

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Weston Colville Harvest Festival Celebration and Brunch

Harvest Festival is a popular time of thanksgiving. Come and join us for an informal service at 10.30 am on 26th September at St Mary's Church, and afterwards for a bacon/veggie sandwich brunch, coffee and a catch-up. Everyone is welcome, bring the family, come and celebrate the good things our earth has to provide.

Bob Coates

West Wratting Harvest Songs of Praise and Village BBQ

We're really looking forward to being able to get together at an all-village event once more!

The church service on 5th September will be open to everybody, with child-friendly songs and activities, and even a report on this year's harvest! We'll have good social distancing in the church, and a request for most people to wear masks inside if possible, just so we can all feel safe.

The BBQ in the church grounds afterwards will be for everyone in the village to enjoy, with the usual attraction of the Teddy Bear drop and live music from a three-piece band.

We'll keep an eye on the weather – but assume the sun will shine!

Scilla, Sherry and Catherine

Friday Night Inn @ The Reading Room

Members of the Reading Room committee are hosting a pub evening to coincide with 'Pimp my Fish' on Friday 3rd September, 6 - 10 pm.

We will be serving local ale, wine and soft drinks. All profits towards improving the village. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Jacksons

Harvest



Songs of Praise

West Wratting Church

Sunday 5th September 3 pm

All very welcome



Followed by

Village BBQ with live music

and Bear Parachute Jump

4 pm in the Church Grounds

For everyone

Bring your own meat and drink

Salads, bread, cake, fruit provided.

West Wratting Café

Our West Wratting café will be returning to the village hall on **Saturday 4th September** from 10.30 am to 12 noon. The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to serve and donate cakes every month. The money raised will continue to be donated to local community projects.

We are looking forward to catching up again over coffee and cake. Please do come and join us!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)



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Tea and Cakes

We have been fortunate with the weather for our Tea and Cakes sessions in June and July. It is planned to hold the session outdoors again in September, so let's hope our luck holds out. We look forward to seeing you on Friday 17th September, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room. If the weather doesn't cooperate we will meet the following Friday, 24th September, instead.

The Tea and Cakes Team

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 18th September. Meet at the Reading Room at 10 am, BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. Come and join us – all welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries: 291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

La course des tournesols

Just to remind everyone, the race is over. How did your sunflowers grow?

Please send photos (if you have them) and measurements of your sunflowers. There's a prize for the tallest plant, biggest flower and most impressive picture. Photographic evidence and height to be emailed to becky.gilley@babraham.ac.uk Please also let me know how many you grew.

Thank you to everyone that planted some, you have helped me with one of my 50 challenges this year: to grow 50 sunflowers! I wonder if we managed it? Look out for further challenges you can help me with.

Becky Gilley



WEST WRATTING TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER, 4 pm St Andrews Church

Bring your teddy bear and home-made parachute to jump off the church roof!



FREE TO PARTICIPATE

**Leave bear in blue bucket in church
main entrance by 4 pm to ensure your
bear can jump**

**This event is after the Songs of Praise
service and at the start of the village
BBQ**

*(Please note this will be weather permitting, as it
would not be safe for bears to jump in wind or rain.
All bears jump at their own risk.)*

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St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

I have pencilled this in for Saturday 20th November, when it is hoped we can finally serve coffee and doughnuts. Do please come along, if only for a chat.

Colin McCall (290036)

West Wratting Book Club

After the usual summer break, our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th September at The Chestnut Tree to discuss 'The Versions of Us' by Laura Barnett and 'The Wild Silence' by Raynor Wynn, sequel to 'The Salt Path'.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Weston Colville Reading Room – 'Pub' Quiz

After a two-year break, the quiz is back! We're holding one on Wednesday 22nd September at 8 pm. Up to four per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome, enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

St Andrew's Church

**Come and join us for a
Celebration!**

A celebration of the fact that we can all get together again as well as celebrating the successful completion of the building work on St Andrew's Church

What: An old-fashioned cheese and wine party

When: Saturday 11th September 2021 at 6.30pm

Where: PHIL and SHERRY O'DONOVAN have kindly agreed to host us at The Lodge, 74 High Street. West Wratting

Cost: The event has been generously sponsored so there is no entrance fee

Do come and join us.
It will be great to see you all



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Churchyard Conservation Bronze Award

I am delighted to advise that St Andrew's churchyard earned sufficient points to qualify for the Bronze Award. There will be a presentation in the churchyard, probably at the end of October, when I will write further.

