Chassenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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Weston Colville Circular Walk

The next walk, of approximately 5 miles, will be our now-traditional one on New Year's Day. We'll meet at the Reading Room at 11 am to deal with those cobwebs. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome come and join us? Enquiries:

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

West Wratting Café

Thank you for supporting our Christmas café studio. There was a great turnout, and it was enjoyed by stall holders and visitors alike.

We're trying something a little different for the January café: introducing **Café Soup o**n Saturday 6th January, 12 noon - 1.30 pm. Do join us in West Wratting Village Hall for our fundraising event in support of The Beacon Trust, a youth support charity working in Linton. We will be serving delicious homemade soup, cheese scones and bread. Fresh coffee and tea also available. Do come and support this very worthwhile local charity. *Please note the change of time, 12 noon - 1.30 pm.*

Sherry and Jan

Tea & Cakes

Happy New Year, and thank you to everyone who has supported us in the last year.

We look forward to meeting up again for our next session on Friday 19th January at our usual time.

3.30 pm - 5 pm, in the Reading Room. We are a friendly group of all ages, so please come and join us for a cup of tea and delicious homemade cake.

Val and the team

Soup Lunches in the Reading Room

Please join us if you can for a most convivial soup lunch at 12.00 for 12.30 on Wednesdays in the Reading Room. These will start again on 10th January and will run through to 27th March.

The lunches are completely free due to the support of SCDC (via ACRE) and the Reading Room Trust. Donations towards the cost of ingredients are welcome but are absolutely not a requirement. Several people have commented that the chance to meet up and chat on a weekly basis has proven very beneficial for their well being and general positivity about life in these winter months.

My thanks to the volunteers without whose assistance this venture would be impossible. I'm most grateful.



Should you feel able to help either by laying tables, clearing away or perhaps making soup – please get in touch.

We will also run another IT clinic on 21st February alongside the soup lunch. Last time we managed to keep a good balance between the social side and managing technical issues, so please bring your device along and ask questions of Simon and David. If they can't solve your problem immediately you will be pointed towards a solution, but so far the team remains undefeated!

Bob Coates (07785 361345, cheviotbob@me.com)



West Wratting Progressive Supper

The Progressive Supper will take place on Saturday 27th January. Please let me know if you would like to take part. Thank you.

Sherry (07468 696481)

Weston Colville Village Consultation

The playground at the cricket pitch in Weston Colville is nearly 20 years old, and a recent risk assessment has shown it is not going to last much longer without great input. The opportunity to apply for funding and to install new playground equipment has arisen and a working group, on behalf of the parish council, is looking to manage this.

Part of the process is a village consultation survey, included in this month's **Challenge**. On completion, please deposit the survey in the plastic envelope provided in both telephone boxes, or post directly to 62A The Green, Weston Colville.

If you would prefer to call or email with your thoughts and suggestions, please contact Jess on 07779 277647 or clerk@westoncolville.org.uk. Many thanks.

Daniel Jackson (Playground Working Group) Jess Ashbridge, Weston Colville PC Clerk

Jo Taylor

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Wildly Preserved Foods - Talk & Taste Part 2

As there were a few people who couldn't make the Talk and Taste evening we had in the Reading Room in November, I am going to offer another evening at the end of January, on Tuesday 30th January.



Depending on numbers again, it will either be at my house or in the Reading Room. It won't be exactly the same as the previous one so if you came to the last one but want to know more, or try different ferments, please come along.

If you are interested please drop me a text (07984 655116), leave a message on my home phone (01223 290076), or message via *WhatsApp*, just so I have an idea of numbers again.

I will also put the invitation on the village *WhatsApp* and *Facebook* page.

Jackie Brearley

The Chestnut Tree

As I am sure you will all know, Rachel and Pete have now left the Chestnut Tree for pastures new. As new owners, we hope to keep the pub's character as a traditional village pub, and by the time you read this we should have a new management team in place and will shortly be able to offer food once again.

We hope that the Pool and Darts teams will continue as before, and that we remain as a hub for the collection of prescriptions, as well as a meeting place for village clubs etc.

