bird above it is a Jackdaw, to give you an idea of the size difference. This Jackdaw had the good sense to stay above the Raven; it takes



time and effort to gain altitude, so the Jackdaw could escape if the bigger bird tried to catch it.

The Raven's call is a distinctive deep 'cronk' – once heard, never forgotten. It sounds a bit like a bow-saw catching in dry hardwood.

Raven intelligence is legendary. The Nobel Laureate Konrad Lorenz had a rescue Raven called Roah, which had a 7 cm dagger-like beak. Corvids are known to remove eyes from dead animals and Lorenz wanted to see if Roah would attack his eyes. While the huge bird was sitting on his shoulder, he brought his eye up close to the lethal beak. Roah pulled its beak away, but when Lorenz persisted, the Raven put two and two together. It thought that Lorenz wanted to be groomed. So from then onwards, whenever Roah landed on Lorenz's shoulder, it would very gently groom his eyelashes with its enormous beak. (I do hope that *nobody* tries this with any animal!)

*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group*



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**Balsham WI**

We began our September members' meeting by paying tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II, who was a fellow member of the WI, and dedicated over 80 years of her life to the Institute. It was lovely to reflect and reminisce together.



The rest of the evening was spent enjoying some light-hearted games including Boggle, Jenga, and Articulate, and we also enjoyed tea and cake. The evening finished with us singing 'God Save the King'.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, will be a talk on the history of underwear, which sounds like it will be an interesting and entertaining evening.

*Sarah Evans (290802, balshamwi@gmail.com)*

**Balsham Horticultural Society**

Welcome to the first meeting of 2022, when Harold Gawthorp will talk on 'A Lifetime of Growing & Showing.'



Please note the new evening and new venue: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm at Balsham Church Institute. Refreshments and raffle. All welcome.

*Hazel Leeson*

**West Wickham & District Local History Club**

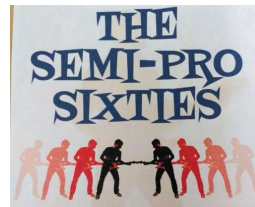
Interested in maps? If so, you might enjoy our first meeting of the year, indeed our first meeting with an outside speaker since before Covid.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall, 'Cambridgeshire in Maps: Saxton to Satnav' with Tony Kirby.

New members are more than welcome, as are non-members (with a small charge). Why not come along for what should be a fascinating talk?

*Janet Morris*

**Linton & District Historical Society**



We are pleased to welcome David Caulfield to speak to us on 'The Semi-Pro 60s', a meeting postponed from last year due to Covid restrictions.

We welcome new and old members to join us on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, starting 7.30 pm at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. Parking opposite in the Health Centre car park.

*Margaret Creek*



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**Balsham Picture House**

The film for October in the Balsham Church Institute will be 'Little Women' (PG). Critics said this 2019 film was "a timeless masterpiece of this much loved story".



**BALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE**

In the years after the Civil War, Jo March (Saoirse Ronan) lives in New York and makes her living as a writer, while her sister Amy March (Florence Pugh) studies painting in Paris. Amy has a chance encounter with Theodore "Laurie" Laurence (Timothée Chalamet), a childhood crush who proposed to Jo, but was ultimately rejected. Their oldest sibling, Meg March (Emma Watson), is married to a schoolteacher, while shy sister Beth (Eliza Scanlen) develops a devastating illness that brings the family back together.

**SAT. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 7 for 7.30**

Guest visitors £3, annual membership £12 for adults. Dave's bar will be open for pre show drinks and nibbles as usual.

**Dick Paden**

**The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth**

**October Half Term Activities – 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October,** 8.30 am - 5.30 pm. Contact [info@slsportanded.co.uk](mailto:info@slsportanded.co.uk) to book a place.

**Live Music Night – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 - 11 pm.** Featuring The Kitchenettes, Tom Penn, The Kitchen Choir and acoustic duo 2CC. Bring your friends for an evening of music, snacks and drink. Tickets £15.

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



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There are some items the collection points cannot be used for, for clinical or regulatory reasons. These include:

- Controlled drugs like morphine and oxycodone;
- Drugs that need to be stored in a fridge;
- Very large bulky items.

The 24/7 collection points add to the range of ways you can now access your medications – direct at the dispensary counter, in the comfort of your own home with our free home delivery service, and now at a date/time of your choice.

For further information and to register, pick up one of our collection point forms or contact us via [granta.dispensing@nhs.net](mailto:granta.dispensing@nhs.net), stating which collection point you would like your medicines dispensed from. Our friendly team are here to help. Please note that you do need to have a smartphone to use this service.

### Flu Clinics 2022 - Reminder

Have you booked your flu jab appointment yet? If not, but you are eligible, ring 0300 234 5555 now to book your appointment.

**Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**  
(0300 234 5555, [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net))

### Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Appeal



Last year 10.5 million boxes were sent around the world. This year two thirds of the boxes packed in the UK are going to Ukraine and the countries around which are supporting those who have fled the war.

This message is to encourage you to get involved again (or for the first time) and to fill a shoebox. It is a way of showing God's love. Each box may be the only gift a child will receive. So often items are treasured for years after and even into adulthood. Adding a photo or short message in the box means so much (no address).

There are various ways to get involved:

- Fill a whole shoebox with suggested items;
- Donate one or more items;
- Make a donation which can be used to buy items or for transport costs;
- Pack an 'on line box' for £20; you can choose the gifts via the website.

<https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk>

Suggested items include stationery, toiletries (not toothpaste or liquids), toys, jewellery, hats, gloves, scarves, paper, balls, socks, . . . (there is a long list on the web site, see below, along with items to avoid).

