

# Village Link

Issue 188



June - July 2023

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ISSUE 188

June - July 2023

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to our Summer edition! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition. We are always looking for new contributors, whether regular or one-off so please do send in any articles or photos you would like included.

We also would like to welcome and thank our advertisers new and old, without whose continued support the Village Link wouldn't be here. Please do let them know you found them in your Village Link!

You may have noticed a change in the feel and quality of the paper in this edition, hopefully for the better! We have switched to a new printer, which allows us to print in full colour.

- Simon Dear, Editor

*Photos on cover (yellow wagtail) and pages 25-26 kindly used with permission of Bill Dennis.*

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Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall

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**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

### JUNE

- 6th Toddle & Waddle stay & play session, Eyeworth Village Hall, 10-11am. 0-5yrs, £3/family, PAYG.
- 6th 5-week Puppy Introduction Course with Dogzaloud, Eyeworth Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 7th Bespoke peony mix hat box workshop, Eyeworth Village Hall, 7.30pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1161999191162214>
- 10th Café at St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley, 1pm-4pm
- 10th Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
- 11th The Big Breakfast, brought to you by Friends of the Wrestlingworth Lower School, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 9am-12pm
- 18th PWWG walk - Three Hatleys Walk, starting from Chequers car park Wrestlingworth, 10am.
- 20th Women's Institute, speaker Yvonne Bell on "Silk for Sundays", Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 30th Mess Around's "Galactic Mess" messy play session, Eyeworth Village Hall, 10-11am.

### JULY

- 2nd Red Kite Concerts present "Blue & Sentimental", St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley, 5pm. Tickets available online

... continued over ...

**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).

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 8th  | Café at St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley, 1pm-4pm..   |
| 8th  | Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm  |
| 10th | Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm                          |
| 16th | PWWG walk - Ashwell Loop West, taking in Hinxworth starting by Ashwell Church, Mill Street, Ashwell at 10am.           |
| 18th | Women's Institute, "Meeting on Wheels" to Burleigh House & Gardens   |
| 20th | Wrestlingworth History Society, visit to St Denis Church, East Hatley. Details to be advised & posted on social media. |
| 26th | Mess Around's "Super Mess" messy play session, Eyeworth Village Hall, 10-11am.   |

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

# The Big Breakfast

**JOIN US AT THE WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL ON SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2023 BETWEEN 9AM & 12PM FOR EGGS, BACON, SAUSAGE, PANCAKES & MUCH MORE!**

FRIENDS OF WRESTLINGWORTH LOWER SCHOOL  
CHARITY NO: 1044363

# **WRESTLINGWORTH & COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Parish Councillor Vacancies**

Following the AGM on Monday 15th May, the standing Parish Councillors were all elected uncontested, with the exception of Kevin Puddephatt, who decided not to stand on this occasion. The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to Kevin for his work and effort over the last 3½ years and look forward to welcoming him to future meetings as a member of the public.

Kevin's departure does mean the Parish Council are looking to fill 2 current vacancies following its AGM on Monday 15th May. Councillors need to live within the parish and attend most of the six council meetings a year, as well as have an interest in all matters that affect our Parish. The request extends to the residents of Cockayne Hatley, who currently have no representation on the Council. Anyone with an interest please contact Catherine Dear by email at [wrestlingworthch@gmail.com](mailto:wrestlingworthch@gmail.com) or phone 01767 631383.

## **Village Grass Cutting**

The Parish Council is aware of some teething issues with our new grass cutting contractors on both the quality of the work undertaken as well as the areas they should not have attended to. We have met with the contractors, who have taken the feedback on board and reassured us that the quality will improve. We will of course continue to monitor the situation and welcome feedback from villagers.

## **Parish Council Meetings**

Our last meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 15th May. Draft minutes can be found on the Parish Council website:

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

Next meeting: **Monday 10th July**, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall,  
7.30pm

## FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS

### Local Elections Latest

We are delighted to have been re-elected as your councillors on Central Bedfordshire Council for the next four years.

Thank you for lending us your vote and for all your encouragement in recent months.

### Wrestlingworth 20MPH Proposal to be Considered at CBC Meeting

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has revealed that the petition to reduce the speed limit in Wrestlingworth has gained enough signatures to be considered at a public meeting in June.

Back in February, we backed a petition on behalf of Wrestlingworth residents to implement a 20mph zone throughout the village.

