

Village Link

Issue 183



August - September 2022

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Saturday: 9am-3pm

Sunday: Closed

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor - Simon Dear

Treasurer - Geoffrey Coan Distribution Coordinator - Carolyn Driver

David D'Ath Cameron Bubear

e-mail us at: villagelink@zoho.com

ISSUE 183

August - September 2022

EDITORIAL

We have the pleasure of welcoming Geoffrey Coan onto our committee as our new treasurer. Thank you Geoffrey for letting your arm be twisted!

And a big thank-you goes to David D'Ath for his 2½ years as treasurer through what proved challenging times with the pandemic, and for helping Geoffrey get up to speed. David has kindly expressed the wish to stay on the committee for the time being, for which I am personally very grateful.

As editor, I am very lucky to have such an interesting job. I feel like a cow on my sister's regenerative farm browsing contentedly among sunflowers, linseed, buckwheat, lupins, clover, beans, brassicas and more, except I get to browse an eclectic array of interesting articles readers send in every month. This issue is no exception. Enjoy!

- *Simon Dear, Editor*

Cover photo credit - Chloë Dear, Canterbury, New Zealand

COPY DEADLINE ISSUE 184.....12th September 2022

PUBLICATION DATE ISSUE 184.....30th September 2022

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St Peter's Church

Parish Walking and Wildlife Group

Women's Institute

Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund

Parish Council

Wrestlingworth History Society

Memorial Hall

St John's Church, Cockayne Hatley

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.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

- 13th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 16th Women's Institute, Geoff Lambert on "My Dog's Nose Knows: The New Medical Detectors", Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 21th PWWG walk - 'Wrestlingworth Loop', starting at The Chequers, Wrestlingworth at 10am
- 27th Family Fun Day, 10am - 2pm, Eyeworth Village Hall

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Wrestlingworth Village Fete, amenity field behind the Chequers Pub, 2-5pm
- 4th Red Kite Concerts presents "Royal Rivals" at St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley, 5pm. Tickets available online.
- 10th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 11th Family Harvest Festival at St Peter's, Wrestlingworth, 11am. Afterwards - Bring and Share Lunch
- 15th Wrestlingworth History Society - 'Memories of Wrestlingworth', Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 18th PWWG walk - Croydon & Hayley Wood, starting outside Wood Grill (old Queen Adelaide pub) at 10am
- 18th Theatre of Widdershins puppet show in Eyeworth Village Hall. Time and ticket details TBA.

... CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ...

Please check dates and times with organisers, as they may be subject to change. Further information may be found later in this issue. We aim to include all events of interest to the residents of our villages, and rely on you to let us know. So, please email your diary dates to us at villagelink@zoho.com.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 20th | Women's Institute Open Meeting, David Tall on 'Being a Commander of a Nuclear Submarine', Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm |
| 24th | Harvest Sale & Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12.15pm, Eyeworth Village Hall |
| 25th | Harvest Festival at St John's Church, Cockayne Hatley, 3pm |
| 25th | Harvest Festival At All Saints Church, Eyeworth, 3pm |
| 26th | Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting at St John's Church, Cockayne Hatley, 7.30pm |

THANK YOU!

The Village Link would like to thank both Dave Moore and Gerry Izzard for their kind donations to our magazine.

W&CH PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Vacancies

The Parish Council is looking to add one or two councillors to fill current vacancies. Councillors need to attend most of the six council meetings a year, and have an interest in all matters that affect our parish. Anyone with an interest please contact Catherine Dear by email at wrestlingworthch@gmail.com or phone 01767 631383.

Parish Council Meetings

Our last meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on the 12th July. Draft minutes can be found on the Parish Council website:

wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk

Our next meeting will be on the 26th September at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Cockayne Hatley. Please feel free to come along.

TAKE 5 - WRESTLINGWORTH HIGH STREET PLANNING APPLICATION RETURNS

A new planning application to build 6 houses in Wrestlingworth has been submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC).

In April an application had been withdrawn for a development of the same 6 properties, on Wrestlingworth High Street.

This is now at least the 5th application for planning on this site. For those unfamiliar with the background, in 2017, the previous owner Co-Operative Group applied for, and was granted planning approval for 4 new houses here, as well as retaining the existing property, on the High Street, opposite the end of Alexander Road.

