

# Village Link

Issue 179



*Our warmest wishes for the winter holiday season!*

**December 2021-January 2022**

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## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor - Simon Dear

Treasurer - David D'Ath     Distribution Coordinator - Carolyn Driver

Assistant - Cameron Bubear

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ISSUE 179

December 2021 - January 2022

### EDITORIAL

We extend our warmest season's greetings to all our wonderful readers and distribution helpers, and to our sponsors and advertisers without whom you would not be reading your Village Link now.

Sadly, David Fryatt has moved from Wrestlingworth, bringing to an end his 6 years of tireless service to the Village Link committee. David, thank you for so capably taking over the reins when you did and steering the Village Link to brighter pastures.

Help often comes from unexpected quarters, and we are thrilled that a couple of people have stepped forward to assist us. Carolyn Driver has joined the committee (again!) as our Distribution Coordinator, taking over from David. Carolyn has been involved with the Village Link one way or another since it started almost 30 years ago. And Cameron Bubear is assisting the committee for his college Graphic Design course work experience, and will get a taste of all aspects of our production. He has provided our excellent cover for this issue. Welcome on board, Carolyn and Cameron!

*- Simon Dear, Editor*

*Cover photo used with kind permission of Donna Bubear*

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### OUR KIND SPONSORS

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER 2021

- 5th The Big Christmas Breakfast, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 9am-12pm, organised by Friends of the Lower School
- 11th Charity Christmas Café Church, St Peter's, Wrestlingworth, 10am-12pm
- 11th The Goodwill Fund - Santa's sleigh visits Cockayne Hatley, Tadlow and Eyeworth, 1pm
- 12th The Goodwill Fund - Santa's sleigh visits Wrestlingworth, 1pm
- 12th Carols around the Tree, All Saints, Eyeworth, 3pm
- 14th Women's Institute Christmas Party, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 18th Outdoor Carols at St Peter's, Wrestlingworth, 6pm
- 19th PWWG walk, Manor Farm Circuit, 10am at the Chequers
- 19th Carols by Candlelight, St John's, Cockayne Hatley, 3pm
- 24th Lessons and Carol Service, St Peter's, Wrestlingworth, 6pm

### JANUARY 2022

- 10th Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm. Please contact the P.C. clerk if you wish to attend.
- 16th PWWG walk - details to be advised
- 18th Women's Institute 'Posh Afternoon Tea', Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 2.30-4.30pm
- 20th Wrestlingworth History Society - details 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](mailto: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.**

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**The parish Council is looking for two new members** to fill vacancies which have occurred.

Are you interested in helping to make Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley parish a better place to live? Do you have ideas on how our environment and facilities could be improved?

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by residents in 2016 we have:

- Worked with Central Beds Council to achieve five units of social housing on the rural exception site on the Old Tree Nursery. Building will soon be completed and there is considerable interest from people with links to the parish who would like to rent the properties
- Resisted development on Woodcraft's Meadow
- Successfully objected to a development of 30 houses on agricultural land to the north of Braggs Lane

Other successful projects include a major investment in new equipment for the play area and speed sensors in the High Street.

We have lobbied for an improved bus service which now serves Cockayne Hatley.

We represent residents' views on wider issues such as the proposed changes to the London Luton airport flightpath and the proposed East West Rail route.

More locally the Parish Council is responsible for grass cutting in areas of both Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley and for a lot of the street lighting in Wrestlingworth.

**The next big project will be the development of allotments** behind the new exception site houses. We are waiting to sign the lease on the land with Central Beds Council.

**Would you like to get involved? Would you like to help make a difference to where we live? Have you got ideas for new projects?**

Meetings are held every other month and usually last about an hour and a half. How much more time you gave would be up to you.

**Interested?** Contact the Parish Clerk, Catherine Dear [wrestlingworthch@gmail.com](mailto:wrestlingworthch@gmail.com) or 01767 631383 or the Chairman, Robin Barratt [robinlowtherbarratt@gmail.com](mailto:robinlowtherbarratt@gmail.com) or 01767 631418.

