

# Village Link

Issue 184



HM Queen Elisabeth II

1926-2022

**October - November 2022**

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ISSUE 184

October - November 2022

### EDITORIAL

Please take a moment to pause and reflect on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II, whose magnificent life was one of service to others, and a shining example to us all. May she rest in eternal peace.

The period of national mourning fell between our copy deadline and publication. A shame, as many of you would have liked to share your thoughts and memories of our Queen. We'll try to include them next time.

In this issue a number of groups report on their recent events. Isn't it wonderful that so many get to enjoy themselves at these occasions, and so many get involved to help make them a success.

And finally.... Long live King Charles III! Hip hip hooray!

*- Simon Dear, Editor*

COPY DEADLINE ISSUE 185.....12<sup>th</sup> November 2022

PUBLICATION DATE ISSUE 185.....30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### OUR KIND SPONSORS

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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**

### **OCTOBER**

- 8th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 9th Parish Eucharist with the Presentation of the Francis Coales Memorial Chalice, St Peter's Church, Wrestlingworth at 11am
- 16th PWWG walk - Fungi Foray in Gamlingay Wood, starting at the wood's entrance gate at 10am
- 18th Women's Institute Chilli Evening, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

### **NOVEMBER**

- 3rd Red Kite Concerts presents "Cyclical Night" at St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley, 5pm. Tickets available online
- 12th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 14th Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 15th Women's Institute, "Come and Learn 'Indoor Curling' for all abilities" with Alison Ross, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 17th Wrestlingworth History Society - author & archaeologist Rebecca Wragg-Sykes talks about 'Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art', via Zoom, 7.15pm
- 19th Goodwill Quiz, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 20th PWWG walk - Overwintering Birds at Paxton Pits, starting at the visitor centre car park, 10am
- 26th Christmas Gift Fayre, Eyeworth Village Hall, 10am-2pm

**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](mailto:villagelink@zoho.com).

## **VOTER ID ON THE WAY BUT WHAT WILL IT COST?**

- May 2023 local elections may be the first to see Voter ID
- Concerns over significant extra cost to the taxpayer
- Added complexity to the election process

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) will be holding local elections in May next year; these look likely to be the first to require voter ID. An inquiry I made to the Council this week has shown the cost to CBC is likely to be huge.

In April last year, the Elections Act 2022 was passed by Parliament. This new legislation requires voters in the UK to show photo ID before being issued a ballot paper in polling stations at all UK elections.

At the time, the Government said it would expect the new laws to cover elections from 2023 onwards. It also said there would be more legislation to follow, and this would show how voter ID would work in practice. This was to include a new free voter card for those who do not have photo ID. This has not yet happened.

The Government brought in the new laws after saying there has been evidence of electoral fraud. It cited Tower Hamlets, where the 2014 Mayoral election was declared void by corrupt and illegal practices. There has been criticism of the new laws from many who say there have been hardly any proven incidences of electoral fraud and the new system will be very costly. Some have even suggested it may put people off voting. The Electoral Reform Society has referred to it as "an expensive distraction."

The Government has insisted the new rules will not put people off voting and has pointed out that most European countries already use photo ID for elections. It also says 98% of voters have appropriate photo ID already (passports, driving licences) and it will provide voting ID cards for those who do not have ID, although no firm date has been provided for this.

We recently asked CBC for the costs of voter ID at forthcoming elections and were told CBC was going to have to employ up to 180 extra staff to check ID and may even have to provide screens behind which voters might have to remove facial clothing (such as veils) in order to show they are who

they say they are. It's likely the polling card you receive may look very different and could be in the form of a 'polling letter'.

It's also apparent that despite the Government's promises last year, Council elections officers are still awaiting detailed confirmation on this new voter card service which was supposed to be ready by the end of 2022.

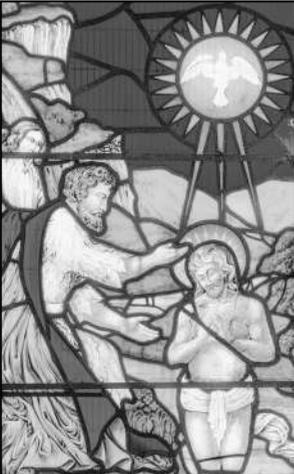
The Chief Executive of the Association of Electoral Administrators, Peter Stanyon, has told the Government it needs to delay the implementation plans.

