



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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Christingle Family Service



West Wrating Church

Sunday 3rd December, 4 - 5 pm

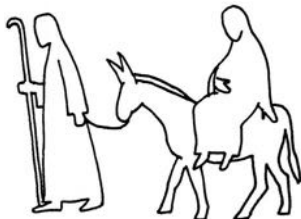
Tea, Mulled Wine and Cakes afterwards

Kids - come to prepare the craft for this
on Saturday 2nd December during the
Village Hall Café, 10.30 am

St Mary's, Weston Colville

CRIB SERVICE

24th December, 4.30 pm



Please join us for our informal celebration of
Christmas for families.

If you are ten years or under, we would love your
help to enact the Nativity story.

Please get in touch with Jane Wheeler for more
information – jane@janepryor.co.uk



CHRISTMAS STARTS HERE!

Tuesday 19th December at 7.30 pm
A dramatized reading of Dickens'

A Christmas Carol with live music



in St Mary's Church by candlelight,
followed by mulled wine and festive food.

Come in Victorian dress if you wish,
or your festive best.

£10, children free, tickets available from
Weston Colville Post Office or on the door.

With Thanks

I'd like to give my usual thanks to everybody
involved with **Challenge**, especially those hardy souls
who distribute and deliver it throughout the year, to
the advertisers whose support allows it to be
distributed free of charge to every household in both
villages, and of course everybody who sends articles,
news, and reports. Thank you all.

Anne

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West Wrattling Over 60s

As the year draws to a close, the club's final meeting for 2017 will be Christmas luncheon at The Chestnut Tree, West Wrattling, on Wednesday 6th December at 12.30 pm. Please remember to bring along your raffle prize.



I would like to thank the ladies who, in the summer, kindly opened their gardens for club meetings.

Wendy Halls



Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

December's gathering, on Friday 1st, will be a festive one, with mince pies and mulled wine on offer as well as other refreshments.



We look forward to seeing everyone and getting the festive season off to a good start: 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room.

Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 2nd December between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall.

The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to donate and serve cakes every month. There is always a play corner set up for kids, and a bookstall with second hand books.



There will also be mulled wine and Christmas themed arts and crafts for the kids! Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake.

The café is organising a little movers dance morning on Saturday 27th January for preschoolers in the area, followed by lunch. Let us know if your little ones are interested in joining in. More details to follow in early January.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Seniors – Something For Us?

Would we like to have a regular meeting in the Reading Room at Weston Colville? It is warm, comfortable, and even has a screen, but there is nothing for our age group at present.

We could share ideas and decide what we would like to do. There will be hot drinks, and please do bring a few goodies to share.

Let's make this work. We can do it if we want to.

The Reading Room will be open from 2.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd January; there will be a reminder in January's Challenge.

Just come along, chat and enjoy. It's up to us.

'Elderly' Allen



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Pop-Up Pub

Many thanks to the (nearly a hundred!) people who popped in for a pint at the pop-up pub in November. It was a great night. So we'll do it all over again on Friday 12th January from 6.30. Food details will be confirmed nearer the time. Miss it, miss out!



Jeremy Newton (newtonjed@gmail.com)

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will not be a West Wratting syndicate fill up this month as we don't get a worthwhile price reduction in the run up to Christmas. The next one will be in January 2018, with Monday 8th January at 6 pm being the cutoff for orders. Happy Christmas!

Richard Holness

West Wratting Pink Evening

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's event on Friday 3rd November. We are pleased to announce that we made £581.50, and this is winging its way to Cancer Research UK.

In total, all five of the Pink Evenings have now raised £2,519.75. Many thanks.

Karen Arnott (290242)

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at 7.00 pm

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Mulled wine and mince pies served during the interval

In aid of the

John Chaplin Open Church Project

Tickets available from: The Village Shop, Anne Hall (892275), Marilyn Broadhurst (893214), Mary Miles (891083), Tony Collett (893447)

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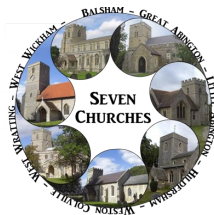
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Ministry Matters

By the time you read this Christmas preparations will be well and truly underway, the shops heaving with Christmas gifts and baubles; I have made my Christmas puddings and hope to do the cake soon – small job done ahead of the frantic round of expectations we put on ourselves at this time of year. In the midst of all this perhaps we could imagine a small child looking up at the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and see the wonder in her eyes at this magnificent sight, using it as a moment to stop and stare. Hang on to those precious moments and treasure them ready to remember next year.



As the temperature drops there are predictions of -13 degrees; that will also add to the memories in years to come of this particular winter and Christmas season.

There are many joys that we can share together in our communities: concerts in church, carol services, and nativity plays that always bring a tear to the eye. All households will have a Christmas card to let you know what services are scheduled. It would be good to share those moments with you, and a chance to be in the moment when heaven meets earth.



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For many, Christmas is a family time to gather together and spend time enjoying each other's company. As we relive shared memories, spare a thought for those who are alone this Christmas; maybe a neighbour who feels isolated and would appreciate a cheery word.

