

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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West Wrating Café Garden

Our August café on Saturday 3rd August, 10.30 am until noon, will be a little different.

We're hosting the café at 74 High Street, West Wrating, in the garden (weather permitting); a warm welcome is offered to all, and the usual delicious homemade cakes will be available plus tea and fresh coffee. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to wander around the garden.

We are raising funds for Granta School and the Beacon Trust, an organisation that supports young people in Linton and surrounds.

West Wrating Café meets on the first Saturday of the month, and we believe we are in our tenth year running as a voluntary donation-based gathering. Our August café will be a specific fund raising event and we thought it timely to remind everyone of our purposes.

As well as offering a welcome to all and a place to meet and chat, funds generously provided go towards paying for use of the hall and supporting local organisations that need extra funding to provide services which benefit our communities. We also support village events such as the Jubilee celebrations, which were free to all. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Sherry and Jan

West Wrating Book Club

We will meet again to discuss two books, 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell, and 'Pharmacopoeia: A Dungeness Notebook' by Derek Jarman, on Wednesday 18th September at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm.

Linda Gorman (290653)



THIS MY THEATRE 

William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Soul Space @ St Mary's Weston Colville

1st August, 7pm

Tickets: thisismytheatre.com

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Weston Colville Tea & Cakes

Thank you for your support again this month. It was lovely to see so many happy children, having come to the end of the school term, looking forward to holidays.



We are taking a break in August and will be back on Friday 20th September in the Reading Room as usual, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm.

Val and the Team

Weston Colville Folk Evening

On Saturday 5th October, The Reading Room will be delighted to welcome back 'Camus' for what is becoming something of an annual event.



Andrew Burn – melodeon, Northumbrian small pipes, vocals
David Somerville – Northumbrian small pipes, keyboard
Greg Smith – fiddle, viola, vocals
Brian Cleary – guitar, bouzouki, vocals

The four friends have been playing together in various folk groups for over 40 years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, USA, as well as self-penned tunes and songs. As David says: "If we like the tune, we'll play it".

Some who joined us last year wrote: "We all thoroughly enjoyed the whole event" and "they are a brilliant band". The band members themselves say that they have always been very well received here and, having played at Cambridge, Ely and Sidmouth Folk Festivals, this is the one they enjoy most. So, if you've seen them before, you'll no doubt want tickets, and if you've missed them, the music starts at 8 pm - come along!

* £5 a ticket (proceeds to Jimmy's Night Shelter)

* book your seat in advance then either pay on the door or request bank details

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* to book: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 291475

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Weston Colville Reading Room – 'Pub' Quiz

We're holding our next quiz on Wednesday 25th September at 8 pm. Once again April's winning team, Mills and Doom, will be defending the trophy. Could you take it off them? Come as a fully-formed team, or join one when you arrive. Up to five per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

Volunteers Needed

We are running short of volunteers to keep West Wrattling and adjoining areas in reasonable shape, doing things such as litter picking, path work, caring for the churchyard, leaf clearing and parts of the Recreation Ground (the grass is immaculate). If you are able to commit to approximately one or two hours a month it would make a huge difference to the overall appearance of the village.

I personally find that doing this sort of work is very satisfying – lots of fresh air and exercise, and it's excellent for one's overall well-being.

If you are interested, please give me a call to take things a step further.

Cobby (290046)



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West Wrattling Village Hall

The village hall committee are pleased to announce that **Vinyasa Flow Yoga** will be starting this October in the village hall, Monday 9th and 16th at 7.30 pm, Monday 23rd and 30th at 12.30 pm.

The 60-minutes sessions will be facilitated by Gem Feeney; see website www.wildatheartyoga.co.uk for further information.

Mats and blocks provided, or bring your own equipment. These sessions are open to all ages – just drop in and be part of this new offering for all the villages. Special introductory rates for the first four sessions are £7 a session.

Dates for your diaries for future events:

- **Harvest Supper**, 12th October;
- **Wine tasting evening**, 2nd November, hosted by Corney and Barrow of Newmarket.

