

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrattling
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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Harvest Songs of Praise



...for all the Family

Followed by bonfire 'cook-out'

Sunday 8 October 2017, 4 – 5

West Wrattling church

Lots of child-friendly songs and music

All ages welcome

**Come at 3.45 to prepare your potato for the fire,
and get ready to eat it (with fillings) at the end!**



Voluntary donations of money towards
Tearfund's work with flood victims in
South East Asia.

Scilla & John Harvey (290199)

Clive and Joanna Parry (290377)

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

Tea and Cakes has been a bit quieter over the summer, but now the children are back at school and we're all back into our routines, numbers usually rise again.

Many thanks to Alan and Jan who virtually single handedly ran the last session.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 6th October, 3.30 - 5 pm, in the Reading Room. Please do come along for a cuppa, a piece of cake and to tell us what you've been up to over the summer. We look forward to seeing you.

Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team (291319)



Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

The Saturday morning café will run next on Saturday 7th October between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall.

There will be a harvest-themed crafts table for the children in preparation for the Songs of Praise service on Sunday 8th October. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville Cinema Club

We're back for the season on Wednesday 4th October, when our film will be a comedy, and on Wednesday 1st November for a biopic of a musician. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website. Alternatively, email as below to subscribe to our mailing list. Pre-screening talk at 7.30 pm, refreshments available, all welcome.



Enquiries: 291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

Weston Colville Reading Room
(www.thereadingroom.org.uk)

Help wanted - Horseshoe Lane

Kath Coppen, who has delivered Challenge to the sixteen houses in Horseshoe Lane, Weston Colville, for many years, feels it is time to hand over to somebody else. If you have quarter of an hour to spare each month, and would like to help, please get in touch with me.

Thank you, Kath, for your sterling service.

Anne Vidler (290010)

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Forthcoming Events at St Mary's

By popular demand . . .



Pet Service and Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 8th October, 9.30 am

Bring your pet to church – no matter how large or small, furry or feathered, noisy or quiet; chicken in a basket or dog on a lead, all are welcome.

An informal service for families to give thanks for the life all around us. There will be refreshments after the service.

Churchyard Clear-up and Bonfire

Saturday 4th November, from 10 am

Come and take part in the autumn clearing of St Mary's churchyard, and join us for soup and sausages around the bonfire.

St Andrew's Fundraising

We are proposing to hold an auction of promises in March next year in the village hall to raise funds, which could then be matched by grant funding, for St Andrew's porch and toilets project, as well as the ongoing restoration of the church.

I would very much welcome support from people in helping to organise the auction of promises, building on the very excellent work of Nikki Anderson, Lyn Davison, and Alexia Passmore for the last one. We need donations of 'promises', such as holidays and holiday cottages, dog walking, cake or bread making or baking, jam and chutney making, eggs, joints of meat or fish, flowers, art, keep fit or meditation

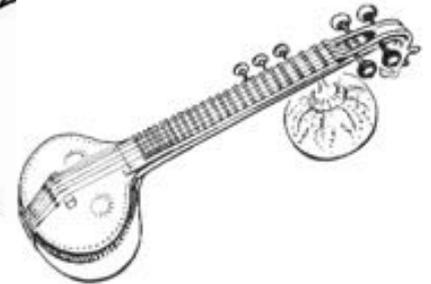
Live Indian Music and Dance



'A family friendly introduction to the colours and rhythms of south Indian music and dance.'

Children most welcome.'

West Wrattling Village Hall
79 High Street CB21 5LU



5.00 - 6.30 pm

Saturday 14th October

Free entry

Donations for our village hall welcome

classes, legal or accountancy work, house tidying, de-cluttering or cleaning, gardening and lawn-mowing!

Please leave any suggestions of donations or ideas on my home number (290706) or email me at my work (jeanette.dennis@ashtonslegal.co.uk) or at home (thejobs@hotmail.co.uk). I also would love to hear from volunteers as typists and helpers on the evening.

I hope you don't mind, but I will also be ringing people direct.

We would aim to raise between £8,000 and £10,000 from the evening so we need lots of donations.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Jeanette Job

Churchyard Clear-up – West Wrattling

The autumn clear-up of St Andrew's churchyard will take place on Saturday 11th November, from 10 am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome, and, as ever, doughnuts and coffee will be served.

Colin McCall (290036)

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Music Bash

We held the Music Bash again this year and sadly the weather was not on our side, as it rained quite a lot. However, there was still had a very good turn out once the weather settled, and we are very grateful for everyone's support, and for the voluntary help given by many.

Special thanks to all the absolutely amazing bands and solo singers, who were organised by Paul Santry and Dan – many thanks to you all.

We were very lucky to raise £1,000 for The Brain Tumour Charity in support of Craig (ex Manager of the West Wrattling Seniors), in memory of a very special lady Elizabeth Mee and for people within the village and surrounding area.

Blanche Miller

West Wrattling Progressive Supper 2018

We would like to organise another progressive supper in the village. January seems to be a good time for this, so we propose the date of Saturday 22nd January 2018.

For those who have not heard of progressive supper – what is it? A progressive supper is an event where each house provides a course of a meal for six people (including yourselves): starter, main or dessert. After each course you move to a new house with a new group of people to eat the next course before moving on again. The evening finishes in the pub, with the first drink provided free.

Everyone will pay £5 – this is not a fundraiser but a 'commitment' charge and will be used at the bar at the end of the evening. You do not need to come as a

couple – any one, two or threesome adult group is welcome.

We have had up to eighty villagers taking part in previous years.

