

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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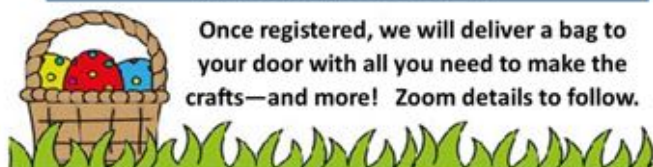
Get ready for



**A fun celebration
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Sunday March 28th, 4pm

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crafts—and more! Zoom details to follow.

Village Resources

Helping Hands (the Community Transport scheme) has been incorporated into the Balsham Good Neighbourhood Scheme. As a result we do not have access to this, but volunteers in both Weston Colville and West Wratting are happy to drive people to health/vaccination appointments.

Please get in touch with the following if you require transport:

Weston Colville: Jo Jackson (07798 525300) or Mel Stammers (07890 296998)

West Wratting: Suan Rowland (01223 290788, suanrowland@btinternet.com) or Donna Gilmour (07986 006129)

For those who have arranged for their medications to go into the 'West Wratting pack', medicines will continue to be delivered to homes three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) whilst lockdown arrangements are in place. Arrangements may change if The Chestnut Tree is allowed to reopen, but we will inform you of changes. At present, The Chestnut Tree is open for takeaways on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and for Sunday roast lunch.

If you are new to the village and would like clarification or further information, please contact the above. We would be more than happy to connect, welcome and provide you with any information that might be helpful.



Easter Service, St Mary's, Weston Colville

There will be an open air Family Service in the churchyard of St Mary's on Easter Day at 10 am. The service will be led by the Rev Iain McColl and will be followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

Easter Egg Painting and Easter Decorations

Bring your children along to St Mary's Church, Weston Colville, on Monday 29th March, 11 – 12.30.

All kit provided, organised with all Government guidelines in place.

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Mothers' Day, St Mary's, Weston Colville

There will be no service in the church on Mothers' Day, 14th March, but the church will be open from 10 am until 4 pm.

There will be free posies for mothers and grandmothers for you to come and collect and, restrictions allowing, refreshments in the porch. Come along with your families, or for quiet contemplation to sit and remember all those mothers and grandmothers we may not have seen in the past year, or who are no longer with us.




Café Church

Tuesday 16th March
7.30 pm

Bobby Abraham
from Abington

"Working in the Bio-Pharma World"

A senior executive working today in a major Cambridge company shares his thoughts on being a Christian in that world



Everyone is very welcome to join the Zoom
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The Easter clear-up will be on Saturday 3rd April, 10 am till 12 noon. At time of writing it is uncertain whether coffee and hot cross buns can be served, but if it is within the rules, they will of course be available. Everyone is welcome; looking forward to seeing you.

Colin McCall (290046)

From the Rectory

Spring is often associated with a sense of renewal. In plants and animal life, maybe even in our outlook, emerging from what may feel like a long dark winter. This spring that feeling is intensified, looking for renewal after a difficult winter with the coronavirus pandemic. We are looking for green shoots of hope and recovery: through the vaccine programme; maybe schools returning and workplaces becoming safer; through longed for opportunities to meet with friends and family again, and greater human contact.

March is also a time when we journey through Lent, the traditional forty-day period when we reflect on our lives, perhaps give something up or take something




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on, and prepare ourselves spiritually for Easter. There can be a penitential feel about Lent, yet many this year may feel the weary months of lockdown have been penitence enough! At the heart of Lent, however, is a journey from the ashes of sorrow to shouts of gladness, from slavery to freedom. A journey of gratitude which recognises the true hope we have in Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection, and through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

As part of the Lenten journey, more or less in the middle of it, we also celebrate Mothering Sunday. This dates back at least to early medieval times when people would seek to return to their 'mother church' – the place where they were baptised – on that day. Whilst we may not be able to celebrate it in the ways we are used to, there will be bunches of flowers placed in all of our churches on Mothering Sunday which I invite you to come and take. You may then offer them to a caring person in your life, whether a mother or someone else, as a sign of gratitude and renewal; an affirmation of that person and a reminder of the importance of human care and compassion in our lives.

