

Village Link

Issue 177



August - September 2021

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Simon Dear - Editor

David D'Ath - Treasurer, David Fryatt - Distribution

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ISSUE 177

August - September 2021

EDITORIAL

Summer has arrived, and Covid legal restrictions have been lifted!

I would like to extend a huge thank-you to our group of worthy volunteers, who ably assisted in getting the Village Link to your door through the last year of lockdowns and restrictions. You have been amazing!

A couple of vacancies have arisen on the Village Link committee. We would love to hear from you if you feel you can help out. We recognise people already have many commitments - but we are only asking for only small amount of your time. And your contribution would really make a difference. Please contact us if you'd like to know more.

The Village Link has been serving Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth and Cockayne Hatley for almost 30 years. It reaches every household in our villages and provides an important link especially to those who are elderly or less comfortable with on-line communication. Long may it continue!

- Simon Dear, Editor, 01767 631383

COPY DATE ISSUE 178.....12th September 2021

PUBLICATION DATE ISSUE 178.....30th September 2021

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

- 1st Open Garden, Beck House, Water End 10:30am-4:30pm, in aid of the British Red Cross
- 15th PWWG walk around Baulk Wood Nature Reserve, Henlow
- 17th Women's Institute talk by Milena Kavrakova "Learning to Play the Cello in a Communist Country", open to non-members, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall starting 7.30pm

SEPTEMBER

- 4th Wrestlingworth Village Picnic organised by the Goodwill Fund
- 13th Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, Church Lane
- 16th Wrestlingworth History Society talk "Delectable Documents" by Pamela Birch, Country Archivist at the Bedfordshire Archives & Records, 7.30pm start at Memorial Hall
- 19th PWWG walk, Top Farm circular, meet Chequers at 10am
- 21st WI talk by Paul Gillions on the RNLI, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall starting 7.30pm
- 25th Harvest Sale and Coffee Morning, Eyeworth Village Hall , at 10.30am
- 26th Harvest Festival, St Peter's, Wrestlingworth, 11 am
Harvest Service, All Saints, Eyeworth, 3pm
- 30th Friends of Wrestlingworth Lower School PTA, to be advised

Please do check dates and times with organisers, as they may be subject to change. We want to include all relevant events but do rely on your input; if you don't tell us, we might not know about your event. So, please email your diary dates to villagelink@zoho.com.

PLEASE NOTE

The views contained in the articles within this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher or the members of the editorial committee.



Whoever you are, you are welcome here!

St Peter's exists to serve the village of Wrestlingworth and the wider local community. Our regular congregation is made up of people of all stages of life and we hope to provide something for everybody. You are very welcome to join us at a service, reach out to us if you have a pastoral need or make contact if you would like to discuss holding a christening, wedding or another special service at the church.

Services

During August our service schedule will be as follows:

Sunday August 1st: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday August 8th: Benefice Service at 11am

Sunday August 15th: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday August 22nd: Holy Communion at 11am

Sunday August 29th: Holy Communion at 11am

From September there will be a Holy Communion service at St Peter's every Sunday at 11am.

St Peter's Children's Area

We are very excited about our new Children's Area which is currently being developed, with the support of the congregation. It will be finished in time for our Harvest Festival on 26th September and be blessed by Revd. Matt. We are thankful for the donations we have received from the family and friends of a much-loved member of the congregation who passed away in January.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 26th September: Harvest Festival at 11am.

We will be launching our new Children's Area and the service will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch.



This year we will be supporting Preen Food Bank with donations of dry goods. Our collection will be for the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal, Water is Life.

Open Church

St Peter's is currently open every Sunday from 12:30pm until 4pm for private prayer and reflection.

South Aisle Repairs

Work is still ongoing in the South Aisle. It is taking longer than originally expected as the unseasonal weather has delayed the drying of the plaster. We are hopeful that when you read this the work will be completed.

Coffee Mornings & Café Church

Everyone at St Peter's is looking forward to recommencing our Coffee Mornings and Café Church and we are confident that it will be possible this Summer. Look out for dates on our notice board and website. We look forward to meeting you at St Peter's and chatting over coffee and cake once again.