If you have ideas for what type of functions you would like to see in the hall, contact

Dougatgalewood@hotmail.com

Doug

Village Hall charity number 273557

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WEDNESDAY 28TH OF AUGUST
7.30PM



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Weston Colville Playground Renovation

A huge thank you to the Tea & Cakes team who hosted our fundraiser in June. We raised £550 and would like to thank everyone/every family who donated to our fund. We are also delighted to have received donations from the church PCC, the parish council and the Reading Room committee.

We have been granted funding from the Wadlow Windfarm, National Lottery and SCDC Community Chest fund, and await two other funding streams before we can engage contractors.

Playground Working Group



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for information on:

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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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Parish Matters

“More people turning away from news”, report says



So ran the title of a BBC News article. It piqued my interest, not least because I felt that I must number myself among those ‘more people’, globally, who described the news as increasingly depressing, relentless and boring, and something to actively avoid.

I guess it’s understandable when the news agenda has become increasingly difficult in recent years: the pandemic, wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the threats of climate change and AI. And closer to home: increases in knife crime, more sewage in rivers, and ever-tedious political debate. No wonder we feel overwhelmed and confused and powerless, and fatigued by the amount of news. And to help protect our mental health or simply wanting to get on with the rest of our lives, more people are turning away from news.

So what might be a Christian's response to this?

In our Western culture today, probably more people would say that they had ‘a sense of the spiritual’ rather than that they were ‘religious’. Each to his own? Yet ‘spirituality’ alone risks leading us into a purely

private world of experience-seeking for personal wellbeing and comfort. Religion, for all its obvious distortions and tendency to alienate the sceptic, does constantly remind us of a broader world beyond the cramped horizon of our personal space and self-regard: a broader context of a moral order, and a network of obligations to other humans, to the Earth and to the other that lies beyond.

For example, when Jesus teaches that “Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”, he’s not simply giving a divine pat-on-the-back to those who work to fight injustice. Even more deeply than this, he's saying that to be most authentically ourselves, most deeply human, we need the nourishment that comes from ensuring the wellbeing and flourishing of others as well as merely feeding ourselves.

So to switch-off from the complexity and injustice and suffering within our world is to risk starving our own humanity, and diminishing ourselves. And to be clear-eyed and alert and open to whatever we might selflessly do for righteousness sake, means that probably we do need to regularly keep abreast of the news.

Alistair Collen



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Cherry Pearce

It is with great sadness that Terry, Vashti, Brayley, Theon, Milo & Jingo announce that Cherry Pearce passed away at home on Sunday 14th July 2024.

If you would like to celebrate Cherry's life, please join us on Monday 12th August at 2 pm at Cam Valley Crematorium, Field Farm Drive, Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden, CB10 1FE.

Family flowers only.

Cherry's favourite colours were black and lime green, and you may wish to reflect this in your choice of attire – from a green tie, ribbon, handkerchief, dress, suit, blouse or shirt, whatever you like. Be creative, just as Cherry was!

Collection for Ukraine

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 24th August at Abington Primary School from 9.00 am until 12.30 pm. Supported by Abington School and the Granta Vale churches, this will be the fourth collection organised by Rotarian Tony Collett and Saffron Walden Rotary.

As the war continues and winter approaches there are thousands of displaced people who have lost their homes and possessions. Warm clothing and footwear in good condition is needed as well as staple food and household items including pasta, rice, canned goods and gluten free items, toiletries and cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and crockery. In addition, cash donations will be going towards the purchase of pallets of food and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 24th August.

Tony (01223 893447)

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Ordering deadline: noon, Sunday 8th September.

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

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

West Wrattling

Peter Harris (07879 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. If you are close to running out, please tell us so we mark you as urgent.

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The Annual Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting was held on Monday 1st July 2024. Full minutes and attachments at www.westoncolville.org.uk

Flooding – the stream around the Reading Room carpark had been cleared on 18th June. Daines Lowe had completed thorough works, and had scrubbed the overgrown area between the ditch and the paddock. The area would be reseeded. Brian Heffernan, Nichola Burden and Simeon Carroll attended a meeting in the village looking at the flooding situation with Cllrs Vidler and Garrod. Mr Carroll was the new officer responsible for flooding, and had written to the riparian owners. The bank adjacent to the byway had been cleared, however waste had ended up near the ford. Cllr Rayner was asked to find out when the Reading Room would be clearing the ditch along the cricket field.