CBC is planning a press/leaflet campaign to publicise what will be happening but this is not likely to take place until early 2023. In the meantime, there are clearly still many unanswered questions.

If you like to be kept up to date with regard to this and other local issues, please send us an email to receive the monthly email newsletter.

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

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## **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/>**

## BEDSRCC LAUNCHES YOU CAN DO IT! PROJECT

In today's society, technology has transformed our lives, and many of us could no longer imagine living without it. Although those digitally-skilled take these changes in their stride, it is clear that those who are used to more physical forms of life such as paper forms, face-to-face meetings, and physical photographs can struggle to adapt.

At Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity we recognised the need to provide a service to people who need help using digital technology. In February this year, we launched our *You Can Do IT!*, a digital inclusion project which improves people's lives by getting them online and accessing services and systems that will improve their health and wellbeing. During the sessions, participants are shown how to use their smartphones, tablets, or laptops to carry out tasks such as joining an online activity group, shopping, making video calls to friends and family, and more.

*Aside from learning how to book a GP appointment online or re-order medication using an app, the smaller things often feel the most heart-warming and rewarding. From helping a grandmother to see her grandchildren abroad via a video call, or from scanning utility bills with a tablet so they can be read aloud, or discovering music online, these things can help improve someone's sense of health and wellbeing too.*

*You Can Do IT's groups often turn frowns into smiles or even laughter, I think everyone in any position in our groups benefits from being part of it.*

*- Bill Simmons, Digital Lead*

Not only does the YCDIT! project benefit those who attend the sessions as participants, they also help give purpose to the Digital Health Champions, who without, the sessions couldn't happen.

*After taking early retirement I was looking for something that would enable me to use my professional skills in a way that could help the wider community.*

*Getting involved with the project has been immensely beneficial as it has given me a much needed sense of purpose, brought me into a very positive environment and given me the opportunity to meet a wide range of very friendly people.*

*- Jonathan Jones, Volunteer Digital Health Champion*

We now have four groups running in Biggleswade, Putnoe, Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Over the next two years, new groups will be added across Bedfordshire. Visit [www.ywb.org.uk/IT](http://www.ywb.org.uk/IT) to find out more.

**Do you need help with your smartphone, tablet, or computer? Join a local You Can Do IT! Group and receive practical help with smartphones, tablets and computers from our lovely volunteers. Or, could you become a volunteer Digital Health Champion to teach people digital skills to support their health and wellbeing?**

**For more information, email [YouCanDoIT@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:YouCanDoIT@bedsrcc.org.uk) or phone 01234 838771.**

## OUR DOG'S NOSE KNOWS

There was a good turnout at the WI's August meeting when Geoff Lambert, accompanied by his dog Buddy, came to talk to us about the charity "Medical Detection Dogs". He started by

supposedly insulting us by saying 'We all smelled', then qualifying it by explaining that we all smell but don't notice it, but dogs do. We all know that the police use dogs to sniff out drugs and the army to detect bombs, but medical conditions?

The charity trains dogs, each allotted to a particular person, that can detect the change in smell to give a warning to a Diabetic of a drop in blood sugar level, so they can do something about it. The dogs also warn of attacks of Addison's Disease and Narcolepsy. At present they are training dogs to detect oncoming Breast Cancer and Parkinson's Disease years before it becomes a problem. The government did fund a trial of Covid testing dogs but everything else is funded by voluntary contribution.

The ageing Buddy no longer works but is now known as an 'Ambassador Dog' who lay at Geoff's feet throughout, but not before his nose had led him to the kitchen, where the biscuits were!

Because of an early copy date, allowing our hard-working editor a holiday, I haven't much else to report of our activities in September excepting, of course, our doing a brisk trade serving tea and homemade cakes at the Goodwill Fete, and offering shelter in our marquee when there was a sudden downpour. In the next issue I will be able to tell of our visit from a Nuclear Submarine Commander, a magician at the Group Meeting, our Chilli Evening in October and a session of Indoor Curling and a proposed theatre trip in November.

So watch this space.

*- Carolyn Driver*



# WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

## History Society's Annual Away Day!

The North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin was the venue for Wrestlingworth History Society's annual trip away on 21st July. Having been delayed for one year due to Covid, fifteen members were treated to a full tour of the new venue by Curator and Archaeologist Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews.