Alongside the parish council, we highlighted to CBC Highways that despite warning signs, some drivers still hurtle through the village endangering pedestrians and other motorists, hence launching the petition.

At the time we mentioned that CBC introduced a 20mph zone for Potton in 2015 but had said its standard policy was that such restrictions were only applicable to towns. We also noted however, there are some villages in Central Beds which DO have a 20mph limit.

If more than 100 people signed, CBC were obliged to consider it formally, at a committee meeting and I'm pleased to report this has now happened.

The meeting will take place on 7th June so if you'd like to speak at, or attend the meeting please put this date in the diary. It will likely be during the morning, at Priory House, Chicksands. As soon as we have the full agenda and the Highways report, we'll post it on Facebook.

The other petition, to ban HGVs taking a shortcut through the area, closed at the end of April and CBC is now considering the results. Watch this space.

*- Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye*

Central Bedfordshire councillors for Potton,  
Wrestlingworth, and Cockayne Hatley

adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk - traceywye@icloud.com





## 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!*

Throughout Lent at St Peter's, we joined each week with others from across the Benefice, to reflect and discuss together Bishop Graham James' wonderful book 'A Place for God'.

Holy Week was a special journey together, starting with a Benefice Service on Palm Sunday - meeting at Eyeworth Village Hall, and processing to the church for our Communion Service with a dramatised reading of the Passion.

The reflective service of Compline was held at St Peter's on each of the following 3 evenings, and on Maundy Thursday we met at St Mary Magdalene, Dunton for a service which included foot washing, the sharing of a meal and Communion, and keeping of the Watch.

A service of readings, reflections and hymns took place at St Peter's on Good Friday.

It was wonderful to see St Peter's filled with joy, and beautiful flowers, on Easter morning! Using a flame taken from the 6am Dawn Service, the Paschal candle was lit as we welcomed the Light of Christ into



church, and celebrated His resurrection.

The church looked beautiful thanks to the creative skills of our fantastic flower arrangers, and the imagination of the Rainbow Rock (Children's Area) team ... enhanced by eggs beautifully decorated by our school children.

Our PCC met at the end of April for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to review the past year, and re-elect members for the coming year.

Join us as we look forward to another year in the life of our beautiful church. We are still looking for volunteers to help and support St Peter's, from sweeping the churchyard, to joining the cleaning rota, to helping with 'Open the Book' which brings The Bible alive for young people. Just contact us (details below) or have a word with a church member.

### Regular Services in June and July

<b>4th June</b>	Sunday Praise	11am*
<b>11th June</b>	Parish Communion	11am
<b>18th June</b>	BENEFICE COMMUNION, ST MARY MAGDALENE DUNTON, 9.30AM	
<b>25th June</b>	Parish Communion	11am
<b>2nd July</b>	Parish Communion	11am
<b>9th July</b>	Sunday Praise	11am*
<b>16th July</b>	BENEFICE COMMUNION, ST PETER'S WRESTLINGWORTH, 11am	
<b>23rd July</b>	Parish Communion	11am
<b>30th July</b>	BENEFICE COMMUNION, ALL SAINTS EYEWORTH, 9.30AM	

*\*Preen Food Bank Collection at this service*

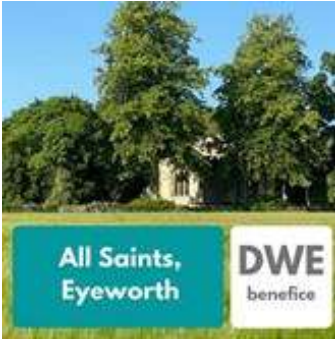
**COFFEE MORNINGS** are at 10.30am to Midday on the first Tuesday of the month, in church ... do join us on 6th June and 4th July.

For any further information on any of the above contact:

**Rev. Liz Lavelle**, Priest in Charge, [revlizlavelle@gmail.com](mailto:revlizlavelle@gmail.com), 01767 235071

**Nicola Adkins**, PCC Secretary, [nicola.adkins@btinternet.com](mailto:nicola.adkins@btinternet.com), 01767 631789 or 07720 294929

**dwebenefice.com**



### Contact Us

Rev Liz Lavelle 01767 235071

Wendy Robinson, Church Warden  
01767 631283

For more information see:

**[www.dwebenefice.com](http://www.dwebenefice.com)**

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

**June 25th** 3pm All-age Worship

**July 9th** 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.dwebenefice.com](http://www.dwebenefice.com)).

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

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



### EYEWORTH VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Please follow Eyeworth Village Hall on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/EyeworthVillageHall](http://www.facebook.com/EyeworthVillageHall)) for updates on when the July Stay & Play session will take place.

