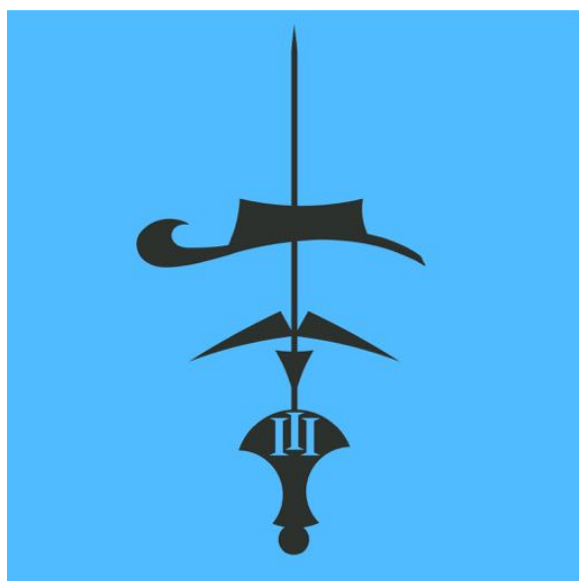


Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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THE THREE MUSKETEERS

by Alexandre Dumas

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Funded by the Reading Room Trust
and St Mary's Church

New Playground in West Wrattling

At last the building work is over and our new playground is allowed to open. Even though there are still Covid-19 restrictions in place, children can enjoy the new park.

We look forward to having a proper opening celebration for everyone involved in making it happen. Our community has worked together on fundraising and large grant applications right through to the planning and building stage, then the work continued with clearing, tidying and maintenance of the area. So many people have been involved with this project, and without their dedication and hard work we would not have this fantastic facility. A big thank you to all those who have given their time, skills and enthusiasm to this project.

As soon as government restrictions are lifted and gatherings of more than six people are allowed, we hope to celebrate the opening of our new playground. If you have any ideas, or wish to volunteer to help plan the celebration, please get in contact.

Louise (louise@chandler1.co.uk)

Open Air Tea & Cakes

3.30 - 5.00 pm, Friday 21st August

We are pleased to announce our first open air tea and cakes in front of the cricket pavilion, Weston Colville. Tables/chairs and gazebos will be available for any climatic eventuality. Bring your own cup/mug and picnic blanket and come along for a chat and a catch up. We haven't seen some of you for a long time . . .

T&C's Team, Reading Room Committee





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Book Exchange at Church End

The exchange goes from strength to strength with a healthy turnover of books. We'd love donations – a couple of books can go straight in, and if you have more, please deliver them to one of us.



A pile of heavy books left in the book exchange itself has proved problematic for us, and no doubt for users wanting to see what's on offer. Let us know if you have any feedback or questions. Otherwise, happy swapping and happy reading!

Joyce, Emma Kaye, Jackie B. and Jacqueline

Parish Paths (P3)

A gentle reminder from the local estate's foreman and gamekeeper: the harvest is now in full swing, and also, from the Grove to Weston Colville, the poults have been introduced in anticipation of the shooting season.

Please keep to the designated footpaths, and stay away from the farmyard (a mountain biker was recently spotted there). Also, please keep dogs under close control during this period and preferably on leads near the poults.

Colin McCall (290036)

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Anne Vidler

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Foodbank - REACH

I would like to thank everyone who has kindly made donations to the weekly FOODBANK collection. I have been overwhelmed by the continuous generosity over the months and I know that REACH have really appreciated the support over this period. Many families have benefitted during the difficult time of lockdown and it has been nice to be able to help in some way. Many thanks.