The museum is the result on an amalgamation of Hitchin, Letchworth, parts of Baldock and Royston museums in a state-of-the-art new venue adjacent to the Town Hall in Brand Street, Hitchin.

Superbly-presented, the museum deals with the history of the district from geological times to the present day. It also has displays showing how people's lives have changed over thousands of years in the Living in North Hertfordshire Gallery.

For sports lovers there is also a football collection with objects from around the world, items from art collections and animations of local folklore tales! There is a large collection of old photography plus social history, militaria and much more.

The museum also has a café and room for a relaxing break up on the top floor.

After a very informative and entertaining tour, we thanked Keith for his time and expertise – this lovely new museum is a definite asset to the region!



*Next Meeting 17th November via Zoom*

## Great Turnout for Our 'Memories' Evening

It was a busy evening for the History Society on 15th September, when nearly 40 people came along to hear recordings of past Wrestlingworth residents reminiscing about life in a village years ago.

The recordings were made by Martin Hall over 15 years ago when he sat down with old Wrestlingworthians such as Ernie Darts (born 1919), John Bonfield, Christine Huckle and Rosemary Cooper.

Ernie, who died just a couple of years ago having lived here all his life, talked about life in the village early last century when most residents worked on the land, were paid little and life was hard.

The voice of John Bonfield talked about schooling in the village and the evacuees who came here in WW2, many of whom had never seen farm animals before!

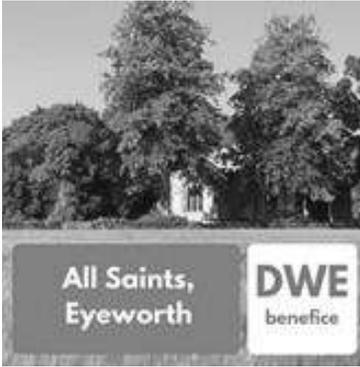
When it came to the village's pubs (there were 5 until the early 1900s), only the men went for a drink. It wasn't until WW2 that ladies, such as the land girls, started to go for a drink and sometimes a smoke!

Moving onto the 70s, Rosemary Cooper talked about being made welcome to the village by people leaving piles of vegetables on the doorstep. Also she described the fun of the various parties and fancy dress events held in the Village Hall by the WI.

It was a nostalgic evening for some and eye-opening for others. Well done to Martin for making the recordings. The WHS may include more of the recordings in a future meeting.

*“Kindred - Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art” by Rebecca Wragg-Sykes is the subject of the next meeting **via Zoom on 17th November**. So keep your eyes open for posters, email or Facebook with details of how to join in!*

*Why not join us?*



### Contact Us

Wendy Robinson, Church Warden  
01767 631283

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

### Upcoming Events in Eyeworth

**Church Services** - Details of future services will be posted in the 'We Love Eyeworth' Facebook group

[www.facebook.com/groups/289732161550166](http://www.facebook.com/groups/289732161550166)

or call Wendy (631283) or Abi (631864) for more info. We have an all-age worship at 3pm on the 9th October, a Benefice Eucharist at 9.30am on the 30th October & an all-age worship at 3pm on the 6th November.

**Sat 26th Nov** - Christmas Gift Fayre, 10am - 2pm, Eyeworth Village Hall. FREE entry. Local small businesses selling amazing gifts ready for Christmas. Horsebox Coffee Shop returns with tasty treats & gorgeous drinks. Raffle & children's tombola. In aid of All Saints & Eyeworth Village Hall. For more details, please follow

[www.facebook.com/events/467743395251780](http://www.facebook.com/events/467743395251780)

or call Wendy (631283) or Abi (631864).

## WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

We were so pleased to be able to hold the Village Fete on Saturday 3rd September after two missed years. Our small but hard-working committee together with the help and support of our “friends” and families made this day a huge success and I would like to thank them all for the time and effort they gave.

Throughout August we worked hard selling raffle tickets and would like to thank you all for your generous response and for the wonderful donations we received from local businesses and friends.

We were truly amazed at the number of people who came to support the fete and the atmosphere was lovely. (*See photos on page 19.*) The weather was generally kind apart from one sharp downpour. In our central ring we welcomed the delightful Street Dancing Group from Miss Maisy’s Dance Company who performed with great enthusiasm and skill. We also welcomed the Herlihy–Burgoine Irish Dancers who ranged in age from 4 to 18 and they gave a very lively and polished performance, later inviting everyone to join them to have a go at learning a few steps. Our Fun Dog show proved very popular and there were many cute, beautiful, handsome, well behaved and talented dogs there.

