

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrating
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

Street Party to Celebrate Queen's 90th Birthday

Saturday 11th June, 12 noon to 6 pm Free Entry

The Causeway, West Wrating
(in Village Hall if wet)

All welcome from West Wrating and Weston Colville – and guests

Pan cooked hot food £5	Strawberries & cream £1
Chestnut Tree Bar	Tea and cakes (3 - 5)
Fancy dress — optional	Makossa – Live music
Teddy bear jump (2.30)	Games
Make your own Crown competition (3.30)	
Photo booth	Demonstration bell
Lots more ,,,	

Commemorative bags for the under-10s from our two villages

Sherry O'Donovan 290070 Scilla Harvey 290199
Street Party funded by the generous donations to our Saturday morning café

St Mary's Church,
Weston Colville

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday,
25th and 26th June

12 - 6 pm Saturday, 10.30 - 6 pm Sunday

Royal Theme, and
Memorabilia Gift Stall

Concert on Saturday 25th at 7.30 pm
The Temple Ensemble

HELP PLEASE!

We would be very grateful for any contributions of flowers, or if you would like to help with the arrangements. Please bring flowers by Wednesday evening. Contact: Gay Redman (290807).

We would also be very grateful for contributions of cakes or biscuits, and for help serving teas.

Contact: Jenny Whitehead (290524).



Songs of Praise Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

St Andrew's Church, West Wrating
Sunday 12th June, 4 - 5 pm

All welcome
Lots of child friendly songs and music
Drinks and cakes afterwards

Scilla and John Harvey 290199

St Mary's Weston Colville Flower Festival

Classical Music Concert

The Temple Ensemble

Saturday 25th June, 7.30 pm



Come and listen to this exciting young chamber music ensemble from the Royal Academy of Music. They perform regularly throughout the UK and France. A mixed programme, including the popular Mozart Clarinet Quintet.

Tickets £10, under 16s free

Tickets from
Jane Wheeler, jane@janepryor.co.uk, 290643,
also for sale at Weston Colville Post Office

Ticket includes Pimms in the interval



WEST WRATTING TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP

off the roof of St Andrew's Church

Saturday 11th June

during the Queen's 90th Birthday
Street Party celebrations

Prizes for best parachute and best dressed bear

Theme: King and Queen bears

All bears jump at own risk. Event may be cancelled if
weather too dangerous for bears

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Please note that there will be no café on Saturday
4th June.

The café is set up for the benefit of our local
community and we will be using proceeds from the
café to contribute towards the upcoming West
Wrattling street party for the Queen's birthday
celebration on Saturday 11th June. We look forward
to seeing you there.

The café will run as usual on Saturday 2nd July.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)



Can you make a crown?

**Best Crown Competition at the
West Wrattling Street Party**

Saturday 11th June

Kids and Grown Ups

Judging at 3.30



Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

Our May gathering took place on the very first day of
the month. It was a lovely sunny day and we saw
probably our best turn out ever. By the end there
wasn't a crumb of cake left!

We will meet again on Friday 3rd June, same time
(3.30 - 5 pm), same place (the Reading Room). It is
likely to be a bit quieter as it is half-term and many
people with children take the opportunity to go away.
We look forward to seeing those who are still here.
Come along for a cup of tea and a chat. Everybody is
welcome.

Melanie (291319)

RAF Wrating Common

May Memorial Service – Sunday 29th May



A short open air service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 29th May at the RAF Wrating Common Memorial, to commemorate the opening of the airfield in 1943 and to remember all those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service.

Further information: rafwratingcommon@outlook.com

Dan Heath

Autumn Concert, Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

This is one of the main fund raising events for St Andrew’s Church, West Wrating, and, after the theft of the roof lead, it is even more vital to help pay for the replacement and ongoing repairs.

This year’s concert will take place on Saturday 8th October at 7.30 pm. If you would be willing to help in any way – organising refreshments, obtaining financial support, helping on the day – please let us know.

Further information will appear nearer to the date.

Linda or Michael Gorman (290653)

West Wrating Over 60s

Thank you, The Chestnut Tree. We all enjoyed our lovely lunch last month, followed by a short quiz.

Next month our first garden meeting will be at Ann's garden in Hayter Close, 2.30 pm on Wednesday 1st June, with bring’n’buy and raffle.

Our next garden meeting will be at Concordia Cottage on 6th July.

Wendy Halls

Roof Repair Fund Raising Concert
for St Andrew’s, West Wrating

THE BALSHAM SINGERS
CONCERT

18th June, 7 pm

St Andrew’s Church

For information and tickets:
The Chestnut Tree (01223 290384)
or Linda Gorman (01223 290653)

Cakes Needed, Please

Becky and friends will be serving tea and cake at the Street Party on Saturday 11th June, and they would appreciate more cakes, etc. Please contact one of them if you are able to do some baking. Thank you.

Becky (becky.gilley@babraham.ac.uk)

Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebration Lunch



A big thank you to all those who helped and those who came to the celebration lunch in St Mary’s in April. It was a great celebration, and everyone enjoyed it.

Gay Redman

Balsham Helping Hands

Balsham Helping Hands has a new number. From 29th May the number will be: **07399 263 222.**

Sara Himsworth

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West Wratting Speedwatch

Calling all fairweather Speedwatchers!

If you're curious about the work of the group, then why not join a few sessions over the warmer, drier months? We'd love to have you along:

csw.westwratting@gmail.com

If you'd like to see the group in action, come and find us at the West Wratting street party on Saturday 11th June.

Jayshree Ramsurun

National Poetry Day

We'd like to bring National Poetry Day to Weston Colville, and hold an evening celebration in the Reading Room. It's on Thursday, 6th October – see September's Challenge for more information. In the meantime, if you're into poetry and have a suggestion for the evening, let me know?