Age groups: 2 - 4, 5 - 8, 9 - 14 yrs; Boys or Girls

Covered shoeboxes can be used or you can pick up a preprinted flat pack box from me along with an information leaflet.

Collection week is 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> November, when you can drop off filled boxes or items at my house (or see other drop-off places on the website).

**Jane Furlow (893232, 07745 046921,**  
[jane.furlow@gmail.com](mailto:jane.furlow@gmail.com))

### 1<sup>st</sup> Horseheath Brownies

During the summer we had a fun afternoon with some US Girl Scouts who had been touring the UK for three weeks. It was great to see the older Girl Scouts talking to the Brownies about the differences in each country.

The plans for the county sleepover at IWM Duxford are coming together. We know that we will be

'sleeping under the wings' of the planes in the huge hangar closest to the M11. I hope the weather is nice otherwise we are going to be a bit chilly in there.

We are planning a Scottish evening, as St Andrew's Day falls on a Brownie night, and we also have Christmas crafts planned.

**Pauline & Katie** ([horseheathbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:horseheathbrownies@gmail.com))

### **Girlguiding Linton District**



During the summer, our Horseheath Brownies had fun fitting eleven Brownies into a ridge tent (says Pauline: "what fun we had putting up the tents – so much fun we did it twice, once outside and once inside the hall, where one Brownie asked if we were banging in the pegs! We didn't, of course") and our Linton Brownies visited the Sedgewick Museum, having fun with all things rock.

This year was our first 'East meets West' camp, when all the Guides and Rangers of both counties Cambridgeshire East and Cambridgeshire West joined together in a giant week-long camp at our Girlguiding Anglia activity centre at Hautbois in Norfolk. Rainbows and Trefoil Guild members from both counties also went for a day visit. Our Linton girls slept in shepherds' huts, and got up to all sorts, including campfires, scrapbooking, blindfold activity trails, paddle boarding, rock climbing, and high ropes. The sun shone and everyone had a great time.

All our units have an action-packed term ahead. Come and join in the fun and have your own guiding adventure! Rainbows 4 - 7, Brownies 7 - 10, Guides 10 - 14, Rangers 14 - 18, Inspire 18 - 26, and Trefoil Guild 18+.

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

### **Meadow Balsham**

We arrived back to school to have received a letter to the school from Her Majesty the Queen thanking us for writing to her to share our celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee. The



letter was accompanied by a beautiful card with photographs of the Queen. The day we were planning to share this with the children in assembly was the day after the sad announcement of her death. The children were delighted to have received the letter and we marked her life by observing a period of silence in assembly.

This term learning has begun really well with lots of curiosity and engagement. The Infants are focussing upon 'Footsteps through Time', as their autumn learning, with a particular focus on Mary Anning. Year 3/4 are looking at 'Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes' and Year 5/6 are focussing on the Victorians and are off to Burghley House for an experience day. We are also looking forward to welcoming our families for our 'Welcome Meeting and Bedtime Story' evening and sharing information about our curriculum, with a focus on how to support maths at home.

We have also welcomed a new school catering company – Innovate. Our school cooks have moved across to their company and are continuing to cook up a storm. Innovate has provided some new equipment and exciting new menus. The children and staff are loving the new food choices and our kitchen staff look great in their new uniforms!



If you have any skills or knowledge that you think would benefit our school community then please do let us know. We welcome visitors and helpers into school to enhance our children's learning experiences. All helpers are required to have a DBS check to meet our safeguarding requirements.

As a member of Anglia Learning, we are lucky to receive some funding to improve our school facilities each year. This summer our Y3/4 toilets were refurbished, much to the delight of children and staff. We are now waiting for the rear perimeter fencing to be replaced at the bottom of the school field and on the KS1 playground.

**Nichola Pickford, Head**

Oct	9.00 am	10.30 am	6.00 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/ Kwabena Asare (from the charity Compassion UK)</i>	
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Morning Worship (9.30 am)</b> – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship (9.30 am)</b> – West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Morning Worship (BCP)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Coll</i> <b>Morning Worship (9.30 am)</b> – West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i>	<b>Holy Communion (11.15 am)</b> – Balsham, <i>Rev Michael Wilcockson, Rural Dean</i>	<b>Evening Prayer (4.00 pm)</b> – Gt Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>

## DIARY

### October 2022

- Sat 1 West Wrating Café  
Weston Colville Folk Evening  
Balsham Picture House, 'Little Women'
- Wed 5 Balsham Gardening Club
- Fri 7 Pop-up Pub, Pimp-my-Fish, Weston Colville  
Live Music Night, Ellesmere Centre
- Sat 8 Weston Colville Circular Walk
- Mon 10 West Wickham & District Local History Club
- Tue 11 Recycling Workshop, Reading Room  
Balsham WI
- Tue 18 Linton & District Historical Society
- Wed 19 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree

### November 2022

- Mon 7 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Sat 8 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
- Mon 14 West Wrating Parish Council
- Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville

### December 2022

- Sat 3 Weston Colville Christmas Bazaar  
Christmas Wreath Making, St Mary's
- Sun 10 'The Nutcracker & the Mouse King', St Mary's

Revd Iain McColl  
tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)  
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister  
tel: 290396 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)

#### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443

**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz), 07779 277647

**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Community Warden:** Lucy Cameron,  
[Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk), 07436 102865

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

**Mobile library: fourth Thursday:** 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov  
High Street, West Wrating 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October,  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Blue & Green bins:** Mon 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October,  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Editor:** Anne Bragg ([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.

**November issue's copy date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct**