

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2011

ISSUE 97

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
VILLAGE CLEAN UP. Meet at the
Village Hall at 11.00
- Tue 5 Black wheeled bin collection
- Fri 8 **West Wickham Parochial Church**
Council AGM. 7.30pm, St Mary's
Church
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 11 **Local History Club. The census & other**
sources for discovering who lived in
your house. 7.30pm, Village Hall.
- Tue 12 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 17 **Palm Sunday communion.**
10.45, Balsham Church
- Mon 18 **Gardening Club. Talk on The history of**
the cucumber in the 18th century by Dr
Anna Secord. 7.30pm, Village Hall.
Compline. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church
- Tue 19 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Wed 27 Blue & green wheeled bin (day late)
collection
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday
9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use)

New rates from 1 April

Sport Hire	day or evening £5.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00 per hour. evening £7.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00 per hour evening £10.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00 per hour evening £18.00 per hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Kathy Pelling
T: 01223 290505

The Village Voice is sponsored by West Wickham Parish Council and delivered free to all households in West Wickham and Streetly End. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations must be with South Cambridgeshire District Council by noon on Monday 4 April.

Please think of standing for election as one of our 7 councillors. The Village needs a good representation of people from all parts (including Burton End & Streetly End) who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions. At the time of printing no-one from Streetly End had requested a nomination form!

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk
Jenny Richards. 52 Fox Road, Balsham. T: 894076.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Remember last year's clean up which produced lots of black bags full of discarded cans, bottles and other detritus? We thought if there is to be a clean-up this year it had better be soon before the grass starts to grow too long. South Cambs DC are again supplying the grabbers, gloves and bags. The clean-up will be on Sunday 3 April at 11.00 a.m. – meet at the Village Hall car park. The more volunteers the better. I now realise that this is Mother's Day; what better treat could she have than to get involved?

Sue Thurston

CLIMB AND PUNISHMENT!!

As July draws ever closer, the realisation of what lies ahead for me seems far more real and equally scary! On the 13th I leave for Tanzania, and the summit of Kilimanjaro, and 19,000 feet of climbing. Training for my climb is in full swing, with regular weekend walks and trips to Scotland and the Lake District booked for the coming weeks.

Huge thanks to all of you who have very kindly made donations to my worthy cause. At £4000 I am well on the way to raising my target amount, but there is still work to be done. As a reminder, I, along with three good friends am undertaking the challenge of conquering the mighty Kilimanjaro in July. Between us we are aiming to raise a whopping £20,000. My chosen charity is the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Addenbrookes (PICU). My friends are raising for the NSPCC. More specifically, the money I raise will buy special units that fit into existing base units situated by each of the eight beds on the PICU ward. These units monitor carbon dioxide levels in the blood via skin mounted sensors. Although perhaps fairly insignificant in their description, these units play a vital role in the ward as currently carbon dioxide tests are carried out by nurses who could be more effectively utilised elsewhere.

I have personally been round the PICU ward, and have friends whose children have been in care there. It is both heart breaking and inspiring to see all that is done there, and I just hope I can do my part to improve it, however small.

If you would like to make a donation to either of our chosen causes, we have 'justgiving' pages set up online where you can donate.

<http://www.justgiving.com/Martin-and-Toms-climb-and-punishment>

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LouiseandMegansClimbandPunishment>

Many thanks in advance for all you kind donations, every penny drawing me closer to my goals.

Tom Licence

FROM THE VICARAGE

Bishop David of Huntingdon challenged people in the Diocese to read the Bible from cover to cover during Lent. He has set out a programme of daily reading to achieve this. There is a website to encourage us.

www.bpdt.wordpress.com/Round-the-Bible

The Bible is a rich collection of documents that spans centuries. To open its pages is to delve into a myriad of different genres of literature. We find there tales of romance and thrillers, there is philosophy, history and poetry and a wealth of material about culture and religious practice. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, the Bible is a source of enlightenment and inspiration.