Jacqueline Douglas

(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Weston Colville Circular Walk

In May, we enjoyed our first sunny walk, and you'll see from our attire that it was lovely and warm. The



photos displayed in the Reading Room also show the stunning yellow in the fields. It was good sharing stories and tidbits of information about our village on the way round, and we sat in the Reading Room garden having lunch afterwards.

Let's hope for fine weather for our next circular walk too, approximately five miles as usual, on Saturday, 9th July; meet at the Reading Room at 10 o'clock, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. You can put your lunch in the fridge before we set off if you'd like, and refreshments will be available. Advance notice of the walk following that: 1st October is a date for your diary.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas

(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

22 houses in West Wratting participated in the order that was placed on 10th May, with deliveries being made from 16th to 17th May.

Goff Petroleum won the syndicate order, with a price of 27.00p per litre, a saving of 1.35p against my benchmark Boilerjuice 'Bulk' price of 28.35p. All prices + VAT.

Are you interested in additive-free, Weston Colville-produced Hebridean LAMB or Oxford Sandy & Black PORK?

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For the record, 2015 prices were July 34.90p, September 31.65p, and October 30.30p. 2016 prices so far were January 24.75p and March 28.10p.

At Holness Towers we were going to have a fill up but then I read my own copy about cash flow and thought "I'll just take 500 litres, then meat will be back on the menu at HT".

No fill up this month; the next fill up will be in July, with a delivery cutoff time and date of 6 pm on Wednesday 6th July. Please don't place your orders before 1st July as they may get written on pieces of scrap paper and then lost in the usual chaos that reigns at Holness Towers. A reminder will be in the July Challenge, if I remember to put it in.

The village website www.westwratting.org.uk has an explanatory page about how the oil syndicate (sort of) works.

Richard Holness

Save the Children

Thank you for the sum of £80 collected by the April House to House collection in West Wrating.

Sue Lock and Jenny Knowelden

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Lent Appeal, 2016

There was an amazing response from the seven churches in the benefice for the appeal for persecuted Christians in Syria and Iraq, and £653.77 has been raised which has been sent to the Diocese of London, who launched this appeal. Thank you all very much for your generosity, and to Ian Creek for counting quantities of change for five of the churches, although there were also many high denomination notes.

Joanna Sanders

EACH and West Wrating Music Bash

Saturday 9th July from 2 pm until late.

All are very welcome.

Eight live bands, barbecue, licensed bar, tractor rides, tombola stall, face painting, bouncy castle, raffle, games plus more. Free entry (donations welcomed).

Anyone wishing to donate raffle prizes or bottles for the tombola stall please contact 01440 704499 or 07899 998881; this would be greatly appreciated.

We would also like to make a donation to the brain tumour charity this year in support of people within the village and connected with the football.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

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From the Vicarage

It has been interesting in recent weeks to discover just how many people are confused about who is involved in their village church. Many people do not realise that, because of the lack of full-time working priests, your village church has been part of a cluster of seven churches since 2010. We are fortunate that we have a number of part-time or retired priests who offer their services to support us. This is why we have been able to deliver a service in each of the parishes every week, except on any fifth Sundays of the month, when all meet together in a Joint Service. In addition, there are a number of lay people who are also very dedicated to supporting the life, worship and witness of the churches. To help you to identify who we all are there are some photographs below.

In order to give you a flavour of the pattern of worship across all the parishes we are setting out the schedule of services for June. People are beginning to come to neighbouring churches when the types or times of service fits in with them.

Rev Dr Julie Norris

DATE	WEST WRATTING	WESTON COLVILLE	READINGS
5 June	10.45 am Communion	9.15 am Communion	1 Kings 17.8-16 (17-24) Luke 7.11-17
12 June The Queen's Birthday	4 pm Songs of Praise	9.15 am Communion	Ephesians 1.15-23 Mark 12.13-17
19 June	10.45 am Communion	9.15 am Communion	1 Kings 19.1-4(5-7)8-15a Luke 8.26-39
26 June	10.45 am Communion	9.15 am Communion	2 Kings 2.1-2,6-14 Luke 9.51-62

Week of Guided Prayer

Have you ever felt stuck in knowing how to pray? Or wondered if there are other ways of praying that you have not yet tried? Meeting with someone else to talk about this can be a hugely exciting experience. We are going to be setting up an opportunity for people to be accompanied in prayer for a week in October (9th - 14th). If you might be interested in this, please contact Rev Kathy Bishop on 01223 892288.

The Seven Churches Ministry Team



Rev Dr Julie Norris, Priest in Charge, serving Great and Little Abington and Hildersham since 2009 and Balsham, West Wickham, West Wrattling and Weston Colville since 2010. Has taught Ethics and been a Pastoral Tutor in the Cambridge Theological Colleges, and enjoys having student ordinands on placement. Has been Rural Dean since 2011.

Rev Kathy Bishop, Assistant Parish Priest, ordained in 2008 and has been serving these parishes since 2011. She says, "I enjoy being part of these village churches, they are all different but there is a real sense of spiritual life". Kathy is a Spiritual Director and particularly focuses on developing prayer through Julian Meetings, vigils and other prayer meetings. She is organising a Week of Guided Prayer, 9 - 14th October.



Very Rev Keith Johnson, Associate Priest, celebrated 50 years as a priest last year. He has been Dean of the Cathedral in Bahrain and so brings experience of the Middle East to us. He has also been a priest locally, serving most recently in Royston, Caxton and West Wrattling. He is retired, and yet preaches and helps us in so many ways. Keith has recently been looking at theology and the use of the Lord's Prayer.

Steve Wheeler is a Licenced Lay Minister. He runs a company which makes models of food for film and advertising, for export worldwide. He leads services of morning prayer and evensong across the churches. Silent prayer is something that Steve values. He is aware of the importance of open conversations about life and faith.



