

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2010

ISSUE 93

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 4 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
Sun 5 Holy Communion. 9.15 St. Mary's Church
Tue 7 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 13 **Local History Club. Christmas social**
with more archive films.
7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 14 Black wheeled bin collection
Sat 18 **Balsham Singers Christmas Concert.**
7.30pm, Balsham Church. See add on
page 2
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 20 **Gardening Club. Talk on the floral &**
botanical art in the Fitzwilliam Museum
by Andrew Morris. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 21 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 22 **Carol singing in West Wickham. Meet**
at 5pm at Manor Farm
Fri 24 **Carol Service. 6pm, St. Mary's Church**
Sat 25 **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**
Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's
Church
For all other Christmas services see page 2
Sun 26 **Holy Communion. Group service for the**
6 parishes. 10.45, Balsham Church
Wed 29 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
JANUARY 2011
Wed 5 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
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):

Sport Hire	day or evening £4.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £4.00 per hour. evening £6.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £6.00 per hour evening £9.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £10.00 per hour evening £15.00 per hour
Children's party	£25.00 daytime £36.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£50.00
Wedding reception	£120.00

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.

CAROL SINGING

This year we will be carol singing on Wednesday 22nd December; the money raised goes to support our community warden in the work she does in this village as part of Age UK. We will be meeting at Manor Farm at 5pm for refreshments, please come with a torch and warm clothes. If you would like us to come specifically to your house to sing that evening please will you let me know 01223 290203.

Nicky Cornish

THE DIRECTORY

The Directory is a sheet listing local emergency contact numbers, community & leisure contacts, local clubs and society contacts which I put together from information I have managed to glean from various sources. Can I ask any of you whose name and contact details appear in the 2010 edition to let me know by 16th December if the information is still correct and update me if necessary? If you don't let me know, I'm afraid the details from last year will reappear in 2011. In the past the Directory has also included details of recommended local services and deliveries but as no one has recommended anyone or anything to me for some time I am now planning to drop this section as there is a danger that it has become outdated. If any individual service would like to advertise themselves in the Directory, then please contact me or editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

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

SUCCESS FOR LOCAL TRAINER

Back in September, and despite the rotten weather on the day, a very good crowd of over 100 enjoyed watching the parade of racehorses and inspecting the facilities at Sarah Humphrey's Open Day at Yen Hall Farm. Sarah who has only held a professional trainer's licence for just over 2 years attracted a good deal of attention last year with a hat-trick of wins with both Toby Jug and Zorro de la Vega as well as several other winners. "Last season was fabulous and it was wonderful to end the season with Carpincho (recently a winner at Sedgefield) running in the champion bumper – my first runner at the Cheltenham Festival!" she says, adding "As well as the big guns from last year, we have some very exciting youngsters for this season." Over the last few weeks, Sarah has already had two wins apiece with each of Call at Midnight and I Need a Hero but she comments: "If pressed, I would probably pick out Wait No More and Be Extraordinary as the two untried horses to keep an eye on over the next few months".

Sarah currently trains about two dozen horses and explains that her intention is to remain a small trainer because she is determined to continue to give every horse individual attention. "I am very lucky to have some lovely owners and excellent staff. This is a real team effort and there is a real buzz about the yard. We also have a lot of fun with our racing club, Yen Hall Farm Racing, which gives members the chance to enjoy the thrill of owning a couple of racehorses without breaking the bank!"

Photographs of the horses and the Open Day can be seen on Sarah's website at "www.sarahhumphrey.co.uk".

FROM THE VICARAGE

It was fun to help the children wrap their shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This was a community enterprise supported by Great Abington Primary School and The Meadow School in Balsham, all the churches in the cluster, the Mothers' Union and other people in the villages. Around 50 children went to the various services to think about children around the world who otherwise will get no presents on Christmas Day. Over 70 boxes were sent from us. Well done to everyone involved. There is pleasure in giving as well as in receiving.

During the Christmas season of giving and receiving it will also be a struggle for those who are facing employment challenges in our own communities. This year we are going to be retelling the nativity through our Carol Singing, Crib Services and Midnight Masses. There is a street nativity in the Abingtons and the schools will have their fun productions. Amidst the laughter, carols and the hospitality we will be reminded that the Christmas story is set in the reality of human lives. The story is about God coming to dwell in our midst and giving us hope here and now.

