

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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Easter



Songs of Praise

West Wrattling Church

Sunday 2nd April 4 - 5 pm

Child friendly songs

Tea and Cakes afterwards

Kids - there will be an Easter Craft activity on **Saturday 1st April** during the Village Hall Café, 10.30 am

St Andrew's Churchyard – Spring Clear-up

The spring clear-up of the churchyard at St Andrew's, West Wrattling, will take place on Saturday 15th April, 10 am - 12 noon. Everyone is welcome and, as ever, hot cross buns, coffee and tea will be served.

Colin McCall (290036)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

We enjoyed another wonderful gathering at the café on 4th March and raised £120.70 for Buttercups (Balsham preschool). Eloise also raised an amazing £36 on the bookstall, which will go to Parkinson's charity .

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 1st April between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. The café works by different volunteers offering to serve and donate cakes every month (including at least one dairy and gluten-free offering). There is always a play corner set up for kids, a bookstall with second hand books, and table tennis for those fancying a game.

There will be an Easter crafts table for the children in preparation for the Songs of Praise service on Sunday 2nd April, and Kate Cleary will be running a stall to raise money for Granta School.

Oliver de Ferrars Green will be selling CDs and DVDs in order to raise funds for his charitable trip to Peru in summer 2018 (see page 6). Please come and support Oliver and also join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville 'Pub' Quiz

Following our joyful quiz in September (as seen on TV), we're holding another one. It will be in the Reading Room on Wednesday 26th April at 8 pm. Up to four per team, with a prize for the winners, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, lager, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

Jacqueline Douglas

(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

Our next gathering will be on Friday 7th April, 3.30 - 5 pm, in the Reading Room. Please come along for a cup of tea, a home-made slice of cake, and a chat. Thank you to everyone who supports the group by helping out, donating cakes, or just coming to keep us company. We look forward to seeing you.



Melanie

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West Wrattling Over 60s

The club's next meeting, to include lunch, will be at The Chestnut Tree, West Wrattling, at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 5th April. Please note: no bring'n'buy; raffle only.

Our following meeting, to be held on 3rd May, will also be at The Chestnut Tree, at 12.30 pm.

Wendy Halls

Weston Colville Circular Walk

The BBC's pessimistic forecast for 4th March may have put some off, but as we had a six-people, three-dog walk on a dry and at times sunny morning. We went via Carlton and were back in the Reading Room at noon. This meant we were able to linger longer over lunch, and the feeling was that this simple gathering at the table was easily as enjoyable as the walk itself. With the sun streaming in, we munched and supped happily.

Our next circular walk will be on Saturday 13th May. Meet at the Reading Room at 10 am, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share; put your lunch in the fridge before we set off; refreshments available.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas

(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)



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Save the Date (for more Reading Room Events):

Talk, John Rogers on 'Jupiter': Wednesday 17th May

Pop up Charity Shop: Saturday 3rd June

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

March fill up results: as I'm sure everybody knows by now, I like to beat the Boilerjuice 'Bulk' price and once again only just succeeded. It seems that the advent of online order consolidation sites is driving down margins for the suppliers and they don't have much left to give away to local syndicates.

Anyway, eighteen houses in West Wrattling participated in the order that was placed on 7th March with a new supplier, Conquest Oil from Bedford, and deliveries were completed on 15th. Conquest Oil won the West Wrattling order with a price of 40.95p per litre, which was a saving of just 0.95p against my benchmark Boilerjuice 'Bulk' (for 2,000+ litres) price of 41.90p. All prices + VAT, of course. Still, it was great value for anybody ordering less than 1,000 litres!

For interest, prices in the last twelve months have been: (2016) March 28.10p, May 27.00p, July 31.60p, September 32.00p, October 37.20p and (2017) January 44.25p, so this month's fill up was the first time the price has gone down since last May.

The next fill up will be in May, with a cut off date of Monday 8th at 6 pm. Please don't order before 1st May.

Richard Holness

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Weston Colville Cinema Club

There will be no film in April. On 3rd May, the film will be ‘Passport to Pimlico’, a charmingly whimsical British classic from Ealing Studios, hailed by the BFI as a ‘cherished comedy’, with the wonderful Stanley Holloway and Margaret Rutherford. It’s about ordinary people in a



small community to which extraordinary things happen. That community finds it’s exempt from what’s happening to the rest of the UK, so maybe it speaks to us in these times of independence.

The film will be in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm, with a pre-screening talk; refreshments available, all welcome.

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

West Wrating Sports Pavilion

The AGM will be held at West Wrating Sports Pavilion on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30 pm. All are welcome; refreshments available.

Once again dog fouling is an issue on the recreation ground, where children visit and sport is played, and

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also through the village. Please keep dogs on a lead in public places to help prevent this.

This is very serious and people should take action on behalf of their pets, as dog fouling can cause many health problems.

We are also aware of antisocial behaviour on the recreation ground and in the car park, and are liaising with the parish council to see where and how this can be prevented.

Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary

Goodbye Weston Colville

Having moved away a year ago we have finally sold Larkrise, our last link with Weston Colville. We have lived in Colville for seventeen years having escaped from life on a Thames Barge and made many friends, especially with our neighbours. So this is just to say cheerio to people we were unable to say our goodbyes to personally. It was a great and friendly place to live and we will miss many of you. We now live in Honington near Bury St Edmunds with a new Old English Sheepdog – Mrs Millicent (Milly) – and a lot of gardening.