Rosemary Meade is an Authorised Lay Minister who specialises in work with children and families and in pastoral care. She runs the Rainbow Explorers after school club and a lunchtime Mums and Tots group. Her

**The Chestnut Tree
West Wrattling**

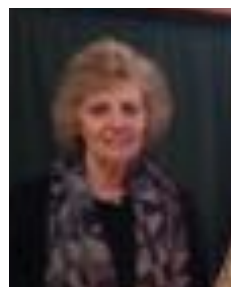
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main focus is in the Abingtons and Hildersham, but she also runs a monthly prayer group called 'Space to Be' which includes people from across all the churches.

Keith Day is an Authorised Lay Minister who specialises in music across all the churches. He is an organist and he conducts the joint choir who sing at joint services. The choir has just delivered a new setting of the Communion Service prompted by Keith. He is also a great pastoral visitor as well as member of the Parish Nurse management group.



Teresa Letimier is trained in general nursing (RGN) and as a specialised nurse with children (RSCN). Teresa began as our Parish Nurse on 1st December 2015. She is also trained as an end-of-life Doula. As she says, "I am here as a nurse for people in these villages".

Les Halls

Les lived in this village for 91 years, since he was three years old, and saw many changes. His family bought Scarlett's Farm in 1924, ploughing and harvesting with horses and milking by hand, until his demob from the parachute regiment in 1946, when he introduced tractors and binders into the farm. He married Myrtle Moss in West Wrattling in 1950, who sadly passed away in 1966 with cancer, Barbara and Derek then both aged under twelve. After the farm was sold he continued to work in agriculture, delivering a variety of farming machinery, combines, tractors and ploughs all over Britain. He loved playing his cricket here, and football, in 1960 inaugurating a West Wrattling football team.

Les later married Wendy, in 1969, and lived in Viking Close for over 50 years; their son Robin was born in 1975. Aged 70, he finished his working life still driving lorries with Boreham and Son. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2013, up to then having been active and in good health all his life, a family man, who loved his vegetable garden, always with a hoe in hand.

Les was content with his life here in West Wrattling: a ready smile, always willing to help and never an unkind word to anyone. Everyone who knew Les will keep their own personal memories of him.

May he rest in peace.

On behalf of myself and all the family, thank you to everyone who sent their condolences and all those who attended Les's funeral service.

Wendy Halls

Canon John Fellows

From 1st June 2016 my new address will be

Corner Cottage
 Turnstile Lane
 Bungay
 Suffolk
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 01986 894414

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Weston Colville Cinema Club

Our June film, on Wednesday, 1st June, will be 'Brief Encounter', a 1945 British film directed by David Lean and starring Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard and Stanley Holloway. The screenplay is by Noel Coward and the unashamedly romantic storyline is



underpinned by liberal doses of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. The film was Oscar-nominated for screenplay, direction and best actress and won the Grand Prix at Cannes. In 1999, it came second in the BFI poll of the top 100 British films of all time.

It will be shown in the Reading Room and preceded by an introduction at 7.30 pm. Entry by donation, refreshments served, all welcome.

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Then begins the Cinema Club's summer break (I'll leave you to fill in the joke as to where Cinema Club goes on its holidays). It'll be back in the autumn, on Wednesday, 5th October with 'El Baño del Papa', a heartwarming and comic tale from South America.



It was a hit at the London Film Festival, where Jacqueline enjoyed it, and is about how a little community tries to squeeze the most out of a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence: on his way to the next city on his tour, the Pope is coming through the village. Beautifully shot in rural landscape, it's been described by turns as a nutty farce and one of the sweetest films you're likely to see.

*Jeremy Newton (newtonjed@gmail.com)
and Jacqueline Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)*

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Les Moulton, West Wrattling, 'Gardener Of The Year' Vase

In memory of Les Moulton, the West Wrattling Parish Council has decided to award a glass vase trophy to the person who, in the opinion of the parish councillors, maintains the Moulton tradition of growing vegetables in the parish of West Wrattling. The vase (donated by Mr and Mrs Holness) will normally be presented to the overall winner of the produce section at the West Wrattling show. However, as the West Wrattling Show will not be taking place this year, the parish council is asking parishioners to nominate themselves or their neighbours for the trophy, by contacting Richard Holness at richardholness023@btinternet.com or phoning him on 290404.

Brief rules:

- The competition is open to all parishioners of West Wrattling.
- West Wrattling Parish Councillors cannot enter the competition.
- The winner of the trophy holds it for one year and is not allowed to compete the following year.
- The trophy will be awarded at the West Wrattling Show to the overall winner of the produce section.
- If the West Wrattling Show is not held, or is not held in July, August or September, the trophy will be judged and awarded in August. In this event, entries are to be judged by a panel of West Wrattling Parish Councillors.
- The West Wrattling Parish Council reserves the right to vary these rules.

Richard Holness

West Wrattling Book Club

The May book club selection was 'The Slap' by Christos Tsiolkas, an Australian author of Greek heritage. The book takes place in suburban Australia, and opens with a Sunday afternoon barbecue attended by family and friends who hail from various ethnic backgrounds. As the title indicates, a single incident takes place, that of a man slapping an out of control four year old child, and the far-reaching repercussions this single event has on on the lives of the people present. The slapped child, who was grossly inadequately parented, was not so different from the adults around him, who were also not in control of their own lives, characterised by abuse of alcohol,

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of Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire**



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drugs, and violence, and extra-marital affairs. The book is laced with racism and sexism, and is written in very graphic, and some would argue with gratuitous use of, language.

There were very mixed responses to this book, from being described as "awful and gratuitous" to "uncomfortable, shocking, and difficult to read". Some members were more positive in their response, wondering if what is described in the novel is indeed a gritty reflection of some aspects of Australian society. Some members would not recommend it at all, and the scores ranged from a lowly two to six.