Thank you so much to the Wrestlingworth WI ladies who donated a wonderful spread of delicious cakes and skilfully manned the tea stall.

We had a range of fun games which proved very popular with young and old alike. We would also like to thank some of our local groups who took the opportunity to support us by running their own stalls.

Hope to see you all next year for an action re-play.

We invite you to dust off the brain cells and join us for our next quiz at the Memorial Hall on **Saturday 19th November** at 7.30 p.m. £5 per person with a maximum of 8 per team. Bring your own refreshments.

Users of Amazon can also help The Goodwill Fund by switching to smile.amazon.co.uk where Amazon will donate to us whenever you shop.

Thank you for your support

- Sarah Burgoine

*info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org*

*phone: 01767 631415*



# 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

- October 2nd** Sunday Praise
- October 9th** Parish Eucharist with presentation of the Francis Coales Chalice
- October 16th** Benefice Eucharist at St Peters
- October 23rd** Parish Eucharist
- October 30th** Benefice Eucharist at All Saints, Eyeworth at 9.30am
- November 6th** Sunday Praise
- November 13th** Family Remembrance Service at 10.30am
- November 20th** Benefice Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene, Dunton at 9.30am
- November 27th** Parish Eucharist
- November 27th** Advent Carol Service at 6pm

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Food Bank**

Please bring **donations to Sunday Praise Services** which are on the first Sundays of October and November.

## Coffee Mornings

**4th October 10.30am at 8, High Street.**

**1st November 10.30 at 5, The Slade**

## Reverend Liz Lavelle



Hello! I'm Liz, and it's wonderful to be here! Having spent four years at St Francis of Assisi Church in Welwyn Garden City, and the last two in the Welwyn Team Ministry in Hertfordshire, we moved here in July, and are discovering the many joys of Bedfordshire village life. I am very thankful for the amazing warmth of welcome we have received.

I feel blessed to be called to serve as your new Priest in Charge, I'm looking forward to discovering all that God has in store for us, and am excited by the opportunities that lie ahead to share the word and love of God together in the villages, schools, and communities of this wonderful Benefice.

After a glorious summer, enjoying the beauty of God's creation bathed in sunshine, and the celebration of harvest, we welcome the start of Autumn - and look forward to the season of Advent ... the beginning of the new church year, and a time to reflect with Advent hope, peace, love, and joy.

**Advent Course:** If you would like to join with others for an Advent Course, please check for details on the Benefice website.

If you wish to speak to someone about church matters, or make arrangements for a funeral; baptism, wedding, or other special service, please contact **Rev. Liz Lavelle. 235071**

Our church is part of a United Benefice and other services are available. Visit DWE website, or "A Church near You" for more information.



Our P.C.C. has passed the following resolution -

*"In order to demonstrate its respect for God's Creation, this P.C.C. resolves that there should be no use of herbicide, or pesticide sprays within the boundaries of our Churchyard, or cemetery and Garden of Remembrance."*



## St Peter's Church

Sunday 9th October at 11am

### Parish Eucharist with the Presentation of the Francis Coales Memorial Chalice

Since 1985, St Peter's Church, a Grade 1 listed building almost 850 years old, has been the subject of continuous restoration of its fabric.

The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation makes an annual award of the Francis Coales Memorial Chalice to the parish/applicant who in the opinion of its trustees has successfully completed restoration and repair that has met the Foundation's criteria for Grant Aid.

This year, St Peter's has been awarded the chalice in

*"recognition of this remarkable programme of restoration and repair over the years".*

The silver chalice is held for one year and commemorates the Foundation's Founder. It bears the Foundation's achievement of arms and an inscription, including

*"Remember before God"*

It was made by Barry Whitmond at Burghley House, Stamford. It is intended for use in celebration of Holy Communion.

The Venerable Dave Middlebrook, Archdeacon of Bedford and our new priest-in-charge, Revd. Liz Lavelle will preside at the service, with Revd. Brian Wilcox, a Trustee of the Foundation, preaching. H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mrs Susan Lousada will be in attendance.