Best wishes,

Sue and Laurence Staig

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West Wratting Book Club

In February we discussed the novel 'Mother Tongue' by Julie Mayhew, based on the Beslan school massacre which took place in September 2004 in Beslan, North Ossetia, an autonomous republic in the North Caucasus. The school siege lasted three days and 385 people were killed, most of them children. The author does not announce this historical event in the beginning of the book, but leaves it to the reader to put the pieces together.

The story is conveyed through the eyes of a teenager, Darya, whose younger sister Nika is a victim of the massacre. The story follows the family as they try to come to terms with this horrific tragedy. This is a particularly poignant situation given the peculiar functioning of this family – Darya has been in effect the mother for her younger sister Nika, her mother having withdrawn from all family responsibility by taking to her bed since Nika's birth, possibly because of post-natal depression. Thus Darya is not only grieving for loss of a sister, but loss of her central role as surrogate parent and homemaker in the family.

Darya tries to move forward in her life by taking English lessons with a rather charming American man



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who helps her relocate to Moscow in hopes of finding a job and a new life. However, post Soviet Moscow is a dangerous place for Darya, a naive village girl, where things are not what they appear to be, and she is quickly disillusioned and returns home to the security of factory work and a former decidedly unglamorous boyfriend.

Some members did not like the ending which assigns Darya, an intelligent girl with potential, to a rather grim and predictable life in Beslan. However, on the other hand, it was possibly a realistic choice to seek a life of familiarity and security given her lack of experience, naivete, and the trauma she has undergone.

Although this book is actually aimed at young adults it is a compelling read, well written and researched, and atmospheric of time and place. Scores ranged from 8 to 9.

Our book for March was 'Nujeen' by Nujeen Mustafa and Christina Lamb.

This was the story of 16 year old Nujeen's journey in a wheelchair pushed by her older sister, Nasrine, from Syria to Germany. Her story may be familiar to some from the news reports, including one interview with Fergal Keane. She learnt English from an American

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soap opera and soaked up facts like a sponge from documentaries and books (she was unable to have formal education in Syria because of her handicap, caused by cerebral palsy).

As Kurds they had already had difficult lives but when the destruction of their homes and the horrific acts that many Syrians were subjected to finally became too much it was decided that she and other members of her family should try to get to Europe, preferably Germany where one member of the family already lived, leaving their parents behind. One comes to understand why they do not want to apply for asylum in some other countries which have their own problems, or because of the way they are treated. They are terrified of being fingerprinted in one of these countries.

We all agreed that it was an extremely interesting read despite the style of writing being a little stilted and the language typical of a teenager. It really brought home the terrible circumstances which forced so many to make this journey, and the dreadful conditions and treatment that they had to put up with on the way. Christina Lamb seems to be good at getting people talking, and at writing from a child's perspective. We learn that these are real people with aspirations, intelligent, educated or with a wish for education.

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The map and summary at the end of the book were very useful. All gave it a score of 8 or 9 out of 10, more because of the content and what we learned from it than any literary style, and would recommend it to anyone who wants to get a real insight into this dreadful situation.

Following on from our reading of John Le Carré's memoir 'The Pigeon Tunnel' we are reading 'A Small Town in Germany', and will meet on Wednesday 12th April at 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree.

We will then meet on Wednesday 17th May to discuss 'The Dinner' by Herman Koch.

Lee Haviland and Linda Gorman



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Fundraising for Peru Trip

Thank you to everyone who read and replied to my piece in Challenge last month. If you missed it, I wrote about



my planned trip to Peru in just over 18 months' time with a charitable company known as Camps International (<http://campsinternational.com/ethical-journeys-volunteering-abroad/>). I will be going out to help build schools and to engineer a safer way of life for people who are less fortunate than us.

I am going to be holding a sale of donated items at the Saturday café in West Wrattling on 1st April, so please come along and take a look at a wide range of CDs and DVDs, and some pre-loved computer games. I hope you will find something that you will like and want to buy. You can bring any items for sale, as well.

Thank you for your help.

Oliver de Ferrars Green (290998)

The Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund

The Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund was established in 2012. It is a pot of money the developers return to the parishes to offset the local impact of the wind farm. The Fund offers grants to charitable projects with public benefit within a 5 km radius of the Wadlow Farm. We receive around £40,000 each year. If it is not spent, it cannot be carried over indefinitely. Over the past years the money has been used to benefit community projects across the affected parishes. A wide range of activities has been supported, including village hall refurbishment, educational projects within local schools and pre-schools, sports clubs and recreational facilities. Weston Colville has benefitted from the grant towards the splendid new playground equipment at Church End, and the cricket club has been assisted in building a new storage facility and upgrading the pavilion. West Wrattling has received grants to help reroof both St Andrew's church and the village hall. The panel meets twice per year, in March and September, to review applications and award funds. There is money available to help further projects! The Trust administrators like to receive completed applications one month in advance of the meeting.

That allows opportunity for them to speak with each applicant and get answers to questions before putting the application before the panel – thus reducing delays in awarding funds. If you have a project in mind, please check with the administrators to confirm it meets the criteria for application. The contact is: Suzy Kay (01223 410535, suzy@cambscf.org.uk). I have access to a report detailing where the money has been spent so far, which I can forward to any interested party if you provide me with an email address. It's our money; let's put it to good use.

Bridget Durham (290082)

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The police invited us to a Safety Day with talks and discussions on Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch, the Fire Brigade and Scams. I hope that this becomes the first of many.

Our village shop has some free booklets presented to us by the County Council. The booklet groups types of scams together. Please ask Christine for a copy – it really is full of useful information on identity fraud, dating and romance scams, telephone and internet scams, and tells us what to do if we are scammed. Scams are a multi million pound 'industry'. Scammers can be very clever and totally convincing, no matter how on the ball we are.

