

Village Link

Issue 186



February - March 2023

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ISSUE 186

February - March 2023

EDITORIAL

Hands up those looking forward to Spring! Our stunning cover photo of crocuses was taken by Bill Dennis last spring in St John's churchyard, Cockayne Hatley, and it sums up the beauty and rebirth of nature so well. Thank you, Bill!

It was lovely to received several letters thanking the Goodwill Fund for the visit by Father Christmas last year, and the yuletide cheer it brought many of our senior residents. The new sleigh looks fantastic.

The W&CH Parish Council and PWWG are organising a tidy-up day for 4th March. It would be wonderful to spruce up our villages ahead of the King's Coronation in May. We hope many of you will be available to help out.

- *Simon Dear, Editor*

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 11th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 19th PWWG walk - Biggleswade Common and Sandy RSPB, starting Dan Albone Car Park, Biggleswade, SG18 0BQ at 9.30am
- 21st Women's Institute, "Amazing Things Can Happen", talk by Ian Stimson, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 22nd Goodwill Fund AGM, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

MARCH

- 4th Village Tidy-Up Day, organised by the PWWG and W&CH Parish Council, from 9.30am
- 11th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 12th Copy deadline for Village Link April/May issue
- 13th Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 15th Village Link Committee Meeting, 5.30pm, Chequers Pub, Wrestlingworth. Representatives from our sponsoring organisations welcome - please let us know you'll be coming
- 16th Wrestlingworth History Society, "Church of St Denis, East Hatley" by Peter Mann, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.
- 19th PWWG Walk - Old Warden Circular, starting at Church of St Leonard, Church Lane, Old Warden, SG18 9HD at 9.30am
- 20th Spring Equinox
- 21st Women's Institute, "How to Enjoy Your Houseplants", talk by Susie Lickman, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

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.

WRESTLINGWORTH & COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Dog Fouling

A number of residents have complained about dog mess on pavements, a problem they feel is increasing. Dog owners are reminded they are responsible for clearing up after the dog. The PWWG have kindly provided a timely reminder of the law and health issues on page 28.

Aircraft Noise

There are concerns about aircraft noise over our villages. People are encouraged to report noise directly using the official Luton London Airport web site:

<https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/noise/making-a-noise-complaint>

Parish Council Meetings

Our last meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on 17th January. Draft minutes can be found on the Parish Council website:

[wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk](https://www.wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk)

Our next meeting will be on the 13th March 2023, at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



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/>

SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL BACK ON THE TABLE

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has concluded the first stage of a proposal to install solar panels across a large area of countryside in between Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth. We recently revealed in our newsletter (and online), how CBC was being asked to consider a 'scoping report' for an 80 hectare solar farm just outside Wrestlingworth (see map on page 18). This is the first stage and is not consideration of the application itself. This preliminary planning stage indicates to the applicant which potential reports would be required further down the line and CBC has now made them aware of what will be needed.

The last article generated significant interest and some asked what the benefits might be to local residents, so we approached the applicant.

The company involved told us that if they pursued the application they would be creating lots more reports and these would be made public e.g. landscape, ecological, trees, heritage, archaeological, noise, glint and glare, roads and drainage.

They said once these had been completed they would conduct a public consultation process with local residents before any application is finalised and submitted. This would likely include:

- Providing information to every household within 1km of the site boundaries
- Adverts in the local press
- A public exhibition at Wrestlingworth Village Hall
- Seeking public feedback via a website

They said the solar farm, would produce enough electricity (50MW) to power 13,500 households and will offset 21,681 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. They are also planning storage to allow power to be fed into the grid at peak times.

They said in terms of benefits to local residents, the following are being considering:

- Discounted energy for residents of Wrestlingworth (such a scheme has been conducted abroad but would require regulatory approval in the UK, so is not a given)
- Protection against power cuts

MY BACKYARD

... is also your backyard. Nicola Adkins asks if it's not local people who will protect the environment that surrounds them, then who will?