## Parish Council Meetings

Draft minutes of the November meeting can be found on the Parish Council website:

**[www.wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.org.uk](http://www.wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.org.uk)**

The next meeting will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

**We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year**

## **THANK YOU CAROL BONFIELD!**

As some of you may know, Carol has finally decided that it is time to hang up her newspaper delivery equipment!

I know this has been a very difficult decision for her as she is a very determined lady and so wanted to carry on to keep active, but a worsening hip problem has finally proved too hard to ignore.

Carol has been delivering our daily newspapers for many years, first when Geoff Swinden organised deliveries in the village and more recently when Camerons in Potton took over, all this when she retired from being a “postie” in Potton.

She has always been cheerful and friendly and particularly fond of wildlife and dogs. In fact she was invaluable to me when I was teaching as she would walk the dogs for me when needed and even keep our bird feeders filled when we were on holiday.

As for the newspapers, and knowing her replacement has not been easy to find, she offered to stay on as long as it took to find someone, an action very typical of Carol.

However, we do now have Colin and family delivering to our end of the village and Josh Bird doing the other side. They have a very hard act to follow!

Thank you Carol for all your dedication and for goodness sake put your feet up, you’ve earned it.

*- Jan and Peter Molyneux*

## FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS

### Let Us Know Where the Worst Speeding Black Spots are in Our Area

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has agreed to do more speed checks in our local area to help get an idea of which are the most dangerous locations. While this doesn't guarantee the Council will be spending money on speed reduction measures in the immediate future, it is an important step on the way.

At present we are already speaking to CBC about measures to be considered on the road between Wrestlingworth and Potton and between Potton and Biggleswade - more on that in the coming months - but we'd like you to tell us where else you have witnessed the worst incidents.

When such speed checks last took place three years ago, the worst areas for non-compliance were on the road towards Wrestlingworth from Potton and Myers Road, Potton where speeds of up to 65mph were recorded. To see the full results from last time, you can click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/adamzerny/posts/2270635156387283>

And the results do make a difference - we have used past results from such speed checks to fight for the introduction of the speed camera just outside Wrestlingworth and for the speed signs on Wrestlingworth High Street.

But there are still areas around us where speeding is a real problem so if you know of areas which suffer, drop us an email and we will forward the details on to CBC.

And if you'd like to be kept informed of what CBC do on this, please drop one of us an email and we'll put you on the mailing list for the monthly email newsletter.

*Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye  
Central Bedfordshire councillors for  
Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley and Potton  
[adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk) - [traceywye@icloud.com](mailto:traceywye@icloud.com)*



## FORECAST – WET AND CHILLI (sic)

The logo features the text 'theWI' in a large, lowercase, sans-serif font, with 'the' in a smaller size than 'WI'. Below this, the words 'INSPIRING WOMEN' are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark grey rectangular background.

In September we had a thrilling presentation by Paul Gillions on the RNLI from its founding in 1824 to the present day. We watched rescues on the lifeboatmen's headcams in mountainous 10ft waves battering stricken ships to plucking a drowning man out of the swirling currents of the River Thames. Sitting in the front row, I almost felt wet!

It takes £160 million a year to run the RNLI and I can see why. They have four different types of boats dotted around our coast, the most recent weighing tons that can right itself in seven seconds if it turns over, to the low draught boat that can deal with the turbulent tides of the River Thames. They have a training college overlooking Poole Harbour, lifeguards on beaches, a programme of awareness on the dangers of the sea and a flood rescue team. It is completely run on voluntary contributions and all lifeboatmen (and women) are volunteers who will drop everything to attend a rescue. They all deserve to be awarded a medal – and some do.