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ALL YOU NEED FOR YOUR GARDEN. THROUGH ALL THE SEASONS

Hi Everyone, at last, after 3 long years, finally a ray of sunshine entered a few people's lives and we were able to go ahead with the Mad Hatley Tea Party (25th June). The event was held in aid of the Firefighters Charity and St. John the Baptist Church Cockayne Hatley.



Potton Fire Service were superb and brought their fire engine along much to the amusement of children and adults alike. We worked very closely with the Potton Crew with traffic and parking controls, placing many signs around which people adhered to in order for the fire engine and residents

to get in and out of the village easily for which much praise was received from residents and the Fire Service. The Firefighters were called away twice and returned to continue their support at the Charity Event both times. We would like to thank Potton and Hitchin Fire Stations and all the many wonderful helpers that gave up their time to support the event.



We managed to raise a total of £3536.84 of which £2656.84 went to the Firefighters Charity and £880 to St. John's, so all-in-all another successful Mad Hatley Tea Party in aid of great causes. Thank you again,

*- Barb & Trix Bell*



# Christmas Gift Fayre

Horsebox  
Coffee shop  
Raffle  
Stalls

Sat 26th Nov,  
10am - 2pm

Eyeworth  
Village Children's  
Hall Tombola

In aid of Eyeworth  
Village Hall & All Saints

## Stay and Play Session in Wrestlingworth

Are you interested in working in partnership with the Children's Centre to set up a weekly Stay and Play session for local families in Wrestlingworth and surrounding villages?

Do you have a few hours a week to spare each week?

Sandy and Biggleswade Children's Centre will support you to set up quality sessions to families with children under 5

This would be a great opportunity for those wishing to add to their work experience and could lead to training and employment within the Early Years/Childcare sector.

For further information please call Cathy Brighton on 0300 300 6311 or email [cathy.brighton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.brighton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



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## ST PETER'S NOW HAS A TURRET TO BE PROUD OF

It's taken us nearly five years but the wait has been worthwhile.

Serious issues with the Turret masonry were identified way back in 2017 but the subsequent theft of the lead from the church roof in 2018 and the storm damage to the interior of the South Aisle were more urgent and took precedence. A cordon was put in place until we could raise the funds for what would be the third project within three years.

Work eventually began in May of this year and our architect, David Llewellyn, who had already drawn up the plans in 2017, oversaw the work from beginning to end including the selection of the clunch stone at Totternhoe Quarry. A total of 71 blocks of new stone, hewn and shaped on site, were introduced to the turret; most were homogenous in texture but others stunningly embellished with fragments of flint. Large areas were also descaled and repointed. The completed work was inspected by David Llewellyn accompanied by myself on 21 July and it was a privilege and a joy to ascend the scaffolding and see the workmanship at close quarters.

The cost of the works was £25,487 against the original quotation of



*The restored tower ; Architect David Llewellyn (left) with the masons Jim and Paul ;  
Master mason at work*

£24,360. With fees and VAT added the final bill will be over £34,000. The increase was largely down to the price of stone. One block alone, required to improve the safety of the stairway, cost £820 in contrast to the provisional sum of £250.

I want to thank our architect for his professionalism and his devotion to the project. Thanks also to the two masons, Jim and Paul, for their exceptional workmanship and for the pride they took in their work. Interestingly, both men were involved in the 1985 turret restoration when serving their apprenticeship to a different company. I was able to retrieve the 1985 plans which we nostalgically pored over.

Finally, we are indebted to the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, the Weston-Garfield Foundation, the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation and the Benefact Trust who donated a total of £24,000 and we are ever grateful to the generous supporters, fundraisers and friends of the church who raised the balance.

The turret is a sight to behold; you must come up and see for yourselves.

*- Mick Bister, Restoration Secretary*



## **QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE CHEQUERS**

Quiz Night is once again a regular fixture at The Chequers, Wrestlingworth, taking place the second Saturday of each month. Upcoming dates are:

**Saturday 8th October, 8pm**  
**Saturday 12th November, 8pm**



Entry is just £2.50 per person, which includes a raffle ticket. All profits go to support the Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall.