Nicky Addley

West Wrattling Book Club

The book we read for July was the 2019 Booker Prize winner, 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernadine Evaristo. It is a mixture of fact (including the author's own experience) and fiction, and is in the form of short pieces telling the stories of twelve individuals whose lives entwine and interact. It covers many current subjects of discussion – sexuality, colour, education and social concerns, inner-city violence and controlling behaviour. Some readers were a little outside their comfort zone with some of this but those who persevered were rewarded by a fascinating window into how these things affect the way people are viewed and treated by others, and how their lives develop. It also throws light on the history of black

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people in this country and how the slave trade and its repercussions are still affecting society today. This is very timely in the light of discussions and events around the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, putting a lot of things into perspective. We all agreed that it was well written although some had trouble getting into it and had reservations about the style of writing, with little punctuation, almost giving it the form of a poem (the author is known for this style) or 'stream of consciousness'. Scores varied from 6 to 9 out of 10, with most of us glad to have read it.

Our next book is 'Wakenhyrst' by Michelle Paver, for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th August via Zoom.

Linda Gorman

Sedley Taylor and the Weston Colville Reading Room

I've been trying to find out why Sedley Taylor might have co-founded the Weston Colville Reading Room and dedicated it to his mother, Jane Margaret Taylor.

Although I haven't yet discovered any definite answers, I've learnt quite a bit more about him and his family. I've written a booklet about what I've found so far, and I've got some copies going free. If you'd like one, please just get in touch.

Gabrielle Cliff Hodges
(gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net , 290890)

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They don't happen often, do they, those kairos moments?

Those turning points in your life. Those defining

moments when you know inside

your heart that everything has changed. Recently I have experienced one of those moments. I received confirmation that after years of interviews and assessments, my calling as a priest and pioneer in the Church of England has been confirmed. In the autumn, I will begin training at Westcott House Theological College in Cambridge, while continuing to serve in our wonderful villages.

Rev Simon Talbot, our area Dean, explained that I am the first Pioneer to be training and working in the area. I will also be the first Pioneer to study at Westcott. Pioneers model their calling on the life of Jesus, who came not as a revolutionary to cast aside all that came before, but rather as a pioneer, called to breathe new life into the world. As we all assess what the easing of lockdown might look like for ourselves and our loved ones, we encounter an important life changing choice. Do we return to all that we have known before or do we consider how we pioneer a





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new way of being? Each and everyone of us faces a potential kairos moment as we reflect on what the easing of lockdown means for us as individuals, as families, as villages, as a nation and as a world.

One of the many interview questions posed to me focused on what makes me vulnerable. I replied that vulnerability is a strength which is often underated. As I wrote this article to you today, I have reflected on the beautiful encounters we have all had with each other in our communities. These encounters have often come about through showing our vulnerability to one another, by asking for help, sharing our fears or offering our services. This has facilitated the coming together of our communities in a new way, and in a way that many have said they would like to see continuing into the post-pandemic world. I am reminded of the passage from Hebrew 12, 1-3: Do you see what this means – all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running – and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in.

Jeanine Kennedy, Pioneer Minister for the Granta Vale churches



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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Your Marsh Tits are starting to come back to your garden feeders again. After a conspicuous absence of several months, on 6th July there was at least one unringed Marsh Tit chobbling away in Len and Ben Eeles' garden in Weston Colville, and Red over White over Black 'Sumo', was seen with its face in the sunflower hearts at Joyce Oliver's bird bistro on Mill Hill on 11th July. Welcome back, All!

Sumo was ringed as a fledgling at Joyce's on 21st July 2018, so we can give this bird's curriculum vitae: she is an adult, almost exactly two years old. A wing length of 61 - 62mm means Sumo is likely to be female. Sumo's probably just come through her second arduous breeding season deep in the woods, so it's good to see her recharging her batteries back at Joyce's. She's clearly not frightened of the location, despite being caught and colour-ringed there. It adds to our evidence that ringing does no harm to these Red-Listed little creatures, even if ringed when recently out of the nest. It's the only reason I do ringing work – it adds to our essential demographic and phenological knowledge to save this declining species, and does no harm in the process.

This year's crop of youngsters are still unused to windows. They're still bashing their heads on glass

and stunning themselves. Our latest accident is a beautiful Treecreeper, shown here after being picked up by Len and Ben Eeles. The bird was lucky to be found by this family of naturalists. Ben helped the bird recover and it flew off in 10 minutes.