In July 2020, Co-Operative applied to build up to six houses on the same plot but this was withdrawn after strong opposition from CBC planning officers over concerns expressed about the possible loss of a track giving access to farmer's fields and about vehicle turning access.

In December 2020 CBC received an application for what is known as 'planning permission in principle' for 5 houses on the same site. This application sought to retain the previous planning permission which was about to lapse. When this application was submitted, I noted that it was likely to be approved by CBC (it was) but the Council made it clear a final (Reserved Matters) application would still need to be approved i.e. the applicant would have to make sure there is room for all the services required for the houses.

Still with me?

Next, Co-Operative sold the land to a group of local residents. The new landowner sought to find a way to place 6 houses on the site in a manner which met with the approval of CBC planners AND local residents. This application was received by CBC in February of this year. The applicant appeared to have covered off the concerns raised in the past about loss of access to the farmer's track and lack of

turning areas for vehicles.

But then in April the application was withdrawn. According to CBC it received 22 comments on the application of which 21 were in favour. The other one is listed merely as a 'comment' which usually implies it was neither for, nor against. The applicant is not obliged to state officially why they withdraw an application although CBC has often noted in the past that applicants may withdraw an application rather than have it refused. Amendments might then be made before a resubmission.

And now, CBC has received another application. It looks much like the last one although there have been minor changes to drainage and highways.

You can see the application details and all documents submitted by the applicant on the CBC planning website (caseID = CB/22/02491/FULL),

The consultation runs until 26th July.

There is still no news on the application for 16 houses on Potton Road, Wrestlingworth.

Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye
Independent Central Bedfordshire councillors for
Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley and Potton
adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk - traceywye@icloud.com

(To go on our regular newsletter mailing list, please email us)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COCKAYNE HATLEY

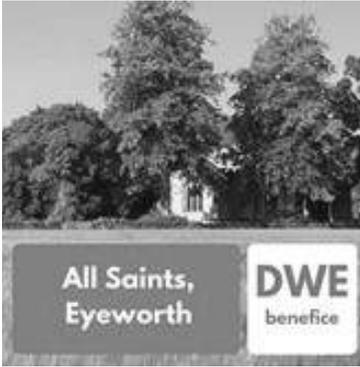
Rector Rev. Alex Wheatley

Services

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/>



Contact Us

Wendy Robinson, Church Warden
01767 631283

For more information see: www.dwe.org.uk

Follow us on FaceBook group
'We Love Eyeworth'

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.

Church Services

Rev Liz's licensing service took place at the end of last month. Details of future services will be posted in the 'We Love Eyeworth' Facebook group.

Upcoming Events in Eyeworth

Sat 27th August - Family Fun Day, 10am - 2pm, Eyeworth Village Hall. FREE entry. Face painting, hair braiding, balloon modelling, stalls, games, Mr Ice Cream Man, Horsebox Coffee Shop & special guest appearances. In aid of All Saints & Eyeworth Village Hall. For more details please follow

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1200361014043608>

Sun 18th September - The Theatre of Widdershins puppet show (www.widdershins.co.uk) will be performing in Eyeworth Village Hall. Time of show & ticket sales to be announced soon in the 'We Love Eyeworth' Facebook group.

Sat 24th September - Harvest Sale, Coffee Morning & Raffle, 10.30am - 12.15pm, Eyeworth Village Hall. In aid of All Saints.

Sun 25th September - Harvest Festival at 3pm.

.... CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

For further info please follow updates posted in 'We Love Eyeworth' Facebook group

www.facebook.com/groups/289732161550166

or contact Wendy/Melvyn (631283) or Abi (631864).