In the vacancy we have managed to cover the Christmas services as we did last year, and I know we are very grateful to the many who offer their time to keep us going. Next year we hope to have a new Rector to work with us. Interviews will take place soon. Please pray for the right appointment.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Kathy Bishop

Insurance

To celebrate their 130th anniversary, church insurance company Ecclesiastical Insurance is offering a donation of £130 to the local church for every new home insurance policy taken out prior to 30th September 2018. To take advantage of this offer, visit www.ecclesiastical.com/TRUST130 or call 0800 7830130 and quote TRUST130. The PCC treasurers for St Mary's and St Andrew's will have the policy references for their churches.



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Progressive Supper, Saturday 20th January

There has been a great response to this – thank you. Our plans are underway but there is still time to add your name to the list. Please pay £5 per person to confirm your willingness to take part, by Sunday 17th December – an envelope through the door (The Lodge, 74 High Street or 33 The Common) with your name(s) on it would be perfect.

We will confirm receipt of payment by email and we will contact you again early in January to give more information about the evening.

Sherry (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

Tamara (tamara.keith@gmail.com)

Save the Children Coffee Morning Thanks

Thank you so much for the great support you continually give the Save the Children Linton & District group. The fund raising coffee morning held in November at Mulberry Cottage, by kind invitation of Cassie and Martin Walshe, was once again a happy and well attended occasion, and raised £547.31, which I think is an amazing amount to be collected in such a short time. Well done everyone, and again our thanks.

Jenny Richards

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West Wrattling Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 11th December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last financial year will be presented. All interested residents of our village are welcome to attend.

Mike Rowland (290788), Anne Catchpole (290967)

Litter Picking – Your Village Needs You!

For many years, a small but dedicated group has used some of their spare time to collect and dispose of litter others have left on our verges and footpaths. Despite their best and continued efforts, more needs to be done than the current numbers can deal with.

Volunteers to join the team are sought, particularly for Six Mile Bottom Road, Weston Colville. Bin bags and litter grabbers can be provided. Please contact Colin McCall (290988) if you could offer any time to help keep our villages litter free. Thank you.

Weston Colville Parish Council

**Holy Trinity Church, Balsham
Christmas Tree Festival**

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December

Saturday 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

Sunday 11.00 am - 4.30 pm

Carol Service on Sunday at 5.00 pm

Adults £2.00, Children 50p (under 5s free)

Home made Christmas produce stall

Christmas Raffle

Café with homemade treats

Bottle Stall (Saturday only)

Children's Activity – make a Christingle candle



The Chestnut Tree

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to our Beer Festival, and also to our team and everyone else who

helped to make it another great weekend. We raised an amazing £1,550, so thanks again!

We are also happy to let you know that we have, for the fifth year running, been selected for entry in The Good Beer Guide for 2018. This means an awful lot to us and we hope that you all continue to enjoy our varied selection of real ales. We also now have an extensive selection of gins served with Fever Tree tonics, which are going down a storm.

With regards to food, we now serve award winning Pieminister Pies which are proving very popular. Handmade using only British meat and free range chicken, and cooked from fresh, they are the perfect comfort food now that winter is setting in. Recently we also had another inspection from Environmental Health and are happy to have again been awarded five stars for food safety.

With Christmas just around the corner our Festive Menu is now available. If you would like to book please give us a call or pop in for a menu. We will be open for our usual hours throughout the Christmas period, with the exception of the following changes:

CHRISTMAS DAY ~ open lunchtime from 12.00 to 2.30 pm for drinks only. Closed in the evening.

BOXING DAY ~ open lunchtime from 12.00 to 4.00 pm for drinks only. Closed in the evening.

WEDNESDAY 27th ~ open lunchtime from 12.00 to 3.00 pm and evening 5.30 to 10.30, both for drinks only.

THURSDAY 28th ~ open as usual lunch time with food being served from 12.00 to 2.00 pm.

Evening Quiz from 7.30; maximum of four people per team, £1 entry per person. All entry fees will be paid out in cash prizes.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY ~ please come and join us to see in the New Year with lots of great music, complimentary buffet, and fireworks.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH ~ if you are feeling a little delicate, why not join us for a full English, or just a bacon butty and a cuppa from 12.00 to 2.00 pm. Booking advisable. Bar open until 4.00 then closed for the evening.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Peter & Rachel

The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

We are pleased to advise that this year the Trust presented two awards. The successful applicants were Isabelle Passmore of West Wrating, who has gone off to read history at Exeter University, and Simon Beale from West Wrating, who is studying Computer Science at Warwick University.



Congratulations to them both, and we wish them every success in the future.

They are both pictured receiving their cheques for £800 in front of the war memorial stone at RAF Wrating Common from trustees Colin McCall, Simon Keen, and Jonathan Drury.



Ten young people from our villages have now been helped by the Trust. Many have now achieved their degrees and have embarked on successful careers. It is always very pleasing to hear how they are progressing and how they value the help the Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust provided.

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We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2018. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year, and the amount is approximately £800.

Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following: Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine. The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrattling Common airfield (Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Williingham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville, and Withersfield). The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

The final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and university offers are known. For further information about the Trust and award, please contact Jonathan Drury on 01223 2909681. For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31st March 2018.

Jonathan Drury

West Wrattling Book Club

For November we read 'The Shepherd's Life' by James Rebanks, the Herdwick Shepherd.

