

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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West Wrating Saturday Café

Spring is almost upon us and we would like to welcome you to West Wrating Café on Saturday 4th March from 10.30 am until noon at West Wrating village hall.

We had a very successful café in February, welcoming new faces as well as our established supporters.

Please join us for tea, coffee, hot chocolate with all the trimmings, and of course lovely home made cakes. See you there.

Sherry and Jan

Tea and Cakes

Thank you to all attendees to T&Cs recently. It's great to see the Reading Room almost full! Thanks also to those who, monthly, donate cakes and goodies.

Our next gathering will be on St Patrick's Day, Friday 17th March, 3.30 - 5.00 pm in the Reading Room. Drop in for a brew!

Val and the Team

Weston Colville Winter Lunch

5th March, 12.30 for 1 pm,
in the Reading Room

- Superb Sunday roast, pudding and coffee
- Vegetarian/vegan option available (please indicate when booking)
- Bar
- Raffle
- Great company!

Tickets (£16 per head, or £7 for primary-aged children (5-11); under 5s free) from

janepryor6@gmail.com or *moathouse@icloud*

There are only sixty seats available, so book early!

Raising funds for St Mary's and Reach, Haverhill

Try a Typical Bosnian Menu

Dalila is inviting anyone who is interested to join her in sampling some typical Bosnian food at lunchtime in the Reading Room Warm Hub on Monday 13th March at 1.00 pm. She will make Bey's Soup, Bosnian flatbread (Somuni), a delicious Bosnian Pie, and a very traditional Bosnian dessert called Hurmašice.

If you think you might wish to attend, please let me know in advance so that we can estimate likely numbers. This is a rare and unusual opportunity and we are most grateful to Dalila for suggesting the idea. There will be no charge. Donations towards the cost of the ingredients would be appreciated but are not essential.

Bob Coates for the Weston Colville Warm Hub
(07785 361345, cheviotbob@me.com)

Dog and Cat First Aid

- Which human foods are poisonous to dogs?
- What are common ailments in cats and dogs and how do you remedy them safely?
- Have you the confidence to treat at home and when should you call for professional help?
- Can you identify the worrying signs that require a mad dash to the vet versus booking an appointment next week?



Join me in a free interactive first aid session at 2 pm on Friday 10th March in the Reading Room Warm Hub. There will be a short talk, activities and discussion. It's not a slide show, I promise!

Jackie Brearley MRCVS

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Book Exchange at Church End

In February we changed almost all the books in the exchange, so have a look and see if there's anything you or your children would like to read. There's something for everyone.



We have added a Comments/ Suggestions book so please feel free to give us the benefit of your ideas – the Exchange belongs to you!

We are keeping a few books in the Warm Hub for anyone who wants to sit and read or take a book home but it would be useful if we had a small table top bookshelf to keep them on, so if anyone has one we can borrow/have please get in touch with one of us.

We had a good response to our plea last month for more books but we always need more so, as usual, if you have books to donate, a handful will fit in the red box that's on the floor, and if you have a bag of books to donate, just leave them on one of our doorsteps, or call Joyce on 07980 404764. Happy reading!

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

d'Abo Tennis Club AGM

The tennis club AGM will be held on Wednesday 22nd March, 7.30 pm at The Old Vicarage in West Wrating. We would be delighted to welcome new faces and anyone who might be interested in becoming involved in the running of the club. If you have any questions about what might be involved please contact: secretary@WestWratingTennis.co.uk or call 290179.

Cally Wilson

Get ready for



Keep the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd April free for a pre-Easter Celebration in West Wrating Church. 4 – 5 pm.

For kids of all ages.

**Bonfire and Sausage Sizzle,
Cakes and Egg Hunt.**

St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

The spring clear-up will take place on Easter Saturday, 8th April between 10 am and 12 noon.

Everyone is welcome, and, as usual, hotcross buns, coffee and tea will be available. Looking forward to seeing you.

Cobby McCall (290046)

Weston Colville Circular Walk

The next walk (of approximately five miles) and lunch will be on Saturday 11th March – we'll meet at the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome – come and join us?

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

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**Coronation Bank Holiday: Monday 8th May
A West Wrating Street Party?**

The King's coronation is on Sat 6th May, and communities are being encouraged to come together over the bank holiday weekend to hold neighbourhood street parties, etc.



As it's such a short time since we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee last June, some people may feel they are not keen on doing a party all over again? Or interest in the Royal family is not like it was?

However, this coronation will be quite an historic occasion, so perhaps it is important for us to celebrate it in some way – particularly as it would be something for children to remember it by.

