

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

## ***West Wrattling Cafe***

Another holiday weekend is upon us – why not join us on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 10.30 - noon, in the village hall, for coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes, made by our wonderful volunteer bakers? Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome. Jackie from 'Wildly Preserved' will be selling her preserves and ferments; she is very knowledgeable and always happy to chat about the fermentation process. Do join us.

***Sherry & Jan***

## ***Tea & Cakes***

We welcome everyone to the Weston Colville Reading Room on the third Friday afternoon each month, from 3.30 to 5.00 pm.

Do come and join us on our next session, on 15<sup>th</sup> May, to meet up with friends over a cuppa and some delicious homemade cake.

We look forward to seeing you all.

***Val and the Team***

## ***RAF Wrattling Common May Memorial Service***

A short open-air service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial, to commemorate the anniversary of the commissioning of the airfield.

The last Sunday in May was chosen for this annual service as it was the same day in 1943 that the airfield was commissioned. The memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

We look forward to seeing some relatives of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade.

The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service.

For further information please email:

*rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com*

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

***Dan Heath***

***on behalf of Friends of Wrattling Common***

## ***Oil Co-operative***

Ordering deadline: noon, **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:**

Alastair Douglas (291475 or *salguoda@hotmail.co.uk*)

**Chapel Road, Common Road, The Green, Horseshoe Lane:**

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

**West Wrattling**

Peter Harris (07879 444126 or *sowesticom@gmail.com*)

Any orders left by email will be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. There is a minimum order of 500 litres. We can no longer order fill ups, due to pre-payment requirements. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm. If you are close to running out, please tell us so we mark you as urgent.

The price will not be known until the order is placed. Once placed we will give you the number to ring to make your payment prior to delivery.

### West Wratting Village Hall

Charity Number 273557



The quiz night went well and requests for another one later in the year were taken on board. Dave and Carole, with their two helpers, were our 'Quiz Masters' and members of the Haverhill Lions to which we made a donation. They are experienced 'Quiz masters' and read their audience well which added to the fun. We will ask them to come back and do it again so watch this space.

Lottery winners in April were: first, number 5, second, number 14 and third number 20. Thanks to everyone for your continued support and thank you to the new members who joined recently. It would be great if those in the neighbouring villages joined in as well – you would be made most welcome. For information and membership contact [jan.davey5@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.davey5@btinternet.com)

A new 'Strength and Balance' class delivered by 'Forever Active' started in April on a trial basis; the interest in the class is very good. When the trial period ends we hope to be able to open up this session to more people, so watch this space.

#### Future Events–

Horse Racing Night, 16<sup>th</sup> May

Bingo, 18<sup>th</sup> July

Harvest Supper\*\*, 12<sup>th</sup> September

Wine Event, 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Martin Davey, Chair** ([penywaen1@gmail.com](mailto:penywaen1@gmail.com))

\*\* Please note the date change for the Harvest Supper: this is now being held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, not 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### West Wratting Book Club

For April we read 'Middlemarch' by George Eliot. This is a weighty book, both literally and figuratively, and historical in that it is set 40 years before it was written. It seems to take a long time setting the scene, but this may be because it was originally two books combined into one. It was, in fact, originally published in several parts. It covers social history, the interweaving of relationships and class at a time when major changes were taking place: religious dissent, medical developments, new ideas in art and social changes leading to the Reform Bill.

# CHARITY RACE NIGHT

Saturday 16th May

Stars at 7:30pm



West Wratting Village Hall

Charity No. 273557

Tickets from DOUG call/text 07818400723

£5 ticket, Nibbles, Bar & Raffle



The main characters represent the different aspects of soul searching and reflection common at this time, as well as the place of women in society. Against this background we have the various romances which keep the reader involved. One of our number described it as amazing writing and use of language, with wonderful characters discussing so many subjects. It is well worth reading to pick up on all the subtleties and allusions which may be lost in a screen version.

Scores were between 8 and 8.5 out of 10, with one 10.

For our next meeting, at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm, we will have a different format. We are delighted to invite back one of our previous 'members' Frank Oonk, who has been writing poetry including one particular project when his poems are linked with photographs of everyday life. He will be reading some of his work and discussing it with us. We have, also, been asked to bring a favourite poem of our own.

