

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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# Weston Colville Tea & Cakes – Playground Fundraising Afternoon

Our next Tea & Cakes – on Friday 21st June in the Reading Room from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm – will be supporting our village's amazing plans to refurbish the cricket meadow children's playground.

Please come along and bring your friends to see the intended plans, chat with Jo and the group working hard to make this happen, and hear about the progress they have made to find funding.

All your donations will go towards this project and we will make sure we do not run out of cake this time!

Val and the Team

# FREE ART WORKSHOP



FRIDAY 31st MAY From 10am - 12.30pm

# Soul Space @ St Mary's Ages 5-15 years

Be inspired by nature: drop in during the morning for fun mono printing and have a go at light drawing with artist Maddie Wheeler.

Your work will be displayed at the project exhibition on 6 July!

All materials and refreshments provided.

Further info : janepryor6@gmail.com

You don't have to book but it would help us to know if you plan to come!

Part of the Hope, Darkness Yielding arts project



#### West Wratting Community Café

Our next monthly café will be in the village hall on Saturday 1st June, from 10.30 until 12 o'clock.

It doesn't seem possible that June has arrived and the longest day is almost upon us. We're hoping for a sunny morning to welcome everyone to enjoy delicious



homemade cakes, fresh coffee and tea! Table tennis will be available, toys for the children and of course the chance to catch up and chat. We look forward to seeing you!

Sherry and Jan

# West Wratting Open Garden

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2 - 4 pm.

Peter and Jennifer Heywood recently moved to West Wratting and have been working hard to create a beautiful accessible garden, with the help of local experts including 'Ladies that Mulch' and 'The Secret Garden'. They are now looking forward to sharing this beautiful space and also raising funds for the fabric of our lovely church.

Do pop in and join us at Project House, 19 Padlock Rd, West Wratting CB215LS.

There will be delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee. Donations will be gratefully received.

Jan Davey

#### West Wratting Book Club

Unfortunately, our May meeting had to be cancelled. We will now meet to discuss 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amol Towles on Wednesday 12th June at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm.

Linda Gorman (290653)

# You are invited to participate in a new community art project focusing on how we find hope in challenging times

# Hope, Darkness Yielding

We would like to encourage you to think about how you find hope and look for visual images that portray that. It could be someone you encounter daily, a landscape, nature, a small gesture by a friend or stranger.

#### How you can participate

We would like you to take short videos on your phone and send them to us. We will then edit and put them together to make a film that shows how the local community finds hope.

If you would like to participate please contact Jane for further information and a soundtrack to listen to that will give you inspiration. There will also be help available should you need it. Everyone is invited to participate of any faith, or none.

Deadline for participation: 6 June

The final film will be shown in Soul Space @ St Mary's in Weston Colville on 6th July at a special event.

Email: janepryor6@gmail.com



#### Parish Matters

When Iain and Cazzy asked me to write this piece for the newsletters, to say farewell to you all as Community Minister, I could not quite believe that

the year had gone by and that it was time to take off the Community Minister hat. But sadly, it is so.

It has been such an honour and privilege to have been able to take on the role and it has been a joy to meet so many of you within the Benefice. This may have been at a coffee morning, community lunch, a service, at the primary schools, a chance meeting or when I have been able to provide support within your home. Wherever our paths crossed, I will always be so grateful that we were able to connect, laugh, share, solve and pray. Blessed moments indeed.

Thank you to you all, for making me feel so welcome, for allowing me to walk alongside you and for giving me the support needed to flourish within ministry.



Now, I mentioned earlier about taking off a hat, and I am thrilled to be able to share that I am indeed putting on a new one. I shall be Joining the Benefice in July as your new Curate!

My family and I will move into the Vicarage, Abington in June, an exciting venture for us all. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, I will be ordained by Bishop Dagmar at Ely Cathedral and I will then begin my curacy on July 1<sup>st</sup>!

This placement affords many advantages, for I can continue with so many of the connections I made and events that I took part in as Community Minister. So, it is a "Goodbye" but also a very big "Hello".

May God bless each and everyone of us within our communities and continue to shine his love, guidance, care and strength on all.