The term NIMBY (the acronym for Not In My Back Yard) is often thrown lazily back at anyone who opposes development of any sort. I say 'lazily' because such an accusation often fails to take into account the many reasons why someone might object to a change in their local surroundings. Such are the current pressures on greenfield sites from landowners and developers to maximise their asset, and local councils to meet their housing targets, who have no connection to or affinity with their land target, that it naturally falls to local people to consider whether such a change is appropriate, or not.

You may know that there is, yet again, a proposal to build a solar farm in Wrestlingworth, although a full planning application has yet to be submitted. At the first sniff of an objection to this proposal, the accusations of 'nimbyism' began to fly. But it's not nimbyist to suggest that solar panels should be up on rooves not down on high-grade farmland. It's not nimbyist to suggest that habitat for red-list bird species should be sacrificed for no comparable environmental return. Nor is it nimbyist to want to enjoy regular walks in the surrounding countryside without the constant hum of transformers every twenty or so metres.

No reasonable person objects to alternative, renewable power. We need it, desperately. Wind turbines have a natural place on England's flat lands. I have never understood, however, why as a country we don't harness more wave power instead of solar: we are surrounded by water and yet the appearance of proper sun in the UK is a cause for celebration.

Yes, I am one of the residents living closest to the site of this proposal. Yes, I don't want it, but for all the reasons outlined above, not just because it's in my 'backyard'. *(On page 18, a graphic shows what the proposed solar farm might look like when viewed from Wrestlingworth, and is used with permission.)*

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Contact Us

Rev Liz Lavelle 01767 235071

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 at All Saints Church, Eyeworth

February 12th 3pm All-age Worship

March 19th 3pm All-age Worship

Details of future services will be posted in the 'We Love Eyeworth' Facebook group and on the DWE Benefice website (www.dwe.org.uk).

www.facebook.com/groups/289732161550166

Or call Wendy, Abi (01767 631864) or Rev Liz Lavelle for more info.

Photo credits - Cover - Bill Dennis. Page 26 - Village Tidy-up Day images by rawpixel.com on Freepik. Page 25 - Lawnmower image by macrovector on Freepik.

THANK YOU! To Santa and his Goodwill helpers, including the two Bassingbourne Cadets, for the delivery of my Christmas parcel. I am sorry not to have come out to see your new sleigh but it was so icy I was frightened I might fall over. How lucky we are to have such an organisation as the Goodwill - the time given by its volunteers is greatly appreciated. *-Carolyn Driver*



ST PETER'S CHURCH

serves Wrestlingworth and our wider local community. Services take place at 11am every Sunday (* unless a Special or Benefice service) with refreshments afterwards. Rainbow Rock is a special activity area for children to enjoy.

All are very welcome at any of our services!

It was wonderful to see so many people (120+) in church again on Christmas Eve for our Festival of Lessons and Carols. Thank you to all the Readers from village organisations for your contribution to this service, which for many marks the start of Christmas. Those who were there will no doubt be relieved to know that upgrading of our sound system is one of our priorities in 2023, and this process is well underway!

The Parochial Church Council, the church's executive and decision-making committee, is in the process of updating our Mission Action Plan to help us grow spiritually, numerically and as a presence and witness within the community; to ensure fresh vision as we look ahead and continue to reach out to broaden the church's appeal in the wider community; and to carefully consider our current and future opportunities and priorities.

All suggestions as to how St Peter's could touch your life more closely are welcome. Contact revlizlavelle@gmail.com or speak to any congregation member.

We also have much to look forward to this year within the ongoing work of maintaining our wonderful church building. Specialist repairs to the South Aisle windows and improvement to the South porch are just two projects that will make a deep hole in our Restoration Account reserves. As always we are deeply grateful to all those who quietly support St Peter's. Without your generous commitment, we could not continue to preserve our beautiful church for the benefit of generations of village residents.

Regular Services in February & March 2023

Every Sunday 11am Parish Eucharist on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays, and Sunday Praise on the 2nd Sunday, with regular collection for Preen Food Bank.

Preen
Food Bank

Special and Lent Services

February 19th Benefice Eucharist with Baptism at 11am

February 22nd Ash Wednesday Service

March 19th Mothering Sunday Eucharist at 11am

Details of all services can be found on the A Church Near You website, and the Benefice (DWE) website (search 'dwe benefice')

Please also see the website for details of the upcoming weekly Lent Course which will be running throughout Lent.