**Linda Gorman (290653)**

**The Trustees of  
Weston Colville Reading Room**

(Charity number 1162032)

*invite everyone to attend the*

**Annual General Meeting**

**on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**from 7 pm to 7.30 pm**

**in Weston Colville Reading Room**

*Come and find out more about the Reading Room and the work of the Trustees.*

*This is your opportunity to suggest other ways of making the most of this village community building*

***Jan Ogden (Secretary)***

***Weston Colville Reading Room***

The trustees of the Reading Room are looking for another person to swell the number of trustees to the correct level. Would you be interested in joining this friendly group of volunteers to help maintain and run the Reading Room as a facility for the benefit and use of the residents of Weston Colville and surrounding villages?

If the answer is “Yes” you have a choice:

- you are welcome to attend the AGM, which will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm in the Reading Room, and learn more about the Reading Room and how it is run, and meet the other trustees;
- or you can contact me on 07802 686441 or email [JanReadingRoom@outlook.com](mailto:JanReadingRoom@outlook.com)

***Jan Ogden, Secretary***



Local, Professional Computer Help and Support

[www.squeakymouse.com](http://www.squeakymouse.com)

01223 852 872

[support@squeakymouse.com](mailto:support@squeakymouse.com)

**West Wrattling Summer Party  
and Auction of Promises**

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 6.30 pm, in the beautiful gardens of 74 High Street, West Wrattling

Drink on arrival and wander in the gardens, followed by dinner in a marquee, catered by the Black Bull, Balsham

Fabulous auction lots to include stays in holiday cottages in Norfolk, lunch at the Jockey Club, gardening consultation, sailing trips, compost, and many more!

Advance details of the lots will be published and pre-bids can be accepted.

It will be an evening of fun and fund raising!

Tickets £35 per head, in aid of the fabric of St Andrew's Church

Contact:

Simon Thorley ([simon@thorley.co](mailto:simon@thorley.co),  
07768 625960)

Fanny Peers ([francespeers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:francespeers@hotmail.co.uk),  
07702 122353)



**ladies  
that mulch**

**Garden Design**

[www.ladiesthatmulch.co.uk](http://www.ladiesthatmulch.co.uk)

[info@ladiesthatmulch.co.uk](mailto:info@ladiesthatmulch.co.uk)

07872 026 470 / 07875 059 002



READING  
ROOM  
WESTON COLVILLE

Available to hire  
for parties, fitness  
& meetings

Fully equipped kitchen

Licence for alcohol

Book online

[www.thereadingroom.org.uk](http://www.thereadingroom.org.uk)

## **Kingsway Solar Community Action**

With Kingsway's plans nearly finalised, we now know more about what this industrial-scale development around our villages will look like:

- Over one million panels mounted in frames over 4 m high (as tall as double decker buses)
- Up to 300 container-sized lithium-ion battery storage units,
- Three years of heavy construction traffic on our village roads.
- Over 3,000 acres of prime farmland (larger than Heathrow Airport).

An area roughly 7 miles across, from Worsted Lodge by the A11 to Brinkley, will be affected, with 15 km of pylons up to 65 m tall, connecting the site to Burwell substation (not yet submitted for planning).

This will fundamentally change the land use, heritage and character of our countryside. **If you're unsure why so many people in the community are opposing the project, watch our short video explaining their concerns:**

<https://vimeo.com/1162674623?fl=pl&fe=vl>

**Kingsway Solar Farm – the fight continues** – at the time of writing (16<sup>th</sup> April), Kingsway is expected to submit the planning application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in the coming days or weeks. Once submitted, and if accepted by PINS (which can take up to 28 days), the national planning process will begin – but this does **not** mean the project has been approved, and the community can still play an important role. This is the first chance for residents, parish councils and community groups to send their views **directly to the decision-makers**, rather than the developer, Kingsway.



At that point, anyone can register as an **Interested Party** and submit a short comment outlining their concerns (called a **Relevant Representation**). There will only be **30 days** to do this, so it is important to be ready. KSCA will provide guidance, workshops and templates to help make the process straightforward. In the meantime, please **sign up to receive updates from PINS** so you are notified as soon as the application is submitted. Go to: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165>

Our aim is for **over 1,000 people to register as Interested Parties** to ensure the Planning Inspectorate knows the strength of feeling across the area.