Speed was a subject close to the speaker's heart. He demonstrated how an active Speed Watch group can reduce speeding by up to 70%. Our Weston Colville group recorded information which helped the police and our parish council in many ways, including extending our village speed limits.

As we have seen in the media there is a move for our emergency services to at least 'cross fertilise'. In this case our fire service is committed to supporting the safety and well being of residents in our communities, so do not be too surprised if a large red vehicle supplies you with a first responder in time of need. They may save your life if your heart is failing, because they already carry some first aid equipment and are trained to use it. If you are vulnerable they will check on fire safety in the home, help to prevent falls, advise on home security and scam avoidance, and attempt to ensure that you are fed and warm. It's not all bells and sirens, unless you need them to fight a fire!

For many years we have had our own Neighbourhood Watch group in Weston Colville. Everyone in our village is a member. There is no need to sign up. We try to provide a summary of criminal activities around us, and information to help keep us safe and secure. Forewarned is forearmed, so if we know what is going on or what may threaten us, we can take our own precautions.

March has been a calm month; have a good April.

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

West Wrattling Parish Council

invites tenders for **grass cutting** in the village:

- 1) All verges (that are not already cut by residents) within the 30 mph limit, 5 times per year. Excludes Spicers Close.
- 2) A 3 metre wide footpath in the Pocket Park, 3 times per year.

Please respond by email or in writing by 30th April to the Parish Clerk, Mrs Jennifer Richards,

j.richards597@btinternet.com

Mrs Jennifer Richards,

88 High Street, Balsham, Cambridge CB21 4EP

West Wrattling Parish Council

At the parish council meeting held on Monday 13th March the following items were discussed.

Parish Council vacancy: due to the resignation of Cllr Snow an advertisement was put on the noticeboards for a new councillor. Tim Bonfield applied and attended the meeting. Cllr Holness proposed him and was seconded by Cllr Nichols. The council agreed this and Mr Bonfield was welcomed on to the council as a co-opted member.

Planning: S/3559/16/LB – 21 High St, new dwelling – an amendment had been received reducing the elevation of the build. However it was agreed that this made no difference to the non-support of this application, as the main objection was the size of the proposed build on a small plot, access on to the High Street causing further traffic issues, and the overlooking of neighbours.

A letter had also been sent to Planning regarding S/0565 where the agreed terms of the planning approval have not been adhered to.

Finances: the full account of authorised payments are shown in the draft minutes to be posted on the village noticeboards. Cllr Nichols said there had been a slight overspend of the budget due to contributing to the new play equipment. However VAT is being reclaimed for the year, which will make up the difference.

Maintenance:

Diseased trees in Hayter Close: these have now been removed, the roots ground out and diseased soil removed. It is hoped to plant a tree/trees which will not be susceptible to Honey Fungus.

Schedule re contract for village grass cutting: Cllr Holness had drawn up a schedule which he will put into **Challenge**. The parish clerk will inform CGM and invite them to quote for the job.

Football Club & Sports Pavilion Committee:

Hooligan problem in recreation ground car park: this matter was discussed and the situation is being kept under observation.

Recreation ground boundary: a letter will be sent to SCDC regarding their boundary responsibilities.

A cheque for £50 will be given to John Smith as a thank you for the hedge cutting he had carried out on the recreation ground.

Traffic issues:

The Chairman and Cllr. Nichols attended CCC and were given ten minutes to justify the Minor Highways Improvement scheme applied for by West Wrattling. It is hoped the results will be known this week. *[Have since heard that West Wrattling's application was successful.]*

Speed Indicator: Cllr Hall of West Wickham parish council had put forward the idea of sharing a Speed Indicator between three parishes as it was felt this piece of equipment would deter speeding. The cost would be £1,000 per parish. It was agreed that West Wrattling should join this scheme with Balsham and Weston Colville.

A resident has asked if parking cars on the pavement was legal. It is illegal so should not be done.

The next parish council meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 8th May at 7.30 pm followed by the Parish Meeting. Please do come.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

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Village Parking Problems, Policing

I am aware from the many emails which South Cambs officers receive and from Neighbourhood Panel meetings that parking is a constant concern for many residents in villages across South Cambridgeshire.

I have been giving some thought on how we can meet your expectations on parking enforcement, and I have decided that we are going to try something new. I have therefore set up an online web-page where you can report concerns about parking. The information that you give us will go directly to me and will help us build a picture of the exact hot-spots for parking issues. I will then use this information on targeted 'crack-down' days. There is some good evidence that crack-downs work in other areas of policing so we are going to try it for parking. For obvious reasons I will not be publicising the dates of the crackdowns in advance.

The web page is now live and you can find it at:

<http://tinyurl.com/SouthCambs-Parking>

I am not pretending that this will solve all parking problems, however, I do think that it strikes the right balance between dealing with parking concerns and the other important work that we do.

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Some of you may have seen recent media reporting regarding our policing of villages. I would like to emphasise that we do prioritise policing of the villages but what I do ask is that my officers prioritise the 'hottest' areas within our villages. This does mean that certain areas in some villages get more attention than those villages with very low crime. The main benefit of our local policing structure is that you have your own, dedicated local resources that are responsible for policing South Cambs rather than the City.

Your local officers and I work hard to give you the best, most intelligent policing service we can but if you do have any concerns please do get in touch, or come to our next round of neighbourhood panel meetings where you can join in the discussion.