To read the Bible this way rather than jumping around has made me read again some of the less familiar and the less palatable passages that I sometimes miss or avoid. There is a different perspective when we look at the Bible as a whole and not in sound-bite size pieces. The theme of God's steadfast covenant with people is woven through and ultimately overshadows the mistaken paths that people take on the way.

Keith Johnson and I have also set ourselves the task of trying to relate the talks given in the Questions of Life series to the Bible Readings set for the Sundays in Lent. In the next two meetings, Professor Robert McCorquodale talks about 'Human Rights and Christian Responsibilities' (4th April, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Hildersham) and then Rev Jonathan Borough, Chaplain of Arthur Rank Hospice tackles, 'Where is God when it hurts?' (11th April, 7.30pm at the Black Bull in Balsham). There will be echoes, no doubt, of these talks when we think about the injustice and suffering that Jesus faced on Good Friday. And there could be something helpful to us as we think about the injustice and suffering in the world around us.

The Requiem Mass and Thanksgiving for the life of Rev Canon John Cotgrove is at 11am on 2nd April at Holy Trinity, Balsham. He is remembered by so many of us for his affirming and encouraging counsel and his wisdom. Everyone is welcome to this service.

At the end of all this, I hope you have a joyful Easter.

Rev Julie Norris

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

WEST WICKHAM PCC AGM at St Mary's church Friday
8th April 2011 at 7.30pm...ALL WELCOME

PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION Balsham Church 17 April at 10.45am

**Preacher & Celebrant, The Bishop of Ely
The Rt. Revd. Stephen Conway**

Please come and join the Bishop - ALL ages are very welcome. The service is for the parishes of Balsham, West Wickham, West Wrating and Weston Colville and also for the Revd Dr Julie Norris's other parishes (Great and Little Abington and Hildersham). The congregation is asked to be seated in good time. The Bishop would like to process from the Church Gate with children and their families who should meet him there at 10.30 am.

SUNDAY CLUB EASTER SPECIAL

Sunday April 10th

10.15 am - 12.00 pm

Linton Free Church, Horn Lane, Linton

Linton Free Church has introduced a monthly Sunday Club for children aged 5 - 12. Each Club meeting has its own theme and includes games, songs, activities, crafts and snacks. There is usually a bible story presented through drama, puppet show or film clip. Children are welcome to attend as many Club meetings as they wish. All leaders and helpers are CRB checked and the majority of leaders are trained teachers or teaching assistants. Careful consideration is given to safety as well as fun. The first time a child attends, parents are asked to complete a registration form with emergency contact details etc. There is no charge for Sunday Club and everyone is very welcome. I can highly recommend it as an organised and well-resourced activity that is interactive, creative and fun. Do talk to me if you would like to know more!

For further information, details and booking please contact sarahjanejones62@gmail.com or amandajacob5@aol.com (Tel: 892274)

Sarah-Jane Jones

FARMERS MARKET RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Slow Cooked Lamb Shanks in Red Wine

Serves 4.

4 x large lamb shanks
2 large carrots roughly chopped
1 onion sliced
3 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
2 bay leaves
2 sprigs rosemary
1 bottle of full bodied red wine
2 cups beef stock
1 tbsp soft brown sugar
1-2 teaspoons cornflour
olive oil for cooking
salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (162 degrees C).

Season the lamb shanks with salt and pepper
Fry the shanks in a large frying pan with the olive oil until sealed on all sides. Then remove and place in a large casserole dish.

In the same pan put the carrots, onions, bay leaves and rosemary and cook until they have started to colour

Pour in the red wine, beef stock and brown sugar and stir gently bringing to a low boil.

Pour the wine mixture over the lamb shanks.

Cover and put in the oven to cook for 2.5 - 3 hours until very tender.

Remove the shanks and keep warm. Skim of any fat from the red wine juices.

