

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 Café

We're back after a break for the coronation weekend. Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be served from 10.30 until noon in the village hall on Saturday 3rd June. We look forward to catching up.

Save the date! On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July between 10 am and 4 pm, Café Studio will be supporting Emma Perring and other local artists and creatives who will be displaying their work in West Wrating village hall. The Saturday Café's loyal band of bakers and tea and coffee servers will provide refreshments over the weekend. Further details to follow.

Sherry and Jan

Tea & Cakes

Our next Tea & Cakes will be on Friday 16th June in the Reading Room, 3.30 - 5.00 pm.

Thank you to everyone who supports Tea & Cakes. It is great to see you all enjoying a chat over a nice cup of tea and delicious homemade cake.

We have an amazing team but really need a few more helpers, so please read the message below.

Val & the Team

Tea & Cakes – could you help once a month?

We need a few more helpers to keep Tea & Cakes going – could you help? It doesn't need to be every month. If you think you could help, contact Val Scott at valscakesuk@gmail.com

Things that need doing:

Setting out tables and chairs, getting out the games and toys and tidying up at the end

Making the tea, washing up

Baking cakes

Shopping – making sure we've got enough milk, tea, soft drinks etc

Jazz on a Summer Evening, 1st July

For local bookings, please email Jane on janepryor6@gmail.com to reserve tickets. This will save us the booking fee on Eventbrite. Thank you!

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Playground Renovation

Weston Colville Parish Council is keen to seek volunteers to join a working party to help rejuvenate the playground on the recreation ground. The working party will bring ideas back to the parish council for approval, and aid in sourcing new equipment and applying for grant funding from various sources.

If you would like further information, or if you would like to volunteer to join the working party, please contact me.

The terms of reference of the Playground Working Party will be decided upon at the council's next meeting, on Monday 3rd July.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk
(07779 277647, clerk@westoncolville.org.uk)

Weston Colville Circular Walk, c5 miles

We had a dry if slightly muddy walk with our new quiz champions last month, catching the bluebells in Lower Wood and looping via Willingham Green.

The next walk-and-lunch will be on Saturday 8th July; 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

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wrattling oil syndicate fill-up this month with an order cut-off of Monday 19th June at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at *westwrattingoil@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 (*westwrattingoil@gmail.com*)

St Andrews Clay Shoot

Once again Six Mile Bottom will be hosting our annual clay shoot, on Saturday 26th August. If you would like to join us for the morning plus lunch please let me know. It would be great to have more participants from West Wrattling.

The cost will be £190 per gun (excluding cartridges), from which a substantial contribution is given to St Andrew's Church.

Please feel free to call or email to discuss further.

Simon Sampson
(*simon.sampson@btinternet.com, 07887 726080*)

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West Wrating Book Club

Our book for May was ‘Sons and Lovers’ by D H Lawrence, and nine of us gathered to discuss this early 20th century classic.

The first section has a different feel to the rest of the book, which concentrates more on Mrs Morel’s and her children’s relationships. It jumps quite a bit from season to season so is sometimes difficult to follow. Set in a Nottinghamshire mining village, it concentrates on the Morel family. It opens with a description of the village and its development, and then gradually homes in on Gertrude Morel. It soon becomes clear that she is from a different class to her husband, having been attracted by his charisma and good looks, and the contrast to her father and her previous love. It dispenses some of the stereotypical ideas of a mining community as well as highlighting the strong desire for self-improvement and education, touching on class differences.

Intimacy, disillusion and family relationships are also major themes, with more than a hint of Freud. The descriptions of the towns, mines and countryside are vivid and evocative, especially for one of our number who knows the area well. The language and dialect were particularly fascinating and enjoyable.

This was an interesting and thought-provoking read. Scores were mainly 7 out of 10 with a 5 and a 9.

Our next meeting will be at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14th June, to discuss ‘The Cloisters’ by Kathy Hays.

Linda Gorman (290653)



www.westwrating.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.