Upcoming 'Welcoming Wednesdays' meet up sessions will also be publicised on our Facebook page too.

Thanks for your support.



## NEWS OF COCKAYNE HATLEY CHURCH

During the Winter, a major programme of work was carried out to make safe and renew the stonework on the West Window and North Aisle Parapet of the Church of St John the Baptist, Cockayne Hatley. That masonry work is now complete, the scaffolding has been removed and we would encourage everyone to come and see the difference in the exterior of this lovely historic building.

Unfortunately, once scaffolding was in place for the masonry work unexpected problems were identified with the state of the timbers in the tower (*see photo*) and urgent repairs are now needed. So the fundraising continues. We will be applying for grants for the work and we are planning events to raise money for the fabric fund. Your support would be much appreciated.



The Church is a Grade 1 listed building and known nationally, especially for the woodwork. It features in Simon Jenkins' England's Thousand Best Churches: 'no chancel in England quite compares with that at Cockayne Hatley'. So if you haven't visited this local church recently now is the time to do so. For security reasons we normally have to keep the building locked but feel free to borrow the key for a visit (contact John Foulkes 631443).

We are now planning our programme of events for 2023 and we hope that there will be something in this for everyone to enjoy. We hope to see you at one or more of these events.

On Saturday 10 June we have the second Cafe at St John's of this year. This is something we introduced last year and it was understandably popular, given the high quality of the refreshments on offer. The Cafe will be held regularly throughout the Summer, usually on the second Saturday of the month with the following Cafe on 8 July. If the

weather is favourable we have seating outside so you can enjoy the lovely surroundings. The Cafes are open from 1pm to 4pm on both days.

On Sunday 2 July, we have our second concert of the season given by Red Kite Concerts. This follows on from the very successful series of concerts in 2022. This concert features jazz music from the 1920s and 1930s. All the concerts this year begin at 5 pm and last for about one hour. Future concerts will be held on 3 September and 5 November. Tickets cost £15 (there is no charge for under-18s). Tickets can be obtained at [www.redkiteconcerts.com](http://www.redkiteconcerts.com).

Services in June and July will be held as follows:

<b>Sunday 11th June</b>	9am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 25th June</b>	4pm	Patronal Festival
<b>Sunday 9th July</b>	9am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 23rd July</b>	4pm	Evening Prayer

Everyone is very welcome to join us.



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**VILLAGE DEFIB. LOCATIONS**

**Cockayne Hatley**  
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opposite 21 Village Road, SG19 2EE

**Wrestlingworth**  
Millennium Garden bus shelter  
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**RED KITE CONCERTS**  
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# WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

## IS WRESTLINGWORTH OLDER THAN WE THINK?

At a well-attended talk last night, we heard from Laura Dodd MSc who supervised the dig in Church Lane c2019. Laura is an expert in Osteology (the study of the human skeleton) and Palaeopathology (the study of ancient diseases and injuries through the study of fossils.)

Laura stressed from the outset that the ‘spectacular’ findings we read about in the papers are incredibly rare, and that most digs produce small, superficially nondescript items that nevertheless can give invaluable clues about what took place there. She also mentioned that 70% of the work is done behind a desk!

She gave us a helpful introduction to the principles of archaeology, then moved on to Church Lane specifically. ‘Wrestlingworth’ she told us comes from the Anglo Saxon ‘Wrastl’ (name of an individual), ‘inge’ (meaning people/family or followers of) and ‘wrđ’ (meaning enclosure.) This gives us ‘Enclosure (belonging to) the people of Wrastle.’ (Nice to know who we are!)

Several trenches were dug down to the level of about one metre and the findings tell us a lot about what was happening here so very long ago.

The site had been an enclosure of some kind, indicated by two post holes, with fragmentary evidence of a corn drier and a kiln. The kiln most likely producing items for the immediate neighbourhood.