Whilst we have walked a hard road over the last few months, an underlying sense of gratitude, care and

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hope is essential to our humanity and allows us to re-discover renewal in our own lives and in the lives of others. Let us pray for this renewal in ourselves and the places where we live and work, and act with faith, hope and love.

Revd Iain McColl

The Chestnut Tree

The parish councils particularly wish to thank Rachel and Peter for their continued community support during the past very difficult year. They have done so much to help with delivering prescriptions (with the assistance of Faye and Suan), providing meals to be delivered to the housebound, and many other acts of kindness.

**Mira Nichols, Chairman WWPC,
and Ray Vidler, Chairman WCPC**

Parish Nurse Appointment

The Parish Nurse Management Group are delighted to announce the



appointment of Kim Cox as our Parish Nurse. Kim has a wide experience in a variety of nursing posts both in hospital and the community, and welcomes the opportunity to develop her skills in Parish Nursing. Kim and her family live locally and she is looking forward to getting to know as many of us as possible as she takes up her post; her aim is to make a difference to her patients' lives!

Kim will start her induction in March and will introduce herself in the April parish magazines, where contact details will also be published. I am sure you will join me in offering Kim a warm welcome.

Keith Day

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West Watting Book Club

Our book for February was 'Our Kind of Traitor' by the late John le Carré. This was one of his later books and is set against the 1990s recession caused by the banking crisis. A British couple are 'inadvertently' drawn into an attempt to rescue a member of the Russian Mafia and his family as well as foiling a major money-laundering plot, with the help of British Intelligence.

Although some found it difficult to get into, once the action picked up, it turned into an enjoyable thriller with a perhaps unexpected and, for some, a somewhat disappointing ending. There are some humorous moments but parts are chillingly prescient of recent events. Scores were mainly 8 out of 10, with a 6 and a 7.

Our next book, 'The Five' by Hallie Rubenhold, will be discussed at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17th March via Zoom.

Linda Gorman

Permissive Path, Mill Hill to Lower Wood

Due to the unusual amount of rain this winter, and the ongoing operations to extract firewood and timber from Great Covens Wood, the permissive path from Mill Hill to Lower Wood in Weston Colville has become very wet and muddy.

After consultation with Cambridgeshire County Council, the Brinkley Hall Farms have granted temporary permission for walkers to use the field margin from Mill Hill to Lower Wood, until the permissive path is reinstated.

Brinkley Hall Farms

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Linton Library

At the time of writing, we are open for collection of pre-reserved books, Select and Collect requests, and for pre-booked PC use to access essential services. Browsing is not currently possible, in line with current government guidelines. You can reserve specific titles via the website or by telephone, or we can select some books for you based on your preferences. A wide range of e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers are available for download free of charge. Please check our website and social media for service updates.

We have a number of new books in the Reading Well for Children collection, including some Covid-related children's books, to help children and families during the pandemic; these titles may help promote feeling calm and safe, and in coping with anxiety. We also hold a good collection of Reading Well for Adults titles.

Linton Library opening hours: Tuesday 10 am - 2 pm; Thursday 2 - 6 pm.

Lindsay Healy, Community Library Assistant

(lindsay.healy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



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Marsh Tit Study

Spring is definitely coming now – and don't we need it!

You might see Seven Spot Ladybirds (*Coccinella septempunctata*), a native species with easily remembered common and Latin names (coccin = red, -ella = lady suffix, septem = seven, punctata = spotted) have been congregating on sunny twigs and posts. It's probably an adaptation to the cold, but could be courtship behaviour.

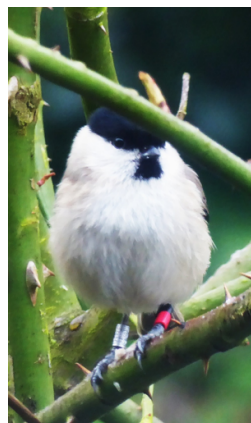


Male Brimstone butterflies (the yellow ones; females are almost white) are being regularly seen now, whenever the sun is out.

The recent cold weather forced some unusual birds to garden feeders. A pair of Pied Wagtails and a Goldcrest all ventured to Joyce's feeders along Mill Hill. These species are insectivores, only turning to seeds when insects are hard to find. So now is a good time to look for a rare treat around your bird table . . .