Upcoming Events

Coffee Morning 10.30am in church. A lovely opportunity to get together over coffee and cake with a raffle **Tuesdays Feb 7th and March 7th.**

Calling all Knitters, Stitchers and Crafters

for a get-together to chat - and perhaps some crafting!!!

All welcome to the Village Hall 10.30 am-12.30pm the last Monday of each month. Starting on January 30th 2023.

The cost is £2 per person for the morning.

If you would like more information or to book a place, please contact either

Lesley May on 01767 631259 or

Barbara Milne on 01767 631189.

We look forward to seeing you.



WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Well, did you catch a glimpse of it???

Santa's new sleigh with Rudolph and Prancer courtesy of our very talented Treasurer Geoffrey Coan made its appearance for this year's Xmas run. It looked wonderful and was very popular with young and old alike. Thank you, Geoffrey.



Santa had a busy couple of days visiting our senior citizens in Cockayne Hatley, Tadlow, Eyeworth and Wrestlingworth. On Saturday we were very cold and on Sunday we got wet through whilst trying to keep a slippery grip on the wet snow and ice. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped and also for the warming drinks and nibbles we received on our travels. Santa met lots of village children and handed out delicious treats to those who had been good. We would also like to thank the 5 members from the 2484 Squadron of the Air Cadets located at Bassingbourn for helping with our deliveries in Wrestlingworth - they were a very friendly, polite and helpful group of young people and we hope to see them again at the Village Fete.

Our October quiz was another huge success with everyone having a great evening. Thank you to everyone for your amazing support. Our next quiz will be on Saturday 25th March so please write it in your diary and come and enjoy a fun evening with us.

Our Pensioner's tea party will be held on Saturday 22nd April this year where we will put on a delicious spread and entertainment. As always we would be pleased to hear about anyone you know of who has turned 65 and would like to be invited to this event and be included in our Xmas Parcel gift drop.

Please visit our website if you know of anyone who is 16+ and entering a college or university course or starting with a recognised training provider. We would like to support young people from Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley, Eyeworth and Tadlow as they begin their journey into Further and Higher Education through an offer of some financial support for essential resources required by courses being studied.

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday February 22nd at 7.30pm in

The Memorial hall and would be pleased to see you there. We realise these are difficult times and everyone has huge pressures on their time but we do need new people to step forward to be on the committee if we are to continue. We are losing four amazing and hardworking members in February, all of whom have been hugely involved for many years. Without new people stepping forward to support the running of the Goodwill we will struggle to fund raise and to continue to carry out the caring and committed help and activities we give to the villages. Please consider if you would be willing to help out on the committee or register as a friend to help at events. Contact us if you would like to know more.

Please help us to make a difference; we need you.

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info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk or contact Sarah on 01767 631415

Thank you for your support


- Sarah Burgoine

*SAVE THE DATE!
MORE DETAILS TO COME!*

Back by popular demand!

Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall presents
WRESTLINGWORTH WRACES
Saturday 15th April 2023, 7.30pm
First race starts 8.00 prompt
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Horse auction for final race

NOTE—DETAILS ARE PROVISIONAL AND MAY CHANGE



Santa and his new sleigh assisted by 2484 Squadron Air Cadets, Bassingbourn

GREAT TURN OUT FOR QUIZZING AT THE CHEQUERS!

It was full house on Saturday 14th January for the monthly pub quiz at The Chequers in Wrestlingworth.

The quiz is held at 8pm on the second Saturday of each month. We have a number of different quiz-masters, but are always happy to welcome new ones! So if you are interested, why not contact Jim Hawkins

Or just come along to join in – either with a team or, if alone, we will find you a team to join!



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GLORIA CROSSLEY

We regret to announce the recent death of Gloria Crossley. She and her husband Tony moved to Cockayne Hatley in the 1980s and Gloria at once committed herself to supporting the Church of St John the Baptist. She was a tireless fund-raiser and through her efforts much structural work of fundamental importance was carried out, ensuring the building would be there to serve the next generation. She was also active in the life of the church, serving as churchwarden for more than 20 years and being involved in all the social and spiritual life of the church and village. She will be remembered by readers of the Village Link for her contributions, mainly in the form of articles about the church. Gloria's work was recognised by the award by the late Queen of the British Empire Medal in 2013. It was largely through her work that the first-ever award of the Coales Chalice (of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation) was made to Cockayne Hatley Church, in 2012. Latterly, Gloria lived in Potton with her husband Tony.

