

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.

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Changes to Bin Collections

From Monday 27th February, most households across South Cambridgeshire will have a change to the day that their bins are emptied, or their collection time (the time of day the bins are usually emptied). Everyone will still have their black bin emptied one week and their blue and green bins emptied the following week.

All residents affected should have received a leaflet from the council ahead of the changes, with a collection schedule; they can also check the website – www.scambs.gov.uk/bin-changes The new schedule will also be included in the spring South Cambs Magazine (out between 28th February and 19th March).

Black bins will be collected in West Wrating and Weston Colville on MONDAY 27th February, then 13th and 27th March. Blue and green bins will be collected on MONDAYS 6th and 20th March.

Please ensure bins are out for collection by 6 am to avoid missing the collection.

West Wrating Noticeboard Keys

The keys for the two noticeboards in West Wrating (next to the bus stops) are now held by Sue and Mick Lock. If you have anything you would like displayed on the boards, please drop two copies off at 2 The High Street. Please note it's not always possible to display everything.

Diana

St Andrew's Churchyard – Spring Clear-up

The spring clear-up of the churchyard at St Andrew's, West Wrating, 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)

Talk by Alex Inzani – 'Weston Colville: Last Stronghold of the Marsh Tit'



**Wednesday 15th March, 7.30 pm
Weston Colville Reading Room**

Alex has been writing regularly in *Challenge* of his voluntary work for the British Trust for Ornithology with an enthusiastic team of villagers around Weston Colville. Now he's offered to give us a talk, and says: "Marsh Tits have declined sharply across the UK, and Weston contains valuable clues on how to save the species. An unexpected bonus of the study is that the lives and loves of our Marsh Tits has all the intrigue and cliff-hangers of a soap opera . . . you'll never need to listen to 'Eastenders' or 'The Archers' again! Come along for all the juicy gossip on the outrageous scandals happening right in your gardens and woods, thinly disguised as respectable scientific research. You will also get the chance to name your local Marsh Tits for science and posterity.

Donations towards the work are most welcome. All are welcome, and refreshments will be available.

*Jacqueline Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)*

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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

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

February's Tea and Cakes saw a fantastic turn out, and even though we have been going now for almost two years, there were still some new faces. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 3rd March, 3.30 - 5 pm, in the Reading Room. Tea and Cakes is for everyone, young and old, and everything in between. Please come along to enjoy each others' company with a cuppa and a slice of cake. This month will see the debut of our new football table (many thanks to Alan).

Melanie

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

There was another wonderful gathering at the cafe on 4th February. We thoroughly enjoyed the stalls with homemade goods from Granta School, West Wrattling honey and homemade fudge! Eloise raised £25 on the bookstall, which will go to charity for Parkinson's.

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 4th March between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. There is always a play corner set up for kids, a bookstall with second hand books, and table tennis for those fancying a game.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our next circular walk will be on Saturday 4th March. Meet at the Reading Room at 10 am, 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.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

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West Wrattling Over 60s

The club will resume its monthly meetings in the village hall on Wednesday 1st March at 2.30 pm. There will be a brief financial report, subscriptions will be collected, and the usual bring'n'buy and raffle. We will meet next on 5th April.

Wendy Halls

d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrattling, AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the club will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16th March at the home of Colin and Sissie McCall, The Old Vicarage, West Wrattling (01223 290036). All existing members welcome.

Cal Wilson

St Andrew's Church Roof Repair Fund

Steve Edwards' Christmas cards raised £500 in December. The Progressive Supper donations raised £670 in January. Many thanks to all who contributed to these fundraisers.

Sherry



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Extension of Helping Hands to Weston Colville

We are glad to say that Helping Hands has now extended its service (Balsham, West Wrattling, West Wickham) to include Weston Colville. If you need transport to medical appointments, eg hospital, GP surgery, dentist, opticians, ring 07399 263222 at least a couple of days before your appointment and the coordinator will do their best to arrange a driver for you. Charge is 30p per mile.