Happy New Year to all, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul & Debbie Mower

January 2024



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Parish Matters

Let me introduce myself to your village communities: I am Dr Rhona McEune, and I am training to be an ordained minister and on attachment with the Granta



Vale Churches until next May. It is a privilege to be working in your churches getting to know you. My husband, Patrick McEune, is the Rector of the Raddesley group of churches, and we moved here from Lincolnshire.

After the celebrations of Christmas and a little rest after a lot of enjoyable events, I am already looking ahead to another special celebration. On 2nd February, close to the middle of winter, we celebrate Candlemas, where the story of the presentation of Christ in the Temple is recalled. It's a story showing great trust in God because Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple to give thanks for his birth. There we meet the elderly priest, Simeon, who had been told by God he wouldn't die before seeing the Messiah, and Anna the widow, who had spent her life waiting for God to reveal himself to her, which he did in Jesus the small baby.

All through life we seem to be waiting: children to be teenagers, young adults to find partners and settle down, older people for retirement, to do all the things that they promised themselves they would do whilst still working, and then some people long for their life to come to an end. Simeon proclaimed Jesus was 'A light for revelation to the Gentiles' (*Luke 2:32*) and through him all people and nations would see the Messiah and learn God's work for the world through following his Son.

The celebration of Candlemas, then, touches on both waiting and thanksgiving, and encourages a deep faith

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and trust in God. Candles are blessed and lit as a sign of hope as we give thanks for God giving his Son to be our Saviour. It's also a wonderful reminder that we can proclaim hope in the world around us in all times and seasons of our lives

I look forward to this wonderful celebration and to meeting people both there and around our villages over the coming months.

Rhona

Candlemas – Bring Light into the World! Festival of Light and Dedication in St Mary's Friday 2nd February from 4 pm

Whatever your faith or none, join us for this symbolic event when we bring light into the world at Candlemas and prepare yourself for the year ahead. St Mary's will be open from 4 pm for you to light a candle and take it home.



There will be a very short (20 minutes) dedication with candles at 7 pm, followed by a glass of wine or soft drinks. All ages are welcome. In the dark times of

In the dark times of winter and in these difficult political, economic and environmental circumstances, we all need a bit of light in the darkness!

Jane Pryor

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.

Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: noon, Sunday 4th February.

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

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

Chapel Road, Common Road, The Green, Horseshoe Lane:

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

West Wratting

Peter Harris (07897 444126 or sowesticom@gmail.com)

Any orders left by email will be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. There is a minimum order of 500 litres. We can no longer order fill ups, due to pre-payment requirements. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm. We keep a note of any special requirements concerning your delivery; please let your contact know if you wish to change these. Also please ensure we have your correct address, post code and phone number. If you are close to running out, please tell us so we mark you as urgent.

Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the deadline. The price will not be known until the order is placed. Once placed we will give you the number to ring to make your payment prior to delivery.



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Weston Colville Book Exchange

We now need more books donated for our Book Exchange, especially non-fiction, children's and teens' but fiction will also be welcomed.

Please either put your books into the box on the floor of the book exchange or ring Joyce (07980 404764) who will arrange to pick them up.

Many thanks from us for your continued support.

Joyce, Jackie, Emma and Jacqueline

Christmas Wreath-Making, Weston Colville



The workshop in St Mary's was a great success. Ruth gave a very good demonstration, and then sixteen of us had a fun time making the wreaths, using a mass of different greenery, berries and festive decorations.

It was a wonderful occasion to chat with new and old friends, and we finished up with hot soup and bread.

Many thanks to those who organised this, especially Gay and Ruth.





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West Wratting Sports Pavilion

WW Sports Pavilion held a Remembrance Day Music Event to raise money for the football club, and made a donation for the veterans.

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended and enjoyed the afternoon and evening, as well as the singers and groups (our first group travelled from Kent) – singers Mark (from the village) who organised the event; Richard Pullen (from Thurlow); Dennis Stratton (original guitarist with Iron Maiden); Dave Edwards (guitarist with Status Quo & Manfred Man). They played brilliant music and were all amazing.

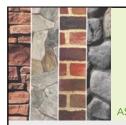
Sadly more people were expected than attended, so the total money we hoped to raise was not achieved. A donation of £135 was made from the proceeds to the veterans.

