

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2010

ISSUE 83

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic bottle collection**
- Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 6 **FARMERS MARKET. 9.30 – 12.30**  
**Linton Village College**
- Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 8 **Local History Club. *Willingly to school? Education in 19<sup>th</sup> century West Wickham.***  
**Talk by Janet Morris. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 9 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 15 **Gardening Club. *Mary Delany and her flower collages.*** Talk by Sylvia Norton.  
**7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 16 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic bottle collection**
- Wed 17 **Ash Wednesday**  
10.00 am Balsham Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes (Archdeacon Alan Clarkson). 7.30 pm West Wrating Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes (Very Revd Keith Johnson)  
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 23 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 28 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church

**The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday  
9.30 – 12 in the Village Hall  
School Half Term: 15 – 19 February**

## 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**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

There have been several sightings of a red Ford type transit van driving around the village of Dullingham in the last 3-4 weeks displaying registration number N998 TDC.

The Police National Computer does not recognise this as a genuine registration number for that vehicle and so it is suspected that this vehicle could have false plates and is connected with the recent burglaries that have taken place in the Dullingham area. The vehicle is being driven either by a white male or female aged between 35-45yrs and has been seen driving into cul-de-sacs without actually stopping at an address. There is no writing on the sides of the van.

If you see a van with this registration number please do not hesitate to call 999.

Holly Chandler. Watch Scheme Support Officer, Cambridge Constabulary

## JUMBLE SALE

We are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 30th January 2pm - 4pm at the Meadow Primary School in Balsham. There will be plenty of good quality clothes and shoes for all the family, books, toys, bric-a-brac, games and a raffle. With delicious homemade cakes, coffee and teas available too. Come and find a bargain! This is a fund-raising event by the PTA. Admission is 50p or free to primary school-aged children.

## CAROL SINGING

We ventured out with a merry band of singers, it was freezing but thanks to generous liquid refreshment stops we survived! A big thank you to Alli, Shirley, Kathy and Helen for inviting us into their homes and warming us with mulled wine and food. We made £158.62 to go towards our contribution for our Age Concern community warden.

Thank you to everyone who came out and those of you who listened.

Nicky Cornish

## PETER AND RUTH LLOYD TRUST

Would be applicants are reminded that further information and an application form is available by contacting:

[peterandruthlloydtrust@fsmail.net](mailto:peterandruthlloydtrust@fsmail.net)

Applicants are also reminded that the closing date for receipt of applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

## LENT LUNCH

In aid of 'Together for Sudan'  
Eat sparsely - give generously!

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 12.30pm at  
NINE CHIMNEY HOUSE, BALSHAM

Joanna Sanders. T: 893063

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.

## CHURCH NEWS

Despite bitterly cold weather (or so it seemed then) we had a packed carol service on Christmas Eve. As usual there were lots of families, people of all ages singing familiar carols. There was the joyful return of the handbell ringers and there were new voices doing the readings. I loved being there listening to everyone and wish to thank all who came, sang, read so clearly and played the bells. They chime beautifully in the church. It is very much a village and family event and one family came all the way from Greece to drop in and be there too! A lovely way to launch Christmas.

News on the "composting loo in the churchyard idea". For a number of reasons this is being shelved for the moment. Firstly, we are the first parish to have asked for such a thing, so there is no advice available on how it should be built or whether it is allowable. Secondly, because there are public liability issues the whole thing would be vastly more expensive than a "home-built" in one's own garden. Thirdly, we have had to spend a great deal of money re-wiring the church. It is now efficient and importantly, safe.

Choices!

Jane Sheuer, Church Warden

## BALSHAM BENEFICE LENT COURSE 2010

### 'CHRIST THE KING' Compline with Address

**Mondays in Lent at 7.30 pm at  
17, The Rookery, Balsham**

February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christ the King as Healer
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Christ the King of all our hearts
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christ the King of all Creation
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christ the Servant King
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christ the King as Sacrifice

The Very Revd Keith Johnson. T: 01223 890835

## THANK YOU

This year I know I was not alone in being blessed by the kindness of neighbours. Though I & Hippo had a lion's share of thoughtful and invaluable help with lifts, dog walks, supplies and chores, I know many more were helped by neighbours, especially with safe winter transport for example. So, many thank-yous all round.

