Village Link Issue 193



April - May 2024 Serving Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley, Eyeworth and Tadlow

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ISSUE 193	•	April - May 2024	•	Circulation 520
EDITORIAL				

It's a pleasure to welcome Theresa Hill to the Village Link team as our distribution officer. An enthusiastic new face is always refreshing. Thank you for volunteering Theresa.

We are looking for help making our pages more colourful, whether it be a write-up about something interesting you've done recently, a new regular column, or even eye-catching photos, art-work or graphic design. Could you help produce a children's page? Something for young families? Or maybe gardening tips? If you've a good idea or three, but not sure how to get started, why not get in touch?

- Simon Dear, Editor, 01767 631383

Our 'Springtime' cover photo was taken by Bill Dennis on nearby Bar Lane

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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
	APRIL
6th	Easter Bunny Drive, Eyeworth Village Hall, 2.30pm
13th	Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
16th	Women's Institute's social evening, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
17th	St Peter's Church Lunch Club, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 12-1.30pm
18th	5-week Puppy Introduction Course, Eyeworth Village Hall, 5.30pm
19th	Spring Extravaganza messy play session, Eyeworth Village Hall, 9.30am
21st	PWWG walk - Tempsford, Great Barford and Blunham, starting 10am opposite the Wheatsheaf Pub in Church End, Tempsford
26th	ScentWork UK Trials with Dogzaloud, Eyeworth Village Hall, from 9.30am
29th	Craft Club, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 10.30am
	MAY
5th	Red Kite Concerts present 'Sanctuary', St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley, 5pm-6pm
7th	Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall AGM, in the hall, 8pm
11th	Spring Craft Fair, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 9.30am-2pm
	Quiz Night at the Chequers, Wrestlingworth, 8pm
	continued over
Always ch	hes, and entry prices/ticketing details may be subject to change. Heck with the organisers beforehand. Further information may be found in We sim to include details of all events of local interest, and rely on you to

this issue. We aim to include details of all events of local interest, and rely on you to let us know. So, please email your diary dates to us at villagelink@zoho.com.

13th	Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council meeting, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
15th	St Peter's Church Lunch Club, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 12.00-1.30pm
	'Anxiety, Separation & more' seminar for owners with Dogzaloud, Eyeworth Village Hall, 7pm
16th	Wrestlingworth History Society, speaker Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews on "What's in a Name?", Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
18th	Goodwill Fund Spring Quiz, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start
19th	PWWG walk - Potton Green Wheel Walk, details TBA
20th	Craft Club, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 10.30am
21st	Women's Institute with speaker May Alex Prior on "The Eclectic Collector", Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
24th	Messy Farmyard Capers messy play session, Eyeworth Village Hall, 9.30am

VILLAGE LINK TREASURE HUNT (No. 1 of 5)

BLUE - WHITE - GREEN - YELLOW - RED - GREY

What colour is missing above? What shiny 'treasure' might come next? And what three-letter word is suggested by these 2 answers?

Search this issue for clues to solve the puzzle. Then send your answers to the editor vie email or phone (see p3.)

Open to all ages. Entry to the first part closes 10th May. Each of the remaining 4 issues this year will have a new treasure hunt puzzle. Be the first to solve all 5 puzzles (the last being in our Dec/Jan issue) to win our prize!

WRESTLINGWORTH & COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Village Tidy-Up Day

Many thanks to the volunteers who braved the weather on Saturday 2nd March to join the parish tidy-up efforts. We managed to pretty much fill two skips this year, and as a result we have made some progress in cutting back and clearing vegetation and rubbish in a number of areas.

Special thanks go to Andy Ewens and Jim Hawkins for the organisation and co-ordination of the event, and to Oscar Church for doing the driving and collection from around the parish.

With your support we hope to repeat the event in the future!

Join Your Council to Help Make a Difference

If you have an interest in local affairs and are resident in Wrestlingworth or Cockayne Hatley, please consider joining the Parish Council. We need one or two more councillors to get our numbers back up to a healthy number and ensure we continue with a committed local council. Cockayne Hatley currently does not have a representative on the Parish Council from the village to provide representation for its needs.

Parish Council Meetings

Draft minutes of our last meeting, held in Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on 11th March, can be found on our website:

wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk

Next meeting: **Monday 13th May**, Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS

<u>SPEED CHECKS ON LOCAL ROADS - CBC HIGHWAYS NOW</u> <u>CONSIDERING ACCIDENT DATA</u>

Last summer we asked you to tell us where the worst blackspots for speeding were in our area.

The biggest concerns which came back were about Sandy Road, Myers Road and Gamlingay Road, Potton, and Potton Road, Wrestlingworth.

We took these to Central Beds Highways last year, and they arranged for speed checks to be conducted.

The results are now back.

The key area to look at is what they refer to as the 85th percentile. This is the speed at which 15% of vehicles exceed, as they pass the spot in question. This metric is important to CBC when it comes to monitoring the results.

- On Sandy Road, Potton, that number was 32.8mph (36,495 vehicles), on Myers Road it was 37.2mph (10,231 vehicles)
- On Gamlingay Road, Potton, the 85th percentile speed was as high as 39.1mph (34,893 vehicles)
- On Potton Road, Wrestlingworth, the 85th percentile speed was 36.7mph (18,496 vehicles).

When this number exceeds 35mph, CBC highways officers get particularly interested.

Officers will now be checking where accidents have taken place at these locations and also, importantly, what the probable cause was. For example, if the collisions was caused because a driver had a medical incident or they were found to have consumed drink or drugs, less weight would be given to this data, in terms of potential changes to the road.

And it's this data that will lead to potential changes to try and reduce speeds.

Highways look for patterns in the data e.g. traffic turning right out of a

junction, vehicles overtaking, or accidents where pedestrians are crossing. These might then point to the introduction of specific mitigating measures.