Back on dry land some members joined the five other WIs in our Group when Henry VIII stepped out of the curtains in full costume and told of his six wives! We celebrated autumn with our popular Chilli Evening in October and Nick Cooke stepped in as a replacement in November and spoke about the 'Great Train Robbery'. At our Christmas Party on 14th December a former Wimbledon Umpire will be keeping fair play, while a small group of us visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire earlier in the month for a special lunch. So you can see we don't let the grass grow under our feet.

Traditionally we don't hold a January meeting but it has been decided to hold a 'Posh Afternoon Tea' on 18th January from 2.30–4.30pm to kick start the year and help raise some funds. The price of £14 will include the Tea, a free raffle, entertainment and a glass of 'fizz'. Following that in February we have a visit from Gary Fisher speaking on the 'Life of Elizabeth I' – so get your 'ruffs' starched ladies.

The committee send their Christmas Greetings to all and hope that we can put the last two years of 'horrors' behind us and move on into more peaceful year.

- Carolyn Driver

## **WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND**

The Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our Cheese and wine evening, The Big Raffle and the Quiz. A massive thank you goes to SMD Ltd, Avanti Hair Studio and The Chequers public house for donating some fabulous prizes for the raffle. Your continued support has meant that we have been able to help locals across our four villages.

### **Goodwill Fund News**

We are pleased to announce that we now have a brand new website. Check it regularly for updates and events.

**<http://www.wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk>**

If you're new to the village, just been in hospital or had a baby, let us know at **[info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk](mailto:info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk)** and we will pop by, say 'hello', (COVID restrictions adhered to) drop you off a gift, and see if we can help you in any way.

We are pleased to announce that we provide grants for local young people who are embarking on new educational courses, through our 16+ educational award scheme.

It's that time again.... Santa and his merry helpers will be out with his sack of treats, looking for the young and old again this year. Come and see if you're on his naughty or nice list. He will be delivering Christmas parcels to the over 65s too, so let us know if you're over 65 and you will be included in our parcel drop. You will be able to follow our route live on our Facebook page.

**<https://www.facebook.com/TheGoodWillFund/>**

We will be delivering to Cockayne Hatley, Tadlow and Eyeworth on 11th December from 13:00. And on 12th December from 13:00, we will be delivering to Wrestlingworth.

Finally, to continue our good work, providing help and support across the four villages, we need YOU. We are a very friendly and pro-active committee, but we need new committee members and are desperately seeking a new treasurer for January. Please get in contact if you feel you could help. And don't forget you can help raise funds for us through Amazon Smile, which is very easy to set up.

Thank you for your support. Merry Christmas to one and all and we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Lots of love from the WGF.



### Contact Us

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

Wendy Robinson, Church Warden  
01767 631283

For more information see: [www.dwe.org.uk](http://www.dwe.org.uk)

### Whoever you are, you are welcome here!

All Saints 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.

### Services in December and January

During December and January, our service schedule is as follows:

#### **Carols Around the Tree: Sunday December 12th at 3pm**

*Back by popular demand! Join us for mulled wine, mince pies and a special retelling of the Christmas Story. A magical start to your Christmas.*

#### **Saturday December 25th at 8:45am: Christmas Morning Celebration**

*Join us for a short All-Age Eucharist service as we celebrate Christmas together at All Saints. All are welcome.*

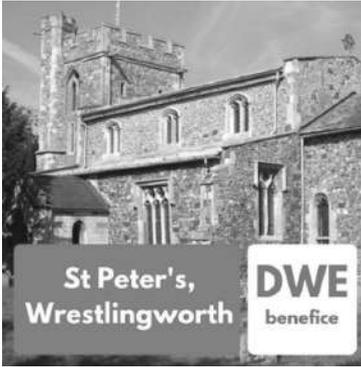
#### **Sunday January 9th at 3pm: Parish Eucharist**

*A relaxed Eucharist service suitable for people of all ages.*

#### **Sunday January 23rd 2021: All-Age Communion at 3pm**

*A relaxed service with action songs, crafts, activities.*

For more information see: [www.dwe.org.uk](http://www.dwe.org.uk)