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West Wrating Wedding

The d’Abo family want to inform West Wrating village that their daughter, Celina, is getting married on Saturday 1st July at West Wrating church. This may lead to a little extra traffic around the church in the early evening. The celebrations will take place that evening at West Wrating Park House.

Henry d’Abo

Hospital Transport Scheme

I recently requested hospital transport for an outpatient appointment at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, because I am unable to walk or stand and need to be transported in a wheelchair.

There is usually a telephone number to ring for transport on the appointment letter. When we rang the number, they were very, very helpful, booked me in and gave me a reference number. It is useful to book for the return journey at the same time and you will get another reference number which you need to take with you.

Tell the reception desk when you arrive that you are using hospital transport for your return and they will ensure it all works.

On the day of the appointment I had a telephone call to say the ambulance would be here in about 30 minutes and it arrived on time.

I found the transport scheme very helpful and would recommend ringing to ask if you are eligible for hospital transport.

A West Wrating Resident

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From the Rectory

Summer is here! For many, despite the variable British climate, that means more time outside, enjoying hopefully warmer weather and the beauty of the countryside which surrounds us. I especially enjoy walks between our villages and bike rides with my family at this time of year, when we often try and take some snacks with us or stop at a local pub for refreshment! If you find yourself on a walk or ride through our villages, do remember that our church buildings are always open during the day for any passer-by.

There is something about being outdoors and appreciating the wonder of creation which may naturally lead to praise and thanksgiving. This is echoed in the Bible in psalm 19: 'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands' and in these words of the prophet Isaiah: 'the whole earth is full of His glory'. These inspiring words remind us that, as the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins put it: 'the world is charged with the grandeur of God'. They may also give us a deeper sense of the sublime, and help us to cherish the world around us.





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With this in mind, this summer we plan to have an outdoor service once a month within our group of churches. Indeed, there are now an increasing number of churches around the country who do something similar. In some places it's called Forest Church or Walking Church; we have settled on calling it Outdoor Church! There will be the opportunity to walk, talk, listen to a reading, and be attentive to the beauty of the world around us, as well as giving thanks for the gift of creation. All are welcome to come along, and please feel free to contact me if you'd like to find out more.

As we look forward to the beauty of summer and the great outdoors, let's also find times to be attentive; to recognise the wonder and mystery of places, people and things. This in turn may help us to feel more fully human; to be grateful for simply being alive; and to share this joy with others.

Revd Iain McColl

Bells of St Mary's Church

Residents of Weston Colville at Church End / Mill Hill may have been startled to hear the bells of St Mary's chiming in recent weeks – probably the first time they have sounded for more than 25 years – and perhaps you heard them on the afternoon of the coronation, or for the service at St Mary's the following day.

As someone in the village remarked, back in January, "They've rung for the coronation of every monarch since there have been bells in that church; won't it be a shame if they're silent this time around?"

So over the last few weeks a little group came together to make sure this didn't happen. This group was made up almost exclusively of people who had



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never pulled a bell rope before, including eight children and young people.



The bells at St Mary's are not cleared for full-circle ringing and can currently only be 'chimed'; nevertheless, this didn't stop everyone learning to chime 'in thirds' and to make a reasonably recognisable sound of church bells in rounds. We rang for 35 minutes before the special coronation service on Sunday 7th May, and again at noon to mark the loyal toast. Before all this could begin it was necessary to get the bells looked over by

an expert, and we are grateful to the Diocesan Bell Advisor, Tom Ridgman, for his visit and report, which left us with a long list of things to do! With enormous help from Oliver Mills and John Heald we have made our way down this list.

We must also thank Dr Mike Rowland for his input and for hosting our little group at St Andrew's, West Wrattling, to improve our technique, which he certainly achieved.

The first sounding of the bells at St Mary's in a generation has been registered and recorded as part of the nationwide 'Ring for the King' coronation initiative.

With a little further work, it may be possible to recommence full-circle ringing at St Mary's. The exciting question now is: where do we go from here? Anyone interested please get in touch.

