

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Mobile Post Office Service



A mobile post office van will begin visiting Weston Colville from Thursday 5th November. The van will be parked in the Reading Room car park from 12.30 to 1.30 on Thursday afternoons, and will offer a wide range of services.

There is a step into the van, but an electronic tailgate is available.

Please make use of this service if you want it to continue.

Ray Vidler, Weston Colville Parish Council

Churchyard Clear-up, St Andrew's

The autumn clear-up of our beautiful churchyard will now take place on Saturday 28th November between 10 am and 12 noon.

Depending on the rules at the time, the usual coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

There was no clear-up in the spring, so the churchyard will need more TLC than usual, so do come along and give a hand.

Colin McCall (290046)

RAF Wratting Common

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November

It is our intention to hold a short service at the memorial on Sunday 8th November at 12 noon, adapted to suit whatever Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

We will be posting updates nearer the time on our Facebook Group Friends of Wratting Common 2020 or follow this link <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Wratting-Common-2020-104097787938987/>

The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath, for Friends of Wratting Common
(rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com,
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Update from St Andrew's, West Wrattling

We are pleased to report that the building works remain on course to complete by the end of

November. As we write, the path is being prepared so that there will be level access to the church through the north door.



The scaffolding on the west end is down. The windows will have been cleaned and repaired, and the new window guards will be fitted. The laurel near the east end of the church has caused some material damage to the east end buttress, so we have decided that we should remove it before it causes further damage in the years to come.

We thank most sincerely those who have made generous donations towards the project works. The campaign has been very successful so far and raised over £12,000, but we are still short of our target and need to raise a further £8,000. Any further contributions towards maintaining our beautiful church for future generations will be gratefully received.

**Sebastian Bain (07736 198101),
for and on behalf of West Wrattling PCC**



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St Andrew's Church Yard

The builders currently on site at St Andrew's have highlighted that a number of dogs are fouling the graveyard, and their accompanying two-legged keepers are seen to be failing to clean up after them. Please, please make the graveyard somewhere where one can walk without fear of stepping on something unpleasant. Three P's: Please, Pick up your Poo!

West Wrattling PCC

Parachute Jump to Help Veterans

On 7th November I will be making a tandem parachute jump from 12,000 feet to raise money for the Royal British Legion. I served in the Grenadier Guards from 1986 until 2016, and now live in Weston Colville.

I have sponsorship forms; please contact me if you need any further details, or to support my fundraising. My aim is to raise £1,000, and I have a Just Giving page, at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stephen-gibson20?>

Stephen Gibson (07527 230590)

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Ellen Collier

www.ellen-collier.co.uk

Associate AGRA member

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

There will not be a syndicate order for oil this month.

The next order will be in December.

Phil Tempest (westwrattlingoil@gmail.com)

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 29th November.**

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475, or salguoda@hotmail.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day). We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

Anne Vidler

West Wrattling Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 14th December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last financial year will be presented. As usual all interested residents of our village are welcome to attend, but this will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. If you would like to be present please contact me. New committee members must be elected at the AGM. If you might like to join the VHMC we would like to hear from you in advance of the meeting.

Mike Rowland (290788, rowlandmgm@btinternet.com)



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Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thanks to the amazing generosity of the people of Balsham, West Wrating, Weston Colville and West Wickham I paid £647 into the Macmillan Coffee Morning Account (thanks to Helen of Balsham PO for counting all the money), and with around £55 of Gift Aid to be added it comes to over £700. Therese, who made the delicious pancakes, gave a very generous donation. Gill PB had organised a 'safe' raffle, with 17 prizes; many thanks to the donors. This 2020 total is way above what was raised in 2019 (£470) – maybe a 'non' coffee morning is the answer to raising funds!

Thank you to those of you who braved gale force winds to come to the Recreation Ground Car Park for the pancakes and the raffle, and also to our helpers Jenny R, Jenny K and Sara H, and not forgetting Gill PB who put in much time and energy so this event could take place.