Mix together the cornflour with a little cold water and whisk this into the red wine juices until reaching the desired consistency, adding a little boiling water if necessary.

Tip the vegetables and sauce over the shanks and serve with mashed potatoes and fresh green vegetables

WESTON COLVILLE CRICKET CLUB FACT FILE

As we approach another season of cricket it is worth reminding ourselves that we are not just a club for seniors who turn up on Saturday match days, play the game and are not then seen until the next weekend. Rather, there is something happening at the ground on a daily basis throughout the season and regularly during the winter months. So, some statistics from the 2010 fact file when we

- Had 39 senior members 30% of whom lived in the village 64 junior members (U15 age group or lower) 90% of whom lived either in the village or within 4 miles of the village
- Played 48 senior matches (22 home, 26 away) and 31 junior matches (16 home, 15 away)
- Provided 86 hours of junior coaching (52 hours at the ground and 34 hours indoors at Linton Village College)
- Delivered 15 hours of coaching in after schools clubs at the Meadow (Balsham) and Burrough Green primary schools
- Served 360 cricket teas and 660 cups of tea/coffee
- Hosted an U13 Club touring team from Holland; hosted one U13 County girls match and ran a Kwik Cricket festival involving 40 U11 players from 6 different Clubs
- Prepared pitches for 38 home matches involving some 250 hours of grass cutting, 200 hours of pitch rolling and 16 hours of hedge maintenance
- Worked on grounds and pavilion maintenance, refurbishment and repair works at the Cricket Force weekend during which volunteers contributed in excess of 200 man hours worth of work
- Were inspected and reaccredited with our coveted Clubmark award status

We also held a Summer Fayre, a Quiz night, a Race Night, a Barn Dance, a Christmas Treasure Hunt and a Christmas Quiz all of which were open for attendance by all members of the community

Missing from the statistics noted above is the time given by team captains and other committee members in running such a busy enterprise.

In 2011 we are planning to do the same and more as we are also running an U12 youth team, are in the middle of planning for a 3-day cricket camp for 7-13 year olds in July and Cambridgeshire Cricket Board have already asked us to host 4 county girls matches.

For more details

T:01223 290550, email: contact@westoncolville.co.uk or visit the website: <http://www.westoncolvillecc.co.uk/>

PICTURE POST CARDS URGENTLY REQUESTED

Please save all your picture postcards, whether new or used (used ones PLEASE leave the stamp in place). Every postcard is worth money and I collect them to raise funds for the Church in Sudan and around £10,000 is raised in this way each year. They are mainly sold at Post Card Fairs. Just a few from lots of different people soon adds up. If you have any I could collect - thanks

Joanna Sanders

T: 893063, email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On 21 March we welcomed John Webster from Herbal Haven, near Newport who told us about herbs and their culinary uses. We hope the Club will be able to visit Herbal Haven one evening in the near future. On Monday 18 April Dr. Anne Secord will give us a fascinating insight into the cultivation of the cucumber, from exotic vegetable to poor man's plate. This talk will be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 21 May. **PLANT SALE.** 10.30—1200 at West Wickham Village Hall. Something for everyone: flowers, shrubs, vegetables & herbs, friendly people and expert advice

Rosemary Yallop. Speaker's Secretary. T: 01799584262

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Since the last issue we have enrolled Anastasia and Lily into the Pack as they were unwell at the end of last term. We have also held a joint Thinking Day Celebrations with 1st Linton Guides where we raised over £45.00 for the World Thinking Day Fund. The Brownies and Guides took part in various activities including international crafts, and learning about Fairtrade.

By the time you read this we will have been away on our Pack Holiday to the Jarman Centre. 24 Brownies will have joined us for the weekend, with over half of them for the first time. Whilst we are away we will have completed our Anglia Outdoor Challenge, Cooks, Pack Holiday and Out & About badges as well as made Mother's Day gifts, had fun outdoors and joined a Guide Unit, who are staying in the Loft at the Jarman Centre, for a campfire.