If you have any questions, please email suanrowland@btinternet.com



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Weston Colville Cinema Club

On 1st March, the film will be 'The Draughtsman's Contract', a British film made in 1982 starring Janet Suzman and Anthony Higgins. Directed by Peter Greenaway and underscored throughout by the wonderful music of Michael Nyman, it's a sumptuous



feast for the eye and ear, a murder mystery full of puzzles and clues and one of the very best British movies of the past forty years.

For our April film, something a little radical, we're screening it in March! It'll be shown on Wednesday, 29th March, and Jacqueline's chosen a favourite oldie of hers: 'Possession' tells parallel tales of romance across time, beautifully shot in London, Lincoln and Yorkshire. No need to take our word for it, though –

'Possession' is based on the Booker Prize-winning novel by A S Byatt, where two of the four main characters are university professors. The Guardian characterises it as 'an acid satire on academia'.

Both films 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 Wrattling Oil Syndicate

There will be a fill up this month, with the cutoff for orders being Monday 6th March at 6.00 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at richardholness023@btinternet.com (if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'Phone day before for gate to be unlocked' etc.

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always buy at the best possible price and improve your cashflow to boot!

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Richard Holness

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Personal Assistants Required

Due to several changes in circumstances we now have vacancies for two Personal Assistants for the following periods: Friday evening 8 pm, Saturday morning 8 am and evening 7 pm, Monday morning 7.15/30 am and evening 8 pm, Tuesday morning 7.15/30 am. The job role is to give personal assistance to a young man with complex care and health needs living in West Wrattling, there is no challenging behaviour involved. We offer a good rate of pay.

Any interested person please call James or Sarah Warren on 01223 291236 or email sarah@millendcam.co.uk for more information.

James and Sarah Warren

Speed Watch Teams Coordinator

Cambridgeshire police are actively looking for someone to take on the role of volunteer coordinator of Speed Watch Teams in South Cambridgeshire. There could be more than one, as there are a lot of teams.

Anybody interested should please contact PC Paul Jenkins at speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk

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Parish Clerk Vacancy

Weston Colville Parish Council has a vacancy for the key role of parish clerk. This is a paid post for an average four and a half hours work per week, although the actual hours worked per week will vary. Apart from parish council meetings, when the hours are worked is largely up to the clerk.

The parish clerk is responsible for all administrative duties of the council (and its associated charities, which require minimal work once or twice a year) and for keeping the council finances in order, including ensuring that payments are made in a timely manner. It is also vital that the clerk is able to attend parish council meetings, which are held six times per year.

Training will be provided, and support is always available from parish council members

If interested, please apply to the council chairman, Ray Vidler, by phoning him on 01223 290010.

Granta Deanery Spring Fair

Can you contribute anything for the Deanery Spring Fair? The fair will be held on 4th March, 10 am to 12 noon, at Great Shelford Village Hall. Balsham, West Wrattling, West Wickham and Weston Colville are collecting for a toy and jigsaw stall, and the Abingtons and Hildersham would like donations of produce (jams etc). Gill (893012) is coordinating the toys etc and Marilyn (893214) the produce stall. Offers to help on the day would be much appreciated!

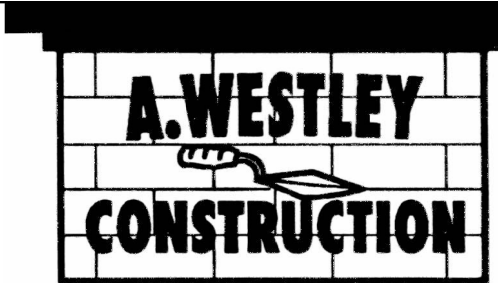


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Ministry News

March 1st is Ash Wednesday and we will be holding Ash Wednesday services at 10.30 am at Holy Trinity, Balsham and in the evening at 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity, Hildersham. Ely Diocese has posted online a five session Lent Course, with a booklet that can be downloaded, together with music on Youtube and recorded testimonies on the website itself (www.elydiocese.org/worship-and-servcies/lent17) so our diocese can be said to have embraced the digital age! As we are in the vacancy period, I recommend that we all use the Diocesan Lent Course as a resource this year, either as individuals or in small groups.