## Ways to keep in touch with St Peter's

Our Notice board outside church  
Our web site: [www.dwe.org.uk](http://www.dwe.org.uk)  
Facebook – follow 'DWE Benefice'

Matt Phillips, Priest-in-Charge  
01767 512122      [matt@dwe.org.uk](mailto:matt@dwe.org.uk)

Karen Nurse, Church Warden  
01767 631487      [karen.nurse@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.nurse@btinternet.com)

## 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

Regular Services at St Peter's take place each **Sunday at 11am**. Join us for a warm welcome, a relevant and engaging service and tea and coffee afterwards. We also now have a dedicated Children's area and 'fun bags' for younger congregation members to explore and enjoy.

## Christmas Services at St Peter's

### **Outdoor Carols: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 6pm-6:30pm**

Join us in the church yard for a community singalong with glow sticks and refreshments. Guaranteed to make you feel Christmassy!

### **Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 6pm**

A magical start to your Christmas.

### **Christmas Day Parish Eucharist: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 9:30am**

A relaxed service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



## **Charity Christmas Café Church: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-12pm**

This year more than ever there will be hardship for families. At this time of giving, we invite you to join us for seasonal refreshments and a chance to catch up with old and new friends. We are asking for donations of non-perishable goods for the Preen Food Bank. Please be generous this Christmas and help us make a difference to those in need.

### **Save the Date:**

**MESSY CHURCH launches 6<sup>th</sup> February, 3:30pm**



Join us for a fun way of doing and being church together at St Peter's with crafts, songs and a simple meal. Everybody is welcome.

### **A Sunday to remember!**

*St Peter's held a special service on 10<sup>th</sup> October when three members of our congregation were confirmed by Bishop Richard. It was a moving and memorable occasion.*

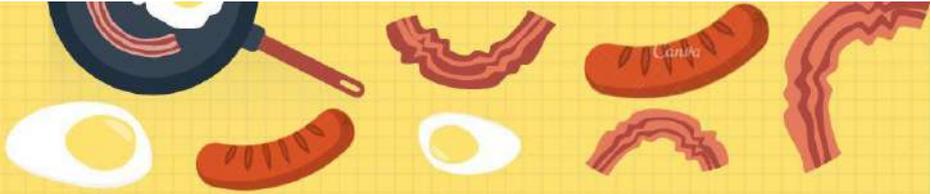


## **CAN YOU HELP?**

We are looking for volunteers to sweep leaves at St Peter's, Wrestlingworth. The church footpaths need to be kept clear of leaves and debris to be safe for use by our elderly parishioners. Our current volunteers take turns on a rota, so you will need to be able to sweep once a month. If you are interested in helping, please contact me,



*- Bob Moore, phone 01767 631557*



ARE YOU HUNGRY?

# The Big Christmas Breakfast

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Paul and Rosemary Chapman wish all their friends in  
and around Wrestlingworth Happy Christmas and a  
peaceful New Year



## **Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund Christmas Delivery**



**Santa and his merry helpers will be out delivering to your village again this year. Come and see if you have been naughty or nice and you may just get a treat.**

**Follow us live on our Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheGoodWillFund/>**

**11th December 2021  
from 13:00  
Cockayne Hatley,  
Tadlow & Eyeworth**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
from 13:00  
Wrestlingworth**



**The Goodwill fund would like to wish you all  
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

St Peter's Church, Wrestlingworth

# Charity Christmas Café Church

Saturday 11th December October 10.00-12.00  
in St Peter's

**DWE**  
benefice



**Hot Drinks and  
Mince Pies !**

**Preen Food Bank Donations Drop off Point**

For further details call Karen on 01767 631487

# Cockayne Hatley Carol Service

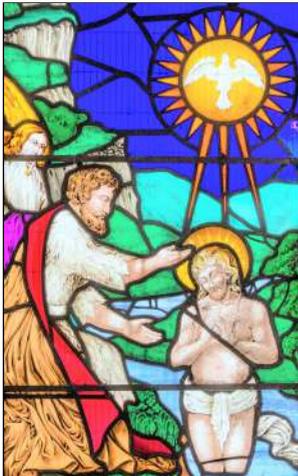


## ***Traditional Service of Christmas Carols and Readings***

*Carols by Candlelight  
in the medieval church of St John the Baptist*

*Service on **Sunday 19 December**  
at 3.00pm,  
followed by mulled wine, coffee and mince pies.*

