

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## **Tea & Cakes**

We will be back in the Reading Room from 3.30 to 5.00 pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The team are looking forward to catching up with everyone over a cuppa and a slice of delicious homemade cake – see you there.



*Val & the Team*

## **West Wrating Café**

Please join us on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the village hall, 10.30 am - 12 noon.

The table tennis last month was a great success with young and 'slightly older' visitors enjoying a game, so it's looking like becoming a permanent feature!

Our usual delicious homemade cakes, fresh coffee and tea will be available and, of course, plenty of time for a chat and catch up. Looking forward to seeing you.

*Sherry & Jan*

## **Weston Colville Reading Room – ‘Pub’ Quiz**

We will be holding our next quiz on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 8 pm and once again April's winning team will be defending the trophy – could you take it off them?

Come as a fully-formed team, or make one when you arrive. Up to 5 per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

*(jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475)*

## **West Wrating Book Club**

Just a reminder that we have been reading two books, 'The Nine Taylors' by Dorothy L Sayers and



## **Harvest Songs of Praise**

.....for all the Family

West Wrating Church

**Sunday 17 September 3-4 pm**

Lots of child-friendly songs and music

All ages very welcome

Followed by

**Tea, cakes, bonfire & sausage sizzle  
in the church grounds**



John & Scilla Harvey & team tel: 290199

'Possession' by A.S. Byatt. We will meet up again at the Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September to discuss them.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

## **Weston Colville Harvest Festival – Celebration and Brunch**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 11 am, St Mary's Church**

Come and join us for an informal service of thanksgiving and afterwards for brunch.

Everyone is welcome; bring the family. Come and celebrate the good things our earth has to provide.

*Jane Pryor*



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**News from the Community Minister!**

Well, what a super first couple of months I've been able to have within these parishes! I really do feel blessed to be given this opportunity as a community minister with the chance to walk alongside all.

My time has been spent getting out and about, attending many coffee mornings (need to watch my cake intake!) and community groups, and meeting with those who work so hard to ensure the community is supported and cared for. I always feel so honoured as I leave a meeting, feeling refreshed that so much kindness, care and love is being given within our communities. God's work indeed.



It has been wonderful to discover so many groups, organisations and activities that are happening within our parishes and it is here that I hope to help build links.

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One of the most humbling elements of my work is the home visits; these are indeed very special moments. To be invited into someone's home: to listen to people's worries, concerns, fears and joys! To be able to sit beside someone, connect with them and to offer prayer is a wonderful gift and something indeed which we can all do. The strength it may provide can be immense and powerful.

If there is a group, organisation or someone you feel would appreciate a visit, please do let me know. Do say hello if you see me out and about!

With blessings,

**Hannah Threlfall**  
(07867 515914, Hthrelfall82@gmail.com)

*Footnote* – Hannah will be commissioned as our Community Minister on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September as part of the United Service at Balsham. The service starts at 11.00 am and all are warmly welcome to attend. There will be refreshments after the service.

**West Wrattling Oil Syndicate**

There will not be a West Wrattling oil syndicate order this month. The next order is scheduled for October and details will be given in next month's *Challenge*.

**Phil Tempest** (westwrattlingoil@gmail.com)

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### Nature Notes

'Tis the season of Nature's bounty. Pick those blackberries by the end of September, or they won't taste nice. If you see squirrels anywhere near hazelnut trees, don't even try to beat them to the ripe brown nuts!

We're actively looking for young Marsh Tits now. Any sightings of these birds to [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com)



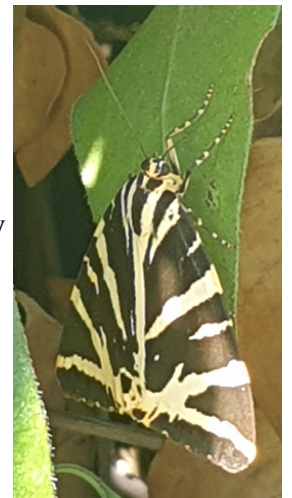
or **Challenge**, please.

