

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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RAF Wrating Common

May Memorial Service, Sunday 28th May

A short open-air service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 28th May at the RAF Wrating Common Memorial, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the commissioning of the airfield. The last Sunday in May was chosen for this annual service as it was the same day in 1943 (indeed, also Sunday 28th) that the airfield was commissioned. The memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron.

Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service. For further information please email: rafwratingcommon@gmail.com

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath, Friends of Wrating Common

Tea and Cakes

Thank you to all who contribute to T&Cs and for making it a great event to meet and socialise. Our next T&Cs will be Friday 19th May, 3.30 - 5.00 pm, in Weston Colville Reading Room.

Val and the Team

West Wrating Café

We're having a break!

There will be no café on 6th May as it is Coronation Day; however, our loyal café bakers will be supplying cakes, teas and coffee for our Village Street Party on Monday 8th May. We look forward to seeing everyone – fingers crossed for the weather.

Sherry and Jan

Tennis in West Wrating: New Season 1st May

Great value local tennis club membership for all the family. New members always welcome!

The West Wrating d'Abo Tennis Club is open to existing, returning and new members from across the local area. Our full-size, all-weather macadam court is located in a peaceful corner of the village recreation ground.

For more information, to sign up and to make court bookings, visit: www.WestWratingTennis.co.uk or contact admin@westwratingtennis.co.uk.

Cally Wilson

Plant, Seed and Produce Exchange

The Weston Colville Plant, Seed and Produce Exchange, in the telephone box next to the cricket field, is open for business. Please feel free to donate and exchange your seeds and seedling gluts throughout spring and summer, and produce later on.

There isn't an army of volunteers to monitor the exchange so water is provided and the door will be wedged open when the weather permits. Any items remain the donor's responsibility so keep checking they have been exchanged. Happy gardening . . .

Jo Jackson, on behalf of Reading Room Trustees



**CELEBRATION OF
THE CORONATION OF
KING CHARLES III
SUNDAY 7th MAY**

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTON COLVILLE

You are invited to join in the following celebrations of the coronation.
The church bells will be chimed before the service.
11.00am Service of thanksgiving and celebration.
From 11.45am Drinks and refreshments to
Toast the King at 12 Noon.
**All are welcome to any part
of the morning celebrations.**

We also celebrate the completion of works in
the church providing new facilities.



The last Sunday of the month will also be a special occasion when we celebrate Pentecost, sometimes known as the 'birthday' of the Church. At Pentecost we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection of Jesus. This astonishing gift of God's Spirit, as described in the Bible in the book of Acts, bound together the early church in worship and shared life, and empowered them to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. This in turn created an amazing ripple effect which continues today. Pentecost is therefore both a celebration and helps remind the church of its calling, as we seek to share the good news of life in the Spirit.

How wonderful that we can come together to mark out such times and seasons in our lives and be grateful for all that is good around us. This may shape our sense of purpose, help us cherish the time we have, and increase our capacity for joy. It may also, as Pentecost reminds us, draw us more deeply into the life of the Spirit and lead us, in all the seasons of our lives, to praise, prayer and thanksgiving.

Revd Iain McColl

From the Rectory

Early this May we look forward to an historic moment in the life of our nation when we celebrate the coronation of King Charles, as well as enjoying a bank-holiday weekend. As someone who usually loves any excuse for a celebration, I am looking forward to gathering with others to enjoy this occasion! On that Sunday, we will also have a special service in each of our village churches when we will mark the coronation and reflect on the life and calling of Jesus, the Servant King.

Then, on the Monday of the Coronation weekend, the Church of England is joining with others in encouraging voluntary acts of service in our communities as part of the Big Help Out (see <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>). Hopefully this will be a good excuse to celebrate all the voluntary work already going on in our communities and to reach out to others and share our time and gifts. Perhaps consider how you might make a small act of kindness or service on that day, and reflect on the ripple effect it may create.