We all have much to be grateful for here in the friendly community of West Wickham but there is one person who deserves our thanks particularly. Not everyone was lucky enough to know Leo Hughes who died so tragically at the beginning of this New Year, but many of us, our children or grandchildren are indebted to him in a special way. One of those vital people who want to make things better in the place where they live, it was Leo whose dedicated time & labour built the playground that so many of us have enjoyed and want to keep. Rest in peace Leo with our gratitude and remembrance.

Jane Sheuer

## FARMERS MARKETS

Over the past six years the Farmers Market has run regularly each month at Linton Village College (apart from January each year). The residents of Linton and villages like our own have supported us throughout and we are still considered one of the very best markets in East Anglia.

The produce on offer is considerable and varies from game from Radwinter and poultry from Cottenham to dessert pies from Linton and hand produced soaps and creams from West Wickham. There is a small local craft area and a plant stall with bedding plants and shrubs in season.

Times are 9.30 to 12.30 on the first Saturday of the month.

Jan Lupton

## BALSHAM MOTHERS' UNION

This branch of the Mothers' Union, which is well, well over a hundred years old, continues to thrive. , Currently we have 21 paid up members. We try and meet ten times a year and we vary as to what we do. About five times a year we have a speaker, a couple of times a year we join in Deanery events generally with a special service. The Granta Deanery of 24 parishes has 7 branches of the MU.

The Worldwide MU has over three and a half MILLION members in 78 countries. It flourishes particularly in Africa where it is very active at grass roots level. There is a huge shortage of trained clergy in Africa so the MU are able to offer much practical help to members especially in literacy and small, self-help projects.

There is a national emergency fund that can help out immediately in a crisis. Indeed Balsham Parish Church sent its Harvest Collection of £300 to help people in Kenya overcome the effects of the drought.

All these activities are underwritten by prayer.

If anyone in the Benefice would like to come to a meeting and see what we do - please contact

Joanna Sanders 893063 - we would welcome new members!

## HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE

### FILMS FOR FEBRUARY

Mon	1	Bright Star. PG	1.30
Wed	3	Bright Star. PG	7.45
Thur	4	Bright Star. PG	7.45
Tue	9	Harry Brown. 18	7.45
Wed	10	Bunny & the Bull. 15	7.45
Thur	11	Cracks. 15	7.45
Mon	15	Seraphine. PG	7.45
Tue	16	Where the Wild Things Are. PG	11.00
Wed	17	Where the Wild Things Are. PG	11.00
Thur	18	Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. U	11.00
Thur	18	Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. U	2.30
Mon	22	Disgrace. 15	7.45
Fri	26	Nowhere Boy. 15	7.45

**Box Office: 01440 714140**

## FOUND

A silver/crystal bangle was found on 27th December near the little thatched cottage in Streetly End.

To claim, please call Laura on 01223 890383

## QUIZ ANSWERS

Well done to those of you who overcame the combination of my devilish clues and the fact that I can't count. Commiserations and apologies to the others.

The answers were

- 1 Sparrowhawk
- 2 Harlequin ladybird
- 3 Barn Owl
- 4 Small Skipper
- 5 Chiffchaff
- 6 Red Kite
- 7 Wasp
- 8 Pipistrelle
- 9 Cinnabar (8 letters – not 7, sorry)
- 10 House Martin

Correct answers were received from Lynn & Jo Dicks, Jean Martin, Chris Magin, Jon & Anita Debnam and Janet Morris. Jon and Anita were first out of the hat, & they will be receiving a suitable prize shortly.

Peter Grieve

## 1<sup>ST</sup> HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We had an aborted start to the term as our first week back was cancelled due to snow so we started back a week later than originally planned.

This term we have been joined by Maisie, Isobel, Caitlin, Georgie and Holly who hope to enrol into the Pack early in March.

We are working on our plans for Pack Holiday at the end of February where we hope to be joined by Balsham Rainbows again on the Saturday. We will be basing our holiday around the Guiding Centenary and will be holding a Centenary Celebration Party as well as completing our Brownie Traditions badge.