You might have noticed that Long Tailed Tits are no longer travelling in flocks, but in pairs. Your Marsh Tits are easy to see, as they're hitting garden feeders

very hard at the moment. Each seems to have a different area to forage. Red over Blue over White 'Tatiana' and Black over White over Black 'Rasputin' are regulars at Joyce's feeders on Mill Hill. Red over Blue over Red 'Dora' paid a visit to John's, further west along Mill Hill.



We're very interested in these sightings, as some of these birds are very old. This is of national significance for conservation. For instance, Black over Red 'Moaty' seen by Len and Ben and possibly also by the Heald family is at least six years old, three times the usual wild lifespan. And it still seems to be pairing up for breeding this year! Do

Weston Colville and West Wrating contain the secret of eternal youth? Please send your valuable sightings to cambsmarti@gmail.com, m_stammers@btinternet.com, or Challenge. Thank you!

Have a great start to spring and enjoy the bees, butterflies and flowers.

*Alex Inzani and the reawakening
South Cambridgeshire Ringing Group*

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for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

Granta Medical Practices Update

It's amazing to think that the UK **GRANTA** Medical Practices has been in an emergency state for a year. There is, however, a tiny light at the end of this long, dark tunnel and it is shining just a little brighter day by day with the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

We continue to work our way through the priority groups, as instructed by NHS England. You may be invited by us, or you may receive an NHS England letter inviting you to attend a mass vaccination centre. It is entirely your choice where you would like to go. All vaccinations are recorded on a national database so please be assured that you will not be missed.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes daily, sometimes even hourly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance it is advisable to look at the Government website www.gov.uk and the NHS UK website www.nhs.uk. If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer, please help them access the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Sandra East (01223 627743, sandra.east@nhs.net)

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Buttercups Fundraising

Buttercups is a highly regarded, outstanding OFSTED rated community pre-school in Balsham that has remained open throughout the pandemic. Fun home-learning activities have also been provided for children not able to attend in person.

As with many pre-school charities, Buttercups have had to adapt operations to become Covid-secure by reducing the number of children we can care for on the premises, incurring increased operating costs to ensure their safety. In addition, we have been unable to raise the normal level of funds due to restrictions on fundraising activities. This means we are now running at a deficit.

We know times are tough for many of us, but, if you are able to spare a few pounds to help the pre school to keep operating long into the future, providing the excellent service and educational start to many of our local children, please consider making a donation to our Just Giving Page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/buttercupcommunity-pre-school>

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Marsh Mail

Young people are fabulous. At a time in their lives when they would customarily be enjoying additional freedoms and independence, they have needed to adhere to restrictions to support the health of their communities. They have done so with stoicism and maturity.

While there is much in the press catastrophising students' educational progress, this does not reflect the amazing engagement levels that have typified LVC students during lockdown. Attendance at live lessons that mirror the regular curriculum has been exceptionally high and the quality of students' learning outcomes has been impressive. Students have also been appreciative of the excellent remote pastoral care on offer at this time.

Amongst the narrative addressing the need for children to 'catch up' in terms of their academic progress, it's actually the relational aspect of their formative years that will be most fundamental: catching up with friends and engaging with others face to face.

Teenage school years are often fondly remembered for the friendships and extra-curricular events such as trips and clubs. It has been a shame that so many




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enrichment opportunities have been cancelled and postponed due to the current context.

While it is not possible to run our regular enrichment offer, we have launched the 'Connections' Arts project, encouraging students to create compositions and creations that reflect on this theme. LVC students are also participating in a Trust-wide writing competition which will be judged by award-winning published authors.

I am proud of what the LVC community continues to achieve remotely, and the support and appreciation of our families.

Helena Marsh

Free Chair

This small re-caned chair needs a home. A donation to a small charity that I support in Zimbabwe would be gratefully received.

Joanna Sanders (893063,
sanderschimneys@uwclub.net),
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2523 Linton RAF Air Cadets

On 5th February 2021 the Air Training Corps celebrated its 80th year. What a long way the organisation has come from its formation in 1941.



Usually we would mark such a milestone with a parade, but in true modern fashion this has been held online. Cadet Vellacott spoke of his experiences within the ATC and about what he hopes to achieve before the end of his cadet career, as Linton's contribution to the parade.