*Chief Inspector James Sutherland
Area Commander, South Cambs*

Ministry News

Good news! The advertisement for a new priest for our six parishes will be released to the Church Times newspaper after Easter, so we are very pleased with the progress.

More good news is that the Women's World Day of Prayer went well at Hildersham. The music was jolly and the hymns were sung with gusto. Next year the service will be written by the women of Suriname, and will take place on Friday 2nd March, hopefully at Hildersham Church again. All are welcome, no matter what denomination or faith.

Compline is night prayer, and is designed to be said last thing at night before going to sleep. Its Latin name 'completorium' means something that fills up or completes something, and indeed compline completes the liturgy of the hours and the day. In days gone by

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monasteries had compline as the last service of the day. As we are in the season of Lent we are encouraged to begin by examining our conscience and it is a chance to see how the day has gone and appreciate the good things in it or even the things that were difficult. Perhaps you might like to come to one of our compline services this year and see what it has to offer. There are services being held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The word 'Maundy' is derived from the Latin word for 'command'. The 'Maundy' in Maundy Thursday refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another. Jesus shows his example of humility which we are all encouraged to follow. Come and join us at Great Abington at 7.30 pm. If you have never been before I'm sure you will find it very moving.

May I wish you all a happy Easter; I and the rest of the ministry team look forward to seeing you at the services.

Rev Kathy Bishop

Services in Holy Week

Compline services (at 7.30 pm):

- ◆ Monday 10th April West Wickham
- ◆ Tuesday 11th April Weston Colville
- ◆ Wednesday 12th April West Wrattling

Maundy Thursday Eucharist:

- ◆ 13th April Great Abington (7.30 pm)

Good Friday Services:

- ◆ Devotional Service Hildersham (9.30 am)
- ◆ Stations of the Cross Balsham (11.30 am)
- ◆ Last Hour Lt Abington (2.00 pm)

Famine Lunch Tuesday 4th April 12 noon – 2 pm in Abington Village Institute

The Abington Churches are holding a Famine Lunch (soup, bread & cheese, tea/coffee) in response to the devastating food crisis in East Africa, where millions of families are facing starvation because of droughts.

There will be a Bring and Buy Stall should you wish to give or purchase cakes, gifts or garden produce.

Please come and help us raise funds for this urgent cause.

Any queries, please contact: Patsy Randall, Anne Hall 892275, Mary Miles 891083 or Lyn Riecansky 893295.



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A Happy Ending

I thought readers of *Challenge* might like to hear what happened to the stray cat reported found in last month's issue. Jeremy Compton, who has a business mending horse boxes at Moat Farm, called to inquire about the cat. It transpired that the cat had travelled from Stoke by Clare, in a horse box, brought to be repaired by Jeremy. The owners of the cat were very happy to be reunited with their cat, who had been missing since January.

Melanie

Laminator

A4 laminator and its pouches free to good home. Just call Tim or Chloe Cockerill (290439) to collect.

Greenhouse Offer

Second hand 8 ft x 6 ft aluminium-framed greenhouse free to a good home. All glass and fittings intact, with top and side vents. Contact John Garrod on 290267.

West Wrattling Football

In March West Wrattling 1st team won 4-0 against Bar Hill in a semi-final which was a really good result as Bar Hill, though lower in the league, had not lost any games to date. There was a crowd of approximately 160 people, in the pouring rain, but it was a fantastic day with the win and lots of support.

The youth teams are doing very well in the league.

Youths are hoping to arrange a fun day in June/July to raise funds and to recruit new players from within West Wrattling and the surrounding villages.

1st Team Fixtures for April

Kick off

Saturday 1 st	Away	Linton	2 pm
Tuesday 4 th	Away	Chatteris Town	7.45 pm
Saturday 8 th	Away	Brampton	3 pm
Saturday 15 th	Home	Eaton Socon	3 pm
Tuesday 18 th	Away	Great Shelford	6.15 pm
Saturday 22 nd	Home	Hardwick	3 pm
Tuesday 25 th	Histon	Fulbourn	7.30 pm
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Balsham Bowls Club

Balsham Bowls Club would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone interested in playing bowls. Our club night is on Monday evenings from the end of April to early September. The club is a thriving one, playing in three leagues, and we also have two teams in the Steeple Bumpstead League on Friday evenings.

The game of bowls is a very friendly and sociable game, but also it does have its competitive element. Tuition will be given, and we do have shoes and woods for beginners to try the game. Please contact me for any further information.

John Robinson, Club Secretary (893895)

West Wickham Thanks The Chestnut Tree

West Wickham villagers have set up a monthly community night in their village, called a Hub Night. The first event was a Pub Hub.

Local people designed a brand for advertising and a Facebook page, provided materials for the evening, made bar snacks using local ingredients and meat from the village farm, shopped for supplies, and volunteered for shifts on the bar.

The Pub Hub also received great support from the local pub, The Chestnut Tree in West Wrating. Peter and Rachel helped by ordering local beer, giving advice, lending beer mats, towels, games – everything needed for an authentic pub feel.