**Coronation Bank Holiday
Monday 8 May 2023**

West Wrattling Street Party

In the Causeway, from 12 midday
Bring your own Picnic or BBQ food.
Salads, sauces, tea and cakes provided.
Teddy Bear parachute jump and children's games.
Cash bar (provided by Chestnuts Pub)

All very Welcome

Further details will be circulated to each home

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Warm Hub Extended

The Reading Room Warm Hub has been extended until the beginning of June, albeit in a reduced format. It will open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11.00 am. As before there is no charge. This has been made possible because of further funding from ACRE and South Cambs District Council, for which we are very grateful.

Wednesdays will be a light lunch starting at 12.30, often with soup & rolls – but scampi and chips or baked potatoes have been rumoured.

Fridays will usually be a ‘clinic’ or a social event. At present we have three events scheduled:

12th May **Animal Welfare – Common Complaints in Dogs and Cats**, with Jackie Brearley

19th May **Tea’n’Cakes**

26th May **Tech Clinic** – bring your IT troubles for David and Simon to solve.

Please watch the Weston Colville WhatsApp group or the Weston Colville FaceBook page for more details nearer the time.

*Bob Coates (cheviotbob@me.com)
for the Reading Room Trustees*



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Coronation Lunch at the Reading Room

On 3rd May (with kind thanks to Emma Kaye) we will be hosting a special ‘Coronation-themed Lunch’ to celebrate the imminent crowning of our new King. Bunting may be in evidence!

Please join us. There is no charge, though donations would be welcome. It would be really helpful for numbers if you would be kind enough to indicate your attendance by text, phone, email, WhatsApp, or good old fashioned talking to me!

*Bob Coates (for the Reading Room Warm Hub)
(07785 361345 - cheviotbob@me.com)*

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.

Common Complaints in Dogs and Cats

After the recent First Aid talk for cats and dogs, I have been asked to give another one on ‘Common Complaints in Dogs and Cats’ and what to do about them, and when to call the vet. This will take place on May 12th at 2 pm in the Reading Room. All welcome.



Jackie Brearley

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Weston Colville Reading Room (Charity 1162032)

Annual General Meeting

Monday 22nd May at 7 pm
in the Reading Room

This is an open meeting.

Interested in finding out what we do?

Please come along.

Jan Ogden, Secretary

Weston Colville Parish Council

The Weston Colville Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd May at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend and make any comments regarding the village, or raise any issues. It could be an opportunity to discuss changes that could be made to the recreation ground playground, and a chance for anyone interested in joining the parish council to come along and meet the councillors (there are still three vacancies). A representative from the Reading Room will be providing an update on the Warm Hub.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

West Wratting Road Safety Survey

West Wratting Parish Council has been given the opportunity to apply to have a 20 mph scheme within the village. With our narrow roads and few pavements, it is hoped that reduced traffic speeds will make our roads safer for all road users and pedestrians.

Other schemes have been explored by the parish council but at the moment they are not accessible or affordable for West Wratting. Our aim would be to improve safety for the more vulnerable road users and encourage healthier methods of travel within the village.

This is your opportunity to provide supporting information for our application for a 20mph zone.

A copy of the survey is available on the village website, or follow the link below:

<https://forms.gle/viyaaKLbCrWfzVc28>

Mira Nichols, Chair, West Wratting PC

West Wratting Parish Council

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 15th May at 8.15 pm following the Parish Meeting which starts at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

Notice of Vacancy for Two Councillors

West Wratting Parish Council will have two vacancies for the Parish Council with the resignation of Sue Lock and the forthcoming resignation of the Chairman, Mira Nichols, as from the Parish Council meeting on 15th May. If anyone would like to put themselves forward to become a Parish Councillor please let me know and I will be happy to give information on what the position involves.

14th April 2023

Parish Clerk: Jennifer Richards,
88 High Street, Balsham CB21 4EP

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Dates for your Diary at St Mary's

Saturday 1st July Jazz on a Summer Evening

at St Mary's Church. Tickets will be available to purchase from the end of May. This will be a fantastic chance to hear some superb modern jazz from a talented and experienced trio.