We will meet next on Wednesday 15th June for the novel 'The Dust that Falls from Dreams' by Louis de Bernieres.

Lee Haviland

Ukulele Evening

West Wrattling Village Hall, Saturday 24th September
The 'Upwood Ukuleles' will be providing an entertaining evening, suitable for all the family. More details to follow. They can be found on the Upwood village website (www.upwood.org) and on Facebook.

Sherry O'Donovan (290070)

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Children's Summer Holiday Tennis Coaching



Once again the d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrattling, is very lucky to have engaged the services of Paul Harms, LTA Master Coach (level 5), of Linton Tennis Academy, for four days of tennis coaching for children in the

summer holidays, on our court in West Wrattling.

The course will run on Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th August as follows:

	Time	Single session	All four days (10% discount)
Tots Tennis (Pre-school children)	9 - 9.30	£4.50	£16.20
Red Ball (ages 8 and under)	9.30 - 10.30	£6	£21.60
Orange/Green Ball (9 - 10 year olds)	10.30 - 11.30	£7	£25.20
Yellow Ball (11 years and over)	11.30 - 12.30	£8	£29.20

Children do not have to be members of the club in order to join in with this summer programme but there will be an additional, one off, charge of £2 per child for non-members.

If you are interested in getting your children involved in some tennis this summer please contact Cally Wilson (290179 or cally.wilson@hotmail.co.uk).

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

There were no reported incidents in our area this past month, but a small private party was overrun by a group of youths who arrived in a van. They caused significant damage including ripping out the telephone wires. How did they know there was a

party? – someone posted it on social media, probably innocently thinking they were just sharing the fact that they hoped for a bit of fun, with no idea that damage would be done and upset caused. Also, West Wrattling Church was not the only one to have lead stolen; Swavesey and Conington had similar problems.

Burglars have been paying attention to commercial premises. Garage tools, cash, alcohol, wheel nut guns, a lawn mower, and petrol have been stolen. On the home front, burglars stole bank cards, a driving licence, cash, and part of a computer from a house in Quy while the owners were asleep. The police remind us that leaving windows open in the warm weather is an invitation to burglars and that leaving pets alone in cars can cause suffering. Also they ask us to review our home or business security.

Action Fraud and NFIB report a rise in puppies and kittens being advertised for sale on auction sites, often claiming that the pet is abroad. Please do not respond to these – they tend to lead to loss of your money, and to distress. Another fraud being operated by 'the lizard squad' is aimed at businesses. They demand payment of 5 bitcoins (an internet monetary system), which will increase by 5 bitcoins a day after a certain date. If you receive one of these demands call Action

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Fraud on 0300 123 2040, report what has happened and follow their advice.

Have you received an email or text offering you a tax rebate? It comes with a request for personal details like bank information. Our tax offices do not issue these emails or texts. Ignore them. Delete them. Do not open them. If you believe that Her Majesty's Tax Inspectors owe you a rebate then contact your tax office and ask.

There have been two recent incidents in South Cambs with a similar scenario. One victim received a call from a female claiming to be from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, and was told that she owed £4,000 and that police officers would arrest her and seize cards and bank account details within an hour. The second was told that £3,500 was due and was threatened as above. With anything like this, put the phone down then call 101. Tell the police about the threat and take their advice.

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

Potholes, Verges and Pavements

Our roads take a heavy beating over the winter, with adverse weather and heavy traffic taking their toll. The roads around the village are no exception and we have seen some serious damage to road surfaces and some deep potholes resulting. Some of these have now been repaired by the local Highways Authority, particularly on Horseshoe Lane and Six Mile Bottom Road, but others still remain to be fixed.

Anyone can report damage to roads and the best way to do this is through Highway Fault Online at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults>

This website enables anyone to pinpoint a pothole or other defect on a local map, and the report is

acknowledged to the sender. Faults can be reported more than once so multiple records might help to get the repair completed earlier. There is also a Highways Call Centre on 0345 045 5212 but they prefer us to use the website for fault reporting. So please help to keep local roads safe by reporting any faults as they arise. The parish council looks out for and reports road faults but help from village residents will support their efforts.

Grass verges throughout the village also incur severe damage from vehicles, again mostly over the winter months when the ground is wet and soft. Large vehicles and agricultural equipment are some of the main offenders and sometimes the width of the road does not allow two large vehicles to pass without going onto the verges. Maybe some forethought on the part of drivers would prevent some of this damage occurring. However, residents can play their role in reducing this problem by encouraging visitors, particularly tradesmen, to be considerate of where they park, specifically not to park on the grass verges. The public are not permitted to place obstructions on the edge of verges to prevent vehicle damage but a little more diligence on everyone's part will help.

Not only does this create an eyesore for the village but it makes the job of cutting and trimming the grass more difficult for the machinery and the operators.

It should also be pointed out that parking on the pavement is an offence and should be avoided.

Please help to keep the village safe and tidy by addressing these issues. With thanks for your consideration.

*John Garrod (290267)
on behalf of Weston Colville Parish Council*

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West Wrating Parish Council

The following are some of the items discussed at the parish council meeting held on Monday 9th May.

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman: Cllr Ross-Bain was proposed by Cllr Holness to continue his Chairmanship; this was seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed by council. Cllr Okkenhaug proposed Cllr Nichols to continue as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed by council. They both accepted these positions and signed the Declaration of Acceptance form.

Representatives on the VHMC: Cllrs Okkenhaug and Nichols were happy to continue.

Finance: the accounts had been distributed to all the councillors, therefore the final accounts and bank reconciliation were agreed to be correct and were signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk. The Annual Return form section 1 – ‘Governance Statement’ was read and signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk, followed by section 2, ‘Accounting Statements’ which was agreed and signed. The Internal and External Auditors will be sent these documents.