DUNTON OIL GROUP

helps those of us in the local area who use oil as our main heating source to buy it more cheaply than we could as individuals. There are 3 deliveries a year - in January, April and September. We have 140 members and order around 50,000 litres each time. This quantity gives us a price that is usually about 5 pence a litre cheaper than would otherwise be possible. The minimum order is 500 litres so that means **a saving of about £25 or more on each order.**

To join the group send an email to:-
duntonoil@larry-smith.co.uk
or phone Larry on 01767 600603

The next order form will be sent out on the weekend of 27/28 August. The order book will close on 11th September and the order placed 12th September. -Larry

QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE CHEQUERS

Quiz Night has made a welcome return to The Chequers, and takes place on the second Saturday of each month. Upcoming dates are:

Saturday 13th August, 8pm
Saturday 10th September, 8pm



Entry is just £1 per person with all profits going to local causes including the children of Wrestlingworth primarily through the Lower School.

So why not put together a team with friends and come along.

Each quiz is hosted by volunteer quizmasters, the main contact being Jim Hawkins (JimHawkins@metronet.co.uk). We welcome new quizmasters who might want to give it a go!

WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Hello from the Goodwill Fund. We are very much looking forward to the return of our major fundraiser of the year on Saturday 3rd September when we will be holding our Fete on the amenity field behind the Chequers. We will have many stalls, BBQ, tea and cakes, raffle etc and an action packed central ring.

Our hard working committee is small and we really need the help and support of our friends to make this day a success. If you are available in any way to help with setting up in the morning, running a stall for us or clearing away at the end then please contact me. We are also looking for your kind donations of raffle prizes and bric-a-brac for the White Elephant which can be collected.

Throughout August committee members will be calling at your door to deliver a programme and to sell raffle tickets at £1 a ticket with some amazing prizes. Cash would be greatly appreciated though we have now got a card machine but its use relies on a successful internet signal through the villages.

Please help us to make a success of this traditional village event and we very much look forward to seeing you there and enjoying a great day out.

For those of you who use Amazon you can also help The Goodwill Fund by switching to **smile.amazon.co.uk** where Amazon will donate to us when you shop.

Thank you for your support

- Sarah Burgoine

info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org

phone: 01767 631415

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SUMMER WITH WI

This summer we have been busy as usual. At the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend we put on a display at the Exhibition in the Memorial Hall and served tea and cakes to all the visitors.



Those who were unable to attend our June meeting missed a treat. A select group of members sat in a semi-circle like a musical soirée around **Milena Kavrakova** while she told us about her childhood in Bulgaria and her introduction to playing the cello. In between playing three of her own compositions, she recalled the day the Berlin Wall came down and the collapse the following day of the Communist Bulgarian Government. She had a backing recording of a complete orchestra, each instrument played separately and knitted together with a Microsoft computer programme. It was like being in a concert hall. The effect was stunning and you could have heard a pin drop.

In July we held our '**Meeting on Wheels**' when we went for a day visit to Anglesey Abbey and toured the house and its beautiful grounds. The house originally founded in 1135 has no connection with Anglesey in Wales nor has it ever been an abbey but at one time was an Augustinian Priory. The rundown country house was in a state of great disrepair when the future Lord Fairhaven and his brother bought it in the 1920s and it is stuffed to the gills with beautiful tapestries and artworks including paintings by Constable, Cotman, and Stubbs, a vast Library and a revealing corridor of nudes by William Etty which had one of our members fanning herself! Lord Fairhaven was passionate about his gardens and even after an afternoon of strolling around them, there was still much more to see of its 114 acres.

Our 16th August speaker is Geoff Lambert on the subject of "**My Dog's Nose Knows: The New Medical Detectors**", about a local charity that has learned to help detect medical conditions - Geoff will bring his dog. On 20th September we are holding an **OPEN**

MEETING when David Tall will tell of ‘**Being a Commander of a Nuclear Submarine**’. This talk may be of interest to husbands and friends so they will be welcome as guests at the Memorial Hall - cost £4 which includes refreshments of tea and biscuits.

The Darts League is under way and matches have started. Any members are welcome to come and try a taster session – contact Sarah Burgoine (631415).

- Carolyn Driver



*Above: Christine Knight and Lesley May serving teas at Jubilee exhibition.
Bottom right of next page: the WI stall at the Jubilee Exhibition*

CALLING ALL BUDDING WRITERS

The Village Link is looking for new contributors. Could you write a regular children's or young persons' page? Or a gardening column?

Or do you just have an interesting story you'd like to share?

