# Chassenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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## JAZZ ON A SUMMER EVENING 2024

a concert of fabulous jazz from an all star trio



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#### Tea & Cakes

We had an amazing afternoon for our June fundraising event for the refurbishment of the playground. So many people and so much cake — thank you so much to everyone for your support.

Your generous donations have raised £210 towards this great project.

We will be back at the Reading Room on Friday 19th July from 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm, before a break in August due to holidays.

Val and the Team

#### West Wratting Saturday Café

Our next monthly café will be in the village hall on Saturday 6th July, from 10.30 until 12 o'clock.

We had a very busy café in June, and hope to see even more of you join us in July.

We have a very supportive group of bakers who produce delicious cakes, and there will be fresh coffee and tea. Do come along for some refreshments and a chance to catch up.

Sherry and Jan

#### Wednesdays at the Reading Room

As the Wednesday lunches are having a holiday until September, the Reading Room will be open for anyone to drop in between 2 and 4 pm on Wednesdays. Come for a natter and a cuppa, try a jigsaw puzzle, drawing or anything we can do at minimal cost.

Jackie Brearley

Soul Space @ St Mary's

Saturday 6th July, 11 am - 4 pm

## Open Day and Presentation of Hope, Darkness Yielding

film viewing and under 16s art exhibition.

An opportunity to view the film made with your contributions, and artwork made by the under-16 age group at the print workshop held on 31st May

Find out more about our plans for Soul Space @ St Mary's

If you would like to help with hosting this event please contact janepryor6@gmail.com

Our final event of this exciting day is the Jazz Concert by the Tim Boniface Trio. See ad on this page for ticket booking Refreshments will be available during the day. The church will be closed from 4 pm to set up for the evening event.



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#### d'Abo Tennis Club

New for 2024, the tennis club is running fun, friendly, competitive leagues for members of the club. Join a d'Abo Tennis Club Singles or Doubles Box League now!

For more information please visit www.westwrattingtennis.co.uk or contact secretary@westwrattingtennis.co.uk

Cally Wilson

## Free!

Kids Summer Tennis Coaching Day

d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wratting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 10 am - 3 pm

The d'Abo Tennis Club is 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 racquet 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.

Tots' Tennis (under 5s)	10 am - 10.45 am	
5 - 10 years	11 am - 1pm	
11 - 15 years	ears 1 pm - 3 pm	

Please register for the coaching day by contacting Cally Wilson on 07946 638630 or email:

secretary@westwrattingtennis.co.uk

If you would like further information about membership of the d'Abo tennis club please visit www.westwrattingtennis.co.uk

#### West Wratting Village Hall

On behalf of the management committee, I would like to thank Dr Mike Rowland for his hard work over many years in making sure the hall is fully functional and available to all the residents of West Wratting and the surrounding area. Having served for 18 years on the committee, 11 of those as chair, Mike informed the committee over a period of three years that he would be standing down at some point, which he did at our annual general meeting in December 2023.

The hall operates as a not-for-profit charity with income used to maintain, run and improve facilities whilst keeping hire costs low, especially for residents of West Wratting. Over the years Mike helped raise funds for many improvements to the facilities such as the refurbished toilet block and roof.

We wish him well with all his other commitments.

Martin Davey, Chair,

West Wratting Village Hall Committee

#### West Wratting Book Club

We met in June to discuss 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amol Towles.

This is 'a sweeping cultural narrative' which covers the years from 1922 to 1954, and the consequences of the Russian Revolution seen through the life of Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov. He has been declared a nonperson, only saved from the death penalty by his seeming support for action after the failed revolt of 1905. Having been living in an apartment in a grand Moscow hotel he is now confined to a room in the attic on pain of death if he leaves the building. He therefore has to whittle down his belongings even more than previously, some of the most valued being his books. This is a humorous and engaging story set against a grim background, with many literary allusions and historical insights, amusing, melancholy, and wise, with the odd culinary tip. The main protagonist, Rostov, is an interesting character who uses all the knowledge and skills learned through his life and his time in the hotel (aided by a young girl with the forthrightness but, also, invisibility of children among adults) to bring the story to a satisfying conclusion. All those of us who read this book loved it although one person who was away was finding it tedious.