The sharp-eyed amongst you will have seen the few small, wispy feathers in Ben's hand. This is because in mid July, Treecreepers have already started their normal annual moult. They're getting rid of their worn-out or baby feathers and growing a fresh set, ready for winter.

Please also keep your eyes peeled for juvenile Cuckoos, which in this area have probably been raised by Dunnocks. Cuckoos are extremely rare now. We'd like to know how any of them are doing, wherever they may be. This is a photo of a juvenile Cuckoo,

perched on a garden table in Weston Colville, loudly begging for food from its host parents. Their begging call sounds like this: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/572567/download>

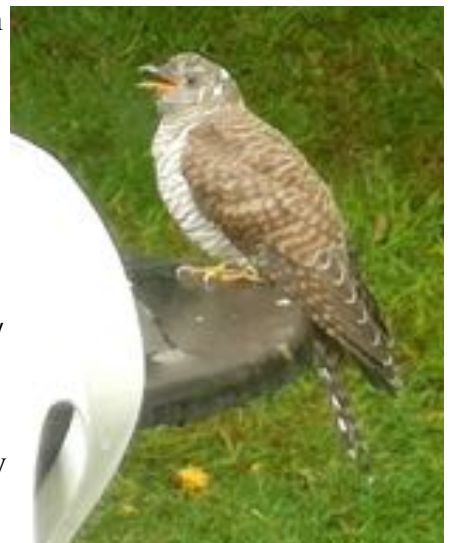
Adult Cuckoos are already on their way back to the Congo. They had reached

Spain by mid-July. You can see where they are right now on the real-time map at: <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/cuckoo-tracking-project>

Please report any sightings of Cuckoos, Marsh Tits or anything interesting to cambsmarti@gmail.com, m_stammers@btinternet.com or Challenge. Your data is priceless!

With best wishes for your high summer, one of the joys of English rural life,

Alex Inzani and the S Cambs Ringing Group



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West Wratting Parish Council

A lot has happened since the last parish council news in the April issue of Challenge, so I am just going to give you the basics of our last parish council meeting, held in the village hall on 13th July. Details for the approved minutes will be in September's *Challenge*.

Election (postponed from the May 2020 meeting): Cllr Nichols will remain as chairman and Cllr Bonfield will remain as vice chairman. Cllrs Roberts and Davey agreed to continue as representatives on the Sports Pavilion Committee and Cllrs Nichols and Bonfield will continue to represent on the village hall committee.

Planning:

20/01564/FUL – Solar Farm: a decision was made to object to this planning application.

20/01893/CLIED – Certificate of Lawfulness re the new playground. This has not yet been received.

Finance: the audit has been carried out successfully but formal approval of the accounts, bank reconciliation and various audit documents was required due to the cancellation of the May meeting because of Covid19, although approval by email had been given. These were approved and agreed.



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Playground: this is now open again and being much enjoyed. Again thanks to Cllr Chandler and her team who did such a wonderful job.

Vacancy on the Council: due to the resignation of Cllr Glennon Lynch there is now a vacancy on the council. Anyone who might like to serve on the council please contact either the parish clerk (j.richards597@btinternet.com) or the chairman Mira Nichols (miranich@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

Pocket Park: the Pocket Park is in need of some attention, eg cutting back branches along the main path and general tidying up. If a group of volunteers could get together, fix a date and help do the job, the parish council would be most appreciative.

Telephone Box: the parish council wishes to thank Colin McCall and his young team, namely Kirsten Adshead, Rebecca Causten and Finley Arnott, for giving the telephone box a spring clean, putting on a coat of primer paint before restoring it to full glory in red, and cutting back the hedge behind the bus stop.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 14th September.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

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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The Romanies – Update

About 16 months ago I wrote about the Romany family who settled for some time in Fox Lane. After writing they left, and reappeared in late June this year.

