

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

Thank you to everyone who came along on a very hot sunny afternoon in June –we were very pleased to see you.

Our next Tea & Cakes afternoon will be on Friday 21st July in the Reading Room, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm.

We will be taking a break in August.

Val and the Team

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Jazz on a Summer Evening, 1st July

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Nan Eshelby



Dalila Manso

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Saturday 1st July
10.30 - 4.00
fresh coffee, tea and home-made cake served all day



Charlie Manning



Kate Cleary



Sally Day



Brendan Hayes



Nicci Trudgeon

West Wrating Café

Our usual Saturday Café will become CAFÉ STUDIO on Saturday 1st July in West Wrating Village Hall, from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm.

We will have artists and craft makers, including a local author/illustrator, block print designs, beautiful pottery, and handmade beauty products. You can enjoy delicious homemade cakes, fresh coffee and tea throughout the day. Please join us for this exciting event.

Sherry and Jan



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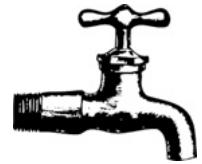
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Preserves

Many of you may have read in the April issue of **Challenge** that I had an excess of marmalade I was happy to part with for a donation (£3/jar suggested). The marmalade is still available – whole fruit, cardamon, dark & chunky, and lemon versions. I received two bronze awards at the Dalemmain Marmalade Festival this year so someone liked my entries!

In addition I have a variety of other preserves available – eg carrot chutney (quite spicy), spiced crabapple jelly, and versions of medlar jelly – if you are interested.

I have also started making ferments eg Sauerkraut and Kimchi; again, if you are keen on tasting these or want any of the above please contact me or call at the house (Farringford, Mill Hill, Weston Colville).

*Jackie (07984 655116, 290076,
jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk)*

West Wrating Book Club

Our June book was 'The Cloisters' by Kathy Hays.

The setting of the main action is The Cloisters, a real medieval outpost of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the surrounding area of New York. The story revolves around a hunt for an early set of tarot cards which will prove the theory of the academic in charge of the museum, but there are underlying currents and relationships not immediately obvious to the main protagonist.

Some of us enjoyed the descriptions of the settings, the historical aspects, and the mythology. It explores themes such as obsession and the desire for power,

and what people are willing to do to obtain this, as well as being a mystery. This book split our group with the subject matter of the tarot cards not appealing to some who felt that the subject was dangerous. Several felt it was rather predictable in places and /or not well written but others felt it was a good read.

Scores varied from 4 and 5 to 8 out of 10.

We now have our summer break and will be reading two books, 'The Nine Tailors' by Dorothy L Sayers and 'Possession' by AS Byatt. We will meet up again at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13th September to discuss them.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Full Time Gardener Required

West Wrating businessman seeks full time gardener.

Experience in a similar role, and understanding of gardening machines, tools & techniques essential. Willingness to adapt/learn as will undertake various other manual tasks dependent on the seasons and the overall needs of the property.

Full driving licence essential.

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d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrattling

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**Kids' Summer Tennis Coaching Day
Tuesday 1st August, 10 am - 4 pm**

d'Abo Tennis Club are delighted to invite you to a free day of tennis coaching with Ali Mcgee (LTA Level 3 Coach).

Children do not have to be members of the d'Abo tennis club, just come along and have a go! Make sure that you wear appropriate clothes and trainers and if you have a racket please bring it along. (Ali will have a small supply available on the day.)

Make a day of it! Bring a picnic and enjoy watching the kids learn to play tennis (Children must be supervised at all times.)

The format will be roughly as follows but may vary dependent on numbers.

10 am -11 am	Tots Session (Under 5s)
11 am - 12 pm	5 - 11 years
12 pm - 1 pm	12+ years
1 pm - 2 pm	Tots Session (Under 5s)
2 pm - 3 pm	5 - 11 years
3 pm - 4 pm	12+ years

For further information or to register please contact Nicky Addley on 07882 246968 or email: secretary@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk
If you would like further information about membership of the d'Abo tennis club please visit www.westwrattlingtennis.co.uk

West Wrattling Parish Council

West Wrattling parish council has vacancies for three councillors due to the resignations of Sue Lock and Mira Nichols. Sue Lock did an excellent job investigating planning applications prior to any comments being made, and is much missed. The chairman, Mira Nichols, having been a councillor for nine years and chairman since September 2019, decided not to re-stand for this position and to resign from the council. She will be missed for her full commitment to the position and her total interest in the maintenance and care of the village. A presentation was made at her last council meeting and thanks were given by the council. County Cllr Batchelor also thanked her for all her help over the past nine years.