To keep it simple, a possible plan for the Bank Holiday Monday (8th May) would be to hold a BBQ lunchtime street party in The Causeway. Everyone would bring their own BBQ or picnic food, and drink. Tea and cakes will be provided, and there'll be some games and competitions for the children in the church grounds. Rachel and Pete from the Chestnut Tree have offered to provide a basic bar.

Please respond with your comments and suggestions. But, more important, are there some folk in the village who would like to help with organising it?

Scilla Harvey (Scilla.harvey@btinternet.com)

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

Footpath Mess

We have so many lovely walks around West Wrating – much gratitude to the footpath team!

In recent years there's been a radical improvement in the bagging and binning of dog eggs. I'm sure I speak for all, this is also much appreciated.

However, out of the blue in February I find I'm picking up several individual droppings from the same dog, off the asphalt footpath down The Causeway, even from right outside our house.

Children play on this path, and it is used by scooters and walkers, so could I please remind all dog-walkers to be responsible, stay aware of your pet, and help continue the upward trend.

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Litter

Congratulations to Thomas Wishart on winning the litter-picking 'Oscar' for autumn 2022.



The 'Oscar' is, of course, a piece of molten aluminium picked up from the remains of a burnt-out car at the Weston Colville end of Fox Road.

Burnt-out and abandoned cars are often removed by the salvage companies at minimal cost, or even free, the salvage companies recouping their costs by dismantling the car and selling the contents on. For example, aluminium sells for about £2,000 per ton.

The litter picking teams in both West Wrating and Weston Colville are just about coping with general litter, but if anyone sees an abandoned car or a fly-tip, please give Jo Jackson or Cobby McCall a call, and we will make sure it is dealt with as soon as possible. Alternatively, get in touch with South Cambs at scdc@scambs.gov.uk or telephone 01954 713000, giving the location. If you do this and have time, please contact us and let us know what you have done, so we can monitor the situation.

Jo Jackson (07798 525300)

Cobby McCall (290046)

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Parish Matters

It is good to be back in the parishes after six months sabbatical when I was not allowed to take services! During my time off I have reflected on the past and how I might go forward in the future. The realisation that my time needs to be used wisely was a frequent thought. In looking back I saw how God has worked through me in amazing ways to reach out to many different people. At the heart of this was showing God's love for each of us. Bishop Stephen recently spoke of "time as love", whether to help someone or pause to be quiet, and know that whatever you do it is a gift.

This gift for me was coming back to the congregations within our benefice, knowing they were my family and realising how much I had missed them, catching up with their stories, celebrating good news and mourning those we have lost. The future then for me will be finding the space to notice God's creation and pray for our fractured world.

Noticing the changes in the season is always a good thing to do. Spring is beginning to take shape with more daylight in the evenings and new life in the bulbs that are growing in our gardens. My favourites have always been snowdrops, with petals moving gently in the breeze.



As you enjoy our countryside maybe you will experience a very special moment, like R S Thomas did. He was a Welsh priest and poet, who wrote the poem 'The Bright Field' to describe a shining of grace, beauty, inspiration and epiphany, where we fleetingly encounter the divine or feel a deep connection to the universe. Let us take time to notice.

The following is a short extract from 'The Bright Field':

Life is not hurrying on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past. It is the turning aside like Moses to the miracle of the lit bush, to a brightness that seemed as transitory as your youth once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

As you read this article we will have already moved into the period of Lent, but in the lead up to Easter Day may we be open to those special moments that are so fleeting but also very uplifting.

Rev Kathy Bishop

Parish Nursing Service

In 2015 the Granta Vale Churches launched this service for an initial three-year trial period. Eight years later and after three outstanding nurses – Teresa, Claire and Kim – I have to tell you that the service will be closing from the end of February 2023.

Although of course I make this announcement with some sadness I am also immensely proud of what it has been possible to achieve during the time the service has operated, both in terms of providing support to individuals and their families but also in helping to support and develop caring communities within our villages.

As some of you will know Kim our Parish Nurse is retiring and it has not been possible to recruit a suitable replacement, accordingly the Parish Nurse

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Management Group and the churches have decided to celebrate what has been achieved and end the service. We are however actively exploring other options by which we can continue to support our communities. Kim has discussed with all existing patients arrangements for their future care; should you have any concerns regarding a health matter may I please encourage you to contact Granta Medical Practice. Should you wish to discuss a spiritual matter please feel free to contact any member of the Ministry Team. May I, on behalf of the Management Group, please offer my sincere thanks to all who have supported the Parish Nursing Service in any way over the past eight years.

Keith Day

Weston Colville Parish Council

Weston Colville Parish Council has vacancies for parish councillors to join the council by co-option. Anyone eligible is invited to consider whether they feel able to take part in the work the council carries out for the benefit of the village, and in helping influence decisions taken at higher tiers of government to ensure that the views and opinions of the villagers of Weston Colville are taken into consideration.