- *Christine Armistead, Churchwarden of St John the Baptist church.*



Wrestlingworth

Goodwill Fund

AGM

Charity No.1035463

**22nd Feb' 2023 @7.30pm
in the Memorial Hall**

Come and meet the committee

**Join us, we need new members
to continue supporting the community**

For more info: info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk
or Call Sarah on 01767-631415

SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL BACK ON THE TABLE (p7)



Panoramic view from Wrestlingworth church
1 – with solar farm superimposed
2 – original panorama



(“My Backyard...” by Nicola Adkins, page 9): Visual representation from 2015 of Wrestlingworth Solar Farm proposal from St Peter’s Church, Wrestlingworth. The current proposal (not yet a formal planning application) is only slightly smaller.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Even though we have waved ‘Goodbye’ to 2022, and some may say ‘Good Riddance’, I have to tell you of two highlights of our WI calendar before the end of the year.

Alison and Tosh Ross introduced us to an evening of Indoor Curling. There was no ice, of course, but the ‘curling stones’ had ball bearings underneath and they zoomed across our shiny Memorial Hall floor with ease. After everyone having a go, a knockout competition was set up when groups of four played against each other and I have to tell you competition was fierce. Some knelt, if their knees would take it,

some stood and used a stick like a broom and one member even sat on a chair and played! A completely inclusive evening of fun.

The other highlight was a trip to the Cambridge Arts Theatre to see a matinée performance of “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”. The cast included familiar faces including Hayley Mills, Rula Lenska and Paul Nicholls and it was nice to imagine ourselves in sunny Jaipur, while outside in the cold, rainy afternoon hundreds of students in gowns and mortar boards celebrated after receiving their degrees. We concluded the trip with an excellent meal at the Wood Grill at Croydon.

So now to 2023. After another meal out in Potton in January when we do not usually hold a formal meeting, we revert to normal in February. Ian Stimson’s talk “Amazing things can Happen” will tell of a series of remarkable events that led to building an orphanage and Special Needs School – the latter the first of its kind in Kenya. In March we will be told “How to enjoy our houseplants” and in April we are holding a Social evening which will have a Royal theme seeing that it is so near to King Charles III Coronation on 3rd May.

If you haven’t already joined us ladies, feel free to come and meet us on the Third Tuesday of the month. You will be assured of a welcome.

- Carolyn Driver



PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE

Karen Greenway of the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group provides an update on recent hedge-planting at Lousy Bush.



**Parish
Walking &
Wildlife
Group**

To celebrate the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II it was decided to encourage everyone to plant trees during 2022. These would contribute to the ‘Queen’s Green Canopy’, an eco-project aimed at creating woodland “in honour of the Queen’s service”. (Queen Elizabeth probably planted more trees in her lifetime than any other individual.)



The project aims to create a ‘green’ legacy “bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future”. The Woodland Trust encouraged schools and community groups to take part by offering free tree or hedging packs.

PWWG, in consultation with some members of the Parish Council, decided that the village should take part. The question was where to plant?

The only suitable land owned by the Parish Council is Lousy Bush local nature reserve as all other green spaces are leased from Central Beds. Planting larger trees didn’t seem appropriate as we didn’t want to alter the nature of the reserve. However, the fencing by the access gate on the bridleway had been flattened this seemed an ideal spot to fill with a hedge. In March 2022, we put in a bid for a hedging pack of 30 trees to



Walkers braved the snow underfoot for the annual Manor Farm Walk in December, which finished with welcome bacon baguettes at The Chequers pub at lunchtime.

replace the missing 8m of fencing. Our application was successful but as the best time to plant trees is between November and March it was long wait before the saplings to arrive.

