

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Oak Tree**



Planted in West Wrating churchyard on Accession Day, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February, on behalf of all the village.

## **Weston Colville Spring Lunch**

Enjoy a classic roast Sunday lunch and a popular social event on 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30 for 1 pm at the Reading Room. Tickets buy a full roast lunch, hot pudding, and coffee (vegetarian/vegan options available if pre-ordered) and there will be a bar open throughout.

Tickets are £16 per head, or £7 for primary-aged children (5 - 11); under 5s are free. There are only sixty seats available, so book early! All proceeds to support St Mary's church.

Tickets from Gay Redman or Ian Ashbridge to reserve a place.

([ian@agrarian.biz](mailto:ian@agrarian.biz), 291344)

## **Weston Colville Circular Walk**

Our next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, meeting 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.

291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

## **West Wrating Café**

Our next West Wrating café will be at the village hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Kim Cox and Suan Rowland will be sharing information on the Parish Nurse project. There will also be a charity stall for Granta School, run by Kate Cleary.

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

**Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)**

## **Tea and Cakes**

Our next session will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 - 5 pm in the Reading Room. We look forward to seeing you then.

**Val and the Team**

## **Weston Colville Cinema Club**

For our film for this month, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> we're showing the film of the book, 'Jane Eyre'. We've gone for the classic 1943 production with Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine, 'reasonably faithful and superbly



staged' according to Halliwell's Guide. The programme starts at 7.30 pm with an introduction to the film. This will end our winter programme of films, so catch Cinema Club while you can! Donations, refreshments available, all welcome.

[jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475

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**West Wrating Book Club**

For February we read 'The Venetians' by Bill Matthews. Now a Cambridge resident working for the university, he previously lived and worked in Turkey, Italy and Canada.

The story is based upon the real diary of a young medical doctor, Nicolò Barbaro, and also uses the contemporary 'The Fall of the Byzantine Empire' by George Sphrantzes, another major character in the story. It follows Nicolò's adventures, in particular, his sea voyage to Constantinople, where he arrives as the Ottomans, led by Sultan Mehmed, are building up their forces in preparation for the fateful attack on that city (comparison to current events was unavoidable) and his development both as a doctor and a person. The author has done a lot of research and, although very detailed and interesting historically, it was felt by most that there was no real depth and characterisation and it "fell between two stools", neither a straight history book nor a truly rewarding novel.

Those who had spent time in what is now Istanbul enjoyed the mention of places they knew. There was also some uncertainty about the description of medical thinking and treatments, despite the comparatively advanced knowledge of the Ottomans.

Some descriptions sounded just too modern, and the language anachronistic. Scores ranged between 6, 7 and 8 and it might only be recommended to those who like lots of historical facts and details.

Our book for March is 'Will She do?' by Eileen Atkins. We will meet at 7.30 pm at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will then take a break for April, and plan to read two books for May – titles to be announced.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

**Spring Clear-up, St Andrew's Churchyard**


The spring clear-up will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April (the weekend before Easter) from 10 am to 12 noon. As ever, hot cross buns and coffee will be served. Looking forward to seeing you.

*Colin McCall (290046)*

**Save the Dates**

The Reading Room pub quiz returns on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Also returning are folk group Camus, with our own David Somerville, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

See next month's Challenge for more on both of these.



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**d'Abo Tennis Club AGM**

Please see the club website ([www.westwrattingtontennis.co.uk](http://www.westwrattingtontennis.co.uk)) for the date of the club's upcoming AGM. We would be delighted to welcome to the AGM anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in the running of the club. If you have any questions about what might be involved please contact: [secretary@WestWrattingtonTennis.co.uk](mailto:secretary@WestWrattingtonTennis.co.uk) or call 290179.

*Cally Wilson*

**A Big Thank You**

Or more precisely, three big thank yous.