Sunday 6th August Much Ado About Nothing

performed by This is My Theatre. Tickets available now on their website, www.thisismytheatre.com/weston-colville-much-ado

Shakespeare's raucous romantic comedy will be performed by our favourite touring company.

West Wrating Book Club

For April we read two short books, both by Claire Keegan: 'Small Things Like These' and 'Foster'.

Both books were much enjoyed by our members despite being somewhat painful in parts, although one or two of our number had small reservations. 'Small Things' is set against the background of the Magdalene Laundry scandal in a small Irish town in 1985. It centres on one man whose life could have been affected by this and how it influences his later actions. It highlights the control that the Church had

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over this small community that appears more set in the 50s than the 80s. Her style of writing is haunting and beautifully redolent of the country. One or two of us found ourselves reading it in an Irish accent, so evocative is the language she uses.

Some enjoyed 'Foster' more, with its perhaps somewhat more optimistic tone. It describes a young girl staying with a couple while her mother has another baby, experiencing a different way of life.

The endings to both are a little enigmatic and unresolved, but both are well worth a read. Scores were mainly 9 out of 10, with one 7 and two 8s.

We will meet at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17th May to discuss the classic 'Sons and Lovers' by D H Lawrence.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Thank You from Granta School

Thank you so much to the organisers, bakers, servers and supporters of the West Wrating Café for the very generous donations to Granta School. The funds raised will be put towards furniture for the Sixth Form garden at our new building in Abington, The Hive.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Granta, we are a community special school for students aged 3 to 19 situated next to Linton Village College. The school opened in 2006, and has 180 pupils. It supports pupils with a range of different needs, including moderate to severe learning difficulties, complex needs, profound and multiple learning disabilities, and autism spectrum conditions.

Thank you also to those in our community who support our various enterprise projects. The pupils and I are extremely grateful for your generosity.

Kate Cleary, Teaching Assistant

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Balsham Horticultural Society

The meeting on 5th April was our last until October, so we can all be busy and enjoy our own gardens through the summer months. It was timely that our speaker Nicola Molloy, a representative from Anglia Water, came to talk about saving water for use in our gardens and in our homes.



She began by giving us a questionnaire to test our knowledge about general water usage, which she will feed back to the company. Her aims were to engage the public in what Anglia Water does and what it proposes to do in the future, and how we can reduce our water consumption.

Anglia Water covers the biggest area in the UK, from Hartlepool in the North East to the Essex borders, which are also the driest areas, with a third less rainfall than the rest of the country. Hence the need to ask their customers to use their water wisely. Anglian Water collects water from six million customers through 7,000 kilometres of pipes!

On average an individual uses 145 litres a day. The aim is to encourage each household to reduce their consumption of water by twenty litres.

Nicola explained that 33% is lost in flushing the toilet, the largest use of household water. She gave suggestions to reduce our consumption of water, by filling a bath only two thirds full, or better still taking a quick shower (but not power showers as they use far more water); waiting until the dishwasher is full before using it, or washing up by hand; installing water butts and using watering cans rather than a hose; using 'dirty' water, ie washing up water, to water the garden especially in times of drought; installing a water meter.



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Harold's tips:

- Dead head daffodils and feed them to encourage good flowering next year.
- Protect lupins & delphiniums against slugs, using pet-friendly pellets.
- Be aware of late frosts and protect potatoes and other tender plants.

Hazel Leeson

Gardening and Climate Change

An affiliation of gardening clubs in Cambs, Essex, and

Gardening with climate change - what we can do!



Suffolk is organising a 'Gardening with Climate Change' event, to be held in West Wickham Village Hall on 12th August. Everyone is invited, with free entry. More details will be announced shortly.

There will be speakers, plant sales, discussions, exhibits, wildlife demonstrations, book sales, children's activities, and refreshments.

This is a unique opportunity to find out how climate change is impacting our gardening, and how we can adapt.