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

*Each quiz is hosted by volunteer quizmasters. We welcome new quizmasters - if you want to give it a go, please contact Jim Hawkins ([JimHawkins@metronet.co.uk](mailto:JimHawkins@metronet.co.uk)).*

## **“LET THE TRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN!”**

Remember the slogans “Clunk, Click every trip” and “Go to work on an egg”? How about “Let the Train take the Strain” – er, I think NOT.



Months ago two friends invited me to join them on a short trip to Scotland to include the highlight of “The Edinburgh Military Tattoo”. After a long time of Covid, lockdowns, a poorly husband and a bereavement, I needed a holiday.

We were to join a short tour based in Glasgow – all we had to do was to get there by train. Simple? – er, No. Ann the techie amongst us booked the tickets early to get a good price, then the railway strikes started. As time went on we worried about the trains – would there be any and where would they be the day after the strike? It looked at one time like we would have to make the trip by air from Luton, so she booked the flights and then cancelled them at the last minute as the internet said there would be trains after all.

We gathered the day before at Ann’s in Brampton near Huntingdon with sheaves of tickets for Huntingdon–Peterborough, Peterborough–Edinburgh, Edinburgh–Glasgow. Early the next morning the Huntingdon–Peterborough train was cancelled so Ann’s son drove us to Peterborough for the next leg. We got to Scotland in the end and saw the spectacular Edinburgh Military Tattoo, perched high up on a vertiginous cliff of seats which overhung the Esplanade in front of Edinburgh Castle. It was worth all aggro.

“Let the train take the strain”, you must be joking!

*- Carolyn Driver*

## NOW, WIPE YOUR FEET!

*Simon Dear of the PWWG Committee plays nature detective as he identifies footprints left by our wild winter visitors.*

As the autumn weather becomes predictably wetter, rain fills our tracks with puddles and turns our footpaths slick with sticky mud. But don't let this put you off a countryside walk. Dress for the weather, and keep a close eye on the puddles and mud. You may see tracks left by deer, badgers and possibly foxes.

Deer's cloven hooves leave characteristic deep prints showing two toes or 'slots'. Identifying the species can be hard, but the size is the best clue. In our area, close to areas of woodland, large prints (60-80mm long) will almost certainly be Fallow Deer. Smaller prints within our villages will be the diminutive Muntjac (30-40mm) - you may notice that one slot is longer than the other.

Badgers are short, stocky and heavy animals. Their feet have a large fleshy pad with five toes, and these can often be seen in their bear-like prints (35-45mm wide). A good clear print may show claws too.

Fox prints are very similar to dogs. As we are a nation of dog-walkers who rightly exercise



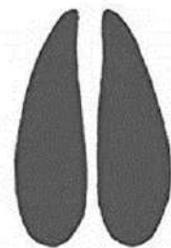
**Parish  
Walking &  
Wildlife  
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*Fallow Deer print*



*Badger print*



*Guide: Fallow Deer, Muntjac, Badger, Fox and Dog*

their dogs regularly, most prints you will see will be Fido's not sly old Renard's. However, do keep an eye out in areas not frequented by dog-walkers. On a fox print (35mm wide) an imaginary cross between the toes will not touch the pad (*see guide.*) There is also a large central space between the toes, with the triangular palm pad a similar size to those of the toes.

Smaller mammals rarely leave discernible prints. Consider making a small mammal tunnel with its own ink-pad (not mud!) A section of guttering down-pipe is a good size. A non-toxic ink can be made by grinding barbeque charcoal with vegetable oil in a pestle-and-mortar. A larger mammal tunnel made of wood may attract hedgehogs. It keeps visitors safe, being too low for predators such as cats.

Left in a suitable spot, a tunnel is irresistible to small mammals. Rodents have four toes on their forefeet, and five on their hindfeet. When I left my tunnel near a wood mouse nest under a pile of stacked wood, I ended up with hundreds of prints (each 10mm long)! And when left near a compost bucket, a rat visited (20mm long).

Hedgehogs have five toes on each foot, but not all may be seen in their prints (25mm long).