Small finds included a spindle whorl for spinning wool. A belt strap end. A horseshoe. A brooch. A trifoil brooch. An iron pin. Pottery fragments included so-called ‘Thetford Ware’ (850-1100AD), ‘Stamford Ware’ (900-1200AD), ‘St Neots’ Ware’ (900-1100AD) and ‘Shelly Ware’ (1100-1400AD.)

All of the above suggests the presence of late-Saxon inhabitants, though Laura told us it was impossible to estimate how many. The ‘Environmental Evidence’ was particularly fascinating, where natural plants, cultivated plants and seeds from the era are documented. There were grains of straight hulled barley and oats; then a list of charred seeds such as oat, cultivated pea, broad bean, dock and plantain. Uncharred seeds of elderberry and fat hen were also found.

All of the above suggests possible human activity nearby from the Bronze Age, then confirmed late-Saxon activity from the mid 9th century, stretching to the Saxo-Norman period (11th century) and then on to the Medieval period (12th century).

At the end of her talk, Laura handed around pottery fragments and a stone bead and it was quite moving to be – literally – in touch with people who had lived here so very long ago.

*- Nick da Costa*

NEXT: 20 JULY - VISIT TO ST DENIS CH., EAST HATLEY

## WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Hello to all!

Well, what a busy few weeks we have had since we last wrote! On Saturday 22nd April we held our annual pensioners' afternoon tea party, and what a time was had by all! The afternoon had a great atmosphere with 50 residents from across our villages coming together to catch up, enjoy some light entertainment and of course eat plenty of cake! I think it's fair to say that no one (volunteers included!) left hungry and we have our wonderful Friends of Goodwill to thank for their deliciously sweet donations! Events like these do not run themselves and we are so grateful for the wonderful support we have received, from the very kind help in getting the hall and kitchen set up and ready as well as the help we received from our young volunteers in serving tea to our guests. We were also fortunate to have The Singing Butcher join us to perform many classic hits that our guests thoroughly enjoyed... apologies though for the sing-along chorus who could be heard 'singing' in the kitchen!!

Our next big event in the calendar is our summer fete, which this year will be taking place on Saturday 2nd September, 2-5pm. We are currently finalising plans for the day's schedule, but we will be sure to have all the usual stalls, refreshments, games and central ring with entertainment, along with some exciting new additions. The summer fete is always an incredibly well-received event and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

What seems like plenty of time for planning and preparation for the summer fete soon disappears as we head towards the summer months. As I am sure you are all fully aware by now, we really are continuing to rely on the support of our community of villages to secure the future of these kinds of events and therefore we would like to reach out now and ask that if anyone is able to help as a Friend of Goodwill in either the setting up, managing of stalls or the tidy-up operation, we would be incredibly grateful. Please contact us on



info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk and let us know how you would like to support.

One final thing we would like to remind readers about is our Resource Award that offers financial support for students 16+ who are starting courses from September. We want to ensure we are supporting younger residents in our villages, who at the start of their new courses and/or academic year can often experience a significant outlay for mandatory materials and resources. We will be advertising the award via our Facebook page in the coming weeks and would encourage anyone who is eligible to apply when applications open. If you have family members, friends or neighbours who may benefit from this award, please let them know to look out for more information that will shortly be made available.

We look forward to continuing our support of our villages and thank all for your continued support of us – we couldn't do it without you!

*- Rachel Lovett*

Secretary, Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund

Goodwill email: info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk

Unfortunately yesterday afternoon (18th April) my partner Diana tripped and fell onto the pavement in Potton Square.

We are both very grateful to all the people who came to assist with pillows, blankets etc, but especially to Carlton and his colleague from Potton Fire Brigade who provided first response attention for the pain and comfort of Diana.

The ambulance service were also excellent. We finally left Bedford hospital A&E around 11 o'clock. For info, Diana's arm is badly broken at the elbow but it has not been decided yet whether she should have a new one or they fix up the old one.

We wish you all well.

*- David D'Ath*



Save the date

Saturday 2nd  
September 2023

## The Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund Summer Fete

Watch this space  
Details coming soon



If you would like to help or get involved,  
please contact us at  
[events@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk](mailto:events@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk)

Charity No. 1035463

## A BUSY SUMMER AHEAD

Our April meeting fell between Easter and King Charles III Coronation so at our Social Evening we celebrated both – with Hot X Buns and Prosecco! Ten members entered the competition for the best home-made

crown which was won by Rosie Napier. My scrapbook of the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation came out again and members reminisced what they were doing on that memorable day in 1953.