Joanna

Poppy Appeal 2020

Poppies, poppy pins and wooden crosses will be available in Balsham at the Post Office, The Old Butcher's Coffee Shop, The Bell, and The Black Bull, and in West Wrating at The Chestnut Tree.

Donations can be made directly into the collecting tins at each location. It is also possible to collect a poppy from the church porch in Weston Colville and the table just inside the church at West Wrating; please do not leave any donations in the churches.

Please consider making your usual donations via <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Margaret-Johnson-PAO-for-Balsham-West-Wrating-Weston-Colville-West-Wickham-ECF03-Area>

Margaret Johnson (07866 813016)
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser



www.westwrating.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, notices, photos and comments.

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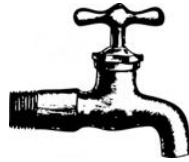
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What is Truth?

"The first casualty of war is truth."

I'm not sure that anyone knows who said that first. I guess it's become something of a cliché. And like all clichés, even if true, it's easy to disregard.

Nevertheless, it invariably comes to mind, for me, in early November when the British Legion, supplying the poppies, rolls us forward to Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. For the remembrance of past wars (the sacrifices and heroism, the young lives cut short) always carries with it the risk of patriotism being soured and congealing into jingoistic nationalism. And the truth about war – both sides in the conflict, caught up in a collective, brutal dehumanising of the other side – again becomes an early casualty when love for one's country is exploited by malign forces.

But "needs must", some will say, "you can't win a war by being entirely truthful. It's not a good idea to pause and reflect when someone is trying to kill and destroy you. Don't worry, when the hostilities of war are ended, we will reinstate the primacy of truth. After all, it's a mark of civilisation".



It's disturbing, then, that in recent peacetime the coinage of truth in international and national debate seems (at least in some quarters) to have become what the more powerful players think they can get away with saying. For example, about the consequences of climate change, or about the effectiveness of measures fighting Covid 19 and, still, about Brexit.

"Ah, but you'd be a fool to trust any politicians."

Another cliché, which to a degree rings true; yet can we too readily accept this as the status quo?

Worryingly, has truth lost its power to change the course of things? Or, should we be asking "What is truth?"

Christians contemplating these questions can hardly fail to recall this very same question being asked of Jesus when on trial before Pontius Pilate. Jesus said "Everyone who belongs to the truth, listens to my voice". Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" Jesus was silent because Truth was standing before Pilate; but Pilate failed to see it.

The genius of the Remembrance Service is surely the two minute silence in which all, Christian or not, can stand together, trying to hold some truth in that silence, however tangled our minds.

Christians these days are probably more comfortable talking about love, rather than truth; and that can surely include love of one's country. But love left simply as a blob of thoughtless emotion or sentimentally is not quite good enough, and Christians would do well to reflect on their belief that in Christ, love and truth are one. Yet, for all of us, standing in silence before the dead youths we remember, their lives sacrificed for some sort of truth, we might do well to make it our resolve, likewise, to resist any cheapening of truth.

Alistair Collen

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West Wrattling Book Club

For our October meeting, held via Zoom, we returned to a classic, 'Return of the Native' by Thomas Hardy. Not so well known as his later works, it is considered by some to be his most representative work, with some aspects reminiscent of 'The Woodlanders'. It was agreed that it was not easy to get into but was very rewarding to those who stuck with it, and we had all enjoyed it. As well as, in essence, being a morality story contrasting selfish love, where one aims only to gain some form of personal advancement, with the unselfishness of a true love which thinks only of what is best for the object of that emotion, this book is also a beautifully written evocation of a disappearing way of rural life. It gives us a clear picture of a time of impending social and agricultural changes with reference to the latter's damage to nature, concerns so familiar to us all today. The glimpses into the ancient traditions, some delightful and others very dark, were also fascinating. The language was described by one of our number as entrancing and delightful to read. The dialect used by the group of villagers was of especial interest to some, with them acting almost as a Greek chorus, opening, closing and commenting on the main action (they also give a leavening of