This has been a heartening outcome in these difficult times, and I would like to thank the many residents who contributed to the endeavour; their ages varied from 4 to over 80.

I will write more fully after the presentation, but suffice it to say, there has been a huge increase in wildlife, especially insects and butterflies, and a couple of wrens, who have taken a shine to the new wild flower bed.

Colin McCall

Ride & Stride for Churches

This will take place on Saturday 11th September, between 10 am and 6 pm. All the information and paperwork you need can be downloaded from

<https://camhct.uk>



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Platinum Jubilee - June 2022

HM the Queen will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in 2022. An additional Bank Holiday has been awarded, and the weekend 2nd - 5th June 2022 will see the majority of the national celebrations marking this historic milestone taking place. Weston Colville parish council are inviting all parishioners to join in with a celebration in the village. Previous jubilees have seen us taking part in sports day events, flower competitions, church services, a rerun of the Coronation on video, a hog roast, a bring a picnic to a party, a group photograph, a Punch & Judy show, and the planting of a commemorative tree. Jubilee mugs were given to the children of the parish. Cake sales were held to help provide some funding. If you would like something along these lines again, or have some fresh ideas of your own to share, please do let us know. If you would be willing to assist in the organisation contact the parish council via the website, <https://westoncolville.org.uk/contact-us/> or drop an email to bridgetdurham@btinternet.com. Let's see if we can have an event to remember.

Weston Colville Parish Council

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Lower Wood Celebration, Saturday 2nd October

Below is a programme of events that people have kindly volunteered to co-ordinate. If you are interested in assisting/ contributing to these, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.



If we get enough material we also want to put on an exhibition and activities in the Reading Room during the day, related to the wood. There will be a small display on the history of the wood, and contributions by yourselves will make up the rest of the material.

If you have photo prints we will display these on the walls; if your photos are in electronic format these will be projected. Subjects might include flowers, plants, birds, insects, users of the wood (all species), coppicing – any photos taken in or of the wood.

The art work should be either inspired by the wood or use material from the wood. Adults and children please get busy.

Alternatively if you would like to write something about the wood and why it is special to you, we can display this as well. This could be prose, poetry or even just a few words. Jacqueline Douglas has kindly offered to read some poetry (time to be announced). On a similar vein if you have any recordings of sounds in the wood (eg bird song) these can be played during the day.

Refreshments will be available in the Reading Room all day from 10.30 am. Donations of cakes and other refreshments would be gratefully received.

Any money raised during the event will be donated to The Wildlife Trust BCN.

Any contributions should reach me by Friday 24th September.

Jackie Brearley (Jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk, 290076)

Events Programme

10 am	Opening Thanksgiving Ceremony	<i>Start at Edna's Glade</i>
To follow (approx 10.30 am)	Children's hide/seek/treasure hunt (parents/carers must accompany child or children)	<i>Start at Edna's Glade</i>
	or: (approx 10.30am) Flora and fauna in a coppiced wood	<i>Walk/talk, from Edna's Glade</i>
12 noon	Teddy bears' picnic lunch	<i>In Edna's Glade / Reading Room (weather dependent)</i>
2 pm	Birds of the wood	<i>Walk /talk, from Edna's Glade</i>
4 pm	Dog walk up to and through the wood (dogs must be on leads)	<i>Start and finish at Reading Room</i>
5 pm	Poetry	<i>Reading Room</i>
6 - 8 pm	Street food van and refreshments	<i>Reading Room</i>
7.30 - 10 pm	Music evening (refreshments available)	<i>Reading Room</i>

Edna's Glade is the open area entering the wood from the wood stack end (South East corner), named after Edna Mayfield who used to bring Girl Guides to camp in the clearing before the wood was entrusted to the Wildlife Trust.

Used Stamps and Postcards

For very many years I have been asking you to save your used stamps and used or unused postcards. Unfortunately both my outlets for these have closed down – all quite a surprise to me. I think the main reason is the age of the volunteers who help sort out the items – most being quite old!

Some suggestions for used stamps are listed at: <https://usedstampsforcharity.weebly.com>, or the RNIB is at: www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal

Very many thanks to those of you who have supported these ventures – it has been much appreciated.

Joanna Sanders (sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

Parish Matters

The summer is racing past and once again we are aware of our rural communities as farmers work late into the night, often driving their tractors up the high street when it is dark, and with the nights starting to draw in as we prepare for autumn.