The authorised payments can be seen in the draft minutes on the noticeboards.

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Maintenance:

CCTV for Church: it was agreed that this was the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council rather than the Parish Council.

Playground refurbishment: Cllr Causton let council know that she has submitted an application for a grant to purchase the log traverse bar.

The bollard at the pump shelter has not yet been replaced but someone has kindly agreed to make a wooden bollard to replace it. The cost of a metal one is approximately £800.

Correspondence: permission was given to the West Wrating Music Event Committee to have the use of the recreation ground on the weekend of 9th July.

Traffic issues:

- a) Rondels – the cost of five has been confirmed as £819 and the work will be done once the weather improves.
- b) Potholes – some have been filled in, but please continue to complain about any particularly large ones.
- c) Cllr Nichols would like to see a 40 mph limit along Common Road but the police will not carry out a survey regarding speeding traffic. County Cllr Hickford said ‘rat running’ monitors are being put up in various villages which will show the situation as it is.

Broadband: Cllr Nichols reported that superfast broadband is now available to some along the Common since the cabinet at Randswood has been activated. Contact name is Gavin Patterson, at Patterson@bt.com.

Reports from District Cllr Fraser & Turner and County Cllr Hickford: these can be seen on the draft minutes on the noticeboards. The news is

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shortened as this meeting was followed by the Parish Meeting and my report follows on from this. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th July. All are welcome.

Report on the West Wrattling Parish Meeting held following the Parish Council meeting on 9th May

The Chairman welcomed those who attended and thanked the council for their work during the past year. The minutes dated 11th May 2015 were signed as correct. He reported that the village was in good order and thanked all the volunteers who give their time keeping the village and footpaths tidy, or cutting the grass regularly in the play area on the recreation ground. He thanked Mike Rowland for all his work in getting grant money for the repair and refurbishment of the village hall and supervising the project. The work is now completed and the hall is in an excellent state.

Copies of the accounts, agreed upon and signed at the parish council meeting, were available.

Reports had been received from the Tennis Club, Bridge Club, and Over 60's Club. The Village Hall report was read out by the VHMC Chairman Mike Rowland, and the P3 Officer (Colin McCall) had given his report.

Under 'Any Questions' Cllr Holness spoke about Les Moulton and how fitting it would be to acknowledge his horticultural expertise and talents by having a trophy to be awarded at the annual Village Fete to the overall winner of the Produce Section, and this was agreed. When there was no village fete, as this year, the parish council would ask for nominations and the council would make the award.

It was agreed that the reports would be put on the website as well as on the main noticeboard.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were considered at the parish council meeting on 9th May:

County Councillor's report: Cllr Hickford will not be attending each parish council meeting in future. He plans to take two key issues from each parish council at a time and try to get these resolved.

Speeding, flooding and the lack of a footpath from the top of Mill Hill to The Green were items raised.

District Councillor's report: progress is being made with regard to the sharing of services with Cambridge City and Huntingdon.

The boundary review is continuing and the number of councillors is being reduced. Balsham will in future have only one member.

The Community Chest is now open, with £50,000 available for assistance for approved projects.

Devolution has not been agreed to. The proposed alliance of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire is not considered to be good for Cambridgeshire. The period of time allowed for parish council views on planning applications is to be increased from 21 days to 28 days.

There will in future be a monthly meeting attended by all parish councils. Cllr Durham agreed to represent Weston Colville on alternate months.

Affordable Housing Development: Paul Calloway, together with his architect, gave a presentation of his proposed plans for the development of the field adjoining Pound Farm. No comment from the council was permissible before any plans had been submitted to the Planning Department. The proposal was for three market price houses and six affordable homes.

Roads: potholes have been repaired in Six Mile Bottom and The Green. There have been several instances of verges being damaged by contractors' vehicles during work on parishioners' properties. Any damage to the verges must be repaired after completion of the work.

Footpaths: a recent review of footpaths found them to be in good condition.

Planning: there was one application in the past two months – Ashleigh House, Chapel Road – flat roof garage.

Christine King, Parish Clerk

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Update on Marsh Tits Study

Hi, I'm Alex, your Government-licensed birdringer for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Firstly, let me thank you all for your contributions and support for setting up a scientific study on Marsh Tits in your picturesque neighbourhood.

Around the UK, these charismatic, feisty little birds have undergone a serious population crash, declining by 71% between 1967 and 2009, and a 17% range contraction between 1968 and 1991. Sadly, this has earned the Marsh Tit a place on the 'Red List' of serious conservation concern. The reasons for this decline are poorly understood.

For some reason, Weston Colville has a local abundance of Marsh Tits, as do a few other places in East Anglia. We need to know why, so we can spread the information to other regions struggling to maintain their populations.

With the kind permission of local landowners, we started monitoring birds here on 28th February. In just ten weeks, we have encountered 190 birds of all species, using just 20 m of specially designed mist-nets (which are never left unattended). Of those birds, twenty were Marsh Tits (11%).

To put that in context, I have spent many a happy Sunday morning over several years at Hilfield Park Reservoir nature reserve near Watford, with over 200 m of nets out for seven hours, starting at dawn. Sometimes, we encountered only six birds in that time, and none of these were Marsh Tits.

Before coming to Lower Wood, I have encountered nearly 8,000 birds. Of those, around 800 were Blue Tits (10% of total) but just five were Marsh Tits (0.07% of the total), which shows you how special your place is.

Even better, eight of the twenty Marsh Tits were re-encounters (40% retrapped), which shows that catching and ringing Marsh Tits here isn't materially affecting the birds' survival or behaviour – we're catching them again and again, at the same places. They know the nets are there regularly, so could avoid them (ie they're happy to tolerate us for a free lunch!)