Ways to keep in touch with St Peter's

Our Notice board outside church

Our web site: www.dwe.org.uk

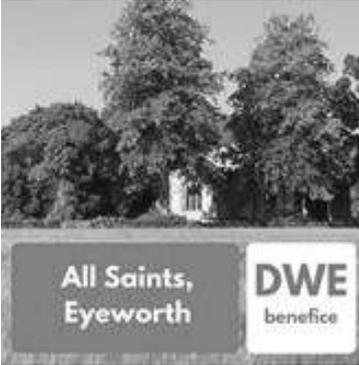
Facebook – Follow 'DWE Benefice'

Matt Phillips, Priest-in-Charge

01767 512122 matt@dwe.org.uk

Karen Nurse, Church Warden

01767 631487 karen.nurse@btinternet.com



Contact Us

Matt Phillips, Priest-in-Charge
01767 512122 matt@dwe.org.uk

Wendy Robinson, Church Warden
01767 631283

Whoever you are, you are welcome here!

All Saint's exists to serve the village of Eyeworth and the wider local community. Our regular congregation is made up of people of all stages of life and we hope to provide something for everybody. You are very welcome to join us at a service, reach out to us if you have a pastoral need or make contact if you would like to discuss holding a christening, wedding or another special service at the church.

Sunday Services

During August and September our service schedule is as follows:

August 1st : Holy Communion at 3pm

August 22nd : All-Age Worship at 3pm

September 5th : Holy Communion at 3pm

September 26th : All-Age Harvest Service at 3pm

Harvest at All Saints

Harvest Sale and Coffee Morning

September 25th at 10:30am

Eyeworth Village Hall and Grounds

Join us for coffee and cake!

All-Age Harvest Service

September 26th at 3pm

All Saints, Eyeworth

An informal and interactive service
for all-ages!



WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Another few months have passed by and we continue to develop new fundraising ideas and consider how best to support village residents. We hosted another enjoyable online quiz & have welcomed some newcomers to the villages, and some new babies, with small gifts. Please let us know of anyone who has been unwell in hospital and would like a small treat to brighten their day.

In the last Village Link, I mentioned the launch of our education and training award. Having listened to feedback, we have lowered the qualifying age range slightly to include young people aged 16+. If the award could support you, please email us for an application form from 12th August for those starting in autumn 2021. You will need to evidence your place and indicate what resources you need financial support for.

We have had some enquiries regarding the car ambulance service and when this may be available again to those who need transport to hospital and doctors appointments. We are working hard to re-establish the service as soon as we can. After more than a year of not being able to operate, you will appreciate there are administrative and procedural matters we need to give time to ensure the safe and smooth running of the service. We know residents really value the help and we are working hard to make this possible again. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver with us, please get in touch.

Like many charities, the opportunities we have had to raise funds has been incredibly limited in the last year. Please support us by registering with Amazon Smile and 'Give as you Live' which enable us to collect a small donation whilst you shop at no cost to you.

And finally, with the uncertainty around restrictions, we were unsure if we would be able to host a village day fete this year. The fete takes much planning and organisation for which we haven't had the opportunity to do during Covid. Instead, we will be holding a 'Village Picnic' on Saturday 4th September where we hope people will enjoy the opportunity to reconnect and enjoy each other's company after what has been a very challenging time. We hope to see you all there. More details will follow.

To update you, the Goodwill email has changed. Please now use

info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram,

- Anna Hines

FRIENDS OF WRESTLINGWORTH LOWER SCHOOL PTA

REGISTERED CHARITY 1044363



Despite fundraising still being restricted, we have had quite a busy summer term. All of the school sheds are on their last legs so to help the children all took part in a sponsored run! Their goal was to run to Lyme Regis in equivalent laps around the field.

We are so proud of ALL of the children for putting so much effort and enthusiasm into our sponsored run. They made it to Lyme Regis a day earlier than planned.

In fact, the children ran an extra 30 miles and ended up in Exmouth. All of the children pushed themselves to run as far as they could. Some children ran more than 10km over the 3 days.

Day 1: 691 laps = 60 miles

Day 2: 941 laps = 82 miles

Day 3: 922 laps = 80 miles

So far we have raised over £1000 and our treasurer will update everyone in the next issue.

The children also helped the Potton Road housing developer SMD Ltd in a litter pick around the village on one of the hottest days of the year.

The school are planning a carnival for the children to celebrate the end of term. I think we can all agree that they have been such troopers since lockdown began in March 2020. We're looking forward to September and hopefully resuming our children's parties and maybe a Christmas Breakfast (fingers crossed!)

Our AGM is planned for 30th September. With restrictions being lifted, we will update everyone via our Facebook pages with time and location. Everyone is welcome.

We would also like to send special thanks to a Wrestlingworth resident who donated nearly £100 in Euros. We are forever grateful for the

support.