***Everyone welcome***



## **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COCKAYNE HATLEY**

**Rector Rev. Alex Wheatley**

### **Services for December 2021**

**12 December** at 9 am - Holy Communion

**19 December** at 3 pm - Carol Service

**Christmas Day** at 9 am - Holy Communion

### **Services in January 2022**

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

**4th Sunday of the month** at 3 pm - Evening Prayer

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

## RECOGNITION FOR LONG SERVICE!

Melvyn Robinson of High Street, Eyeworth was presented with a long service award at Grandsden Show on 25th September. This was in recognition of him working for Carl Lee & Sons Ltd, Manor Farm in Eyeworth for over 52 years. Melvyn (*right*), now 70, was presented the award by his current boss, Martin Lee.

He was unaware he was being presented with the award as his family wanted it to be a surprise. His wife, Wendy and his two children and five grandchildren were all there to support him.

After getting over the shock of the surprise, he said he felt very proud and it was a very special moment!



## WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society continues to meet on the third Thursday every other month, with the next date being **20 January 2022**. The topic/speaker for this meeting has yet to be announced, but once confirmed it will be advertised through our email distribution list, via our website and on posters around the village. See you there!

<http://wrestlingworth-hs.org/>



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

## **WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL**

The hall is now open for business again after being recently rewired.

We are COVID secure so please consider us when you would like to host an event, start a new club or book the hall for personal use. Our rates are extremely reasonable. Details can be found on the parish council website.

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

### **Bookings**

Edwina Parker - 01767 631066

[wrestlingworthmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:wrestlingworthmemorialhall@gmail.com)

## **FAREWELL!**

We moved from Wrestlingworth on the 19th October after 21 very happy years in the village. As some of you know Armande is the Patron of The Shetland Pony Welfare Trust. It has long been our wish to be able to keep our two rescued ponies at home and our move has finally allowed us to do so with a property large enough for our entire menagerie. In fact, we are likely to add two more rescued Shetlands before the end of the year.

We loved our time in the village and our leaving was tinged with sadness. We will miss our friends, neighbours, acquaintances and those who we just met when walking our dogs. Our moving also ends David's time with The Village Link. It is really worthwhile and so far ahead of the local magazine in our new village. Please do think about offering Simon your help - just a few hours of your time once every two months would really make a difference.

May we wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a 2022 that starts with more promise than 2021. Finally our thanks to Carin and Dave at The Chequers for everything they did for us over the years. If you are going to The Chequers on Christmas Day, we will see you there.

*- Armande and David Fryatt*

## PWWG IN AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

*Nicola Adkins of the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group looks back over a turbulent year and forward to a calmer 2022*



**Parish  
Walking &  
Wildlife  
Group**

While 2021 may not have been the year we had hoped for, the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group has still managed to chalk up a few highlights, not least restarting its walks programme as soon as government restrictions allowed.

We came back together to walk again in May and celebrated with a local walk, now known as the ‘Wrestlingworth Wheel’, and firmly on the calendar. Favourite walks followed, including the Three Hatleys and Top Farm (*on which the photo below was taken*).



Themed walks took us to Potton Wood in search of the Purple Emperor (and other butterflies too), Baulk Wood for birds and Gamlingay Wood for a fungi foray - always a crowd-pleaser with plenty of specimens requiring identification.

While the Committee was sorry to see Pat Humphrey step down, it was nonetheless delighted to welcome three new members. As a

founder member of the group, Pat worked tirelessly on developing Lousy Bush Nature Reserve and on the nest box project. We will miss his contribution to the Group and birding expertise. We are very lucky to have such a breadth of knowledge of flora and fauna across the Group, which makes all our walks a rich learning experience.