Footpaths – bridleway diversion 14: the route would be staying the same with the hedges being cut back to allow the path to be 3.7m wide. Footpath 21 had been reported as the wrong path had been cut.

MVAS – additional expenditure of £114 had been incurred for new brackets; this had been approved in

May, but had not been recorded in the minutes. There had been a mixed response from parishioners about the signs. However it was felt that safety was paramount, and it was difficult to please everyone, all the time. Another request was made from a parishioner to have the signs at the top of Church End on the Brinkley Road.

Trees – it was reported that a tree had fallen from the bank owned by SCDC on to fencing behind the houses on Horseshoe Lane.

BT Digital Voice – it was determined to seek advice from Cllr Batchelor about BT Digital Voice.

Risk Assessment/Health and Safety – the clerk was asked to find out when the Village Handyman would be attending to remove the fence in the Reading Room car park, and restore the bus shelters. Emergency repairs had been carried out by Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner to the tower at the cricket field play area, after the cargo net had broken. The defibrillator was rescue ready.

Playground – the playground inspection report would be discussed in September. It was confirmed that playground rejuvenation funding had been approved from the Wadlow Windfarm for £10,000. Tea & Cakes had generously donated £100, and £450 had been raised in donations from parishioners. All involved were thanked for their support. There was a funding gap of approximately £6,500, and it was determined to approach local businesses.

Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2024 – 2nd September, 4th November.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

R BRISTLEY

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Thanks

I am sure many of you know that Jenny Richards, parish clerk for West Wrating for over 20 years, has resigned. I would like to offered my personal thanks for her advice, expertise and guidance in my time as chair.

I would also wish to express my thanks to Keith Roberts and Matthew Williams Gray who have also resigned. They made a valuable contribution to looking after our community.

In reading *Challenge*, I would also wish to thank the many volunteers who work so hard for our community. There are so many unsung heroes, such as those who organise clubs, organisations and social events. There are those who litter-pick, speed-watch and clear public byways. There are of course those who perform small acts of kindness – collecting prescriptions, walking a dog if someone is unwell, and so much more.

Last but not least. I would like to thank Anne Bragg for producing such a wonderful publication which informs our community of any news.*

Mira Nichols (miranich@hotmail.co.uk)

* *Thank you, Mira! Anne*

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Maria (07748 407180)

Balsham WI

Our meeting on 9th July was a social event based on Pimms and Puddings, as well as basic/better/best taste testings on sausage rolls, chocolate and crisps. We also had a food quiz and members had a chance to buy items that had not been sold at the Balsham Feast. We had hoped for some summer weather, but the rain was pouring down; that did not deter members from enjoying the many puddings on offer though!

We do not have a meeting scheduled in August, but we return on Tuesday 10th September when our speaker will be from Morgans Butchery.

New members are always welcome – why not come and try us out?

Debbie Mower (balshamwi@gmail.com)





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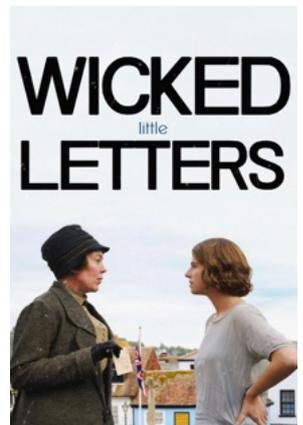



For more information email Sue Boase at wwdgc@westwickham.org or call 07716 401646

Balsham Picture House

On Saturday 3rd August we will be screening the acclaimed comedy film **WICKED LITTLE LETTERS** (15) starring Olivia Coleman and Jesse Buckley, set in 1920s Littlehampton.

When Edith Swan (Olivia Coleman) and fellow residents start to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose (Jesse Buckley) is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues. However, as the town's women, led by Police Officer Gladys Moss, begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss and Rose might not be the culprit after all. Be careful what you post!