We hope that everyone has a good summer. Don't forget that you can support our lovely little school via the following means:

- ◇ **Using the clothing bin.**
- ◇ **Donating spent ink jet cartridges and pennies** – there is a box in the school office until the end of term 22/07/21. If you cannot get to the school before then, please save these over the summer.
- ◇ If you would like to **join our 100 club** for the new school term or our school lottery, please contact Kelly Whitfield on 07834 614613 or Cheryl Roberts 07734 751079.



I would really like to publicise some of the wonderful things that the Wrestlingworth VC Lower School do in the Village Link.

Recently, we enjoyed taking part in the Village Litter Pick organised by the construction company SMD. It was a huge success and the children were, as always, brilliant. This feeds into some of the work that we are learning about in our Key Stage 1 class about the pollution in the ocean.

SMD were amazing and bought the school extra high visibility vests and every child had a pair of special gloves which Mrs Knibbs has already been using again with the children in our wonderful garden.

- Maria Poultney, Deputy Head

JAMES MAY
MAY 1933 - JUNE 2021

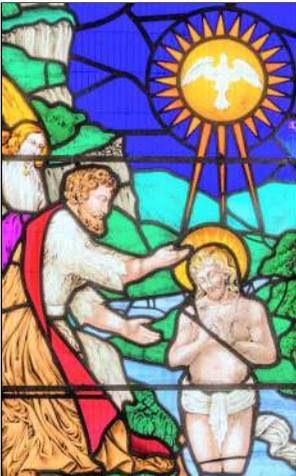
I would like to thank all my neighbours and friends for their kindness in supporting me and my family through the sadness and difficulties of our recent loss of James.

Many thanks,
Lesley

OBITUARY
RICHARD DRIVER

After a long and protracted illness Richard passed away peacefully in Bedford Hospital on 17th July.

Moving to Wrestlingworth in 1971 he embraced village life and will have been known to many. He will be sadly missed by his family - Carolyn, Diccon and Mark and grandchildren Aiden, Nathan and Maisie.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,
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Rector Rev. Alex Wheatley

Services

2nd Sunday of the month at 9am - Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month at 6pm - Evensong

<https://www.pottonparishchurch.org.uk/>

SMD HELP KEEP WRESTLINGWORTH CLEAN!



SMD Ltd, the developers building the 5 new houses in Potton Road Wrestlingworth, have been doing more than their bit to keep Wrestlingworth free of roadside litter. Fourteen people from the SMD Team accompanied by pupils from the lower school and 4 other village residents (Mick Andrews and his daughter Samantha, Cameron Bubear and Simon Dear) did a litter pick around the village on 16th June.

Emily Wiseman on behalf of SMD said “It seems the children enjoyed themselves and they managed to find a fair amount, although I must admit Wrestlingworth is a very clean and beautiful village. I was impressed by how well kept it is. It is evidently clear the amount of community spirit and consideration you all have, which is lovely to see.”

SMD have also very kindly donated a dozen litter-pickers to the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group. The increase in outdoor activity around the village over lockdown has also increased the awareness of the considerable amount of litter along our streets and on our countryside footpaths. The PWWG has recently received several loan requests for mechanical refuse grabbers from residents, and we can now proudly satisfy your needs.

Thank you Emily and all the people at SMD for your support!

If you wish to borrow a litter-picker from the PWWG, please contact Simon Dear on 01767 631383.

Photo credit: Cover and below left, courtesy of SMD Ltd. Cover with permission of Wrestlingworth VC Lower School



IN THE OPEN AIR

It wasn't the balmy evening expected when the WI held their "Evening Tea" in the area behind the Memorial Hall in June. It was more a coat-wearing picnic but it gave members a chance to TALK, something that has been denied to us for so long. Even socially distanced and masked it didn't stop the CONVERSATION flowing.

The logo for 'theWI' is displayed on a green rectangular background. The word 'the' is in a lowercase, sans-serif font, while 'WI' is in a much larger, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below 'theWI', the words 'INSPIRING WOMEN' are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Another outdoor event planned for July was a visit to Gotha Gardens at Pembroke Farm in Ashwell when it was hoped the weather would be more kind.

Also in July, it can't have escaped your notice, a statue to commemorate what would have been the 60th birthday of the late Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, was unveiled by her two sons William and Harry in the garden of Kensington Palace. It therefore seems particularly fitting that our July meeting would be entertained by Colin Hill speaking of his time as a Close Protection Officer with the Royal Family – a talk entitled "Dancing with Diana".

Now – looking ahead!