Our Annual Meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> May with Fiona Arskott-Smith speaking on her life as a Celebrant and the changing face of life ceremonies. After this, Sarah and Sheila have planned an interesting programme of speakers and trips for us in the next few months.

- Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> June** A “Cruise down the Ouse” with a fish or chicken and chip supper.
- Tues. 20<sup>th</sup> June** Yvonne Bell talk “Silk for Sundays”
- Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> July** “Meeting on Wheels” to Burleigh House & Gardens is planned
- Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Aug.** Sarah Harrison “You couldn’t make it up” - A light hearted laugh at ourselves

**Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Christine Farmer “Masquerade” – the history of masks

**Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.** Our ever popular “Chilli Evening”

More to follow in the next issue.

There are, of course, many other talks and trips arranged by the Bedfordshire County Federation which their Monthly Newsletter ‘Bedfordshire News’ will tell you about.

Unless otherwise stated our meetings start at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall on the third Tuesday of month.

So – ladies - come and join us. If you want to come on any of our trips remember to bring your cheque books or cash with you – trips have to be paid for when booked. And don’t forget our Sales Table with plants and books and anything else you no longer want that someone else might. They all add to our funds.

*- Carolyn Driver*

## **QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE CHEQUERS**

Quiz Night is a regular fixture at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, taking place on the second Saturday of each month. Each quiz is hosted by a volunteer quizmaster.

Recent months have seen a good turn-out, so please get there early to secure a table.

Upcoming dates are:

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 8pm**

So why not put together a team with friends and come along? Entry is just £2.50 per person, which includes a raffle ticket. All proceeds support local charities. *We welcome new quizmasters - if you want to give it a go, contact Jim Hawkins ([JimHawkins@metronet.co.uk](mailto:JimHawkins@metronet.co.uk)).*



## **WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL**

The Hall held its AGM on 25th April, and we are pleased to report that all committee members put their names forward to represent their respective village organisations for another year. The Chair and Treasurer reports are available from our secretary ([secretary@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk).)

The committee agreed a Hall Manager was needed. It's a role often found in many village halls. Currently the tasks are shared across several committee members, but with the increased use of the Hall it would be helpful to find someone to take it on. If you are interested, please let one of the committee know.

The doors of the Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall have long been in need of attention. We are very grateful to Paul Rowley, of Rowley Carpentry, who is giving his time to make them good again. Thank you Paul!

Bookings - Edwina Parker 07808 125613  
[bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk)

### **IT'S A RACE NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE!**

The Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall are putting on a race night fundraiser on Saturday 7th October. It's set to be an evening to remember! So write it in your calendars now and keep an eye for tickets (£8 / ticket) when they come on sale in the summer. Supper is included in the price of the ticket and there will be a cash bar throughout the evening.

There are 7 qualifying races each with 8 horses, the winners of which race again in the grand final. Ever wondered what it's like to own a racehorse? Now is your chance to experience the thrill! Horses can be 'bought' before the night for £5, on a first come first served basis.

Owners can find a jockey before-hand but there are plenty available on the night, as all attendees can have a go. Feel the excitement of a real race as your jockey competes to wind in your wooden horse

across the finishing line first! Prizes go to the owner of winner and their jockey in each race.

The winning horses and their jockeys are auctioned off for the last race - the Grand Final! Expect some fast and frantic bidding as people vie to own the best horse. Then comes the grand final. Who will win? The winning horse's owner takes home half the auction takings (the rest goes to help the Hall), and for its jockey, a bottle of bubbly!

A tote will be open before each race. So remember to bring some £1 coins if you want to have a 'flutter'. And more, if you hope to win a horse in the auction!

Local organisations and businesses are invited to sponsor a race or advertise in our race programme. It's a great way to promote your services and support your local village hall.

To find out more, contact Simon on 01767 631383 or email [treasurer@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk).

SAVE THE DATE!  
MORE DETAILS TO COME!

*Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall presents*  
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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.





## WHICH WAGTAIL IS WHICH?

*Karen Greenway of the PWWG Committee gives tips on how to identify some of the more characterful & friendly little feathery fellows who frequent our footpaths and fields.*



**Parish  
Walking &  
Wildlife  
Group**

We are lucky to have all 3 species of wagtail resident or visiting the parish at different times of year but what makes them stand out and how are they different? They are all small, lively, little birds with long tails and mainly feed on insects or seeds and of course they all wag their tails but what they look like and where they live differs slightly.