Ian Ashbridge (ian@agrarian.biz)

RINGING FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA

On Sunday, 7th May 2023
 Weston Colville, Cambridgeshire
 St Mary

Chiming

Chimed rounds in thirds in celebration of the coronation of Charles III

Kaye Morris	Maureen Garrod
Esther Morris	Emmeline Ashbridge
John Heald	Beatrice Ashbridge
Anna Heald	George Ashbridge
Sam Heald	Ian Ashbridge
Alex Heald	Jane Wheeler
Emma Kaye	

First sounding of bells for a service in at least 25 years



West Wrattling Football

The Seniors First Team won the Cambridgeshire Senior League (top photo), and the Seniors Reserves won the Cambridgeshire County Division 1A League. Both teams have worked extremely hard, and winning managers Lee and Sean, Andy, Brian and all are very proud of, and happy with, their amazing achievements.

Blanche Miller



West Wrattling Youth Football

Youth football has finished for the season, and we want to celebrate the accomplishments of all the teams. The Under 13s did especially well, having won their league.

We want to remind West Wrattling and the surrounding villages that there is room for more football teams at the club. If anyone has an interest in helping set up new youth teams or a women's football team, please get in touch.

Fundraising is underway to regenerate the old bowling green behind the pavilion. We hope to install a multipurpose court for 5-a-side football, hockey, basketball, netball etc. We hope that this will encourage more team sports to make use of the pavilion and facilities.

Chris Hodson

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Joanna Sanders (sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

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Collection for Ukraine

The collection held in late April for food, hygiene and medical items, so desperately needed in Ukraine, prompted another marvellous response and demonstrated the enduring support for the plight of those adversely affected in Ukraine.

Tony Collett, Saffron Walden Rotary



West Wrating Parish Council

This is a précis of the minutes taken at the parish council meeting held on 11th May. The date had to be changed due to insufficient councillors being available to attend.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman: the position of Chairman was left open and Cllr Williams-Gray agreed to remain as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Parsons agreed to be representative on the Sports Pavilion Committee and Cllr Roberts will be asked if he will continue to also be a representative as he was not present.

Planning: the clerk was asked to enquire from the Planning Dept whether the work being carried out on the Boreham site was permitted as planning permission had not yet been granted. Also to enquire about 22/02487, where work has been carried out although the planning permission had been refused.

Finance: the internal audit documents were signed; Statement of Accounts and bank reconciliation also signed following approval by the council. An exemption letter sent to the external auditors was minuted as being in order.

The authorised payments are shown on the draft minutes to be posted on the noticeboards and on the website.

Maintenance: the risk management assessment had been carried out, necessary for the internal audit, and quotes are being sought for refurbishment of some of the village assets, eg the bus shelters and the pump. Some of the tidying up could be done by volunteers.

Correspondence: SCDC has confirmed receipt of the Assets of Community Variation.

It was agreed to donate £100 to MAGPAS Air Ambulance following receipt of a letter. They had attended two emergencies in the village.

Village Hall: Martin Davey and Tim Bonfield are happy to continue to represent the council on the Village Hall Management Committee, for which our thanks.

The present trustees on the Land Registration document re ownership of the village hall are no longer on the council or living in the village. The clerk will consult a solicitor.

Recreation Ground: the RoSPA safety inspection has been carried out satisfactorily on the play area. It was agreed that bark should be purchased for areas where required.

The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 10th July at 8 pm. All are welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

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West Wratting Parish Council

Extracts from the minutes of the West Wratting Annual Parish Meeting, held on Monday 15th May.

Chairman's Report: see separate document.

Following the chairman's report a presentation was made to the chairman, who is retiring after nine years as a councillor and four years as chairman. She was thanked for what was not always an easy task but which she managed in a most capable and understanding way.

Parish Lands & Properties: quotes have been sought and received for maintenance work on the Pump House, the bus shelters and the village sign. It is hoped that some of the maintenance will be done by volunteers.