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humour). The detailed description of the countryside is particularly good, bringing the localities clearly to mind. So vivid is this that Egdon Heath on which much of the action takes place seems to be a character in its own right. In general it was thought that the characters were well drawn, although one might consider certain of them a little one-dimensional and one unbelievable in their unselfish actions. It was noted how one event can change so much, while one person suggested that it was almost Shakespearian in the way events followed misunderstandings caused by a message not being delivered in a timely way or people missed by minutes.

We would very much recommend the book, which rewards assiduous reading. Scores were between 8.5 and 10 out of 10.

Our next book is 'Apeirogon' by Colum McCann, for a meeting at 7.30 pm via Zoom on Wednesday 18th November.

Linda Gorman

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

I have now set up a jigsaw puzzle exchange at the back of the garage at Nine Chimney House, Balsham. The garage is open as there are now no garage doors.

I have a selection of over 40 jigsaws, mainly of 500 and 1000 pieces. Do please come and look and bring any jigsaws that you no longer want – please look in your attics or anywhere you might be keeping them!

John of 40 Barton's Close (290408) has a special collapsible jigsaw table for sale for £50. For further details contact John direct.

Joanna (893033), sanderschimneys@uwclub.net



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West Wratting Parish Council

The following are some of the items discussed at the parish council meeting held on 14th September. The draft minutes have been posted on the noticeboards.

Planning:

				WWPC	SCDC
20/02813/PRI03Q	Camgrain	Valley Farm, Valley Farm Road	Prior app for change of use of agric bldg to dwelling hse	support	Refused
20/2706/FUL	D Dugdale	23 High St.	Single storey ground floor & 1 st floor ext.	object	Approved
20/2607/	Mr & Mrs Dimond	33 The Common	Two new windows, one to rear & one to side elevation	support	
20/03161/S73	Wadlow Fm	Six Mile Bottom Rd	Variation of condition 4	Object with comments	Approved
20/03450/FUL	Mr M Shaw	35 The Common	Change of use re S/1493/19		

Finance:

- Authorised payments: shown in full in the minutes.
- Claim for VAT has been submitted
- Query over non-payment by CCC of money for grass cutting is being looked into by CCC.
- West Wratting Sports Pavilion accounts have been received and distributed.
- Grass verge cutting – the parish clerk is still waiting to receive the invoices for £215.00.
- CAPALC new salary scales: – these give an increase of 17p/hr = 68p per 4 hrs/week.

Village Hall: £10,000 was received from the government for the loss of income due to Covid19. It is hoped to spend some of this money on the purchase of sliding doors.

Recreation Ground & Pavilion:

- A new tractor is to be purchased for the pitch grass.

b) The WWFC have put in 8 concrete hard stands to which dugouts are attached for reserves. Full details were being sent to the WWPC for their approval.

c) *Defibrillator* – the parish council are prepared to share the cost of maintaining this equipment and it will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Play Area: The Certificate of Lawful Development has now been received.

Traffic Issues:

Road Improvement Measures – Cllr Davey has submitted an LHI application for gating and Sharks Teeth white lining at the three 40mph speed restriction signs on the main arterial roads; enhanced orange repeater signs and speed limits written on the road; white lining to ‘Build out’ the junction of Honey Hill and Six Mile Bottom Road; a Give Way sign at the junction of Bull Lane and the High St; three more 40mph repeater signs along the long stretch of the Common. The cost to the parish council would be £1500, being 10% of the maximum of £15,000 that an LHI can cost.

Fox Road – the chairman continues to seek a solution to the misuse of Fox Road but receives little help from the county council.