It would be lovely to include some new people from within the village – will you give it a try? You do not have to be an amazing cook, it is not a competition but a social event to meet new and old friends, which is great fun. If it is your first time joining us for progressive supper you are welcome to be a guest at the event without cooking in your home if you prefer, however preparing a course and having people to your home is all part of the fun.

We are happy to accept requests for serving main or dessert courses but starter courses will be reserved for more distant houses or those with special requirements (eg babysitting needs). We ask everyone to provide their course for six people (including themselves) but welcome offers for serving more.

Please contact one of us for more details.

Tamara (tamara.keith@gmail.com)

Sherry (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

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West Wrating Over 60s

The next meeting of the club, to include lunch, will be at The Chestnut Tree at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 11th October.

The meeting the following month, also at The Chestnut Tree, will be on 1st November.

Wendy Halls

The Chestnut Tree

Just to let everyone know that we will be taking a break this month. The pub will be open as usual whilst we are away, but we will not be serving food from Tuesday 17th to Thursday 28th. Our kitchen will open again the following day.

This will also mean that the Lunch Club will be a week earlier this month, on Thursday 12th October.

Peter & Rachel

West Wrating Pink Evening

Back by popular demand, the Pink Evening in West Wrating will be held on Friday 3rd November at 7.30 pm to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

We will have stalls, games, a raffle and a cash bar selling 'pink drinks'. Additionally, there will be a rolling 'taxi' service (within a 5 mile radius). £5.00 entry (including FREE drink).

More details on the Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pinkevening2017/

Karen Arnott (290242)

West Wrating Clay Shoot

Once again the weather was fine for our annual Clay Day, with twenty four guns taking part and enjoying some testing sport.

Thank you to those who took part, which resulted in the West Wrating PCC raising over £2,500. Another great result.



As in previous years our thanks must go to Richard and Jackie at Six Mile Bottom who organised such an enjoyable event, plus a well earned lunch in The Green Man.



The date to save for next year is Saturday 25th August. Well shot.

Simon Sampson

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West Wrating Book Club

We had two books to discuss after our summer break: 'A Street Cat Named Bob' by James Bowen, and 'Colonel Belchamp's Battlefield Tour' by local author Adrian Crisp.

**'A Street Cat Named Bob' by James Bowen
(reviewed by Lee Haviland)**

This book tells the true story of a stray ginger tomcat who 'adopts' James Bowen, a recovering addict, living in sheltered accommodation and who is barely surviving, living hand to mouth and busking in London. James recounts how he gradually turns his life around, motivated by taking responsibility for and caring for Bob. James takes Bob on his daily busking activities and Bob becomes quite the attraction, being a bit unusual as street people usually have dogs. The book describes the hazards of living on the streets, living on the edge, with exposure to various dangerous situations as well as the surprising generosity and kindness of some individuals. Throughout the book James is able to proceed with establishing a more stable and secure life, even obtaining employment, precisely because he has Bob to care for.

There was a lively discussion among the members about their own experiences of cats as pets, how they do in fact 'adopt' some people, and have excellent survival and navigational skills. The members thought the book quite well written; it has been made into a film, and there are now several books in this series. The book was scored between 8 and 9.5 out of 10.

**'Colonel Belchamps's Battelfield Tour' by
Adrian Crisp (reviewed by Linda Gorman)**

The story of this book revolves around the main character James Butland's education, wartime experiences including a brief but intense love affair, its effects on his later life, and the death of his son in a car accident. There were some who felt that perhaps he wasn't a particularly nice person. One or two wondered how realistic his escape from France in a small boat was, and whether he wouldn't have been arrested as a possible deserter once he arrived back in England. In our later discussions with the author who

kindly joined us, he assured us that this would have been feasible as the weather was very calm at that time. Also, there was a precedent in that a group of soldiers did manage to get away and cross the Channel. It was felt that the military detail was very good and the author had obviously done his research. Calais was a classic action and gave the Germans their first hint that this wouldn't be a walkover despite the evacuation of Dunkirk. The author had evidently started out to write just a historical work about Calais but then decided to work in some fiction, drawing on his own experience including his medical training and working at Addenbrookes Hospital. This added to the local interest. It should also be noted that the author had suffered the loss of his own son in a car accident.

The comment was also made that Butland was obviously suffering from survivor guilt, exacerbated by his son's death, and seemed almost to have a death wish.

Although all had felt it a good read there some parts where the writing was rather clumsy. Also, the end was disappointing and perhaps a little weak. The author was asked what he was trying to convey with the ending. He said he had actually written four endings and had finally decided on this one despite it being rather dark. He had intended the final lines of the book to hint at something supernatural linking in with the beginning. The book was scored between 6 and 8 out of 10.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th October at 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree. The book to read for this month is 'A Heart So White' by Javier Marias.

Linda Gorman

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Did curiosity really kill the cat?

Fact or Fiction – a discussion
surrounding health, well being
and social media

Friday 6th October, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Abington Village Institute

High St, Great Abington, Cambs CB21 6AB

**As part of our programme of Parish Nurse
events, please join us to hear Helen Howe and
Annie Greenwood leading a discussion on the
issue of web based health information and
self-diagnosis**

*Professor Helen Howe was until her recent
retirement, the Chief Pharmacist to Cambridge
University Hospitals and a member of the Council
of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.*

*Annie Greenwood is an advanced nurse practitioner
with a special interest in women's health.*

There will be an opportunity to continue the
discussion in smaller groups and meet other
members of the Parish Nurse Management group,
including your Parish Nurse, Claire Gillett.