Our 17th August meeting will be an Open Meeting when non-members are invited to join us. Milena Kavrakova will tell of "Learning to play the cello in a Communist Country" and on 21st September Paul Gillions will be talking on the RNLI. We may seem a long way from the coast but I am sure it will be a revealing talk. I have seen the launching of the Aldeburgh lifeboat on a few occasions and although it was a practice run, a dramatic event to be sure.

Remember John McEnroe, the US tennis player, challenging the Wimbledon umpire shouting "You cannot be serious!" years ago? That is the name of Alan Gray's talk – a former Wimbledon umpire – who will be with us on 19th October and Jeff Rozelaar will talk on "Bagels and Bacon" on 16th November. Slotted in between I am sure we will organise other events. Ladies, if you fancy joining us or just coming for a visit to see what Wrestlingworth WI gets up to, join us at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall on third Tuesdays of the month..

And Before I forget. Congratulations to Rosemary Chapman (long standing member and past President) and husband Paul on achieving their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in July.

- Carolyn Driver

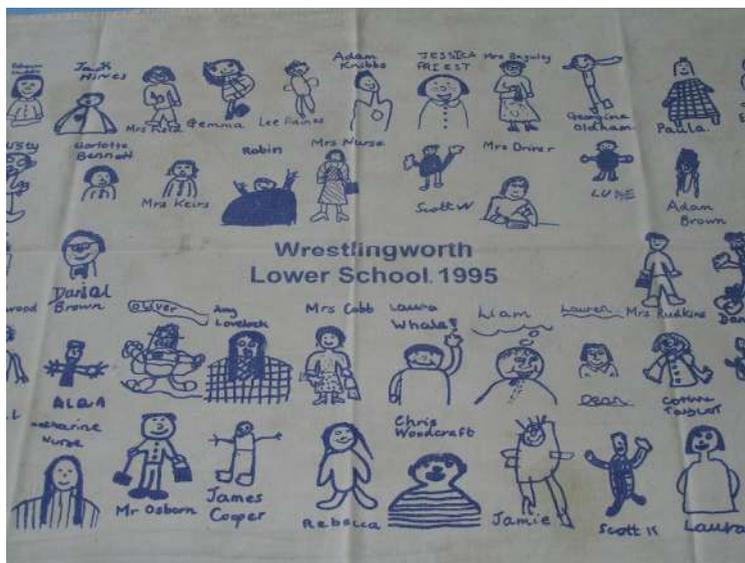
IRONING TEA TOWELS?

I was standing at my ironing board the other day ironing tea towels – yes, I iron tea towels! It occurred to me that they would soon become redundant with so many people having dish washers these days.

The large pile that takes up a shelf in my airing cupboard contains some pictorial towels of my own, my late mother's and gifts from others after holidays. They are full of memories of places visited and a mine of information. Maps of Scotland with Burns poems dotted about, Jersey, Lake Garda, Lake District, Suffolk etc. including the village of Lacock reminding me of days filming “Middlemarch”. I can check up on the “Twelve Days of Christmas”, flags of all nations and find recipes for Yorkshire Parkin and Clottie Dumplings. A facsimile of the first issue of “The Orcadian” (price 2d. November 1854) announces that “Spence and Tulloch have just received a large stock of French merinoes, Galas and Winceys – remarkably cheap” (what is a Gala I wonder?) and the story of John O'Groats and how a John de Groot charged 4d. for the ferry crossing to Orkney – hence 4d. became known as a Groat.

All this will end up in the rag bag one day but the two I will keep are the 1991 and 1995 towels designed by children of Wrestlingworth Lower School. The little stick drawings are a great record of how they saw themselves and the staff, some of the children now having children of their own at the school. I wonder how many of these tea towels have survived?

- Carolyn Driver



WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

Delectable Documents

An illustrated talk by Pamela Birch
County Archivist, Bedfordshire Archives & Records

Thursday, September 16th

7.30pm start in the Memorial Hall,
Church Lane, Wrestlingworth

ENTRY:

Visitors: £3 Members: Free

Tea & Biscuits
from 7.15 pm



WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

wrestlingworth-hs.org

Owl Sculpture Workshop

Introducing owls Captain, Button and 4 more during this 3 day workshop. Photograph, draw & transform your owl designs into beautiful clay sculpture guided by



experienced tutor Mandy Caldon. £150 to include tuition, materials & kiln firings!

Oct 27th to 29th 10-2pm.

Donations welcome at event to Friends of Rapture Foundation.