Merry Christmas

Julie Norris

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

Sunday 5th December

3.30 pm. Christingle. West Wrating

Sunday 19th December

10.45 am. Carol Service. West Wrating

6.00 pm. Carol, Service. Weston Colville

Monday 20th December

6.00 pm. Street Nativity starting outside the Village Institute, Great Abington

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 pm. Crib Service. West Wrating

4.00 pm. Crib Service. Weston Colville

6.00 pm. Carol Service. West Wickham

11.30 pm. Midnight Mass. West Wrating

11.30 pm. Midnight Mass. Balsham

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.15 am. Family Communion. West Wickham

10.45 am. Family Communion. Weston Colville

10.45 am. Family Carol Service. Balsham

Sunday 26th December

10.45 am. Holy Communion. Balsham.

Group Service for the 6 parishes

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7.30PM
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BALSHAM**

A varied programme of music which is enjoyable to perform and good to listen to.

Joyous - Parry "I was glad"

Beautiful - Brahms "How lovely are thy dwellings."

Full of rhythm - "De Virgin Mary had a baby boy"

Well known - "Sheep may safely graze"

Profound - "Drop, drop slow tears"

Fun - "Twelve days of Christmas"

Lots more plus carols for all to sing

Tickets £7 (£6 concessions) from Balsham Post Office or on the door. Refreshments in the interval included.

Come & share in this special musical & social occasion.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

War Memorial

Thanks to help from Mark Richardson and Peter Pearson I have now been able to confirm the identity of two of the four First World War 'unknowns' on the War Memorial. Charles Bentley was born in Widdington but his father would appear to have been a farm bailiff in West Wickham when Charles enlisted. He died of wounds in France in 1918 and is buried in La Cheppe (Mont-Frenet) cemetery. Bertie Brown, the son of John & Kate Brown, was born in Barking but brought up in West Wickham. Bertie die of wounds in Flanders in 1915 and is buried in the churchyard at Dranouter, Belgium. I am still having difficulty tracking down W G Page and A Steed so any information on them would be greatly appreciated.

Turn Back Time – The High Street

Any of you who have been watching this series will know that the BBC are running a campaign to encourage people to research the history of their High Street. In a village like ours it is not easy to distinguish between the history of the High Street and the village in general. There were few shops in any period but there were some – grocer, sweet shop, butcher, post office for example. Some of these, some of the time, would appear to have been no more than rooms in cottages rather than shops as we would think of them today. We only have one photograph - an early 20th century one of the post office, which was then part of no 25 (Jane Scheur's house), so it would be good to record peoples' memories. Can you help? What do you remember of any of the shops in West Wickham – where they were, who ran them, what they looked like, what they sold? What delivery vans were there – who operated them, what did they sell? Please let me know.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street

Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Members of the club were delighted to welcome Prof. John Parker on Monday 15 November who gave us a talk on the history and setting up of Cambridge Botanic Gardens at the beginning of the 19th Century. He described the collections and stressed the importance of these to the students at Cambridge University, and was obviously delighted by the growing number of schools who take advantage of the many activities arranged for children in the Gardens. He was also pleased to see so many people enjoying the beautiful surroundings in the centre of a busy City. There are over 1000 different trees, some 200 years old that were planted as a collection by Prof. Henslow, Darwin's Tutor when he founded the Gardens in the early 1800s.

Our next meeting is 20 December with a talk by Andrew Morris on "The Floral and Botanical Art in the Fitzwilliam Museum "and then we celebrate with wine, nibbles and a raffle for tickets to Chelsea or Hampton Court Flower Show. Why not join us then?

Rosemary Yallop, Speaker's Secretary: T: 01799584262

OFFICIAL NOTICE

South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Governance Review

S79 Local Government & Public Involvement in Health act 2007

South Cambridgeshire District Council at a meeting of the Electoral Services Committee on the 14th October 2010 decided to carry out a Community Governance Review on the following matter:

West Wickham Parish Council have requested that the number of parish councilors for their area be increased from 5 to 7. The reasons for the request can be summarized as follows:

1. To deal with an increased amount of business.
2. To ensure that all parts of the parish are adequately represented due to the "spread out nature" of the parish.
3. To allow more people to be involved in local matters as a number of people have expressed an interest in serving.
4. To make the ratio of councilors to electors more in line with adjacent parishes.
5. To bring the number of councilors in line with other parishes
6. To enable proper representation on associated bodies in the parish to which parish councilors are elected.