We have pointed out to CBC that although the 85th percentile figure for Sandy Road is below 35mph, the traffic volumes are much higher here, and the numbers of pedestrians crossing the road is also likely to be greater, given there are many houses on both sides of the road.

In response, CBC Highways officers have replied:

"I can confirm that all roads are still in contention at this point while we await the latest Personal Injury Collision data...Once we have the accident data and have assessed the locations, we will arrange a meeting with the police to discuss all four sites. At that point we can discuss what options would be most appropriate."

You can look at that data here: https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Search

We will find out more in the coming months.

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



COMMUNITY ENERGY IN AND AROUND POTTON

Residents of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley, Eyeworth and Dunton are in a great position to benefit from the government's push towards 'Net Zero' (i.e. the balancing of local energy requirement with local 'sustainable energy' production such that there is a net zero need for fossil-fuel mediated energy production.)

Communities have been identified as best placed to match together local expertise and resource with local needs and thereby to drive reduced local emissions of harmful gases. Communities are also great vehicles for education. In fact, an independent statutory body, the Climate Change Committee, has suggested that community actions will be essential to meet energy targets. More than half of the emissions cuts needed by the UK rely on people and local businesses making low -carbon-positive decisions at a local and individual level.

The challenge for a local area seems daunting at the start. An independent think tank, the Green Alliance, has estimated that local government funding is good for only 25–35% of their 'Net Zero' pledges. However, looking across England, there are examples of villages that have independently met net zero some years ago and are enjoying the fruits of fossil-fuel free energy and heat. So Net Zero is very achievable by communities, with dividends for everyone – both the possibility of cheaper energy and of being paid for electricity generation (yes, reasonable tariffs are said to be coming back, but it might be possible to 'charge at source' in some instances). In addition, there is now a government strategy (for strategy, read 'money') committing it to enable local areas to deliver net zero.

As part of the national effort, CBC has set up a collaboration with Community Energy South (CES). The collaboration is called the Community Energy Pathways Programme and it is supporting five communities in the CBC area. Community Energy South is a group of highly motivated people that set up 10 years ago – so there is a wealth of experience available on what works so rapid progress should be possible. They specialise in encouraging the growth of community-led projects and development of project pipelines – including communityowned and grant-funded projects. They also support networking of community energy groups through mentoring and training as well as providing tools and resources. Groups have already been established in Ampthill/Flitwick (Greensands Energy) and Leighton Buzzard (Buzz Energy). It is hoped a north-east beds group can be established.

Pathways to Net Zero with Community Energy

There are two aspects to achieving net zero – 'powering up' and 'powering down'. Powering up includes community-owned renewable energy generation, community heat networks, retrofitting generation potential and electric vehicle charging. Powering down includes retrofitting insulation and other energy efficiency measures, increasing energy awareness and advising on how greater efficiency can be achieved and supporting people through fuel poverty. As a side effect, it is hoped this will help build social cohesiveness, responsibility and enable community and individual resilience.

Potton Town Council has established a Community Energy Working Group, which has been reaching out to other local councils to help with the efforts. Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley has been associated with the efforts. If you are interested in helping the group or the larger North-East group, or in contributing to our technical, business, legal or accounting needs, please contact Councillor Andy Ewens, Sustainability Champion, Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council at **wch.pc.sustainability@gmail.com**

> - Charles Craig Potton Area Chair Community Energy Working Group

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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!

As we are at last surrounded by signs of Spring, the church has also been celebrating new beginnings and new life.

Lent was a time of both self-reflection and of journeying together, and included reading our Lent book and meeting weekly for discussion and reflection. With Easter being early this year, we will have just travelled together through Holy Week, and celebrated the resurrection joy of Easter ... starting with a wonderful service at sunrise on Easter morning, followed by our Easter Communion service.

A time of great joy, and we have much to look forward to.

Our new St Peter's Lunch Club is going from strength to strength. Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month – from 12 to 1.30pm at the Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall, it is a wonderful opportunity to come and enjoy fellowship and friendship over a delicious lunch.

Our monthly Coffee Mornings continue – on the first Tuesday of each month – from 10.30am to midday, and all are warmly welcome.

We continue to support the Preen Food Bank, with monthly collections at our Sunday Praise services (7th April and 12th May).

We are currently looking forward hopefully, to the installation of a new heating system ready for the winter.

None of these things would be possible without the help and support of the wider church community, for which we are very grateful. If you would like to be more involved in the life of St Peter's, we are currently looking for an Eco-Champion to lead our activities as we work towards the Eco-Church Bronze Award, and more volunteers to join our monthly churchyard sweeping rota. For details and more information please contact Revd. Liz or Nicola Adkins, details below.

Forthcoming services in April and May:

Sunday 7th April	Sunday Praise	11am
Sunday 14th April	Parish Communion	11am
Sunday 21st April	Benefice Communion	11am
	at St Peter's	
Sunday 28th April	Parish Communion	11am
Sunday 5th May	Parish Communion	11am
Thursday 9th May	Ascension Day service	11am
Sunday 12th May	Sunday Praise	11am
Sunday 19th May	Pentecost Benefice Communion	9.30am
	at St Mary Magdalene, Dunton	
Sunday 26th May	Parish Communion	11am

For any further information please contact:

Revd. Liz Lavelle, revlizlavelle@gmail.com, 01767 235071 **Nicola Adkins**, PCC Secretary, nicola.adkins@btinternet.com, phone 01767 631789 or 07720 294929

dwebenefice.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COCKAYNE HATLEY

We had our first Red Kite Concert on Sunday 3 March, a beautiful programme of 17th century music with many pieces by Purcell, performed by the young soprano Jenni Harper, accompanied by Toby Carr on a remarkable stringed instrument variously called a lute or theorbo (look it up if you were not lucky



enough to be there). The next concert is on **Sunday 5th May** and is entitled Sanctuary; Christian Forshaw (saxophone) and Alex Mason (organ) will perform a collection of soaring melodies and soulful songs-without-words. The concert begins at 5pm and will last for about one hour. Tickets (£18 for adults, under-18s free) can be obtained on the door or from **www.redkiteconcerts.com**.