If you are interested in joining the parish council please contact either myself as parish clerk or one of the present councillors, whose details are below and on the notice boards in the village. We will be happy to give information on what the position involves.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 10th July.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk
88 HighStreet, Balsham, CB21 4EP
(01223 665260, j.richards597@btinternet.com)

Vice Chairman: Matthew Williams-Gray
(Matthew.williams-gray@doctors.org.uk)

Councillors: Louise Chandler
(Chandlerim9@gmail.com)
Keith Roberts
(keith.roberts5@outlook.com)
Emma Parsons
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Footpaths Update

It has been a difficult year for our footpaths. We had agricultural quantities of rain in March, April and early May, which has led, in my estimation, to the grass and cow parsley being about 30% higher than normal.

The County Council did its first cut in early/mid-May, after which, due to plenty of moisture in the soil, many of the paths are back to square one. The exceptions are the cross-field paths, which have been cut recently (thank you Ollie), the path backing West Wrating Park (thank you Luke and Alicia) and also the path through Scarlett's Wood.

The next cutting is scheduled to start in early August, and should be signed off by August Bank Holiday, but if anyone would like to get their strimmers out, say round the immediate village perimeter, this would be welcomed by all.

The brambles are late starters, but will start encroaching on the paths. It would be hugely helpful if, when walking round the area, we take a pair of secateurs and do some snipping during our walk.

Because the grass is so high, there is the added risk of ticks, especially if you are wearing shorts. Due to the

presence of deer, there is about a 10% chance of catching Lyme Disease (opinions vary on this). Make sure you remove the tick as soon as possible. Tick removers can be bought at Boots and other chemists. Ticks are ubiquitous and like the softer, damper parts of the human body (say no more!). I normally get around five ticks every summer when holidaying in Denmark. After removing them, I rub the area with a rough towel, and apply an antiseptic (I use TCP) for about 48 hours after removal. I often pick the small scab to get more antiseptic on, but if, after say 4 - 5 days, the red spot starts spreading and the outer edge is bluish (the Danes call Lyme Disease Borealis) have a talk with the medics. I am sure our resident doctors will have additional comments, but this procedure has (so far) worked for me.

Colin McCall

Weston Colville Circular Walk, c5 miles

The next walk-and-lunch will be on Saturday 8th July; 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



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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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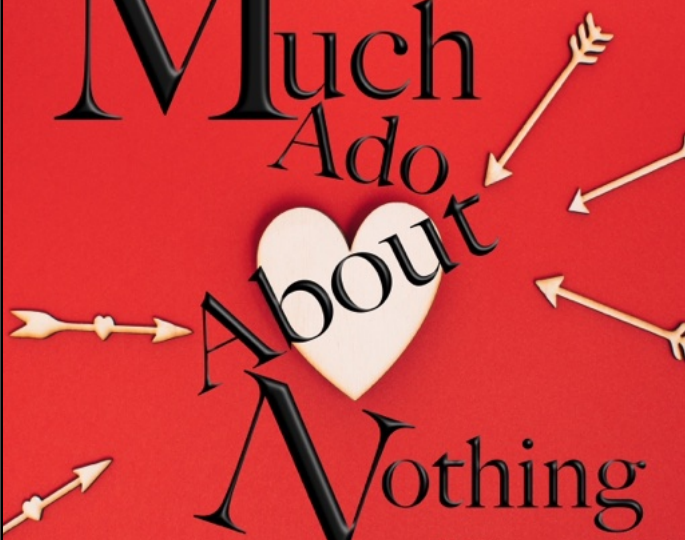
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Making Your Travel a Dream

This is an unsolicited recommendation for Romy Frow; Amie says: "... she does such a fantastic job, I wanted to recognise her in a small way."

If you look through the pages of *Challenge* you're sure to come across a picture of a palm tree beckoning you to a beach far away. Romy Frow from Travel Counsellors has helped us realise our holiday dreams for close to two years now and we highly recommend her services to anyone who needs a break from it all.

Romy goes to great lengths to understand your travel dream, is quick to present a number of options and then takes care of everything – even the things you've not thought of – like fast track at the airport, long term parking or transfer options and an extra bag or two if you need it.

The excellent service doesn't stop at booking – you'll receive your ticket pack (often personally delivered), a thank you gift, she will be on call if you need any help at all while you're away, and also pops you handy reminders when your passports are due to expire.

Thanks to Romy for all her help – we can't wait for our next break!