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Examples of the tasks parish councillors undertake include commenting on local planning applications, maintenance of the playgrounds, speed indicator device data collecting and management, flooding working party, and being a point of contact for parishioners in relation to local matters.

If anyone feels able to put themselves forward in this way, please contact the clerk, Jess Ashbridge, on 07779 277647.

If you would like information as to what this voluntary role involves in more detail, and its impact on your 'spare time', do contact us.

- Please note that candidates must be eligible, ie:
- be aged 18 years or over, be a qualifying British or Commonwealth citizen, and be on the electoral roll in the parish;
 - or, during the whole of the twelve months before he/she is nominated as a candidate, have occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish;
 - or, during the same period, have resided in that area or within three miles thereof;
 - or, during the same period, had his/her principal or only place of work in that area.

Jess Ashbridge,
 Clerk, Weston Colville Parish Council

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West Wrating Book Club

We read two short books for February: 'The Sense of an Ending' by Julian Barnes and 'The Lover' by Marguerite Duras.

The latter is based on the author's own life in 1930s Saigon, South Vietnam (then part of Cochin China) and, later, France. It describes the love affair of a young French girl with a rich young Chinese millionaire and the effects on her family. Nobody enjoyed reading this book. It is a book of its time and, probably, something new which may explain why it won France's Prix Goncourt. With today's changed sensitivities and awareness, it was not a comfortable read despite some very good, even beautiful descriptions. Scores were between 3 and 5 out of 10.

'The Sense of an Ending' was a better and more rewarding read with people finding it fascinating, enjoyable, amusing but uncomfortable in parts. It starts with an older man remembering his last year at school, as one of a group of three teenage boys beginning to find their place in the world, 'book-hungry, sex-hungry, meritocratic, anarchistic'. A new boy joins the class and, almost by default, becomes part of the group, changing the dynamics and affecting later events. It examines how friends drift apart as well as the way that earlier relationships can



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affect later life and actions. The two men in our number admitted that they could relate to some of the early events, while most felt that they had said or done things in the heat of the moment which they later regretted or thought better of. Scores were mainly between 7 and 9 out of 10.

We will meet at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15th March to discuss 'Landlines' by Raynor Winn, the third in the series of books about her and her husband and the walks they go on.

Our next books will be 'Foster' and 'Small Things Like These' by Claire Keegan (both short), meeting on Wednesday 12th April.

Linda Gorman (290653)

West Wrating Football

Seniors' 1st Team – the First team is having a strong season, sitting top of the league. We are also still in both cup competitions, having reached the quarter final of the County Cup and the semi-final of the Premier Cup.

We lost one of our defenders when Ashley Botten sadly suffered a double leg break in last week's game at Huntingdon. We have some key players returning from injury to the squad so hopefully that will give us the push we need to continue through to the end of the season. A Just Giving fund page has been set up for Ashley, with all donations very much appreciated.

(Lee Miller, Manager)

Seniors Reserves – the Reserves are doing really well. We have a great balance of old and new players. We are currently third in the league, and in one quarter-final and one semi-final. We have a chance of winning the league as well as the cups.

(Andy Gage, Manager)

Youth – all is going very well, with very little change.

Blanche Miller, WWSPC Secretary

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TechClinic#2

When Google is Frugal, the PC is At Sea or the iPad goes iPlod, you need the Tech Clinic!

Thank you to those who made the February Tech Clinic so successful. We will run another session 11 am -2 pm on 31st March in the Weston Colville Reading Room Warm Hub.

As well as attempting to diagnose those irritating issues on your phone, tablet or laptop, we'll add a short presentation which may be of general interest. It's a very informal event, but let's see if we can help out with those annoying tech issues which inhibit easy use of today's devices. We can't promise to solve every problem but we can point you in the right direction.

There will be free tea and coffee, perhaps even a biscuit or two! Last time most people found it beneficial to 'listen in' to one another's concerns and gain insights from the conversations that followed. We will have Simon and David (The Experts) on hand to resolve those pesky issues or give advice where we are able, and direct you to possible resolutions where we can't help immediately.

David Poulton & Bob Coates
 for the Reading Room Warm Hub (07785 361345)




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Bowling Green in West Wrattling

The West Wrattling Sports Pavilion Committee is looking to upgrade and repurpose the old bowling green behind the pavilion building.

The most popular idea so far is to build a multi sports court to allow the area to be used for netball, basketball, hockey, five-a-side football, volleyball etc. We would love to encourage more sports to be played in the village and have new clubs and societies join the pavilion to share in the excellent facilities that it can provide.