Now is also the season to be surprised by spiders in the bath. Male Giant House Spiders (*Eratigena atrica*) are most obvious now, as

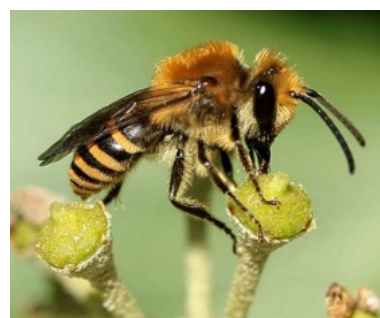
they're looking for females. Why they think they'll find them up dark, dank bath pipes is anyone's guess. Males are easily identified by a pair of large appendages hanging under the mouth which look like paddles or boxing gloves.

To keep spiders out, keep the plug in the bath and cover up the overflow hole.

The fabulous Jersey Tiger moth (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) is flying till mid September. It is a large moth, ~approximately 5 cm long, active by day and night. Its forewings look exactly like the stylised zebra-stripe prints once fashionable as leggings or car seat covers. The hindwings – seen in flight or when startled – are vermilion, but sometimes orange.



This moth was restricted to Devon and the Channel Islands until the 1990s, when its range started expanding (due to global boiling?) and now includes our region. In August, I saw this one in a roadside hedge in Hitchin, and several overnight at Wicken Fen, so they're certainly here. There's a prize for the first one spotted in our area!



The small but beautiful Ivy Bee (*Colletes hederiae*) can be seen now till early November on Ivy flowers near south-facing, loose, light soil (for nesting). It looks like a Honey Bee but

half its size, with a black and white striped abdomen. There are many at the Mary Challis garden in Sawston.

Lastly, September is the perfect time to admire the long Dahlia border at Anglesey Abbey. Our favourite is 'Weston Spanish Dancer'. What's yours?

*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group*



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**West Wratting Auction of Promises**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30 pm**

In aid of St Andrew's Church, the oldest building in West Wratting, the Auction of Promises will be a fun-filled evening for the local community.

Residents from around the village have donated a wide array of promises for you to bid on. Pre-bids are welcome, in addition to submissions on the night, and the person with the highest bid when the gavel comes down wins! Only the winner will pay, and they will receive the promiser's contact details for arranging/collecting their prize.

Suitable for all ages, the Auction of Promises will be held at the West Wratting Village Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 pm.



Tickets cost £20.00 each in advance, which includes a two-course supper, glass of wine and glass of port. If you have any dietary requirements, please let us know when booking.

As well as the auction and meal, attendees can also expect a cash bar, raffle and lots of good company!

If you would like to pre-register a bid, please visit the village website: [www.westwratting.org.uk/west-wratting-auction-of-promises/](http://www.westwratting.org.uk/west-wratting-auction-of-promises/)

For tickets and enquiries please contact Fanny or Jeanette.

**Fanny Peers (07702 122353,**  
*francespeers@hotmail.co.uk)*

**Jeanette Job (07971 671193,**  
*thejobs@hotmail.co.uk)*

[www.westwratting.org.uk](http://www.westwratting.org.uk)

for information on:

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

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

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***Promises received so far include:***