Meetings Attended by Councillors: the Sports Pavilion committee meeting and the Parish Councils Liaison meeting were attended by the Chairman and Cllr Davey, the latter also attending the A1307 meeting and the Greater Cambridge Partnership Zoom meeting.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9th November at 8pm as a Zoom meeting. The agenda will be posted on the noticeboards and this will give the link to join the Zoom meeting. Alternatively you can email the parish clerk or Cllr Bonfield (thetimb@timab.plus.com) for these details.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk



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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

This month, an object lesson in how careful observation can lead to success. Our very own Joyce Oliver noticed that Marsh Tits were coming to her feeders in the last hour before dusk. Most birds have gone home by then, so these small but canny birds have less competition for the food. So, we trialled a late afternoon ringing session on 9th October and –



boom! – two Marsh Tits in quick succession. Well done, Joyce! One we've seen before – Black over White over Black 'Rasputin', ringed as a youngster last August – and a newcomer, Red over Blue over White 'Joyce', another juvenile hatched this year. 'Joyce' has a cute white spot on its forehead, an unusual albinistic feature.

If you see Marsh Tits on your feeders in the last hour of daylight, please let us know:

cambsmarti@gmail.com, m_stammers@btinternet.com or **Challenge**. Thanks!

Our camera feeder has shown that 'Joyce' has made numerous visits back to her namesake's feeders since 9th October – yet more evidence that ringing does not put them off. In fact, two Collared Doves are now squeezing into the Marsh Tit cage trap together, to help themselves to sunflower hearts. You'd have thought that these nervous birds would've learnt a lesson and avoided this trap. They could just be forgetful, of course. But forgetting where you last encountered danger would be a big disadvantage for survival. I think they've decided we ringers are simply not a threat, just an inconvenience, and we do provide an excellent free lunch!

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group



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GRANTA Medical Practices

For the very latest news go to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ and www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Flu Clinics – we held the county's first ever drive-through flu clinic on Saturday 3rd October at Duxford Imperial War Museum, vaccinating 1,500 patients without the need for anyone to get out of their cars. The weather was atrocious but it did not dampen our spirits, nor our patients, who were cheerful and supportive throughout the day. We are holding smaller flu clinics at each surgery site throughout October and November. To book an appointment please ring 0300 234 5555.

New Granta Website – our new Granta Medical Practices website, www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk, has been designed for easy navigation, has an accessibility widget, and incorporates a new, direct contact form. If you have a moment we would love you to give us some feedback. Whilst I cannot guarantee to accommodate every comment, all suggestions will be taken into consideration.

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Meadow School

"It always seems impossible until it's done." –
Nelson Mandela.

This resonated so much with the staff community all through the summer holidays as we prepared to welcome back all of the children after being away for over 170 days. Meticulous planning, risk assessments galore, bubble planning, an abundance of cleaning products, redesigned classrooms, one way systems, nominated gates for entry and exit, and so much more, were all carefully considered and planned for. We have found ways to keep things as normal as possible while still ensuring we follow all of the new protocols. Whoever knew how long it takes across the day to wash hands six times or more? The record for the amount of blue paper hand towels used in a day is currently 2,000!

Wellbeing remains a high priority for us and we have just concluded our mini whole school topic using the amazing book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. The book allowed us to restore relationships and to think about our uniqueness, things that are special to us and others, and how we all need to unite too. Artwork and writing inspired by the project adorn our corridors and display boards, helping to bring life back to school.

We are about to embark on our first ever virtual parents' evenings. School may be different, it may be hard work implementing all of the new routines and cleaning protocols, but my goodness it is worth it. Listening to the children laugh and joke, seeing them play with friends in their bubble and become so excited when they get a certificate via our Zoom celebration assembly, are all the things that keep us going and the things we have missed so much.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Marsh Mail

We held a virtual open evening at the start of October, including a series of films that help to capture life at LVC. Materials are available to view on the college website (www.lvc.org).

We are currently advertising for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant to join the Learning Support Team at LVC to contribute to the catch up curriculum and targeted intervention.