Hannah Threlfall

Dear friends, I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks for the many messages of love, encouragement, support, and good wishes which I have received since my final Sunday service at the beginning of May. I have been inundated with gifts and cards which I have so very much appreciated. They say that having a good 'ending' enables a good 'beginning' and I leave this place well, with precious memories which will stay with me for the rest of my days and speed me on my way to Hertfordshire.

My prayers will remain with all of you in each and every village. It has been an honour to have played a significantly small part in the Granta Vale Group of Churches.

So, until we meet again friends, with all my heart God bless you and once again thank you.

Reverend Ben Brady



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#### Soul Space @ St Mary's

Save the date – on Saturday 6th July, 11 am - 4 pm, when there will be an **Open Day** and presentation of Hope Darkness Yielding, film viewing and an under-16s art exhibition.

This is 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.

You can also find out more about our plans for Soul Space @ St Mary's.

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

Our final event of this exciting day is the Jazz Concert by the Tim Boniface Trio (see ad opposite 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.



Jane Pryor

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**Parish Matters** 

Village Calendar

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

#### Weston Colville Book Exchange

Donations of children's books would be welcome, please; these seem to be especially popular.

**Joyce** 

#### changes so it will be some time before any decision is made. He will keep the local parishes updated.

were still requesting fuller details and possible

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Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

#### West Wratting Parish Council

The reports from this year's Annual Parish Meeting are available to read at https://westwratting.org.uk/ the-annual-parish-meeting-2024/. If you would like to be sent a paper copy of the reports please ask the parish council.

Below are the minutes of this year's Parish Meeting. A summary of the minutes of the parish council meeting, also held on 13th May, will appear in the July Chassenge but the draft minutes can be read on the website and noticeboards once approved.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on Monday 13th May.

- 1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Henry Batchelor, who is on holiday.
- 2. The chairman welcomed those attending the meeting, and after reading out the 2023 minutes signed the minutes of the last Parish Meeting.
- 3. Chairman's Report: separate document.
- 4. Parish Lands & Properties: a risk assessment has been carried out and will be signed for audit.
- 5. Reports: reports had been received from the chairman of the VHMC, West Wratting Café, d'Abo Tennis Club, the Lunch Club, the WWFC and the District & County Cllrs Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor.
- 6. Matters Arising: Chris Covey of Streetly Hall Farm spoke about the proposed Biodigester, saying that South Cambs District Council planners

#### Weston Colville Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 1st May. Extracts from the minutes follow.

Chairman's Welcome and Annual Report – The chairman welcomed those present, and delivered his report – see below.

District and County Councillors' Annual Report – Cllrs Batchelor and Harvey delivered their report.

**Playground Rejuvenation** – a presentation was made detailing the progress that had been made with grant funding and planning.

#### **Public Comments and Questions –**

- 1. Concerns were raised about BT Digital Voice, and the problems experienced when there were power cuts, and often the digital network also failed, meaning in emergencies there would be no way of contacting the emergency services. Cllr Batchelor mentioned a scheme called Connected Cambridgeshire, and Cllr Harvey will also look into it through South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC).
- 2. One of the bungalows on Chapel Road (sheltered housing) no longer has their grass cut by SCDC. It was thought this had been overlooked as the other bungalows had been purchased privately. Cllr Harvey would report it to the appropriate team.
- 3. The Big Lunch in West Wickham was discussed. Cllr Durham would attend and report back at the next meeting.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk



#### Chairman's Report

In the last year the council continued to carry out a range of village maintenance and support activities including: -

The Green Play Area Redevelopment: probably the most exciting thing the parish council has sponsored this year is the work of the play area improvement sub committee which following a public consultation has come up with a proposal to redevelop the play area and has applied for grants to support the cost of this work. I would like to thank Councillor Rayner, Councillor Pagonis, the clerk and the other members of this committee for their hard work in producing this.

*Flooding:* the flood prevention working party has had a successful year in updating the flood plan for the whole village and getting the County Council Highways department to complete most of its actions. Flood wardens have dealt efficiently with several incidents of flooding on Common Road. I would like

to thank Councillors Garrod and Durham and their fellow flood wardens for their hard work in delivering this. The County Council Flood Risks officer is planning to visit the village with a representative from highways to see what they can do to help.