We shall continue with our very popular series of cafes with the first of the year planned for **Saturday 8th June**. Further details of this will appear in the next issue of *Village Link*.

Regular services in April and May 2024 will be held as follows:

Sunday 14th April	9am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th April	4pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 12th May	9am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th May	4pm	Evening Prayer

In addition, on **Sunday 21st April** there will be a Taizé service. This is a candle-lit service of quiet contemplation aided by beautiful chanting. Not everyone will be familiar with this form of worship and we encourage you to come and see it for yourself. The service begins at 5.30pm.

In similar vein, we plan to open the church for a dedicated period of quiet and reflection. Come along and sit and pray or meditate. No one will bother you or preach to you. The first of these "quiet space" periods will be on Wednesday 10th April and Wednesday 8th May, from 10:30am until noon on both days.

The best place to get your local news is the *Village Link* but we also have information on our website:

https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7398/

NEW INFORMATIVE DISPLAY AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Have you ever wondered what is the large memorial in the middle of the churchyard?

It is a memorial to the Victorian poet, editor, and man of letters, William Ernest Henley.

In addition to the monument in Cockayne Hatley, Henley is also commemorated in another impressive memorial which is in St Paul's Cathedral crypt and which was designed by Auguste Rodin (the French sculptor who produced *The Thinker*) whose early work Henley championed in the art



magazines he edited. Henley was clearly something of a celebrity at the time and a central figure in literary and artistic circles.

Henley's most famous poem is *Invictus*. This has recently come to prominence because Nelson Mandela recited the poem to other prisoners incarcerated alongside him at Robben Island. In the film *Invictus* (2009), the poem becomes a central inspirational gift from actor Morgan Freeman's Mandela to Matt Damon's Springbok rugby team captain Francois Pienaar. Also it is an inspiration for the *Invictus* Games for wounded, sick or injured servicemen. Memorable lines from the poem include 'My head is bloody but unbowed', 'I am the Master of my Fate, I am the Captain of my Soul' – quotations adopted as section headings in Prince Harry's book *Spare*. Why not visit the **Display and pick up a copy of the poem and read about its impact?**

Henley was the inspiration for the character of the pirate leader Long John Silver in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Come and read why Stevenson chose Henley as his model.

Another literary connection with Henley is his daughter, Margaret, who may have been the inspiration for the name of the character, Wendy, in J M Barrie's *Peter Pan*.

Why not visit the church and choose your favourite Henley poem from a selection on display? The church key is available by phoning 631443. Or just spend some quiet time in the churchyard reflecting on Henley's verse:

> So be my passing! My task accomplish'd and the long day done, My wages taken, and in my heart Some late lark singing, Let me be gather'd to the quiet west, The sundown splendid and serene, Death.





<u>Contact Us</u> Rev Liz Lavelle 01767 235071 Wendy Robinson, PCC Contact 01767 631283 For more information see: 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

28th April	3pm	Family Service
26th May	3pm	Family Service

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

www.facebook.com/groups/289732161550166

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

Recently while walking on the footpath across the field behind The Chequers, Wrestlingworth, I found a couple of plastic zip ties that had been chewed by the sheep that had previously been grazing there. Soft plastic appeals to animals because it has a pleasing 'mouth feel'. Doesn't bear thinking about the potential harm and discomfort if swallowed. Please, please, please pick up any discarded plastic litter you find where animals may be about and dispose of it safely. - 'Randomise'

EYEWORTH VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Here at Eyeworth Village Hall, we can't believe a year has already passed since we held our reopening event on the 10th March 2023!

Time really does fly by!



In that time, we have held lots of fundraising

events and received such positive feedback and great reviews from those who have taken advantage of our reasonable hire rates and facilities on offer.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to welcoming you again soon to one of our upcoming events or private hires.

On Mondays, Yogactive Yoga and Pilates now offers Kids Aerial Yoga Courses at 5pm (for 6-12yr olds), followed by Pilates Suspension Method classes at 6.30pm and finally Aerial Yoga classes at 7.30pm (also on Thursdays at 10.30am).

On the 6th April, back by popular demand, we will be holding our Easter Bunny Drive following the fun-filled afternoons we enjoyed at the previous Beetle and Snowman Drive fundraisers. The body parts you draw are determined by the throw of your dice. Will you be the first to draw your Easter Bunny? Please contact us to book your space. All details can be found in the flyer.

We are arranging a collection of unwanted clothing (by the 14th April) which will be recycled by a local small business and in return will generate funds for our Hall. If you are having a spring clear out and would be happy to donate any items please contact us for further info via: eyeworthvh@yahoo.com or contact Abi on 07739019166.

On the 6th May, we will be running our annual Bottle Stall at the Ickwell May Day fete. If anyone would be willing and generous enough to donate a bottle of any kind, please let us know. Don't forget to pop the date of our annual Family Fun Day (Sat 17th August) in your diary now as you won't want to miss it! We are busily organising everything behind the scenes and plan on this year's event being even more fun-filled than our 2023 event.

We have other fundraisers planned over the coming months from funfilled workshops with the fabulously talented Anna's Flowers to some new events which will be announced soon, so don't forget to follow our Facebook page for all the details.

Thanks again for your continued support.

- Eyeworth Village Hall Committee

Dear Village Link,

Not so long ago, I noticed on the front left-hand side of the village hall the irony of the date when the commemorative plaque was laid by Alderman F.W. Braybrooks to remember those men and women from Wrestlingworth who served in the Great War.

If you look carefully at the now very eroded inscription, the plaque was unveiled on the 2nd September 1939 when only one day later, on 3rd September 1939, Britain entered World War II!



