

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2010

ISSUE 82

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Fri 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.30, St. Mary's Church  
Wed 6 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic bottle collection (day late)**  
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.30, St. Mary's Church  
Mon 11 **Local History Club. A Look at the Census and see what these can tell us about village, house or family history. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 12 **Black wheeled bin collection**  
Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.30, St. Mary's Church  
Mon 18 **Gardening Club. Talk by Kevin Marsh on Alpines & planting troughs with alpines. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 19 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic bottle collection**  
Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St. Mary's Church  
Tue 26 **Black wheeled bin collection**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 30 **Jumble Sale. 2 - 4pm, Meadow School, Balsham**  
Sun 31 4 Parishes Service. See church notice board for details

**The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday  
9.30 – 12 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.**

## SPEEDWATCH

West Wickham Parish Council has decided to join the Speedwatch scheme along with other local parishes. The scheme allows the public to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood. It is used in areas where speeding has been identified as a problem at quarterly neighbourhood panel meetings. The scheme is run by the Cambridgeshire Police, alongside the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership. The aim is to educate motorists in the law in relation to speeding and monitor any trends in speeding in neighbourhoods.

Volunteers are trained to use speed indicator devices which display the vehicle speed to the driver. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter from their local neighbourhood policing team, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community. Areas identified as having speeding problems can then be targeted for a check by the police.

Andrew Morris & Trevor Hall have volunteered and have been trained but 3 people are needed for each speedwatch team so we need more volunteers. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact Andrew Morris on 01223 290863 or email to [ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM](mailto:ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM)

## TREE WARDEN SCHEME

The Parish Council recently agreed to join South Cambridgeshire District Council's new Tree Warden Scheme. This is a national initiative founded by the Tree Council and co-ordinated by the District Council. Tree wardens are volunteers, generally appointed by Parish Councils. Their role can include:

Gathering information about local trees, especially ancient or special ones and identify where new trees are needed.

Encourage practical projects such as planting community orchards; setting up tree nurseries using seeds collected locally.

Getting involved with local tree matters, such as being a source of information on pests & disease & the debunking of myths (for instance that ivy kills trees. It doesn't and is a valuable habitat for wildlife!).

Andrew Morris agreed to co-ordinate the scheme for the parish of West Wickham & Streetly End and would very much like to know of anyone interested and willing to help. Training on tree identification, pests & diseases, planting techniques etc., is provided by the District Council and the Tree Council. If you would like to know more please contact me on 01223 290863 or email to [ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM](mailto:ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM)

## THE VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Your 2010 Directory is being delivered with this issue. It includes details of your local representatives, local community, leisure, clubs & societies contacts, who to contact in an Emergency and a list of services and deliveries available locally. The latter have not necessarily been recommended & include people who have contacted the Village Voice to advertise themselves. The Editors can accept no responsibility for the standing, workmanship or quality of any business, individual or company listed in the Directory and if you plan to use anyone on the list, please make sure that you agree clearly the nature of the work to be done, who will do it, how long it will take, how much it will cost and when payment needs to be made.

## CHURCH NEWS

Stage 1 of our search for a priest has been completed. We have finished and handed in our "Benefice Profile". This is a booklet describing all the 4 parishes of the Benefice: Balsham, West Wickham, West Wrating & Weston Colville. It gives details of what we are, what we've done, the state of the church, our income & expenditure, what we wish for and the kind of priest we need and would welcome. The profile is informative and attractive but none of the photographs can disguise the fact that out of a total population of nearly 3000, only 159 are on the electoral roll of the 4 churches, i.e. only 159 people give dedicated financial support to these churches.

It is they who not only shoulder the burdens of preserving, restoring (adding toilets?) the lovely village buildings we all enjoy, but will also bear the brunt of finding funds to defray the salary & pension costs needed for priestly support.

There is no way we can afford another full-time priest. We will be lucky to get a half-time priest, if there is one who wants to come here. Meanwhile we value all your support and encouragement.

This makes us even more aware of how incredibly lucky we were to have Francis and the support of Keith. What happens in the future will be our next great adventure. Roll on 2010!

Jane Sheuer, Church Warden

Ps. If anyone at the carol service thought "I'd like to read" please tell me, maybe you could be on next years team.