After Pack Holiday an ex-Brownie, Becca Harrison, will be showing us the benefits of Yoga by teaching us how to do complete the exercises during one of our meetings. If we are able to master them proficiently we may start each meeting with a few Yoga moves.

During the Summer term we will be having fun outdoors and using the equipment purchased through the Sainsbury's Active Kids and Tesco's for Schools and Clubs vouchers. We are again collecting these vouchers so if you do not already pass them on to schools please let the Brownies have them. We have placed a box in Horseheath Post Office, thank you Sharon, for any vouchers you wish to donate. Last year we collected over 9,000 vouchers, as a District, and we would like to pass that figure this year.

At the end of term we will be enrolling Millie, Georgia, Holly, Poppy, Frances, Olivia, Katie and Cleo into the Pack but saying a sad farewell to Rebecca and Stephanie as they move onto Guides. We hope that they have a great time enjoying lots of new adventures and make many more new friends.

Although our numbers have grown to 30 we are always interested to hear from any 7-10 years would be interested in joining Horseheath Brownies plus any adults who would like to share a skill or just have a fun evening by volunteering to help with Brownies then please get in touch. We are a friendly bunch.

Barney AKA Pauline. T: 01223 891086

WEST WICKHAM OIL SYNDICATE

Last month I included an extract from a letter that Shelford Energy told me they were sending to all syndicate members offering a preferential rate to all members if they continued to order from them. As a syndicate member myself I never received the letter; perhaps they thought better of it once they knew I was going to reproduce the contents in the Village Voice.

I have contacted other local domestic oil suppliers and all would be keen to supply oil to us; there seems to be a preferential rate if buying in bulk of around 4-5p per litre, so around £20 - £25 saving per 500 litres ordered.

The suppliers I contacted were:

Shelford Energy	www.shelfordenergy.co.uk 01223 846846
Total Butler	www.totalbutler.co.uk 08457 240241
Goff Petroleum,	www.goffpetroleum.co.uk 01223 365861
Pace Fuelcare	www.pacefuelcare.co.uk 01223 401120
CPS Fuels	www.cpsfuels.co.uk 0800 783 3332
Team Flitwick	www.team-flitwick.co.uk 01440 761365

When Kathy ran the syndicate she ordered in bulk from Shelford Energy and got a preferential rate because of the size of the order. Those of us receiving oil were invoiced after delivery and could pay by cheque, debit or credit card. They also have a Monthly Payment Plan so you can make payments each month, with, they tell me, 4% interest charged on the credit balances. You need to have been paying into this for some months before making your first payment if you have not ordered from them before.

Some other syndicates work by the organiser ringing round all the local suppliers to get the cheapest price on the day. Apart from the additional work that this involves for the organiser, the initial difficulty in doing this is that all the suppliers apart from Total Butler require paying up front for the first one or two orders you make. (If you have already ordered from Shelford Energy before you would not have to). If you were to pay by debit or credit card you would need to give them your card details beforehand, they would then pre-authorise the card and take payment once delivery has been made. All the companies I spoke to, other than Shelford Energy, include a charge if you want to pay by credit card.

So, for those of us needing to order oil, the options appear to be:

1. D.I.Y. from any of the above suppliers. You then have the advantage of flexibility but at a higher price per litre.
2. D.I.Y. from Shelford Energy, telling them that you would like the preferential rate they have offered to ex syndicate members. Again, you have the flexibility and their preferential rate but I would expect it to be less preferential than if a bulk order were being placed, although they have not been able to confirm that with me.
3. Via a syndicate where the organiser would check that rates with all the above suppliers but for the first one

(Shelford Energy, Pace Fuelcare & Team Flitwick) or two (Goff & CPS Fuels) deliveries, you would need to provide payment details before delivery if you have not ordered from them before. This should ensure the cheapest rate possible but takes more organising.