As preparation is the key to successful planting, a small group of PWWG volunteers headed to the reserve earlier in the week to clear the ground of weeds. This proved to be harder than anticipated in places as we were not just removing nettles but the remains of the wire fence and buried masonry. However, perseverance paid off and on December 3rd a slightly larger group were able to plant our 30 saplings. The crab apples, hazel, hawthorn, dog rose and dogwood will not only look more appealing but will provide extra resources for the local wildlife.

Shortly afterwards the Woodland Trust contacted us to say that the project had been extended into 2023 and to ask if we had room for more trees. The rest of the fence along this edge of the reserve is also unstable so watch this space.....

If you would like to help with future planting, please contact someone on the PWWG committee.

WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS

The cheapest and most accessible form of exercise, walking is for everyone. It is also the best way to appreciate all that this beautiful part of the country has to offer.

The Parish Walking & Wildlife Group organises regular monthly walks on the third Sunday of every month, usually approximately three hours long, often starting at The Chequers pub, Wrestlingworth High Street at 9.30 or 10am. All are welcome. *£1 per walk for non-members to cover admin costs. £10 per year for all walks. A reminder to existing members to pay their 2023 subs!*

Walks scheduled so far this year for the third Sunday in the month:

February 19th	Biggleswade Common and RSPB Sandy
March 19th	Old Warden to see muntjac and hares (hopefully)
April 16th	Pasque Flowers at Therfield Heath
May 21st	Flower-themed local walk
June 18th	Ashwell & Caldecote starting at Hinxworth
July 16th	Butterfly or Dragonfly-themed local walk

For further details of meeting point and time, and route details, see regular updates on the PWWG Facebook page, join the group to get regular emails

or visit www.pwwg.org.uk.

More walks will be scheduled for later in the year, but if you have any suggestions for walks, please email Jim Hawkins, PWWG Chair, jimhawkins@metronet.co.uk.

The Walking Group will be busy this year at Lousy Bush Nature Reserve, planting more young trees and installing a bench between the Information board and the gate.

The Group organises the Village Tidy-Up Day (*Saturday March 4th this year*) and you will find more details on page X26. Everyone is invited to take part, whether litter picking (litters pickers can be borrowed) or clearing undergrowth or just tidying up the section of street outside your house. There will be a large skip located at a central point in the village. For further information, or to take part in one of the working parties, contact nicola.adkins@btinternet.com

We very much hope you will join us on a walk soon!

OUR NEXT WALKS

Sunday 19th February Biggleswade Common and RSPB Sandy

Meet at the Dan Albone Car Park, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0BQ at 9.30am for a 7.5 miles / 12 km walk around Biggleswade Common and the RSPB Reserve at Sandy. Refreshments at the RSPB - hopefully the new café will be open.

Sunday 19th March - Old Warden Circular

Meet at Church of St Leonard, Church Lane, Old Warden, SG18 9HD at 9.30am for a walk exploring countryside around the pretty villages of Old Warden, Northill and Ickwell Green. This will be a circular walk of approximately 7.5 miles with a walking time of about 4 hours.

Consider car-sharing if you can. Call Nicola Adkins on 07720 294929 if you'd like a lift or can help with driving.

Do you have old issues of the Village Link you no longer want? I'm looking for early issues, specifically those before June/July 2013

Issue no.s 1-3, 5-52, 54, 74-78, 82, 84-111, 115-127

If you can help, please contact the Editor

WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL

Support your Memorial Hall! The Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall is a charitable trust founded in 1939 for “the physical and mental recreation and social moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library, lectures, classes, recreations and entertainments or otherwise as may be found expedient for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Wrestlingworth”.

The closure of the pre-school in 2020, followed by Covid lockdowns and major maintenance work has put a challenge on our finances. But the Hall Committee is rising to the challenge by planning fundraising events which we hope people will support.

We are proud to announce a “Race Night” on Saturday 15th April. This came as the top event that people asked for in a poll run on our recently created Facebook group “Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall”. The poll responses have been fantastic, and give the committee a clear idea of the kind of events and activities people would like to see in the Hall. Thanks for letting us know your views!

Keep an eye open for more details and more events coming soon.

Thanks go to the people who have so far offered to help. It shows is an appetite for supporting the Hall and running events for the village.