## REMOVAL OF THE HEDGE TO THE BACK OF THE CHURCHYARD

There have been three objections to the removal of this hedge. The PCC would like to clarify the reasons behind this decision.

Before the hedge was planted there was an iron-railing fence, which is still there within the hedge. This fence is in poor disrepair and is inaccessible. Sometime in the 1950s the hedge was planted when the fence was no longer stock proof. Unfortunately the fence was not removed when the hedge was planted.

There are also two rows of lime trees the more mature row nearest the church have a disease specific to lime trees (ustlina deusta). A new line of trees have since been planted and are now 30ft plus, so that the diseased trees can be removed over a period of time.

The younger lime trees run parallel to the hedge, making the hedge inaccessible and overshadowed. We cannot get a hedge cutter into this area of the churchyard.

We have consulted with those that tend graves near the hedge and the Conservation Officer in the Planning Department. Permission has been granted to carry out this work under section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. We propose to reinstate the iron fence.

The alternative is to remove the lime trees instead, and let the hedge grow. For the churchyard to continue to be used we have to do one or the other and the PCC and the Conservation Officer felt the removal of this hedge as the most obvious solution.

Nicky Cornish

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

### Change to the advertised programme

Unfortunately our speaker for the meeting on 11 January has had to pull out and I have now re-arranged that talk on All Saints, Jesus Lane for the April meeting. Instead, I thought we would have *A Look at the Census* and see what these can tell us about village, house or family history. If you would like to know more on any of these or indeed need help in understanding or interpreting the census for your own research, do come along and join us at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street

Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## NATURE NOTES THE RETURN OF THE GHOST

At the moment it seems as though all eyes are on Copenhagen, how our climate is going to change and the future implications of that change for all living things. But in the last couple of months, a pale ghostly figure from the past has been seen. I'm talking about the Barn Owl, a very special bird whose pale, silent form has been spotted a number of times including on this occasion by Di Licence, who writes:

*If you were annoyed several weeks ago by a car parked halfway up the hill to West Wickham, at peak home-coming time, just as the light was fading, with a woman leaning on the back with binoculars to her eyes, I apologise, it was me. I was having a magic moment. In fact I was having 15 minutes of magic moments. I was watching a barn owl quartering up and down the grass verges. Up and down the hill he flew, and across the bottom road. This beautiful, graceful bird is a joy to see at such close range. He took no notice of me or the other road users, just concentrating on finding prey. Gliding along on his silent, ghostlike wings, several times dropping down into the long grass where he was almost impossible to see, he was so well camouflaged. A real treat!*

Sue and I have had equally close (but not so long) encounters with a Barn Owl recently as it patrolled one of the ditches near Yen Hall. I certainly echo Di's words. Di has also added a post script to Sylvia Norton's tale of bats in her house, featured in an earlier nature notes column.

*We have lived in Maypole Croft for 28 years, and have shared our house for that time with a colony of pipistrelles. On several occasions they have come into the house via the window fanlights and sometimes have even roosted in the folds of the curtains. We even caught one of our cats on the landing windowsill catching them as they fly out of the eaves (although not any more!) They are lovely to watch on a summer evening as they tumble out of their daytime roost. The most we have counted at any one time is 80.*

You may remember that Sylvia suggested a "batwatch" session one evening next spring. The date for this will appear here in due course. If you are interested, please let Sylvia or me know. I have had one taker so far.

Peter Grieve

## WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 the following items were discussed:-

**Parish Council vacancy.** Cllr Phil Webb announced that he was resigning due to pressure of work. The Chairman thanked him for his services. A notice of the vacancy will be put in the Parish Council notice board and would be filled by co-option if an election was not requested .

**Speed limit at Streetly End:** Cllr. Webb had drafted a question to be put to Cambridgeshire County Council for their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. The Chairman agreed to attend this meeting instead of Cllr Webb. Cllr. Morris pointed out to Cllr. Batchelor that the four 40mph roundels had still not been replaced in Streetly End following resurfacing work.

**Village Hall car park:** Quotations have been asked for and so far one had been received. Cllr. Morris believed Planning Permission might be needed if the type of surface was changed and agreed to look into this.