We can also get a good idea of how these birds are changing over time, and develop a life history for each of them. I am happy to provide this life history of each bird spotted to the observer or via Mel Stammers. This will show your bird's age and sex, and what it has been up to.

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Our impact will decrease even further through our new colour ringing scheme, which has just been approved by the BTO, so birds can be individually identified by observation, without having to catch them again. Our BTO-assigned colour combination is two custom colour rings on one leg, of seven different colours: Red, Yellow, White, Black, Dark-Blue, Dark-Green and Grey. The rings are so tiny and lightweight, I'm concerned they will blow away in the slightest breeze. Even a 10 gramme Marsh Tit won't feel it's wearing them.

If you see a Marsh Tit wearing colour rings, please write down:

1. The time, date and location;
2. The two ring colours (which is uppermost and which is lower on the leg);
3. The condition and activity of the bird.

You can then report it to Mel Stammers, our Resighting Coordinator in Weston Colville, or to the BTO via our dedicated email address: cambsmarti@gmail.com. (If you report via Mel, I'll be able to respond to you much faster than via BTO HQ.)

I genuinely look forward to working with you to understand more about why the Westons are a special place for Marsh Tits. Who knows, we may well

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contribute significantly to their comeback, so our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy them too.

Alex Inzani, BTO National Ringing Scheme

You can contact me with your information about sightings by email: (m_stammers@btinternet.com) or by phone (291319). I'd like to add that the BTO looked very favourably on the application for the colour ringing study because of the great support from the local community in reporting sightings of the Marsh Tits, so thank you, and keep up the good work.

We have asked Alex to give a talk about his findings, so watch this space for a date and time.

Melanie Stammers

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The Meadow School

The summer months are upon us and by now you can usually hear shrieks of laughter and joy, amongst the noise of splashing and “kick” being shouted by the swimming teachers. This year our swimming season has been delayed by severe structural problems – in simple terms, the pool was falling to bits! As a school, we have managed to find a grant to fund some of the work, but not enough to fund all of the work needed, such as improvements to



the pump room, changing rooms, fencing, and to maintain the upkeep of the swimming pool and support the chemical costs for the rest of the season. In years gone by, schools with a swimming pool were given money from the Government to help maintain them. This central funding ceased some years ago and since then, it has been left to schools to find the money needed from their already very tight school budgets.

Why not just close the pool down, you may ask? The answer is simple: teaching swimming saves lives, and teaching children to swim 25 metres is a requirement of the National Curriculum. We have looked into the option of closing our pool and paying to bus one year group of children for six weeks to a local pool, but we feel not only is this not ensuring everyone has access to this necessary skill, it is also just not cost effective. The Meadow has taught swimming for years. In fact, Chris Walker-Hebborn, who swims for our country and will be soon off to Rio Olympics, was a pupil at our school and swam in our very pool! Imagine if we can inspire more children to follow their dreams, or even just learn such an important life saving skill.

We have an amazing community and group of parents behind us. They have started a campaign to save our pool and already have raised £4,000 of the £10,000



we need. They also gave up a Saturday recently to join me in

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repainting the pool. It looks absolutely amazing! By the time you read this we will hopefully be just starting swimming (the children are so excited); due to the delay, we have decided to continue teaching into the autumn term and are also planning to open the pool over the summer holidays and on some weekends to ensure we make the most of our pool. If you know of anyone who would like to help our campaign, please contact the school office or visit www.gofundme.com/meadowpool.

While we wait for our pool to be fixed, lots of other things have been going on! Our Y6 children have taken their SATs, which were considerably harder than in previous years. The children took it all in their stride, and with the help of the Teaching Assistants who came in early to cook bacon sandwiches, fruit salad and endless rounds of toast to set them up for the day, we were able to keep the stress levels down and the disruption to a minimum. We will find out in July how the children have done. Whatever the results of these new exceptionally hard tests, we will be very proud of our children and the effort and perseverance they have shown!

We recently took a team of Y5 children to the Cambridge maths challenge. Teamwork was a necessity and George, Kristen, Aisha and Ted worked incredibly well together. Through fourteen rounds they tackled a wide range of problems and challenges. Out of eighteen teams, we finished a very respectable third, and only one point off second place!

It has been a time of competitions and we recently took four teams to St Neots for a cross country relay race. Each team member had to run 1200 m around a hilly course and then pass the baton on to their next team mate. Our girls' teams finished 53rd and 63rd out of 103 teams and our boys finished 15th and 76th out

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of 130 teams. The children really did perform well. The team spirit, encouragement and shouting (in between mouthfuls of chocolate brownie and flapjack – apparently this is energy food!) was second to none. We were even more proud when we discovered our Boys B team had been the first in that category to cross the line and Archie, Edward, Jacob and Eddie all won a medal.



Nichola Connor, Headteacher



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Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Henry Morris, Secretary of Education for Cambridge (from 1922 to 1954), was the pioneer for village colleges. His ideals were based on schools being at the heart of their local communities, to support lifelong learning. An extract from his 1925 paper proposes:



‘There would be no ‘leaving school’! – the child would enter at three and leave the college only in extreme old age ... The village college could lie athwart the daily lives of the community it served; and in it the conditions would be realised under which education would not be an escape from reality, but an enrichment and transformation of it.’

I have been fortunate to work at four village colleges in Cambridgeshire. I am proud that the ‘cradle to grave’ learning philosophy of schooling still rings true at LVC 79 years after its opening, with two-year-olds on site at the Linton Granta Playgroup and older local residents benefiting from the school’s facilities at evenings and weekends.

However, while there has been a historical reputation for a thriving and varied programme of adult education at Linton Village College, its profile and participation numbers have dwindled in recent years.

With a wealth of other learning opportunities locally and online, it is perhaps unsurprising that we have seen the volume of adult learners decline. And yet, while some village colleges have ceased adult education provision due to lack of viability, other schools’ programmes, such as Sawston Village College’s, remain buoyant.