We were delighted to acquire 12 new litter pickers, all now available on loan, courtesy of SMD Ltd, the developers of the former tree nursery. With adult supervision, litter picking is a fun activity to do with children, and we were pleased to see such a good turnout of 'Little Pickers' on Parish Tidy Up Day in September. We were also delighted that so many people supported the call for donations for bird food at the Reserve via our Just Giving page. Thanks to all.

As well as organising monthly local walks, normally on the third Sunday of the month, the Group was also busy performing its other core functions of monitoring the accessibility of footpaths and Rights of Way, noting & recording badgers setts, barn owls and nest box occupancy in the Parish, and maintaining links with local landowners. We are currently working on our local and themed walks schedule for 2022, and our planned activities around Lousy Bush, and will publish this in the next issue so have your calendars ready!

If you would like to walk with us, get involved in the Group, join the Committee or just come to a meeting to find out more, contact Robin Barratt on 07768 340599, go to [www.pwwg.org.uk](http://www.pwwg.org.uk) or find us on Facebook!

Our next walk is our annual Manor Farm walk starting at 10am at The Chequers on Sunday December 19th and finishing at The Chequers for some Christmas cheer. Join us!

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

## CRANBERRY AND BRUSSELS SPROUT MINCED TART (Serves two people)

### Ingredients :-

- 300g of mince
- 1 medium to large sliced onion
- 200g of cranberries (approx.)
- 200g of chopped Brussels sprouts (approx.)
- Salt to season, or a stock cube
- 1 tablespoon or two of sugar
- Five or six baby pickled onions and some of its vinegar (optional)
- 1 medium to large sliced carrot
- Three or four thinly sliced potatoes - (see below)
- 1 teaspoon or two of chicken gravy powder (see below)



### Method :-

Line the base of your baking dish with the onion and then evenly spread the mince on top.

Then in a separate dish add the Brussels sprouts, the cranberries, the salt or stock cube, sugar and the baby pickled onions and its vinegar (optional). Mix them altogether by shaking the dish and then spread evenly over the mince and onions.

On top of this spread out the sliced carrot. Then finally cover all the ingredients with the sliced potatoes, using as many potatoes as is required.

Cook for about an hour at 200 degrees or just before the potatoes start to get overly crisp. You may wish to initially cover the contents of the dish with tin foil, to give the potatoes a chance of softening in the early stages of cooking. Also, you may wish to cook the meal at a higher temperature once you remove the tin foil.

When cooking is finished, stir the gravy powder into the liquid residue, if there is enough of it to form a gravy. If not then make some gravy by

adding some boiling water to the residue and gravy powder. Then pour it over the meal on your plates and enjoy.

### Egon Ronnie comments:-

Rather surprisingly, cranberries are available all the year round these days, albeit in frozen form for most of the year and they can be found in the frozen food sections of leading supermarkets. I suspect that we live in the capital of Brussels sprout harvesting, so you should not have too much difficulty in obtaining these. This refreshing recipe from Gordon offers something a little different from the usual standard Christmas fare, either to be eaten on Christmas Day or during the festive season. What makes this work so well is the combining of the different ingredients, each with strong flavours.

**BRUSSELS SPROUTS HUNT!** Our local chef Gordon Blue dropped his bag of sprouts while visiting the Village Link office, spilling and scattering the contents high and low. Can you help the editor find the dozen brussels sprouts that have made their way into this issue?



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# **A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH A PERSONAL VIEW – PART 8**

## **By Brian Buck**

We continue with the walk by leaving the Wrestlingworth crossroads, heading into the heart of the village along High Street, but only for about twenty yards. Here you will spot a public footpath sign on your right, which you should take and this will lead you through a little spinney, into a field accessed by yet another swing gate. On the gate there is another ‘Bull in Field’ sign and this is one sign one walkers should take a bit more note of!