This is a free event – no booking required

Refreshments will be available

For more information contact:

Cazzy Walshe, 7churches.seven@gmail.com or Keith
Day keithdday@btinternet.com 891527

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

September fill up results – I only just squeezed past the Boilerjuice ‘Bulk’ price, although I was placing quite a worthwhile order. Twentyone houses in West Wrating participated in the order placed on September 11th, with Certas Energy (aka Pace / Butler) who won the order with a price of 37.62p per litre, which was a small saving of 0.38p against my benchmark Boilerjuice ‘Bulk’ (for 2,000 litres +) price of 38.00p. All prices + VAT.

For interest, prices in the last twelve months have been: 2016 July 31.60p, September 32.00p, October 37.20p and 2017 January 44.25p, March 40.95p, May

35.10p, July 33.75p, so prices have finally started going up for winter!

There will be a fill up this month, with the cutoff for orders being Monday 9th October at 6 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at richardholness023@btinternet.com, putting ‘Oil’ in the subject box (if you don’t get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as “phone day before for gate to be unlocked” etc. Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there’s a fill up, you’ll always buy at the best possible price and improve your cashflow to boot.

Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wrating website www.westwrating.org.uk about three days after the order cutoff day.

Please note that this will be the last West Wrating Oil Syndicate order in 2017 as we don’t get a worthwhile price reduction in the run up to Christmas, so the next will be in January 2018.

Richard Holness

West Wrating Parish Council/Football Club

A public meeting between West Wrating Parish Council and West Wrating Football Club was held on Wednesday 6th September.

It was agreed to form a working group from interested parishioners and the West Wrating Football Club, to discuss and resolve any concerns or issues arising from the use of the Recreation Ground and Pavilion.

It was proposed at the public meeting that the two components of the group should have an equal number of members, with a co-chair taking turns in leading the meetings. The preference was for a group size of six or eight, with parish councillor Tim Bonfield acting as a neutral observer.

The parish council will ask the football club and parishioners to put names forward for membership of the group. This will be by email and notices on the village noticeboards.



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The first meeting of the group will be at the beginning of October, with the group then deciding on the intervals for future meetings and advertising the resultant dates in *Challenge*.

The group will meet in the pavilion, and members of the public will be allowed to attend and address it.

The fourth meeting of the group will be held jointly with the sports pavilion club committee, and it was suggested at the public meeting that the group would also have its eighth meeting, or an annual meeting, with the parish council.

The group will continue to meet without any end date being set.

West Wrating Parish Council

Childminder Needed

We live in Weston Green, and are looking for an occasional childminder to pick up our children from the school bus and to prepare a meal for them. Pay is negotiable. If you are interested, please contact me on mjcd2@cam.ac.uk or 07592 110105.

Martin Parker Dixon

Pop-Up Pub Returns

After a highly successful trial in September, the Pop-up-Pub in the Reading Room (courtesy of 'The Portable Pint') will return on Friday 10th November from 6.30 - 10.30. Hot food will be available on the night, as well as a full range of beers, wines, soft drinks and snacks. The event on 1st September attracted around seventy people who enjoyed an informal evening of relaxed chat, food and drink. Thanks to everyone who came, and we hope to see even more people in November.

Jeremy Newton



Thank You

Thank you so much for the overwhelming kindness and support I have received following John's death on 12th August. It has been such a comfort to me to be surrounded by such friendship and caring whilst I try to accept his loss; he will be missed by so many.

Jenny Richards

William Sanders, RIP

William, who suffered from Parkinsons, died suddenly but peacefully at home on 25th August – I had seen him that day but was still convalescing at the Hilton Park Care Home in Bottisham. I am now home and getting stronger every day.

When more mobile, William loved to come to the Sunday service at Weston Colville – the time suited well and he loved having hymns included in the service. We always got a lovely welcome and plenty of helping hands with the wheel chair. He lies in a lovely spot in Balsham churchyard, and we had a wonderful service for him on Wednesday 13th September, with 180 people in church, of whom about 100 came back to Nine Chimney House – an enormous tribute to him.

May he Rest in Peace.

Joanna Sanders

Meditation Group in Weston Colville

We often hear how meditation can help our mental health and wellbeing, but may not be sure how to start. I have been practising a form of Christian meditation for more than twenty years and have found it to be helpful in many ways.

I am starting a small group on Thursday evenings for beginners to learn how to start this simple practice. There will be a time of silent meditation and a chance for reflection.

This is an opportunity to explore the spiritual side of our faith.

Please call me if you would like to know more about it. More information can also be found at www.christianmeditation.org.uk

First meeting: Thursday 5th October, 7.30 pm at 28 Mill Hill, Weston Colville.

Steven Wheeler (290643)



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Lower Wood Coppicing, 2017-18

The Lower Wood work party has now completed one full cycle of coppicing in the wood, and we are about to start work on the first coppice plot that was first cut ten years ago. So much has changed in the wood since that time, and yet so much has stayed the same as it has always been. Lower Wood was last managed as a full coppice system in the 1930s and we believe that it was last cut before the second world war. Perhaps some people in the village know precisely when it was last cut? Tree rings have given us some insight into the ages of the trees in different parts of the wood. One of the most amazing discoveries is that some of the slender trees near the bridge where one of the paths enters the wood are over seventy years old, yet there are trees in the wood of five times the diameter that are only forty years old. It all depends on how much space each tree has to grow in. The old overgrown coppice plots are so dense that some ash trees struggle to get any light. The result is that they are only able to put on very thin tree rings each year, some as small as 0.3 mm, whereas trees growing along the edges of the rides can produce rings as thick as 8 or 10 mm in a year.

The trees that are struggling to get light are very vulnerable to disease and ash dieback is hitting them hard this year, so to replace the ashes being lost we have been planting more hazel.