Firstly Pamela and I would like to thank all our friends and neighbours in the village for all their offers and practical help with shopping, prescription delivery and all the little errands they have undertaken during the various lockdowns. Without that help we would have coped, but you made our lives a lot easier. Thank you.

Secondly I would like to thank Addenbrooke's Hospital staff for their amazing care during my visits to A&E and other departments for scans, small operations, biopsies and checkups. They were caring,

professional and courteous every time, under severe pressure on occasions.

Last but certainly not least I would like to thank Granta Medical Practices at Linton and Sawston for their continued help and assistance, particularly over the last twelve months when I have needed to call upon their services more than I would have liked. As with Addenbrooke's, all the staff have been caring, professional and courteous at all times. Nothing has been too much trouble.

I have sent separate letters of thanks to Addenbrooke's and Granta Medical Practices.

*David Richardson, West Wrattling*



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**Get ready for**



**Keep the afternoon of Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April free for a Songs of Praise celebration in the West Wrattling Church. For kids of all ages. Bonfire and Cakes.**

**Parish Affairs**

When the going gets tough . . . well, I guess there’s always chocolate.



Perhaps that’s what’s inspired the supermarkets to stock their shelves with Easter eggs from before the end of January. But I doubt it. Regardless, like the increasingly early arrival of spring bulbs, the effect was curiously disconcerting as much as it might have been welcome. Was Easter really going to be that early this year? No.

Because the date of Easter is a calculation based on the lunar cycle, confusingly (and something the commercial world doesn’t like) it’s different every year. So, just in case you’re still disorientated by early Easter eggs, Easter Sunday is not until 17<sup>th</sup> April this year. Phew!

However, Lent has just started, some six weeks or so before Easter, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Ash Wednesday.

In ages past, encouraging Christians to embrace the traditional disciplines of Lent – penance, prayer and self-denial – was probably never an easy ‘sell’. Certainly, over the past two years of lockdown, and Covid fears and deaths, it seemed rather out of place to look for the value of placing more burdens on oneself. And this year, too, but with a different set of unprecedented stresses piling on – soaring energy bills and inflation, and tax increases – yet again, many may feel that any whole-hearted embrace of whatever is

the point of Lent is compromised. After all, why add extra self-imposed austerity?

Yet, is there a way to recast the extra disciplines of Lent as something genuinely helpful for us at this juncture of personal, and indeed global, worrying uncertainties?

For Christians, I think there is. That is, when we recognise that the real effort of Lent is about daring to focus the mind, and heart, on the scandal\*, the absurdity of our nonsensical claim about God. For as Lent proceeds, we are heading towards the events of the trial and crucifixion of this particular innocent man whose death most reveals God, in His glory.

It’s this impossible paradox that Christians especially revisit in Lent, year after year, after year. And slowly, very slowly, we learn to see how Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead reassures, and releases new life and steadfast love . . . and confidence in whatever the future holds.

And then we tuck into our stockpile of Easter eggs!  
*Alistair Collen, Granta Vale Ministry Team*

\* 1 Corinthians 18 - 21

**Jackie Romanis – an Update**

Jackie left Weston Colville for the last time in June last year, so no more wobbly bike rides down the middle of the road to watch out for as she headed to West Wrattling to play the organ on Sundays or to practise during the week.

The dementia she had desperately fought against finally took hold, and she was taken to a nursing home in Bottisham, a new adventure where she found comfort in the daily routines, in between receiving visits from her friends in the village.

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My mum loved her house, the garden, volunteering and recycling, but most of all it was the kindness of her friends and neighbours that she most enjoyed. She tasked me and my wife Elaine to keep her in her house as long as possible and I hope we did this. Her friends were very supportive, though I know many people complained about her behaviour or state of dress at times; to these people I apologise. Dementia is an awful condition and I hope you never have to experience it.