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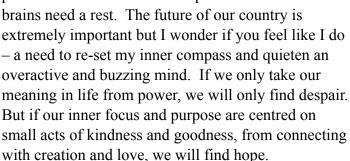
As is often the case, there are changes to the story in the recent dramatisation. Scores were 10 out of 10. This is a highly recommended read, with two of our number describing it as the best book they have read in years.

We are now taking our summer break. 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)

#### Parish Matters

Summer is upon us and so too is a General Election. Over the last few weeks, it appears that we have been bombarded by a surfeit of conflicting pieces of information and our poor







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It is usually when surrounded by nature that I feel closest to God. I am filled with wonder at the beauty and intricacy of our natural world. The words from Psalm 46 come to mind: 'Be still and know that I am God'. One morning, watching the swifts circling above, I decided that I would start a gratitude diary; just noting three things for which I am grateful each day. It could be as simple as the fragrance of a new rose in the garden or an unexpected and welcome phone call. It certainly has a positive effect on how I view life. You may like to give it a try.

One entry in my diary was last month's Creative Church which takes place once a month in the Abington Institute on a Sunday morning. It is a time where young and old meet for a late breakfast or coffee, and enjoy the opportunity to connect with one another through conversation and creative activities around a given theme. New friendships are formed, laughter abounds. The service is quite informal but there is a simple structure which culminates in some optional creative activities and finishes with an interactive prayer based on quiet stillness. Awe and wonder creep into the room and are etched on people's faces. Why not come along at 10 am on Sunday July 28th or August 25th and give it a try? I can guarantee you will receive a warm welcome.

Rosemary Mead

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#### for information on:

What's On Parish History

**Church News** 

Directory **Local Sports**  **Parish Council Village Hall Events** 

**Parish Matters** 

Village Calendar

Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.

#### West Wratting Football Fixtures

#### **WW First Team Friendlies:**

Sat 6th July, 1 pm (H) Walsham le Willows Sat 13th July, 3 pm (H) Bishops Stortford Swifts, followed by a birthday celebration with two bands, outside (weather permitting)

Wed 17th July, 6.45 pm (H) Haverhill Borough Sat 20th July, 2 pm (H) Lakenheath Sat 27th July, 1.30 pm (H) Comberton Utd Sat 3rd August, 1 pm (H) Kings Park Rangers

Thurlow Sat 10th August, 2 pm (H)

#### **WW Reserves:**

6th July, 4 pm (H) Walsham 23's 13th July, 12.30pm (H) Histon Reserves 20th July, 4 pm (H) Soham Town Rangers Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 6.30 pm (H) Isleham 27th July, 4 pm (H) Hedingham 31st July, 6.30 pm (H) Thaxted 3rd August, 4 pm (H) Earls Colne 10th August, 4 pm (H) Swavesey.

There has been a lot of dog fouling over the recreation ground, probably by different sized dogs. Please can everyone take responsibility for picking up the deposits to keep all the players safe.

Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary



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#### West Wratting Parish Council

A meeting was held on Monday 13th May. Please see the website at https://westwratting.org.uk/wwpc-agmmay-2024/ for full minutes.

**Election of officers:** Cllr Chandler was elected as chairman, and signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

Review of delegation arrangements to a committee and working groups and their terms of reference: Planning Committee: Cllrs Harvey, O'Donovan, L Chandler, Mrs S McCall

Finance Working Group: Cllrs O'Donovan,

**E Parsons** 

Parish Clerk, Clive Parry Small Assets Working Group: Cllrs L Chandler &

Sports Pavilion Working Group: Cllrs Parsons & S Chandler

Village Hall Working Group: M Davey, T Bonfield, Cllr S Chandler

Road Safety & Highways Working Group: M Davey, T Bonfield, Cllr L Chandler

Documents Working Group: Cllr S Chandler IT Working Group: Cllr S Chandler.

Reviews were given on ten council policies, of which full details are available on the website or the noticeboards.

**Finance:** Full details of the authorised payments and receipts are shown in the minutes available on the website or noticeboards.

**Internal audit documents for signature:** Various documents were read out and then signed by the chairman and parish clerk. The chairman was aware that the bank balance of £49k is larger than recommended by NALC (Nat Assoc. of Local Councils) and the finance working group should identify earmarked purposes for these reserves.