We are really keen to make effective use of what was originally the Warden's House and more recently a caretaker's onsite residence. The property needs some adaptation and renovation to make it fit for purpose as an educational building. We would like to run some crowdfunding through the College's Just Giving website. If you are able to contribute financially, we would be very grateful for your support via: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lvcinclusionproject>. Alternatively, you may have trade skills that you could offer the college to help us with this project, by contacting Reception@lvc.org.

Helena Marsh



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2523 Linton Air Cadets

Virtual parade nights continue to be a success, with cadets often running sessions themselves; recently we have had interesting lectures from Cadet Morris about aero-modelling and Cadet Vellacott on professional flight simulators.

A full training programme has been put together for our return to face to face activity. Over virtual parade nights we have covered all sorts of theory including leadership, fieldcraft, first aid and radio training. I look forward to seeing cadets able to complete all the practical aspects of our comprehensive syllabus soon.

Bradley Wright, Acting Pilot Officer
(07943 873272, training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk)



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Autumn Raffle

Burrough Green Playgroup are organising an on-line raffle, with tickets at £1 each. The prizes include meals, wine, beauty and hair treatments, tours, vouchers, and many others, and the winner will be drawn on Friday 6th November. The link to enter is: <https://raffall.com/132200/enter-affle-to-win-burrough-green-autumn-affle-hosted-by-sarah-hosegood> or use the QR code.



Sarah McKay,
Burrough Green Playgroup

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Granta Vale November Services			
Sunday	9 am	10 am	4 pm
1 st		Time of Prayer (Zoom), <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship (West Wratting), <i>Sebastian Bain</i> Morning Worship (West Wickham), <i>Marcus Cornish</i>	
8 th	Holy Communion (Weston Colville) <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Remembrance Services: Time of Prayer (Zoom, 10am), <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Hildersham Churchyard (10.45am), <i>Keith Day</i> Little Abington Churchyard (10.45am), <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Balsham Memorial (10.45am), <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Wratting Common Memorial (12 noon), <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	
15 th	Holy Communion (West Wickham) <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship (West Wratting) <i>Sebastian Bain</i>	Time of Prayer (Zoom), <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion (Balsham), <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer (Little Abington) <i>Alistair Collen</i>
22 nd	Holy Communion (Hildersham) <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship (West Wratting) <i>Sebastian Bain</i> Morning Worship (Weston Colville) <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Time of Prayer (Zoom), <i>Jeanine Kennedy</i> Morning Worship (Gt Abington), <i>Graham Ross</i> Morning Worship (West Wickham), <i>Marcus Cornish</i>	
29 th	Holy Communion (West Wratting) <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion (Great Abington) <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Time of Prayer (Zoom), <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion, (Balsham), <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Morning Worship (West Wickham), <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Evening Prayer (Hildersham) <i>Alistair Collen</i>

Also, Evening Prayer (Compline) on Thursdays at 9 pm via Zoom.

Revd Iain McColl
tel: 890693 email: mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com
Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister
email: jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

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

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

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

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

Community Warden: Carol Poll,
carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk 07436 102865

DIARY

November 2020

Mon 2 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
Sun 8 Remembrance Day
Mon 9 West Wratting Parish Council meeting
Wed 18 West Wratting Book Club
Sat 28 Churchyard clear-up, St Andrew's, West Wratting
Sun 29 Weston Colville Oil Cooperative orders deadline

Black bins: Monday 2nd, 16th & 30th November,
Monday 14th & 28th December

Blue bins: Monday 9th & 23rd November,
Monday 7th & 21st December

Green bins: Monday 9th & 23rd November,
Monday 7th December

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays from 5th November,
Reading Room carpark, Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: 3rd November, 1st December
High Street, West Wratting 12.15 - 12.45 pm
old Post Office, Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

December issue's copy date
Friday 20th November