- Steve Cook, Wrestlingworth

THIS STONE WAS LAID ON SEPTEMBER 2nd 1939 BY F.W. BRAYBROOKS ESQ. ALDERMAN & JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TO COMMEMORATE THE EFFORTS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF WRESTLINGWORTH WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAT 1914-1918

ERECTED BY LOCAL EFFORT ASSISTED BY THE NATIONAL FITNESS COUNCIL & THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

EASTER BUNG	Sat 6th April
£1.50/child Raffle Soft drinks &	2.30pm Eyeworth Village Hall
snacks on sale Reserve your place: eyeworthvh@y In aid of Eyeworth Village Hall -	
Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall C	
Saturday 6th April 7:30pm One Life (2023) Cert.12A www.ticketsource.co.uk/wrestlingword Tickets - £5 Licensed Bar, Hot Dogs, Snacks &	Saturday 4th May 7:30pm Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom Cert.12A th-memorial-hall & Ice Cream

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 13th April, 8pm Saturday 11th May, 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 (jim.a.g.hawkins@gmail.com)*.

Craft / Knitting Mornings

We continue to enjoy our Crafty Monday in Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall with chat, ideas, coffee/tea and, of course, knitting, quilting, sewing and any other crafty projects.

Our next dates are **29th April** and then **20th May**, which is a week earlier than usual because of the Spring Bank Holiday.

We start at 10.30am until 12.30pm. Each session costs £2 to cover cost of hall etc. Looking forward to seeing you and meeting new friends.

Lesley May on 01767 631259 Barbara Milne on 01767 631189



facebook.com/redkiteconcerts

Tickets £18 Under 18s free Available in advance from www.RedKiteConcerts.com

@redkiteconcerts

Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall Spring Craft Fair Saturday 11th May 9:30am - 2pm



Lots of wonderful Craft Stalls Memorial Hall Cafe serving food and drink

All proceeds towards the Memorial Hall Charity no: 266863

WRESTLINGWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY MAY TALK

LDWICI

'WHAT'S IN A NAME?'

Places get their names for a reason. These can be anything from the name of a person, a historical event, a landscape feature, or even local wildlife. Or something even more obscure.

Most are ancient and many undergo changes over the centuries becoming increasingly hard to decipher.

Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Curator of North Herts Museum, returns to talk to us about the stories that lie behind place names. His longer title is 'Place Names, Language Change & the History of North Herts.' but he has promised to stray over the county boundary.

Thursday, May 16th

MEMORIAL HALL Church Lane, Wrestlingworth

> Tea & Coffee from 7.30 pm Talk starts at 8 pm

RAFFLE

ENTRY: Visitors: £3 Members: Free







Aescwella?



Stigenace?

WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Daf

in the Wrestlingborth Memorial Hall 18th May 2024 7.00 for 7.30pm £5.00 per person

Cash or Card payment available on the door Bring your own refreshments

Teams of up to 8 or join a team on the night

Please register at: events@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk Charity No. 1035463 JOIN US FOR OUR

SATURDAY ITTH AUG

amily Fun

Bouncy castle, rides, games, stalls & much, & d much more!

Ice cream, food & drinks, face painting, raffle & much more! Join us for lots of fun! More being announced

soon!

EYEWORTH VILLAGE HALL

charity number 300030

VISIT WWW FACEBOOK COM/EYEWORTHVILLAGEHALL FOR INFO

WRESTLINGWORTH LOWER SCHOOL CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 7th March, the children and staff at Wrestlingworth VC Lower School engaged with some fun and creative activities to celebrate World Book Day. Instead of dressing up in character costumes, we chose to wear snuggly pyjamas and slippers.



costumes, we chose to wear snuggly pyjamas and suppers.

We started our day with everyone gathered in the hall to talk about World Book Day and why we celebrate it.

After time in the hall, the children took part in the annual Wrestlingworth Where's Wally? hunt! They were hidden very well this year!

When the children came in from playtime, they had to choose which book they would like to hear being read: 'The Detective Dog', 'Don't Call Me Sweet' or 'Zog'. The children then went with the adult the book belonged to, listened to the story and then completed some fun activities.



After lunch the children played 'Match the Childhood Book to the Adult'. They had pictures of the adults from school and the book covers of the adult's favourite childhood books from. The children worked in House teams to complete this challenge.

After a quick play, the children then listened to the well-known tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We had some excellent actors and actresses. We then had some quiet time reading books on mats in the hall followed by our very successful Big Wrestlingworth Book Swap!

Over the February half term, we set an exciting challenge: to make a well-known book character using a toilet roll tube. The children (and staff!) were very creative with the characters; Rapunzel, Matilda, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Stick Man, Hairy Maclary and so many more. A huge 'WELL DONE' to everyone who took part.



SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH WI

Popular speaker Nick Cooke made his third visit to the WI in February with his presentation "The North Coast 500", a route around the Scottish coast starting in



Inverness. With his wife and border collie, they travelled in their campervan up the east coast, along the top and then down the west coast until returning to Inverness. The scenery was fantastic and at each stop he had some tale to tell. They took the journey leisurely over a few weeks, though apparently in 2021 a keen cyclist covered the route of just over 500 miles in 29hrs 5mins 42secs - how much of the scenery he saw while pedalling I don't know.

By the time of publication of this issue we will have had our Annual Meeting and Deidre Hanna will have spoken about her career as Hostess to VIPs at Heathrow.

On 16th April we will be holding a Social Evening and on 29th April three members will be attending the Federation's Annual Council meeting in Bedford when Esme Young, whom some will be familiar with from the TV programme "Sewing Bee", will be the speaker.

On 21st May Alex Prior is coming with her talk "The Eclectic Collector".

On 11th June we have plans for our "Meeting on Wheels" to Southill Park, home of the Whitbread family. This is in place of our usual meeting in the Memorial Hall in June – on second Tuesday this time.