One person thought it was very well written and absolutely captivating, which might sound a bit odd given that it is about sheep. Others found it thoroughly enjoyable, refreshingly different. As it was, in general, written season by season, it was occasionally disjointed. It describes the very gruelling life that people who devote their lives to raising sheep endure, with the harsh climate in the Lake District, the need for constant surveillance of the flocks, and their welfare and the relationships involved. It was a fascinating insight into a way of life that is quite alien to most of us, how it occupies every minute of every day, the different seasons of breeding, lambing, and herding, and the role of sheepdogs. It was thought that not many authors could rise to the challenge of describing sheep farming in such detail and make it so interesting to people from different walks of life. It gives one a realisation of how the locals, particularly the sheep farmers, viewed the invasion of tourists, especially

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walkers to what is in effect, their workplace. Later the author's view of such people was mellowed by his experience of working in the city, giving him an understanding of their need to escape. The description of the effects of the foot and mouth outbreak and the lack of government understanding of the importance of these special sheep and their relationship with the Lake District was particularly heartbreaking. It was also another example, as in 'The Hillbilly Elegy', of someone who had done badly at school being helped by a relative, in this case his mother, and the family's love of books, as well as a girlfriend supporting and helping him to fulfil his academic ability. Scores ranged between 8 and 9, and all would recommend it.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30 for 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree. The book to read for December is 'The Reader on the 6.27' by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent. The January book will be 'Down and Out in Paris and London' by George Orwell; date to be confirmed.

Linda Gorman



BURROUGH GREEN CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**Saturday
9th December**

10.30 am - 4.00 pm

Reading Room, Burrough Green

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



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Weston Colville History Exhibition

We've been sifting through records and photos of our village, including items from the Cambridgeshire Collection, the County Archive, and the Village Archive that Roger Whitehead and Tim Cockerill gathered together over fifteen years with a lot of local help. We'll show a selection of these in the Reading Room this winter.

Exhibition features:

- 'A Talk Back in Time' by 'the twins' (Rosemary and Maureen), sharing their stories and memories of our village: Sunday 31st December, 3 pm
- A chance to enjoy once more something you've seen before, and maybe something new . . . about your part of the village, or your cottage?
- We'd love to include any photos you have, maybe stories you know of your house or Weston Colville, or recordings you have – please get in touch by 10th December.
- Trail for children to enjoy the exhibition.

The exhibition will be on in the Reading Room for a week, from Saturday 30th December until Friday 5th January, 2 - 5 pm. Donations, under 18s and over 60s free. All ages welcome, refreshments will be available. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com or 291475.



Christmas Presents?

A variety of home-made preserves is available to accompany your Christmas meals. Please contact Jackie Brearley on 290076 or jcb78@cam.ac.uk.



Weston Colville Cinema Club

On Wednesday 6th December, it'll be a Judy Garland film with a Christmas scene, and on Wednesday 3rd January we're showing a tale of farmers in Provence that will hopefully delight you. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website: www.thereadingroom.org.uk. Alternatively, email to subscribe to our mailing list. Both evenings will start at 7.30 pm with a pre-screening talk; admission by voluntary donation; refreshments will be available; all are welcome. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.



Circular Walk

On a dry November morning we had a ratio of roughly 1.5 people to 1 dog (10:6) for an enjoyable if somewhat muddy walk to Willingham Green and back. Back at the Reading Room we shared colcannon soup and raspberry tart, among other things.



We're next heading out on

New Year's Day at the later time of **11 am** for approximately five miles. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share.



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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Welcome back, Leanne, who says: "I am pleased to say that I am back as your local PCSO again, so if you require any help or advice please do not hesitate to contact me".

Criminal activity has reached out to Weston Colville and West Wrattling recently, in Wrattling Common, Mill Lane, Bull Lane then Church End, Mill Hill and Weston Green. There have been burglaries, thefts and damage involving homes, sheds, gardens, and vehicles. Ground floor windows have been jemmied open or taken out, and items stolen from vehicles: flower pots, chimney pots, lead tools and equipment, including a fishing tackle and a vibrator plate, cash, cameras, watches, and a bracelet.

To improve our security the police suggest locking ground floor windows and putting the key(s) in a separate secure place; also keeping your doors locked when not in use.

There have also been problems in the areas round Cambridge, on to the Shelfords and back via Sawston. Outbuildings including sheds and garages have been forced open to steal tools, number plates have been stolen (do report this to the police immediately if this happens to you: just call 101), crops and fencing damaged, and of course break-ins. Stolen lead would have been heavy as would the 20 x 10 foot T steel beams stolen elsewhere; this must have needed organisation, yet no one seems to have seen anything.

Con games: another name for fraud. Action Fraud has identified scams aimed at students which include both employment and accommodation. Another scam seeking advanced fees is aimed at those seeking work as a model. Then we have phantom debt collectors and bailiffs. Advice is available on protecting yourself from phishing, plus information on security for sheds and gardens. I have started to collect these advice sheets, and if you would like a copy please just ask.

Take care and have a great Christmas and New Year.
Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)



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West Wrattling Football

At the start of November the first team were up at the top of the Cambs Senior league, having played nine games, won eight and lost one. In the next three cup competitions we beat Whittlesey 4 - 0 and Comberton 6 - 0 but unfortunately were only able to field half a first team and half of the reserve team against Cambridge City first team (four divisions higher) and lost 5 - 0, but the players put up a great display, only conceding three of the goals in the last ten minutes. The only league game was a win away to Gamlingay 4 - 2.