This month sees the completion of our Parish Profile which is to be sent to all clergy who are considering applying for the post of our Parish Priest. Copies have been placed in all our churches. Under the rules of the diocese we have had to put forward a new name for our group of seven churches, and we are now to be called the Granta Vale Group of churches. As I have said in a previous letter, please do pray for the right priest to be appointed to be our new pastor. Your prayers are really important.

On the first Friday in March every year is the Women's World Day of Prayer. This year's event has been prepared by the women of the Philippine churches, which promises to be a lively event. Our service will be on Friday, March 3rd at 10.30 am at Holy Trinity, Hildersham.

Bishop Stephen Conway, the Bishop of Ely, will be coming to preach at St Mary's, Great Abington, at 3.00 pm on Sunday March 19th. This will be a Festal Evensong for the Rededication of St Mary's now that the new kitchen and conveniences are completed. The date, March 19th, is really appropriate as it is the Feast of St Joseph. Joseph was not just a carpenter. He was

Nazareth's house builder and ran a business in the High Street, now converted into a church!

Mothering Sunday this year will be on March 26th, and for those of us who have recovered from St Valentine's Day, there will be a new set of emotions to enjoy, as we all give thanks for our mothers and for all they have done for us!

Finally good news from West Wrating! St Andrew's church is now under a huge scaffolding roof as the work of repairing the damage done by the lead thieves last April is now underway. Our thanks are due to all the generous charities who have made donations and especially to those generous individuals who have given to the repair fund since last April.

Rev Keith Johnson



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Fundraising Request

Hello, Challenge readers. I am Oliver de Ferrars Green and I will be traveling 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 engineer a safer way of life for people who are less fortunate than us.



The trip inspires the idea of fundraising to help get the necessary funds to go out to Peru, most of which goes to the charity which builds up the country. This is where you can help.

What I am going to do is to sell old and unused DVDs, CDs, games (Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo) etc on sites such as Music Magpie, or to anyone who is interested. What I need is for you to donate these, and when they are sold, you can decide whether you want a cut of the profit, or if you think all of the money can go towards the charity to help fund my trip.

You will be able to drop off items at The Old Hall, on the High Street in West Wrating, any time from now. Mondays and Fridays or any time at the weekend will

be best. Or I can come and collect from you if you send me an email (deferrarsgreen@btinternet.com) or call me on 01223 290998. This will run for the foreseeable future.

Please help me with my fundraising efforts. Remember that every penny counts towards a good cause and as long as you have an unwanted CD, DVD or game, you can help.

Thank you.

Oliver de Ferrars Green

Cat Found

A beautiful, long-haired, male, black and white cat turned up in our stable in early February. The vet says he is about 10 - 12 years old. He is very affectionate and would very much like to be reunited with his



owner. I am guessing he may belong to somebody who has just moved to the area or has recently moved away, as in my experience this is the time cats most frequently go missing. Please can you give me a call if you can help find his home. Many thanks,

Melanie (07890 296998)

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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

According to tradition, Valentine's Day is when birds pair up and go off to the woods to set up home and make babies (no, I haven't just made that up).

Our study is showing that this appears to be true for our Marsh Tits.