**Co-option of two new councillors:** Caughlin Ryder and Paul McKenna were co-opted on to the Council.

#### **Public Participation:**

- 1. The chairman responded to a query about the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm that having attended the presentation he then wrote an item in Chassenge. There is nothing more to report at present.
- 2. Financial state of the West Wratting Sports
  Pavilion Club (WWSPC) the chairman said a joint article by him and chair of the sports pavilion club has been proposed, to seek the views of parishioners about whether the PC, and hence parishioners via their council tax, should give WWSPC some financial assistance. However, publishing such an article in Challenge first needs to be discussed and agreed by the PC.
- 3. Flooding in the Causeway Dist Cllr Harvey agreed to see if he could expedite a solution.

**Recreation Ground:** RoSPA had carried out a satisfactory inspection of the play equipment and area.

**Village Hall:** confirmation of Tim Bonfield and Martin Davey acting as representatives on the VHMC was agreed.

A plan from the developer's engineer should be available in mid-June. A plan of the proposed boundary had just been received and would be circulated.

**Traffic Issues:** Cllr L Chandler had heard from Susan Rooke (Principal Active Travel Officer) from CCC to say that the need for a proper pavement on Six Mile Bottom Road had been added to Tier 2 of the transport proposals.

**The next Parish Council meeting** will be on Monday 8th July at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

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If you urgently require any mobility aids, please do not hesitate to contact us on the numbers below:



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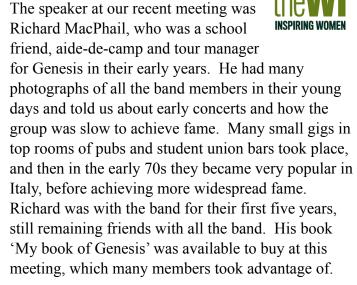


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#### Balsham WI



Our next meeting will be on 9th July at 7.30 pm and will be a social event based on Pimms and Puddings – let's hope we have some summer weather for it!

New members are always welcome – why not come and try us out? Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us - balshamwi@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

Debbie Mower

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#### **Balsham Singers**

Balsham Singers are hoping to recruit tenors and basses who would like to come and make music with us.

We meet on a Thursday night in Balsham Sports Pavilion near the church. Our concerts are held twice yearly, in May and December, and we sing a very varied programme, eg classical, traditional songs, West End musicals, and some 'pop' arrangements – something for all tastes. No auditions.

If you are interested please contact us, through our MD John Clenaghan (John.clenaghan@sky.com) or myself (jonotnits@gmail.com) for further information.

We are a friendly lot. The first rehearsal for our next concert will be on 12th September; hoping to see some new recruits!

Jo Stinton

#### Balsham Picture House

Saturday 6th July is the day of The Balsham Feast which will run throughout the day and is centred on the Recreation Ground.

The main events conclude at the end of the afternoon and for those who wish to stay in the village, Balsham

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Picture House is showing by popular request the 2016 Academy and BAFTA Award winning film LA LA LAND (12) starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as a jazz musician and actress pursuing their Hollywood dreams and finding each other!



## WICKED LITTLE On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August we will be screening the acclaimed comedy film WICKED LITTLE



On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

Normal start times for both films: 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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#### The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

At The Meadow, we are delighted to share the latest updates in our school community through our local newsletter. This edition is filled with exciting news, upcoming events, and our ongoing efforts to enhance the school experience for our students.

Fundraising for the Whole School Beach Trip – a big thank you to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) for their tremendous effort and dedication towards fundraising for the upcoming whole school beach trip. The recent Big Balsham Sale organised by the PTA was a resounding success, with over £550 raised through the sale of delicious bacon butties and refreshing drinks. This contribution brings us closer to our fundraising target and ensures that all children have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable day at the beach.

Annual Summer Fete – sadly, due to the weather, we had to cancel our highly anticipated annual summer fete. However, we are pleased to announce that it has been rescheduled for September. We thank all who contributed to preparing for this event and look forward to its success in September.



Balsham Feast Fundraising – we are gearing up for the Balsham Feast where the School Council and PTA will unite forces for a final fundraising push in support of the beach trip. Your continued support and contributions towards these initiatives are truly appreciated and make a significant difference in enhancing the educational experiences of our students. We look forward to seeing you there!