<b>Lot</b>	<b>Promise</b>
1	A set lunch for two at The Old Fire Engine House restaurant, Ely
2	The use of a local swimming pool one weekday afternoon in the summer 2024
3	A wash and blow dry for one dog
4	Climbing lessons from a local expert - on the instructor's own indoor climbing wall, on a Cambridge climbing wall and an outdoors experience
5	A full picnic basket and blanket for two people
6	A pizza making and cooking session for one family: 'How to use a real pizza oven'
7	4x One hour dog walking sessions
8	The use of a local swimming pool for one day
9	Framing of one small or medium picture
10	A brand new robotic floor cleaner - Gufy Robo Vax 15c Max Wi-Fi connected robotic cleaner for hard floors and medium pile carpets
11	A hand painted child's chair - painted with name and decoration to order
12	A punting trip on the Cam hosted by a local punter
13	A week's sailing holiday with the yacht owner, in their boat off the coast of Scotland - Spring/Summer 2024
14	A session of baby-sitting, house-sitting or granny-sitting
15	A round of golf and lunch for one person at Saffron Walden Golf Club
16	A cake baked each week for two months, delivered locally
17	A cottage weekend for two in Holme, Norfolk
18	A baked cake
19	Two hours of gardening
20	A garden visit and tea for two at Wyken Hall, Wyken, Bury St Edmunds
21	2 x Professional handmade Christmas wreaths
22	A box of home-grown local seasonal vegetables
23	A hands-on introductory session of hand bell ringing for a group of 4-5 people
24	A home-made cake
25	A day's sailing with local sailor on the River Orwell - Spring/Summer 2024
26	A valuation of a stamp collection and advice by philately expert
27	Dinner for 6 people, including wine and food, at the cooks' house in West Wrattling
28	A long weekend in a 2 bedroomed cottage in Overstrand, Norfolk. Suitable for up to 5 people and one well-behaved dog – Winter 2023/2024
29	Two hours gardening design consultation with 'Ladies that Mulch'
30	A chocolate fudge cake – 10-12 servings
31	A dog walking session for about 45 minutes
32	A £50 gift voucher to spend on one meal for two at The Chestnut Tree Pub, West Wrattling
33	A dog therapy session
34	An original painted picture of West Wrattling scenes from a local artist
35	2 hours' gardening within a 5 mile radius of West Wrattling
36	A hand-made bird box
37	2x Brace of dressed partridges - dressed, fresh, from Pampisford
38	5x Jars of locally made Seville Orange marmalade - February 2024
39	Lunch at the exclusive Jockey Club Rooms in Newmarket High Street for 4 people (includes parking, excludes drinks)
40	One cubic metre 'Big Bag' of Field Compost Soil Improver, to be delivered within a 10 mile radius
41	One cubic metre 'Big Bag' of Field 12 Nutrimulch, to be delivered within a 10 mile radius



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**Balsham WI**

At our June meeting we visited the Balsham Musical Maze (some members had been involved in the planting of it). We managed not to lose anyone!

At our next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September we will have a speaker from the National Trust with a talk on working lives at Ickworth House. As usual, this will be followed by tea and cake.

New members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us: [balshamwi@gmail.com](mailto:balshamwi@gmail.com) , or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

*Debbie Mower*

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**Balsham Picture House**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: ‘Allelujah’ (12)



Based on Alan Bennett’s play, ‘Allelujah’ is a warm, humorous and deeply moving story about surviving old age. When a geriatric ward of a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure the hospital decides to fight back. Stars include Derek Jacobi, Judi Dench and Jennifer Saunders.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October: ‘Ticket to Paradise’ (12)

George Clooney and Julia Roberts team up as exes who find themselves on a shared mission to stop their lovestruck daughter from making the same mistake they once made. The film is a romantic comedy about the sweet surprise of second chances.

Doors open 7 pm, film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute. Dave’s bar will be open for pre-show drinks and nibbles as normal.

Join the Picture House with annual membership of just £12 or come as a guest member at £3/film show.

*Dick Paden*

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### Withersfield Church Open Day



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to see the old bells and the lovely views of  
Withersfield and beyond, have a cup of tea/  
coffee and a slice of cake in the pews.  
Local artists will be displaying and selling  
their work, and there will be a selection of  
stalls, including produce and plants. Any  
donations will be greatly appreciated.

We will have a secret bid auction for an original  
dormouse painting, a raffle, nearly new quality  
clothes, children's activities and so much more!

*Jackie Wareham*

### Raising Funds for Cancer Research UK

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September I will be walking along  
the south coast starting in Eastbourne, up to Beachy  
Head along the magnificent Seven Sisters, then onto  
the South Downs Way with stunning views of the  
coastline. I will reach the halfway point at Brighton  
(35.5 miles), then walk continuously through the night  
along Devil's Dyke, with ups and downs, before  
finishing in Arundel on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: a total  
of 62.4 miles.

I am walking to raise money for Cancer Research UK.  
If you would like to make a donation then please visit  
my fundraising page, [www.justgiving.com/Gail-Collis](http://www.justgiving.com/Gail-Collis).  
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*Gail Collis*

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When the Red Cross closed its doors in Newmarket a small number of volunteers from Christchurch decided to continue the work and moved the service to the Church Hall at Christchurch. There is a great variety of equipment so do contact us if you need anything.