Blanche Miller, WWSPC Secretary

Weston Colville Folk Evening

When Camus played for us in November, the Reading Room was buzzing with people from both villages and beyond, so thank you to all from here and West Wratting who left the fireside to support Weston Colville's own David Somerville and his bandmates. A big thanks, too, to Charlie and Daniel who did sterling work on the bar, volunteering their services as the event was for charity.

When we combine ticket sales and bar takings, and with the Reading Room donating the cost of the drink, we raised over £400 for Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge, the band's nominated charity. Jimmy's wrote: "Thank you so much to all of you for arranging and supporting Jimmy's with this event. It is so appreciated" and a letter from their Chief Executive, Mark Allan, referred to "our gratitude for the



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incredibly generous donation we have received from the Weston Colville Reading Room raised at a recent folk evening. This donation will enable us to continue to provide vital and life changing support for those experiencing homelessness."

Camus were left in no doubt of our appreciation for their music, and the jolly words in between tunes. They said afterwards that they were delighted to play for such a good audience: "Thanks for having us to play, it was a blast! . . . and already looking forward to the return visit", so watch this space for more in 2024.

Jacqueline Douglas

Lower Wood Update

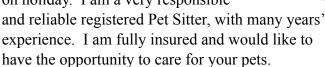
I hope you will come along to the Lower Wood work party on the last Saturday of each month (from September to February), starting at 10 am. Biscuits, tea and coffee will be provided. Children are always welcome if accompanied by an adult. I will probably continue after lunch if you can't make the morning. Even if you only come for a cup of tea . . . it will be lovely to see you all. The dates for the rest of this season are: 30^{th} December, 27^{th} January, 24^{th} February.

Duncan Mackay

(Voluntary Warden for The Wildlife Trust)

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The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

Spreading Festive Cheer



The school's festive spirit soared to new heights during our 'Santa Dash' event. Wearing their vibrant Christmas jumpers, our enthusiastic students embarked on a merry walk around the Balsham recreation grounds. They

formed a colourful parade, spreading warmth and cheer through their infectious songs and seasonal melodies.

Jingle All the Way

Of course, Christmas in a primary school is not Christmas without a

nativity production, and the youngest members of the school brought the spirit of Christmas to life





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through their glorious and captivating performance. The Key Stage 1 Nativity was a delightful spectacle, with children taking on the roles of camels, sheep, angels and, of course, school caretakers!

Meanwhile, the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert was a celebration of talent and unity. Their harmonious voices not only filled the aisles of Balsham church but the hearts of those listening.

Both events served as a reminder of the magic of the season, leaving the audience filled with the joyous spirit of Christmas.

Sending Sleigh-Loads of Thanks

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Steve Jordan for his incredible talent and dedication in bringing the magic of music to life in both of these festive events. Thank you for sharing your musical gift and helping make our celebrations truly unforgettable. Another thank you we would like to give is to Nigel Clark and the members of the Balsham church for being so accommodating and supporting us in using their beautiful setting.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

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January 2024

Marsh Mail – Linton Village College

It was lovely to welcome back the class of 2023 at our Presentation Evening at the end of November, to collect their GCSE exam certificates as well as awards nominated by their teachers for academic achievements. Tutors gave some humorous and heartfelt speeches recounting their years with their tutor groups, many of whom had taken them through from years seven to eleven. After the speeches and presentations, guests were treated to an amazing spread kindly put on by the Friends of LVC.



You may have spotted LVC students walking through the village and local countryside during our annual sponsored walk the following day. It was great to have the whole school involved on the 12-kilometre route, fundraising for the Friends of LVC. With the fancy dress theme of 'At the Movies', students and staff made an amazing effort and made the walk that bit more colourful. Friends volunteers did a fantastic job of marshalling the route. We are very grateful for

the support of this amazing group of parents/carers and community members to enhance and enrich LVC students' educational experiences.