In the first few weeks of my walk, back in March 2020 this field was full of thick lush grass, but in later weeks a herd of cows appeared. Generally, they were no trouble, but on hot days they liked to congregate under the trees right by the swing gate you need to use to enter this field. Usually, my presence was enough to make them move. But on one very hot day it soon became clear that they were not going to do so and therefore on this occasion I had to abandon this part of the walk. Then, after a few weeks I noticed a white ‘cow’ in the field. Now, bearing in mind that just about the earliest record I can remember listening to on the wireless, was ‘Little White Bull’, sung by Tommy Steele in 1958, my suspicions were aroused, to say the least. But I continued with my walks for probably about two weeks before my suspicions that this creature might not be a ‘cow’ were seriously aroused, when I was able to compare the items dangling between its legs with that of several of the actual cows!

But as the weeks rolled by the bull seemed to accept me and it did not cause me any problems as I continued my walk through this field. I still had to be careful though as I had to avoid loads of cow pats. In fact, I nearly took a dried one home to my wife to show her what I had nearly trodden in! It is worth pointing out here that these creatures do their own recycling! If the cow pats are left alone then they eventually dry out and end up fertilizing the grass, making it even more tasty to eat next year, if you like doing this sort of thing!

Anyway, on with my walk. Try and stay close to the fence on your left where you will pass by a stable with some well-groomed horses. The partially worn footpath will take you down to the end of this part of the field and over a stream by a couple of swing gates. In the Spring there are some lovely buttercups here. You need to be a bit careful as you cross the stream here and mind that you do not bang your head on a tree which leans over the

footbridge at an angle. As for the stream it crosses, there was some water in it when I started my walks, but as time went on it became a bit dried up. When flowing, it is a tributary to the brook which passes through the village.

Once you have crossed this footbridge, then you seemingly find yourself in another field, but perhaps not, as the cows and bull can easily find their way into this field from the previous one. But this field has a history. On my walks I was told that during the Second World War this field had Nissan huts in it, which housed four non-confrontational Italians as Prisoners of War. I was also told that there was also a non-confrontation German here as well, who dressed up as a Nazi. But by all accounts, he was mad and harmless and the locals took the mickey out of him! In 2012 a book by Stephen Risby, entitled Prisoners of War in Bedfordshire was published and looks at other non-confrontational PoW's in Bedfordshire. I have not read this book and I do not know if copies of it are still available, but I suspect those allocated to Wrestlingworth would probably get a mention in it.

Now, there was something else about this field as well. My friends outside of the village had often told me that Wrestlingworth used to have a football team. But for years I never knew where they played. However, on my walks



*Aerial view showing the grounds for football (very bottom) and cricket (top)*

I met someone who not only knew where they played but he also told me that he used to play for Wrestlingworth and that the football pitch was in this field. He stopped playing for the team in 1967 and this is when the team folded, never to reform. If you look at the pictures on the Wrestlingworth History Society through their website:

<http://www.wrestlingworth-hs.org/>

then you see that one of them (*see the previous page*), taken coincidentally in 1967, does show the location of the football ground, albeit showing just one of the goals, in the bottom left of the picture. The same picture also shows, more clearly, the cricket ground which was behind the Chequers pub.

Time to continue the walk. Keep left and exit the field through a swing gate and this brings you out by St Peter's Church and into Church Lane.

*If you have any comments, additions or corrections to make then please contact me at [brianbuck66@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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.*

## VILLAGE CLEANUP THANK YOU!

Thank you to everybody for the wonderful work your did on the Village Clean-up Day on 25 September, especially those kind people who cleared the footpath that goes through the passageway between High Street and Butcher's Lane. It was previously impassable, and now I can use it again.

Thank you!

- Carol Bonfield

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 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

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Police (Control Room)	01234 841212
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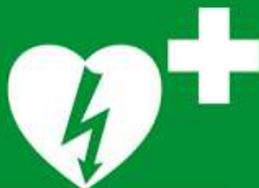
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