Maintenance of Roads and Verges: the council implemented the usual verge cutting programme and continued to provide street lighting for the village. Progress was also made with getting potholes repaired and gullies and drains cleared. However, it seems a never-ending task and there are still many potholes to fix.

*MVAS* – *Speed Indicator Sign:* following a very generous donation from a parishioner, the council has been able to purchase two mobile vehicle activated signs which show the speed of vehicles passing through the village. These should significantly help to improve road safety and we hope to see them in regular use soon.

Grass and Hedge Maintenance: the council continued with its programme of grass cutting and hedge trimming around the war memorial, at the church end playing field and the play area on the cricket field.

**Play Areas:** an annual safety inspection of this equipment has been carried out by an outside expert to ensure it meets current safety standards; the recommendations raised will be implemented alongside all other necessary maintenance work.

Annual Budget: I am pleased to be able to report there will be no increase in precept for 2023/24. However, due to an administrative error by SCDC the amount payable by parishioners has decreased. This will be corrected for next year's annual precept.

Ray Vidler, Parish Council Chairman



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#### Weston Colville Parish Council

Abridged minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st May follow. For the full minutes please go to http://www.westoncolville.org.uk

#### Election of Officers, and Responsibilities -

Chairman - Cllr Vidler

Vice Chair - Cllr Durham

Financial Overseer - Cllr Garrod

Combined Parishes Meeting Rep – Cllr Vidler

Footpaths – Cllr Durham

Tree Warden - Cllr Garrod

Flood Wardens – Cllrs Garrod and Durham.

Faye Parker, Alastair Douglas, Peter White Playgrounds – Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner, Parish Clerk MVAS – James Hubbard.

**Planning** – The lack of communication received from SCDC regarding 24/01012/FUL was discussed. Cllr Harvey was asked to find out why this had happened.

Flooding – Brian Heffernan had written to riparian owners, reminding them of their responsibilities. He would be visiting the village with a member of Highways to determine actions that could be taken. The owner of the smallholding at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane should be contacted to clear overgrowth from the bank alongside the byway. It

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was suggested that Highways would be responsible for clearing the ditch along the byway from the ford. Cllr Garrod had been informed that the drains on Mill Hill had been cleared on 11th December 2023 – this had not occurred. The contractors clearing the ditch by the Reading Room car park would carry the works out in May. The ditch running along the recreation ground would be cleared by contractors hired by the Reading Room. Cllr Durham reported that the grips on Common Road needed clearing. Cllr Harvey was asked to chase up the clearing of the stream behind the houses on The Green.

MVAS - the MVAS devices (mobile vehicle activated signs) would soon be put up.

**RAF Wratting Common War Memorial – Cllr** Vidler had been contacted by volunteers who were concerned by ongoing maintenance. Cllr Durham had inspected the site, and weeded the gravel; she felt no action needed to be taken for the Memorial.

**Playgrounds** – the playgrounds had been inspected on 30th April. A savings account should be set up, to hold the grant funding when it came in.

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2024** – 1st July, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

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#### **Ticks**

Because the grass is now so high, there is a 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

#### Balsham WI

Our speaker at the May meeting was Maggie Woodhouse, who works at Bury St Edmunds hospital as a Dementia Practitioner. Keeping your brain and



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body active is key to helping prevent symptoms; things to avoid include lack of sleep, alcohol, more than six cups of coffee a day, endless 'scrolling', and spending too much time alone. Anything which causes you to become isolated (such as hearing loss) is not good for you, so coming to the WI is obviously good for your health!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th June at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Our speaker will be Richard MacPhail, who was a school friend, aide-de-camp and tour manager for Genesis in their early years. His book 'My book of Genesis' will be available to buy at this meeting. This will be an open meeting open to all visitors, including men. Visitors can book a place by emailing balshamwi@gmail.com, first come first served. A donation for WI funds will be requested from visitors.

Debbie Mower

# The Balsham Singers

We were delighted to see a large and appreciative audience for our spring concert on 18th May.

Our next performance will be at the Balsham Village Feast on 6th July. Hope to see you there.