As part of the proposals the District Council having decided to carry out the review are now required to consult with all interested parties and to take their views into account before coming to a final decision.

This NOTICE is the consultation document and anyone wishing to express a view may write to South Cambridgeshire District Council, Legal Office, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EE (quoting reference PJB) by the 10th December 2010.

Fiona McMillan, Acting Legal & Democratic Manager
South Cambridgeshire District Council

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Here's a quiz to occupy you for a few minutes over Christmas. All the answers have been referred to in Nature Notes over the last 12 months. (This is only partially true for No 9)

1. Likes trellis to hide in? Its prey does. (7) Bird
2. Harass (6) Mammal
3. Male can jut out. And bark (7) Mammal
4. Sad clanger (8) Plant
5. Goes with fire if you're sinful (9) Insect
6. Went berserk – after proverbially getting drunk? (4) Amphibian
7. Hanging judge's headgear (8) Bird
8. Well dressed jungle ruler? (9) Flower
9. Type of thrush with food appendage for Xmas kiss (9) Plant
10. Take off all demeaning initials for Hall resident (4) Amphibian

Answers to me by 31st December at 29 Burton End or e-mail to mail@petergrieve.co.uk. First out of the hat wins a suitable prize.

MEADOW MATTERS News from The Meadow School

The KS1 Christmas Production rehearsals are now in full swing, with lots of singing and dancing – not necessarily to Christmas music. The production will take place during the first week in December. As in previous years, we would like to invite senior citizens along to watch the performance. This will be on Wednesday 8th December starting at 1.30 pm. If you would like to come along and see a performance of the Christmas Nativity from the perspective of the Star, please can you ring the school office on 894400, we can then be prepared for seating.

Fund Raising. The Harvest collection raised £313.73 for the children in our link school in Gontse, South Africa (Mrs M-T will be very pleased) and a little closer to home, £352.00 was raised through the baking and selling of cakes for the Bone Cancer Trust. The Book Fair was held last week and a total of £1,088.50 worth of books was sold, which gives us just under £600.00 commission to spend on books for our new library. Thank you to everybody who came along and supported this.

50/50 draw. The latest draw took place at the PTA AGM and the winners for October were:

1st Prize: Juliet. 2nd Prize: Emma. 3rd Prize: Kaye

If you would like to add your name to the list of winners, please contact the school office for an application form.

Sporting Events. Netball – the annual netball tournament took place at Linton Village College in November. Two strong teams played with skill and enthusiasm with the result that both teams managed to win overall in their sets. Road to Wembley football – a team of footballers set off to Impington V.C. to play against local school teams in the South Cambs area. The team played extremely well with loads of enthusiasm but unfortunately did not make it through to the next round.

Forthcoming Events: Saturday 29th January. PTA Jumble Sale. Please start collecting your unwanted items

Linda Wain

KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR OIL THIEVES

Someone in the High Street recently had their fuel tank drained whilst they were away for a few days in the middle of October, with over 1000 litres being taken. In retrospect, this seems to have occurred at the same time that a strong smell of spilt oil become noticeable along certain parts of the High Street.

The police, fuel company and NFU insurance all have confirmed that this isn't an isolated incident. It's been seen across the country especially with respect to agricultural and rural locations, and with increasing frequency over the past three years according to the NFU. Apparently locks can be fitted to most tanks, which is well worth considering if you are concerned. Please also check your insurance. It seem that, if you're fortunate, house contents insurance will cover loss of the oil with any damage to the tank covered by buildings insurance

Anyone with related information should contact the police at Linton on 0345 456 4564.

NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

The physical appearance of the College has changed a good deal in recent months with the opening of the Newton Building and the steelworks of the new concourse area taking such quick shape, but we are shortly to lose another distinctive feature of our building over the next few weeks and that is the Millennium Sculpture project work that adorns the walls of the Pegasus Room by Reception.