Any Questions: new residents to the village asked if the parish council had communication with Highways regarding speeding, and how planning applications were dealt with. The Chairman explained that there were close links with Highways and at present an application for a 20 mph speed limit within the village had been submitted. The 40 mph buffer zone had been instigated by the council several years ago, and monitoring the traffic with Speedwatch equipment was continuous. She then explained how the parish



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council dealt with planning applications, which the council was expected to comment on, either for or against. Planning meetings were held when necessary.

Chairman's Report

Since our last meeting there have been several changes to the membership of the council. Councillor Locke has resigned. On behalf of the council and residents, I thank her for the excellent work she has done and made our community a better place. She will be greatly missed. We have a new councillor, Cllr Parsons, Welcome. Cllr Williams Grey is elected as vice-chairman.

The last year has presented many challenges. WWPC has been in constant discussions with relevant authorities to provide a community communications hub. The council seeks to support statutory and emergency services in the local community through the provision of information, local social assistance and communication. Contributions are made to local charities such as Age Concern and the air ambulance which was recently called to two emergencies.

The council has continued to carry out a range of village activities including maintenance of verges, the Pocket Park, and the recreation ground. There is liaison with the relevant authorities to repair potholes and clear gullies and drains.

Many residents volunteer in different ways; examples include litter picking, tidying verges, helping those in need, raising funds for charity and more. We are so lucky that so many people have a sense of community. The council would like to thank all those in our village and beyond for all the good neighbour acts helping those who are in need.

The council holds a large number of properties and lands in the village, some small (two noticeboards,



benches and the Pound etc) and some very large (including the sports pavilion and village hall). A risk assessment was carried out and it was noted that repairs are needed on the pump and stand and the village sign. Quotations are underway for this.

The village hall is such a valuable and important asset and my thanks go to the Village Hall Management Committee. Not only have they maintained the fabric of the hall but improved it. The hall is now fully operational and in a strong financial position. Mr Davey and Mr Bonfield have agreed to be the representatives on the Village Hall Committee on behalf of the council. Mr Davey is exploring installing broadband in the hall.

The recreation ground and sports pavilion are excellently managed by the Sports Pavilion Committee and football club. A grant was obtained to refurbish the changing rooms. There are proposals for solar panels and a change of use for the no-longer-used bowling green. I have resigned as representative, and Cllrs Roberts and Parsons have been nominated. The AGM is due to take place on the 17th May.

Cllr Parsons, on behalf of WWPC, is now maintaining the defibrillator at the sports pavilion.

The council has a wonderful refurbished playground, much admired by several villages and well used and well maintained. A safety inspection by RoSPA has taken place and some minor issues will be addressed. A request is made to replenish the bark.

The council has taken the step again of raising the precept by the RPI. It is important to note that it is recommended that the council hold at least a year and a half's precept in reserve. The financial position is good, with adequate reserves of money.

Road safety is taken very seriously by the council and current projects involve Highways road safety measures to bring awareness of speeding. The council had purchased its own speed devices, and now poles to support these devices, and would like to thank Mr M Davey and Mr T Bonfield and other volunteers for their continuing work on Speed Watch. The council has applied for a Local Highways Initiative grant to purchase further speed restriction, eg sharks teeth and gating. Cllr Chandler is working with SCDC to restrict the speed in the village to 20 mph. County Cllr Batchelor is investigating signs saying 'Not Suitable for HGVs' in the roads approaching the village. At the request of residents there are now dedicated spaces for parking for residents of Hayter Close.

There are proposals to continue with maintenance and improvement of the Pocket Park to promote a wildlife habitat.

The *Challenge* magazine is supported by the council and is very useful resource for all. Thank you to the editor and all other contributors, and also to Dr Mike Rowland for managing the village website.

I would like to thank all the parish, district and county councillors and C McCall, as foot path officer, for the generous time and effort that they give so freely to the West Wrating parish.

Congratulations to Rachel and Pete for their hard work of running The Chestnut Tree, not just as a successful business but as a community hub. Their hard work is greatly respected and held in high regard.