Over 40,000 active cadets and 15,000 staff and volunteers are testament to how relevant the organisation is today., with a fantastic offering of air minded training and air experience flying, shooting, adventure training and life skills such as first aid and leadership.

The past year has been one of the hardest years for the ATC. It is amazing to see the perseverance of the cadets and staff, adapting quickly to new ways of delivering training and of learning. The way in which our Linton cadets have met this challenge has been extraordinary.

Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer

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Girlguiding, Linton District

During the last year our district has earned well over 1,000 badges, quite an achievement considering we



are not allowed to meet face to face. We have also had

one of our Rangers, Morgan, gain her Commonwealth Award, which was presented by our County Commissioner at a virtual meeting. Ella, a Brownie from Horseheath Brownies, gained her Brownie Gold Award, and Megan, one of our Guide leaders, has been presented with her Leadership Qualification. All this has been achieved whilst we haven't been allowed to meet face to face.

If you are interested to find out more about us or would like to join us or help one of our units, look up <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/> If you are over 18, have you ever thought of joining the Trefoil Guild? There is one in Linton and they are having all sorts of fantastic fun (currently virtually); look them up at <http://cambseastguides.org.uk/about-us/trefoil-guild>

Louisa, Linton District Commissioner

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Balsham WI

For our February meeting we were given a workshop via Zoom on Face Yoga by Polina, a fully certified, professionally trained Pilates Teacher, Yoga Teacher and an accredited Face Yoga Instructor. Polina told us that facial fitness is a relatively new and increasingly popular health trend. She offers group workshops and individual one to one sessions teaching the full programme of facial exercises, face massage, acupressure and wellbeing techniques to promote a healthy younger looking appearance, which I think we all needed after the freezing wind of February had done its damage to our skins.

Polina then took us through a combination of face exercises lasting a good hour, to diminish wrinkles, lift the facial contours, create a healthy glow and to look years younger. We had great fun doing all these facial exercises, and many of us felt a benefit from this workshop. Polina was an extremely good advert for all her therapies.

For our March meeting we will be given a talk by David Allen entitled 'Manners Please Dearest!' This talk promises to be very entertaining and will take place on March 9th at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

Alison Clarke (894031)



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Climate and Environment

SCDC is offering a series of free online webinars featuring guest speakers, activities, and information to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions, and help tackle climate change.

The topics covered include: 'Greening your Older Home – Tips and Inspiration' on Tuesday 2nd March; 'Shrinking your Carbon Footprint' on Wednesday 3rd March; and 'Food for our Future' (workshop) on Thursday 4th March. For more details see: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-event>

Hearing Aids

If you require an NHS repair for your hearing aids, please send them in appropriate packaging, with your brown record book and a stamped self-addressed envelope (with a large letter stamp) for return to you. If you need replacement batteries don't send the hearing aids – just send the old batteries with your brown record book and SAE, to: Audiology Clinic 10, Box 94, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 0QQ.

Alternatively, Cambridgeshire Hearing Help has a maintenance centre in Fulbourn, where you can get your NHS hearing aids cleaned and re-tubed. This is a drop-off and wait outside (for 20 minutes) service, by appointment only: Fulbourn HAM Centre, open every Thursday at The Swifts Meeting Room & Library, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn CB21 5HD.

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West Wickham & District Gardening Club


The club has very successfully set up Zoom meetings on the third Monday of the month, and we are delighted to have been joined by members of clubs in Ashdon, Linton, Balsham and Wickhambrook. We extend a welcome to anyone who is interested in our talks; all they have to do is request an invitation from our co-ordinator Sue Boase, sueboase@hotmail.co.uk.

In February we were given a talk on Gertrude Jekyll by Cherril Sands, a garden historian from the Guildford Institute. This was very interesting and beautifully illustrated with examples of Jekyll's planting and her home at Munstead Wood.

Next month on March 15th Andrew Ward will talk on Bell flowers, and then in April ready for seed sowing, Gail and John Summerfield will give a humorous talk entitled 'Plant to Pot', growing vegetables for fun and flavour. We have these speakers from all over the country on Zoom, which gives us a chance to book those who under normal circumstances would be too far away from West Wickham.