Much has changed in their lives in the past year and a half. Jean 1, the matriarch, has moved into a bungalow in Fordham, as has her daughter, Jean 2, and her children now go to school. There was no sign of the older boys and husband. I asked Jean 1 if she was happy in the bungalow, and she replied “I don't know” and “I'm bored”.

Jean 1 was staying in Fox Lane with her son, Robert, and his children, Robert, Jonathan and Diana (who is training to be a midwife). Robert is based in King's Lynn and had, I think, been asked by his mum to take her on an outing to her old haunts.

Robert was talking Romany when I met him, but changed to English when Jean came out of the caravan, and freely admitted he could neither read nor write. He was, on the face of it, running the show, but admitted he is very much under the thumb of his mum (aren't we all?).

As usual, there was a lot of mess, some generated by themselves, but a lot dumped on them by outsiders, thereby passing the blame to the Romanies. They

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were getting ready to leave when I met them, and the next day they were gone. I tidied up what I could and consolidated the larger pieces into one heap for the council to collect. Usually the council leaves bin liners at encampments like this, but none were forthcoming this time – perhaps the council was unaware of the situation? (I'm checking this.)

Their Norfolk Terrier, Buddy, was not in evidence. He had been stolen, but Robert had got a brown and white Bitzer puppy called Roxy, so all was well.

And so this Romany family is gradually fading into 'normality'. Are they happy about this? I'm not sure. Will Jean 1 settle in her bungalow, or will her yearning for the smell of wood smoke and the freedom of the road get the better of her? I'm pretty certain where I'd put my money.

Colin McCall

Albert Cook

Tracey would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the letters, cards and beautiful flowers Mum received after Dad died, and all the people in Carlton who turned out for Dad's funeral. It was moving that we were not alone. Thank you, everyone.

Tracey, Dean, Callum & Bethany



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Weston Colville Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed until 2021. The meeting on Monday 6th July was held virtually, and included the following:

Public Participation Session – a parishioner spoke about the Ivy House development listing six points he wanted raised. Another parishioner expressed safety concerns for children being dropped off and collected by the school bus outside the development, and how noise would be mitigated etc.

Planning – the following applications were discussed:

Planning reference	Address	Proposal	Decision
20/02430/FUL	Ivy House, The Green, Weston Colville	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of five dwellings, remodelled access and associated infrastructure.	Awaiting Decision. See below
20/02593/OUT	Garage Plot To North Of 14 Horseshoes Lane	Outline planning for development of 1 No. detached dwelling house with all matters reserved.	Awaiting Decision No Comments

20/02430/FUL – following a discussion it was determined to neither support nor object to the application, and to raise the following comments on the Greater Cambridgeshire planning department –

- 1) concerns over access: Highways had objected to the application. concerns were raised over safety particularly for school children catching the bus, and a request that an access/delivery plan was put in place;
- 2) parking: the plans show two spaces per property, with only one visitor parking space; concerns were raised that this was not sufficient, as the road outside the development has cars parked along it;

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3) privacy: a condition was requested that the skylight windows on plots 2 & 3 should not be changed in the future to dormer windows as this would impact on the privacy of the neighbouring property, and that a wall is built to replace the current barn wall, not a fence;

4) disappointment was expressed that the two senior properties had been withdrawn. These had been mentioned during discussions with the architect in March.

Covid-19 – thanks were expressed to the parishioners who had helped those in need across the village during the pandemic. When it is safe to do so, a Village Event will be put on with the Reading Room.

Website – the website went live at the end of June. The address is <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>. The contact form is linked to the clerk's new email address: clerk@westoncolville.org.uk. Full minutes of this meeting can be read on the website.

Footpaths – a request for more footpath and bridleway signs has been made. The proposed new route for Footpath 19 has been mown, but there have been no notifications. A loose handrail on the bridge at the junction of Footpath 18 (Weston Colville Parish) and Footpath 15 (Carlton Parish) has been reported.

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Flooding – overgrowth in the Stour has caused concern.