Sue Boase (sueboase@hotmail.co.uk)

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Weston Colville Circular Walk, c5 miles

The next walk-and-lunch will be on Saturday 13th May; we'll meet at the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome – come and join us?

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

Balsham Picture House

On Saturday 6th May we will be showing 'Mrs Harris Goes to Paris' (PG), an enchanting film following Ada Harris's dream of owning a Dior gown and telling the story of the London housecleaner who travels to Paris and becomes involved with, and the possible saviour of, the House of Dior.

This film is being shown at the end of the day of celebration for the coronation of King Charles III and to contribute to the day the Picture House will be offering cake and bubbly 'on the house' to all picture goers!

Doors open 7 pm, film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute; guest visitors £3, annual membership £12.

Dick Paden

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Saturday 13th May 2023
Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham
7.30pm

Tickets £10 (under 16's free) available from choir members, Balsham or Great Abington Post Offices or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Balsham WI

At our April meeting Carol Pook gave a talk on the life of Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel. Gabrielle Chanel was born illegitimate and educated in a convent where she learnt to sew. She was originally interested in appearing on stage and used to sing in cafes; it is rumoured that is where her name Coco came from, alluding to a song she used to sing. It is difficult to be certain as she often used to tell stories of her life differently to how it was! She was a very influential designer in the 1920s as well as being a good businesswoman. She never married, but had many lovers among the rich and famous of the time who helped financially in the early days, but she was soon wealthy in her own right.



She led a very interesting and thought-provoking life and is remembered for her iconic bags and little black dresses.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th May at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, when we will be having a coronation celebration.

Debbie Mower



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Linton & District Historical Society

At our March meeting Russell Kent gave us a most interesting insight into the events that followed the assassination of John F Kennedy on 22nd November 1963. Using film footage and documents relating to the hours and days following this tragic event, it left many questions unanswered, which remain to the present day.

Please join us for our final meeting for this season on Tuesday 16th May, when Mike Wade will talk on 'The History of a Town Crier'. Meeting starts at 7.30 pm at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. All welcome.

Margaret Creek (ldhscams@gmail.com, 893915 or 678835)

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

We have been having a spring clean and came across a box at the back of a cupboard. When we opened it, we were absolutely amazed to find records of the school dating from the early 1920s – old school registers, timetables and ledgers. There were two items that really intrigued us: a book detailing corporal punishment that was started in 1928, which details in the most beautiful handwriting the number of 'strokes' of the cane given to

CAMBRIDGESHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. PUNISHMENT BOOK.

Name of School or Department: *Balsham C. E. School.*

PUNISHMENT BOOK.

The following Resolution was passed by the Education Committee on February 21st, 1907. —

"That every head teacher be required to keep a Punishment Book, in which every case of corporal punishment shall be entered forthwith, with the description and amount of punishment and the offence for which it is administered; and that hereafter only head teachers be allowed to administer this form of punishment."

R.S.A. LONDON

children for being lazy, not completing work, smoking pipes in the playground, disobedience and much more, and the school inspection report from 1945!

COPY.

Balsham Council School: Report of Inspection by S.H. Godfrey, Esq., H.M.I., 1st February, 1945.

This Junior and Infant School of two classes is housed in pleasant premises to which the old schoolroom can make a useful addition. The surface of the playground is receiving attention.

Although the normal life of the school has been disturbed in recent years by the increased numbers and changing population associated with evacuation, continuity has been maintained in the children's studies through the practice of group and individual work. The standard of attainment reaches a satisfactory level on the whole and the tidy appearance of the classrooms and the exercise books is a reflection of the social training given in the school and the children's pride in their work. Conversation between teacher and children is encouraged in the classroom and the children are acquiring some fluency in verbal expression. An improvement in vocabulary and enunciation is now looked for. Some attempt is made to relate Arithmetic to the observations and experiences of the children and this principle might be applied further in both Arithmetic and English with a view to giving those subjects more vitality. Carefully chosen and prepared wireless lessons add variety to the teaching of Music, Geography and History.