I have been struck by the resulting freedom families are experiencing now they are able to meet more freely as a result of the pandemic easing. Here are a few thoughts about the importance of the families supporting each other.

The summer has been full of sport: football, Olympics and cricket to name but a few. I was struck by how each player has had to be dedicated to practice their skills to achieve the goals they strive for, that could be a medal or a trophy that their team have won. In order to excel each player has had the support of a member of the family prepared to ferry their child here, there and everywhere; building up confidence as well as skill. It takes time, and that sacrifice has its rewards, but this is long-term commitment. Good foundations are important at this early stage, and in this pandemic all competitors have been tested to keep their eye on the prize of success to do the best they can with the help and support of family and friends.

As I write this article the exam results are being published, and many have had success in their studies. Students recognise the role of support they have received from their parents, with one student acknowledging that she was more resilient as a result of the pandemic. She had had to struggle but in the end was successful. This quality of resilience will stand students in good stead for the challenges ahead in life.

Continuing the theme of families, I have been privileged to conduct several baptisms since the lockdown has eased. To watch family and friends meet up after a long period of time has been a great joy, and in church as well! We have had a chance to appreciate those whose support we have relied on in a new way.

The family of the church grows when a new member is baptised into it. The church family exists in each parish church so that we start off as individuals in a small family unit, supported and loved. This grows



when we join the church family as a baptised person and we then realise that we are part of the world-wide family of the church throughout the world. Baptism is not solely for babies, anyone can be baptised if they feel this is right for them, and having been baptised it means that wherever we go on our travels the church is part of our family. As a child I felt very safe in church and knew that the atmosphere was one of peace and tranquility. This has not changed, for me it is still a sacred space. Our churches are open, so do go along if you have a few minutes to spend in quiet.

As the new academic year begins parents, teachers and children will all be working together to support each other ready for the success at the end of the academic year in 2022.

We give thanks with a grateful heart for those we rely on and those we support in the months and years ahead. Every blessing,

Rev Kathy Bishop

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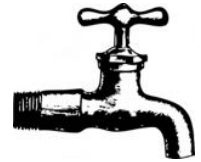
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Village Hall Events

Church News

Parish Matters

Village Calendar

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

COVID Community Champions Awards

People across our local area have gone above and beyond to help others during the pandemic, and to recognise their fantastic efforts I have launched a COVID Community Champions award. From collecting medication and groceries, to looking out for elderly neighbours, or volunteering or supporting the NHS – there are many stories of support that have taken place across our local communities during the pandemic.

If you would like to nominate a local individual to thank them for the work they have done then please email me (see poster for details). I will be announcing the winners in the autumn, and holding a special event in Parliament to recognise their hard work. I look forward to sharing their stories with you.

Lucy Frazer QC MP
MP for South East Cambridgeshire



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West Watting Football

The First Team started their season in the Kershaw Premier League against local rivals Great Shelford. As expected it was a very competitive game resulting in a 1 - 0 win for Watting. Callum Harrison was the scorer.

We then travelled to another local rival in Linton Granta, again taking all 3 points with a 2 - 0 win. The goalscorers were Mark Lovell and Taz Chisango.

For our third game of the season we welcomed Ely City to Bull Lane. Confidence was high after such an impressive start to the season but we could only manage a 0 - 0 draw against a very determined and organised Ely side.

Lee Miller, First Team Manager

September Fixtures: (all 3 pm kick off)

Date	Home	Away
4.9.21	Over Sports (at Over)	WW First
4.9.21	WW Reserves	Milton
11.9.21	WW First	Linton Granta
11.9.21	Guilden Morden	WW Reserves
18.9.21	Gt Shelford	WW First
18.9.21	WW Reserves	Melbourn
25.9.21	Gamlingay	WW First
25.9.21	WW Reserves	Clare Town

All are very welcome.

Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary

RNLI (Cambridge & District Branch)



The flyers are now available for Christmas 2021, including Calendars, Christmas Cards, and Family Organisers. If you would like one please contact me.

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2523 Linton Air Cadets

Our extensive programme has multiple projects and activities on the go. After posting an Instagram picture of cadets piloting



unmanned aerial systems we noticed that the RAF Regiment posted a very similar picture within hours. Synergy between our training and also our media output too!



made and squadron staff are off to assist in the National Aerospace Camp, and other modified camp activities will be going ahead.