Looking Ahead and Upcoming Events – the next half-term promises to be filled with exciting events, including move-up days, Sports Day, the Key Stage 2 production, and, of course, the highly anticipated beach trip. These events play a crucial role in enriching the educational experience of our students and fostering a sense of community within our school.

As we reflect on the past year and eagerly anticipate the events ahead, we remain committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for our students to learn and grow. Your continued support and active participation in school events are vital to our collective success and for that, we thank you all so much.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher



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#### Marsh Mail

We were exceptionally proud last month to have been rated 'Good' in all areas in our latest Ofsted inspection. The inspection report captures our caring and inclusive ethos and our commitment to a holistic, enriching educational experience.

During my time as a leader at LVC, I have been unequivocal about the importance of developing well-rounded young people who are able to play an active role in their learning, their lives and their communities. The impact that Covid had on the education and socialisation of our young people makes it even more important that they are supported to foster the skills of compassion and empathy, as well as the confidence to achieve success as independent learners.

Hosting Michael Rosen at LVC in June was an amazing opportunity to launch our Creativity Week focus on the theme of 'footsteps', ahead of National Refugee Week. Michael Rosen led a two-hour session with our Year 7 students, sharing poetry about migration and listening to students' own poetry. He also watched students perform dance and music, inspired by his poetry, which will be included in an

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event at the Cambridge Corn Exchange at the end of the month.

Our heritage as a Village College reminds us of the commitment to life-long learning. It is great to see students each year benefit from the Henry Morris memorial fund which was established to support young people aged 13 - 19 in Cambridgeshire for 'projects with purpose'.

This year, Angelos in Year 9 was successful in being awarded money to embark on a six-month project to build a radio-controlled car, a task requiring skills in two fields: electronics and mechanical design, both invaluable for aspiring engineers. The electronics component ensures the car functions, while the design and manufacturing involve creating the car's mechanics, such as steering, gear ratios, and structure. The Henry Morris Award is now partially funding the purchase of a 3D printer to design and print the car's mechanical parts.

Laura Heard

#### Sawston Open Gardens 2024

Five of Sawston's finest gardens open their gates to the public on Sunday 7th July, to help raise funds for the National Garden Scheme (ngs) – four very different private gardens plus the well-known Mary Challis Garden, all open from 1 to 5 pm. Collect a map at the first garden you visit. Entrance £6 covers all gardens; children free. Enjoy homemade tea and cakes at the Mary Challis Garden 1.30 - 4.30 pm, plus plants for sale. Enquiries: 01223 834511 or mjredshaw@hotmailco.uk.

Mike Redshaw



#### West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Phones and cameras at the ready...

After the excitement of the club's early summer events it's time to start sorting through those snaps and eyeing up your borders for the 2024 Photography Competition.

Categories this year are:

- My World and Me (children's class, age 15 and under) send us your three favourite pictures
- It's a Small World
- The Changing Landscape
- My Garden Palette

Entries will be displayed and announced at the Summer Gardening Fair at West Wickham Village Hall on Saturday 31st August, so let's get focused and start snapping!

Deadline is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Email your entries (taken after 31st August 2023) to Sally Collins at photo@westwickham.org or contact Sue Boase on 07716 401646. 50p per entry (up to two per adult class), by bank transfer, card reader or cash. Details will be provided by return email when entries are submitted.

Sally Collins

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#### **Granta Medical Practices**

We continue to work hard to improve patient access. We have recently employed seven new GPs, who will be starting at various times over the next few months. Remember though, GPs aren't the only healthcare professionals you can see, depending on your medical need.

'Pharmacy First' is an NHS service available via high street pharmacies where, if eligible, you can obtain prescription medicine without seeing a GP. The conditions covered by Pharmacy First are: earache (1 to 17 years); impetigo (1 year and over); infected insect bites (1 year and over); shingles (18 years and over); sinusitis (12 years and over); sore throat (5 years and over); uncomplicated urinary tract infections (women, 16 - 64 years old).

If you go to a pharmacy with one of these conditions, a pharmacist will offer you advice, treatment or refer you to a GP or other healthcare professional if needed. They will then update your GP health record.