The dates for the work parties will be:

- Saturday 28th October
- Saturday 25th November
- Saturday 30th December
- Saturday 27th January
- Saturday 25th February.

We hope to see as many of you as possible, and as always tools and refreshments will be provided. The work parties will start at 10 am and finish at 1 pm, but normally some people work on in the afternoon as well. All newcomers are welcome, and if children come along they are very welcome as long as they are supervised by a parent. We are very proud of our reputation for developing the next generation of environmentalists.

Do come and join in . . . it's great fun and wonderful exercise.

Duncan Mackay

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email: info@rkenyonmasterthatcher.co.uk

West Wrattling Parish Council

At the meeting held on Monday 11th September the following were some of the items discussed. The full draft minutes will be posted on the two village noticeboards and also on the website.

Planning:

1. S/1231, S/2484 and S/2497 applications have all received SCDC approval.
2. There will be an open meeting in West Wrattling village hall on Tuesday 17th October at 7 pm to look at plans, elevations and layout drawings and ask questions about the proposed affordable housing, organised by Hastoe.

Linton Complementary Health Centre

2b Bartlow Road, Linton, CB21 4LY

- Acupuncture, Peter White MSc, MBACc
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- Massage, Peter White, Dip Mass

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Website: **www.lintonhealth.co.uk**

Finance:

1. Parish Clerk pay scales – it was agreed that an increase of 2% should be made.
2. Cllr Causton's application for Community Chest funding was turned down because it was for repairs, not improvement. Thankfully Andrew Hodge has agreed to do the necessary work at cost.

Maintenance: road markings from Chapel Road to the Common and also the Honey Hill junction have still not been carried out and this will be discussed with Highways.

Village Hall Insurance: it has been confirmed that the Village Hall Management Committee are responsible for insuring the contents and the parish council insures the building.

Correspondence: due to the resignation of Cllr Okkenhaug there is a vacancy on the parish council. This will be advertised. Cllr Okkenhaug was thanked for all the work she had done in the short time she was a councillor.

Football Club & Sports Pavilion: various areas of the lease have been breached which need resolving. It was agreed that a list of these issues would be sent to the sports pavilion committee for them to resolve and to be discussed at their next joint meeting.

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It was agreed that the landlord of The Chestnut Tree should have the code to the padlock on the recreation ground gate, due to requests from local users.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restrictions:

1. *Local Highways Improvement Project* – the chairman had met with David Lines from Highways to discuss the placement of the 30 mph and 40 mph signs, but no final decision yet made.
2. *Speed Indicator:* a plan has been drawn up for where the four posts could be placed, but Highways will need to agree before going further.

Report of meetings:

Cllr Nichols had discussed speeding issues with the Chief Constable for South Cambs at a meeting she attended organised by Jason Ablewhite, the police and crime commissioner. She also attended a Six Mile Bottom parish council meeting where it was agreed to liaise regarding HGV traffic, and supported an 'unsuitable for HGV' sign.

Reports by Dist Cllr Turner and County Cllr Batchelor: these have been placed on the parish council website and are summarised in the draft minutes on the village noticeboards.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 13th November. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk)

Road Closure in Carlton

The main thoroughfare through the village of Carlton will be completely closed between 6th and 9th November for road repairs. A diversionary route is being set up through Weston Colville.

Stephen Roberts, Chairman, Carlton Parish Council

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Weston Colville's Neighbourhood Watch attempts to increase awareness of the problems that arise through various types of criminal activity, and work towards a better relationship with the police. Our information comes from the South Cambs area. The level of criminal activity is low compared with national statistics, and it is more likely to occur in the larger villages and where the M11 and its feeder main roads provide rapid means of escape. Of course computer fraud and telephone scams can occur anywhere. Late July and early August did provide us with difficulties and some significant losses, and now we have suffered criminal activity in September. A car was stolen from Brinkley Road, Weston Colville, a lawnmower was stolen from High Street, West Wrating, and further break-ins took place in The Camps and The Wilbrahams.

I found myself stumbling around the garden at 8 pm last night because 'someone' had switched the lights off and was trying to tell me that autumn is just around the corner. So a seasonal warning as colder weather approaches: while we need oil for warmth and comfort at home, oil thieves have a better market and may have their eye on your oil tank, so please do

your best to hide or disguise it. It could be fitted with security lighting and security camera(s), to provide the police with very useful evidence, faces and number plate details too.

If you see a crime taking place, or need immediate assistance, call 999. If you have evidence of something which was a crime or makes you suspicious, call 10.

The police have provided an internet link to report any non-emergency incidents such as theft, criminal damage and burglary – www.contactcambspolice.uk/Report/Crime/

Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

Litter

The litter picking teams in West Wrating and Weston Colville have done a great job within our parish boundaries. Three fly tips were reported to me in the Weston Colville area and since the road scrapings have been put down on Fox Road, three fly tips have been recorded there, for one of which we are hoping to obtain a prosecution.

We have an excellent relationship with the South Cambs litter and fly tipping teams, so if you spot a fly tip or a car dump, please contact me. The two fly tip experts are ex-policemen and it is surprising what evidence they can glean from a fly tip, and won't hesitate to prosecute if at all possible.

Meanwhile, it would be nice for all litter pickers to meet – can I suggest Sunday 12th November at 12.45 pm onwards at The Chestnut Tree – accompanied, of course, by spouses, partners and dogs. The first drink will, as ever, be on me.

Colin McCall (290036)

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Parish Paths Partnership

As many of you will be aware, Lee Tubby left at the end of June and the d'Abo estate is under new management. The changeover coincided with the busiest time of the year on the land —harvest, ploughing and drilling. I will be arranging a meeting with the new manager to discuss cross-field paths, hedge cutting, etc, in the near future, but in the meantime, could walkers and ramblers be patient during this time of transition, and all necessary work will be carried out – weather permitting.