I am prepared to give it a go as Organiser, if enough of you are interested in the syndicate continuing. Kathy has provided me with a list of everyone who was in her syndicate but I suggest that anyone interested in Option 3 contact me afresh on oil@suethurston.co.uk to let me know they want to be a part of it. The details I would need are your name, address, phone no. and e-mail address, if you have one, and any special arrangements for delivery. If you need contacting by the company beforehand to arrange access, please say that. The companies have said that, if asked, they will contact customers who need to make special arrangements, e.g. because they have security measures in place or access is tricky, beforehand to advise when delivery will take place. I also need each of you to provide details of a friend/ neighbour who can be contacted about your order and any special arrangements you have if you cannot be reached. If there are any problems when delivery is made, then you will need to take that up with the company yourself (but also let me know for the record).

To make life as simple as possible, I suggest that orders be placed on a regular basis of, say, every 2 months with a deadline of 10th on those months, to let me know if you want to order oil and how much you want. I am planning to place the first order on 11th April.

Any questions, comments or queries, please contact me and I'll do another update next month.

Sue Thurston. T: 290503. Email: oil@suethurston.co.uk

HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE

We are planning a sponsored event in Milton Country Park on Sunday 5 June. In addition to taking part in a sponsored "Stroll in the Park", there will also be a chance to "Jog with your Dog" – this part of the event will take place at 10.00am and entries for this must be made in advance. The whole event will take place between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. We would like to encourage you to come along with your dogs and family and enjoy the event whilst raising much-needed funds for our charity. There will be medals for those who complete the course and a treat for dogs at the finish point. On the day there will be a giant tombola, Hearing Dogs merchandise, puppies in training, working partnerships and much more. There is an excellent café where, after your walk, you can sit back and enjoy some refreshments or alternatively stock up at the café before you start so that you can enjoy a picnic en route. There are plenty of seats along the way so that you can stop and enjoy the scenery and all that the park has to offer. The routes of 2 miles and approximately 5 miles will be well marked and maps will be available. The majority of the route is very wheelchair and pushchair friendly and is generally flat. Cost per participant is just £2.00 for either the jog or the stroll but we hope that you will obtain sponsorship to increase the amount raised for the charity. Car parking charges of £2.00 will also apply. Please come along and support us.

Jenny Parker. T: 01223 833562 (evenings only please)
email: jennifer.parker5@btopenworld.com

NATURE NOTES - THE RITES OF SPRING

Apart from TS Eliot, for whom April was the cruellest month, writers have celebrated the onset of spring in poetry and prose over the centuries. The message of spring is one of regeneration and hope. But there is sometimes a harsher and less sentimental edge to the season. Our observations this month contain perhaps a little of each.

On March 12th Sue and I heard our first (very early) chiffchaff of the year while walking beside the River Kennet at Moulton and seconds later spotted the first Brimstone butterfly. Moments like that really lift the spirits. Di Licence too is enjoying *"the pleasures of this time of the year, listening to the birdsong. For the past fortnight, each morning a song thrush has been singing at the top of his voice in a tall ash tree at the bottom of the garden...what a way to wake up! We enjoy the sound, but for the birds its serious stuff... all about territory and finding a mate. The robins and dunnocks are the noisiest in our garden but never quite match the melodious song of the thrush. I also love the racket the flock of jackdaws make as they fly around early in the morning; its a real feeling of joie de vivre."*

Di's Other bird sightings include:

Golden plover back on the fields, a hundred at least at the bottom crossroads, swirling around, calling in their distinctive plaintive way.

About 50 little brown birds, identified as linnets, females as we could see no red on them. We have never seen them in such numbers before...a real treat. Jane had also spotted them while out walking

Another reported sighting of the little egret a friend from Balsham, Margaret, saw Nature notes in the VV and rang to say that she and her husband had seen one in West Wickham, flying across the road at Bottle Hall before Christmas, so they are around here.