The Reserves were unbeaten until they lost in the Cup game against Alconbury 4 - 0, but since then they have beaten Exning 6 - 1 and drawn with neighbours Balsham 2 - 2, so still remain top of the Cambs league Division 1A.

Another good note was that West Wrattling had three players picked for the county, playing away at Hampshire (Southampton) winning 2 - 1; this is a national competition, with the winning county going on to represent England in Europe. Cambs are now at home to Thames County in December 2017.

Sadly we lost player/manager Michael Shinn (ex Cambridge United player) at the beginning of November to Newmarket Town, though he left us at the top of the league. The pavilion and club wish him well, with many thanks for all his hard work, which is very much appreciated.

Michael Bavester has taken over the role of manager; he first came over and played for the club approximately fifteen years ago and has previously been helping Michael Shinn in his role as manager. We all know that Michael Bavester will also aim to achieve great results for the club, and wish him well.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

Goodbye, Chris



Christine with the last Christmas stamps she'll sell

As Chris, Weston Colville's Post Mistress of the last thirty three years prepares to retire, Challenge took the opportunity to talk to her.

Your last day will be on 20th December, how do you feel? I think I'm doing the right thing, because if I didn't do it now, I'd go on and on and on.

Why did you start running the PO? By accident! We were looking for somewhere to live, we came to look at the bungalow and the keys were next door. She said come and have a cup of tea and there was all this paperwork all over the floor and she said "I hate doing this job". I said "it looks good to me" and they agreed I could run it there. So I walked backwards and forwards for a year while this was being built in front of our bungalow. When we started it was just greetings cards and the Post Office, and we just started adding stuff as people asked for it. Something that might surprise people: up until about 1998 I had an air raid siren here that I would have to test regularly, and had to sound it if there was a four minute warning. Unfortunately the Home Office would not let me keep it.

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Who have been your most regular customers? The OAPs, coming in to have a chat, and chat to each other, it was like an hour out for them.

What have been the best things about running the Post Office? Meeting all sorts of folks, they kind of grow up with you from kids, and years go by and they're still around, it's lovely really.

What about the postmen? They've all been brilliant, lovely. They're ever so helpful, they'll go out of their way to pop something else in someone's door.

Anything you haven't liked? Only the dark evenings when we used to do full days.

There were burglaries here in the 1990s, did you think about those after? No, I just moved on, because I thought if I worry about it, I'm gonna be really stressed out.

Are you going to have a closing down sale? Oh, I don't know, maybe a BOGOF?

You've been described as a fixture and certainly are at the heart of our community, the village will miss you – what will you miss? The whole lot, because doing it for so long, it's just a way of life really.

Plans for your retirement? None at all, at the moment stay put, as long as I do something, I mustn't just vegetate . . . longer walks with the dog and a bit more gardening.

Any message to your customers? I'm going to miss them all so much, and thank them all for being here for me. Hoping with a new start and fresh ideas the Post Office will carry on in the village, and I am sure it will work.

Any message to someone taking on the Post Office? If they enjoy it as much I have, they'll do brilliantly!

Thank you, Chris, from all your customers, and best wishes for your retirement.



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Wayleave Query

I am in the process of establishing a Wayleave Agreement with UK Power as I have a wooden electricity pole on my property, owned by UK Power who pay to have it on private property.

Does anyone else in Weston Colville or the nearby villages have a Wayleave Agreement, and if so, can I pick your brains on whether what I am being offered by UK Power is reasonable?

Please contact me (Joyce) on 07980 404764 or pengepostkasse1@btinternet.com

Balsham Singers Christmas Concert

Saturday 16th December, 7.30 in Balsham Church

This year the Balsham Singers concert is full of exciting, fun and very beautiful music and should be the perfect start to Christmas. Please come and take part in the celebrations. Tickets can be bought from the post offices in Balsham and Abington, and cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door.



Lesley Crisp

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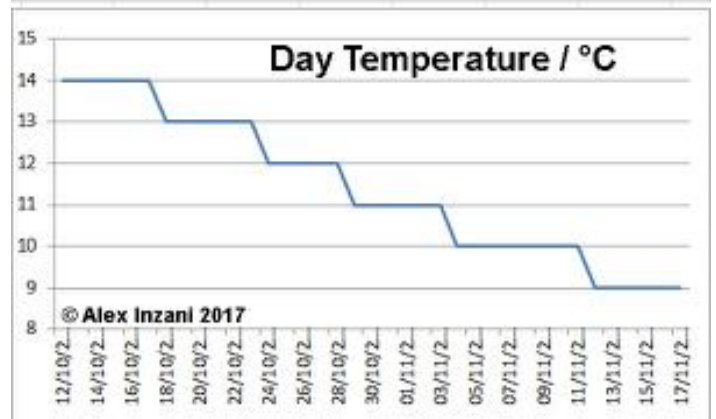
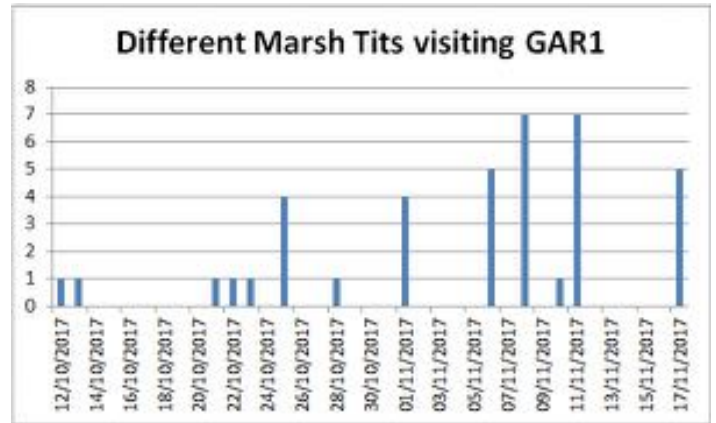



Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Welcome to the month of generosity and festive spirits. Your Marsh Tits have decided to be generous with their appearances at your garden feeders. We have had eight on the same day on one sunflower heart feeder on Mill Hill! Enjoy them and your luck, for few other places in the whole country ever see one of these red-listed birds.