Lastly but importantly I would like to give my personal thanks and on behalf of the PC, to Jenny Richards, the parish clerk, for all her assistance, advice and professional expertise.

Mira Nichols, Chair of Parish Council

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West Wrattling Village Hall – the management committee has held five meetings this year.

Village hall use returned to normal with the resumption of Tai Chi, FitSteps and the Saturday Café. Sadly there was a mid-year break in the Keep Fit sessions, due to the personal circumstances of the leader. These are now back on track. We also have new regular bookings for dog physiotherapy sessions.

At the start of the year we reinstated our normal hall hire fees. Despite the recent substantial rise in energy costs we decided not to increase our fees this year, but we will keep this under review. Our bank balance is lower than this time last year because of increased maintenance expenditure but our financial situation remains healthy.

Maintenance issues have kept us busy. Following a number of remedial measures the 5 year Electrical Installation Condition Report (NICEIC) is now satisfactory. Subsequently a defective ceiling light and emergency light have been replaced. Sticking fire exit doors have been eased. The internal kitchen door and bi-fold doors continue to stick intermittently as the building moves, probably with changes in the weather. This is not new and we don't have an answer to the problem.

We are still collecting quotes for painting the north façade of the hall.

The faulty front door lock has been replaced and the 13 key-holders have been issued with new keys.

Routine servicing of the fire alarm system and of the boiler has been completed. We have had one oil fill of 800 litres.

Externally, we now pay for grass cutting and hedge cutting and these have been well maintained. A deficiency in the rear boundary fence was allowing

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adventurous children to access the Lamb Yard. This gap has now been boarded up.

Once again I thank the committee for their continuing support and decision making during the past year. Maggie Attewell and Mick Lock have again kept bookings and financial accounting on an even keel. Diana Edwards has produced excellent minutes of our meetings and ensured that all our technical servicing and inspections were carried out in a timely manner. Again, I thank you all for your inputs.

Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

West Wrattling Café – this is held in the village hall on the first Saturday of every month, 10.30 - noon, when fresh coffee and homemade cakes are prepared and served by a rotating group of helpers.

Toys are available in the hall for children. Donations for coffee and cake provide the cafe with funds to support local causes, most recently the Granta School garden.

There is usually a good turn out and a buzzing atmosphere.

Jan and Sherry

d'Abo Tennis Club – the club continues to thrive, with the court being used on a regular basis by a strong family membership. The club's finances are sound with a reserve being built up to pay for a new court in the future. The court surface has been recently cleaned and will be repainted in the coming year. It continues to play well, with a convenient online court booking system. New members are always welcome, and existing and new members can sign up and pay online via our website. Further information for prospective members is available on our website – www.westwrattlingtennis.co.uk/



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Lunch Club – Peter at The Chestnut Tree has continued to provide us with scrumptious lunches every third Thursday of the month. This service is much appreciated and valued by all attendees. Thank you to Peter and Rachel for all the good times we have had and in particular, for the huge effort they put in through lockdown to ensure we were able to deliver hot meals to so many in our villages.

Suan Rowland

West Wrattling Football Club

Seniors report – Lee Miller, manager of the First team with assistant Shaun Sowdon, are very pleased and proud with the team winning the Cambridgeshire Senior League, an amazing achievement.

Andrew Gage and Brian Holmes, Reserves Managers, are also very pleased and proud with the Reserve team winning the Cambridgeshire County Division 1A League.

The First team and Reserves both also won the Leagues in 2017 under Michael Bavester.

Blanche Miller



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Weston Colville Annual Parish Meeting

This was held on Wednesday 3rd May, and was attended by Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham (Vice Chair), John Garrod, Constantine Pagonis, Jessica Ashbridge (clerk), and five parishioners.

Extract from Chairman's Report – in the last year the council has continued to carry out a range of village maintenance and to support activities including:

The Platinum Jubilee Celebration – the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June last year were attended by a large proportion of the village and the vast majority hailed it as a great success. I would like to pass on my thanks to ex-councillor Ashbridge who chaired the group planning the event. Unfortunately, there was insufficient support for a similar event for the King's Coronation.