Memorial Village Hall, Wrestlingworth SG19 2EL

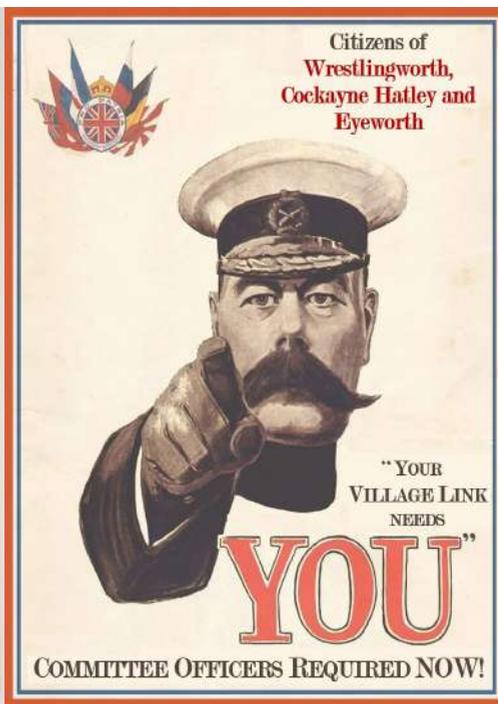
Contact mandart66@gmail.com for further details and bookings.

New Arts & Crafts Class!

Get creative with clay and make kiln fired pottery. Also printing, felt-making, mosaic etc. Monday mornings from September. £20 including materials



Host a group pottery party- booking now! Have fun whilst making unique keepsakes for those special occasions



YOUNG EXPLORERS

Donna Bubear, of the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group, suggests some outdoor activities for children during the long summer holidays



**Parish
Walking &
Wildlife
Group**

With the 6 week summer holiday in full swing you may already be running out of inspiration to entertain the children. We've put together a few ideas to get back to nature and have fun whether you are 5 or 75.

Mini Beast Safari – Take a walk and a magnifying glass and see how many different species of creepy crawlies you can find. It's a whole new world to discover. There are several identification apps or books you can use. Or why not join an organised event at the RSPB or Wicken Fen.

Pond Dipping – Take a trip to Ashwell Springs or even the pond in your back garden, grab a net and a clear jar/tray and see what you can find. Life under the water is strange and varied, from little fishes, small shrimps to diving beetles and dragonfly nymphs. Organised events are also available at Wicken Fen throughout the summer.



Discover the countryside – Go for a walk or cycle out into fields using the many local footpaths and bridleways that surround our villages. See if you can find the perfect spot to eat a picnic and enjoy getting back to nature. Look at www.pwwg.org.uk/walks for some great route suggestions, or why not design your own using the OSmaps app.



Bat Spotting – Getting outside at twilight offers the best opportunity to see a different set of wildlife. You may see a badger ambling along, foxes off on their nightly stroll, owls flying stealthily by and, if you are lucky, the local bats



hunting on the wing. With eighteen species in the UK, the most common garden bat is the Pipistrelle. Their echolocation can be picked up on bat detectors, which can be purchased for as little as £20.

Seaside – If you fancy a day out a little further afield we have ample choice of beaches within a 2 hour drive. Take nets, buckets and spades and go crabbing and rock pooling. There are a huge and varied number of sea and shore birds to discover, and why not have a paddle and build a sandcastle or two whilst you are there!

Den Building – hours of fun can be had in the woods hunting for the perfect logs to make your den. Why not take some bits with you for a tea party in your newly created dwelling.

Star Gazing – Why not set up a tent in the garden and camp out under the stars. With our rural location, and little light pollution, we get a great view of the night sky. Take some time out to learn some of the star constellations that are visible with the naked eye. Often the International Space Station can be seen passing across the sky. You can sign up with NASA for email alerts when it is passing over your area. The Perseid meteor shower is at its peak on the 12th to the 13th August, where you may see up to a meteor a minute. Apps such as SkyView Lite are really handy to help you discover what you are looking at.

50 things to do before you are 11 ¾ - (or 41 ¾ in my case) Take the National Trust challenge <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>. Every child (and adult) should experience in their life the feeling of rolling down a really big hill, going cloud watching and cooking on a



camp fire. See how many you can tick off over the summer.