If you are not within the above age ranges, a pharmacist can still offer you advice on these and many other conditions, and if they cannot help you directly they may signpost you to an alternative healthcare professional for treatment.

For further information go to www.nhs.uk/ thinkpharmacyfirst

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

## Granta Medical Practices Patient Participation Group (PPG)

- The PPG ensures that Granta Medical Practices (GMP) has a channel through which it can hear its patients' thoughts, ideas and concerns;
- all patients registered with GMP are eligible to be members of our PPG;
- to be active within the PPG and/or just to be kept informed about PPG activities, you simply need to give your permission to be contacted, preferably by email;
- you can opt in to being a member of the PPG by contacting our GMP Patient Services Manager, Sandra East: sandra.east@nhs.net

In recent months, in conjunction with GMP, our PPG has carried out, analysed and reported on a patient survey which has resulted in many recommendations for improvement in the provision of GMP services.



We are also working with GMP on the production of a patient information brochure to bring together information on all the services offered by GMP and the means of accessing these. This brochure will be available both in hard copy and online.

We hold a Patient Participation Group meeting about five times a year, both face to face at Sawston Health Centre and online via Microsoft Teams.

Representatives from GMP attend these meetings to bring us up to date on key developments within the wider organisation.

We have a committee comprising representatives from each of the surgeries and health centres to co-ordinate activities. This summer we need to undertake nominations for, and elections of, officers, namely Secretary, Vice-Chair and Chair. These positions will be held for two years.

I know that many organisations are struggling to attract members, but if you are keen to make a positive contribution to your local health care provision by being active within the PPG, no matter what your age, then please do contact me by email: davidjsarnold @gmail.com

Dave Arnold, Chair, Granta Medical Practices PPG

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JULY	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
7 <sup>th</sup>		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Hannah Threlfall	
14 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion — Weston Colville, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship — West Wickham, Alistair Collen	Holy Communion – Great Abington, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship – Balsham, Revd Hannah Threlfall Morning Worship – Hildersham, Alistair Collen	Evening Prayer – West Wratting, Steven Wheeler
21st	Holy Communion – West Wratting, Revd Iain McColl Holy Communion - West Wickham, Revd Kathy Bishop	Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship – Little Abington, Revd Hannah Threlfall Holy Communion – Hildersham, Revd Kathy Bishop	Taizé Service * – Weston Colville, Revd Hannah Threlfall
28 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – West Wickham, Alistair Collen Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Hub, Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall	Holy Communion (11.15 am)— Balsham, Revd Michael Wilcockson Café Church — Hildersham, Steven Wheeler	Evening Prayer – Great Abington, Alistair Collen

<sup>\*</sup> Taizé-style services are based on the Christian worship practised by the ecumenical Taizé community in France. This is characterised by the repetitive singing of simple harmonised tunes (or chants), interspersed with readings, prayers and periods of silence.

#### DIARY

#### JULY 2024

Sat 6 West Wratting Café Soul Space @ St Mary's Jazz Concert, Weston Colville Balsham Village Feast Balsham Picture House, 'La La Land'

Ellesmere Summer Fun Day Sun 7 Sawston Open Gardens

Tues 9 Balsham WI

Thur 18 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

Fri 19 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room

#### AUGUST 2024

Thurs 1 Tennis Coaching, West Wratting 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Weston Colville Balsham Picture House, 'Wicked Little Letters' Sat 3 Sat 31 West Wickham Gardening Fair

#### The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

The Ellesmere Summer Fun Day with Classic Car Show and 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flower & Craft Show will take place on Sunday 7th July from noon.

Black bins: Wednesday 10th & 24th July,

Wednesday 7th & 21st August

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

Wednesday 14th & 28th August

Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com Revd Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister 07867 515914, hthrelfall82@gmail.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister 01223 290396. steven@iuicvfruitsuk.com

#### **Churchwardens:**

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,

7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge, clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 07779 277647

West Wratting Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,

j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,

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

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park,

Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

**Mobile library: fourth Thursday:** 25th July, 22nd Aug High Street, West Wratting 11.10 - 11.50 am Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 pm

Editor: Anne Bragg (editor@challengemag.co.uk)

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

> **Copy date for August issue:** Saturday 20th July