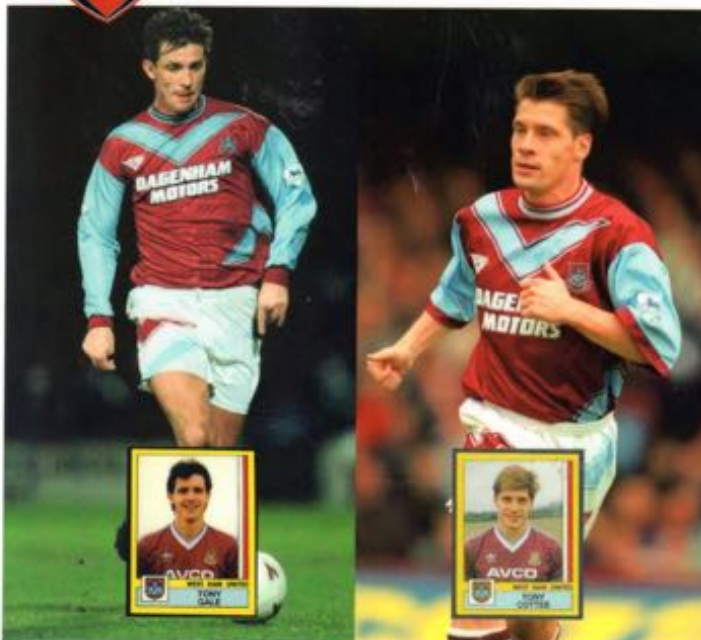
A comment from the Hub organisers was: “We are only hosting an event once a month but The Chestnut Tree is there for us seven days a week. At a time when so many local pubs are closing I feel we are very lucky to have such a great local pub with such a strong sense of community.”



West Wrating Football Club Present a night with West Ham legends & Sky Soccer Saturday Favourites

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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

You can catch up on my talk on the Ides of March (Marsh?) at the Reading Room at:

www.thereadingroom.org.uk/recent-events/

It is now the official start of the RAS scientific survey season, so all your sightings of Marsh Tits will have double the value until August. The reason is that it is now the breeding season, and a crucial measure of Marsh Tit survival is their breeding success. The more birds - ringed or not - that we spot now, the more accurate our results. We must have at least thirty to fifty sightings between March and July (inclusive) for the RAS study to continue at all.

This month we have a bit of fun for you. It may be entirely accurate, but it is pretty unwieldy to refer to individual Marsh Tits by their formal BTO name of (say) 'Y291374 Green over Red on Left leg'. So, rather like pedigree dogs and their kennel names, we asked villagers and others at the talk to suggest

shorter and more memorable names for our colour-ringed Marsh Tits. You parishioners clearly have a sense of humour like mine – oh dear – but at least they can be printed in this respectable parish magazine! We'll bite the bullet and get the worst over with first . . . OK, deep breath and here goes:

There are lots more birds to name, so if you couldn't make it to the talk, please send in your suggestions on an email to: cambsmarti@gmail.com (no more McFaces, please . . .) The only certain way to tell their sex is at breeding time, so getting the gender of the name right is a bit of a lottery. But – last time I looked – Marsh Tits can't read English, so a wrong name is very unlikely to scar them psychologically.

Please keep the sightings coming in, to myself or Mel Stammers at: m_stammers@btinternet.com.

Thank you very much and enjoy the birdsong and daffodils.

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

BTO name	Individual characteristics	Nickname	Reason
Y291374 Green over Red on Left	Large, possibly polygynous male (ie Hunk with two females on the go)	Charles	After Charles Lindbergh, aviation pioneer and serial bigamist (allegedly)
D779503 Grey over Red on Left	Adult male	Willy McWillyface (censored to 'Will')	Someone at BTO has an overdeveloped sense of humour (it's not me)
Y291372 Grey over Green on Left	Our oldest known bird, 3+ years old. Not seen since last July (probably embarrassed).	Titty McTitface (censored to 'Tit')	Someone at Reading Room has an overdeveloped sense of humour (it's not me)
S320053 Yellow over Green on Left	Youngster ringed in Lower Wood by my lovely daughter	Marshy McMarshface (censored to 'Marshy')	Daughter named it, with a wide smile
S320108 Green over Yellow on Left	Jackie's first bird. An adult.	Delia	It's sporting Norwich City colours. Chefette Delia Smith owns the club.
Y291409 White over Blue on Left	Teenager from Mel's garden	Alex	A nice person at Reading Room pandered to my rampant narcissism
Y291462 White over Red on Left	Teenager from Great Coven's wood. Likes the Colonel's warm hands.	Taylor	Unsure of sex of this bird, so 'either-or' name.
Y291375 Red over Black on Left	Joyce's first bird. With us since the study started. A relentless eating machine.	Rob	He robs feeders all over eastern Mill Hill and in Lower Wood, the piglet.
S320140 Green over Black on Left	The second bird at Joyce's garden. An adult.	Ronnie	So we can have a 'Reggie', of course. Sigh . . .

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Balsham Community Market

Thank you to those of you who came along on 11th March and supported our local farmers and food producers. It is really important to support local small business as well as British farming as they are key to the success of our local economy as well as our local community.



We had a good turn out again in March, although the flow of people was steadier than at the previous market, where the majority of people arrived within the first 45 minutes. The Easter egg hunt went down very well with the children. Photos can be found on our website.

Our next market will be on Saturday 13th May from 2 pm to 5 pm. As well as stalls inside the Institute, there will be stalls outside too. Keep a look out on our Facebook page or website for regular updates.

Debbie Paton

www.facebook.com/balshammarket
www.balshammarket.wordpress.com

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

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The Meadow School

Last month I wrote that we had been inspected by Ofsted at long last. This was a high stakes few days for us with the staff and children literally giving everything they had to showcase our fabulous school. I am astounded to say that two months after our visit we still have not received the inspection report.

I haven't hidden it hoping nobody will see it; I am proud of it and want to show it. The rules of an inspection mean that, apart from the senior leaders of the school and the governing body, until the final report is published I am forbidden from telling any of the staff the results. This is incredibly hard as they worked so hard and deserve to know. The inspection handbook clearly states that the report should be returned to the school within fourteen working days and in exceptional cases where additional quality assurance is needed this may be up to twentythree working days. Well, as I sit and write this we are on working day thirtyone. The delay is ridiculous. I do promise that when our report finally does arrive I will happily share it with you all!