If you want to come along ladies we normally meet at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall. Three guests came to a recent meeting and are keen to come again. Sarah Burgoine, our Programme Secretary, has organised a full and interesting year ahead for us, so lots to look forward to.

- Carolyn Driver

DO YOU DUVET?

When I got married my 'Bottom Drawer' already contained blankets and sheets. I had been taught how to do 'hospital corners' as a Girl Guide and the bed was topped by my pride and joy - a Welsh woven wool bedspread I had purchased on location filming in Dolgellau. Sadly the beautiful colours faded in the sun over time. So I invested in new bedding – a new fangled duvet introduced to Britain in the 1970s by Sir Terence Conran of Habitat. It was a revelation to a busy working housewife - a bed made in 10 seconds with just a shake. Now it is topped by my home-made American patchwork quilt (already 22 years old!) made using the skills I had learned making the village quilts in the Memorial Hall and St. Peter's Church. Over the years I have made many quilts, but since my sewing machine blew up I cannot make any more.

There can't be many households without duvets now but I would love to know how other people change the covers. I love having visitors to stay but hate it when they're gone – the duvet cover has to be changed! Who needs to go to the gym for a workout? After walking around the bed for about fifteen times, shaking and pulling, I eventually end up climbing inside the cover to make sure the duvet reaches the corners. And don't tell me about taking the duvet cover out of the washing machine – every sock, handkerchief and pair of pants seems to disappear inside it.

Google says that it is the Chinese (not the Scandinavians as I thought)

who probably invented duvets thousands of years ago. My Dad had a phrase "Dead clever these Chinese". If they are so clever, why don't they think of an easier way of changing them!

- Carolyn Driver



WRESTLINGWORTH GOODWILL FUND

Hopefully by the time you read this Spring update from Goodwill, Spring will have sprung and the grey days of winter will be but a distant memory.

Spring Quiz

After a few scheduling challenges, we are delighted to confirm that the Goodwill Spring Quiz will be in the Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th May at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your own food and drink for what is always a great fun evening as well as a bit of fund-raising for Goodwill.

If you have any raffle prizes (unwanted Christmas presents perhaps?) then we would be delighted to accept them.

Poster for the Quiz is in this magazine (*centre pages*) - we hope to see you on the night.

Summer Fete

Of course after Spring comes Summer and we are already starting to think about the Goodwill Summer Fete and Raffle which is usually held on the first weekend in September.

We know many individuals and families look forward to the Fete and we'd very much like to be putting on the event again this year. As you can imagine, there is a host of things that need to occur beforehand organising entertainment in the ring, securing raffle prizes and selling raffle tickets, booking in side shows, etc. Then on the day we will need help with setting up the tables and banners, running the event, manning stalls, the BBQ, White Elephant, Water and Wine, etc, and with even little things like clearing the field afterwards.

For the last couple of years, the Fete has only been possible by the support of the Friends of Goodwill and family and friends of the Goodwill committee. We very much appreciate the support we are given but it has been a stretch and we need more help. If you can help in anyway, either to plan and organise the event or on the day, please do contact Geoffrey on 07720 805620 or via email on **info@wrestlingworthgoodwillfund.org.uk**

Welfare gifts: Moving in to the villages, babies, hospital stays or pensioner updates

As you may well know, one way that Goodwill supports the villages of Tadlow, Cockayne Hatley, Eyeworth and Wrestlingworth is through welfare gifts we give to all new arrivals in our villages - whether that's moving into the villages or a new birth!

But to do that we need to know of the new arrivals. So, if you know of anyone moving in (or out) of the villages or anyone bringing home a new little bundle of joy (babies, not puppies or kittens, sorry), then please do let Goodwill know.

We also give welfare gifts to anyone returning from a hospital stay - so again if you know of anyone who's stayed overnight in hospital and has returned home, please do let us know so we can bring them a welfare gift.

And Pensioner updates. We have a list of Pensioners in our villages that we invite to a Pensioner Tea Party in the Spring, deliver a Christmas card and a Christmas treat present to via Santa in December. We need to keep our list of Pensioners up-to-date so if there are any new Pensioners in our villages or sadly any deaths, please do let us know so we can update our records.

We will be dropping off invites for the Pensioner Tea Party soon. If you think you are eligible and haven't received an invite then it's probably that we don't have you on our list - so please do let us know so we can invite you to join us.

Hospital and Doctor Transport service

I've mentioned it before, but we are delighted to confirm that the popular Goodwill "ambulance" service restarted just before Christmas, providing free transport for any resident of our four villages (Wrestlingworth, Cockayne Hatley, Tadlow and Eyeworth) to hospital or doctors appointments.

We have a number of volunteer drivers and have already made a number of trips, so if you are in need of this service or are able to offer to join our driver panel then please do contact our co-ordinator Margaret Pantry (contact details in the 'Handy Phone Numbers' page at the back of this magazine). Drivers are reimbursed for petrol costs.

New Goodwill committee!

We held the Goodwill AGM on 21st February and I'm delighted to report that Clive, Mary and Sarah joined/rejoined our Goodwill committee. We also welcomed Rose and Joanne as new Friends of Goodwill. If you would like to help us deliver Goodwill services to our four villages, we would be delighted to welcome anyone else to join us.

Any help is most gratefully received.



CRUFTS 2024

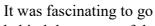
We have had an amazing 2023 showing our Mastiff Hallberd Finbar (Ezra) with him winning three Challenge Certificates to become a Champion and also qualifying as a finalist in The Vulnerable Breeds Competition on the first day of Crufts. There are 34 Vulnerable Breeds which means that there are less than 300 puppies being registered in a year. Some of the breeds on the list are surprising but with the popularity of cross breeds some of the more well-known dog breeds are in danger of disappearing.