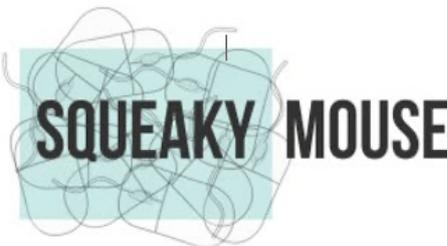
On Saturday 7th September we will show the acclaimed biopic of the Jamaican Reggae artist Bob Marley and the story of the Wailers, entitled **ONE LOVE** (12). Celebrate the life and music of an icon

whose journey behind his revolutionary music changed the world.



Normal start times for both films: Balsham Church Institute doors open at 7 pm and films at 7.30 pm. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the films for refreshments.

Dick Paden



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Buttercups Community Pre-School

A huge THANK YOU to the local community for all your support this year, it really does mean so much to us; without it, we wouldn't be the pre-school we are, so thank you!



We wish all the children leaving us the very best of luck at big school. It has been a pleasure watching them grow and develop over the last year or more, and we hope they have lots of fun at school.

The Buttercups Team

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

As we approach the end of this academic year at The Meadow Primary School, we want to extend our appreciation to all our children and staff for their incredible efforts and achievements. This month has been particularly eventful and full of highlights that have showcased the talents, teamwork, and resilience of our children.

Sports Day was a resounding success, with our children demonstrating remarkable sporting talent and a true spirit of camaraderie. They participated in individual races like the classic egg & spoon race and

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the sack race, as well as a carousel of skill-based physical activities including axe throwing and hurdle jumping. The enthusiasm and determination shown by everyone was inspiring.



We were also treated to a fantastic performance by our Year 4, 5, and 6 pupils, who presented

'The School'O'Vision Song Contest'. The show had everyone laughing, crying, and thoroughly entertained. The creativity and hard work that went into this production was evident and much appreciated by all who attended.

To finish the year off in style, we embarked on a whole-school trip to Hunstanton beach. The day was filled with fun and adventure, creating memories that will last a lifetime. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated, and we didn't get too wet! This



would not have been possible without the support of the PTA who helped raise the funds to foot the cost of the coaches and ice creams! Thank you again to everyone who supported us and made this happen.



As we close this chapter, we wish all our children, staff, parents, and the entire community a wonderful summer break. Thank you for your hard work, support, and dedication throughout the year. We look forward to starting afresh in September, ready for another year of learning and growth. Enjoy your summer!

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

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Marsh Mail

We were very honoured to welcome Michael Rosen into LVC to launch our 2024 Creativity Week. Creativity week is a week of events and lessons at LVC based around a theme; this year's theme was 'Footprints'. Michael Rosen is a British children's author, poet, presenter and academic and is now a professor of children's literature in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also served as Children's Laureate.



Michael arrived to the sound of Year 7 singing 'Nothing is Forever', a song written using lyrics from one of his poems about refugees. He gave a wonderfully engaging poetry workshop, performing some of his funnier poems and then some more serious poems on the theme of 'Footprints.' He wrote poetry alongside the year 7s and inspired all the students to get writing to talk about themes of home, hope and togetherness.

Following Michael Rosen's launch of the week, subjects across the curriculum interpreted this year's theme. It was great to see the range of interpretations and learning across different subjects. A few examples of learning included Design and Technology teaching Year 7 how to design the footprint of a house and garden within a footprint shape.

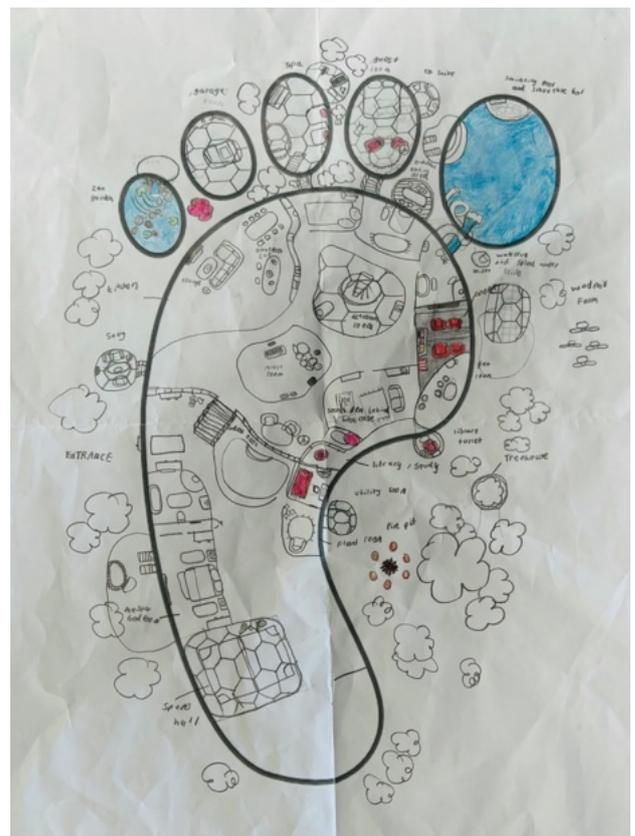
Geography created their own innovative/sustainable farming strategies linking to footprints on the land and reducing carbon footprint. In Religious Studies Year 9 considered the concept of the footprints – 'imprints' – that religion leaves on the lives of believers. In English, Year 7 collaborated with Michael Rosen to create a year group poem and individual poems with the overarching theme of refugees. Eco Club have created a mural out of plastic waste to highlight the