Please email me with suggestions and ideas as to how best we could use this piece of land to benefit residents of West Wrattling and the surrounding areas.

Chris Hodson (dr.c.hodson@hotmail.co.uk)

Snowdrop Festival

Shirley Shadford will again be opening her garden for the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival on 5th March, 2 - 4 pm, Clover Cottage, 50 Streetly End. Snowdrops, hellebores, iris reticulata and daffodils will be on sale, and teas available. Adults £3.50, children free.

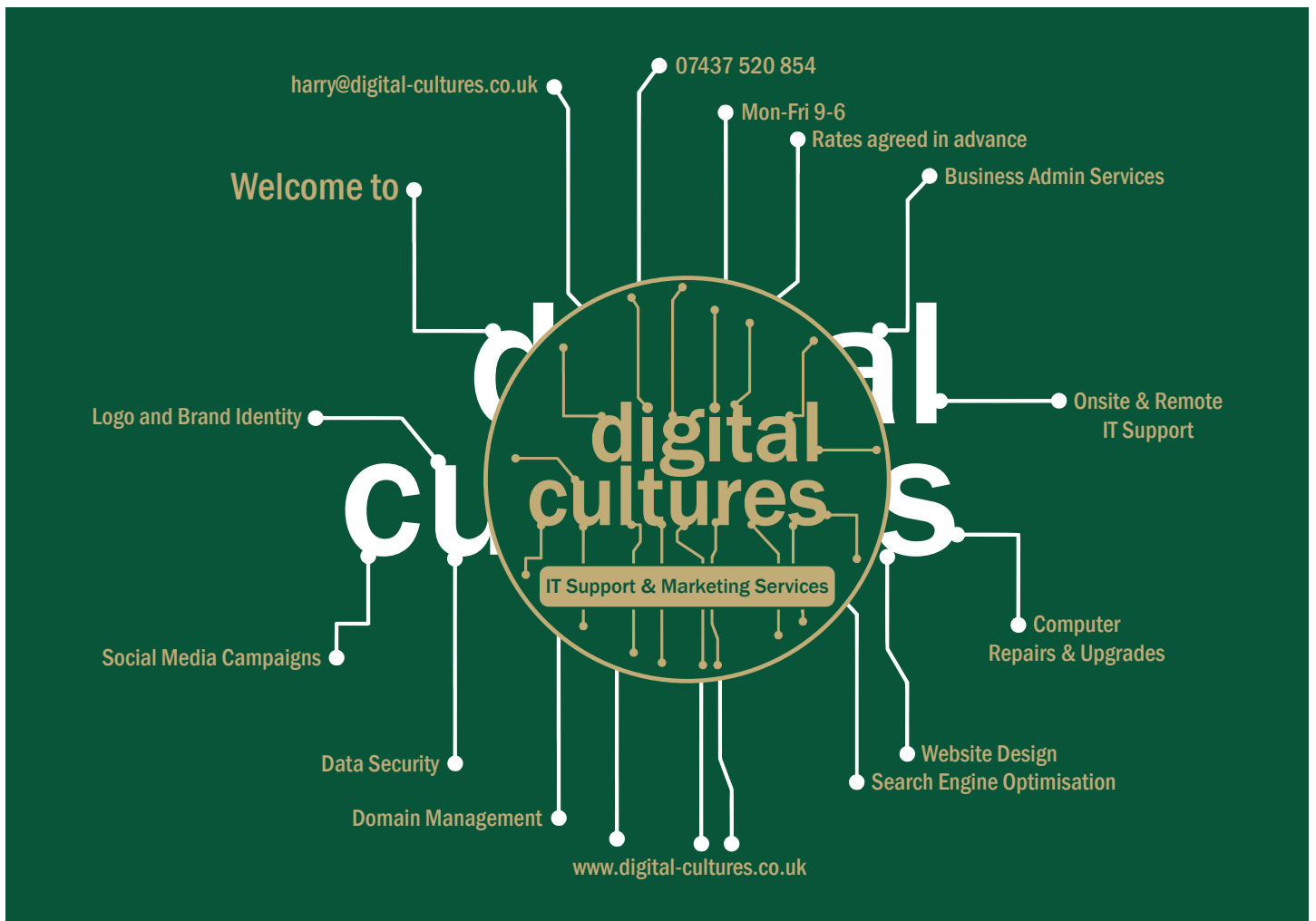
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Nature Notes

Now is the absolutely best time to see Marsh Tits in your garden. The trees and shrubs are not yet in leaf and the birds are hungry. They’ve just come through winter and they feel the need to expend a lot of energy defending a territory and raising a brood. For that they need food and water and nesting material, and they’re prepared to travel from the woods to get it.