Take Y291375 "Red over Black on Left". Joyce Oliver has named it "Rob", which is very apt. This young rogue or roquette – we can't tell which yet – was alloy ringed as a teenager in Lower Wood almost exactly a year ago. He/she hung around Lower Wood for March and possibly through the rest of the breeding season, but we don't know for sure. The next time it surfaced was on 22nd January 2017, chobbling away on Joyce's feeders, when it gained its smart colour rings. This didn't put it off its food or Joyce's garden, as it continued to empty her sunflower hearts and fat balls with gusto through into February, then doing the same to Jackie's across Mill Hill road, before returning to Joyce's for pudding a few days later. Then returning to do the same to Jackie! (Rob is clearly a relentless eating machine, whose need for seed in the cold drove it to prove that Marsh Tits can and do cross Mill Hill road).

But on 18th February, Duncan Mackay spotted Rob back in Lower Wood. I think love may be in the air for our little feathered friend . . .)



©Duncan Mackay 2017

Many thanks for the consistently detailed sightings and photos from John Rogers, Joyce Oliver, Jackie Brearley, Ben Eeles, David Sharp, Mel Stammers and Duncan Mackay, without which we couldn't see into the fast-moving 'lives on the edge' of these endangered little birds.

More will be revealed during my talk at the Reading Room on the Ides of March (15th), when I shall – quite appropriately – delve into the Macchiavellian machinations that Marsh Tits can get up to. Don't let their cuteness fool you . . .

Shameless plug over! Have a great start to spring :)

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

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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

Please send us your contributions, events,
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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

This month two men were displaying suspicious activities in Carlton. They were seen looking through windows but may have been legitimate. Suspicions like this should be reported to the police on either 101 or 999, with car numbers if available. If the police are not told they can do nothing. There was also a report of a breakin on the airfield, near the war memorial.

Activities reported from the South Cambs police area include the following: items have been stolen from homes, gardens, commercial sites, vans and cars this past month. The items included garden tools, garden machinery and power tools, jewellery, cash, copper, a cooker, clothing, a bicycle, a motor cycle and vehicle number plates. There was also an attempted theft of an ATM machine from a post office.

The police view much of this as opportunist crime and have provided some security ideas. To make our vehicles and homes less of a target, please ensure that all doors and windows are shut and locked. With cars make sure that the electronic locking has worked by manually checking the doors. Don't leave items on display and don't leave valuables in your vehicle. Remove Sat-Navs. Don't keep registration documents

and insurance certificates in the car. Never leave house keys inside your vehicle or where someone else can pick them up. In short, just don't make your vehicle or home a target. As a word of comfort, the police say South Cambridgeshire remains one of the safest places to live in the UK.

Have you heard of the Bobby Scheme? If you are 60 or over, and have been a victim of crime or domestic abuse, please contact the Bobby Scheme for help and advice. Their 'Bobbies' not only fit security equipment to the homes of the elderly but also give safety advice, which helps victims feel safe in their own homes again. They offer the same service to non-victims for a small donation, and are a charity supported by the police. To talk, call 01480 413311 or 07866 602100, or click www.thebobbyscheme.org/.

The Police and Crime Commissioner provides reports. For his latest news click www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Connect-Newsletter-February-2017.pdf
Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

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The Meadow School

Ever heard the phrase, ‘Be careful what you wish for’? Well we experienced this recently when we received ‘the call’ at lunchtime on a Wednesday from Ofsted to say they were coming the next day for a two day inspection. As we had been waiting for this we immediately put our plan into action. The staff were amazing, rallying around to support each other, checking everything was tidy, helping each other to set up classrooms for the following day, gathering evidence ready, and checking all the displays were looking super smart. We all had takeaway together on the Wednesday evening to settle nerves and then people started to drift away late in the evening.

Ofsted inspections can make or break a school and the people who work within it. When your school has been in Special Measures, you are being judged constantly and you know how much it means to the community and the staff to prove how much things have changed, so an inspection is perhaps even more high stakes and pressurised. We had a team of three inspectors, who were all secondary school specialists, not ideal for a primary school I have to say. This, added to the new far tougher inspection framework introduced last year, provided two days of extreme challenge. I won’t lie; the pressure we were all under for the 48 hours was like nothing I have experienced before, and knowing that people can and do lose their jobs if things don’t go well was a hard thing to put to the back of your mind. The desire of each and every member of the staff team to show off what we have achieved was evident, and the team effort was absolutely amazing. We were very well supported by our parental community too, and inundated with cakes and food to keep us going as we worked a couple of ridiculously long days.