importance of reducing waste and linking to plastic-free July. Other subjects that interpreted the theme were Maths, Dance and Drama.

Students were able to reflect and make connections relating to the central theme of 'Footprints.' The impact for students' learning was the transferable skills which they were developing, in addition to making connections across a variety of subjects based upon the same theme.

Creativity Week culminated in a celebration exhibition at the beginning of our Science and Arts evening. This work is important to us as a school to demonstrate the collaborative nature of subjects, in addition to illustrating how students can respond in different ways to a central theme.

Helen Frost, Head of Dance, Linton Village College





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Long term health condition (LTC) – if you have a long term health condition such as asthma, COPD or diabetes, we aim to review you and your medication in or around your birth month. When it is time you will receive a letter or text message asking you to book an LTC appointment.

Accurx Patient Triage – patients can use our online consultation service for routine medical questions and queries. The link to this can be found on our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk Routine queries are usually responded to within 72 hours. The direct link is <https://florey accurx.com/p/D81043>

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Outdoor Live Music Night, with Johnny Wright and Friends, Saturday 17th August, 5 - 8 pm.

Bar and BBQ. Just bring a chair or blanket.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
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AUCTION 

BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL
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**SATURDAY
28th September
2pm**

**VIEWING
FRIDAY 27th September
5pm - 8pm
SATURDAY 28th September
10am - 1pm**

Refreshments and lightbites will be available during the viewing session on Saturday morning.

IN AID OF BRINKLEY CHURCH

 BRINKLEY AUCTION CASH OR CARD ACCEPTED ON THE DAY

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

AGRICULTURAL AND DOMESTIC

CLUSTER FLIES, LOFT AREA,
RABBITS, RATS,
MICE, WASPS & INSECTS

CONTACT R DANIELS
01223 290570 / 07773 682676

AUG	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
4 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Alistair Collen</i>	
11 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
18 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion - West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
25 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Hub, <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer – Great Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

DIARY

AUGUST 2024

- Thur 1 Tennis Coaching, West Wrating
'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Weston Colville
- Sat 3 West Wrating Garden Café
Balsham Picture House, 'Wicked Little Letters'
- Thur 15 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 17 Outdoor Live Music, Ellesmere Centre
- Sat 24 Collection for Ukraine, Abington
- Wed 28 Jam Night, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 31 West Wickham Gardening Fair

SEPTEMBER 2024

- Mon 2 Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting
- Sat 7 Balsham Picture House, 'One Love'
- Sun 8 Oil Co-operative Order Deadline
- Tues 10 Balsham WI
- Wed 18 West Wrating Book Club
- Fri 20 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
- Wed 25 'Pub' Quiz, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sat 28 Auction, Brinkley Memorial Hall

Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Revd Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister

01223 481090, RevThrelfall24@outlook.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, stevenwheeler406@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 Wrating Parish Clerk: Cameron Biggs,
clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com

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

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 22nd Aug, 26th Sept

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 September issue:

Tuesday 20th August

Black bins: Wednesday 7th & 21st August,
Wednesday 4th & 18th Sept

Blue & green bins: Wednesday 14th & 28th August,
Wednesday 11th & 25th Sept.