Bookings - Edwina Parker 07808 125613
bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk

WANTED - LAWNMOWER

The Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall needs a new petrol lawnmower to keep the lawn well maintained for hirers. Our current one is no longer serviceable. If you an unwanted one you would be willing to donate, we'd love to hear from you! Must be in reasonable working order please.



Call Simon on 01767 631383



VILLAGE TIDY-UP DAY

SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023 9.30am-1pm

Let's make our villages look smart!

The PWWG and the Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council are organising a day to spruce up our villages.

*Cutting back brambles ; Redefining verge edges ; Clearing leaves
Litter picking (litter pickers will be available)*

We welcome volunteers - the more the merrier, even if you can spare just an hour. **Please let Nicola Adkins know you'll join us on the 4th March.**

Phone 01767 631789 • Email nicola.adkins@btinternet.com

ADVERTISING WITH THE VILLAGE LINK

We have seen a large increase in our printing costs due to recent rises in the price of paper. After several years of steadfastly keeping advertising rates fixed, in November the Committee reluctantly agreed to increase them from 1st January 2023. (*See our rates table on page 27.*)

We feel advertising through the Village Link still represents exceptional value for money. We are proud to distribute a copy to every house in Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley & Eyeworth. Our local contacts and events pages are useful to our readers who hold on to their Village Links for reference. From just £70 a year you can promote your business and support your local community too.

We have also reviewed our policy & pricing for our Trades Directory to make it sustainable and fairer. From 1st January 2023 it will be on an annual fee basis. Advertisers renewing or taking out new adverts can pay an additional £10 for inclusion in the Trades Directory. Existing listees (i.e. those who do not advertise elsewhere in the Village Link) will be asked to pay annually from January 2024 (starting with issue #192 Feb-Mar 2024.)

WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

January 19th was the first meeting of the History Society for 2023. With an attendance of 16 at the Village Hall, the first item on the agenda was the AGM. After going through a review of last year's meetings and the finances, the Committee was re-elected and the AGM called to a close.

Acting Chairman Nick Da Costa then entertained the attendees with a viewing of a guided tour film of Bodiam Castle in Kent. Nick is also a film producer and this was a film he directed and produced for the National Trust property in East Sussex.

Following this there was a 'taster' for the March meeting. Peter Mann from East Hatley gave a quick overview of what his presentation will contain when he talks at the March meeting. The subject is East Hatley and the Church of St. Denis, which has recently been restored. So don't forget 7.30 pm on 16th March at the Village Hall - it promises to be a very interesting presentation.

Refreshments will be available and all are very welcome!

Here is the programme for History Society Events during the rest of 2023 – we hope you will join us!

16th March	St Denis Church, East Hatley - Peter Mann
18th May	Early Medieval Happenings in Church Lane, Wrestlingworth: An Archaeological Investigation - Laura Dodd
20th July	Visit to St Denis Church, East Hatley - Peter Mann
21st September	Placenames, Language Change and the History of North Herts - Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews
16th November	Magic Lanterns - Kevin Varty

Village Link Advertising Rates Effective 1st January 2023

	Monochrome		Colour	
	Annual	Single	Annual	Single
Full page	£220	£60	£300	£80
Half page	£110	£35	£150	£50
Quarter page	£70	£25	£85	£35
Trades Directory	£10	n/a	n/a	n/a

PICK UP YOUR POOCH'S POO!

A number of concerned residents have been in touch regarding dog faeces on footpaths and lanes around the village. Of particular concern is the fouling of routes that children take to school. The resulting unpleasantness, not to mention possible risk to health, doesn't bear thinking about.

One resident has been moved to contact Central Beds Council and the Parish Council. It was suggested new signage - to remind people of their moral responsibilities - may help. It remains to be seen what could be done.

It is the dog owner's responsibility to clean up after their animal. Failure to do so is an offence carrying a £100 fixed penalty and a possible £1,000 fine if reported to C.B.C. Dog poo bags are very cheap and readily available, so there is little excuse for owners not to carry them when walking their dog. And needless to say, use an appropriate bin or take the dog's poo home. Even if you bag it, you will still be committing a littering offence if you do not deal with it responsibly.