KSCA is now registered as a **Company Limited by Guarantee** and a **Community Interest Company**, meaning it can operate formally while ensuring it acts in the interests of the wider community. These steps help ensure the campaign is run responsibly and can represent the community effectively.

**Support the legal campaign** – KSCA, working with the Parish Council Alliance, is engaging legal advisers and independent experts in areas such as hydrology, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and landscape impact. Their evidence will be essential to present to the planning inspectors at a later stage. If you are able, please consider supporting this work: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction/>

### **Can you spare a few hours?**

Over the coming weeks we will also need volunteers to help with awareness activities such as social media, leafleting, community events and workshops. If you can help, please contact [hello@kingswayaction.org](mailto:hello@kingswayaction.org)

**Together we can make sure our community is heard.**

*Kathy Day*



Request a sticker



Contribute to KSCA campaign



Pledge money to legal team



Join KSCA

## **Parish Matters**

Churches Together in Cambridgeshire has a long-standing partnership with the diocese of Vellore in the Church of South India, and in January I was blessed to be invited along with eight other Christians of various denominations to join with the diocese in celebrating their Golden Jubilee. I had visited India many times before and Vellore once as part of a previous group. Two of my children have also visited Vellore as part of youth visits.



However well prepared you are though, however many times you might have been before, India always excites, surprises, and finds some way to change you. Christians in general, and members of the Church of South India in particular, are a small minority in India although the Church is involved with schools and hospitals as well as social projects. Many of these started being set up by missionaries many years ago although we always do well to remember that Christianity came to India well before it came to our shores; the first Christian missionary was the Apostle Thomas (famously known as ‘Doubting Thomas’ although I believe his doubts helped many people to find faith). Saint Thomas was martyred in Chennai (formerly Madras).

Fifty years ago, the Diocese of Vellore was founded – previously the region had been part of the Diocese of Madras – and that jubilee was our main reason for the visit, but there were many celebrations that formed part of it. We were involved in dedication ceremonies for several new church buildings, mostly built by the local congregations themselves. The joy of such occasions just cannot be overstated: singing, dancing and praising the Lord in an explosion of colour and sound (and nearly always a celebratory meal afterwards – we were never hungry!).

We were blessed to witness, and to be involved with, a baptism of fifty adults at one Church, and the Confirmation of many young people at another, as well as the very moving ‘lamplighting’ service where first-year nursing students at the School of Nursing in the Scudder Memorial Hospital were first given their uniforms in preparation for working on the wards for the first time. It was a real privilege to share this time with those young people and their parents. The main celebration service at the Central Church in Vellore was incredible, but at four and a half hours long we

were pleased that we were able to stretch our legs in the middle.

I returned tired, as you can imagine, but wonderfully spiritually refreshed and renewed, and we are looking forward to a visit from Bishop Sharma to coincide with the installation of Bishop Sarah in Ely.

*Alastair France*

## **Big Life Talks**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30 pm, Abington Institute**

“This is the first in a series of engaging public talks and discussions that we hope will continue throughout the year and are open for everyone” says the Revd Hannah Threlfall. Each event will feature a brief talk addressing important life topics, delivered by leading figures from scientific, medical, technology, and theological fields. The session will be followed by a Q&A and complimentary refreshments.

The first speaker will be Prof Bob White and the talk will be titled ‘Are Natural Disasters Inevitable? Insights from Science and Religion’.

Professor Robert (Bob) White is a Fellow of St Edmund’s College, Cambridge, having been Professor of Geophysics in the Dept of Earth Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society and his work at sea has taken him to the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans and his research group is currently investigating the internal structure of volcanoes in Iceland. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was awarded a Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of a lifetime’s achievement in research. His scientific work is published in over 350 papers and articles.