We had an amazing day with pre-judging at 2 pm and entering into the Main Arena

at 6pm.





behind the scenes of the main arena into the collecting ring and to see presenters such as Claire Balding and Frank Kane conducting interviews and commentating. The entrance from the tunnel into the huge bright noisy arena can be daunting for some dogs but Ezra took it all in his stride and showed beautifully. It certainly is a long way from one side of the arena to the other!

Mastiffs are the "Gentle Giants" of the dog world with an intelligent, calm, loving and often gently stubborn nature. They eat a lot and can sleep and can snore for England.

-Sarah Burgoine



WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL

Events

The Memorial Hall Committee put on a Christmas Fair and, more recently, trialled a Community Cinema Night – both of which were very successful. We've had very good reviews for both events and that has encouraged us to organise similar events. We are looking to put on another Community Cinema Night in April and May and are planning a Spring Fair for **11th May**. We would welcome local arts and crafts people to get in touch if they would like a stall. These can be reserved by emailing

bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk

<u>Hall Hire</u>

We have quite a few weekend dates available over the next couple of months. The Hall is an ideal venue if you have an upcoming celebration. We have a kitchen with two ovens, two four-ring hobs and a recently acquired larger fridge/freezer to run alongside our under counter one - so plenty of room for party essentials. There is also parking for approximately 14 to 15 cars and everywhere in the Hall is wheelchair accessible. Our rates are extremely competitive, so if you are interested, please send an email to

bookings@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk

Request for Volunteers

The Hall is an excellent community asset, and the committee are working hard to ensure that it continues to be available for the long term. For that to happen, we need some volunteers from the local communities to help on a part time basis. For instance, we'd like to have a "Tidy Up" day where we can sort out a few issues such as clearing the paths for the Emergency Exits and some external painting that needs doing. We are always looking for people to help with organising events plus suggesting events that they would like to run or that would appeal to the local community. We are also looking for a someone to volunteer as Treasurer, a vital role in ensuring that the Hall remains open and available to everyone. So, if you are interested in volunteering to help maintain this community asset and would like further information, please email secretary@wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place in the Hall on **7th May** starting at 8pm. The Committee would like to appeal to village residents to come along and participate in the meeting. Specifically, bring suggestions on how the Hall could be better utilised for the local community and groups. It will also be a great opportunity to see the Hall and what it has to offer as well as meeting members of the committee.

- The Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall Committee www.wrestlingworthmemorialhall.org.uk



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HEN HARRIER PUTS WRESTLINGWORTH ON THE MAP!



Parish Walking & Wildlife Group

Bill Dennis of the PWWG Committee reports on a recent and important bird sighting in the parish.

Have you ever seen a Hen Harrier flying around the fields near Wrestlingworth? On my New Year's day walk I saw a bird of prey flying low over a field near the CO-OP track. In binoculars I saw it had a distinctive white bar across the rump - an indication that this was most likely a female Hen Harrier.

I spotted the bird again a few days later in the same field. Then, on another walk at dusk, I unwittingly disturbed it from its roost in the set-aside field along the path from Braggs Lane. The harrier was observed roosting here for about 2 weeks in January, watching at first light and dusk.



The Hen Harrier is one of three breeding Harriers resident in the UK the other two being the Marsh Harrier and the very rare Montagu's Harrier. In size it is the middle of these three - a medium sized bird of prey slightly smaller and slimmer than a buzzard.

Hen Harriers have a low gliding flight with a shallow V-shaped wing formation, and stoop on their prey - usually small birds and mammals. They can also take species as large as rabbits and game birds.

These birds have striking yellow eyes and a facial disk similar to owls. The male bird is a pale grey / blue colour with black wingtips, very different from the larger female which is brown with barred tail and striking underwing patterns. This is referred to as "sexual dimorphism". Indeed the male and female adult birds were once thought to be completely different species!

The preferred habitat of Hen Harriers is open areas with low vegetation such as grass and heather moorland and also conifer plantations. They nest and roost on the ground. The main UK concentration for breeding from April is in the Scottish uplands, Orkney and the Hebrides, with smaller populations in England and Wales. It is the rarest resident bird of prey in England.

In the winter they disperse to the lowland areas such as marshes, fens, coastal areas and farmland - including our local farmland on rare occasions!

I have previously seen a female Hen Harrier hunting over fields near Tadlow.



In the UK, Hen Harriers are a

red listed bird of high conservation concern and are protected by law. By 1900, these harriers were extinct in England but have now recovered to maybe 100 pairs. One reason for their decline is the loss of habitat due to agriculture and forestry. Also, historically they have been one of the most persecuted birds of prey in the UK due to the conflict with management of grouse moors where they prey on game birds. The latest survey numbers from 2016 indicate a breeding population of 545 in the UK. According to Birdlife International, the world population is around 512,000—so there is no conservation concern on a worldwide basis.

Some interesting things about Hen Harriers

• The name Hen Harrier comes from a historical habit of preying on

domestic hens

- Their latin name is Circus Cyaneus, 'circus' from 'circle' referring to a bird of prey with circling flight
- Females are called "ringtails" due to their tail banding
- The pale coloured males are sometimes called "The Ghost of the Moor"
- Some people call them "Sky Dancers" due to their acrobatic aerial courtship displays

Apart from rare local sightings, good places to see Hen Harriers in East Anglia during winter months are Wicken Fen, where they come in to roost at dusk, and reserves on the North Norfolk and Suffolk Coasts. If you see a Hen Harrier, do consider reporting the sighting to the RSPB or British Trust for Ornithology - especially if it has a GPS radio back-pack or visible tag.

Upcoming PWWG Walks

The Parish Walking and Wildlife Group organises monthly walks, usually on the third Sunday of the month, in and around the locality of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley, to which all are welcome (£2 per walk for non-members – dogs welcome but may have to be put on a lead). For further information on the Group and its walks, or to join our email distribution, go to **pwwg.org.uk** or find us on Facebook.