It was fantastic to get the entire squadron out under canvas at the most recent Duxford air show. 2523 assisted in the car parking and enjoyed a camp and field kitchen dinner provided by our civilian committee.

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

We continue to make the most of the light evenings with fieldcraft training and also our most recent squadron project, continuity drill. This is where we put a marching drill sequence to music. We hope to have a well polished sequence ready to impress at our next awards and presentation evening. Off-squadron activities are starting too, with cyber courses, Duke of Edinburghs expeditions, a few camps and flying.

Usually we would be in the middle of summer camp season at this time of year. A huge effort has been

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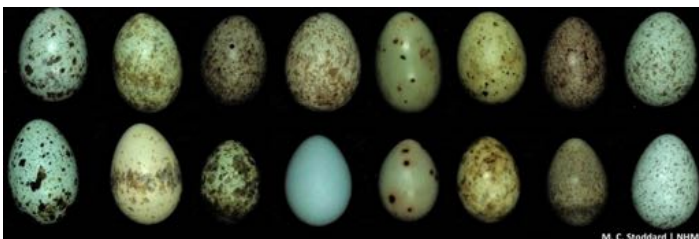
Nature Notes

It's berry season – wild raspberries and blackberries are in the woods. Migrant birds like Blackcaps are filling up on these for the long journey south. This is the time of year when the new season's crop of Marsh Tits will begin to run out of food in the woods and start hitting your garden feeders. Please send sightings to camsmarti@gmail.com or **Challenge**

A celebrated migrant graced a garden in Weston Colville early in August – a juvenile Cuckoo, raised by a pair of Dunnocks. By now it will be south of the Sahara, nearing the Congo basin. (Live map of satellite-tagged Cuckoos at :<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/cuckoo-tracking-project>). There was a similar juvenile in the same garden last year, probably also raised by Dunnocks.



To be accepted by a host species, you'd expect that the Cuckoo egg must look like the host's eggs. The egg chart from the Natural History Museum shows this to be true, except for the Dunnock! Cuckoo eggs on the top row, host eggs on the bottom row. (From left, Great Reed Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Reed Warbler, Dunnock, Brambling, Garden Warbler, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail. More info at: <https://asknature.org/strategy/two-egg-pigments-drive-parasite-arms-race>).



Dunnock eggs are a uniform bright blue, but the Cuckoo can get away with laying a larger, spotty egg. Unsurprisingly, the Dunnock is one of the main hosts for Cuckoos. It's an intriguing mystery why Dunnocks haven't evolved better egg discrimination.



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It's also a good time for moths. I was lucky enough to be invited to Wicken Fen to participate in a moth night, where the outstanding camouflage of my personal favourite the Buff Tip moth mimics a piece of Birch twig.



Wicken also produced an incredibly rare reedbed specialist, the Reed Leopard moth. In the UK, this species is known at Wicken Fen, Hickling Broad in Norfolk and nowhere else.

Lastly, it's not well known that our hedgerows are important in fighting climate change. Great Britain has half a million kilometres of hedgerows, making them our largest semi-natural

habitat. They are refuges for wild plants, and green corridors for wildlife to move through farmland monocultures, slow down soil erosion and pesticide/fertiliser runoff into water supplies, and have even been shown to improve air quality by trapping air pollution. We have less than half of the hedgerows we had in 1945. The UK Climate Change Committee has recommended that 40% more hedgerows are planted and wants the Govt to commit to this for the upcoming global COP26 conference in Glasgow. Can we put back some hedgerows in our area?

Hoping you can plant a hedge, no matter its size,

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group



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Medical Practices

Flu Clinics

Are you eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine? If yes, but haven't yet booked one don't delay – ring 0300 234 5555 to arrange your appointment.

We are holding clinics on the following dates:

Saturday 11th September – Granta Sawston, Granta Linton, Granta Shelford

Sunday 12th September – Granta Market Hill

Saturday 9th October – Granta Sawston, Granta Linton, Granta Barley

Saturday 23rd October – Granta Shelford

As a Granta patient, you have a choice of which venue you attend, on a day most convenient for you.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us on 0300 234 5555 or email me on sandra.east@nhs.net

Charity Event – Granta Medical Practices are proud to support EastFest21, a charity music festival being held on Saturday 18th September, raising awareness of mental health and suicide. Set in the grounds of The Coach House Hotel at Flint Cross (CB22 7PN),

there will be live music, a beer festival, food and side stalls, with B&B rooms and camping available. All proceeds are going to the Zero Suicide Alliance, a charity dedicated to raising awareness of suicide by offering free online training for everyone and bringing NHS trusts and organisations together with the joint aim of reducing suicide nationwide.