Amie Jordi

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From the Rectory

Summer can be a wonderful time for celebrations! At the time of writing, I'm looking forward to taking my children to the June Revels at the Meadow Primary School, a really enjoyable occasion. We also have a number of weddings to look forward to in our group of churches over the summer. I feel wedding celebrations can have a ripple effect of joy into the community around them: a celebration of love, hope and faith which is both deeply personal and draws in a community of people who promise to uphold the couple in their lives together.

Then there are the numerous summer festivals. I'm a particular fan of the Christian festival Greenbelt held on the August bank holiday weekend, with its focus on arts, activism and faith. We've been going as a family for many years and in the words of Pádraig Ó Tuama, an Irish poet and theologian who regularly speaks at Greenbelt, it provides for many a 'sacrament of green'. It also creates, for those few days around that bank holiday weekend, a special community which debates, prays, and enjoys a party together!

Indeed, the Christian faith has long been rooted in this kind of community. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop, said that when reading the gospels, you sometimes get the impression that if anywhere in ancient Galilee you heard a loud noise and a lot of laughter and talking and singing, you could be reasonably sure Jesus of Nazareth was nearby. His indiscriminate generosity and willingness to mix with people considered unsuitable by some parts of his society were vividly recollected by the gospel writers. Jesus sought out company, and the effect of his presence was to create a celebration, to bind people together.



Speaking of celebrating community, I'm delighted to announce that Hannah Threlfall, whom some of you may know as an ordinand (or minister-in-training) has recently taken on the role of Community Minister in our parishes for two days a week. This role will include pastoral care for people and supporting local initiatives which encourage community, compassion and faith. Our ministry team looks forward to supporting Hannah in this exciting new role, and please do ask her more about it if you see her around.

Revd Iain McColl

St Andrew's Church Flowers

I would like to ask for more volunteers to join the St Andrew's flower rota or, perhaps, help out for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas and one-off occasions such as the Coronation.

You do not need special training. I have none but have picked up ideas and techniques from watching others, reading books, and looking at arrangements at flower shows. If you can do a simple flower arrangement in a vase, you can do something similar for the church. Neither do you need to be a member of the congregation, but just want to help keep the building beautiful and welcoming to visitors and those who use the church regularly.

We currently only do flowers for the High Altar and the Paschal Candle on a regular basis, doing two weeks at a time when possible. Of course, flowers are expensive at the moment, but just a few from shop or garden with a mixture of greenery can be quite effective.

If you would like to help but are unsure of your abilities, or would like to come and watch how we go about it, please contact me.

Linda Gorman (290653)

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Helping Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have suffered a drastic decline in recent years, but we have been having some success in restoring their population in our garden in Weston Colville, by putting out plates of food and water for them every night, and leaving plenty of suitable habitat for them. Monitoring with trail cameras shows that four or five hedgehogs currently come each night, and gives us fascinating glimpses of their social lives. But they are still vulnerable. They disappeared from here last summer, for unknown reasons, and the numbers have only gradually built up again this year, including two rescued ones that we released here from the Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital. We can all help to preserve them by taking simple precautions when managing our gardens: by making sure that anything put down to control rats is properly confined, and that any wood-pile destined for a bonfire is not concealing a hedgehog.

John Rogers

Nature Notes

We're back with a report of a new, male Marsh Tit bearing colour rings White over Blue over Red, better known as 'Felix the Adorable', after my other half's grandson. (No part of his name is optional, btw . . .) Second-year Marsh Tits like Felix the Adorable usually disappear by the autumn, and we really need to know where they go. Please watch out for Felix (the Adorable) along Mill Hill road, Church End, Lower Wood and Great Coven's Wood.

The BTO's satellite-tagged Cuckoos started returning to tropical Africa last month. Ours will be going too, but the juveniles stay until August. Look in your gardens for a heavily striped brown/grey bird about

the size of a Collared Dove with a shockingly red mouth, being fed by much smaller Dunnocks or Meadow Pipits. Here's one seen in a Chapel Road garden on 7th July 2020.



Dragonflies and damselflies (the Odonata) love the sun and heat. If you want to identify the odonatan you saw, head to <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/odonata/species-and-identification/>.

A tip: if a large green and blue dragonfly, boldly chequered in black, comes up within 50 cm of you and takes a good look, it's probably a Southern Hawker.

Finally, a small quiz for you: what is this chick – one of seven – which came from this nest? The nest consists only of slivers of pine bark. I've only seen this species use a nestbox four times in twelve years. Answer is on page 12 of **Challenge**.



As always, please send details of anything interesting to cambsmarti@gmail.com or **Challenge**.