Sunday April 21st - Tempsford, Great Barford and Blunham

A 7-mile walk (approx.), partially along the banks of the Ivel to Gt. Barford then circling back through Blunham. Meet at 10am opposite the Wheatsheaf Pub in Church End, Tempsford (ample parking). The walk may be adapted should the water levels be high.

Sunday May 19th – Potton Green Wheel Walk

A walk to explore the new Potton Green Wheel, launched in September 2023. Walk details, starting point and time to be confirmed (see Facebook updates or go to pwwg.org.uk).

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

Chipolata pie with green vegetables and mash (Serves two or three people)

Ingredients:-

3 or 4 medium sized potatoes
Knob of butter or margarine
A little cream, or milk
Small amounts of seasonal green vegetables, e.g. peas, runner beans, broad beans, broccoli, brussels sprouts, courgettes and spinach
1 medium size chopped onion
A couple of tablespoons full of self-raising flour
A few teaspoons of gravy granules
A little olive oil
6 chipolatas (more if you are hungry!)

Method:-

Firstly, make the mashed potato. Chop up the potatoes and boil them until soft, adding a little salt to the water if desired. I am lazy and do not peel the potatoes first, but the choice is yours. When ready, drain most of the excess water after cooking the potatoes and then mash them up, but save a tablespoon or so of the water. Add some butter or margarine and perhaps a little cream or milk and stir together.

While you are waiting for the potatoes to cook, add the vegetables into the baking dish and then the self-raising flour, gravy granules and some seasoning. Then stir them together. Then add the olive oil and belatedly a little of the mashed potato water. The theory is that the vegetables and chipolatas will generate their own liquid as they cook and so the flour and granules will help make a tasty, but not too watery, sauce. Then add the chipolatas, followed by the mashed potato on top. Cook in the oven for about an hour at about 200 degrees covered by a tin foil lid, which should be removed half way through cooking.

Egon Ronnie comments:-

I enjoyed eating this a lot Ronnie. The vegetables complemented the mash and the chipolatas very well and made for a refreshing meal. I included a few chopped baby gherkins and some of its accompanied vinegar when I tried making it and this worked well.

IN AND AROUND WRESTLINGWORTH (5) BY BRIAN BUCK

First of all, I want to pay a short additional tribute to the late Joyce Bradshaw (23 March 1938 to 12 October 2023). Although our paths only crossed rarely, I shall always remember her, along with her husband Brian, for refusing lifts from us when they were waiting for a bus to arrive. Their attitude was that if they did not use it then the bus service could be taken away from them. Their stance was much to be admired, as this possibility is still relevant today.

The main part of this article started off when a friend and a Luton Town fan, living in Biggleswade, mentioned to me that one of their former players, namely Roy Davies, used to run a pub in Wrestlingworth, which he believed to be the Queen Victoria. So, I set about trying to see if he was right.

The first thing which concerned me was when this might have happened? So, I researched the playing career of the footballer concerned. This was quite easy and I found out the following:-

Ronald (Roy) Alfred Davies was born on 23 August 1924 in Cape Town. He was snapped up by Luton Town in May 1951 and went on to give sterling service over the next six years with only a succession of injuries preventing him from being one of the first names on the first team list.

A fast bowler for Bedfordshire and a good golfer, after leaving Luton Town in 1957 Roy finished his football career with Bedford Town in 1958, before moving to Weymouth for two seasons but he died tragically young at the age of only 49 on 12 October 1973. So, this meant that he became a pub landlord somewhere between 1960 and 1973.

Then I researched the history of the Queen Victoria pub. I could not find any reference to a landlord known as Roy Davies. The age of the pub also concerned me. It does not look that old. As previously documented I knew that it closed somewhere between May and October 1992, because I actually had a drink in it while I waited to move into my house in the village and by the time I did move in the pub had closed. I hope that my presence that evening had nothing to do with this.

Anyway, as I was getting nowhere with my research, I went to see lifelong resident Ronnie Pickford. He gave me three vital bits of information. Firstly, he told me that the pub opened in 1955. Secondly, that it had replaced a previous pub, a smaller building, built in front of the new structure, probably close to where the Millenium Garden is now. Then finally he told me that Roy Davies had been the landlord of the Chequers and not the Queen Victoria!

Then to finish off the story for now, I bumped into another life-long resident of the village, namely Olive Walker, while in church one morning. She told me that she had no recollection of Roy Davies being a pub landlord in the village, but she did tell me that in 1953 the roof of the Three Horseshoes pub caught fire and this led to the landlord building and moving to the Queen Victoria pub in 1955. It just goes to show how a seemingly insignificant conversation can throw up so much information.

But my research threw up one other piece of useful information, concerning Sydney Beaumont (8 October 1884 – May 1939) He was an English professional footballer and football manager, runner and cricketer. He played at both half back and left wing during his football career and won many trophies for middle-distance running.

Beaumont was born in Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, and began his career with Colchester Town. He moved on to Lincoln City, making his league debut in the 1904–05 season. However, he made just five league appearances for the Imps before joining Bedfordshire side Biggleswade & District. He later finished his playing career with Llanelli.

His management career was largely spent in the lower leagues and eventually he joined the ground staff of Chester in 1933 and served as their assistant trainer from 1936 until his death in 1939.

Beaumont died in May 1939, leaving his widow Elizabeth Beaumont and five children. His son, Robert, was a footballer and cricketer.

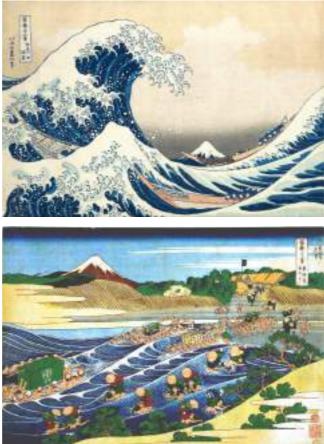
If you have any comments, additions or corrections to make then please contact me at brianbuck66@yahoo.co.uk and I will add them to a forthcoming article. Also, if you give me permission then I will acknowledge your contribution by name. Thank you.