Please call us to discuss your ideas - 01767 631383



Some of the stalls at Wrestlingworth's Platinum Jubilee Exhibition, held in the Memorial Hall on Sat. 4th June. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank-you to all the village organisations and clubs who made it a success and the WI & Goodwill who served refreshments.



WRESTLINGWORTH LOWER SCHOOL PTA



As I write this, we're counting down the days until the end of term. School is busy with activities - achievement assemblies, Rocksteady concert, ice cream Fridays and leavers events. We are looking forward to watching Sports Day; the first for most of us parents due to the pandemic!

The PTA has equally had a busy term. We're really pleased to say that with support from The Goodwill Fund, we have been able to replace many of the children's reading books. Thank you! Thank you to those who kindly donated to our fundraiser. We are still short of target and would welcome any help to push for those last few books

www.justgiving.com/campaign/wlsbooks

And finally, the PTA would like to say a really big thank you to all of the teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff at the school. Not only do you provide the children with a nurturing & supportive learning experience but the PTA couldn't host most of their events without your help, enthusiasm & creativity. We hope you enjoy a well deserved break over the summer! And to the children leaving Wrestlingworth for their new school, we wish you lots of adventures!

- Anna Hines



Jubilee celebrations at school



St Peter's Church

serves Wrestlingworth and our wider local community. Join us for a warm welcome, an engaging service and refreshments afterwards. We have "Rainbow Rock" for children to enjoy.

Whoever you are, you are welcome here.

Sunday Services take place at St Peter's at 11am

August 7th	Parish Eucharist
August 14th	Sunday Praise
August 21st	Parish Eucharist
August 28th	Parish Eucharist
September 4th	Parish Eucharist
September 11th	Family Harvest Festival <i>Afterwards - Bring and Share Lunch</i>
September 18th	Parish Eucharist
September 25th	Parish Eucharist

Coffee Morning **6th September 10.30-12.00**

Enjoy refreshments and conversation with friends
Bring and Buy; Book Stall; crafts for children etc.
All ages welcome. Liz Teague – 631628

Dreen
Food Bank

Please bring donations to Sunday Praise Service, or Coffee Morning. In September we shall also be collecting fresh produce as well as the usual tinned and dried goods at our Harvest Festival.

Reverend Liz Lavelle - our new vicar

We are delighted to welcome Reverend Liz Lavelle as our new Priest in Charge for our Benefice after her licensing at St Mary Magdalene Dunton on 25th July. She served her curacy in Welwyn Garden City and has been an Associate Priest in the Welwyn Team. Prior to ordination she worked as a teacher and has been Head of Music in two secondary schools in Essex and Hertfordshire where she has lived most of her life. She is married to John and has 2 young adult children. She is delighted to be with us and is looking forward to getting to know us all.



Ways to serve our village community

Become a member of the **flag raising team** and enjoy a great view of our village. Training will be given.
Contact Chris Farthing - 631087

Join our friendly group who enhance the beauty of our church with flower decoration. No expertise needed as help is always on hand. New ideas welcome.
Contact Lynne Anderson - 631396



We are doing our part to help the Church of England be net zero carbon by 2030. We have registered for the Eco Church Scheme. More about this and how you may help, soon.



Village Christian Aid Collection

This year's collection raised £296
This is a fantastic total in these difficult times.
A BIG THANKYOU

If you wish to speak to someone about church matters, or find out more, contact Nicola Adkins 631789 or visit A Church near You website.

Wrestlingworth
Goodwill Fund
Summer Fete



To be held in the field
behind The Chequers PH,
Wrestlingworth from 2pm

Saturday 3rd September 2022

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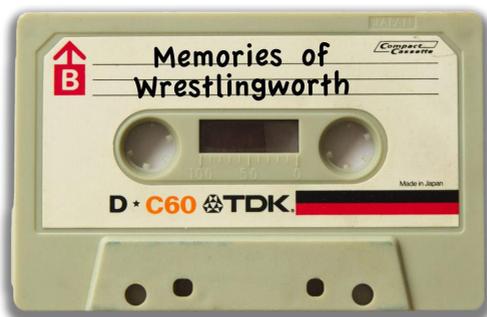


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WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY



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**Thursday, 15th September
7.15pm at the Memorial Hall**

www.wrestlingworth-hs.org



St John the Baptist, Cockayne Hatley

Harvest Festival

Sunday 25 September 2022

The traditional Festival service will take place at 3.00pm and will be followed by refreshments. There will then be an auction of produce to raise funds for masonry repairs to the Church. Please bring garden produce of vegetables, fruit and plants to celebrate Harvest time.