We are keen to rejuvenate LVC’s adult learning provision to make it sustainable and to ensure that it meets the needs and interests of the local community.

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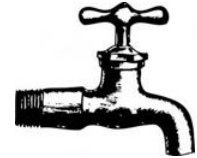
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Central to this is having the support and commitment of local residents, and someone with expertise to drive it.

We are looking to appoint someone on a part-time basis to lead adult education at LVC and to provide the necessary energy, enthusiasm and skills to make it a vibrant aspect of village life once again.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of Community Education Manager, please contact Ian Simmons, the school’s Head of Business and Enterprise Faculty, at ian.simmons@lvc.org.

Helena Marsh, Principal

**7th Big Balsham Sale
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**Sunday 5th June
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Cambridgeshire Handyperson Service

Age UK Cambridgeshire are delighted to offer a new handyperson service covering the whole of Cambridgeshire. The service is aimed at people aged 65 and over or those with a disability. An Age UK Trusted Assessor will visit you in your own home to complete a Wellbeing and Home Check assessment. Grab rails can be provided and installed free of charge and any handyperson work will incur a charge of £25 per hour plus the cost of the materials used. We are also able to offer Keysafe installations which will be charged at £45 including supply of the item. All works will be carried out by approved contractors.

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- Making telephone cables and extensions safe
- Changing light bulbs (unless these can be fitted during the Home Assessment)
- Replacing a fuse
- Small carpentry work
- Changing curtains
- Hanging pictures
- Putting up shelves.

The above list is by no means exhaustive, and if there are any other small jobs you feel we can help you with please get in touch with us and ask. To make a referral to the Handyperson service please call our Handyperson team on 01480 700205 or our Helpline on 0300 666 9860.

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Your fire service is delivering water safety education to every school in Cambridgeshire as part of its #RememberRony, launched following the tragic death of a Cambridgeshire teenager.

But there is only so much we can do and we're calling on parents, carers and peers to talk each other about water safety.

Some things to remember:

- You do not know what hazards lie beneath the surface of rivers, lakes, canals, etc.
- Strong undercurrents can be tough to conquer, even if you know how to swim.
- Cambridgeshire's waterways are cold – even on the hottest days of the year – and this has a dramatic effect on your body's ability to swim and get yourself out of trouble, should you get stuck.
- If someone is in trouble, call 999 immediately. Do not hesitate to call the emergency services and give clear details of your location.

Leanne Ehren

(01480 444500, www.cambsfire.gov.uk)

Burrough Green Church Fete

Sunday 12th June

BBQ from 1 pm; Fete opens at 2 pm

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Further details from www.burroughgreen.com

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Residents are being asked to put the right things in the food and garden recycling bins, after plastic and biobags, clothes, garden pots and even toasters have been found.

Wrap your food in newspaper, put it in paper caddy liners or place it loose in the bin. Biobags do not break down fully in the fast composting process, and should not be used. In just eight weeks we turn your food and garden waste into compost that can be used on gardens or by local farmers. To see how, watch our three minute video on www.recap.co.uk.

If you are unsure what goes in the bin please visit our website www.recap.co.uk. Thank you for recycling.

Cambs County Council

Carers Needed

Cambridgeshire Shared Lives for Older People provides overnight respite short breaks within the carer's own home rather than the traditional residential setting.

The scheme follows a careful matching process looking at carers' strengths, knowledge and personalities, matching these to the needs of the older person. This ensures the older person is comfortable and is given choice about who provides their respite care and that the carer feels able to fully support the person staying with them.

We provide visits for the older person to become familiar with the carer and their home before committing to an overnight stay. This alternative to residential respite service offers more choice and control over how the older person plans their own support.

We are looking for people who have patience, empathy, a sense of humour and the ability to help individuals meet the challenges presented by everyday life. You will need to have either some formal or informal caring experience, however you will receive professional training tailored to our service needs.

In line with the Safeguarding Adults, all Shared Lives carers are required to undergo screening checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service and will include seeking references from relevant people that know you.

Shared Lives carers receive an allowance of £75 for an overnight stay. One of the many benefits of being a Shared Lives carer is that you will be eligible for a tax break; you would be self-employed and registered with HMRC. Full information will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact the Shared Lives Co-ordinator, Hayley Bradshaw (01354 750084, hayley.bradshaw@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

1st Horseheath Brownies

This term we have been working on two badges – Mission Spectacular and Queen's 90th Birthday Challenge. For the Queen's Birthday badge we made and sent Her Majesty a birthday card, learned how the Union Flag is made up, and completed a Commonwealth wordsearch. After half-term we will be making our own crowns and decorating

horseshoes. For Mission Spectacular we have challenged ourselves to stack plastic cups into a pyramid without using our hands but using string and elastic bands, we have recreated the challenge badge with our bodies, and have been visited by Cambs East Archivist, Ann Mitchell. The Brownies were able to dress up in uniforms through the ages and also tried semaphore, which was interesting.

At the end of June we will be visited by some US Girl Scouts from California for an afternoon of fun and games followed by a campfire; you know how we like to have a good sing.

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

The Pirates of Penzance

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre proudly presents Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance' at Downing Farm (Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW) from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th June, with evening performances at 7.30 pm and a Saturday matinée at 2.30 pm. Doors open 45 mins before each performance.

Ticket prices: Wednesday £8, Thursday £9, Friday and Saturday £10, matinée £7, via our website www.sbsummertheatre.com or from Caille Peri (07541 554845, sbst.tickets@gmail.com).

On-site parking; facilities for wheelchair users; licensed bar. For further information contact Ruth Dennis (01638 730659, info@sbsummertheatre.com).