For more information please contact either Revd Hannah Threlfall or Tony Collett ([tony.collett3112@gmail.com](mailto:tony.collett3112@gmail.com))

*The talks are being organised by Abington Churches as part of the Scientists in Congregations initiative and funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation.*

## PEST CONTROL SERVICES

### AGRICULTURAL AND DOMESTIC

CLUSTER FLIES, LOFT AREA,  
RABBITS, RATS,  
MICE, WASPS & INSECTS

CONTACT R DANIELS  
01223 290570 / 07773 682676

### Balsham WI

At our April meeting we welcomed Rachel Carr, Cybercrime and Fraud Prevention Officer at Cambridgeshire Police. Rachel is part of a team which for the past five years has been investigating different types of fraud and the monies lost to it. Shockingly, between £1.5 and 2 million is lost to fraud over a 4-week period in Cambridgeshire alone. Half of all fraud crime is carried out online and can be anything from computer fraud, cryptocurrency, online dating sites, or QR codes that direct to fraudulent websites.



Rachel also highlighted other types of scams that target vulnerable people, including door-to-door salesmen who use tactics to convince people that work is required and put pressure on for payment, often resulting in work being completed to a poor standard or not at all, and fraudsters calling pretending to be from the bank or the police, asking you to move money.

It was a most interesting and enlightening talk, and we were left well equipped with information on what to do should we find ourselves victims of this ever-increasing and technologically-advancing crime and remembering that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, when we will be joined by speaker Bob Ensich, who will be talking about FutureIN and It Takes a City initiatives, which offer opportunities for young and vulnerable people in Cambridge.

*Sarah Evans (balshamwi@gmail.com)*

### Balsham Picture House

*Dick Paden*

## Eastern Counties Oil Services

- ✓ Oil boiler servicing
- ✓ Boiler repair and installation
- ✓ Central heating and plumbing
- ✓ Central heating system flushing
- ✓ Air source heat pumps
- ✓ OFTEC registered, all work guaranteed

Weston Colville: 01223 291374 or 07827 810344  
[john@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk](mailto:john@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk)

## ***The Meadow Primary School, Balsham***

This term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our Headteacher, Nichola Pickford, who has led The Meadow for the past 13 years. During her time here, she has guided the school through challenges and successes, helping it grow from strength to strength.

Mrs Pickford has supported hundreds of children, families and staff, and her care, dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on our whole community. She has also played a significant role across Anglian Learning and at our sister school, Wimbish. While we will miss her guidance tremendously, we are incredibly proud of her as she moves on to her new role as Director of Primary Education. We wish her every success in this exciting next chapter.

Following on from this, we are delighted to welcome Nicky Butcher into the role of Headteacher. Having been a dedicated and supportive Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Butcher already knows our school community inside and out. We are confident she will continue to lead The Meadow with the same care and commitment, steering us confidently into the future.

Our Year 3 and 4 children recently treated us to a truly beautiful performance of 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'. The children, supported by their teachers, worked incredibly hard to bring this inspiring story to life.

It was a powerful and moving production that left not many dry eyes in the audience. We are so proud of all the children and staff involved for creating such a memorable experience.

The children also had great fun raising money for Comic Relief by taking part in a 'Break the Rules' day. From wacky costumes and creative hairstyles to choosing their own break-time snacks, there was

plenty of laughter and excitement throughout the day. It was wonderful to see the school community come together for such a good cause while enjoying a well-earned bit of fun.

As we step into this new chapter, we look ahead with excitement – embracing new beginnings and fresh opportunities, and continuing to grow together as a school community.

*Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher*

## ***LVC – Community Connections***

Linton Village College continues to value its close links with the local community, working with families, volunteers and partner organisations to support students and shared activities.



The college is grateful for the ongoing support of its Trust Fund, established in 1987 to help meet the welfare needs of individual pupils and to widen access to extracurricular opportunities. Over the past year, more than £3,200 (including Gift Aid) has been donated, helping over 40 students take part in activities. The college would also like to thank John Batchelor and Scilla Harvey, who recently stepped down from the Trust Fund committee after many years of dedicated service.

The Friends of LVC is our PTA. We are very lucky to have a fantastic, dedicated team of parents and carers who support the college through fundraising and organising community events. The annual Friends Quiz Night takes place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the main school hall. Tickets are on sale online for teams of 6 and are available via the school website on the '*Linton Village College - Parents - Friends of LVC*' page. Tickets are priced at £15 including a fish and chip supper. There will be a bar and raffle with donations from local businesses. Money raised will be invested in enriching LVC students' school experience.