Equipment available includes: Back rests, Bath seats and boards, Bed cradle, Bed over-table, Commodes, Crutches, Leg raisers, Perching stools, Raised toilet seats, Shower stools, Toilet surround frame, Walking frames/sticks, Wheelchairs: transit/self propelled.

There is a deposit of £20 for the wheelchair. For smaller items a small deposit of £10 is requested. This can be returned to you when the item is returned or donated to the mobility aids service if you wish. The equipment we have is donated so the number and type of items are changing all the time.

Opening Times: Tuesdays and Fridays,  
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*Rachel Lewis*

**The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September: Live Music with Max Headroom – from Blur and Oasis to Fleetwood Mac and Springsteen. Doors open 8 pm. Tickets £8 in advance, £10 on the door.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk  
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**West Wickham & District Gardening Club**

The club's Annual Show will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September from 2.30 pm in the village hall.

*Sue Thurston, Show Coordinator  
(897811, mail@suethurston.co.uk)*



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**Film Music with LALA**

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new 10-week course on Tuesday mornings from 26<sup>th</sup> September, looking at 'Film Music'. We meet in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane from 10.15 to 12.15. Come and explore the development of music in film from the earliest silent movies to the present day. Join composer and writer Christopher Budd to look at the work of many great film composers, with clips from King Kong, Once Upon a Time in the West, Psycho, Jaws, The Third Man, The Day The Earth Stood Still, 2001: A Space Odyssey and more. Alongside the Hollywood giants, we'll also enjoy and study the work of some of the great British film composers, some sophisticated sounds from across Europe, a bit of Hammer horror and some very silly comedies.

Please contact me for more information or to register interest. Cost for the 10 weeks remains at £50 and includes a coffee break.

*Sue Mudge (892737, mudges.linton@btinternet.com)*

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[www.hackettgriffey.com](http://www.hackettgriffey.com)

SEPT	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Hannah Threlfall to preach</i>	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion– Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brody</i> Holy Communion– Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair Collen</i>	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Great Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Harvest Songs of Praise (3.00 pm)– West Wrating, <i>John &amp; Scilla Harvey</i> Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall</i>	Harvest Songs of Praise – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Harvest Songs of Praise – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Harvest Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer – Great Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

## DIARY

### SEPTEMBER 2023

- Sat 2 West Wrating Saturday Café  
West Wickham Gardening Club Annual Show  
Balsham Picture House, 'Allelujah'
- Mon 4 West Wrating Parish Council (*changed date*)
- Sat 9 Live music, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth
- Tues 12 Balsham WI
- Wed 13 West Wrating Book Club, the Chestnut Tree
- Fri 15 Tea & Cakes, the Reading Room
- Sun 17 Harvest Songs of Praise, St Andrew's
- Wed 20 'Pub' Quiz, the Reading Room
- Thur 21 Lunch Club, the Chestnut Tree
- Sun 24 Harvest Festival and Brunch, St Mary's
- Tues 26 LALA course begins, Film Music

### OCTOBER 2023

- Fri 6 Auction of Promises, West Wrating Village Hall

### **West Wrating Parish Council – Change of Date for September Meeting**

Unfortunately due to holidays and unavailability the date of the next parish council meeting has had to be changed.

The meeting will now be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk**

**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.

**Copy date for October issue:  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

#### **Revd Iain McColl**

01223 890693, [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)

#### **Rev Ben Brady**

01223 344920, [revbenbrady@btinternet.com](mailto:revbenbrady@btinternet.com)

#### **Mr Steven Wheeler**, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)

#### **Hannah Threlfall**, Community Minister

07867 515914, [hthrelfall82@gmail.com](mailto:hthrelfall82@gmail.com)

#### **Churchwardens:**

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,

[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443

**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,

[clerk@westoncolville.org.uk](mailto:clerk@westoncolville.org.uk), 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

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

**Mobile library: fourth Thursday:** 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct  
High Street, West Wrating 11.10 - 11.50 am  
Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am  
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 pm

**Black bins:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September,  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September,  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October

### **Linton & District Historical Society**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, there will be a talk by Suzie Harrison on 'Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial'. Visitors and new members welcome.

**Ian Creek**