Flooding in the village – the flood prevention working party has built on last year's successful work programme by updating the flood plan for the whole village, and is still looking for support from riparian landowners and the County Council Highways department to ensure its actions are completed. Flood wardens are in place to deal with any incidents. I would like to thank Councillors Garrod and Durham for their hard work in delivering this.

Maintenance of roads and verges – the council implemented its usual verge cutting programme and continued to provide street lighting for the village. A notable success was the completion of the drainage work at Church End and clearing a lot of the road gully pots on both sides of Mill Hill. Progress was also made with getting potholes repaired and gullies and drains cleared. However, it seems a never-ending task and there are still many more potholes to fix.

Grass and hedge maintenance in the village – the council continued with its programme of grass cutting and hedge trimming around the war memorial, at the Church End playing field, and the play area on the recreation ground.

Play areas – an annual safety inspection of this equipment has also been carried out by an outside expert to ensure it meets current safety standards with the recommendations raised implemented alongside all other necessary maintenance work. I would like to thank ex Councillor Hubbard for carrying this out.

Annual budget for the parish – I am pleased to be able to report there will be no increase in precept for 2023/24.

I would like to end by thanking all my fellow councillors and our clerk for their time and effort in supporting the work and objectives of the council. I would also like to appeal for new members of the council to fill the two existing vacancies, to further the council's work.

Ray Vidler, Chairman

Report on The Warm Hub, by a member of the Reading Room Trust – the hub opened on 14th November 2022, and had 81 openings up to 3rd May. There had been 618 visits so far. The highest attendance day was the Bosnian Lunch (30), the lowest attendance had been zero! 16 volunteers, to whom the Reading Room Trust were extremely grateful, had been running morning and afternoon shifts.

The scheme was funded primarily by SCDC via ACRE and the WCPC. The Reading Room put up £500 and agreed to underwrite the project. Significant sums (over £600) had been received in donations from lunches and events.

Had it been a success? Yes and no. It didn't reach people who wanted to work in a warm place. We know of some villagers who were still at home in the cold alone. So, the Warm Hub concept may have been mistaken, BUT we have had some very important one-to-one conversations with a few people who were clearly lonely, perhaps depressed and in need of a friendly chat. This had included villagers who had been recently bereaved, or who had lost pets, and those who were carrying other burdens such as illnesses or delayed operations. They just needed a listening ear. There had been a few regular visitors who didn't join in the crowded events.

Several new ideas had really taken off, eg lunches, IT clinics, and veterinary advice sessions.

It had been cheaper to run than we thought. The Reading Room was quite efficient to heat. Other new hubs had reported similar outcomes.

We are looking to organise one or two more events/activities like health support with Linton Navigators and low impact exercise. ACRE came up with more funding, sufficient to open on Wednesdays and Fridays, possibly until the end of June.

Public Comments and Questions

A parishioner raised concerns about speeding entering and leaving the village at Church End. Vehicles were travelling at great speeds up and down the hill, where there were large vehicles exiting the property at the top of hill, and there was a dip in the road obscuring traffic. She asked about whether the speed limit could be lowered, and was advised that as it was the edge of the village this probably wouldn't be successful. She asked about the use of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). The council has the use of the SID one week in eight, as it was shared with other councils. It was suggested that a Local Highways Initiative (LHI) grant could be applied for, and the council could investigate purchasing a SID. Last time the SID was in Weston Colville it was on the hill in Church End.

A parishioner raised concerns about surface water flooding, and said that it had been the wettest March for 40 years. The Stour had flowed steadily through the ditch; however, it had looked high behind the properties at the junction of Common Road and The Green. He asked whether the council was aware of a hedge planting scheme by Highways on Common Road; the council had not been made aware of the planting. He also raised concerns regarding planning enforcement, and was advised that the department is very slow in responding to queries.