We are also excited to be hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Linton Book Festival on the weekend of 16 - 17<sup>th</sup> May. It's a fantastic free family event celebrating reading and offering reading themed and creative activities for children aged 0 – 11 including talks and workshops led by children's authors and illustrators. Tickets can be secured in advance via the [lintonbookfest.org](http://lintonbookfest.org) website.

*Laura Heard*



**Professional  
Carpentry  
Services**

1st and 2nd Fix • Doors • Windows • Floors  
Skirting/Architrave • Storage Solutions  
Cupboards • Kitchens • Bathrooms  
Renovation and Restoration

T: 07742 032859  
E: [jamesuk85@icloud.com](mailto:jamesuk85@icloud.com)  
Find me on Instagram use my QR code



**Linton Complementary Health Centre**

2b Bartlow Road, Linton, CB21 4LY

- Acupuncture, Peter White; MSc, MBAcC
- Shiatsu, Cindy Faulkner; BA, MRSS
- Massage, Peter White, Dip.Mass

Telephone : 07757 257530  
 Email ✉enquiries@lintonhealth.co.uk



Charter House  
 Burrough Green  
 Newmarket  
 Suffolk CB8 9NG

**JAGGARD & SON**

**FIREWOOD**  
 quality logs cut and split to requirement

**COAL**  
 solid fuel to suit all fires

**MULCH**  
 graded woodchip for gardens etc

01638 507330      07766 566226  
 rdjaggardandson@btinternet.com

**Withersfield Village Fete**

**Saturday 20th June**

**1-4 pm**  
 on the Village Green

**Music BBQ & Bar**  
**Teas Games Raffle**  
**Flea Market**

In aid of St Mary's Church Withersfield

**B D Contractors & Plant Hire Est 1988**

Groundworks & Civil Engineering Specialists 

Foundations, all forms of Underground Drainage & Services  
 Ditching, Driveways, Roads, Landscaping, Paths & Patios.  
 Competitive rates on Excavator & Operator hire.  
 Serving Cambridgeshire, Essex & Suffolk for 30+ years.

For free no obligation quotations and advice:  
 01638 508325 / 07887760710  
 bdc1952@hotmail.co.uk

**TIM PHILLIPS & Co. Accountants**

Independent, specialist service for:  
**Small Business • Self Assessment  
 Personal Taxation**

Free initial consultation – no obligation  
**EASY, FREE PARKING**

Copley Hill Business Park, Cambridge Rd., Babraham  
 Off A1307 between Wandlebury and Babraham  
**Tel: 01223 830044. www.tpaccounts.co.uk**

RELIABLE & COMPASSIONATE

**PROFESSIONAL CARE SERVICES**



- ✓ Personal Care & Hygiene
- ✓ Medication Assistance
- ✓ Meal Preparation & Feeding
- ✓ Companionship & Support
- ✓ Errands & Light Housekeeping

**CALL NOW FOR FRIENDLY SUPPORT!**

**0749 572 4231**

www.website.co.uk    John@CaringForYou.online

**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.



**My Village Handyman**

---

CALL: 07500 876376 OR 01223 881700  
 EMAIL: INFO@MYVILLAGEHANDYMAN.COM  
 WEB: WWW.MYVILLAGEHANDYMAN.COM

**West Wickham & District Gardening Club**

A packed village hall welcomed Hawk Honey for our final talk of the season to answer the question ‘Wasps – Malicious or Misunderstood?’



Members are working hard preparing their plants and seedlings for our most popular event of the year: our annual Plant Sale being held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30 to 12.30 at West Wickham Village Hall.

Anyone generous enough to bring seedlings and plants for sale (or cakes for the tea stall), please bring your (labelled) pots between 9.15 and 10.00, or deliver plants to Janet Morris

at 21 High Street before the day. If anyone would like plant labels or pots, again, Janet can help you!

As always, there will be tea and cakes available for visitors to enjoy and we accept card payments as well as cash for plants, merchandise and at the tea stall.



Summer garden visits are being planned at the moment and this year include a trip to Wisley, plus we have now a full autumn programme for members to enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about our club and our activities, they we’d love to hear from you.