If you live within half a kilometre of a deciduous wood and put out sunflower hearts, water and cotton wool now, you are far more likely to see a Marsh Tit. (NB not horse or long hair, please – it’s dangerous to chicks). In the last ten days before writing this, Joyce Oliver has recorded multiple sightings of three different, colour-ringed Marsh Tits at her feeders in Weston Colville, plus new unringed birds. It’s a bonanza! Because they’re ringed, we can give you a CV for each bird: Joyce’s known visitors were ‘Useless Eustace’ (Red over White over Green), ringed as a second-year immature in 2018, so now six years old; ‘Henry’ (Green over White over Red), ringed as a juvenile in 2020, now three years old, and ‘Rasputin’ (Black over White over Black), ringed as a

juvenile in 2019 and now four years old. It’s important to note that the wild life span of Marsh Tits is estimated as two years, which means that the estimate is wildly wrong or Weston Colville is a special place with unusually long-lived birds. It also indicates that colour-ringing does not reduce the survival of these birds – an important point for me as a conservationist birdringer.



Note that Marsh Tits are essentially black and buff birds, about the size of a Blue Tit: there’s no white in the solidly black cap

and no green, or yellow, or reddish tints at all.

If you see a Marsh Tit, even unringed, please let us know, through cambsmarti@gmail.com or [Challenge](https://www.challenge.org.uk). Your data is critical to their survival in the UK. Thank you.

Enjoy the daffs and the springing of spring,
Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

www.westwratting.org.uk


for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

Balsham Picture House

On Saturday 4th March – **Fisherman's Friends One and All (12)**, the sequel to the 2013 hit film.



BALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE

Following the unexpected success of the band's debut album "No Hoppers, Jokers and Rogues", we re-join them almost a year later, struggling with the pressures, pitfalls and temptations of their newfound fame, second album syndrome, and performing on the pyramid stage at Glastonbury.

THE BUOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN
FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS ONE AND ALL

Stars inc. James Purefoy, Dave Johns, Sam Swainsbury, Imelda May

Sat. 4th March 7 for 7.30

Doors open 7 pm and film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute; guest visitors £3, and annual membership £12. Dave's bar will be open for pre-show drinks and nibbles as normal.



Advance notice for our Saturday 1st April evening – the recently released and widely acclaimed film **The Banshees Of Inisherin (15)**.

Dick Paden

Balsham WI

The theme for our February meeting was 'Show the Love' which was very appropriate with it being Valentine's Day, although in this case it was all about self-love as we welcomed two very interesting speakers who are experts on looking after yourself. First up was Laura Hawksley of LifeMarks, who specialises in Biodynamic Massage and Scar Work. Laura explained how scars from trauma and surgery can cause stiffness and pain after time and how light touch massage can go deep into the cells to promote relief no matter how old the scar is.



Next, we had Bodyshop at Home consultant Charli, who had brought along a selection of products for us to sample. She also gave us an interesting talk on how Bodyshop founder the late Dame Anita Roddick built her ethical beauty business from humble beginnings over 40 years ago and her charity work helping the children of the Romanian orphanage crisis in the 1990s. We had a fun quiz and plenty of time to sample and order some of the lovely products. Charli is on Facebook under 'Beauty and the Beag' – do look her up if you are a fan of the Bodyshop, she has promotions and offers happening regularly.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th March and we will be welcoming local bee keeper and expert Andrew Durham for a talk on the Asian Hornet. These non-native species pose a serious threat to our honeybees and are as invasive as Japanese Knotweed so this will be especially interesting for the gardeners among us.

We are a friendly bunch and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion.

Sarah Evans (290802)

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Balsham Bowls Club

After a revitalised season and enjoyable tour in 2022 we finished the year with another successful Bingo night and hot supper at the beginning of December. It was nice to see people from the village alongside members of the club.

2022 brought us a number of new and enthusiastic players to the game. We can now hopefully look forward to a stronger club for the coming year, where we plan to be entering more teams with therefore more game opportunities for the members.

We are also considering an internal club competition alongside the regular Monday roll up.

If you are interested in playing , we very much welcome new members to our club. Please visit our Balsham Bowls Club website, email balshambowls@gmail.com, or call Christine on 07530 649573.

The season will kick-off once again with an Open Day at the end of April (date to be confirmed). All members welcome, and anyone interested in having a go will be welcome to come along and find out more about the club and spend time with our coaches.

The club has been a successful and an integral part of the village since it was founded in 1946. Now more than ever we want to welcome any new and existing residents from Balsham and the surrounding villages to contact us and give the game a go.

Members of the WI enjoyed a great evening with us last year, and many people of all ages enjoyed a go at target bowls on Village Feast Day. Why not you too?