A parishioner asked whether funding could be applied for to improve the playground on the recreation ground, as there were a lot of young children in the village, and the current playground was quite tired. Funding could come from the Wadlow Windfarm, the National Lottery, or the parish council. It would be discussed further in the parish council meeting, but it was hoped a working party could be put together.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

Weston Colville Parish Council

A summary of items discussed at the meeting on Wednesday 3rd May, following the Annual Parish Meeting, is below. For the full minutes please visit www.westoncolville.org

Officers and Representatives:

Chairman	Cllr Vidler
Vice-chairman	Cllr Durham
Financial Overseer	Cllr Garrod
Combined Parishes Meeting Rep	Cllr Vidler
Footpaths	Cllr Durham

Tree Warden	Cllr Garrod
Flood Wardens	Cllrs Garrod and Durham, Alistair Douglas, Peter White, Faye Parker
Playgrounds	Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner
Co-opted Councillor	Emma Rayner

District and County Councillors' Reports were received. Cllr Batchelor expressed his thanks to the parish council for all they did to support the village. He was asked if there was any progress on potholes, and he advised that the clerk should email with any that were causing particular problems. He was also asked about the LHI (Local Highways Initiative) scheme, and applying for MVASs (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs) following discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting. The LHI was only now awarded annually in January; Cllr Batchelor advised that councils could also apply directly to purchase MVASs from the County Council, at a discounted rate.

Flooding – concerns were raised about the ditch between the Recreation Ground and the neighbouring paddock. The clerk will contact the farm manager at West Wrattling Estate to add it to the list for clearing.

Coronation Event – a decision had been made by the Reading Room not to host a Coronation event on the recreation ground due to changes in their insurance policy. There would be a celebratory church service on 7th May, followed by refreshments, and the bells would be chimed by children from the village, for the first time in more than 25 years.

Bus Shelter Vandalism – the bus shelter outside the Reading Room did not belong to the parish council. The clerk was asked to establish ownership with the Reading Room. The bus timetable had been removed, and the clerk would get it reinstated.

Playground – the Play Equipment Safety report from David Bracey was received, and Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner would work through it. Brackets were required for the basket swing at Church End; it was believed that these had already been purchased by a former Cllr. Cllr Pagonis would check. It was suggested that a working party could be established to rejuvenate the play area at the recreation ground, and the clerk would place an advert in Challenge asking for volunteers.

Date of next meeting – 3rd July.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

Linton & District Historical Society

Resplendent in his livery of scarlet tunic, black tricorne, blue waistcoat, black breeches and white stockings, Mike Wabe the town crier of Watton made sure no-one slept at our May meeting whilst giving an account of the history and anecdotes of his profession which have been passed down through time. Interspersed with the ringing of the town crier bell, Mike cheerfully entertained us for our final session until we resume in September.

We hope those supporting us throughout the difficult times of late have found something of interest. Thanks must go to Marion who has the unenviable task of compiling a list of speakers as well as running our raffle. Also to Del and her helpers who make sure refreshments are available.

Margaret Creek (ldhscamb@gmail.com, 893915 or 678835)

Balsham WI

Our May meeting was a celebration of the recent Coronation – members made themselves a crown to wear whilst enjoying a buffet supper and taking part



in a royal quiz. Everyone enjoyed sharing their stories of the weekend



celebrations, and some brought along memorabilia of past coronations to show.

We then had a reverse raffle and toasted the new King and Queen before joining in singing the National Anthem.

At our next meeting on 13th June a visit to see the Balsham Maze has been arranged, followed by tea and cake.

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.

Debbie Mower

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

Summer term means swimming! All children are taught by our swimming instructor weekly in our own school pool. We are so fortunate to still have this facility and also parents who



have very kindly donated towards the very expensive running costs. The children love these sessions and it is such an important life skill to learn from an early age.

Year 6 have completed their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) in English (reading comprehension; spelling, grammar and punctuation), Maths (arithmetic and two reasoning papers) and Writing. Whatever the results, we know how hard the children have worked and we also know that the tests do not reflect their character, personality, achievements and the amazing children they are. Our Teaching Assistants came to school early and cooked a banquet each morning for all of the Year 6 children: cereal, toast, fruit and bacon rolls. We were absolutely amazed at the amount of food our children consumed but this definitely set them up for the day!