What I am immensely proud of is that we kept our promise of doing things for us and our children and not for Ofsted. There was no show put on that we would struggle to maintain for two days – we still did Forest School and trailed mud through school, we carried on as normal. We stuck to what we believe in and practise on a daily basis. We were confident in these beliefs and morals, and our passion for learning was clear. The children were fantastic ambassadors and also made no exceptions for the inspectors; there was absolutely no preferential treatment given in the lunch queue, and the memory of the child who was incredibly sick at the feet of an inspector shall forever stay with me!

There are always going to be things that schools need to work on and anyone who thinks differently is not being honest. The problems arise when you aren’t aware of these things. We have a very detailed School Improvement Plan that we write and develop each year in line with our school priorities which now continues as does the rest of life in school.

I couldn’t be prouder of everyone. I genuinely love my job and feel privileged to work with such a talented team and fantastic children and families. A huge thank you to the whole community for all of your support over these past few years. As I write this we are still awaiting our official report and I am unable to share the judgements with the staff (still!) or community. As soon as I am able to share the news I will!

We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham. Take a peek!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

International Women’s Day, on 8th March, is a calendar event more commonly celebrated in other European countries. While some may question the ongoing necessity of such a day, the fact that we still witness women being denied equal rights and opportunities on account of their gender suggests that there remain equality issues that need addressing.

This year’s theme, ‘Be Bold for Change’, is a plea for action to quash and challenge practices, laws and customs that prevent women from living full and equal lives. While it may be easy to cite international

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examples in which women are the victims of unfair treatment, there are also causes closer to home.

Recent gender pay gap research confirms that despite girls traditionally outperforming boys in examinations and greater numbers of women entering higher education, after a short period in their early careers pay and promotion are very unequal for most of women's working lives. Furthermore, Harvard Business Journal highlights that only 24% of senior management roles are held by women, and only 5% of executive positions. These stark statistics seem quite incongruous in 2017, as does the concept that women are literally 'worth less' in terms of an hourly pay rate.

The gender gap has dramatically narrowed at LVC. In 2016, boys' academic performance was equally matched to girls, unlike previous cohorts. Despite the results showing parity between the sexes, the profile of intervention groups appeared to confirm entrenched gender stereotypes: pockets of girls deficient in confidence and self-esteem, and some boys lacking intrinsic motivation and work ethic.

Despite much progress being made in terms of gender equality, there is still work to do to counter fixed mind-sets and barriers for the benefit of both sexes. Pervasive views about 'laddish' and 'girly' behaviours, excusatory phrases such as 'boys will be boys' and notions of 'girls' subjects' and career paths need tackling too.

While gender has become a more fluid notion in modern day society, the ambition for all people to have the opportunity to be happy and successful remains a central motivation for schooling and one that over fifty teachers meeting at LVC on 8th March will be championing.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal



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- You may visit local groups, chat with people and record what they have to say.

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As a Community Listener, you could also train to take part in our visits to local health or care services. We have a legal right to visit places that provide publicly funded health or care services, to see and hear how people experience care. In the last year, we have visited Addenbrooke's and Hinchingsbrooke Hospitals.

Contact Heather or Elizabeth for an informal chat (01480 420628, enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk) or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

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Saturday 4th March
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Entrance: Adults 50p, Children free

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1st Horseheath Brownies

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again this year. If you don't have any children or a school to pass your vouchers on to please save them for the Brownies. They can be placed in the box in Horseheath Post Office or put through our letterbox, Ranmoor, Haverhill Road, Horseheath.