Our research shows the number of different Marsh Tits visiting one Weston Colville garden's sunflower heart, fat ball and peanut feeders between 12th October and 17th November 2017. Although they hate to leave safe, broadleaved woodland with tall shrubs, Marsh Tits increasingly come to reliable garden feeders as the daytime temperature drops to single digits, to keep themselves warm. The key word is 'reliable'. The householder has been feeding regularly for twenty years (it doesn't take twenty years for the birds to realise you're a reliable feeder, of course). Adult Marsh Tits which haven't been seen since March and April, such as Green over Yellow on Left 'Delia', are turning up on garden feeders. We're seeing juveniles starting to come more often some days after the adults, so the location of 'sure bet'

winter food may be being passed on between generations of Marsh Tits, inadvertently or deliberately – we don't know yet.



Left Black, Right Yellow 'Dexter', an adult female whom we first met in Great Coven's Wood on 20th March 2016 and has been giving us the slip ever since, is shown here buttering up Christine King, in whose warm hand she stayed after release. Christine the Marsh Tit Whisperer . . . the rumour started here, folks :)



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Two more adult Marsh Tits earned their colour rings in November: Left Black, Right Red 'Baron von Richthofen' (The Red Baron) and Left Black, Right Green 'Lord Sparkington' (Sparky), whom we discovered too late was a mum! (in my defence, birds really only have naughty bits in the breeding season). Our Cornish correspondent Rachel Durham will be pleased to learn that Sparky is indeed a sparky character.



Keep an eye out on your sunflower heart feeders for Bramblings, Chaffinch lookalikes from Scandinavia and Northern Europe. They have overly short pink/red waistcoats and too much black on them to be a Chaffinch. Hawfinches are here too. Very deep and powerful beaks – a hazelnut is no problem.

Remember it's Christmas for all, and share some leftovers with the birds – fatty rind, nut cutlets, and cut-up roast potatoes are great, but no eggnog please! Our work suggests it's the difference between life and death for them at this cold and wet time of year.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

Alex Inzani and your friendly neighbourhood ringing team, for the BTO National Ringing Scheme



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*Wednesday 6th December
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BBQ
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The Meadow School

The clocks have gone back, the nights are definitely darker and Jack Frost has been visiting regularly; according to our children this means it is nearly Christmas! We did have to say on 30th October that it was far too early to be talking about Christmas and could we please wait until December.

One year ending and another beginning is always a good opportunity to pause for a while and take stock of everything we have achieved. I couldn't have been prouder of our staff and community for the hard work and dedication they showed in ensuring that we showed our school off. Our children have made me proud on so many occasions, from watching them perform in plays, reading their first book unaided, earning their pen licence, passing music exams, helping others in school, to seeing them compete for the school in sports tournaments (yes, I am normally the one cheering loudly on the side lines). There genuinely isn't a day that goes by that I don't walk around school and feel immensely proud of something.

December and Christmas for the majority of us is a time when we can relax a little, spend time with the people we love and exchange gifts and tuck into a

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lovely meal. For others though this time of year can be one of unhappiness and worry. Once again our community makes me feel proud. In a time where for many families every single penny matters I am amazed at the generosity of our families in supporting school and the charities we choose to help. In



November we sold poppies for Remembrance Day and further supported this through our assembly, and laying extra pennies on the giant poppy we placed on the playground after we observed our two minutes' silence, timed by the church bells.

The money raised has gone off to the Royal British Legion to help those who have served so bravely in our armed forces. We look forward to hearing back from them how much we raised.

The children were also very keen to once again support Children in Need by wearing spots or stripes and holding a cake sale. We were thrilled to raise over £270 for a very worthwhile cause. We hope that our contributions enable someone who may not have had a very Merry Christmas to now have a happier one.



As we near the end of term we have our annual carol concert, Infant production and school disco to look forward to.

Wishing you a season of gladness and cheer, and to top it all off, a wonderful year! Happy Christmas and New Year to you all from everyone at The Meadow.

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher



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MOPS HAIR SALON

Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Supporting children to grow up healthy and well is a key priority for schools and parents; good mental health is a crucial part of young people's wellbeing. Mental health, like physical health, is on a continuum; it is not a binary state.

Studies by organisations such as Young Minds reveal that mental health issues are a particular concern for young people: one in ten children have a diagnosable mental health disorder (that's roughly three children in every classroom); almost one in four children and young people show some evidence of mental ill health (including anxiety and depression), and half of all mental health problems manifest by age 14.