The sculpture is in contravention of existing planning laws for the listed building and we have been instructed to remove it by South Cambs District Council. Although this is a great pity, the sculpture itself has degraded considerably, so it is probably the right decision anyway, but I am mindful of the fact that the work is valued by many in the community and highly so by those involved in the Linton Arts Forum project that supported the work in its inception.

The aim of the sculpture project was to replace the signs on the exterior wall with a more sculptural, visual version and so it included objects cast in cement and letters and arrows etched on slate. The objects chosen were keyboards, bells, trainers, ledgers and instruments. A lovely opening event was held on 15 October 2000 and the project formed part of a millennium tribute located at different sites around the village: the Infants School, the Heights and Linton Library.

Sadly, when we remove the pieces they will not survive. The works were fixed to the wall by screws hidden with filler. However, we will be able to ensure that the concepts behind the work live on in a new shape: a 'transformation' project which forms part of the Heritage Project co-ordinated by Lesley Morgan, our Arts Development Manager. Clare Sinclair, an artist who works in glass, has been commissioned to produce a piece to sit in the foyer of our new Reception when it opens in 2011. The work will also have the idea of objects of significance to learning embedded within it and will highlight some of the archaeological findings that have formed part of the Heritage Project. Having seen the work that Clare has produced for the foyer in Cambridge Regional College I am certain that the piece will be a stunning addition to our site.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

BT are asking communities to express their interest in getting high speed broadband brought to their areas. If an exchange serves under 1000 households then it would not normally be eligible. This is the case for the West Wrattling exchange. However, if over 75% of a community respond to BT on this issue, they are committed to at least discussing our needs with us. The provision of high speed broadband is increasingly important for rural areas – especially for people who work at home, or who are running small businesses and supporting our local economy, so as many households as possible should register their interest at:

www.racetoinfinity.bt.com

Follow the link, add your postcode, discover that the West Wrattling exchange is too small to qualify, and register your interest anyway! When I registered on 20 November only 54 households out of 836 had done so, or 6.5% had voted! There is a long way to go, so please register NOW.

Andrew Morris

NATURE NOTES

Di Licence's nocturnal liaisons have star billing this month:

"I recently had the privilege to share two days with a young tawny owl which I picked up from the verge one evening on my way home. He was very still, but obviously alive, stunned I thought, so I laid him on the backseat and drove home. As I neared West Wickham, I heard a scuffle in the back, and the owl struggled between the seats and sat on the front passenger seat and turned his head and looked at me with those enormous black eyes. There he remained all the way home, occasionally looking at me. At home we put him on the floor and examined his wings, but he seemed okay, so after a photo shoot and some agonising claws in my palm, we put him into a cat box with food and water for the night. Next evening he was pretty lively, so we drove to an old barn near where I found him and let him out, but sadly he still couldn't fly, just gliding down onto the floor and sitting there. We took him to a local vet and they told us that he had recovered sufficiently two days later to fly away."

Maypole Croft is fast becoming known as a rescue centre for birds of prey – remember the buzzard? Di has more to tell us: *"Driving home late one evening I encountered a young male fallow deer on the road at the Webbs Lane junction, I slowed down and he treated me to a 100yd stroll along the middle of the road until he disappeared into the hedge and away across the fields."*

Coming home one evening about 5pm with the early evening sun shining, I reached the brow of Balsham hill and saw momentarily, to my delight a large circle of gold in the middle of the ploughed field in the front of me. It was a flock of about 100 golden plover. These waders, normally living on the shoreline, come inland for the winter to live on our ploughed fields. They are, as their name implies, golden in colour and make the most delightful "piping" noise as they fly around, often circling several times before they come into land." Other winter visitors that have been seen recently are plenty of fieldfares and a snipe in the field next to the Old Vicarage.

The end of October and beginning of November showed Autumn in its full glory this year – it was a vintage one for colour and apparently for nuts and berries so there should be plenty of food around for our local wildlife. A couple of windy days, then a frost have denuded most of the trees of their golden gowns so we just have the memory now. "Roll on spring" is the thought that comes to mind and the other day I thought it had arrived when I spotted a cowslip in flower on the footpath to Skippers Hall. Surely not a sign of global warming?

Peter Grieve. T: 290503. Email: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 December

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