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Open Mic Night is on Saturday 9th July, with a full and varied line up performing as usual, and finishing with a guest band. If you would like to perform please call Rob on 01638 507997. All welcome. Fully licensed bar and refreshments available.



Joanna Eden, '**Pimms and Songs of Summer**', 11th June. See website for more information



Joanna Eden unravels the magic of her hero Joni Mitchell in '**Joni and Me**', 23rd September. Tickets available from the Ellesmere Centre. See website for more information.

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk, 01638 508212,
office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk

Ellesmere Centre Summer Show

This year's Summer Show is on Sunday 17th July, with the 25th Annual Flower and Craft Show. There will also be BBQ, Pony Rides, Dog Show, Licensed Bar, Pimms Bar, Live music, Beat the Goalie, Bouncy Castle, Teas, Cakes & much more, so start nurturing your vegetables and plants ready for the big day. Programmes are available in the foyer.

Balsham Gardening Club

A total of 27 people enjoyed a their visit to Fuller's Mill Garden, West Stowe, with a stroll around the inspiring garden in glorious weather, followed by hot drinks and home made cake.



The gardens have evolved over a period of around 50 years, starting with a small area around the house and now covering 7 acres. The gardens were designed and developed by Bernard Tickner and his late wife, Bess. Bernard, who is approaching his 92nd birthday, is still very involved with the garden.

The river Lark runs through the garden and in earlier times provided power for a fulling mill, hence the name of the gardens. Sadly we were too early to see the standard wisteria in flower, but this is definitely a garden to visit again as it progresses through the seasons.

The next garden visit will be on Saturday 18th June to Peter Beale's Roses and East Ruston Vicarage Garden. There are still places available on the coach – contact Lyn Bobrow (890598 or lgb21@cam.ac.uk) for tickets.

The club will be holding a 'Have a Go' show as part of the Balsham Feast on July 2nd. This is meant as a fun show to encourage those who would not normally enter to take part, and is open to all residents of Balsham be they gardening club members or not, so why not take part? Schedules with information on what to do are now available in Balsham post office. We look forward to seeing you on the day with your entries, or as a visitor to our event.

Jennie Tipler



West Wickham Fete & WICKHAM FEST 2016

Traditional Village Fete followed by
BBQ, Bar, Music & Family Camping,
In aid of the Village Hall and St Mary's Church

Saturday July 2nd

SAVE THE DAY

Starting at 2pm.at the Village Hall & Playing Field All your favourites

Day: BBQ /bar/ teas /cakes/ books/ plants/ games/ bottle stall / table tennis/sports.

Evening : live music/ BBQ/ bar/camping (open call for local musicians/artistes)

Camping costs £10 per tent including breakfast
To guarantee your pitch email wickhamfest@westwickham.org or call 07823348132

**Proceeds to Village Hall and Church
Support your community and have fun.**



Burrough Green Playgroup Family Fun Day!

Saturday 16th July 12 noon – 3pm
The Old Rectory, Carlton, CB8 9JZ

BBQ Refreshments
Rides and Games Story Book Trail
Face Painting Hay Bale Madness
Fun for all the family, big and small!

All funds raised go to Burrough Green Playgroup
Entrance £1 per adult, children free. No dogs allowed.

St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.15 am
(except on fifth Sunday of the month).

Churchwardens: Roger Whitehead (290524)
and Philippa Coates (290842)

St Andrew's Church, West Wrating

Holy Communion at 10.45 am each Sunday (except on
fifth Sunday of the month).

Churchwarden: Sebastian Bain (01223 403415)

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in
Balsham Church at 10.30 am on the first Wednesday of
each month, and at 9.15 am on subsequent Mondays.

Methodist Chapel, Weston Colville

Minister: Rev Nigel Bishop (01440 702422)

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

June 2016

- Wed 1 Weston Colville Cinema Club, 'Brief Encounter'
West Wrating Over 60s
- Fri 3 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
- Sat 4 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
- Sun 5 Garage & Table sales, Balsham
- Fri 10 Meadow School June Revels
- Sat 11 Street Party, West Wrating
- Sun 12 Songs of Praise, St Andrew's, West Wrating
Burrough Green Fete
- Wed 15 West Wrating Book Club
- Wed 15 - Sat 18 Pirates of Penzance, Swaffham Bulbeck
- Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 18 Balsham Singers concert, St Andrew's
- Sat 25 Temple Ensemble concert, St Mary's
- Sat 25, Sun 26 Weston Colville Flower Festival

July 2016

- Sat 2 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
West Wickham Fete & Wickham Fest
- Sun 3 Horseheath Country Fair
- Mon 4 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Wed 6 West Wrating Over 60s
Cutoff for West Wrating oil syndicate orders
- Sat 9 Weston Colville circular walk
West Wrating Music Bash
- Mon 11 West Wrating Parish Council meeting
- Sat 16 Burrough Green Playgroup Family Fun Day
- Thur 21 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

Revd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge
tel: 891350; Balsham Church: 890895
(day off: Tues) email: revjulienorris@gmail.com

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

Parish Council Clerks:

Weston Colville – Christine King,
wpcp@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963

West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260

Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891350

Parish Nurse: Teresa Letimier,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

St Andrew's: Flowers Cleaning

5 th June	Louise	Maggie
12 th June	Louise	Sue
19 th June	Linda	Pauline
26 th June	Linda	Jenny

St Mary's: Flowers Cleaning

June	Lucy	Gay
July	Gay & Mary	Gay

Black bins: **Wednesday 1st**, Tuesday 14th & 28th June,
Tuesday 12th & 26th July

Blue & green bins: Tuesday 7th & 21st June,
Tuesday 5th & 19th July

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (22nd June, 27th July)

High Street, West Wrating	12.10 - 12.55
Post Office, Weston Green	2.05 - 2.25
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.30 - 3.05

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.

July issue's copy date: Monday 20th June.