Membership is £8 with new members welcome to join throughout the year. Please contact Sally Collins ([wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org)) for further information about the club, and Janet Morris

([jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)) for information about our Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits.

*Sally Collins*

**PLUMBLINE & SON**

**PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS**

PROFESSIONAL DOMESTIC PLUMBING SERVICE

**OIL BOILER SERVICING & REPAIRS**

Call John & Zach

**01223 893903**

Supcik@talktalk.net

Fully Qualified and Insured

City & Guilds / OFTEC Registered

Friendly and Reliable Service




**[cocoon]**  
wellbeing + beauty

Waxing  
 OPI manicures + pedicures  
 Comfort Zone Facials  
 Massage + aromatherapy  
 Gifts + vouchers  
 inner lather Soaps

**07527 879135**  
 High Street, West Wickham




**The Chestnut Tree**  
 Mill Road, West Wrating

CAMRA Rural Pub of the Year 2023

Constantly changing selection of four real ales, plus real cider, to enjoy in our comfortable bar, dining room or in our garden

**www.thechestnuttree.co.uk**  
**01223 290384**

# Pathfinder

Your locally based building and carpentry services. All sizes of projects undertaken from large to small.

07450 915 467

Pathfindercb.co.uk

- Extensions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- General Building
- Full Renovations
- Inbuilt Joinery
- Project management
- and much more...

## GARDEN MAINTENANCE

We offer a professional and reliable service from lawn mowing to new planting projects. Other services include tree surgery and hedge cutting.

Please telephone Zara or Francis at

**Napier Garden Planning**

Tel : 07946 382614

Westley Waterless, Newmarket  
e-mail: napierfz@aol.com

### Linton & District Historical Society

At our April meeting, Philip Stott introduced us to the Darwin family and their associations with Cambridge. He recommended reading 'Period Piece' written by Gwen (Darwin) Raverat, great grand-daughter of Charles, and used extracts during the course of his talk. It shows some amusing sketches featuring the Darwin family along with accompanying stories.

We now look forward to another family affair, when Philip's wife Anne Stott will be presenting an equally interesting topic: 'The other Princess Charlotte (1796-1817), Heir Presumptive to the British Throne' on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm in Linton Village Hall.

This is the last meeting for this season, and we hope to be back in September.

*Margaret Creek (ldhscamb@gmail.com)*

### Balsham Allotments & Community Orchard

#### PLANT SALE

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- 09:30-12:00hrs
- At
- The Prince Memorial

In aid of replacing lost trees on the Community Orchard



The plant sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 9.30 - 12.00 at the Prince Memorial, will be an opportunity to stock up on plants for your allotment and gardens. Money raised from sales will be used to replace some of the missing trees next winter.

We still have a number of vacant allotments. Thanks to the volunteers keeping them tidy.

*Jennie Tipler*

THIS MY  
THEATRE

# Alice's Adventures in WONDERLAND

**ST MARY'S CHURCH  
WESTON COLVILLE**

**25th August, 7pm**  
**thisismytheatre.com**



Refreshments Available | Please book in advance

## HOME ANIMAL CARE

- Registered Pet Sitter
- Fully Licensed and Insured
- Boarding in my Home
- Day Care
- Visits for Cats, Dogs and all Small Animals

[www.homeanimalcare.co.uk](http://www.homeanimalcare.co.uk)

[catherineneale9@icloud.com](mailto:catherineneale9@icloud.com)

07778 921334

# FIELD COMPOST LTD

We'll help your garden grow

Peat Free Compost  
Soil Improver  
Soil  
Bark  
Woodchip

Lawn Dressing &  
Grass Seed  
Mulch  
Sharp Sand &  
Horticultural Grit

[www.fieldcompost.co.uk](http://www.fieldcompost.co.uk)  
sales@fieldcompost.co.uk  
01440 966966

## West Wrattling Village Hall

Licensed for entertainment and sale of alcohol

Ideal for weddings, family functions, children's parties, meetings, exercise classes, fundraising events & performances

We have a spacious stage, modern kitchen & separate bar area; disabled facilities; excellent sound system; nearby parking; furniture, crockery, etc also available for hire.