These conditions have a significant impact on children's ability to lead a happy and successful life; the consequences of poor mental health can have lasting damage. And yet there is a chronic shortage of access to specialist support: waiting times of over six months for a referral are standard.

At LVC we have witnessed a growing number of mental health issues. We recognise that these can be triggered by personal circumstance or as a result of trauma, or due to stress experienced by a need to feel accepted and successful.

We have introduced Mental Health Champions at LVC, who have benefited from specialist mental health training from educational psychologists and CAMH. We have also raised awareness and de-stigmatised mental health across the college, using the #oktosay initiative, to be able to identify concerns and signpost early support. We have also developed our PSHE programme to include educating young people about mental health.

Nevertheless, our ability to respond stops at first aid, as with other medical conditions; we are first and foremost educators, not expert clinicians.

The government's green paper on children's mental health is due to be published by the end of the year. It is anticipated to tackle internet safety and the impact of social media. While we welcome this emphasis on e-safety and a preventative focus, there also needs to be a commitment to providing the necessary resources for schools and parents to support children's welfare and good health.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

1st Horseheath Brownies

We have been very creative this term, as we are working out our Toymaker badge. We started off with making jigsaws, then sock puppets and dressing Katie, Laurene and me in recyclable materials. We still have one item to make which will be connected to

Christmas and will probably go on the Christmas tree at the URC Church in Castle Camps where we have, again, been invited to decorate a tree.



Also this term we went for a night walk in Balsham with the Rainbows, with hot chocolate and marshmallows afterwards.

We made harvest pictures to decorate All Saints Church in Horseheath for the service, and then the village hall when the harvest lunch was held.

We are now getting ready for the Over 60's Luncheon by making Christmas cards and calendars, and practising our entertainment.

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




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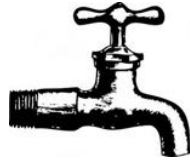
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for information on:

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

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

Balsham Gardening Club

The AGM on 7th November followed a talk on 'Gardens of China' by George Thorpe. George was formerly head gardener at Trinity College, Cambridge. His talk was based on his visit to China, organised by the Professional Gardeners' Guild, which took place during the SARS outbreak in 2003. The group arrived at the start of the outbreak and found that the gardens they went to had very few visitors due to the fear of contagion.

The trip was in spring time and took in four cities, including Beijing, Kunming and Shanghai, visiting the local botanic gardens in each place as well as other places of interest. Because of the huge distances between the destinations the plants seen were very varied.

The AGM followed a break for wine and nibbles. Four members of the committee have resigned and thanks go to Alice Warley, Lyn Bobrow and Jean and Terry Seagers for their contributions to the running of club events for the past few years. The committee now urgently needs volunteers to join, and welcomes Bren Williamson, who has agreed to take on some of the duties of the secretary. The committee have agreed to review and if possible simplify the roles and decide how to go forward, in consultation with the membership.

Due to the shortage of committee members the Christmas event on 5th December will consist of wine, nibbles and mince pies, to be enjoyed whilst being entertained by The Cambridge Harmony Chorus. Members who wish to attend and have not already put their names on the list please contact Pat Faircloth on 893928 as soon as possible.



West Wickham and District Gardening Club

At our latest meeting on 20th November we were delighted to welcome Dr Ian Bedford, head of the Research Entomology Facility at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. His talk entitled 'Garden Bugs, Cohabit, Conserve or Control' was received with great enthusiasm by a large audience. Ian is a mine of information and his Powerpoint presentation included a comprehensive round-up of all those bugs, good, bad and ugly, that one has to deal with in the garden. The pictures of his lawn covered one dewy morning with 350 large, brown, spanish slugs was amazing; the only way of getting rid of them is to gather them all up and drown them in a bucket of soapy water. Ian's message to us was that it is our decision whether or not to use pesticides and he did not try to persuade us one way or another – but he did ask us to really think about the environmental effect of pesticidal sprays.

Our Christmas meeting is on Monday 18th December and will be an informal get together with wine and nibbles and a raffle for Beeches garden tokens. You are all welcome to join us, 7.30 in the village hall.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

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It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking up festive feasts for the family, and entertaining loved ones. With all the fun to be had it is easy to be distracted when cooking in the kitchen.

Half of all fires in the home start in the kitchen, and more than half of those are as a result of distraction whilst cooking.

We want to help ensure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing our tips below for safe cooking over the festive season:

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Do not cook when tired
- Do not cook when under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication that makes you drowsy
- Regularly clean the grill pan and oven. Built up fat can easily catch fire
- Never leave anything cooking if you leave the house
- Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob – tea towels, oven gloves and even washing baskets can catch fire
- Take care when using microwaves. Fires can start when people put food in too long. Always read the instructions on the packet – never guess the time needed
- Oven chips or temperature control deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan. If you do use a chip pan, do not fill it more than one third with fat and turn the heat down if the oil starts smoking
- Fire can break out in household appliances so you should regularly maintain dishwashers, washing machines and driers and never leave them on if you go out or when you go to bed
- Have a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home. If it keeps going off when you are cooking it is probably in the wrong location or you may have the wrong type of smoke alarm
- Never take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

If you do have a fire in the house, get out, stay out and dial 999.

For more information, or to get in touch, contact us at

firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994.



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Pantomimes



Cinderella! Christmas is nearly here! Oh, no, it's not! Oh, yes, it is! And with that, you can tell that the onset of Panto season is upon us once more!