Whilst on my soapbox, I am feeling very disheartened by the new funding formulae that the Government are

proposing. For years Cambridgeshire has been significantly underfunded, receiving a considerable amount less per pupil than our neighbouring schools in Suffolk and Essex. Under the new proposals The Meadow will see an increase in funding of only £8,000 per year, which sees us still a long way behind the national average.

What is really worrying is that a formula that was supposed to make things fairer will see almost one third of primary schools in Cambridgeshire see their funding fall. The average funding in Cambridgeshire will be £340 less per pupil than the national average. That amounts to £10,200 less funding than the national average for every class of thirty children. This is enough to pay for a teaching assistant to work in every class every morning and half of every afternoon. If The Meadow received funding to the national average, we would receive £71,060 more per year, and so would have enough money to fund the nine classes we need without running a deficit budget. We would be able to replace teaching assistantss when they leave and not freeze their posts. We would be able to do so many other things that other schools in other Local Authorities can without constantly applying for charitable grants and running huge fundraising drives every year. What makes our children any less important and worth less in monetary terms than any other child? Please do continue to support us by lobbying your MP for a fairer deal for all.

Now back to normality and remembering why we all support our fantastic school – because of the wonderful children in it! We have been incredibly proud of our sports teams this month. We sent teams to play in tournaments for tag rugby, netball and hockey. Sadly we didn't win any of them but our team spirit and brilliant attitude was recognised and



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we won the 'Spirit of the Games' award in hockey. Congratulations to all of our sports stars.

We were also invited by the organisers of the Balsham Community Orchard to take all of our children from the Infants to the orchard to help plant the new hedgerow. It was quite a sight to see one hundred children marching through the village kitted out in their outdoor messy clothes and wellies, clutching trowels. The children had a fantastic time and absolutely loved being tasked with the very special job. After they had planted all the saplings they explored the orchard,

fascinated with the different trees and of course the huge pile of manure, which we had to keep reminding them was not



a mountain to climb! We were even luckier as on the day we went the first blossom on one of the trees was through and the children took great delight in searching for this one tree. We look forward to being able to keep visiting this wonderful community venture and see how our hedgerow is growing.

We have also been treated this month to a spectacular production of 'King of all Polar Bears' by Years 3/4/5. The children put on a super show which was full of acting, singing and dancing. Well done to all of the children and staff for a great way to end the topic.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

The phenomenal performances of students at LVC outside the regular school timetable in recent weeks has highlighted the importance of a wholesome and holistic education. LVC has a proud tradition of rich, inclusive education. Watching a large cast and crew performing 'The Sound of Music' to a professional standard confirmed the importance of delivering such a broad curriculum offer. In recent weeks, LVC students have also shone in sports tournaments and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) events.

These kinds of activities can easily be perceived as fringe opportunities. Headteachers across the UK have publicly shared their concerns about insufficient school funding on social media, with images of events such as sports fixtures, extra-curricular clubs and performances in response to the question: what would you cut? It may be tempting to compromise aspects that don't feed directly into performance tables, choosing instead to direct time, money and energy into areas that will influence league table positions.

At LVC we believe in the importance of an enriching educational offer and don't see academic and extra-curricular outcomes as competing factors. This ethos has been validated by a letter from MP Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, confirming that LVC's student progress sits in the top 5% of schools nationally.

Schools face great challenges at present in terms of recruiting and retaining excellent staff. Amidst the pressure, our children deserve the very best opportunities to enable them to develop into creative, ambitious and confident young people. A broad, rich curriculum experience is key to achieving this.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

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1st Horseheath Brownies

We all had a great time on our weekend away in the middle of March, with seventeen Brownies, Laurené (our Young Leader), Emily (our Guide helper) and six adults at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. We enjoyed being pirates for the weekend, especially looking for the ‘hidden treasure’ when the Brownies tried Geocaching. The Brownies were joined on Saturday morning by Balsham Rainbows and they all decorated a treasure chest, made an eye patch, a pirate hat and a jewel encrusted cutlass.

We will be holding a joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides as a fundraiser for Red Nose Day. We will all be wearing red, for a red fashion show, and then putting our toy pets through their paces at the Second Toy Pet Show. All entries will receive a certificate and there might be a prize for the ‘best in show’.

We are still collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kids vouchers; please put them in the box in Horseheath Post Office, if you don’t have a school or playgroup to donate them to.

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

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Balsham Gardening Club

A very interesting and informative talk on ‘Gardens of the National Trust’ was given by Veronica Bennett.

Under the National Trust Act of 1937 it became possible to leave property to the National Trust in lieu of death duties, and the number of houses and gardens in the care of the Trust began to increase. Gardens of all sizes were acquired, some in a derelict state, some more or less perfect. To guard against developing a ‘corporate style’ each garden is surveyed, including topography, archaeology and layout, and reports compiled on what is unique about each garden.

Whilst efforts are made to retain significant features in the gardens, the Trust is not afraid to make changes where appropriate. The great storm of 1987 caused considerable damage to a number of gardens but provided opportunities too.

The club’s next meeting, on Tuesday 4th April (7.15 for a 7.30 start) will be a special event in the club’s history, and there will be wine and cake to celebrate our 40th anniversary. Peter Jackson, Harold Gawthorp and Val Spencer will be answering your gardening questions. Please bring your questions along to the meeting. All welcome.