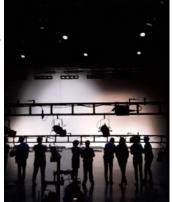


The autumn term has seen a fantastic array of arts events and activities: the Platform 23 exhibition at



Michaelhouse Café in Cambridge showcased wonderful artwork from our students alongside pieces from all Trust secondary schools; we hosted a Year 2 singing festival involving our feeder primary schools,

which also included a performance from our choir, Linton Voices; students taking Dance as an option were also involved on a trip to Dance East to develop their theatre technical skills and work with professional dance companies in some intensive workshops; and



many students across all year groups were involved in our Christmas Arts Showcase.

Laura Head



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West Wickham Carpet Bowls Club

Making a New Year's Resolution? Why not resolve to meet some of your neighbours from surrounding villages and make new friends, all with a little gentle exercise thrown in? West Wickham Carpet Bowls Club provides the perfect solution. We would love to see some new faces and gain some new members.

Carpet bowls is easy to learn, suitable for all abilities, and all the equipment is provided. You can even come along and try it for free. It's fun, there's lots of laughter and you might even win a chocolate at the end of the evening. So, what's stopping you?

We meet every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in West Wickham Village Hall. You can just turn up, or if you want further details contact me, the club secretary.

Janet Morris (290863, jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

Linton Library News

Have you decided to take up a new hobby? Come and see if we've got a book to help you on your way! Visit a warm Linton library this January.

The first of our monthly talks, 'Gardening and Climate Change', is on Wednesday 10th, 2 - 3.30 pm. Help your garden thrive and become a haven for wildlife. Refreshments available. A free talk, but please book your place by contacting the library or email: cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Our monthly drop-in **Beano Comic Club** starts Saturday 13th, 10-12pm. Each month there will be a different pile of Beanos for you to sit and read here in the library. You could even try drawing one of the characters.

Our friendly group for 0 - 4-year olds: **Storytime, Rhyme-time, Duplo-time**, 10 am - 11 am, every Tuesday (in term time).



Games Afternoon: Tuesday 2nd, 16th and 30th, 2 pm - 4 pm, meet new people and try new games (you can even bring your favourite with you).

Knit and Natter: bring along any craft project you're working on, 2 pm - 3 pm on Tuesday 9^{th} and 23^{rd} .

Daylight Readers: our book groups will meet on Friday 19th, one at 10.30 am and the other at 2.30 pm, and always welcome new members.

This year you could always become a Library at Home volunteer! We run a free Library at Home service for readers of any age who find it difficult to get to the library, and need a local volunteer who can visit monthly. Please ask for more information.

Opening hours: Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm

Wednesday 4 - 7 pm
Thursday 2 - 5 pm
Friday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

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Balsham Picture House

January's film is the newly released and much acclaimed film 'The Great Escaper' (12A) starring Michael Caine and, in sadly her last film role, Glenda Jackson. It is the true and beautiful story of the Normandy RN veteran, Bernard Jordan, breaking out of his care home on



the south coast in 2014 and getting over alone to the Normandy beaches to be present at the 70th

Commemoration of the D-day landings in 1944.

The Picture House will be showing it on Saturday 6th January, so come along and see this inspiring feelgood film! Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film.

Balsham Picture House is now starting its eighth year of showing newly released films every month, and has built up a huge library of Blu-Rays which are available for a small donation for any member to borrow to show again at home. Please contact Nigel Clark or myself for details. 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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LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday 16th January



'Molly' a rescue dog

©Berenice Smith

THE DOGS TRUST

Our Speaker will be Paige Pope LINTON VILLAGE HALL 7.30 pm

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Get fit in the New Year – **Pilates** with Louise, every Monday, 6.15 - 7 pm. All levels welcome; just bring yourself and a mat. First class FREE. Contact Louise Kennedy, (studio@louisekennedypilates.com).

It's **Panto Time!** Oh no it isn't! – the Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society are performing 'Alice in Wonderland', 24th - 27th January. Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/EDPS.

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



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Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

Two planning applications in our area have been submitted to the relevant local authorities for bio energy digestion plants. These are plants that break down agricultural materials and turn them into energy. For reference there is a digester on the A505 between Royston and Baldock.