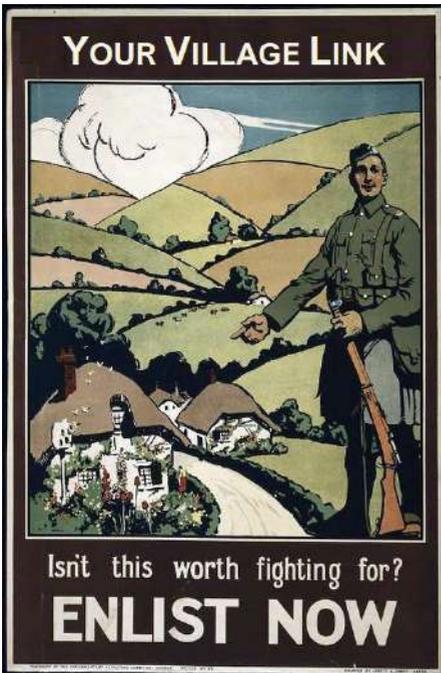


THE PARISH WALKING & WILDLIFE GROUP organises local walks every month, usually on the third Sunday in the morning to which all are welcome.

Forthcoming walks:

Sunday August 15th - Baulk Wood Nature Reserve Walk with particular emphasis on identifying birds. Baulk Wood is a 20-minute drive away and sits on the B659 between Langford and Henlow. Meet in the car park there at 10am or, if you require a lift, outside The Chequers, Wrestlingworth at 9.40am.

Sunday September 19th - Top Farm Walk. Meet at The Chequers, Wrestlingworth, at 10am, for a local walk of some 7 to 8 miles taking in a small part of the ancient Clopton Way and some spectacular views across the three counties.





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

For updates on the Parish Council, please look at the website:

<https://wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk>

The following appeared in Village Link issue 4, October 1992, which shows that not a lot changes in Wrestlingworth!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met at the Hall, Cockayne Hatley on Wednesday, 16th September 1992.

It was reported that British Gas Eastern had no immediate plans to conduct any survey in Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley, but that they were reviewing supplies to villages generally.

A revised suggested connection charge was said to be near £800 per household.

It was agreed that repairs and updating of the playing field equipment would take place as soon as practical.

The main village notice-board at Butcher's Lane is to be renovated and modified to make it easier to open.

The Council were in general agreement when discussing a questionnaire from Mid-Beds District Council. It was felt that a

limited number of low cost houses would be desirable in the village. Some form of traffic calming was thought to be necessary on the main road.

A new foot bridge has been built by the County Council on the foot path known as Cow Lane, where it crosses the brook. The overgrown foot path which runs between Amber Lodge and No. 2 Hatley Road is to be cleared. It is hoped that walkers will now use this somewhat neglected pathway.

During the open forum, members of the public attending the meeting expressed some concern that the field adjacent to the High Street might be used for housing. They were assured that the Council knew of no such plans and would be unwilling to support any building on what is designated as a conservation area.

SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Our school in Wrestlingworth is in danger of closure. On behalf of St Peter's I would urge you to read the consultation document on the future of our church school and take the opportunity to respond to Central Beds before the consultation closes on 28th September.

<https://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/plans/biggleswade/overview>

- Karen Nurse

BECK HOUSE OPEN GARDEN

Sunday 1 August: 10.30 am - 4.30 pm - Teas & refreshments available

Address: Water End, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2HA

Directions: Turn into Water End opposite No.s 8 and 10 High Street.

Parking in field in front of house.

Price £5.00 per adult, children under 12 free.

Two acre garden created from scratch over the last 32 years by present owners, with much colour and variety. Formal and informal areas divided by hornbeam and yew hedges and shrub borders. Topiary shapes, yew avenue, circular dahlia garden, box parterre with English roses, herbaceous borders. White garden, courtyard garden, herb garden and vegetable garden. Hot colours garden in late summer. Tulips and other bulbs in spring. Rose and clematis pergola walk. New areas of planting in the last two years. Woodland garden started in 2019. Some gravel paths, steps and slopes, but mostly wheelchair accessible. Outside WC available.

FROM A READER IN NEW ZEALAND!

I recently enjoyed reading “A newcomer’s guide to the country village” by John Holder, which appeared in the September 2020 issue of Country Life, and was reminded of my visit to lovely Wrestlingworth in rural Bedfordshire in 2018, and its excellent magazine (which I read on-line from my home in southern New Zealand.) The article is uncannily accurate!

The Parish Magazine

You’ll find more invaluable information in the pages of the parish magazine than you ever will on Google and not only on church services, the monthly flower rota and talks on obscure aspects of local history in the village hall. The small ads are a deep mine of vital intelligence on everything from sources of properly seasoned logs to pest control. These carry a reassuring degree of endorsement, as it’s unlikely that ads from a rogue roofer would ever get past the rector’s all-seeing eye. Its pages also offer an invaluable, at-a-glance Who’s Who of the local hierarchy; church wardens and sidespeople tend also to be gatekeepers of local institutions, from the annual fête to the village hall.