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

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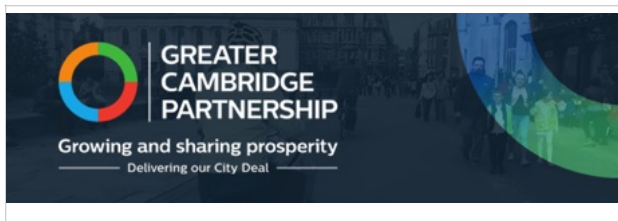
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A1307 Road Closure, 15th - 17th July

The Linton Greenway works from Hildersham to Dale Head Foods have been substantially completed, and the pathway and road are fully open.

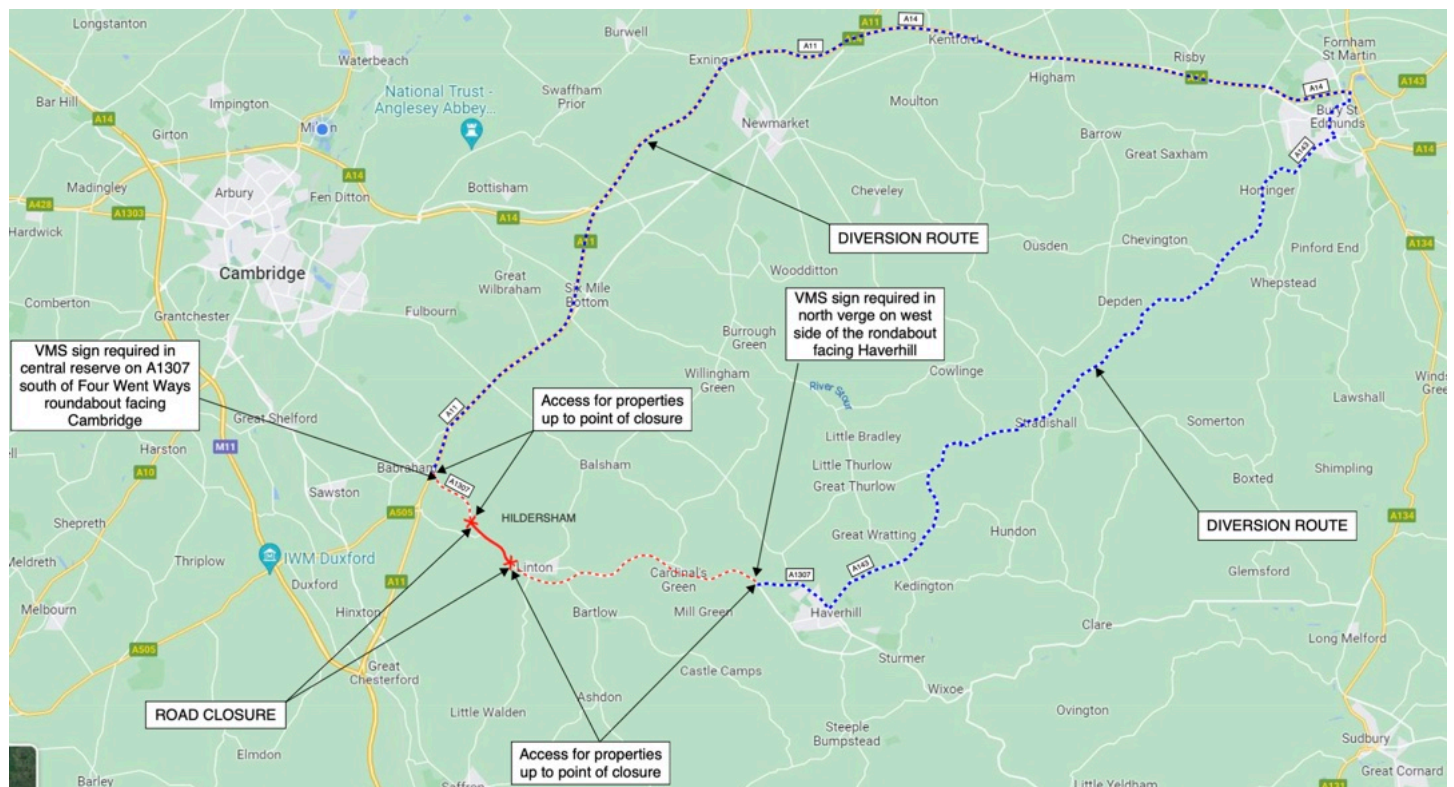
Our original intention was to complete the planned carriageway surfacing by closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout weekdays overnight, and diverting traffic on National Highways roads. However, we have now been advised that it is only possible to use this diversion at weekends.

Due to this, we now plan to complete the carriageway surfacing work over a 48-hour window. This will involve closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout from 6 am on Saturday 15th July until 6 am on Monday 17th July.