And what better way to get over the post-Christmas blues than with a lively production of that most beloved of pantos, Cinderella, produced by LlamaDrama?



LlamaDrama was set up in 2016 to give Fulbourn and surrounding villages Christmas 'family' shows, which were sadly lacking in the area. In January 2018 our offering will be 'Cinderella'. It will be a traditional panto . . . but with a twist! We won't tell you here, obviously, what that twist will be, but it gives added depth to such a well-known story.

Aside from the 'romantic' characters (and with a spirited Cinderella and a 'gawky' Prince, the story will take you way beyond the glass slipper), there are many humorous characters (including two ridiculous Ugly Sisters, a 'Men Behaving Badly'-type Dandini, and a fairly useless Fairy Godmother, taken from the Yellow Pages), plus an unexpectedly weird 'talent contest' – well, have you ever seen an ABBA girl in full outfit sing 'Dancing Queen' in a production of Cinderella?

Cinderella will be at the Townley Hall, the Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn, CB21 5BS on Saturdays 6th and 13th January, with matinée and evening performances at 3 pm and 7.30 pm. Reserve your seats online NOW with NO booking fee incurred – not many shows you can say that about! Book early at: www.llamadrama.org.uk

Tickets: Adults: £9.50 Concessions: (60 & over): £7.50 Children (16 & under): £5.50

For difficulties with booking, or for any queries, please telephone Carole Ransom on 01354 694782 (leave a message and I will return the call ASAP), or email: carole.ransom7@googlemail.com Come and enjoy a great panto!

Carole Ransom

Beauty and the Beast ~ the Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society presents a Bollywood pantomime from Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th January.

Tickets on sale online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps

Lucy Frazer MP

I wanted to take the opportunity to wish all my constituents a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to come. 2017 has flown by with so much to do and an unexpected election on top! I have been pursuing with vigour the roll out of superfast broadband across the constituency, regularly meeting and speaking with all involved, pressing for more, quicker! I am also pursuing a campaign to get South East Cambridgeshire selected as a testbed for the trialling of the next generation of digital infrastructure through industrial 5G pilots.



As most of you will know by now, education is a passion of mine and I am relentless in my efforts to pursue fairer funding for our schools. I take every opportunity to engage with schools and the Secretary of State for Education, to ensure our requirements are front of mind. I welcome the recent announcement of £3.1 million more for our constituency and I will continue on this mission to pursue funding wherever it is available.

Other projects I am involved with around education include encouraging businesses to work hand in hand with schools, with specific reference to STEM subjects and building pathways to future careers in local businesses. I am also driving a project to reduce the costs of teacher recruitment through an online government website.

Infrastructure projects occupy a lot of my time, fighting for necessary funding and maintaining a presence where projects are underway to ensure where possible they remain on schedule and on budget. The start of works on the Ely southern bypass in March was the culmination of a great deal of work and lobbying by many people including myself and I'm delighted work is now underway. I am very much behind the Greenways initiative to introduce more cycle and multi-purpose routes into Cambridge.

I enjoy every opportunity I have to meet with constituents from all walks of life, whether welcoming groups and individuals to Westminster,

attending a Rotary club meeting, joining a Women's Institute gathering, opening a summer fete, chatting at an open meeting, or meeting constituents in my surgeries – I never like to pass up the chance to exchange views and hear any issues constituents may have.

All across the constituency, over recent weeks, our senior school pupils have been busy debating. This year marks the fourth inter schools debating competition since I became a parliamentary candidate and first initiated the idea. The final sees fourteen students debating in the House of Commons.

I am so grateful for all the support I receive from constituents young and old and I look forward to working as hard as I can on your behalf in the coming year.

To keep up with what I am doing on a more regular basis, you can sign up for my newsletter at www.lucyfrazer.org.uk and / or follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FrazerLucy

HOOP (Housing Options for Older People)

Are you finding that your home is too large to manage, is in poor condition or too far from friends or family, and you're not sure what to do? If so, you may be interested in an exciting new partnership with First Stop offering specialist housing information and advice to people aged over 65.

Cambridgeshire County Council is working with South Cambridgeshire District Council on a six-month pilot project which has launched in South Cambridgeshire – HOOP (Housing Options for Older People).

The project offers specialist housing advice and support to older people, starting with a questionnaire asking older people (over 65s) about their home and how it suits them. This can be completed on line or via a leaflet. The answers are then used to put people in touch with local housing options (sheltered housing, extra care schemes), support services and community groups that can provide a mixture of practical support and advice, with the aim of helping people to make informed choices about their housing and wellbeing at an early stage.

For more information, visit <https://hoop.eac.org.uk/>
Freya Leng, CCC (01223 699018)

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth



Children's classes – we still have spaces on our children's classes for newcomers this term: Football –

Monday, Table Tennis and Gymnastics – Tuesday, Dodgeball and Street Dance – Wednesday, Judo – Thursday, Tennis – by arrangement. For information on all classes please visit our website or call the office.

MUGA – we currently have two free evening slots on our five-a-side Astro pitch. If you are interested in booking these please give us a call.

Pop-Up Coffee Mornings – if you would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity of your choice on Friday mornings in the Gredley Room please give us a call. There will be a charge of £20 towards the centre, and we will help publicise your event.