Jo Stinton

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#### 1st Horseheath Brownies

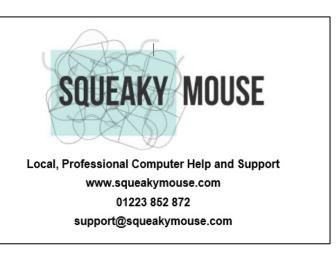
We have had a cake-based Brownie holiday at the Jarman Centre with Balsham Brownies, when the Brownies made Rocky Road, thumb buns for our snacks, funky foam cupcakes, gingerbread men badges; they also had a campfire with s'mores, and completed their baking badge.

We have started our next skills builder, Innovate, and have already designed and perfected our sailboats, plus designed a play-park. Next we will be making edible architecture with apples, grapes, marshmallows and kebab sticks, which is always fun.

Plans are being finalised for the US Girl Scouts' visit to Linton in June, when we hope that the weather will be warm and sunny so we can pitch tents, play games outside and do crafts indoors. I know the Brownies really enjoyed it in 2022 when the group last visited.

Our last two meetings in July will be polar opposites of each other: one will be at the Jarman Centre learning, safely, how to light fires, and the last meeting of term will be our usual water games, so if you hear squeals of joy you will know that the Brownies have managed to make me very wet!

Pauline, Katie & Gemma (horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)





#### **Buttercups Community Pre-School**

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Easter Fun Egg Hunt. It was a huge success and raised much-needed funds for the pre-



school. An eggstra special thank you to everyone who supported this event.

We had a nerve-wracking day recently when OFSTED visited Buttercups. The children were amazing and the staff were very proud to show the inspectors what we do. A huge thank you for all the wonderfully supportive, kind words of praise we had from our parents/carers. Those testimonials meant so much to us all and were very much appreciated. Buttercups has been officially rated as GOOD!

Charlotte Vallins

#### Balsham Picture House

Our film for June will be the acclaimed true story of Sir Nicholas (Nicky) Winton entitled ONE LIFE (12). This will be shown on Saturday June 1st. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments.

Dick Paden

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# Withersfield Village Fete

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1-4 pm

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Sample our teas & cakes, and enjoy the many stalls, including: plants, bottles, local honey, books, the Jar Bar, produce, Grannies' Attic - the list goes on

A live band will entertain you, while enjoying the BBQ and the Bar

The Border Collies & sheep will be returning again this year to add to the fun

Hope to see you there!



#### Linton & District Historical Society

At our April meeting Fiona Rose presented a well researched and entertaining programme following the life and times of William Morris.

Thank you to those who continue to support the society; we will resume next September. Recommendations for interesting speakers and subjects are welcomed. For further details of the LDHS please email *ldhscambs@gmail.com* or ring 01223 893915 / 678835.

Margaret Creek



#### West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Two summer visits for members . . .

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June: a private evening visit to the walled garden at Grove Lodge, Saffron Walden (£6).



Tuesday 16th July: a private afternoon visit to Porter's Lodge Garden and Tearooms, Cavenham (£10).

Both these visits require booking in advance, so please contact Sue Boase at wwdgc@westwickham.org or call 07716 401646.

Sally Collins

# 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

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#### The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

This month has seen lots of wonderful outdoor learning experiences take place at our school, and our students have embraced the great outdoors with enthusiasm and creativity.

Our Year 6 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Wimbish Primary School for an enriching Forest School experience. Surrounded by the sights and sounds of the natural world, our students had the opportunity to connect with nature in a meaningful way. We are grateful to Wimbish Primary School for hosting this enriching experience, and we look forward to hearing about the developing friendships across both schools as they get ready for their residential trip together. We would also like to add how immensely proud of our Year 6 pupils we are for their dedication and hard work as they completed their SATs exams this week. These assessments represent a significant milestone in their academic journey, and we commend each student for approaching them with determination and resilience. As a school community, we celebrate their achievements and look forward to supporting them as they continue to flourish and grow in their educational pursuits. Well done, Year 6 – you have made us proud!

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Our school community embarked on a whole-school focus on the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy, a renowned environmental artist known for his captivating sculptures and installations made from natural materials. From leaf patterns to stone sculptures, our students unleashed their creativity while learning about the interconnectedness of art and the environment. Each and every artwork created was unique to each child and showcased not only a real talent, but a beautiful and creative flair.