Driving up the village at about 6.0pm on several occasions recently, I have noticed a small flock, (about 50 birds) of starlings doing their swirling, ducking and diving, before they roost, just like on the TV. West Wickham's very own

starling spectacular... eat your heart out Springwatch!!"

I have been anxiously making daily inspections of our small pond to check for the appearance of frogspawn. Friends were telling me that their ponds had frogspawn, so I was beginning to wonder, especially when Di tells me:

The rain always brings the frogs out onto the roads, especially it seems, after dark. I hate driving over them, but they just sit, in that froglike pose, in the middle of the road. Many get squashed, but you don't see them lying around dead for long, they soon get eaten by the carrion crows and magpies.

Fortunately, at least a couple must have made it across the road because we do now have our frogspawn – hundreds of little black dots, whose journey into adulthood will be perilous to say the least, before next year the lucky survivors try out that road crossing again.

Di has also given a mention to the smaller creatures – bumble bees brought out by the sun, a spider in the churchyard in the act of capturing a struggling fly (not very Christian) wolf spiders in the compost heap, along with millipedes curled up in a shiny jet black ball looking just like modern day ammonites.

Going back up the food chain, foxes are active at the moment – they will be feeding families so chickens beware. A big dog fox was seen in Maypole Croft, seemingly lame, so life will be hard for him. Meanwhile we returned from a walk to find one casually walking past our garage. Dash chased Monsieur Reynard through the gap in the hedge and across the field but no doubt he will be back

Finally let's have a brief word for the flora. Di has noticed the blackthorn bursting into flower, while I was really pleased to see coltsfoot in the ditch near Skippers Hall. The common factor here is that both these plants flower before their leaves are on display.

April may be the cruellest month but it's also the most exciting, so keep your eyes open everyone.

Peter Grieve.

WEST WRATTING W.I.

First of all I apologise for sending the wrong details for publication last month.

At our regular meeting, a small group of us had a very enjoyable and therapeutic evening making sugar icing teddy bears with Val Scott. Later in the month a group of us, including one husband, enjoyed a visit to the Addenbrooke's Hospital Archives. It was fascinating to see documents such as the minutes from when the original hospital opened, old medical records, and equipment. We learnt that people can obtain information about their ancestors who were either patients in or worked at the hospital.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 26 April at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker, Kerry Darter from the Pampered Chef, will give us a demonstration. The competition is Your Favourite Kitchen Gadget. Visitors always welcome.

Linda Gorman

SPORTING NEWS

I thought readers might be interested in some local sporting news that I read about in the Haverhill Echo recently:

Chris Covey, 25, from Streetly Hall Farm was part of the six-strong Team Hallin which broke the world record for rowing across the Atlantic Ocean. The team set out from Tenerife on 6th January and, rowing non stop in two shifts lasting two hours each, arrived in Barbados on 7th February, 31 days, 23 hours and 31 minutes later. The world record had stood at 33 days, 7 hours and 30 minutes. What an achievement!

The team has set a target of raising £60,000 for the charity Combat Stress which is the UK's leading military charity specialising in the care of Veterans' mental health. More information can be found on their website

www.teamhallin.co.uk

Sue Thurston

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL BARTLOW THREE COUNTIES CHARITY WALK SUNDAY 1st MAY 2011

The 2011 Bartlow Three-Counties Charity Walk will be held on May 1st, the usual May Bank Holiday Sunday and, as ever, it is the first local event of the season.