Free Tree from SCDC – as agreed at the meeting on 2nd March, a single specimen of silver birch (var Snow Queen) has been purchased and was planted in the area of grass between the village pond and the stream at the end of March. The tree appears to have established well and put on some healthy new shoots.

Playground – the safety inspection report was received. Repairs work is to be coordinated. A grant application has been made to the Wadlow wind farm trust to replace the fence at the Green Play area.

Finance – see full minutes.

Date of Next Meeting – 7th September. This will again be virtual. Please contact the clerk for access if you want to contribute to or observe the meeting.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk
(clerk@westoncolville.org.uk)

GRANTA Medical Practices

Coronavirus Update

We continue to work hard to keep our patients as safe as possible, along with our staff and the community by managing the majority of medical care remotely. This way of working has proved very successful and is reflected in the very low number of Covid-related illnesses recorded in our area.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel unwell – we are here to help. You can contact us by telephone on 0300 234 5555, or via our non-urgent email address, capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net. These services are available 8 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday. When emailing please remember to include your full name and date of birth.

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'Flu Vaccinations

We are currently planning our 2020 flu clinics. In the face of coronavirus it is more important than ever to have your flu vaccination if you are eligible.

Having your flu jab done at your GP surgery is quick and convenient – you will be given a time slot so you can arrange your day, and your medical records are available to the nurses/doctors, which means no form filling for you.

We will publicise the flu clinic dates as soon as they have been confirmed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sandra East, Granta Communications
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Marsh Mail

The college community has responded brilliantly to the challenges of remote learning and reinventing schooling overnight. It was great to have around 200 of our students on site for our various provisions in the summer term, including critical worker childcare, supervised study, Year 10 face to face subject seminars and mentoring/ counselling sessions.

Later this month we are planning to welcome back our Year 11 students to collect their GCSE results. This year has proved particularly challenging for this cohort as their examinations and leavers' celebrations were cancelled.

The Centre Assessment Grades that will be awarded to our Year 11s on 20th August have been generated through teachers submitting a rank order of predicted grades, based on their best professional judgements. These grades have then been subjected to centralised exam board moderation, involving benchmarking against historical performance of LVC students in different subjects. It is a very uncertain time for our young people as they await the outcomes of this process and the impact that this may have on their next steps. We wish them all the best and commend them on their maturity at this time.

Meanwhile, the college's staff are busy preparing to fully re-open the school in September to all students. The adjustments to school routines and practices will be significant. We are implementing year group zoning and staggered break and lunchtime, amongst many other measures, to achieve a safe learning environment.

Re-opening the Community Sports Centre has also required lots of modifications to provide our

customers with safe access to the fitness suite and other facilities. The Sports Centre team is delighted to welcome members of the community back. Thanks to all of you who support the college through membership and use of this Village College community resource. Further details about current arrangements and booking details are available on the website: <https://lintonsc.schoolhire.co.uk/>.

Helena Marsh

Poppy Appeal 2020

Plans for this year's Poppy Appeal will remain fluid, and if we are under lockdown at Remembrancetide, the appeal will only be conducted through corporate sponsors. If we are observing social distancing of any kind, which is the least we expect, it will only go ahead locally with wreaths and school boxes of a variety of poppy goods, and the popular enamel pins may be available in supermarkets.

I had already informed my area co-ordinator that I was not prepared to put any of my collectors, or myself for that matter, at any sort of risk and that I would not be organising a house-to-house collection this year in any of the villages of Balsham, West Wrating, West Wickham or Weston Colville. I also saw this as a way to look at collections in future years, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people willing to take over from collectors wishing to retire, some of whom have been doing the collection for many years (some for more than 30 even 40 years).

However, the Royal British Legion Shop is open online, for orders of a variety of Poppy Pins and other products at www.poppypinshop.org.uk/ and 100% of profits from sales will go to the Royal British Legion.



The Poppy Appeal is still looking at other ways of raising funds because our service men and women and their families, from past and present conflicts, desperately need the continued support of the Royal British Legion.