Everyone welcome





FOUR SEASONS. Designed and worked by Mrs Pam Doe, Mrs Rita Fryer, Mrs May Holder, Rev Ann Manning, Mrs Mary Trayner, Mrs Olive Walker, 2005

If you enjoyed last issue's article on wild flowers and its anecdote about the Carl Linnaeus, you may be interested in our very own "Four Seasons" fabric collage that hangs in St Peter's Church, Wrestlingworth.



In July a small group braved a very hot day for the PWWG's Butterfly Walk to Potton Wood. We were treated to amazing views of many species including the striking Silver-washed Fritillary (*left*) which made for a very rewarding outing. Newcomers are always welcome on our walks, all of which are advertised in the Village Link, and on Facebook. —Simon

Photo credit - James Bonfield



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ROOT AND BRANCH

Trees define our local landscape. James Bonfield, of the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group, tells a tale of resistance and resilience.



**Parish
Walking &
Wildlife
Group**

When we think of elm trees, the first thing that comes to many people's minds is Dutch Elm Disease. This poorly-named disease arrived with imported timber from Canada, but is believed to have originated in Asia. The disease is in fact a microscopic fungus, but it is carried by the elm bark beetle. This beetle is only able to attack elm trees once they reach a certain age when the bark develops fissures, into which the beetle can bore. It may be tempting to think that 'Ash Die-back' is just the modern day equivalent of Dutch Elm Disease, but Ash die-back kills young saplings too, so is potentially far more damaging.



Pollarded Elms before Storm Doris

The UK lost millions of mature elm trees in the 1970s due to the disease, however the humble elm is anything but dead. It is highly diverse with many sub-variants, some of which are disease resistant. Indeed the great naturalist Oliver Rackham stated, "There are arguably more kinds of elm in England than all other native trees together". This diversity, together with its suckering nature, mean that elm often



Wrinkled Peach fungus

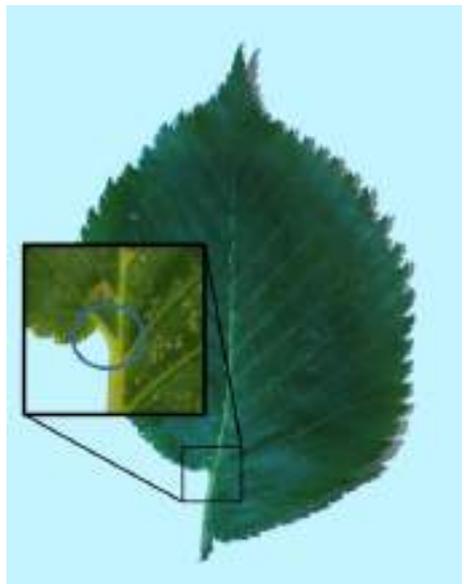
lives on in hedgerows, with several predominantly elm hedges here in Wrestlingworth.

We are blessed with having several fully grown elm trees within our parish. Randall's meadows, near the crossroads, had a stand of three ancient elm pollards (sometimes referred to as 'doddle trees', but I see other synonyms including dodderel, pollinger and stoggle). These pollards are recorded as *Ulmus Minor* var *Minor* (Small-leaved elm). Sadly two of the three came down during Storm Doris in Feb 2017, but are still present, albeit in a more reclining fashion, and now form a different habitat. Decaying Elm is also host to the stunningly beautiful Wrinkled Peach fungus, which has been observed on some of the logs.

The old 'Woodcraft's Meadow,' along the high street opposite the Charity Cottages, has a single standalone mature elm tree. Unlike the pollards, this has not been pruned and shows the beautiful characteristic cloud shape of the Field Elm, also known as the English Elm. Such is its rarity and magnificence, this tree was photographed, and features in a 2020 book *Bedfordshire - our changing habitats and wildlife: a*



Mature Elm in Woodcraft's Meadow



Huntingdon Elm leaf, detail showing exposed vein

photographic record, published by the Bedfordshire Natural History Society.