Pauline, Katie and Laurené

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Our Safe and Well visit will provide us with sufficient information to support you and, with your permission, refer you to selected partner agencies who will be able to support you further. We will not share your data with marketing companies or for other purposes.

Our visit will last no longer than an hour, and is completely FREE of charge. Our visit will assess five key elements:

1. Fire safety in the home, including cooking, general safety and escape plans.
2. Falls prevention, including simple remedial action such as replacing lightbulbs or taping down loose carpet.
3. Alcohol use – alcohol related illness in the over 65s is on the increase. We can provide you with helpful information.
4. Stay well and warm – can you afford to heat your home? Do you have access to a hot meal? Do you have access to all the services available to you?
5. Crime reduction – we can provide advice on making your home more secure, in addition to advice to make you less vulnerable to scams or fraud.

You are under no obligation to answer any questions that you do not want to, but the more information you provide us with, the better we will be able to support you. We can also provide advice in relation to promoting the health and safety of individuals with hoarding concerns, as well as providing valuable information to care providers.

We will also be raising awareness of the fire risks associated with smoking, with national No Smoking Day on 8th March. We often find smoking is one of many factors making someone more at risk of fire, for

example, when combined with poor mobility, health problems or being elderly, it increases someone's chance of having a fire.

Here are some tips to take on board or give to friends and family who smoke:

- Never leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Always use a proper ashtray and make sure the contents are cold before you tip it in the bin.
- Never smoke in bed, and avoid smoking in a chair if you are likely to fall asleep.

Most importantly, fit a working smoke alarm and test it regularly. Don't forget to also test the smoke alarms of those you love. If you have an elderly or vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour, pop by and make sure they have a working smoke alarm. If they don't, that is something we can provide as part of a Safe and Well visit.

To find out if you are eligible for a Safe and Well visit, enquire online, or telephone 0800 917 9994. Visit our website and search for "Safe and Well"

For more information visit www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow us on social media, or call 01480 444500.

Granta Medical Practices

The partners of Granta Medical Practices and Barley Practice have taken the decision to merge the two partnerships. Both Granta and Barley are strong practices and very well respected in the local health community; the merger will build on that strength and ensure patients continue to receive the best possible service in the future.

The merger of Sawston and Linton has enabled us to recruit two Emergency Care Practitioners (paramedics), helping us improve care to the frail and elderly in their homes. Working with SCDC we are

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As always, we appreciate the support and interest of our patients and both Practice Managers are very happy to respond to your comments.

Correspondence address: Granta Medical Practices
London Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3HU
Tel: 01223 727555 Fax: 01223 836096

Linton Health Centre Opening Times

Please note that Linton Health Centre has changed its opening times and is now open from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

about to have patient advocates in the practices to assist patients to get access to all the community services available. The Mental Health trusts are placing Community Psychiatric Nurses in the practices, giving our patients direct access to these services. These are just a few of the services we will now be able to offer directly rather than referring to other organisations.

Initially, we suspect that patients will notice very little difference! Patients will be able to choose to attend any site. All sites will continue to provide all the current services for patients and, over time, we hope to be able to provide more services shared between the sites. An example would be extended 8 am - 8 pm opening hours; neither practice could comfortably offer such extended hours alone, but together that becomes more feasible and this is certainly a better option than having to travel to Chesterton for out-of-hours care.

On 26th April the patients' records and computer system will merge and this will require both practices to close from 1 pm on 25th April and open again at 1 pm on 26th April. The out of hours service will be available to our patients during this time.

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Balsham Gardening Club

At the February meeting, Alice Warley shared her hints and tips on growing for showing. Alice has been showing her plants and produce at the Balsham show for 37 years, so has plenty of experience to draw on. She provided lots of information on growing a wide variety of plants and produce, aiming to have the best possible veg/plants/flowers on the day of the Show, and for this Alice has three golden rules:

1. Balance heat and light – too much heat / not enough light gives weak spindly plants
2. Look after the roots – strong root systems produce strong plants
3. Don't do everything on the same day – plan ahead for best results.