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head

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Membership starts from £7 per year and members receive a quarterly journal, a monthly newsletter and access to our research team plus our members-only content.

Talks for this May are:

Saturday 13th May – 'History of the Cambridge Townscape', 2.15 - 3.30 pm at St Andrews Street Baptist Church and on Zoom.

Wednesday 17th May – 'Non-conformity for Family Historians' with Alan Ruston, 7.30 - 8.45 pm on Zoom.

The Cambridge drop-in research surgery will be held at the St Andrews Street Baptist Church, 13th May 11.30 am - 2.00 pm, where our friendly volunteers



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So, why not join us, find out who you really are and help preserve the past for future generations? See our website www.chfhs.org.uk to join the society or book your place on one of our talks, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireFHS

Karen Orrell



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Help and Support When You Need It

The Healthy You **Falls Prevention Service** is a free service funded and commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council. Its aim is to help prevent falls and falls-related injuries. The service:

- Offers a one-to-one assessment in the community for people who have fallen or are at risk of falling/feel unsteady on their feet, to identify what you need.
- Following assessment, the service could offer free weekly strength and balance exercise classes delivered by specialist qualified instructors who understand the age-related changes that occur in the body and the medical concerns you may have. The exercises are specifically developed to help keep you strong, steady, and doing things you enjoy for longer. The classes are a great way to meet other people, receive support, and build motivation.
- The nearest weekly classes to us are in Duxford or Cherry Hinton. If you need help with transport, get in touch with Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme on 07508 430057.

The service is available to anyone aged 65+ living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Phone 0333 005 0093 to access the service, or fill in an online referral form on healthyyou.org.uk.

*Suan Rowland (suanrowland@btinternet.com),
Diana Edwards, Jenny Knowelden*

Fish & Chips in Weston Colville

Howe & Co's Van 20 will be coming to the Reading Room car park on Monday lunchtimes, 11.45 am - 1.45 pm, starting from Monday 24th April. No need to book in advance.

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MAY	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
7 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship for Coronation Sunday – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Great Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	
14 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady / Alistair Collen</i>
21 st	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Evening Prayer – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
28 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/</i> <i>Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

DIARY

May 2023

Wed 3	Coronation Lunch, Reading Room Weston Colville Annual Parish Meeting
Sat 6	Balsham Picture House Marc Salmon at The Chestnut Tree
Sun 7	Coronation Celebration, St Mary's
Mon 8	West Wrating Coronation Street Party
Tues 9	Balsham WI
Fri 12	'Cats & Dogs' Talk, Reading Room
Sat 13	Weston Colville Circular Walk Balsham Singers' Spring Concert
Mon 15	West Wrating Parish Meeting
Tues 16	Linton & District Historical Society
Wed 17	West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
Thur 18	Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 19	Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
Mon 22	Weston Colville Reading Room AGM
Thur 25	Devil's Dyke Morris Men, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 26	Tech Clinic, Reading Room
Sun 28	Memorial Service, RAF Wrating Common

The Chestnut Tree

We will be celebrating the King's coronation with Marc Salmon performing live from 8.30 pm on Saturday 6th May. He will be throwing into the mix some good old fashioned sing-a-long songs, as well as his usual favourites to get everyone dancing, so please come along. We will also be providing a bar for the street party on the Bank Holiday Monday, so fingers crossed for some sunshine and we hope to see lots of you joining in with the celebrations.

Please also join us on Thursday 25th May from 8.30 pm, when The Devil's Dyke Morris Men will be performing.

Peter and Rachel

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@juicyfruitsuk.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)

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

Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Black bins: **Tues 2nd**, Mon 15th & **Tues 30th** May,
Monday 12th & 26th June

Blue & green bins: **Tuesday 9th** & Monday 22nd May,
Monday 5th & 19th June

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 25th May, 22nd June
High Street, West Wrating 10.20 - 11.00 am
Reading Room, Weston Green 11.10 - 11.45 am
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 11.50 - 12.15 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.

Copy date for June issue:

Saturday 20th May