Margaret Johnson

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2523 Linton Air Cadets

There has been lots of lock down success at Linton Squadron, starting with cadet corporal Tysoe and cadet Webb completing their Master classification awards, gaining themselves a BTEC Level 2 in Aviation Studies.



We've had a vast array of guest speakers joining us on our virtual parade evenings (conducted over Teams video), with talks from fast jet pilots, the Red Arrow display teams, and even space engineers!

We have been conducting all sorts of training over Teams in preparation for our return to face to face activities. For example we have completed leadership and weapons theory, meaning that we can complete practical aspects and assessments when we return, so we can continue with all the activities we love straight away.

Our civilian welfare committee has had several meetings and has approved the purchase of new first aid and sports equipment. A new resuscitation manikin and choke simulation vest will be on

squadron ready for our return, helping us improve and deliver St John's Youth First Aid awards more effectively. The sports kit will help CI Cubitt run an extensive and varied programme.

There has been lots of progress in delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme, with cadets making the most of the fantastic weather to complete their sports and skills section of the award. As soon as we return face to face we plan to deliver both practice and assessed exhibitions and complete bronze and silver awards for many cadets at Linton.

Acting Pilot Officer Bradley Wright (07943 873272, www.2523linton.co.uk, training.2523@aircadets.org)

1st Horseheath Brownies

There is still no news from Girlguiding of when we can restart our face to face meetings. As it is now four months since we have seen each other, we decided to start holding weekly Zoom meetings.

Currently six of our nine Brownies meet on Zoom. We are managing to complete some of our programme elements as well as catching up on what we have done since the last meeting. It is getting easier the more we do. At one of our meetings we made a compass from a paperclip, a magnet, a plastic lid from a milk bottle, and Blu Tak.

If you would like to know more about Brownies please check out the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) or drop us a message on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com. Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just being themselves.

Pauline, Katie and Laurené



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Church Services

We are very pleased to be starting face-to-face services from August onwards, with services inside some of our church buildings and also open air worship. Following government guidelines there will be restrictions on the number of people who may attend these services, and please note that with services inside a church building, people will be required to wear a mask. If you are attending an outdoor service, please do bring your own chairs if you wish. The services will all be around 20 minutes. The 'Time of Prayer' Sunday zoom services will still continue at 10 am each Sunday, and Evening Prayer (Compline) on Thursdays at 9 pm. If you would like details of how to join in with these please contact Cazzy Walshe, our church administrator (7churches.seven@gmail.com).

Revd Iain McColl

DIARY

August 2020

Wed 12 West Watting Book Club (via Zoom)
Sun 16 The Three Musketeers, Weston Colville
Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville cricket field

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

Churchwardens:

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUG	9 am	10 am	4 pm
2 nd		Time of Prayer (Zoom) Steven Wheeler	
9 th	Morning Worship (West Wickham) Revd Kathy Bishop	Time of Prayer (Zoom) Revd Iain McColl	Open Air Worship (Weston Colville) Revd Iain McColl & Steven Wheeler
16 th	Open Air Worship (Balsham) Revd Iain McColl	Time of Prayer (Zoom) Jeanine Kennedy	Open Air Worship (Great Abington) Jeanine Kennedy
23 rd	Morning Worship (West Watting) Revd Kathy Bishop	Time of Prayer (Zoom) Revd Iain McColl	Open Air Worship (Hildersham) Revd Iain McColl
30 th	Morning Worship (West Wickham) Revd Iain McColl	Time of Prayer (Zoom) Steven Wheeler	Open Air Worship (Little Abington) Revd Iain McColl

Black bins: Monday 10th & 24th August,
Monday 7th & 21st September

Blue & green bins: Monday 3rd & 17th August,
Tuesday 1st, Monday 14th & 28th September

Green bins have returned to a normal fortnightly collection. Please put your green bin out every fortnight for collection with your blue bin.

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.

September issue's copy date
Thursday 20th August