**Speed Watch Training:** Cllr. Morris and Trevor Hall had attended the training session and received their Speed Watch ID numbers. More volunteers are needed, as there has to be 3 people with training certification to carry out a monitoring session.

**Clothes Recycling Bank:** Measurements have been taken of the area where the bottle bank is located and there is just enough space to allow for a Clothes Recycling Bank.

**Children's Play Area:** Two swing structures are being put up and Tom Licence is making new "springy" toys. It was noted with some concern that wood used to start making a palisade on top of the mound had been removed. It was not known who or why this had been done but this new structure for the playground might not now be completed. The price of bark is being looked into and other materials are being considered.

### Finance:

- 1) The Statement of Accounts had been signed and returned by the external auditors and the required Notice put on the notice board.
- 2) NALC had notified Parish Councils of the revised salary scale for Parish Clerks from 1/5/09 and there was

also an increase in the casual car users allowance.

- 3) It was agreed to donate £100 to the Horseheath Brownies to help with the Centenary year celebrations.

**Planning:** The PCC had received permission to fell trees and take out the hedge in the graveyard. Planning Permission had been granted for the Wadlow Wind Farm.

**Allotments:** Cllr. Morris had drawn up a new lease for allotment holders. This was discussed and some small adjustments made. An increase in rent to begin in October 2010 would need to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Tree Warden Scheme:** Cllr. Morris reported on a meeting he had attended concerning the start of SCDC's new Tree Warden Scheme, part of the National Tree Warden Scheme. It was decided to join this scheme, one of its aims being to promote the growing of new trees, and to appoint a Tree Warden for the village.

**Village Hall AGM:** The Chairman reported that lettings were up 14% and the Hall is maintaining its costs. Various repairs are to be carried out within the next fortnight. The Parish Clerk was given a copy of the Accounts for her records.

### Report by District Cllrs. Barrett & Squiers:

- a) Cllr. Squiers spoke about complaints received by SCDC about rubbish and earth left after farmers had cleared various ditches. She said a Community Service team can help clear the rubbish.
- b) Cllr. Barrett said that the recycling methods will change next October when households will receive a third wheeled bin to be used instead of the green boxes.

**Report by County Cllr Batchelor:** The Cambridge congestion charge bid had been submitted by the County Council, which if awarded would mean considerable improvements to the transport infrastructure.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010** (Please note change of date).

A Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 894076

## NATURE NOTES QUIZ

For those of you who were disappointed by the lack of a Christmas Quiz, Here are some cryptic clues for **flying** creatures, all of which have been mentioned in Nature Notes columns (No. 4 only the family). A prize will be awarded for the first correct entry opened after the closing date (January 15<sup>th</sup>)

1. Grocery chain has argument. Sell door to door? (11)
2. Rugby Club member has two women. (9,8)
3. Deliver a cricket ball with a service in the middle. (4,3)
4. Captain of the diddymen? (5,7)
5. First name of famous panda fast forward initially to cereal remains. (10)
6. Communist toy (3,4)
7. Used to be musically quiet. Now buzzes. (4)
8. Dickens character is two learners hiding in tree. (11)
9. Crab in an awful muddle (without ragwort) (7)
10. Provide accommodation for boy (5,6)

Answers to Peter Grieve at 29 Burton End by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Happy New Year to all.

## HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE

### Provisional films for January

(some were still unconfirmed as we went to press)

Tue	5	A Christmas Carol	1.30
Thur	7	Nativity	7.45
Fri	8	Volver	7.45
Mon	11	An Education	1.30
Mon	11	The First Day of the Rest of your Life.	7.45
Tue	12	Glorious 39	7.45
Wed	13	Glorious 39	7.45
Thur	14	An Education	7.45
Fri	15	Men Who Stare At Goats	7.45
Mon	25	A Serious Man	7.45
Wed	27	Amelia	7.45

**Box Office: 01440714140**

## MEADOW MATTERS

### News From The Meadow Primary School

There is definitely a feeling of Christmas around school now, with plenty of carols being sung, boxes of mince pies in the office ready for the Carol Concert, Christmas trees and baubles – I love it!