If anyone has any specific requests or problems on our paths, please contact me.

Meanwhile, a huge thank you to Simon Anderson for keeping the paths round the perimeter of West Wrattling in such good condition. It has been a pleasure to walk them. Many thanks also to Raymond Maskell for his work round Scarletts Farm and Wood.

Colin McCall (290036)

Ministry Matters

This is a season of new beginnings and change, and we are now perhaps in the most beautiful season of them all. I am reminded of The Four Seasons by Vivaldi; of the trees changing colour and the reflection of them in the water. We know the nights are drawing in and that feeling of impending hibernation. How lucky we are to see these changes in this part of the world.

The farmers have brought the harvest in and are sowing seed for another crop later in the year. The tractors we see on the road remind us of our rural environment. With the season of harvest and its



abundance, we have services in church to celebrate God’s goodness to us in the fruits of the land and the plentiful crop. Each church has a harvest celebration and all are welcome; we sing traditional harvest hymns and enjoy refreshments in harvest gatherings that call villagers together.

We travel in time from harvest to remembrance, reminding us of difficult times of change, especially 100 years ago. Before we know it there will be the magic of Christmas and the crib services for all the family.

Change happens for the children as they move to new classes ready for another academic year, and get used to new teachers and routines. Young people have left to go to university on a new adventure, to discover more about themselves as well as learning in a specialist subject, with new challenges thinking of careers and all that goes with it.

We know that the end is the beginning for those who are retired or whose children have left home, as opportunities present themselves to do something different. There is a welcome for those who want to be part of the community of the church in many different ways. We’d love to see you.

The Parish Nurse project has organised an evening called ‘Did curiosity really kill the cat?’ This is about people self-diagnosing their ailments on line and telling the doctor what they think is wrong with them. Is this beneficial? Come and find out on Friday 6th October, 6.30 - 8 pm at Abington Village Institute.

The parishes are in good heart as we still wait for a rector to be appointed for our villages.

Blessings to you all,

Revd Kathy Bishop

Missing Cats

Beatrice is a very friendly tabby and white cat who was staying with us at Weston Woods Cottages for a few days, and managed to get outside, so may well be hungry and disorientated. She was last seen on Saturday 2nd September.

If you have seen her or come across her, please if possible hang onto her if possible and let me know. Thank you.

Emma (07961 090550, emmajaneparsons@btinternet.com)



Has anyone seen this cat? She went missing on 17th September. She is grey with green eyes and very shy, and may be looking quite bedraggled.

Please contact me if you have seen her. Thank you.

Margaretha Galt (290726)



**Weston Colville Cricket Club
End of Season Report**



It has been another testing year for cricket at Weston Colville. Like a number of other clubs in the region (Burrough Green and Balsham have both seen teams folding recently), Weston have found it difficult to field two strong sides this year, with a number of the 2nd team fixtures cancelled due to a shortage of players. For various reasons, the 1st XI has not been able to field its strongest side on a regular basis. Although the season started well with some good victories, this could not be sustained and, following a string of away losses at the end of the season, the team were unfortunately relegated to the Cambs Senior League Division 2.

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The 2nd XI has always been a place for our younger players to start competing at senior level alongside some of the more senior members of the club who encourage and support the newcomers. This year's captain, Adrian Reedman, has done an excellent job in this respect but sometimes there were just not enough players to get a side out. However, many matches were played and provided a good experience for our upcoming talent.

It was perhaps unfortunate that five of the last six games for the 1st XI were away from home, making it that much more difficult to capture the points necessary to survive in their division, and the cancellation of the match on 5th August, due to heavy rain, did not help either. There have been, however, some notable good performances by first team members in the last few matches, the 101 scored by Ed Fairey away to Needingworth on 19th August and the 69 and 3 for 33 from Sam Charlton away to Wisbech in the last match of the season on 9th September standing out – unfortunately both of these games were lost in the end.

Against NCI away on 26th August, Ed Fairey scored 38, Sam Charlton 67 and Ade Westley 29 in a decent total of 194. However, although Jack Squire took 2 for 29 in the NCI innings, the home side reached the required total with the loss of three wickets.

There was a close encounter away to Chatteris on 2nd September. In a low scoring match, Weston batted first and made 123 for 9 (Ade Westley 49, Pete Bragg 36 not out) but Chatteris just managed to pass that total with one wicket remaining, ending on 124 for 9. Sam Charlton bowled well, taking 3 for 23, but the result was a frustrating one for Weston. So over the 2017 season the 1st XI played eighteen matches, won five, lost eleven, and two matches were abandoned due to the weather.

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The 2nd XI played just three matches in August and September. Away to Great Shelford on 12th August, the home side made a challenging total of 241 for 7 in spite of some tight bowling by Jasmine Westley, who took 2 for 34. Weston only managed 106 in reply, with Trevor Westley, making a special guest appearance, getting most of the runs with a faultless 63. Away to Little Shelford on 26th August, the home side made a grand total of 304 for 7. With only eight players in the side, Weston could only make 88 in reply, but all credit to those who turned out for the match. On the final day of the season, at home to Thriplow on 9th September few runs were scored all afternoon: Weston were bowled out for 44 but managed to capture six Thriplow wickets before they passed our total. So in the final analysis, the 2nd XI played seven matches, won two and lost five, with seven games cancelled. They will continue to play in the Junior League Division 5 South next season.

The times are challenging for club cricket around the country and Weston are no exception to the apparent decline in interest in the game. However, the club has a core of fine senior players, some sound mentors and a strong junior section and will surely bounce back before much longer – it is hopefully just a phase we are going through, like most teams in all sports!