The village is possibly also home to a number of trees from a local variety – the Huntingdon Elm (although the Dutch Elm is very similar, so this ID may be incorrect). Most elm leaves are highly asymmetric, with one half of the leaf starting further down the stem than the other. In Huntingdon Elms one side of the leaf starts part way along the first leaf vein, a trait which easily distinguishes them from most other large-leaved elms. A number of mature Huntingdon Elms can be seen in the plantation between Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley. This is a mid-18th century cultivar, fortuitously with good resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. Other locally named elms include the Bassingbourn Elm and even the Hatley Elm (present in Buff and Hayley Woods), but it is not known if we have these growing within the parish.

For those interested in this complex species, Brian Eversham (CEO of Wildlife Trust BCN) has published a key to identifying 62 UK species of elm (*Google 'Identifying British Elms'*). You'll need it - nearby Buff Wood may have nearly four times as many different elms as France! (Buff Wood may have 29 different elms, while France perhaps 8 or 9).

Forthcoming PWWG walks:

The Parish Walking & Wildlife Group (PWWG) organises monthly morning walks on the third Sunday to take in, understand and appreciate the local flora and fauna in this beautiful part of the countryside. Walks are advertised on the PWWG Facebook page and on posters around the parish. All are welcome (£1 admin charge per walk for non-members). Dogs are welcome but may have to be kept on a lead.

Sunday 21st August Wrestlingworth Loop - learn more about the history, birds and plant species on your doorstep. *Meet at The Chequers (High St, Wrestlingworth) car park at 10am.*

Sunday 18th September Croydon & Hayley Wood - Come and appreciate our local ancient woodland areas. *Park in Croydon High Street and meet at the entrance to the Wood Grill (old Queen Adelaide) car park at 10am.*



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

On Saturday 10 September St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley will be one of many churches in the area taking part in the annual Bike'n Hike. You are invited to join in this event by cycling or walking to as many churches as you choose and by seeking sponsorship for meeting the challenge you set yourself. Participants nominate a church to receive half the sponsorship money and the other half is shared with the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust aims to raise funds and make grants for the repair of churches and chapels of any age which are open for public Christian worship. It also exists to foster the interest taken by the community as a whole, whether churchgoing or not, in its heritage of fine, religious buildings.

The money raised for St John the Baptist Church will contribute to much-needed masonry repair work.

If you would like to join in the Bike 'n Hike and to nominate St John the Baptist to receive your sponsorship money please contact Pat Foulkes for the sponsorship papers (foulkes632@btinternet.com or 01767 631443)



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St John the Baptist

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Hall Car Park

A polite reminder that the Hall car park is for hall users only.

Treasurer Vacancy

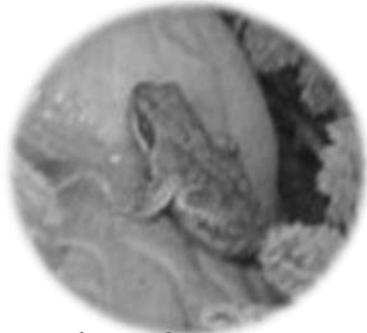
We are in urgent need of a Treasurer as our current one is moving on after giving us an excellent service. You don't need any accounting experience, just be comfortable with Excel spreadsheets. Cheryl Roberts, our current Treasurer, is more than happy to give you a brief overview of what is required and can be contacted on 07734 751079 or cherylisnow@live.co.uk.



IS IT ME?

Is it me, or has Mother Nature got it in for me?

Every morning I go out into the garden with a flowerpot on snail/slug patrol and hurl them into the hedge. They even attempt to climb the brick wall where my strawberries should be out of reach in their hanging baskets. My crushed egg shells and friendly garden toad are not doing their job properly.



Then there are the pigeons that clatter about on the rooftop over my bedroom at early hours of the morning and leave their payload on my newly cleaned car and windows.

Squirrels dig up my flower pots and rebury the bulbs in the middle of the grass and then forget where they hid them so the lawn is pock-marked like a minefield.