Last week was the KS1 Nativity performance – very lovely. The children all sang beautifully, old and new songs, with a bit of ‘YMCA’ and ‘Be our Guest’ thrown in. This was a traditional nativity with Mary, Joseph, Kings, Shepherds and a Donkey – and not many dry eyes when the children sang ‘Away in a Manger’ – well done to all the children.

The Ball at the end of November again proved to be a great night – enjoyed by all with plenty of dancing, eating and (am I allowed to say?) drinking. I’ve not heard the actual total raised yet, but it is thought to be nearing £7,000 – fantastic – thank you to all who supported this fabulous fund-raising night.

Another fund-raising event this term was Children in Need day. We all came in to school covered in spots, stripes and patterns. We made two giant Pudsey bears in the hall out of coins and the KS2 children enjoyed buying cakes and raised £381.23. Thank you for all your contributions.

We just have one more event this term, which is the KS2 Carol Concert. This is usually a really lovely evening and seems to mark the start of Christmas, certainly for me – followed by a glass of mulled wine, what more could a person want!

Remember the Jumble Sale on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January – if you would like to donate any jumble, please bring in during the latter part of the preceding week.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported the school during this year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Linda Wain

## SPRING INTO ACTION

We are now taking enrolments for the Spring term for adult education classes at Linton and Sawston Village Colleges. Classes start week commencing 11 January 2010. If you would like to enrol or find out more information, please visit our website [www.bepartnership.org](http://www.bepartnership.org) email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org) or telephone 01223 712424.

Sue King. Be Partnership. Adult Education. Sawston and Linton Village Colleges

## LINTON WEA NEWS

The course for the Spring Term commencing on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010, will see the return of an old friend Brian Jones, when he will tell us all about “East Anglian Life through the Centuries”. We are a very friendly group. The classes start at 10am and go on until 11.45am with a break halfway for coffee and a chance to catch up with all the latest news. The 10 week course costs just £43.50, and will include a subsidised excursion, there are several ways that you can get free access to this course; one is if you are on a means tested benefit or if your joint household income is less than £15,276 per annum. For more details ring Andrew on 892430 or Marion on 290420.

## NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Last month’s edition of the newsletter reported the visit to the College of Baroness Shirley Williams of Crosby, former Secretary of State for Education. The Baroness opened our new ‘Newton Building’ and then presented certificates to our class of 2009 school leavers. It was a very busy, but successful set of events; made all the more frenetic by the Baroness’ desire to talk to everyone she met. She didn’t waste a minute of her time with us, absorbing information quickly, charming all she spoke to and emptying the contents of her handbag at least 3 times to search for something she wanted to refer to. We saw all the evidence of the sharp intelligence and endearing academic scattiness that made her so famous.

The Baroness was not the only politician to visit us that week. James Paice MP made time in his busy schedule to come across to the College and he also made a very positive impression on all he spoke to, warmly congratulating the College for its reputation and successes. He had come to hear our students give a presentation on the cyber bullying mentor training that they have been doing and he remarked to me how articulate and caring our young mentors are. 58 of the students at LVC have been trained to be cyber mentors. They have worked with experts from ‘Beat Bully’ to hone their supporting and advisory skills when they are contacted by any child who feels under threat by bullying texts, emails or messages posted on social networking sites. Unfortunately the expansion of methods of communication via new technologies has also increased the ways in which a bully can intimidate their victims. In this way, cyber bullying can seem to follow a young person everywhere.

We don’t tolerate bullying at LVC, but we are not so naïve to think that it doesn’t exist where any group of children are brought together. However, we are also committed to making sure that we are part of the solution and not the problem. The cyber mentoring scheme has raised awareness of the issue in the school and made sure that the children themselves are that solution. Mr Paice promised to take news of the success of the scheme back to Parliament.

It has been a very good experience for our students to meet two politicians in the flesh. So much of what we read about anyone who takes on a position in public life nowadays is negative and cynical and we are all bombarded with stories of scandals and corruption, of false expenses claims and shady dealings. The result of this cynicism can mean a lack of trust in people to make things better and hence a challenge to the whole notion of citizenship and democracy. That’s hardly the message we should be promoting in schools. The cyber mentoring scheme is all about taking personal action to improve things for others, and, that too is what motivates the best politicians.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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

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