Jennie Tipler

Harold’s Topical Tips for April:

- Plant potatoes and sow peas, broad beans, carrots and onions if soil and weather conditions permit.
- Watch out for greenfly in the greenhouse and use sticky traps to catch the flying ones. Be wary of slugs and snails.
- Sow half hardy annuals under glass. .
- If you haven’t already done so, plant in the garden any spring flowering bulbs that have flowered indoors.



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West Wickham Gardening Club

On Monday 20th March, Rob and Denise Sheriff, previous owners of a Dahlia nursery in Suffolk, came to talk to us on 'How to grow Dahlias'. Their illustrated talk gave us all the information we needed to grow the very best blooms, covering tuber storage, pests and diseases (a can of sulphur seems indispensable), propagation by cuttings, supports, and finally how to show off your beautiful flowers to best advantage when entering a competition. There are 56,000 varieties at the moment, of which Rob grows 500. One can choose from huge giant blooms to tiny pom-poms, and some of the new types of dahlia are quite stunning with many different shapes and colours in petals and foliage.

Our next meeting will be on 24th April (avoiding Easter Monday) when we look forward to finding out how to plant up containers. This will be the last talk in our programme and we then get ready for our GRAND PLANT SALE on May 20th, a date I hope you all have in your diaries.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

Fundraising for a Guide trip to Switzerland

Easter Egg Hunt



Come along and join us for an Easter egg hunt, crafts, games, cakes, and storytelling for all the family

The Bell, 2 West Wickham Road, Balsham

Easter Saturday, 15th April 1-3pm

£2.50 per person for the Easter egg trail



The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

'Embraceable Elle' –Joanna Eden sings Ella Fitzgerald music on Friday 21st April, to celebrate the centenary of this iconic singer. Joanna has performed here in the past and has a beautiful voice; this is an evening not to be missed. Tickets £12.50 from the office.



If you are no longer as active as you once were and would like to keep fit with some gentle exercise, please come along to one of our activities below.

Mature and Active Group – the centre is open on Friday mornings, term time only, 11 am - 1 pm, for the more mature among you to come along and make use of our carpet bowls, table tennis, badminton, and gym facilities. The cost is £4 for two hours, and a cup of tea/coffee and cake is included. Come along on your own and meet others or bring a friend. Call the centre for more details, or just turn up.



Forever Active – we have a new class for the over 50s and those returning to a more active lifestyle. Classes are on Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 noon, and will include a mixture of chair-based and standing exercise. Please contact Ann Catchpole (07799 644053).

FitSteps Low Impact – this is a class created by 'Strictly Come Dancing' stars, where you can dance to keep fit, without a partner. Come along on Thursday mornings, 11.15 am to 12.15.

Walking Football for the over 50s – for those of you who would like to play again but a little more slowly. Please contact the centre and register an interest.

The Ellesmere Centre will be putting on a First Aid training course on a Saturday in May/June, including training on how to use a defibrillator. Please contact the office if you would be interested in attending.

Cooks needed for Lunch Club, to cook a lunch for approx ten to fifteen elderly people one Wednesday each month on a rota basis. Please contact the centre if you think you could help.

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

Auditions for Cinderella

LlamaDrama's next show will be the most popular panto of all, Cinderella, and we are looking for actors of all ages, but particularly adults.



We shall be holding auditions on Thursday 13th April and Tuesday 18th April, in the Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn, CB21 5BS at 7.30 pm (in the Meeting Room – there will be signs to direct you once in The Fulbourn Centre).

We hope to cast adults for the main parts but we have plenty for the younger ones to do as we are adding scenes/characters to make it interesting for the youngsters.

List of characters required: Cinderella (of course! – sweet and lovely), Buttons (Cinders' friend and a 'good guy'), the Wicked Stepmother (horrible and a bully), two Ugly Sisters – two men required (downright ghastly!), Prince Charming (a bit 'wet' but incredibly handsome) and his pal, Dandini (a 'cool dude'), the Queen (strong minded but quite nice, really), the King (off his rocker), Fairy Godmother (likes a tipple), 'Cat' (conniving but basically a good moggie), various animals, the Herald (likes to blow



his own trumpet a lot), guests at the Ball, singing/dancing/variety acts for a Britain's Got Talent section (mostly good, one appallingly bad), other citizens of the kingdom in various scenes (and other

characters to be written in, as mentioned above). Some singing is required for some parts, especially for the Prince and Cinderella.

Rehearsals will start at the end of August, and the pantomime will be performed on Saturday 6th and Saturday 13th January 2018, in The Townley Hall (part of The Fulbourn Centre).

Any queries etc, please don't hesitate to contact the producer, Carole Ransom, at: carole.ransom7@googlemail.com, 01354 694782, or 07720 816714.

Electronic Mail Between Hospitals and GPs

We thought it might be reassuring to explain how letters and discharge summaries sent from hospitals to your GP are dealt with in what is becoming a paperless society!

Your GPs receive the vast majority of clinical letters and discharge summaries from hospitals via our secure NHSmail account. These letters are then imported directly into our clinical system at least twice daily. Each letter is matched to the appropriate patient and forwarded to either the patient's usual GP or the GP who referred the patient, even if the letter is addressed to another GP.

It can be confusing for a patient to be copied in on a letter which is not addressed to their usual GP. However this is because of the way the 'Spine' is set up. The Spine is where all the patient demographics, eg NHS number, address, usual GP, medication, allergies etc is stored.

The reason it might have a different GP name to the one you have been seeing is because the hospitals will use the organisation address of where you are registered and send documents to the senior partner.