Following a plea from Sue Lock for more committee members, Victor Plumb has volunteered and Harold Gawthorp has decided to rejoin the committee and reinstate his topical tips for the month.

Lyn Bobrow is taking bookings now for this year's outings to Dullingham House on 6th June and to Wisley on Sunday 30th July.

The next meeting of the Balsham Gardening Club will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th March, at the Meadow School, when Veronica Bennett will talk on 'Gardens of the National Trust'.

The 40th anniversary meeting on Tuesday 4th April will be a Gardener's Question Time format with Peter Jackson, Harold Gawthorp and Val Spencer answering your gardening questions. Copies of a question form will be available at the March meeting. If you have a question you would like included, please complete and return a form to Jean Segars. Non members' questions can be tabled at the event.

Jennie Tipler

Harold's Topical Tips for March:

- Cut down herbaceous plants and grasses.
- Plant bare rooted trees and shrubs.
- Plant shallots – cell trays work well. A cold frame or cold greenhouse will suffice.
- Hard prune winter jasmine and apply fertiliser.
- Hard prune clematis that flower after mid summer.
- Prune autumn flowering raspberries.
- Order summer flowering bulbs.

- Order seeds and seed potatoes. Set potatoes up to 'chit'.
- Mulch asparagus.
- Lift and divide overcrowded snowdrops and aconites.

West Wickham Gardening Club

In February West Wickham and District Gardening Club enjoyed a talk on 'Wildflowers of Britain' by Barry Gayton, which he illustrated with his own photographs. We had been let down by our planned speaker at the last moment, and Barry very kindly agreed to take his place. He is an enthusiastic speaker with a wide knowledge of plants, wild or cultivated.

Our talk next month, on March 20th, will be 'How to Grow Dahlias' by Rob and Denise Sherriff. They will bring dahlias for sale, so don't forget to put some money in your pocket.

The time is approaching when we can begin to look forward to another gardening year. Our club members will be sowing vegetable and flower seeds and potting up a variety of plants for our sale in May, so please keep that in mind. Further information from me.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

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).

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St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
5 th March	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Jenny	Lent	Pauline
12 th March	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Alex	Lent	Sue
19 th March	Holy Communion	Rev Cathy Bishop	Sisse	Lent	Maggie
26 th March (Mothering Sunday)	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Fanny	Mothers' Day posies	Jenny

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

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

March 2017

Wed 1	West Wratting Over 60s Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
Fri 3	Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville First Friday bridge, West Wratting
Sat 4	Farmers' Market, Linton Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting Circular walk from Weston Colville Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Great Shelford Linton Jazz concert, LVC
Mon 6	Cutoff for West Wratting oil syndicate orders
Tues 7	Balsham Gardening Club
Sat 11	Community Market, Balsham
Mon 13	West Wratting Parish Council meeting
Wed 15	Talk on Marsh Tits, Reading Room
Thur 16	West Wratting Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree Tennis Club AGM, West Wratting
Mon 20	West Wickham Gardening Club
Wed 22	West Wratting Book Club
Fri 24	Quiz Night, Meadow School
Sun 26	Mothering Sunday
Wed 29	Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room

April 2017

Sat 1	Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting Farmers' Market, Linton
Sun 2	Songs of Praise, West Wratting
Fri 7	Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville First Friday bridge, West Wratting
Sat 15	St Andrew's Churchyard spring clear up

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

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Philippa Coates (290842)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415),
Alex Walsham (291491)

Parish Council Clerks:

Weston Colville – Christine King,
wpcp@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wratting – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

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

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Monday 13th & 27th March,
Monday 10th & **Tuesday 25th** April

Blue & green bins: Monday 6th & 20th March,
Monday 3rd & **Wednesday 19th** April

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays

High Street, West Wratting	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.

April issue's copy date: Monday 20th March