The organisers would like to get the date into everyone's diaries and also remind you of why we hold this event each year and what it achieves. We raise funds through the sterling efforts of our walkers – who arrange individual sponsorship – some individuals raise hundreds of pounds each year, every year – and through the generosity of local companies. We share the net funds raised equally between three 'causes' – Linton Health Centre, Bartlow Church restoration and an Addenbrooke's cause – this year the Paediatric Gastroenterology Unit. Recently, in dry years, over 600 walkers – the majority local people – have taken part and our good causes have each received over £4000. This year we hope to see that figure exceed £5000

The 2011 event will follow the pattern of last year, including the new 5-mile, one-way option that proved so popular in the inclement weather we faced in 2010. In 2011 we will offer four walks, all through beautiful local countryside, and by special agreement with local landowners:

- The 'Classic' 13½-mile Three Counties Walk which takes walkers from Bartlow to the point near Castle Camps where Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex meet, and back via Ashdon Windmill and the Three Hills.
- The 9½-mile 'Family Route' which incorporates the picturesque first and last stages of the long route and appeals to those who are not regular walkers and also to younger families who see 13½ miles as just too much of a challenge.
- By popular request (from all ages, not just Senior Citizens) we will continue to offer a 5-mile option under which we'll give you a lift back to Bartlow from Castle Camps High Street before or after you've had lunch at the Cock Inn.
- And last but by no means least, the enormously popular 1½-mile Junior Nature Trail for the under 10s, incorporating a Nature Quiz, a Balloon Release and many other games and adventures. In dry weather this is a pushchair-tolerant route.

For more details (and to download a sponsorship form) visit our website: bartlow.org.uk – or look out for our distinctive 'dayglo' yellow posters – or simply call 01223-891732.

Graham Howat, Walk Organiser

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY CHURCH FETE SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

If anyone would like to help with the fete please call me 01223 290203 or email nicky.cornish@live.com. Also if you are spring cleaning, moving house or having a clear out please drop off any good condition Bric-a-Brac to me at Manor Farm, good condition cuddly toys are also welcome. Please no clothes, bed linen, shoes, or electricals.

Many thanks. Nicky Cornish

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

We raise a considerable amount of money for charity at Linton Village College and some people might argue that we do too much of this. This year alone we have raised £4,002.17 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, £722.06 during a Jeans for Genes day, £494.64 for Diabetes UK, £1,185.62 for Children in Need and £1,871.20 for our partner school in Soshanguve Township and we are expecting to bring in a princely sum for Comic Relief too. I wouldn't be at all surprised if the dreaded 'compassion fatigue' is beginning to set in as far as some in our community are concerned. However, the students and staff remain really proud of our efforts and we also believe that charity fund-raising has an important educational dimension. Let me explain.....

Most teenagers in 2011 do not enjoy the freedoms that we once enjoyed. There may be a visible minority of young people who seem to come and go as they please (we sometimes wonder if child-shaped cat-flaps have been installed in their homes) at all hours of the day and night, but most of our young people have cautious and sensible parents who wouldn't dream of allowing their children such liberties. In fact, rather the opposite is true...teenage children are often deliberately kept at home away from friends, risk and temptation. It is small wonder that virtual friendships on Facebook are so popular...the crowd you hang out with is now on screen, rather than around the park bench.

In a world with so many restrictions, so little real control or responsibility, the prospect of actually making a difference to the lives of other people is an attractive one. Fund-raising gives young people power, control, responsibility and a sense of purpose. Students at LVC often choose the charities that we support, they devise the way in which we raise the money and they are always keen to know how much we have raised. They come up with far more ideas and plans that we are ever able to put into action. Almost every week a student comes to my office to sound me out over some scheme or other. The other thing that it teaches them, of course, is about the charities themselves and the struggles and suffering that many people experience. Fundamentally, actively raising funds for charity makes us all a little less self-centred.

But is self-interest always such a bad thing? This year schools in Cambridgeshire have taken an 80% cut in the fund we receive to maintain or equip our buildings. At the end of October, we gain a shiny new building with a library, student social areas, a staffroom and offices in it. We haven't got a single penny to spend on the books, computers, furniture that we need to go into it. Charity may need to begin at home in the foreseeable future. I'm already looking forward to the ideas that our students will have for raising the money that we need. Watch this space for more details and information about how you can get involved with the project.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 APRIL

Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris

Correspondence & News to:

21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB1 6RY
or contact Sue on:

T: 01223 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk
contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.