See what I mean? Village Link, keep up your excellent work!

- *Lynley Dear, New Zealand*

TRIAL AND ERROR COOKING BY GORDON BLUE (ASSISTED BY EGON RONNIE)

APPLE PUDDING (Serves four people)

Ingredients:-

- 6 slices of bread
- Enough melted butter or margarine to soak the bread, plus an extra knife-ful.
- Two or three apples of differing tastes
- A sprinkling of sugar
- A few pinches of salt (optional)
- A handful of raisins or sultanas
- Some cream or ice cream to complement the apple pudding
- 1 egg

Method

After removing the crusts from the bread, soak what is left into the melted butter or margarine. Save the crusts to use to make a bread sauce in another recipe. Line the baking dish with four of the soaked bread slices and add a fifth one to the base. Adjust the number of slices you use in accordance with the size of your baking dish.

Peel the apples and after slicing them up, add some margarine or butter, a little sugar and a pinch of salt and microwave them until they are soft, almost mush like. Wait for this mixture to cool down and then stir in the egg. Finally add the raisins or sultanas and stir them in as well.

Pour this mixture into the baking dish, covering the top with the final slice of the soaked bread. Cook for about 30 minutes at 200 degrees, or until the top goes just a little brown. Serve, hot or cold, with some thick cream or even ice cream.

Egon Ronnie comments:-

This is a tasty summer pudding Gordon and is really a version of 'bread and butter pudding'. You can enhance the taste by using different types of apples.

THE FOUR VILLAGES ARTS COMPETITION

Nicola Adkin won April's poetry competition with this humorous poem about the lack of elevation in our county.



“THIS COUNTY IS FLAT” by Nicola Adkins

Skylarks bob, lilt and trill
And casually celebrate
Their natural habitat
In this county
Which is flat



This level horizon
Opens our mind to
Just that
Our county
Fabulously flat



Sunsets blaze red, orange,
purple
Who would think it could
be so beautiful
This county
Known to be flat?



Turbines face a fierce south
-westerly
Crisis reminder
And need to protect that
County. So very flat

Corn Bunting
Another Red List stat
Dire warning of our
Duty of care to
Our county
Delightfully flat

Rhythmic rippling
Green barley crop
Eye-piercing neon yellow
rape
If only this county weren't
just that
So featureless
And so flat

Environmental health
Is kept
Intact
In this county
So very, very flat

A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH, A PERSONAL VIEW – PART 5

By Brian Buck

Previously, I have walked past the houses in Mill End and then entered into a large field, where I have kept to the left. Recently I finally found out what was growing in this field, following on from the wheat grown last year. Sown late, obviously on purpose, I saw that this year's crop is peas! Due to the sheer size of this field, I immediately had erroneous visions that the needs of everyone in our country would be satisfied by the contents of this field alone!

Anyway, on with the walk and always keeping the field on your right, just as it starts to curl round to the right, it becomes a bridleway. At this point the waymark post here has a sign pointing to Lousy Bush Nature Reserve and I believe that it is the one which features on the front cover of Issue 174 of the Village Link. It will take you about 15 minutes, casual walking time, to reach the nature reserve, but it is worth doing this section of the walk for the views and the beauty of Nature Reserve alone.

Although you are rather exposed here as you walk through the fields, you encounter excellent views of Eyeworth, the road between there and Wrestlingworth and the wide, open fields beyond this. Meanwhile, on the other side of the footpath, or bridleway as it appears on some maps, other walkers could be seen on my visits and the boundary to every field seems to include a footpath, not necessarily public ones though. For me this was all rather relaxing as I found myself out in the open without anyone near me. That was except on one particular day, when a cyclist, who, as he came towards me, did well to traverse the footpath, which was narrow and muddy in places. Soon you will see the nature reserve ahead of you. Your view will be the same as can be seen on the front cover of the last edition of the Village Link. Within a mile you will arrive at a clump of trees on your left which is the Lousy Bush Nature Reserve and it is here where you will find an information board. This information board will enlighten you as to what you may be able to see at various times of the year. This was wonderful to read and gives an insight as to why some dedicated people are trying to preserve our countryside, rather than ruin it.