Don't forget we are called West Wickham and DISTRICT Gardening Club, which includes all the villages that have no club of their own.

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As it will be impossible to hold our annual plant sale in West Wickham village hall this year, the club has decided to have 'POP-UP' plant tables in several venues, one of them being in the village hall car park. This will be on Saturday May 22nd, 10.30 -12 noon. Please remember this and support us if you can, since we have no funds coming in this year from subscriptions.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

Annual Show, 21st August

Members of the show committee are brimming with enthusiasm and determined that this year's show will go ahead, if at all possible. The date has been set for Saturday 21st August, the village hall has been booked, and the judges primed.

Exhibits may be entered by club members and residents of West Wickham and Streetly End and visiting children & grandchildren. They may also be entered by residents of neighbouring parishes without horticultural societies of their own.

To keep things simple, the Vegetables and Fruit, Cut Flowers, Domestic and Children's Classes will remain the same as the committee had agreed upon last year before the decision was made to cancel. The draft

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schedule is available to read on the village website (<https://westwickham.org/>), or if anyone would like a paper copy, please contact me directly.

Last year we were still able to go ahead with the Photography Classes and were delighted with the participation. All the photos entered last year can be seen on the village website, together with a photo of our winner, Ciaran McNally, being presented with the Ralph Westwood-Bate Cup.

Sally Moon, our show committee member in charge of this class, has written us some inspirational words:

Are you looking for a diversion from the chores you can no longer put off? Do the kids need a break from the home schooling? Then this could be the time to have a shot at this year's photography competition. There are three categories to inspire you: 1) Through my window; 2) Seeing red; 3) Reflections. All classes give plenty of scope for you to capture images that excite your imagination. If you don't fancy venturing out, why not look through the window for colours and structure in your winter garden, or take a phone on your next walk and see what inspires you in the frosts?

Sue Thurston (897811)
Chair of the Show Committee



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Age UK Small Villages Community Warden

This past month, I have been using some of the other Age UK Services available to everyone, not just those on my scheme, and they have been absolutely fantastic. The Handy Man team has been busy building shelves and putting up the dreaded flat pack furniture, and I've been learning about the Telephone Befriending Team which is ideal for those wanting an extra pal to speak to.

A couple of new people have joined our Small Villages Scheme, and there are still a few spaces left if anyone else would like to join. If you would like to find out more about the scheme and what it can provide you or your family, please get in touch and I would be delighted to meet you and explain what Wardens do.

Faye Parker (07436 102865,
faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk)

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Geoff Heathcock (244901,
geoff.heathcock88@gmx.com)

Chairman & Sales Officer, Cambridge & Dist RNLI

Women's Day of Prayer – Friday 5th March

This year the service will be via Zoom, starting at 10.30 am, when we will be celebrating the words and music of the women of Vanuatu.

The login details will be available via the weekly church newsletter or on the Granta Vale churches website, www.grantavale.org.uk There will also be an order of service to download and view or print.

If you are unable to join in with the Zoom service but would like to have a service booklet to follow it in your own home, please contact me and I can arrange to have one delivered.

We can still join together united in worship despite the pandemic. All are welcome.

Rev Kathy Bishop (892288)

Church Services

Please do keep an eye on our church website, www.grantavale.org.uk, and our church noticeboards, to see the latest information on church services. Zoom services are held on Sundays, and other services during the week, such as Compline.

Contact parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on 7churches.seven@gmail.com, if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand, or find out how to log into the services.

Revd Iain McColl

tel: 890693 email: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister

email: jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
jess@agrarian.biz

West Wrating Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Faye Parker,
Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

DIARY

March 2021

Fri 5 Women's World Day of Prayer

Tue 9 Balsham WI

Sun 14 Mothers' Day

Mon 15 West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Wed 17 West Wrating Book Club

Sun 28 Easter fun celebration, online

Mon 29 Egg painting and Easter decorations, St Mary's

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room carpark,
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: 2nd March, 6th April

High Street, West Wrating 12.15 - 12.45 pm

Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm

Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

Black bins: Monday 8th & 22nd March,
Wednesday 7th & Monday 19th April

Blue & Green bins: Monday 1st, 15th & 29th March,
Tuesday 13th & Monday 26th April

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, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

April issue's copy date
Saturday 20th March