We were also lucky to have Skip Beats visit us. Skip Beats specialises in promoting fitness and fun through skipping. This initiative aligns perfectly with our commitment to promoting physical activity and well-being among our students. By participating in skip-based activities, our



students enjoyed a fantastic workout and developed coordination, balance, and teamwork skills.

Fave Facer, Assistant Head Teacher

Jo Taylor

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#### Beyond the Curriculum at LVC

At LVC we are proud of the depth and breadth of our Enrichment programme. Enrichment encompasses all of the clubs, trips and opportunities for our students outside lessons and is firmly at the centre of the LVC experience for all of our learners.

A highlight of this month is our Enrichment week. Students in Years 7 and 8 go on a variety of exciting

excursions and trips, whilst Year 9 students will go further afield on residential adventures to the Peak District and Greece, amongst others, and will have the



opportunity to develop transferable skills such as leadership, resilience, and teamwork.



As part of our Enrichment programme, students can also gain national qualifications. Year 8 can take part in the Silver Arts Award validated by Trinity College in London, and Year 9 can take part in the Gold equivalent. We are very lucky to be able to offer this as the Gold Award is usually a 6th form undertaking and carries a certain amount of UCAS points.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has had a long history at LVC. We offer the Bronze Award which comprises four sections to complete which involve helping the community, becoming fitter, developing new skills, and planning, training for and completing an expedition. Our Year 10s are currently training for their expedition to the Peak District, which will take place in mid-June.

Our Enrichment programme also consists of a range of opportunities that involve outside organisations and visitors coming in to work with our students. Some of the visits we have had this year include our local MP, a PhD scientist, and dancers from the internationally acclaimed 'Hofesh Shechter Dance Company'. Additionally, we are very excited to be welcoming children's author and poet Michael Rosen to the school in June to participate in our Creativity Week.

Laura Heard



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JUNE	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup>		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall	
9th	Holy Communion — Weston Colville, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship — West Wickham, Alistair Collen	Morning Worship – Balsham, Hannah Threlfall Holy Communion – Great Abington, Revd Iain McColl	Evening Prayer – West Wratting, Alistair Collen
16 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion – West Wratting, Revd Iain McColl/Rhona McEune Morning Worship – Weston Colville, Alistair Collen Holy Communion - West Wickham, Revd Kathy Bishop	Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl/Rhona McEune Morning Worship – Little Abington, Alistair Collen Holy Communion – Hildersham, Revd Kathy Bishop	
23rd	Morning Worship – Weston Colville, Steven Wheeler Holy Communion – West Wickham, Revd Iain McColl Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Institute, Rosemary Mead	Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Kathy Bishop Café Church – Hildersham, Revd Iain McColl	Evening Prayer – Great Abington, Steven Wheeler
30 <sup>th</sup>		Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Michael Wilcockson	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, Revd Iain McColl

#### *DIARY*

#### *MAY 2024*

Fri 31 Art Workshop, St Mary's, Weston Colville

#### JUNE 2024

West Wratting Café Sat 1

Balsham Picture House, 'One Life'

Tues 11 Balsham WI

Wed 12 West Wratting Book Club

Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

Fri 21 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room Open Garden, 19 Padlock Rd, West Wratting Sat 22

Withersfield Village Fete

#### JULY 2024

Mon 1 Weston Colville Parish Council

Sat 6 Soul Space @ St Mary's

Jazz Concert, Weston Colville

Balsham Village Feast

Sun 7 Sawston Open Gardens

Peter, our former postman, thanked me for continuing to send him Chassenge by email: "It's very much appreciated and keeps me in touch with the community I enjoyed delivering to over the years I was 'postie'".

If you would like to join the emailing list (and see Chasse in colour!), please contact me.

Anne

Black bins: Wednesday 12th & 26th June,

Wednesday 10th & 24th July

Wednesday 5th & 19th June, Blue & green bins:

Wednesday 3rd, 17th & 31st July

Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister 01223 290396, steven@júicyfruitsuk.com

Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister 07867 515914, hthrelfall82@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 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

27th June, 25th July Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 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 July issue: Thursday 20th June