Also this term some of the Brownies will be completing their Entertainers and Hostess Badges that they started at the Over 60's party back in December, as well as joining other Brownies, Guides, Rainbows and Leaders at our Annual Thinking Day celebrations being held at Abington Institute.

Finally if you are aged between 7 - 10 years and are free from 5.45pm to 7.15pm on Wednesday evenings then pop along the Village Hall in Horseheath and give us a try. We are a friendly bunch.

BARNEY (Pauline). Your Brownie Guider. T: 891086

## QUIZ in aid of Balsham Church

Saturday 13 March 2010  
in the Church Institute

7.00 pm for 7.30 prompt start

£7.50 to include Raffle, ploughman's supper and glass of wine. Further drinks available

Tickets from Balsham Post Office  
or Ruth Ringer 893923

## NATURE NOTES – THE EXCITEMENT OF LISTS

I wonder how many people keep, like me, a record of the bird species seen in the garden during the year. That's the main reason why January 1<sup>st</sup> is such an exciting day. Janet Morris does, and she writes:

*"I recorded these species of bird in the garden on 1 January and thought it might be a good idea to find out what other people were seeing in theirs."*

*Blackbird, Robin, Chaffinch, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Dunnock, Greenfinch, Coal Tit, House Sparrow, Starling, Great Tit, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove. Other regular visitors but not seen on that particular day are Wren, Song Thrush and Goldfinch. Occasional visitors during the year (not counting the summer visitors) include Treecreeper, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Bullfinch and Sparrowhawk. I have also seen the tiny Goldcrest but not last year."*

During the cold spell, those of you who feed the birds are likely to have seen plenty of varieties, probably one or two relatively unusual ones – it would be interesting to know of any sightings.

Di Licence has also let me know that, due to her laxity in deadheading late flowers, but also realising that these provide food and shelter for wildlife during the winter, she has been visited by four male bullfinches and one female for eight consecutive days. She writes *"these stunning little birds live on seeds and buds, and have been eating the buds on the oak tree, lavender and clematis seedheads, but primarily the seeds of the shrimp plant (Justicia brandegeana), which they seem to love. Bullfinches used to be a common garden bird some years ago, but now we rarely see them, so this year has been really special seeing them in our garden so regularly. Watch out for them in their black caps and scarlet/blue livery...small, chunky little birds – a real treat."*

Janet reminds me that the **RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch** takes place over the weekend of 30/31 January. *"Everyone can take part. All you need to do is spend one hour over the weekend counting the birds that land in your garden (not the ones that just fly over). You need to note the most numbers of any one species seen during that time and then send the results to the RSPB. You can either do this online (and find out more details) at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) or Janet would be happy to download a paper copy of the counting form for anyone. The Birdwatch is in its 31<sup>st</sup> year and the results over this time have helped the RSPB monitor the rises and falls in our garden bird population. So, why not give it a go."*

One species not normally seen in the village has been spotted in recent weeks – the snipe – not in gardens of course, but in ditches and fields. Some people say that the snipe is the most expensive bird, because it has the biggest bill. If you do see one, it will probably fly off zig-zagging. This helps them to avoid snipers.

Final thought. Did you notice that in the brief period between the two lots of snow, and again since the snow melted, a quantity of molehills appeared. Moles must have to go very deep during the freezing weather, to follow the worms. It must be nice to come up for a breather.

Peter Grieve

## NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

What is it that the poet Robert Burns said about the best laid plans of mice and men? Well I have no comment to make about the strategies of the small rodent community, but I do know that some well-made plans at the college have gone awry because of snow in recent weeks and that we are doing our best to remain in good humour.