We celebrated the King’s coronation with the children dressed in red, white and blue and regal headwear, and participating in different activities culminating in a whole-school recital of ‘God Save the King’ and a picnic lunch, indoors as the weather was not as kind as we had hoped. We had a great day!

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head

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Marsh Mail

We were really pleased to be the venue once again for the Linton Children’s Book Festival, a fantastic weekend of literary talks and workshops for children of all ages, including amazing visiting authors and illustrators. Many LVC students took part as volunteers and also benefited from sessions before the festival during the school day. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying the great variety of activities on offer, include a petting zoo in our Drama Studio!

LVC students have access to the Henry Morris Memorial Trust, a local charity that makes cash awards to young people aged 13 - 19 in Cambridgeshire. The fund was established to support individuals or groups of students to engage with travel or home-based projects. Many LVC students have benefited from enriching and educational experiences as a result of this opportunity.

This year, Kuba Chatkowski in Year 9 was amongst the students who were successful in achieving a financial grant from the Trust. He made use of this to independently initiate a visit to meet the Prime Minister of Romania over the Easter holidays at Victoria Palace in Bucharest. Kuba’s interview was recorded and photographed and he received a state medal from the Prime Minister in recognition of his initiative. I am really proud of Kuba for the Linton Learner qualities that he demonstrated.



Helena Marsh

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National Garden Scheme

Clover Cottage, at 50 Streetly End, West Wickham, CB21 4RP, will be open for charity on Sundays 4th and 11th June, from noon to 4.30 pm, with teas and plants for sale. More information at ngs.org.uk.



Shirley Shadford

Four Sawston gardens will open their gates to visitors on Sunday 2nd July, 1 - 5 pm: Mary Challis Garden (68 High St), The Orchards (11 Mill Lane), 10 Wymemares, and 34 Cambridge Rd. Collect a map at the first garden you visit. Entrance £6. Homemade cakes and tea served in the Mary Challis Garden, 1.30 - 4.30 pm, plus plants for sale. Parking available in the Co-op car park, but is limited to three hours.

Mike & Ann Redshaw (01223 834511)

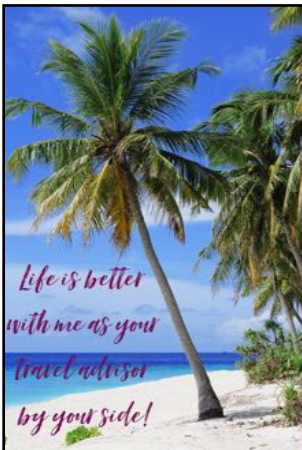


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JUNE	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
4 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	
11 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair Collen</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair Collen</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship – Little Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Evening Prayer – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
18 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
25 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Morning Worship – Hildersham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Outdoor Church – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady/Steven Wheeler (preaching)</i>

DIARY

JUNE 2023

- Sat 3 West Wrating Café
- Sun 4 Open Garden at Clover Cottage, West Wickham
- Sun 11 Open Garden at Clover Cottage, West Wickham
- Tues 13 Balsham WI
- Wed 14 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 15 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 16 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
- Mon 19 West Wrating Oil Syndicate order cutoff

JULY 2023

- Sat 1 Jazz on a Summer Evening, St Mary's
- Sun 2 Open Gardens in Sawston
- Mon 3 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Sat 8 Circular Walk, from Reading Room
- Mon 10 West Wrating Parish Council



Ruth with refreshments after the Coronation Celebration Service in St Mary's

Revd 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,
clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 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 12th & 26th June,
Monday 10th & 24th July
Blue & green bins: Monday 5th & 19th June,
Monday 3rd, 17th & 31st July

Please note changes to Mobile Library times

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park,
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm
Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 22nd June, 27th July
High Street, West Wrating 11.10 - 11.50 am
Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 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 July issue:
Tuesday 20th June