Here are some of the most common potential health risks to humans of all ages associated with exposure to dog mess:

- All varieties of worm - Heart, Whip, Hook, Round and Tape
- Parvovirus
- Giardiasis
- Salmonella
- Cryptosporidium
- Campylobacter

The agents causing such conditions survive well beyond the stage when the mess is dry, for days or even weeks after being deposited - another reason why instant removal by dog owners is crucial.

Most women who have been pregnant will know about Toxoplasmosis which can cause complications to the eyes, nervous system, skin and ears in newborn babies. Cats are definitely hosts to Toxoplasmosis, but less well known is that dogs are intermediate hosts meaning that infection can also be passed on through their faeces.

A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH, REVISITED. (PART 5) BY BRIAN BUCK

Before we get on with the next stage of the walk, I would just like to update you on a couple of things which have changed since my last article. Firstly, although they are not visible in abundance, there are now a few more chickens to be seen as you walk past the hen houses at Church Farm. I suspect that this still has much to do with the remnants of the “bird ‘flu” which has been going around.

Also, in my last article I mentioned that as you approach the thatched cottage at Water End and after you cross the brook there, you immediately have to turn right, as there is no other option, but before you almost immediately turn left, there is an old tree stub, covered in fungi. At the time it was so pretty to look at. But within a week or so of spotting this, it looked as though it had been poisoned, intentionally or not. If it was intentional then I can understand the reasons as to why, However, if it was destroyed by ‘natural causes’ then it is a shame, because it was so colourful.

Lastly, I mentioned the brook, which up until mid-October had been near enough devoid of water due to the lack of rain during the summer. This seemed to be the signal for us to have some prolonged rain and not only that but the melting of the snow we had on Sunday 11th December saw it fill up again. By the time one reaches this stage of the walk all the tributaries into it from around the village have fed into it and the flow is at its strongest here. From this point, apart from some overflow water from the nearby sewage farm, no other streams feed into it from our parish and it goes on to pass under the Wrestlingworth to Eyeworth road, where the double bend is, before heading off to the Mordens.

Before leaving Water End, which, like Mill End, is almost a hamlet in itself, I want to mention Cow Lane, which runs from High Street (originally Town Street) to the aforementioned thatched cottage at Water End. If coming into the village from the crossroads this is where you can see signs to the first (of two) turnings into Water End. But they are both little more than tracks and I am not sure if the first of these is actually called Cow Lane any more. In the past there were other thatched cottages here as well and also the now long-gone William IV pub was in this vicinity.

Also in this area is Home Farm and it is the oldest surviving property in Wrestlingworth. I do not know too much about it these days, but its entrance can be located on the opposite side of the road to and very close to the former site of Cow Lane. The farm building was thought to be erected in the 15th

century. The original structure was one large hall with a moat. A second floor was added at a later date and there is said to be an old brick-built dovecote in the grounds.

Anyway, on with the walk and after crossing the brook, work your way round the back of the thatched cottage (into what was Cow Lane) and then enter the field in front of you on your right through the easy to see swing gate, enhanced by its yellow signage. You are now entering the least well-maintained part of our walk and as such, you do need to tread carefully. Firstly, keep right and after no more than 30 yards you see another swing gate, preceded by what can be some very muddy and uneven ground. Go through the swing gate and immediately turn left, following the narrow pathway. Then continue down the next stretch, which has fields, often containing horses in it, to your right and bushes to your left, which contain brambles. Sometimes they are not trimmed frequently and another hazard are the rabbit holes, which walkers should take extra care to make sure they keep their footing here. Then you reach the back gardens of the houses in Eyeworth Road and although the footpath now widens, this part is a haven for not only some very pretty looking plants with blue flowers, the name of which I know not, but in season, also some stinging nettles, which are often left untrimmed for far too long, making it difficult for walkers wading through them.

But if you survive, you soon come out onto Eyeworth Road. Turn left and head off to the crossroads. As mentioned before, unless you want to, do not take the tarmac footpath back to the centre of the village, but instead head straight for the road and almost immediately take the signed footpath opposite. You now enter what I call a spinney and somewhere in here, or nearby, you may be able to spot what is locally known as The Three Elms which, if they are still there, are a trio of magnificent pollarded trees. Once a common tree, it is now a rarity to see such large specimens, apparently immune to the fungus borne by the Dutch elm beetle.