Bob Stigwood



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Balsham Gardening Club

Our first meeting of 2023 was a talk ‘Born To Be A Gardener’ given by Sharker Baxter.

Sharka was born in the Czech Republic and her childhood was spent mostly with her grandma helping with the garden, growing their own vegetables, and keeping chickens and rabbits. They preserved everything they grew, bottling and making chutney and jams. It was the ‘good life’ in every sense.

When she came to England, her aim was to get her children closer to nature and share their garden with wildlife, and to grow wildflowers. Sharker took an RHS course in horticulture and then became a volunteer at Wimpole Hall gardens. She started changing her own garden and added a pond. Friends began to ask for help with their gardens, and this led on to Sharker taking a gardening design course.

With her children now adults, she made a new front garden for a friend’s mother and this led to her starting her own garden design company, called ‘Utopian Gardens’. She was asked to make a small border for a stand at Chelsea for a company selling patio black spot cleaners. It was interesting for our members to see the slides of the development of the garden and stand. At our next meeting on Wednesday 1st March at 7.30 pm in the Church Institute, Dr Gwenda Kyd will be speaking on ‘Plants to Drugs’. All welcome.

Harold’s tips for March:

- Do not be in a hurry to sow seeds.
- Chit potatoes in old egg boxes.
- Plant shallots in a sheltered spot.
- Prune Roses
- Cut down grasses
- Keep off the ground if wet.

Hazel Leeson



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The Meadow School

The Infants’ artist of the month is Giuseppe Arcimboldo, famous for creating portraits from fruit



and vegetables. Year 1 created their own Giuseppe Arcimboldo inspired portraits.



School Readers: we are looking for volunteers to come in and hear children read. The children really benefit from and enjoy reading with adults in school. If you are able to spare a couple of hours a week, please contact me at nbutcher@meadowprimary.org.

Music: we had a visit from Linton Village College’s Proper Classical Orchestra at a special assembly. They played two movements from Handel’s Water Music Suite No 1, and were preceded by our two talented violinists, who both played their own solo pieces commandingly and with great musical skill. They were directed by our visiting violin teacher, Mr Partridge, who also teaches at LVC.

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head

Weston Colville Reading Room Available for Hire



for Parties, Functions, Fitness, Art, Hobby and Music Groups, and Meetings. Recently renovated with kitchen and bar facilities and sound equipment. Licence for Alcohol and Live Music.

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Help and Support When You Need It

To continue our series of articles about support available, this month we're highlighting some of the support that can be available for people who have some form of physical or mental impairment.

Council Tax discounts

The size of the discount depends on the make up of the household and it may be backdated. There are two main criteria:

1. Someone in the household has a **Severe Mental Impairment** which is defined as 'a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning that appears to be permanent'. This can come from dementia, profound learning difficulties, brain injuries, severe strokes and more.

You/they are receiving one of a number of qualifying benefits. This can include (but isn't limited to) means-tested and non means-tested benefits such as attendance allowance, disability living allowance, personal independence payment, some parts of universal credit, and severe disablement allowance.

2. **Disabled Band Reduction Scheme** – you may be eligible for this scheme if you live in a larger property than you would otherwise need, purely because you or another occupant is disabled.

If you qualify, your bill will be reduced to the next lowest council tax band. For example, if your property is in band D, you'll pay the band C rate. If your home is already in the lowest band (band A), you'll get a 17% discount on your council tax bill instead.

Visiting Support Service

SCDC offers a visiting support service to all residents over the age of 65 (or under 65 if you're in sheltered accommodation). That means any resident in the

South Cambridgeshire area, not just those in council housing.

The team offers free help with:

- Finances (eg setting up payment plans, applying for benefits, sorting out debt);
- Health (eg access to medical care, help with medicines and personal care);
- Loneliness (eg help to get out more and find activities you'd like to do).

It's surprising how much they cover. If you want to find out more have a look on the District Council website or ring 01954 713000.

It's also well worth while checking out other support that the council offers. For example, they may provide an occupational therapist to assess what simple safety changes can be made to a home, such as grab rails. They also have grants (eg Disabled Facilities Grant) to help pay for adaptations.

For more information on the above see www.gov.uk

*Suan Rowland (suanrowland@btinternet.com),
Diana Edwards, Jenny Knowelden*

Care Together

Care Together is a



programme led by CCC in

collaboration with local communities. The aim is to help more older people to remain living independently and happily in their own home for longer. It will change the way care and support for older people in the community is commissioned and delivered.

To ensure that it is helpful for you, we would like your participation in answering a questionnaire, which can be found online at: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/ or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.