Firstly there was the last day of the autumn term. Children had spent weeks devising stalls for the annual Charities Fayre, families all over the Linton area had gone into production making prizes and baking buns to sell while the musicians had been practising hard for the final assembly. We were ready. Then at 7pm the night before it began to snow. By 5.30am the High Street in Linton was 10cm deep in the stuff. I had no option, but to organise an emergency closure. No Fayre, no final assembly, no staff Christmas dinner, no secret Santa. Closure, but not 'closure' to the term. Traditionally, when a school closes as a result of snow, the news is greeted with general glee by the children and possibly some of the staff too. On that day, large numbers of children were disappointed. Still, there were some benefits: Mrs Hall and I got up on to the school roof and took gorgeous photos, the site staff made the world's biggest snowman (once they'd aborted attempts to clear the drive) and every family with secondary age children had a supply of home-cooked buns for many days after.

Over the holiday I resolved to put back the things we had missed out on. I reorganised the staff dinner and the secret Santa and rescheduled the Fayre. We decided that Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January was as good a day as any. Camels, Kings, Bishops and small children were coming to see us in the morning for an outdoor Epiphany assembly so tacking on a charities afternoon to these events was not disruptive to a normal school day. All seemed to be going well at the outset. The sky was clear and it looked as if Linton would escape the snow drifts experienced everywhere else. However, the Head at Linton Infants, sent me a sad email to say that the camel owners had cancelled (more snowy in the East where the Kings were coming from?) and things went rapidly downhill from there onwards. By 12.30 pm, telephone calls were coming in from parents living out in Suffolk to say that they were concerned about the safety of the roads from Haverhill and that they wished to take their children home. "It's not snowing here," we replied cheerfully. By 1pm, that was no longer the case but the Fayre had begun. The buses wouldn't arrive until after 2pm so we gritted our teeth and the paths and carried on. It was pretty grim – around 50 concerned parents turned up to take their children home. With the Fayre on, the children were all over the college and finding individuals was tricky. The waiting parents became anxious. Reception became crowded with students visiting stalls. And then, unseen by everyone, the snow stopped and looked a little unimpressive. In the end a compromise was reached. We decided to close half an hour early, hoping that this would keep the buses out of the rush hour and would appease the ever-growing number of parents in reception. We had managed 50 minutes of the Fayre and that was better than nothing. However, the news that we had raised £1100 for our charities did much to restore our humour. Plans?....we'll just play the snow a day at a time for now.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

## THE BALSHAM SINGERS

Calling all men, we need you

Have you sung in the bath, at football matches or even with other choirs? Fifty of us rehearse on Thursdays. To achieve an even greater sound we need more male voices to reinforce our tenors and basses. We have no auditions, we learn the music together.

### PLEASE COME AND GIVE IT A TRY.

We meet on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Meadow School  
Balsham

Our Spring Concert will be on May 15th

For more information contact: Rodney 01223 290420  
Jean 01223 893595

Or Just turn up at the Meadow School

## 2009 POPPY APPEAL

With the Appeal taking place in November it is always difficult to have the final accounts from the Poppy Appeal ready for the January editions of the village magazines, hence my article now.

The overall total from this area which includes Balsham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and West Wickham was £1890.36 which is a magnificent total to support the amazing work of the Royal British Legion (RBL). This included wreath donations totalling £268.00 and West Wickham's total of £95.33 thanks to the sterling efforts of Emma Appleby who worked extremely hard to reach as many villagers as possible. Well done Emma, you almost doubled your last year's collection. With half term being the first week of the Poppy Appeal it was difficult for many to do their collections until the second week, by which time many people had put their donations into the collections in other places. I am also delighted with the offer of help from another young West Wickhamite for next year, so more of the village will be covered. Also in our favour, this year Poppy fortnight will begin after half term as it is always the fortnight running up to Remembrance Sunday.

Although we are in a recession and most of us have found it tough recently, the Poppy Appeal in our villages was extremely well supported, thanks to all of you who so willingly contributed. A big thank you also goes to everyone who undertook the door-to-door collection. Also to our young people, scouts, cubs, guides and brownies who took part in the various acts of Remembrance at this time. Some members of these groups attended the Remembrance Day service at Balsham Church with their standards and also attended the short service at the Weston Woods Memorial Stone to lay Remembrance Crosses. Children at the Meadow School held a special assembly and then a silence at 11am. The whole school formed a giant circle around two huge poppies they had made themselves.

Margaret Johnson

### PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16th February

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