Pop up Coffee Morning on Friday 8th December, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm at the Ellesmere Centre, supporting C3 children's ward at Addenbrookes Hospital. Cake Stall & Raffle.

Staff vacancy at the Ellesmere Centre – to cover the office for four hours a week over two evenings from 3.30 - 5.30 pm, plus one weekend a month (this will be mainly phone cover from home). Will need to be available to cover for staff holidays. Please apply in writing to the address below.



The Staff and Trustees of the Ellesmere Centre would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
(01638 508212. office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)*

Linton District Guiding

We have had a fantastic year at Linton District this year, culminating in our annual District Strawberry Evening in Linton and a District Camp taking thirty six girls and eleven leaders away to Gillwell Activity Centre. We have had all our thirteen units and Trefoil Guild away during the year and many days out. We are also lucky enough to have had three leaders taking our Anglia Regions guides abroad, to Canada, Romania, and Fiji. Four guides went on an international residential trip to 'Our Chalet' in Switzerland with



other guides from the Anglia Region. Each person was chosen out of all those who applied, and then raised funds to pay for their trip.

Four girls have passed their BP Award, the highest award a girl can get in Guides.

Christmas saw us having parties and performing shows and seeing Father Christmas. In the spring, each unit held their own Thinking Day celebrations, with activities and food from around the world, and learned about our five World Centres. Balsham Brownies spent a day at Pax Lodge, our British World Centre in London, and had an International Adventure Day there.

Girlguiding is followed in 146 countries, involving ten million girls around the world; there are 245 girls locally, not including leaders. We are passionate about our girl-led environment and excited about the programme changes happening next summer, hopefully making it easier for leaders to gain and plan ideas in today's busy world.

Sadly, we will be losing 2nd Linton Brownies, as at Christmas they will merge with 1st Linton, to form a more effective leadership team together.

If you would like to know more about volunteering with us in any capacity – leader, unit helper, occasional pair of hands – or maybe you have a skill you could teach us or you have a hobby we might enjoy, please do get in touch with Louisa, our District Commissioner Designate, or to find out more, go to: www.Girlguiding.org.uk/interested

I would like to thank everyone involved in the District, for their friendship, fun and sense of adventure. Our units range from Rainbows to Senior Section, and from Burrough Green to Horseheath, and for those of 18+ not wanting to join a weekly unit we have a fabulous Trefoil Guild too. What an incredible bunch they all are.

*Louisa Powell-Owens
Linton District Commissioner Designate
(01223 833776, louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk)*



St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am, unless noted otherwise)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 3 rd December	Christingle Songs of Praise (at 4.00 pm)	John & Scilla Harvey / Very Rev Keith Johnson	n/a	Advent: n/a	Maggie
Sunday 10 th December	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	Sisse	Advent: n/a	Pauline
Sunday 17 th December	Carol Service	Rev Simon Talbott	Alex	All available	Jenny
Sunday 24 th December	Crib Service (at 4.00 pm)	Rev Kathy Bishop	Sebastian	n/a	Sue
25 th December	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Fanny / Jenny	n/a	n/a
Sunday 31 st December	United Service, Balsham (at 10.00 am)	Very Rev Keith Johnson	n/a	Linda	n/a

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)	
Sunday 24 th December	Crib Service (at 4.30 pm) Midnight Mass (at 11.30 pm)

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

December 2017

- Fri 1 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wratting
- Sat 2 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
Tapestry concert, Gt Abington
- Sun 3 Christingle service, St Andrew's
- Tue 5 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 6 West Wratting Over 60s, Christmas lunch
Christmas lights switch on, Burrough Green
Weston Colville cinema club, Reading Room
- Sat 9 Christmas fayre, Burrough Green
- Sat 9, Sun 10 Christmas tree festival, Balsham
- Mon 11 West Wratting VHMC AGM
- Wed 13 West Wratting book club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 16 Balsham Singers Christmas concert, Balsham
- Mon 18 West Wickham Gardening Club meeting
- Tue 19 A Christmas Carol, St Mary's, Weston Colville
- Thur 21 Lunch club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 24 Crib service, St Mary's, Weston Colville
- Thur 28 Quiz, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 30 Coppicing, Lower Wood, Weston Colville
History exhibition opens, Reading Room
- Sun 31 New Year's Eve party, The Chestnut Tree

January 2018

- Mon 1 Circular walk from Reading Room
- Wed 3 Weston Colville cinema club, Reading Room
- Mon 8 Cutoff date, West Wratting oil syndicate orders
- Fri 12 Pop-up pub, Weston Colville
- Thur 18 Lunch club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 20 Progressive supper, West Wratting
- Tue 23 Seniors group, Reading Room, Weston Colville
- Sat 30 Coppicing, Lower Wood, Weston Colville

Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month (5 th December, 2 nd January)	
High Street, West Wratting	12.15 - 12.45
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50

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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 – Ian Ashbridge (291344)
Philippa Coates (290842)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)
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Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
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Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
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Black bins: Monday 4th & 18th December,
Wednesday 3rd & Monday 15th & 29th January

From Monday 11th December, paper caddies will no longer be collected, and from that date paper should be placed directly into the blue bin.

Blue bins: Monday 11th & Wed 27th December
Tuesday 9th & Monday 22nd January

Green bins: Monday 11th December,
Tuesday 9th January

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.

January issue's copy date:
Wednesday 13th December. Please note that this is a WEEK EARLIER than usual.