The first application is located just over the Suffolk border outside Haverhill and off the A1307. The site runs up the Cambridgeshire border and ends at the edge of West Wickham/Weston Colville. You may have seen signs for the anti-lobbying group 'Muck Off Acorn' – this refers to this application. As the application is in Suffolk it will be Suffolk County Council that will make the decision on this but whilst the time for public comments has closed, you can still look at the plans (Suffolk planning register) and write to the case office dealing with the application – andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk

The second application is in the parish of Streetly End, West Wickham. This site is smaller than the first and as it is in Cambridgeshire will be decided by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public comments for this application closed in early December but you can always see the plans online (planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or contact that planning officer directly, should you want to make comments after this time -

helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Geoff Harvey, SCDC (geoff.harvey@gmail.com) Henry Batchelor, CCC (henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)



Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Streetly Hall Farm

Many local residents of Streetly End and surrounding villages are concerned about the planning application for an Anaerobic Digestion facility in Streetly End. To find out more about the proposal please see https://westwratting.org.uk/anaerobic-digestionfacility-at-streetly-hall-farm/, where you can read the comments from West Wickham Parish Council, and find out how to voice your opinion either at the Cambridgeshire County Council planning application website, or by signing an online petition.

Simon Chandler



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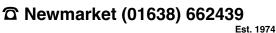
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South Coast 100 km Challenge

I just wanted to thank everyone who sponsored me and wished me well before I did my 62 mile walk along the South Coast raising money for Cancer Research UK. I am amazed by people's generosity.

I started on Saturday morning at 7.30 am walking in the heat, and it was brutally tough. The Seven Sisters were relentless. I walked continuously through the night and continued in the heat until I finally finished at 6.42 pm on Sunday evening, with a walking time of 31 hours 42 minutes and 18 seconds.

I am extremely proud that with your help I raised the grand total of £1,821 for research into trying to find a cure for this dreadful disease. Thank you.

Gail Collis

Try this Puzzle . . .

This paragraph is self explanatory; answers next month.

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke.) It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are sixteen names of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes - but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one!

January 2024

JAN	9.30 am	11.00 am	4.00 / 6.00 pm
7 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall	
14 th	Holy Communion — Weston Colville, Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen Holy Communion — West Wickham, Revd Kathy Bishop	Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Ben Brady Holy Communion – Hildersham, Revd Kathy Bishop Holy Communion – Little Abington, Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – West Wratting, Revd Ben Brady
21st	Holy Communion – West Wratting, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship – Weston Colville, Steven Wheeler Holy Communion - West Wickham, Revd Kathy Bishop/Rhona McEune	Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl Holy Communion –Great Abington, Revd Ben Brady/Steven Wheeler	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, Alistair Collen
28 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, Revd Iain McColl Holy Communion (BCP) –Weston Colville, Revd Ben Brady	Café Church – Hildersham, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship for Candlemas – Balsham, Hannah Threlfall	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, Revd Ben Brady

DIARY

JANUARY 2024

Mon 1 Circular Walk from Reading Room Wed 3 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting

Sat 6

West Wratting Café Soup Balsham Picture House, 'The Great Escaper'

Mon 8 West Wratting Parish Council meeting

Wed 10 Reading Room Soup lunches recommence

Tues 16 Linton & District Historical Society 'Dogs Trust'

Fri 19 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room

Lower Wood Work Party Sat 27

West Wratting Progressive Supper

Tues 30 Wildly Preserved Foods Talk & Taste

FEBRUARY 2024

Fri 2 Candlemas Festival, St Mary's Sun 4 Oil Co-operative Ordering Deadline

Tech Clinic, Reading Room Wed 21 Sat 24 Lower Wood Work Party

Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Rev Ben Brady

01223 344920, revdbenbrady@btinternet.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, steven@júicyfruitsuk.com

Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister

07867 515914, hthrelfall82@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,

7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,

clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 07779 277647 West Wratting Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,

j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,

Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Black bins: Wednesday 10th & 24th January,

Wed 7th & 21st February

Blue bins: Wednesday 3rd, 17th & 31st January,

Wed 14th & 28th February

Green bins: Wednesday 17th January,

Wednesday 14th February

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park,

Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 25th Jan, 22nd Feb High Street, West Wratting 11.10 - 11.50 am Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am

Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 pm

Editor: Anne Bragg (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.

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