If you do not have access to the internet, please call 01954 286 002 or 07771 545674 Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm to request a paper copy or if you prefer to answer the questions over the telephone instead of on

paper or online. Please leave a contact number if asked to do so. Alternatively, paper copies can be collected from and returned to St Mary’s Church, St Andrew’s Church, The Chestnut Tree, or the Warm Hub in the Reading Room, Weston Colville. Many thanks to those people who have offered to help with this.

Cambridgeshire County Council

Granta Medical Practice

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) survey will go live from 1st March, and will remain open until 31st March. Please find below the web link and QR code to take part. For those of you without access to a computer or smartphone, please call into any Granta surgery and pick up a paper copy.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KP86J9B

We would like to thank all of you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and thank you to our PPG committee who have worked tirelessly putting this survey together. Whilst we cannot guarantee to fix the NHS, we do really want to try and accommodate patient feedback where appropriate and possible.

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

Sandra East (sandra.east@nhs.net)



Gong Bath Meditation

I’ll be holding sessions in the Reading Room, 6.40 pm - 8 pm, on Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th March, £10 per time.

See *Astrophenical* on Facebook and Instagram for more details.

Charles Cavey

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH

Gong Bath Meditation

The Reading Room
Weston Colville CB215NX

18:40-20:00

£10
cash and card

Arrive early to relax into your space



Please bring a mat, a pillow and a warm blanket



Exam Invigilators, Linton Village College

We are looking to expand our team of Exam Invigilators who assist with both internal and external examinations. We are looking for confident, flexible individuals with effective verbal and written communication skills, who will be able to offer a reassuring presence to students in exam rooms.

Duties include setting up the examination room, distributing and collecting scripts, and supervising students during examinations, whilst working in accordance with set procedures at all times.

Full training will be provided. No experience is necessary, however invigilators should:

- have effective communication skills
- be able to relate to academic staff and students
- be able to work under pressure and to tight deadlines
- have a flexible approach to work
- have accuracy and attention to detail.

These positions are on a casual as-and-when-required basis throughout the academic year, with the main exam season in May and June. However, we also have mock exams in November and February and invigilators are required for these as well. Hours worked will usually be between 8.30 am and 4 pm, with an 8.30 am or 12.15/12.45 pm start.

If you are, or you know of someone who might be, interested please email me for further information.

Pauline Kenning, Examinations Officer,
(pkenning@lintonvc.org , 01223 891233 ext 389)

Marsh Mail

LVC students were busily involved in lots of extra-curricular opportunities in February.



A cast of 67 students from all year groups, supported by a tech team of 6 students, performed in 'High School Musical' at the start of the month. The plot of the Disney musical, based on the 2006 film, is set in an American high school and encourages students to be individual and true to their own beliefs and interests. Feedback from the school community and members of the public was fantastic. The students were thrilled to receive a standing ovation on the final night.

Years 8 - 11 students were involved in the South East Cambridgeshire Schools Debate semi-final, debating 'This House believes that the UK voting age should be 16'. MP Lucy Frazer was involved in judging the competition and was highly impressed by the quality of the students' debating skills and their confident performances. The selected winners were Will in Year 10 and Ben in Year 11, who will represent LVC at the debating final held at the House of Commons in March.



Mental health has also been a focus at the college over the last month with a number of male-only forums taking place to discuss how provision can be best accessed by male members of the college community. Mental health support has developed to include self-referral to a member of the mental health and wellbeing team. Lunchtime drop in appointments with the college counsellor are also available. All male mental health forums will continue to take place once each half term.

Helena Marsh

Planning and Parish Councils

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) informs parish councils when a planning application is lodged.

The parish council can only take into account certain matters when determining a planning application, and SCDC makes the final decision. We welcome comments on Material Planning Considerations, which include the following but are not exclusive; a full list is available on the SCDC website.

Some Material Planning Considerations

- *The principle of development* – do you agree that the proposal is the right use or function for the site?
- *Scale and massing* – is the proposal the right size for the site, and does it relate appropriately to the buildings and spaces around it? Will it cause unreasonable overshadowing or loss of daylight or sunlight?
- *Listed buildings and conservation areas* – is the proposal appropriate with regard to heritage, including listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments or other heritage assets nearby?
- *Green space and biodiversity* – does the proposal enhance biodiversity, are trees and hedges affected, and is any proposed green space well-designed to be functional and safe?
- Has the applicant considered *local wildlife or protected species* such as bats, badgers, owls, great crested newts and birds.
- *Streets and roads* – will they be safe and useable for vulnerable users, children, pedestrians and cyclists, as well as drivers?
- *Surface water, foul water drainage and flooding issues* – considerations as defined by national regulations and case law, so we can't take them into account when deciding on planning applications.