Join me again next time when I reveal more finds from my walks around the 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)

DATE AND BANANA TART (Serves four people)

Ingredients:-

Enough plain flour to make a pastry base for a 21 cm diameter baking dish.
Couple of generous knifefuls of butter or margarine
Small amount of milk, probably about 50 mls max
Small amount of sugar for sweetening purposes
A generous handful of dates, stoned and chopped up
3 bananas, mashed up until they are mashed to a pulp
3 eggs
3 heaped tablespoons of self-raising flour
200g of Greek style yogurt or any plain yogurt

Method :-

Make the pasty: Rub the margarine or butter into the flour until it looks like breadcrumbs. Slowly add the milk and knead the dough until it becomes pastry and is capable of being rolled with a rolling pin. Roll and place in the base of the baking dish, but don't trim off any excess pastry yet as the ingredients to be added will help fill out the base.

Then, in a separate bowl, mix the pulped bananas with the eggs. Then after adding the sugar, slowly add the self-raising flour until it is all mixed together. Finally, stir in the chopped dates so that they are all covered by the remaining ingredients.

Then, after trimming off the excess pastry, cook the tart at about 190C until the top goes golden brown, probably for about 20 to 25 minutes and after allowing it to cool a little, serve with the yogurt. You can test to see if it is done by either sticking your finger in the middle of it, or by noting if it has risen or not.

Egon Ronnie comments:-

This is quite tasty, whether served hot or cold. You can vary the ingredients as well. Do not throw away the unused pastry as it can be frozen and used later. What you have made here is really a cake mix without using butter or margarine.

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On brick cabinet
opposite 21 Village Road, SG19 2EE

Wrestlingworth

Millennium Garden bus shelter
opposite 78 High Street, SG19 2EP

TRADES DIRECTORY

NAME	TRADE / BUSINESS	CONTACT
Paul Rowley	Carpentry	07885 302557 or 01767 631656 rowleycarpentry30@gmail.com
Claire Lawrence	Animal Portrait Artist	01767 631560 📍 Claire's paintings
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Mary Swinden	Florist	01767 631231
Sushma Patel	Bookkeeper	07970 000095
Ben Searle	Elm Park Double Glazing	01767 631569
Mark Atkins	All Green Landscapes	01767 651126 www.allgreenlandscapes.co.uk
Michael Slevin	Gutter Cleaning	01767 225453 📍 @highwash.co.uk
Steve Brown	Building & Electrical	01767 631046 or 07760 241922 sdbrownbuildingcontractors.co.uk
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Avanti Hair Studio	Hair Dressing	01767 631301
Natasha Llewellyn	Childcare	01767 631765 or 07885 734776 natashallewellyn@live.co.uk
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Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth & Dunton Churches	Revd. Liz Lavelle - Priest in Charge Nicola Adkins - P.C.C. Vice Chair (St. Peter's) Wendy Robinson - Church Warden (All Saints)	01767 235071 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 Marc Wilson Catherine Dear - Clerk to Parish Council	01767 631767 07950 691905 07858 776514 07740 553229 01767 631480 07793 465062 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
W'worth Goodwill Fund	Sarah Burgoine - Chair	01767 631415
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	Jim Hawkins - Chair Nicola Adkins - General Enquiries	01767 631736 01767 631789
Wrestlingworth History Soc.	Connie Walker - Coordinator	01767 631450
Badminton Club	Jim Hawkins	01767 631736
The Chequers Public House	Dave and Carin Moore	01767 631818
Village Link	Simon Dear - Editor Geoffrey Coan - Treasurer Carolyn Driver - Distribution Coordinator	01767 631383 01767 631260 01767 631350
Dunton Oil Group	Larry Smith - Coordinator	01767 600603

EMERGENCY (24 HOURS)

Police - PC Dave Lace & PCSOs Ann Jeeves & Stephanie Lee	101
Electricity (UK Power Networks)	0800 783 8838
Water (Anglian Water)	0800 145 145
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	0300 300 4439
Potton Surgery	01767 260229

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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