The AGM of the Cricket Club will be held on Monday 30th October at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, Weston Colville. All welcome.

John Garrod

Junior Cricket 2017

At the start of the season the Cambridgeshire Youth Cricket Association announced that they were no longer running leagues at u12 and u14 level. This gave us a big problem because we had planned to enter teams in both. So to ensure our juniors got a

game we had to push the u15 team up to the Premier League, enter our u14s in the u15 Regional League and enter the u12s in the u13 Regional League. Therefore all of our league teams were playing above their age group, which resulted in a challenging season.

Full details of each match can be found on the club website (www.westoncolvillecc.co.uk) under the 'Matches' page, but in summary the u15P and u15R teams were unable to record any victories although they came close on a number of occasions. The u13s fared better, winning three games and in a tight league finished runners up to Haverhill. It may have been a tough season but it is all about learning the ups and downs of the game and the experiences will benefit the players next season. The exception this year has been the outstanding form of the u11s, who won the league for the first time without losing a game; their only defeat all season was the cup final where they lost narrowly to Linton. This is all very positive for the future, as more young players take up the game.



The club also joined forces with Burrough Green to deliver the first All Stars Cricket (ASC) sessions. ASC is a new scheme launched by the ECB to get children in the 5 - 8 age range playing the game. A total of twenty-five children signed up to eight sessions, which gave an introduction to the game.

The club would like to thank all parents and family members who have supported the junior section at Friday coaching and at matches.

Steve Potter

West Wratting Senior Football Report

The first team are currently top of the league, having won seven of their eight opening games – excellent playing.

The Reserves have only played one league game, against Exning, and one cup game, beating Balsham 4 - 1, again a very good performance.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

West Wratting Youth Football Report

We are only into the second week of our season, so there is not really much to report as yet.

The teams we have this year and their managers are:

u7s, run by Nick Drennan – won their first league game, which was away to Haverhill Rovers, 0 - 19.

u10s, run by Gary Hopkins – won their first game away to Hardwick 1 - 4, but lost their second match at home to Newmarket Town 1 - 4.

u11s, run by Michael Dunn – have had both of their league games (both away) cancelled – one team did not have a pitch, and the other team did not have enough players.

And the colts team, **u13s, run by Ricky Tabram** – lost their first and so far only league game 3 - 2 away to Littleport.

All teams now have the same kit as the first team.

*Richard Cole, Chairman & Secretary
West Wratting Youth Football Club*

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Tom Westley for being picked for the England Test Team, from all within West Wratting Football Club.

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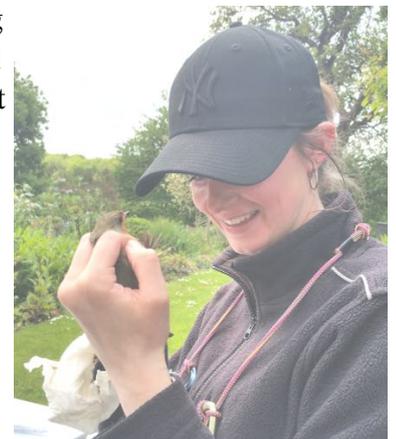
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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Last month's mystery bird was an immature Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*), our first ever recorded in Weston Colville, probably hatched in Great Coven's or Lower Wood. Let's hope this beautiful bird dodges the widespread trapping in Italy and Egypt, and makes it back from East Africa next year.

We are both sad and happy to announce the departure of Rachel Durham from our ringing team. Happy because she is starting a Master's degree at the University of Exeter at their Cornwall campus, and sad because we shall miss her wit, ability and quick learning at our ringing sessions. Rachel is keen to continue her ringing career, but she can't escape the long reach of our ringing team: Rachel's new local ringing group is the West Cornwall RG. And their organiser is . . . my daughter Emma! You can run Rachel, but you can't hide . . . As a memento, here is Batgirl and Robin, back on 21st May 2017.



We're starting to see the annual 'migration' of these woodland birds back to the feeders in village gardens. I am very pleased to announce the reappearance of Grey over Green 'Titty McTitface', first met when the study started on 28th February last year. 'Titty' was then at least two years old. She was last seen in July 2016 and we were starting to fear the worst – the life of a 10 gramme Tit is a precarious one – but she was spotted on a Weston Colville sunflower heart feeder in September 2017. Joy! This is now one of the oldest Marsh Tits in our study.

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I am starting to feel these Marsh Tits are getting a bit too relaxed around us. Take young likely female Yellow over Red ‘Carpe Diem’, first encountered and colour-ringed on 23rd July this year in Great Coven’s Wood. As I was setting up a net, about a metre from feeders in a Mill Hill garden on 10th September, ‘Carpe Diem’ showed up, looked me right in the eye and then started helping herself to sunflower hearts about 150 cm from my face. This completely wild bird had to put her face in the feeder to extract seeds, so couldn’t keep an eye on me, barely more than an arm-length away. Only a couple of Blue Tits were brave enough to join her. When I finished setting up the net, ‘Carpe Diem’ had disappeared. We didn’t catch her all morning. I get the distinct impression that these tiny, shy, allegedly unintelligent birds have sussed us.

Although ours is a new study, data from our RAS is already supporting data from Monk’s Wood Research Station that artificial feeding markedly improves the survival of Marsh Tits over the winter. More on this when we have enough data to be sure of our results.