*Wood Mice prints left in tunnel*



*Wood Mouse detail*



*Rat detail*



*Hedgehog detail*



*Guide: Wood Mouse, Rat, Hedgehog*

*You can learn more about animal prints online – just search for “RSPB animal footprints”.*

### **Forthcoming Walks with the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group**

#### **Sunday October 16th FUNGI FORAY in Gamlingay Wood.**

Seek out and identify (help available!) interesting and beautiful fungi, usually at its most resplendent at this time of year! *Meet at the entrance gate to Gamlingay Wood for a prompt 10am start followed by two hours in the wood. Limited parking is available but please lift-share where possible.*

#### **Sunday November 20th OVERWINTERING BIRDS at Paxton Pits.**

Come and identify some more of our over-wintering birds at Paxton Pits. Walk a 4km loop with an additional 4km loop for those keen to see more. *Meet at the Visitor Centre car park (satnav PE19 6ET) at 10am. Lift share from Wrestlingworth - depart from the Chequers Pub at 9:15am.*

*If you require a lift from Wrestlingworth, please contact Nicola Adkins 01767 631789. For more information on the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group visit [www.pwwg.org.uk](http://www.pwwg.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.*

## **WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL**

### **Hall Hire**

The hall is an ideal venue for your children’s party or private function, equipped with a fully fitted kitchen containing 2 ovens and 2 hobs, microwave and fridge. The hall has a large screen for presentations, and a full-sized badminton court with special-purpose lighting. A committee room may also be hired separately.

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Edwina Parker 07808 125613

**[bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk)**

### **Hall Car Park**

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

## **A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH, REVISITED (PART 3) BY BRIAN BUCK**

From The Chequers Public house in the High Street, pass by the house next to it which, when I moved into the village, was a Post Office and village stores, run by Geoff Swinden and his wife Mary. They were also responsible for providing the villagers with their daily newspapers for many years. Although they eventually closed down the shop, they kept the newspaper business going until a few years ago, before handing it over, firstly to McColl's in Sandy and then on to Cameron's in Potton, who continue to kindly provide a newspaper delivery service to this day.

Cross the road and you will see that we have a new shop in the village, namely Harris Wealth Management Associates. Previously this was a bridal dress shop, which was a dressmaking outlet and sewing facility. But it has had many uses over the years, most memorable as a grocers shop where during my time living in the village you could get bread baked on site. Along with Avanti the hairdressers, it is good to see some local industry returning to the locality.

Moving on there is little new to add to my previous walk up the High Street, until we arrive at the corner where High Street becomes Hatley Road, as it bends sharply left. We have already looked at the former pub on the right, the First and Last Public House. This public house was at the end of a row of cottages, hence its name. The cottages were built in the eighteenth century.

But recently, on one of my walks, I got talking to a lady who remembers going to visit 1 Hatley Road, when she was a young girl, in the 1930s. In those days the premises also served as a shop, even though it was really just a house, but apparently it sold all kinds of things, but mainly fruit and vegetables. I have been thinking about this and have come to the conclusion that the Wrestlingworth we know today is an amalgamation of at least three hamlets. I can think of Hatley End, where this shop once was, plus Mill End and Water End.

There may be others. Please let me know.

The lady who supplied me with this information also told me that in the Second World War, Wrestingworth was never bombed and that the nearest place to the village which was bombed was either Steeple Morden or Guilden Morden. I cannot remember what she told me now. But it was probably the former village as RAF Steeple Morden was not far away on the Litlington Road. This is long since gone but there is still a well maintained memorial to it there today.

Coincidentally, on the same day as I spoke to the lady about the shop, I bumped into the lady who lives there now, as I continued on my walk, but my mind played tricks on me I completely forgot to mention this to her!

Continue walking along Hatley Road, but before it swings sharply right, take the signed footpath, next to 15 Hatley Road. When I first used this footpath in the late spring and early summer of 2020 it was a trouble-free walk. But in winter it gets very wet very quickly especially after prolonged heavy rain and so I would advise any walkers to wear either shoes which can cope with this or Wellington boots.