From £10 per hour / £17 per session

07772 993190 / 01223 290190  
vhwwbookings@gmail.com  
[www.westwrattling.org.uk/village-hall/](http://www.westwrattling.org.uk/village-hall/)

## BURROUGH GREEN GARDEN FETE

### SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2026

BBQ and Beer Tent open from 1 pm

Fete opening at 2 pm by Rev Virginia Moggridge

Homemade Teas, Plants & Bric a Brac  
Silent Auction, Tombola, Raffle and Sideshows galore

Fun for all the Family In a beautiful garden setting

*Please scan QR code for details of updates including items for the Silent Auction, children's free Colouring Competition, Stalls and other information.*

*If you have any enquiries or can offer any support, please contact Lucy Talbot 07910 158463 or email [peterandlucy@btinternet.com](mailto:peterandlucy@btinternet.com)*

**Jo Taylor**

Established since 1994

## Jo's Cleaning Services

Call me on 07900 601835      Email me at [joanne10664@gmail.com](mailto:joanne10664@gmail.com)

*Jennifer Heywood*

## HOME DESIGN

Consultations, visuals, shopping and/or project management  
Whole house, one room or less - no job too small  
Advice by the hour, first hour free

---

E [jh.home.design@outlook.com](mailto:jh.home.design@outlook.com) M 07801927516  
W [www.jhhomedesign.co.uk](http://www.jhhomedesign.co.uk) @jhhomedesign

**CUTTING & COLOURING HAIR BY JO DENNY**  
WOMEN | MEN | CHILDREN

**41 LINTON HIGH STREET | T: 01223 893 285**  
(BEHIND BOSWELL'S BAKERY)

MOPS HAIR SALON

**01638 428 060**  
[www.Rothwells.biz](http://www.Rothwells.biz)

### Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floors, Upholstery, Rugs

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993. Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible. Members of both the NCCA and TACCA. We will move the furniture for a thorough clean. 100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.*

MAY	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Great Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall / Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Café Church</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Taizé service</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Taizé service</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop / Alastair France</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop / Alastair France</i> <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Creative Church</b> – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall / Rosemary Mead</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Alistair Collen</i>	

**Regular Midweek Services –**  
Every Tuesday at Hildersham, 7.00 pm,  
**Silent Space** followed by **Compline**  
Every Thursday at Balsham, 9.30 am,  
**Holy Communion** (said service)  
Every Friday at Weston Colville, 8.45 am,  
**Morning Prayer**

*Details of all our services can also be found on the website: [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)*

## DIARY

### MAY 2026

Sat 2 Saturday Café, West Wrating Village Hall  
Plant Sale, Balsham  
Balsham Picture House, ‘Hamnet’  
Sat 9 Ellesmere Garden Club Plant Sale  
Sun 10 Oil Co-operative Ordering Deadline  
Mon 11 West Wrating Annual Meeting & Parish Council  
Tues 12 Balsham WI  
Wed 13 Big Life Talk, Abington Institute  
Weston Colville Annual & Parish Council Meeting  
West Wrating Book Club  
Fri 15 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room  
Sat 16 West Wickham Gardening Club Plant Sale  
Race Night, West Wrating Village Hall  
Balsham Singers Spring Concert  
Tues 19 Linton & District Historical Society  
Thurs 21 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Sun 31 RAF Wrating Common Memorial Service

**Revd Iain McColl**, 01223 890693,  
*mccoll.iain@gmail.com*  
**Revd Michael Wilcockson**, Rural Dean  
*associate.priest@stmaryslinton.org.uk*  
**Revd Hannah Threlfall**, Community Minister  
01223 481090, *RevThrelfall24@outlook.com*  
**Mr Steven Wheeler**, Licensed Lay Minister  
01223 290396, *stevenwheeler406@gmail.com*

**Churchwardens:**  
St Mary’s – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)  
Bob Coates (07785 361345)  
St Andrew’s (Secretary) Simon Thorley (01223 290888)  
**Church Administrator:** Tracey Zambrana Roberts,  
*7churches.seven@gmail.com*  
**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
*clerk@westoncolville.org.uk*, 07779 277647  
**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Cameron Biggs,  
*clerk@westwrating.org.uk*

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

**Mobile Library: fourth Thursday:**  
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

**Black bins:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May,  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June  
**Blue & Green bins:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May,  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June

**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 June issue:**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**