Teaching was Jackie's life long passion and she enjoyed watching her pupils develop. She held senior positions at Newcastle University, then taught in Vanuatu in the South West Pacific for many years, before returning to take up a position at Dullingham School. In retirement she set off with a friend on a three month trek through the Himalayas, before returning home to work in her garden and making time to volunteer at Audley End.

Jackie is a very private person and highly protective of her independence, calling herself a "tough old bird". She never let anything get her down and would fiercely stand her ground no matter what. There were some bitter memories from her time on Mill Hill but a positive approach was always taken, and obstacles quickly dismissed.

In October 2021 Elaine and I moved Jackie to a nursing home just outside the town of Grassington, North Yorkshire, close to where we live in Settle. We visit her most weeks and with the relaxation of Covid regulations will be able to take her to many of the beauty spots in the area. She is safe, warm and well cared for, and has gained a certain notoriety in the home especially for her walkabouts. Her room overlooks the bird feeding station in the garden and on to the hills surrounding Grassington. Physically she is fine, however the memory lapses are getting more frequent though at times she totally surprises us with some of the questions she raises, and friends and neighbours are not forgotten.

If you wish for more up-to-date information on Jackie or perhaps to make contact with her please telephone us on 07908 162076.

Once again our thanks to everyone who gave Jackie support (even though she said she didn't need it: "I've been around the world several times don't you know") especially during the Covid lockdowns. You were amazing and we will be back to say hello sometime towards the middle of this year.

*Martyn and Elaine Thomas*

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***The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award***

During 2021, with changing restrictions and incidences of Covid-19, we were unfortunately unable to hold interviews prior to students taking up university places last September. We have recently contacted those who applied with our wish to make an award to one of them as soon as we can. We are sorry for the delay, due to such unprecedented circumstances. We are well aware how beneficial the award may be to the successful student!

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2022. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year, to the amount of £1,000.

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 Willingham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville, and Withersfield.

The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

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 290968.

For an application form please apply via email to: [peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com)

***West Wrattling Football***

**Forthcoming Fixtures for West Wrattling Firsts:**

- 5 March (A, 3 pm) v Cambridge University Press
- 19 March (A, 3 pm) v Fulbourn Institute
- 26 March (H, 3 pm) v Hemingfords United
- 2 April (A, 3 pm) v Eaton Socon
- 9 April (A, 3 pm) v Hemingfords United
- 12 April (A, 7.45 pm) v Somersham Town
- 16 April (H, 3 pm) v Eaton Socon
- 23 April (H, 3 pm) v Over Sports
- 30 April (H, 3 pm) v Somersham Town

***Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary***

**[www.westwrattling.org.uk](http://www.westwrattling.org.uk)**

for information on:

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Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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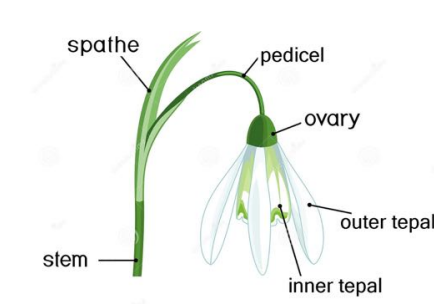
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### Nature Notes

Spring is here! Our six-year-old Marsh Tit, Black over Red ‘Moaty’ turned up again at Church End, Weston Colville in mid-February. He was three hours behind an unringed Marsh Tit, but we're still hopeful that Moaty has paired up for the breeding season. Len and Ben Eeles are on his trail, so hopefully they'll have more news soon. If you see any colour-ringed birds, please let us know at [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) or Challenge.

We're losing the winter visitors now, so if you see Redpolls, Siskins, Fieldfares, Redwings, Bramblings and Ring Ouzels, it's probably online or in a book.