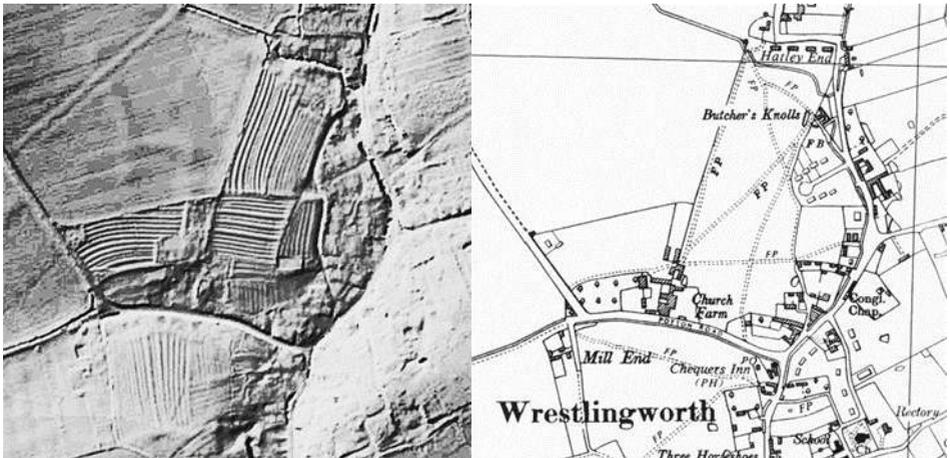
Keeping left, follow this footpath into a field. There is a 'Bull in Field' to think about and although I have never seen one in it, this does not mean to say that there never will be. On my walks though I have from time to time seen many sheep and for a long while two horses, whom I became quite 'friendly' with. I think that our 'relationship' goes back to one freezing cold February day when I broke the ice for them in a water trough, so they could get a drink! They seemed to never forget my kindness. These days they are no longer there and they have been moved, firstly to Everton and I'm told they now reside in Blunham.

As for the sheep, they come and go. Most of them are frightened of me, but run away when I get near them. That was except for one occasion when they seemed to think that I was going to feed them and they got so close to me that one of them licked my hand. Sometimes I

would see sheep limping and I thought that they had something wrong with their feet. But on speaking to a farmer, he told me that sheep's feet come in two parts and that sometimes a stone gets wedged in between them. Once the stone is removed, they are perfectly all right.

Continue walking until you reach Church Farm on your right. Go past the hen house, from where you can buy eggs from the farm, and then you will soon find yourself on Potton Road, passing the renovated bungalow on your left which these days has been transformed into an impressive looking detached house.

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



*Note from the editor:* As you walk through Butcher's Knolls you may notice the strange wave-like undulations known as 'ridge and furrow' - an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in the Middle Ages. They are clearly visible on the LIDAR (light detection and ranging) data which has become available in recent years. The National Library of Scotland's side-by-side map viewer nicely shows the extent of them (*above, adjusted for improved contrast.*) They are also present in the field to the west of Church Farm, and, surprisingly, in Woodcraft's meadow - despite it being repeatedly ploughed, and a couple of decades ago. *Thank-you James Bonfield for pointing out this interesting detail.*

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

## **Ham & Cheese Croissant Pudding (serves two people)**

### **Ingredients:-**

- 1 tablespoon instant yeast
- 3 or 4 small croissants,
- 3 or 4 slices of cooked ham
- 3 or four slices of mature cheese
- 30 g of butter
- 3 eggs
- 100 ml of whole milk
- Seasoning as desired

### **Method :-**

Slice open the croissants and place a slice of ham and a slice of cheese in each. Close the croissants and firmly press them down with your hands so that they're flat. Cut the filled croissants across their width. Heat the butter in a frying pan with a lid, or tin foil. Arrange the croissants so that they are evenly spaced in the pan and fry on a medium heat, with the lid off for now, for two minutes on each side.

In the meantime, beat the eggs and milk together, seasoning with a little salt and pepper, if desired. Then pour the egg mixture around the croissants and place the lid on the pan. Cook for about seven minutes, adjusting the heat up or down if the egg is cooking too slowly or too fast. It is ready when the egg on top is set. To test to check if it is ready lift the pan and swirl it around a little to see if the egg is still runny. When it is ready, season with a little more black pepper, if you wish and then cut and serve immediately.

### **Egon Ronnie comments:-**

This tasted very nice, Gordon. You seem to have come up with a savoury version of bread and butter pudding!



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<b>Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth &amp; Dunton Churches</b>	Nicola Adkins - P.C.C. Vice Chair (St. Peter's) Wendy Robinson - Church Warden (All Saints)	01767 631789 01767 631283
<b>Church and Poor's Fund</b>	Liz Teague	01767 631628
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<b>Central Beds Council</b>	Adam Zerny - Independent Ward Councillor Tracey Wye - Independent Ward Councillor	01767 261319 01767 261319
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<b>Women's Institute</b>	Lesley May	01767 631259
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Potton Surgery	01767 260229

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