There is also a gate on the north side due to the ponds, close to the information swing gate near the interpretation board, which presented me with an opportunity to gain access to the reserve, when I visited this reserve in November 2020, but I soon regretted trying to gain access in this way, as

there was no defined pathway. Recently, the trimming of the long grass leading down to this gate has been undertaken, with grateful thanks to the chairman of both the Parish Council and the Walking & Wildlife Group, Robin Barratt. However, I eventually found it better to gain access via the gate on the west side and from here there is a rough pathway to the hide. I had believed this to be locked up on my visits, but most recently I bumped into a couple of genial walkers on one of my walks, who kindly informed me that you have to push the door open. I did this and was able to spend a few minutes sitting down and watch some of the undisturbed wildlife.

I suspect that the Reserve has been left in its wild state on purpose, to encourage wildlife to flourish, which might be disturbed if some kind of man-made pathway was laid down for public use. But I am sure that better informed people than me know what is best for the site.

The Wrestlingworth Enclosure Act of 1801 records that the gravel pit was located in Lousy Bush Meadow. Therefore, the reserve has been named the Lousy Bush Nature Reserve. For more information check out the following link:- <https://www.pwwg.org.uk/nature-reserve/nature-reserve-article/>.

If you want to continue your walk onwards from here then you will soon arrive on the Eyeworth to Sutton Road from where you can walk on the Biggleswade. From here there is also an opportunity to return to Wrestlingworth by another route, but I will explore this in a future edition of the Village Link.

Otherwise retrace your steps, back to where you saw the option to visit Lousy Bush Nature Reserve sign, by the aforementioned 'new' waymark sign, making sure you keep the large field to your left and the large 'white' house to your right. At this point turn right and go through the swing gate and cross a track. This track leads up to the said 'white' house on your right and back into High Street on your left. But cross the track and straightaway go through another swing gate almost opposite.

If you have any comments, additions or corrections to make then please contact me at brianbuck66@yahoo.co.uk and I will add them to a 'round-up' once the last of this series of articles has been published. Also, if you give me permission then I will acknowledge your contribution by name.

Thank you.



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NAME	TRADE	CONTACT
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St. John the Baptist's Church Cockayne Hatley	Revd. Alex Wheatley - Rector Christine Armistead - P.C.C. & Church Warden Barbara Bell - Friends of St. Johns	01767 764062 01767 260809 01767 631567
Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth & Dunton Churches	Revd. Matt Phillips - Priest in charge Karen Nurse - Church Warden (St. Peters) Wendy Robinson - Church Warden (All Saints)	01767 512122 01767 631487 01767 631283
Church and Poor's Fund	Liz Teague	01767 631628
Parish Council	Robin Barratt - Chair Sandra Williams - Vice Chair Nigel Dodgson James Kirkpatrick Frazer Dewey Kevin Puddephatt Catherine Dear - Clerk to Parish Council	01767 631418 01767 631269 01767 631643 01767 631767 01767 631746 07950 691905 01767 631383
Central Beds Council	Adam Zerny - Independent Ward Councillor Tracey Wye - Independent Ward Councillor	01767 261319 01767 261319
Wrestlingworth Lower School	Nancy Sheehan - Head Teacher Abi Chipperfield - Friends Co-chair Kelly Whitfield - Friends Co-chair	01767 631249 07949 831993 07834 614613
Women's Institute	Lesley May	01767 631259
Conservative Association	Doreen Gurney	01767 680395
Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund	Sarah Burgoine - Chair Margret Pantry - Doctor/Hospital Transport	01767 631415 01767 631548
Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall	Jim Hawkins - Chair Edwina Parker - Bookings	01767 631736 01767 631066
Eyeworth Village Hall	Wendy Robinson - Bookings	01767 631283
Walking & Wildlife Group	Robin Barratt - Chair	01767 631418
History Society	Connie Walker - Coordinator	01767 631450
Badminton Club	Jim Hawkins	01767 631736
Ladies' Badminton Club	Jan Goodwin	01767 631282
The Chequers Public House	Dave and Carin Moore	01767 631818
Village Link	Simon Dear - Editor	01767 631383

EMERGENCY (24 HOURS)

Police Contacts PC 5725 Sally Bonham & PCSO 4763 Ann Jeeves tel: 101
 Potton Surgery 01767 260229 — 24/7 (electricity) 0800 783 8838 — Anglian Water 0800 145 145
 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 07842 087395 or 0300 300 4439

Village defibrillator locations — Cockayne Hatley - opposite 21 Village Road
**** Call 999 whilst at Patient **** Wrestlingworth - Millennium Garden bus shelter

USEFUL NUMBERS

Potton Surgery (Appointments/requests)	01767 260340
Police (Control Room)	01234 841212
Samaritans	01234 211211
National Rail Enquiries	08457 484950
Central Bedfordshire Council Dog Warden	0300 300 8302

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