Spring is heralded by Snowdrops. For me, if there are Snowdrops gracing your garden, it can't be winter! They have a surprisingly long flowering season, starting with *Galanthus* ‘Barnes’ and ‘Mrs Macnamara’ in October and finishing with the likes of ‘Danube Star’ in April. There are about twenty species across central and southern Europe. Their unstable genetics and willingness to interbreed has led to around 2,500 varieties. The most well-known species, *Galanthus nivalis*, has been growing wild here since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The varieties can look very similar, but are distinguished by leaves, scapes, pedicels and ovaries as well as the colour, markings and shape of the flowers.



A Snowdrop flower has three inner ‘petals’ (properly called tepals, as it's not easy to tell petals and sepals apart in *Galanthus*) and three outer tepals. Usually, the

three inner tepals are smaller, have a notch and various markings, the outer three are larger and plain. Pocliform means the inner tepals look larger and plainer like the outer ones; inverse poculiform means the outer tepals have markings like the inner ones.

Here are two inverse poculiform snowdrops: a single ‘South Hayes’ and a clump of ‘Trumps’.



Snowdrops can fetch silly prices, especially yellow varieties: the aptly named *Galanthus* ‘Golden Fleece’ is offered at over £200 per bulb, while a single bulb of the beautiful *Galanthus woronowii* ‘Elizabeth Harrison’ was auctioned to Thompson and Morgan of Ipswich for over £725 (it's said to have died).

Despite their delicate looks, most Snowdrops are as tough as old boots. Their shoots are tipped with antifreeze compounds, so they can melt their way through ice and snow. *Galanthus* ‘Rosemary Burnham’ survived being dug up by Squirrels to come though and delight my other half Eileen! Give them sharp drainage, spring sunshine but not summer sun and dryness, and they'll multiply and repay you year after year.

If anyone has varietal Snowdrops to spare that they'd like to swap for others, drop me an email at the above address? Swapping is the lifeblood of galanthophiles and the perfect antidote for overpriced plants.

*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group*



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**2523 Linton Air Cadets**

The squadron's new flight simulator is up and running on squadron. This will bring a great advancement to the aviation training we can offer and there was much excitement upon its first use.



The first order of training for the sim is basic ground school and effects of controls lessons, ahead of our return to powered Air Experience Flying in the Grob Tutor aircraft.

As well as flying and shooting, we look forward to our upcoming presentation evening.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant has agreed to be our presenting officer, and Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire wing Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Kelly, will be our VIP guest to join in celebrating our success.

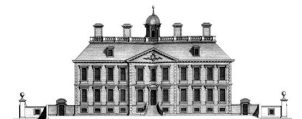
**Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer**

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**Linton & District Historical Society**

Janet Morris will be giving a talk at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March in Linton Village Hall:

**HORSEHEATH HALL:  
a Vanished Country House**



There will be refreshments and a raffle. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Ian Creek*

**Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to all of those who supported OCC in 2021. The outcome was tremendous, and so many children received a shoebox filled with lovely gifts, showing love to them; possibly the only present they will receive, with some items treasured for years.



Thank you again for your generosity and care, you are appreciated so much.

*Jane Furlow (year-round Connect volunteer)*

  
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### Granta Medical Practices

A number of vaccines are available on the NHS, the more common of which are listed below. If you are unsure whether you are eligible or would like further information please call us on 0300 234 5555 or visit [www.NHS.UK](http://www.NHS.UK)

#### Shingles vaccine – who is eligible?

- Adults 70 to 79 years old

You only need to have the shingles vaccine once and you can have it at any time of year. Whilst it is a very effective vaccine, some people can develop shingles at a later stage, but the illness will be milder. It works well in people who have had shingles before, and it will boost your immunity against further attacks.

There is a new vaccine available for people who are immunosuppressed called Shingrix and this is available at all of our surgeries as a two-dose course.

#### Pneumonia vaccine – who is eligible?

- Babies, as part of the national immunisation programme
- Adults aged 65 and over
- Children and adults with certain long-term health conditions, such as a serious heart or kidney condition.

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The pneumonia vaccine protects against serious pneumococcal infections and encourages your body to produce antibodies against pneumococcal bacteria.