And indoors it is no better. Despite regularly going around with a feather duster, spiders with tiny bodies and long spindly legs festoon the house with cobwebs. My lounge looks like Miss Haversham's dressing room! Last year's conkers, which I've been told discourage spiders, seem to have lost their potency.

Is it me, or should I be grateful that Mother Nature chooses to visit me at all?

- Carolyn Driver



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A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH, REVISITED (PART 2) BY BRIAN BUCK

In the last edition of the Village Link I suggested that perhaps our village has not always been called Wrestlingworth and that two of our residents told me that it was once known as Wormleighton.

Since then, Richard Whitlock has kindly been in touch to help clarify:

Well done on your well-researched article in the Village Link. You question a previous name of Wrestlingworth as Wormleighton and I hope I can shed a little light on the history of this. You are probably aware that historic maps were surveyed and drawn by hand. This made them very expensive to produce. Cartographers were very careful to ensure that no one copied all their hard work on the cheap. They therefore put 1 or 2 deliberate mis-names onto their maps to prove if anyone had copied them, an early example of copyright infringement and a loss of royalties/sales. I am led to believe that Wrestlingworth falls into this bracket with the moniker of Wormleighton. As far as I know Wrestlingworth was never called Wormleighton, although some records have been misappropriated as such. I hope this helps.

So, on with my walk, retracing the route I first started to take when Lockdown began, in March 2020. First of all, the results of the most recent 2021 Census, undertaken in 2021 are out now and reveal that the population of the village is now 605, as of 30 June 2020, which has risen up by 14 compared with ten years ago. It is close to being a 50/50 split between male and female inhabitants. For more details of the last census, search on-line for Wrestlingworth on the useful citypopulation.de web site.

As before, I approach the start of my walk from Wrestlingworth crossroads, perhaps by car, leaving it, with permission from the landlord, in the car park of the Chequers Public House. From here you can catch buses to Biggleswade, Sandy and Cambridge, but since the end of August last year, Centrebus no longer run our main buses, which are now run by Herberts Travel. Therefore, the bus times are different these days, but they still run roughly every two hours. There is also more good news in that they once again serve Cockayne Hatley and the last buses now pass though the village just after 6 pm Mondays to Saturdays.

As you come down the hill into the village from the Wrestlingworth crossroads, you pass the first of two turnings called Water End. The first of these was originally known as Cow Lane and it runs to a thatched cottage at Water End. In the past there were other thatched cottages in this vicinity along with the William IV pub.

Wrestlingworth's great claim to fame is an unpleasant one, in that the first

house on your left in the High Street you come to is what is known locally as Sarah Dazley's Cottage. Sarah Dazley was the only woman to be publicly hanged at Bedford Gaol, on Sunday 5 August 1843, outside Bedford Prison. In later years her house in the village became a Bed and Breakfast for a while and since I last wrote about this the house has been extensively renovated.

Another gruesome fact I found out about Sarah Dazley was that her hangman was a man called William Calcraft (11 October 1800 – 13 December 1879), who was also the hangman of the last woman to be hanged in public in Britain, namely Frances Kidder (c. 1843 – 2 April 1868). Kidder was executed in front of Maidstone Gaol at 12 noon on 2 April 1868, aged twenty-five. Around 2,000 people, including her husband, are reported to have witnessed the execution. My research has found out that the executioner was an extraordinary gentleman and there is even a book written about him by Geoffrey Abbott and it is called *William Calcraft: Executioner Extra-Ordinaire*. This is a remarkably interesting little book which gives an insight into the life of one of England's most notorious executioners. The book loosely follows Calcraft's entry into the executioner's service until his eventual forced retirement when he was in his seventies! The book focuses heavily on the accounts of the crimes, trials and subsequent hangings. I do not know if the book has any details about the hanging of Sarah Dazley in it though.

If you care to Google the names of Sarah Dazley and William Calcraft, you will find out lots more about these two very interesting characters, some of it not particularly pleasant.

Moving on and just before you reach the Chequers Inn on your left is the former site of 10 Woodcrafts Meadow and its old moat – The Manor House. The Manor House called 'Kendals' stood to the south of The Chequers Inn. There are no remains above ground, but it is known the structure followed the shape of the letter 'U'. The modern bungalows on the western side of the High Street stand on the site of the old moat and therefore there are no remains of it to be seen today.