Please do not comment on:

- The loss of a private view from your property.
- Loss of value to your property.
- Moral objections – for example, to betting shops or amusement arcades.
- Photographs of your property, neighbour's property, people or number plates.

- Matters controlled by other legislation – for example, structural issues covered by Building Regulations.
- Offensive statements that have a negative impact on a person's reputation personally or within their trade, profession or business.
- Comments that discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Mira Nichols, Chair, West Wrattling Parish Council

Heeling in at Lower Wood

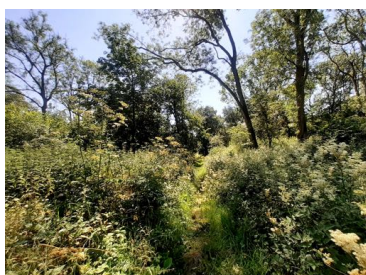
This poem was first published in Issue 99 of The Rialto poetry magazine as a result of being Highly Commended in The Rialto Nature and Place Competition 2022.

We work in pairs: one digging and planting,
the other setting guards and hammering stakes,
swapping every few trees to switch muscles,
the clay so thick we jump on the spade
then rock, front to back, side to side
to prise it out. Checking the size of each cleft,
we select from bundles in sacks: oak for a deep
one,

willow for a skinny one, hazel for a wide one,
tucking the roots down and heeling them in.

Two weeks from the end of the second year,
the day after my third jab, every damn sapling
is a metaphor, or an omen, and it can't
just be me thinking, this is the way
to spend an apocalypse: planting a wood,
pressing the earth snug, the warden nodding,
saying, That's good heeling in, that is.

Alison Binney, December 2021



Alison Binney writes: The poem was inspired by a day spent planting trees with the Wildlife Trust at Lower Wood, Weston Colville in December 2021. At that time, the omicron variant was causing covid case numbers to rise steeply once again, and tree-planting therefore felt like a grounding, hopeful antidote in otherwise unsettling times. For the sake of accuracy, I should say that it was a Wildlife Trust ranger, rather than the warden, who supplied the last line of the poem that day. But in writing the poem, I preferred the warm sound of the word 'warden', alongside the words 'snug' and 'nodding', so I have used a little poetic licence here in changing 'ranger' to 'warden'. The etymology of 'warden' – with its connotations of watching or guarding – also feels more fitting.

Warm Hub update

The popularity of the Weston Colville Warm Hub continues to grow. We remain most grateful to the loyal band of volunteers who have made this possible. We also acknowledge the support of Plumb's Diaries and several other benefactors who have provide gifts of time, refreshments and cash to assist this project. However the funding from SCDC, Weston Colville Parish Council and The Reading Room Trust ends on 31st March and so the Hub will close from that date. Discussions and representations are underway to explore what might be deliverable in the future, both to maintain successful events and to reinstate the hub for next winter.

The Wednesday Soup Lunches will continue until the end of March and a Tech Clinic is scheduled for 31st March. However the greatest success has been the informal social interaction which has taken place. No one can judge the value of individual, private conversations or the benefits of the casual chats over tea and a biscuit, except those who were participating in them.

Thank you to everyone who has engaged in whatever form and made this project a reality.

Bob Coates and the Reading Room Trust

LOL's Pizzas

Unfortunately the visit to Weston Colville Reading Room planned for 23rd February had to be postponed, because of staff illness, but a repeat visit is booked for Saturday 18th March.

MARCH	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
5 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall</i>	
12 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer – West Wrating, <i>Rev Ben Brady/Alistair Collen</i>
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Rev Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Great Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Rev Kathy Bishop</i>
26 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

DIARY

March 2023

- Sat 4 West Wrating Café
Balsham Picture House
Balsham Gardening Club
- Sun 5 Winter Lunch, Weston Colville
- Mon 6 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Fri 10 Dog & Cat First Aid, Reading Room
- Sun 11 Weston Colville Circular Walk
- Mon 13 Bosnian Meal, Reading Room
- Tues 14 Balsham WI
- Wed 15 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
- Sat 18 LOLs Pizza, Weston Colville
- Wed 22 Tennis Club AGM, West Wrating
- Wed 31 Tech clinic, Weston Colville Warm Hub

April 2023

- Sat 8 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
- Sun 9 EASTER SUNDAY
- Wed 12 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree

Rev Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Rev Ben Brady

01223 344920, revdbenbrady@btinternet.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, 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, 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: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Black bins: Monday 6th & 20th March,
Monday 3rd & **Tuesday 18th April**

Blue & green bins: Monday 13th & 27th March,
Wednesday 12th & Monday 24th April

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 23rd Mar, 27th April

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

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.

**Copy date for April issue:
Monday 20th March**



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