The most common species is the pied wagtail. This small grey and white bird can often be seen dashing around or standing frantically wagging its tail. It has a white face and underbelly and white bars on the wings. It is resident all year round and is often seen on lawns, rooftops and in car parks as it has adapted well to life in towns as well as villages.

Look for them around Church Farm (especially on the barn roofs), in many of our closes or in local supermarket car parks.

The next easiest to see locally is the yellow wagtail (although nationally it is in sharp decline and on the red



list of birds of conservation concern.) This is a summer visitor migrating from Africa to breed each year. It has a bright yellow face and underbelly with olive green feathers above. It breeds in arable fields, wet pasture and hay meadows. Look for them in the fields on the way to Lousy Bush, by New England Farm or in our local horse paddocks.

The trickiest bird to see locally is the grey wagtail as it mainly likes fast flowing water so is probably only seen around the villages in winter. It is also often confused with the yellow wagtail as it too has a yellow underbelly but all of its upper parts are grey



including the face. It also has pale legs unlike the other two wagtails which have dark legs. As it likes water look for it along the brook or other water courses in the winter or on the River Ivel in Biggleswade.

So next time you are out walking in the parish or surrounding area look out for these friendly little birds and see how many you can discover.

## **Our Next Walks**

### **Sunday 18th June - Three Hatleys Walk**

Meet in the Chequers car park Wrestlingworth at 10am for a local circular walk of 8 to 9 miles which takes in East Hatley, Hatley Saint George and Cockayne Hatley. Refreshments available on return.

### **Sunday 16th July - Ashwell West Loop, taking in Hinxworth**

A 6.9 mile walk starting by Ashwell Church in Mill Street, Ashwell at 10am. Refreshments available on return to Ashwell.

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## COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

It is my habit when going for a walk around the village to stop and sit in St. Peter's Cemetery for a rest and listen to the peace, the birdsong, the clatter of the rooks in the trees and the distant hum of traffic going to Cambridge. On the gate there is a notice – Commonwealth War Graves - and tucked in the corner of the cemetery are two WW1 graves:

*Private E. Endersby 4 June 1917 Age 20*

*Private A. Medlock 14th October 1916*

*Both of the Bedfordshire Regiment*

I recently visited Normandy and part of my itinerary was Arromanches and Gold Beach from the D-Day Landings on 6th June 1944. You can still see the remains of some of the Mulberry Harbour, unofficially called Port Winston, which was used by the troops to gain the beach, marooned in the sea.

We also visited the new British Normandy Memorial which opened in 2020. It is heart-breaking to see so many names listed on the 160 columns and through a stone wall you can see a statue of three soldiers with the sea behind them as if scrambling up the beach. It too is a peaceful place when you think of the carnage that took place there in 1944.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission looks after these memorials and cemeteries all over the world, as they do the two graves in St. Peter's Cemetery.

*- Carolyn Driver*



## **A WALK AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH, REVISITED (PART 7) BY BRIAN BUCK**

To complete my second walk around the village I am starting off this final section from the graveyard, which is exceptionally picturesque in the autumn when the leaves fall off the trees. I remember seeing a whole carpet of bright golden yellow ones last year, generated by some strong gusts of wind.

Continue walking along the footpath from the graveyard, which narrows as it winds through the wood, which is more like a spinney in reality. In winter this track can become very muddy and partially waterlogged in places. But from early January onwards, look out for a very pretty cluster of snowdrops here.

Then in the ‘heart of the wood’ you reach a tree I described in my previous walk through these parts as ‘worth looking at’, or more especially the base of it where one local family had built a mini garden made up of small pieces of bric-a-brac and written on a couple of lollipop sticks were the words: ‘Please add. Don’t take.’ But this has now gone. However, under a different tree close by, another ‘construction’ is in the process of being developed, more so each time I pass it. Now, with the addition of branches and twigs it has become large enough to inhabit and with the aid of leaves and grass, it is now getting a semi waterproofed roof as well. I wonder how much one of these properties would fetch on the open market? It comes partially furnished as well, as last time I looked inside it there was an old rubber tyre and a tree stub there to sit on as well. Downside to this project though is that someone has vandalised the ‘original’ tree and painted something in luminous pink on it, although this is starting to fade now.