In the meantime, please put out bird food as the weather turns colder. Regular feeding is better than now and again, as the birds will know it’s worth spending precious energy and running the gauntlet of

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predators like cats and Sparrowhawks to fly to your garden, when they are sure they will get a top-up. Our data show that a Marsh Tit will travel a straight-line distance of half a kilometre from the far side of Lower Wood to Joyce's reliably-stocked feeders on Mill Hill. Since these birds prefer sticking to the cover of deciduous trees and tall shrubs, it was probably significantly further.

Reports from around the country suggest that this is a bumper year for Blackcaps (*Sylvia atropcapilla*), the ‘Northern Nightingale’. They and their beautiful, tinkling song are heading for subSaharan Africa for the winter. The feathers around their beaks often get covered with red blackberry juice, making them look like bloodstained stars from Hitchcock’s thriller movie ‘The Birds’.



Luckily, my daughter Helen knows better than to pay any attention to my melodramatic flights of fancy. She’s seen here releasing a young Blackcap after its biometrics and

condition were measured. The bird felt comfortable enough not to take off straightaway.

As always, report sightings of Marsh Tits, ringed or unringed, to myself at cambsmarti@gmail.com, Mel at m_stammers@btinternet.com or Anne at Challenge. We’re always pleased to hear from you. Together, we can make a difference. :) Have a great October,

**Alex Inzani and the wonderful ringing team,
for the BTO National Ringing Scheme**



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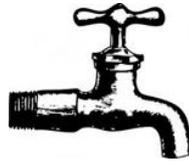
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Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.

The Meadow School

Welcome back to the new academic year. The start to the term has not been without a few challenges to keep us on our toes. Just three days before we broke up for the summer we flooded, for the fourth time in just over a year; this flood was by far the worse we have suffered, with the ICT Suite, two Early Years classrooms, two Y1/2 classrooms, corridors and the staffroom all affected. Carpets and toys we had replaced not even five months previously were once again ruined. Ironically, this flood happened the day after we heard our appeal for funding to fix the drainage issue was turned down by the government. We have now written to Lucy Frazer MP in the hope that she can secure us some help from the government.

This term the learning for every year group is focussed on 'Space', with our topic 'Out of this World'. This was launched with the whole of Key Stage 2 going to the National Space Centre in Leicester for, as many of the children described, 'the best day ever!' They got to be astronauts, complete scientific tests, try out space equipment and they were even there on the day the Cassini satellite was crashed and were part of the live broadcast.

The Infants were not to be outdone, and had a planetarium visit where the children were in awe of the planets and astronauts flying overhead and around the dome. They also had visitors from the STEM group who helped them learn more about the planets, make space food (which tasted yucky), complete activities whilst wearing space gloves, and also make space slime!

If you have a child due to start school in September 2018 and would like to come and look around our school, please contact the school office to book a tour.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Meadow School Balsham's

Craft, Gift & Food Fair

7th & 8th October

10.30am - 4pm



This very popular craft fair now in its 28th year has over 40 stalls of locally handmade exquisite crafts & foods.



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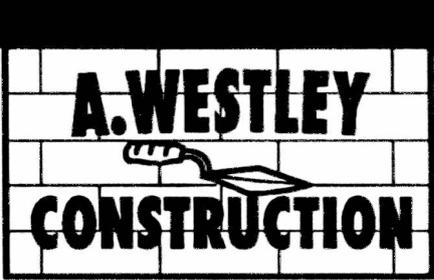
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The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

This term we mark the 80th anniversary of Linton Village College. The school first opened its doors in 1937 with a much more modest building and staff. While the Art Deco architecture remains intact, a great deal has changed. It was lovely to meet with ex-students and staff to appreciate their memories of the College.

As part of the preparations for LVC@80, we have explored archive material including historic photographs and documents. We have discovered fascinating items including strongly-worded parental letters of complaint penned over 60 years ago, reports of supernatural activity, and some outrageous bus incident reports.

One of the most poignant pieces was a war-time letter capturing a teacher's commitment to the profession, despite offers of employment to support the war effort, because of his staunch belief that: 'there is a job of work of equal importance to be done right here on the spot; to plan for a better world when once the struggle is over'. Written in February 1942, the author urges the then Warden of the College to focus on 'the inner nature of the child'. The teacher's 27 proposals include bringing up a generation that will be



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free from hate and fear, and to focus on developing children's character and initiative.

75 years on, we still strive to encourage this kind of holistic education at LVC. Children are encouraged to be curious, reflective and independent, to take responsibility and be ambitious in their learning and lives. Another of the school's values, caring, is symbolised not only in the Linton Learner logo but by the sculpture outside the school's original entrance.

In addition to the tea, cake and music, the anniversary celebrations included the official unveiling of a commemorative mosaic which captures the Linton Learner attributes that we value and grow in the school community. This piece of collaborative art work, created by every student in a year group, serves as a lasting contribution to the school's heritage.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the anniversary celebrations and reinforced what is so special about our Village College.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

1st Horseheath Brownies

This term we will be getting ready for the Over 60's Christmas Luncheon and preparing for Christmas with crafts. We have been invited to join Balsham Rainbows on a night walk with cocoa afterwards, and hopefully a campfire with 1st Linton Guides after half-term.

We are also working on our Toymaker badge this term so if you have any buttons you no longer need please think about donating them to the Brownies for their sock puppets.

Pauline, Katie and Laurené (brownies@horseheath.info)

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Balsham Gardening Club

We were blessed with beautiful weather for the Garden Club's 40th Anniversary Annual Village Show, which proved popular with visitors, many of whom also enjoyed tea and cakes from the WI. The number of entries was lower than we would have hoped for, with some classes having only one or two entries and some none at all. However, one visitor said that he would definitely be entering his produce next year and hopefully others will follow his lead. £25 was raised from voluntary donations and the WI donated £20, so a total of £45 will be split between funding the Show and the Church alterations. The raffle raised £64.50, however, one prize remains unclaimed. If you have orange bordered ticket number 63 please contact Jennie Tipler on 01223 893086 to arrange delivery. If the winning ticket is not presented, the prize will be drawn for again at the next meeting.