Please be assured your letter or discharge summary will be allocated to the correct GP on receipt. The only occasion it might be sent to a different GP is if your normal GP is away and his/her work being covered by another doctor.

As we use one clinical system across all Granta Medical Practices sites, the processing of the clinical post can and does happen at all sites and all staff are fully trained to deal with all the clinical post in a timely manner.

Electronic Referrals – e-Referral

I am sure many of you will have experienced e-Referral (or Choose & Book as it was previously known). For those who haven't, the NHS e-Referral Service is a secure appointment booking service. We will make your first outpatient appointment for you in the first available clinic but you can change or cancel your appointments online, by phone or at your GP surgery. You should make your GP aware of any holiday or dates you are unavailable.

Jane Bertram, Granta Medical Practices, Sawston,
(01223 727526, j.bertram@nhs.net)

Don't Swallow Up Your NHS

Locally, the NHS are running a public campaign to raise awareness and encourage local residents to become more self care aware. As part of this we are urging local residents to buy basic low cost medications – such as paracetamol or antihistamines- from pharmacies instead of getting them on prescription to help save much needed NHS resources.

Sati Ubhi, chief pharmacist, said “We want the public to really think before they visit the GP, is this something that I can treat myself? Is there a medication I can buy for this over the counter? A packet of paracetamol can cost as little as 25p for 16 tablets at a pharmacy, but if you go to your GP with your ache or pain and get a prescription, the total cost to your NHS is approximately £45 (including the GP consultation time, the cost of the medication, and dispensing fee).”

For further information on self-care visit www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/

NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG

DON'T SWALLOW UP YOUR NHS

Last year your local NHS spent over £4 million on prescribing medicines that you can buy easily from local pharmacies, shops or supermarkets. This included:

Pain relief (paracetamol)	Upset stomach treatment	Antihistamines (hayfever)	Heartburn & indigestion treatment	Travel sickness treatment
Cost to your local NHS: £1.5 million	Cost to your local NHS: £1.2 million	Cost to your local NHS: £550,000	Cost to your local NHS: £320,000	Cost to your local NHS: £80,000
Cost for you to buy £0.25 (16 tablets)	Cost for you to buy £1.00 (6 capsules)	Cost for you to buy £2.75 (20 tablets)	Cost for you to buy £2.00 (200ml)	Cost for you to buy £2.30 (10 tablets)

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group

Connecting Communities

Are you finding it difficult to use public transport?

Connecting Communities brings the traditional community transport services such as Dial a Ride, Suffolk Links, and Community Car service under one new single identity.

We are here to assist with any journeys that you are finding difficult to do using public transport – perhaps

you have mobility issues or there simply is no service available where you live.

Our service enables passengers to travel locally, for example to visit friends and relatives, attend medical appointments, take a trip to the shops, and access education and workplaces, linking with other scheduled services.



Connecting Communities operates Monday to Saturday, 7 am until 7 pm. The central booking line, on 01440 712028, is open Monday to Friday, 8 am until 4 pm.

Fun as a Family this Easter?

Book a place on Fenland Explorers, where you can discover, explore, conserve and share nature together.

Community charity Groundwork Cambridgeshire & Peterborough invites you to join the free four-day course in Fenland’s King’s Dyke Nature Reserve. Thanks to funding from Fenland District Council, families with children aged five to eleven years can



explore natural habitats and learn the art of wild play on 6th, 7th, 12th and 13th April.



St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am, unless noted otherwise)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 2 nd April	Songs of Praise (at 4 pm)	John & Scilla Harvey	n/a	Lent	Maggie
Sunday 9 th April (Palm Sunday)	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Sisse	Lent	Pauline
Wednesday 12 th April	Compline (at 7.30 pm)				
Sunday 16 th April EASTER DAY	Holy Communion	Rev Monica Cameron	Alex	All available	Sue
Sunday 23 rd April	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Jenny	Fanny	Fanny
Sunday 30 th April	UNITED SERVICE AT ST MARY'S, WESTON COLVILLE		n/a	Fanny	Jenny

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
	FLOWERS	CLEANING
April	Charlotte	Gay
May	Gay	Katie

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

April 2017

Sat 1	Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling Farmers' Market, Linton
Sun 2	Songs of Praise, West Wrattling
Tues 4	Famine Lunch, Abington Balsham Gardening Club
Wed 5	West Wrattling Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 7	Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
Tues 11	Compline, 7.30, St Mary's
Wed 12	Compline, 7.30, St Andrew's West Wrattling Book Club
Sat 15	St Andrew's Churchyard spring clear up
Thur 20	West Wrattling Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 21	West Wrattling Football – West Ham Legends
Mon 24	West Wickham Gardening Club
Wed 26	'Pub' Quiz, Weston Colville Reading Room
Sun 30	United service, 10 am, St Mary's Deadline, West Wrattling grass cutting tenders

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Wed 3	West Wrattling Over 60s Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room West Wrattling Sports Pavilion AGM
Mon 8	Cutoff for West Wrattling oil syndicate orders WWPC AGM and Parish Meeting
Sat 13	Circular walk from Weston Colville Balsham community Market
Wed 17	Talk on 'Jupiter', Reading Room West Wrattling Book Club
Sat 20	West Wickham Plant Sale

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
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Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
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St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)
 Philippa Coates (290842)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415),
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Black bins: Monday 10th & Tuesday 25th April,
Monday 8th & 22nd May

Blue & green bins: Mon 3rd & Wednesday 19th April,
Tuesday 2nd, Monday 15th & 29th May

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays

High Street, West Wrattling	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:
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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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