We will also book a contingency weekend (22nd to 24th July) for further possible overnight closure, but hope to complete the works in full the previous weekend.

All efforts will be made to keep disruption to a minimum. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause. Warning boards and digital signage will be installed on site to inform road users of the upcoming closures.

Map showing Diversion Routes



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Collection for Ukraine

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held by Saffron Walden Rotary on Saturday 15th July from 9.00 am until 12.30 pm on the Abington School playground, as in the previous two collections.



As the war continues families are losing their homes and possessions and are often without a breadwinner for the family. This creates a dire need for basic food, household, toiletries and health supplies: everyday food items, shoes, clothes (especially underwear), toiletries, all types of personal washing and shampoo items, sanitary towels and sanitary pads. Items for children include nappies for babies and colouring books and school supplies for young children.

Tony Collett, Saffron Walden Rotary

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

The next half term will be a very busy one with lots of sporting and outside events as well as preparing the Year 6s to leave primary school. However, it is also the half term that we host transition events with our new Reception children coming into school, initially with their parents/carers, for Messy Play and Stories & Songs in preparation for September! It was lovely to see many happy, confident and smiling ‘little people’ in school.

We have already held our annual school Summer Fete in very warm sunshine, and children enjoyed the bouncy castles, class stalls, BBQ and café. We are now looking forward to Sports Day which consists of a carousel of team activities which encourage co-operation and support, as well as competitive races.

Continuing with the sporting theme, we took ten children to Wilberforce Road Athletics Stadium to compete against fifteen other teams in four events:

75m sprint, 650m race, howling vortex throw, and standing long jump. The weather was fantastic as was the team spirit. We were delighted to finish fifth.



Before we break up on Wednesday 19th July we have Year 6 Leavers’ Events, Year 5/6 production of ‘Pirates of the Currybean’, Open Evenings for pupils and parents/carers to meet their new teachers, and the Summer Disco, as well as teaching and learning!

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

The Summer Show will be on 9th July from 12 noon until 4 pm. There will be shows of Produce, Flowers & Craft, and Dogs, and stalls including tombola and cakes, a barbecue and much, much more, including a new addition this year: the CLASSIC CAR SHOW, judged by Danny Hopkins (Editor of Practical Classics Magazine). Please contact the office to enter your cars.

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GRANTA Medical Practices

National Flu Immunisation Programme

Eligibility for the free NHS flu vaccination is changing for 2023. We are finalising plans for our flu clinics and next month we will let everyone know what the dates are.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to ring us on 0300 234 5555 or email cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services



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Gardening with climate change - what we can do!



West Wickham Village Hall, CB21 4SB
12th August, 10.00 - 16.00

We welcome you to this unique and exciting opportunity to find out more about climate change, how it is affecting our gardens, and what we can do as gardeners to adapt, and mitigate the impacts.

Attendance is free of charge.

(This is a not-for-profit event, organised by gardening clubs in Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.)

Morning session

Three expert and stimulating speakers, each tackling different aspects of gardening and climate change.

Afternoon session

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- wildlife trust * wild ponds *
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- advice from experts * peat-free compost advice *
- tree-planting * scything demonstration *
- pollinator counts * children's mask-making *
- bug hotel making * bird-box making * nature trail * and more . . .

For full details, please go to:
www.climatechangegardening.org

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JULY	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
2 nd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
9 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship & Baptism – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair Collen</i>	Choral Evensong – West Wickham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
16 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Outdoor Church – Great Abington, <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
23 rd	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady/Steven Wheeler (preaching)</i>
30 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Rev Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion (BCP) –Hildersham, <i>Rev Ben Brady/Alistair Collen</i>	

DIARY

JULY 2023

Sat 1 Café Studio, West Wrating
Jazz on a Summer Evening, St Mary's

Mon 3 Weston Colville Parish Council

Sat 8 Circular Walk, from Reading Room

Sun 9 Summer Show, Ellesmere Centre

Mon 10 West Wrating Parish Council

Sat 15 Collection for Ukraine

Sat 15, Sun 16 Closure of A1307

Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville

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

Save the Date

West Wrating Auction of Promises and Supper

Friday 6th October, 6.30 pm in the village hall, in aid of the fabric of St Andrew's Church. Amazing promises and a fun village gathering.

Contact Fanny Peers (07702 122353). More details available soon!

Nature Notes Quiz Answer: Nuthatch

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

Blue & green bins: Monday 3rd, 17th & 31st July,
Monday 14th & **Tues 29th** August

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 27th July, 24th Aug
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

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 August issue:
Tuesday 20th July**