If you have a long-term health condition you may only need a single one-off vaccination or a vaccination every five years, depending on your underlying problem.

#### Flu vaccine – who is eligible?

- Adults 50 years and over
- Have certain health conditions
- Are pregnant
- Are in a long-stay residential care
- Receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- Live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis).
- Frontline health or social care workers.

If you are not eligible for a free NHS 'flu vaccine you can buy one from your local pharmacist. Granta Pharmacy in Sawston have stocks of 'flu vaccine; to book an appointment call 01223 727530.

#### Covid vaccine – who is eligible?

- People aged 12 and over
- Some children aged 5 to 11

Adults have two vaccinations plus a booster dose. People with a severely weakened immune system are offered three doses plus a booster. Please note that it is never too late to start your Covid vaccine course.

Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) to find out where to get Covid vaccinations.

**Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**  
([sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net))





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*Healthwatch Cambridgeshire* is supporting a new volunteer project to help shape future urgent and emergency care services at Addenbrooke's.

We're looking for people to take part in a survey run by local Health Champions. The hospital wants to hear how urgent and emergency care can be a better experience for local people. Your feedback will help the hospital provide the best care through the design of future buildings and services.

Anyone who has visited Addenbrooke's urgent and emergency care services (including A&E and same day emergency care clinics) in the last twelve months can take part, by answering survey questions online or over the phone with a trained, volunteer Health Champion. It should take 45-60 minutes. The survey will close at the end of March 2022.

There's a £10 Love to Shop voucher as a thank you for taking part. We will also send you a copy of our survey report.

If you're eligible and interested in taking part, register your interest by contacting Jacqueline Douglas, [jacquelinehealthwatch@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinehealthwatch@gmail.com), 01223 291475. You can also contact Healthwatch by calling 0330 355 1285 or text on 0752 0625 176.



### *Help Improve Health & Care for Local People*

If you have experience of using adult social care, being a family carer, have a learning disability, physical disability or sensory impairment, then local health and care champion Healthwatch Cambridgeshire would like to hear from you. It's looking for new members for the Partnership Boards which work with local councils to improve health and care services. You'll bring your knowledge and experience to meetings every two or three months and represent the views of other care users, helping to shape services and support for others.

You'll get training and support, and out of pocket expenses. Read more at [www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/independent-member](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/independent-member) and have a chat with me, Graham Lewis, Healthwatch Partnership Development Manager.

**Graham Lewis (07432 865996,**  
[graham.lewis@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk](mailto:graham.lewis@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk))



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March	9.00 am	10.30 am
6 <sup>th</sup>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall</i>
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Great Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion &amp; Baptism</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>

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Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister  
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Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister  
email: [jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com)

**Churchwardens:**  
St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)  
**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
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[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz), 07779 277647  
**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260  
**Community Warden:** Lucy Cameron,  
[Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk), 07436 102865  
**Parish Nurse:** Kim Cox,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

## DIARY

### March 2022

Sat 5 Weston Colville Circular Walk  
West Wrating Café  
Tues 8 Balsham WI  
Wed 9 Weston Colville Cinema Club  
Tues 15 Linton & District Historical Society talk  
Wed 16 West Wrating Book Club  
Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Fri 18 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room  
Sun 20 Spring Lunch, Reading Room

### April 2022

Sat 9 St Andrew's Churchyard clear-up  
Sun 10 Songs of Praise celebration, St Andrew's  
Wed 20 Weston Colville 'Pub Quiz', Reading Room  
Sat 23 Folk group Camus, Weston Colville

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

**Mobile library:** first Tuesdays – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> April  
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 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March,  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, **Wed 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Blue & Green bins:** Mon 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March.  
Mon 11<sup>th</sup> & **Tues 26<sup>th</sup> April**

**Editor:** Anne Bragg ([editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto: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.

**April issue's copy date: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**