Anyway, on with the walk and soon you find yourself in an open field. From here there are various directions you can go, some of which I will explore in a future article. But for the time being we are staying ‘local’ and so once you are in the field, walk straight on until the opportunity to turn left between the fields arises. Do so and then after a few hundred yards you reach a ‘T’ junction. Turn left here and in another hundred yards you reach the built-up part of the village, namely the top end of Braggs Lane.

In the early days of my walks some new houses were being built here to your right, on a property which used to be known as Charles Square. I do not remember this but apparently there used to be a row of cottages and another separate pair here, the area being known as Charles Square. The three remaining cottages were then made into one house. But in very recent years they were knocked down and replaced by two luxurious detached houses, which add to the local landscape.

Then continue walking down Braggs Lane towards the High Street. Turn left and after passing the old chapel, also on your left you soon reach Church Lane, again on your left. Immediately opposite you see some tall trees on the corner where High Street and Church Lane meet and it appears that this may be, subject to reader confirmation, where Hill Farm Hill once was. Hill Farm Hill and Home Farms were owned by the Randall family. Norman Clarke ran Home Farm for many years, working for Mrs Pamela Randall, and lived in Hill Farm House with his wife Catherine. As stated in a previous article, Home Farm was at the south end of the village, where the relatively new properties in Randalls Close have been built. So this would be the derivation of this 'new' road name.

From Church Lane continue walking a few yards past Butchers Lane on you right, over the Potton Road and then, also on your right, you will see the Chequers pub straight ahead of you.

This concludes my second walk around the village which I hope that you have found both informative and entertaining. Thank you for reading them. So, what next? Well, apparently, these articles have been well received, so I intend to carry on writing, telling you about other local walks I do. I am also thinking of writing longer articles about the likes of our local churches in Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley, Sarah Daizley and Lousy Bush Nature Reserve. We shall see!

*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.*

# **TRIAL AND ERROR COOKING BY GORDON BLUE**

## **(ASSISTED BY EGON RONNIE)**

### **CHEESY MINCE & VEGETABLE BAKE (Serves two people)**

#### **Ingredients:-**

A generous sprinkling of olive oil  
3 medium size potatoes  
2 medium size carrots  
1 medium to large onion  
200g of mince  
Handfuls of frozen peas, broad beans and or sweetcorn  
Seasoning (optional)

#### **For the cheese sauce:-**

Half a litre of milk plus a further separate 100ml  
Couple of knifefuls of butter or margarine  
Sprinkling of tarragon (optional)  
Two heaped teaspoons of cornflour  
60g of grated cheese of your choice  
Seasoning (optional)

#### **Method:-**

Firstly, add a dollop of olive oil to your frying pan and warm it up on a medium heat, which means that there is less of a chance of burning your food. While this is getting ready, chop up the potatoes. It is optional if you peel them first. I prefer not to, but it may be laziness on my part. Then put them into the frying pan before adding the carrots, again cubed and either peeled or unpeeled. Then add in a medium sized chopped onion, along with any other small or chopped vegetables you have to hand. I like using frozen peas, broad beans and or sweet corn. Finally, just before everything is cooked and as the potatoes start to brown, add the mince, which should be sprinkled over the other ingredients, stirring occasionally. You may wish to lightly add some seasoning at this point. Then once the mince has browned, cook on a low heat until everything is ready. All the ingredients I have used up to this point are optional really.

Then make the cheese sauce. I prefer to do this in the microwave rather than in a saucepan. It is less messy when it comes to the washing up! Add the butter or margarine and the tarragon (if desired), along with some light seasoning, to the half litre of milk. Heat up in the microwave until bubbling. While it is doing this in a separate receptacle, add the cornflour to the 100ml of milk and stir until there are no cornflour lumps left. Then add to the boiled milk and stir until the sauce thickens. Then add the grated cheese and stir in. The sauce needs to be thick, but not too thick.

Then pour the sauce over the other ingredients in the frying pan and then top with some more grated cheese. Wait for a minute or so until it has melted and is ready to serve. Then eat and enjoy!

**Egon Ronnie comments:-**

This recipe is a good example of how you can use cheese with vegetables and meat. It helps provide an excellent contrast in tastes, once again adding flavour to your meals.



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