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

Using the thinnest of connections that it's been a very wet winter, with flooding in the High Street, I've chosen some watery subjects by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai.

Japanese art is new territory for me and my knowledge is very limited - but like many I have always admired his iconic 'Under the Wave off Kanazawa,' more generally known as 'The Great Wave.'

This was just one from his series 'Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji' where in some the mountain features as the largest element, while in others it's almost incidental, but somehow still dominates.



More violent water from the same series can be seen in 'Fuji seen from Kanaya in the Tokaido,' where travellers are struggling to cross the river. (It's not come to this yet at Water End, but who knows?)

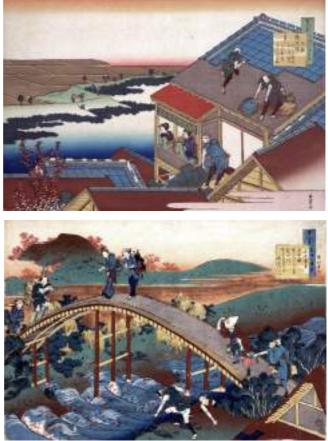
More peaceful water is seen in this lovely print based on a poem by Lady Ise (870 - 935 AD), from the series 'One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse.'

The poem reads:

'Even for a time / Short as a piece of the reeds / in Naniya's marsh, / We must never meet again: / Is this what you are asking me?'

Lady Ise was a court lady from Ise Province who became the lover of Prince Atsuyoshi, and later concubine to Emperor Uda.

Another print based on a poem from the same series by Ariwara no Narihira shows a bridge over a wide stream crossed by a Lady, some Farmers and a Merchant. By the riverside, a fisherman spears for fish. Water tumbles down a shallow fall from left to right, carrying fallen leaves with it.



The inscription reads 'Waters of Tatsuta, never even in the golden age of old did the gods in their might behold you fairer, laced with crimson of leaves.'

Roll on Spring!

-Nick da Costa

These woodblock prints date from between 1832 and 1839. Picture credits: Metropolitan Museum of Art. Translation. Background credit: Wikipedia.

ADVERTISING WITH THE VILLAGE LINK

At its March meeting, the Village Link committee reviewed our advertising rates and decided to keep them the same as last year. 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 and Tadlow, where it is much read and appreciated.

Over recent years the placement of adverts within our pages has been relatively static, especially those on the prime 'real-estate' of the inside and outside cover, for which our advertisers do not pay a premium.

In future issues, the Village Link will utilise all our space as effectively as we can. This gives us the flexibility to do like we did last issue when we used the cover to promote the local Tidy-Up day. By moving things around, advertisers may actually find their adverts are read more.

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Village Link Advertising Rates Mar. 2024-Feb. 2025

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT!

The Village Link was established over 30 years ago to promote local events and publish articles of interest to the local community.

As mentioned in our editorial, we want to expand its content, and are looking for people who can help with interesting articles and pages for children and young families. Or even provide photos, artwork, or even ideas to brighten up our pages. If you are new to this kind of thing, we can give you tips and help to get you started. The reward is seeing your creations in print!

If you run local events, do consider publicising them through the Village Link. We realise that it may not always be possible given our copy deadlines, but it is always worth contacting us for a quick chat. We are more than happy to discuss how the Village Link can best help your event. So do get in touch!

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Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth & Dunton Churches	Revd. Liz Lavelle - Nicola Adkins - P. Wendy Robinson -	01767 235 01767 631 01767 631	789				
Church and Poor's Fund	Liz Teague	01767 631	628				
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council	James Kirkpatrick Julie Dix - Vice Ch Lorna Chapman Andy Ewens Marc Wilson VACANCY - SEF Catherine Dear - C	01767 631 01767 631 07858 776 07740 553 07793 465 VACANC 01767 631	480 514 229 062 Y				
Central Beds Council	Adam Zerny - Inde Tracey Wye - Inde	01767 261 01767 261					
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Women's Institute	Lesley May	01767 631	259				
Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund	Geoffrey Coan - Ti Sarah Burgoine - S Margaret Pantry - I	07720 805 07831 330 01767 631	518				
Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall	Jim Hawkins - Cha Edwina Parker - Bo	01767 631 07808 125					
Eyeworth Village Hall	Wendy Robinson -	01767 631	283				
Parish Walking & Wildlife Group	Jim Hawkins - Cha Nicola Adkins - Ge	01767 631 01767 631					
Wrestlingworth History Soc.	Connie Walker - C	01767 631	450				
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VILLAGE DEFIB. LOCATIONS

Cockayne Hatley On brick cabinet opposite 21 Village Road, SG19 2EE

Wrestlingworth

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

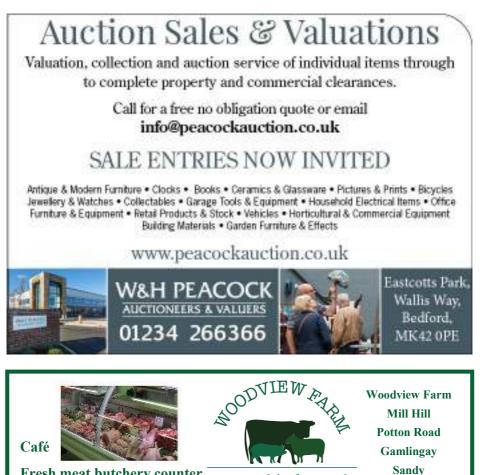




Welcome to yogakind, our cosy, plant-filled yoga shala in Tadlow. We welcome all to find a practice that brings you joy, from those looking for a strong and empowering practice, to expecting mummas, yogis looking for something slow and soft, and to those just curious!

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Opening times: Mon-Sat 7.30-5.00 Sunday 9.00-4.00

Beds