Join me again next time as I continue my walk and hopefully unearth some more little known facts about our wonderful village.

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 forthcoming article. Also, if you give me permission then I will acknowledge your contribution by name. Thank you.

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

POTATO BREAD

Ingredients:-

- 1 tablespoon instant yeast
- 99 g of granulated sugar
- 283 g to 340 g of lukewarm water or potato water (water in which potatoes have been boiled)
- 170 g of unsalted butter, softened
- 15 g of salt
- 2 large eggs
- 198 g of mashed potatoes (from about half a pound of potatoes)
- 780 g of self raising flour.

Method :-

Prepare the mashed potatoes first of all and then once cooled, mix together all of the dough ingredients. Scrape the dough into a ball, and place it in a lightly greased bowl or large (greased) plastic bag. Refrigerate overnight, or for up to 24 hours. Remove the dough from the refrigerator, divide it in half, and shape it into two 9" logs. Place them each in a lightly greased 9" x 5" loaf pan.

Cover the pans with a lightly greased plastic wrap, and allow the dough to rise until it's crowned about 1" over the rim of the pan. As the dough is cold, this will take anywhere from 2 to 4 hours. Towards the end of the rising time, preheat the oven to 350°F. Bake the loaves for 25 minutes. Tent with aluminum foil, and bake for an additional 15 to 20 minutes, until the bread is a deep golden brown, and a digital thermometer inserted into the centre of one of the loaves registers at least 190°F. If you do not have a thermometer then 'knock' it with you knuckle to find out if it has a 'hollow' sound to it.

Remove the bread from the oven, and place the pans on a rack. After 5 minutes, gently turn the loaves out onto the rack to cool completely. Store, tightly wrapped, at room temperature for several days, or up to a week in cool/dry weather; for longer storage, wrap well and freeze.

Gordon's comments:-

I cannot say that this recipe worked too well for me! When I mixed all the ingredients together to make the dough I was left with a runny mixture. I also used twice as much yeast as I needed but I do not think that this was the cause. I probably did not use enough flour. 780g is a lot of flour, but there seemed to be too much of it, so I reduced it down to about 600g. Obviously, in hindsight, this was a mistake. Furthermore, despite my using extra yeast, the mixture did not rise as much as I expected it to and in the end, I had to pour it onto the baking trays. The end product looked more like a cross between flatbread and a cake. It was a bit too sweet as well. Perhaps I put too much sugar in it. When I came to eat it, the slices were heavy but still edible and I was able to treat it as though it was bread. But you will not be able to buy anything in the shops which either looks or tastes like what I made! Perhaps you will have better luck when you try to make it!

Egon Ronnie comments:-

I am sorry that this recipe did not work very well for you Gordon, but at least what you produced was edible. It just goes to show that you should follow the recipe instructions properly!



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HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

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Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth & Dunton Churches	Nicola Adkins - P.C.C. Vice Chair (St. Peter's) Wendy Robinson - Church Warden (All Saints)	01767 631789 01767 631283
Church and Poor's Fund	Liz Teague	01767 631628
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council	James Kirkpatrick - Chair Kevin Puddephatt Lorna Chapman Andy Ewens Julie Dix Catherine Dear - Clerk to Parish Council	01767 631767 07950 691905 07858 776514 07740 553229 01767 631480 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 Kelly Whitfield - Friends Chair	01767 631249 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 07808 125613
Eyeworth Village Hall	Wendy Robinson - Bookings	01767 631283
Parish Walking & Wildlife Group	Nicola Adkins - General Enquiries	01767 631789
History Society	Connie Walker - Coordinator	01767 631450
Badminton Club	Jim Hawkins	01767 631736
The Chequers Public House	Dave and Carin Moore	01767 631818
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Dunton Oil Group	Larry Smith - Coordinator	01767 600603

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 Electricity (UK Power Networks) 0800 783 8838 Water (Anglian Water) 0800 145 145
 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 07842 087395 or 0300 300 4439
 Potton Surgery 01767 260229

USEFUL NUMBERS

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