There were no entries in the giant pumpkin competition at the show. If anyone has succeeded in growing a giant pumpkin and is interested in claiming the cash prize, please bring it along to the next meeting, on 3rd October, or if it is so big that it cannot be carried let us know so that we can check it out.

The next meeting will be on 3rd October at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm, and will feature a talk by Colin Kirkland on 'Wildlife in the Garden'. As always, visitors and new members are welcome.

Harold's gardening tips for October:

- Clear away spent crops and summer bedding that has finished
- Diseased material should be put in the green bin
- Plant out spring bedding such as wallflowers, pansies and polyanthus before the colder weather arrives
- Sow 'Aquadulce' broad beans in well drained soil
- Make sure that all tender plants are under cover before the first frosts.

Jennie Tipler

West Wickham and District Gardening Club

The club's AGM was held on 18th September. Our chairman reported that our gardening year had been a very successful one, with excellent outings (to Moat House in Little Saxham, Ashdon Hall and Wisley), a super plant sale which raised £832, and six talks on a wide variety of topics taking place on the third Monday of the month from October to April. Our membership is stable and finances are healthy. The committee was re-elected: Arthur Mawby – chairman, Andrew Morris – treasurer, Sue Boase – committee secretary, and Rosemary Yallop – programme secretary. Our talks for 16th October and 20th November are 'Aquatics, Marginals and Bog Plants' by Ian Seager and 'Daylilies' by Dr Paula Dyson of Strictly Daylilies Nursery at Histon. These talks will begin at 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall, and visitors are most welcome.

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We recommend every household has a fire escape plan and regularly runs through it with the family – especially when guests are coming to stay.

- Everyone should know where the window and door keys are.
- Your normal way out of the house is your best escape route so always keep it clear of clutter – think of the difficulties you'll have using this route in pitch darkness or smoke.
- Walk your escape route with the rest of your family or housemates and make sure everyone can open windows and doors easily.

If you, your neighbour or family member might be vulnerable, or have trouble escaping from their house in a fire, call us on 0800 9179994 to see if we can help.



Fire Safety

The events at Grenfell Tower in June were horrifying and devastating, and will have far reaching consequences for the residents, families, neighbours and Fire Brigade.

A few hours earlier on the same evening, my son was involved in a house fire. He was upstairs at his girlfriend's house when there was an electrical fire which started in the garage; within minutes the house was destroyed. He and his girlfriend escaped and thankfully, except for smoke inhalation, no-one was injured. One of the most frightening things about the fire was the rate at which it took hold – he said it took

them seconds to get down the stairs but in that time, he couldn't see his hand in front of his face because of the thick dense smoke.

So, please . . .

- Have a conversation with all the family (especially children) about escape routes from the house
- Check all smoke alarms in the house are working
- Make sure all the family know what the smoke alarm sounds like, and what action to take if they hear the alarm
- Check that the escape routes – doors, stairs and floors – are clear
- Check keys for doors and windows are accessible in the event of an emergency, and know where they are.

The Fire Brigade has lots of useful information online about how to keep safe, what to do in an emergency, where to place smoke alarms, and steps to reduce the risk of fire happening in the home.

A Practice Nurse at Sawston Medical Centre



**BURROUGH GREEN
CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Saturday
9th December**

10.30 am - 4.00 pm

Reading Room, Burrough Green

As well as home-crafted Christmas gifts, we will be selling light lunches, cakes and beverages during the day.



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Sunday 15 th October	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Sisse	Louise	Fanny
Sunday 22 nd October	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Jenny	Louise	Sue
Sunday 29 th October, 10 am	United Service	Rev Simon Talbot	Alex	Linda <i>et al</i>	Pauline

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
	FLOWERS	CLEANING
October	Perdita	Jenny

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton. Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

October 2017

- Tues 3 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 4 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Fri 6 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville 'Did Curiosity Really Kill the Cat?', Abington
- Sat 7 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling Farmers' Market, Linton
Creedence Clearwater Review, Ellesmere Centre
- Thur 5 First meditation group meeting, Weston Colville
- Fri 6 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 7, Sun 8 Craft, Gift & Food Fair, Balsham
- Sun 8 Pet Service & Harvest Thansgiving, St Mary's Songs of Praise, bonfire cookout, St Andrew's
- Mon 9 Cutoff for West Wrattling oil syndicate orders
- Wed 11 West Wrattling Over 60s
West Wrattling Book Club
- Thur 12 West Wrattling Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 14 Indian Music and Dance, West Wrattling
- Mon 16 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Sat 28 Coppicing, Lower Wood
- Mon 30 Weston Colville Cricket club AGM

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- Wed 1 West Wrattling Over 60s
- Fri 3 First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
Pink Evening, West Wrattling
- Sun 4 Churchyard cleanup and bonfire, St Mary's
- Fri 10 Pop-up pub, Weston Colville
- Sat 11 Churchyard cleanup, St Andrew's
- Sun 12 Litter pickers meeting, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 25 Coppicing, Lower Wood

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
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St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415),
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Black bins: Monday 9th & 23rd October,
Monday 6th & 20th November

Blue & green bins: Monday 2nd, 16th & 30th October,
Monday 13th & 27th November

Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month

(3rd October, 7th November)

High Street, West Wrattling	12.15 - 12.45
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received. Contributions can also be left at Weston Colville Post Office. Some may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

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