For further information about EastFest21 and to order tickets go to www.eastfest.live

For further information about the Zero Suicide Alliance and to access free online training go to www.zerosuicidealliance.com

Remember that whatever you are going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call free on 116 123.

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The Ellesmere Centre

Please come along and join us for our amazing Live Music Nights.

4th September – Stetchworth's very own **Johnny Wright & Friends**. Weather permitting this will be outside so bring a blanket or chair and a picnic. The bar will be open so please do not bring your own drinks. Tickets £3 per adult, available from the office.

The Joanna Eden Band

Friday 17th September at 8 pm. Tickets £12.50
Licensed bar.

Joanna has performed all over the world and supported Jamie Cullum and more recently Van Morrison, amongst others. She has performed at the Centre many times. On this occasion she will be performing a combination of Latin music and her original songs. Not to be missed.

Walking Football – we are really keen to try to start this up again, preferably in the daytime. If you would be interested please send an email or drop into the office one morning. (We have had a few responses to this and just need a few more!)

Dick Whittington – would you like to audition or help behind the scenes at this year's panto? If so come along to our kick-off meeting on Thursday 2nd September at the Ellesmere Centre to find out more.

Art Class – we have a new tutor for our Tuesday afternoon Art Class. Please give the office a call if you are interested and would like more details.

Most of our classes are restarting from September so it would be good to see you all back.

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

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Help for Refugees

Cambridge City Council is asking for goods and support to help refugees. A list on the website, www.help-refugees-uk-service.gov.uk/next, is kept updated, and at the moment includes items baby equipment, toys, clothes (for all ages), furniture, electrical and white goods, as well as housing, advice, companionship and activities.



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Worship on Zoom

Since the start of the first lockdown we've been having a zoom Time of Prayer service each Sunday morning and we've decided this should continue, as it has provided a good way of accessing worship for many. Recently I have pre-recorded many of these services, and we hope to record two services a week live from Balsham Church once we have installed wifi there.

For those of you who may have benefited from the Zoom services over the pandemic and would like to support the ongoing ministry it offers, there is the opportunity of contributing towards the cost of this wifi. We will be entering into a three year contract with a total set up cost (installation + first year) of £529.67. If you see the provision of a Zoom service as beneficial and would like to contribute (any amount of your choosing) towards this first year wifi costs, please do contact our parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, (891443 or 7churches.seven@gmail.com) and she can provide you with the details of how to make your contribution.

Rev Iain McColl

DIARY

September 2021

Fri 3 Pimp My Fish, Friday Night Inn, Reading Room
 Sat 4 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
 Sun 5 Harvest Songs of Praise & BBQ, West Wrating
 Teddy Bear Parachute Jump, West Wrating
 Mon 6 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
 Sat 11 Ride & Stride, Historic Churches
 Balsham Autumn Market
 Clay Shoot, Six Mile Bottom
 Cheese & Wine Party, West Wrating
 Wed 15 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
 Sat 18 Circular Walk, from outside Reading Room
 Wed 22 'Pub' Quiz, Weston Colville Reading Room
 Sat 25 Auction, Brinkley Memorial Hall
 Sun 26 Weston Colville Harvest Festival and brunch
 Thur 30 Closing date for Covid Champions nominations

October 2021

Fri 1 Pimp My Fish, opposite Reading Room
 Sat 2 Lower Wood Celebration, Weston Colville

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, 07779 277647

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

Community Warden: Faye Parker,
Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Parish Nurse: Kim Cox,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Within our churches, the ministry team will, in common with many places, be encouraging people to continue to use masks and to social distance within a church service for the time being, with the aim of reviewing this in mid September. We recognise, however, that this is a choice for each individual to make and each person's view will be respected.

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park,
 Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 7th Sept, 5th October
 High Street, West Wrating 12.15 - 12.45 pm
 Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

Black bins: Monday 6th & 20th September,
 Monday 4th & 18th October

Blue & Green bins: Monday 13th & 27th September,
 Mon 11th & 25th October

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.

October issue's copy date
Monday 20th September