

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2011

ISSUE 94

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
Sun 2 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wed 5 **Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 9 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 10 **Local History Club. Talk by Janet Morris 'Not many neglect all public worship': Religion in 19th century West Wickham. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 11 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 12 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 16 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 17 **Gardening Club. Rare and unusual perennials. Talk by Tim Fuller of the Plantsman's Preference Nursery. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 18 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
House meeting. 7.30pm at 25 High Street. See page 3 for details
Wed 19 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 23 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Tue 25 Black wheeled bin collection
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All welcome
Wed 26 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 29 **Jumble Sale. 2.00 – 4.00pm, Meadow School, Balsham**
Sun 30 4 Parishes service. See church notice board for details

**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.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

At the West Wickham Village Hall Committee AGM in October, John Pelling proposed to resign the chairmanship due to increasing work commitments. John has chaired the Village Hall Committee for the past ten years and it is thanks to his leadership and commitment that we have such a well run and much used facility. I think most villagers would agree that the Village Hall is a central asset to West Wickham and I'm sure you will join me in thanking John for all the hard work he has performed on behalf of the Village Hall Trust.

You may have gathered by now that the reason I am writing this announcement is because I have been elected as the new Chairman. This took place at a meeting on 9th December and the other offices of the Committee were elected at the same time;

Chairman:	Nick Salter
Vice Chairman:	Marcus Cornish
Bookings Secretary:	Kathy Pelling
Treasurer:	Paul Donert
Minutes Secretary:	Peter Grieve

Note that the Gardening, Local History and Carpet Bowls Clubs, the Pre-School and Parish Council are all represented on the Committee.

I am excited to be taking on this role and look forward to getting stuck in. John will be a hard act to follow. As you might imagine, I already have some ideas about how I would like to take things forward, but I am of course open to suggestions and would welcome all inputs at this stage. I will be in touch again within a couple of months, in the meantime I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Nick Salter. Tel. 01223 291226. Email: Nick.Salter@virgin.net

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Two allotments have become vacant. They have not been used for some time and will need quite a lot of work to bring them back into cultivation. The Parish Council is therefore offering them rent free for the 1st year. They are quite large and if more than 2 people are interested they may be split into smaller units. If no-one from the village is interested they could be made available to people from neighbouring villages.

If anyone would like to take one on please contact either:
Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk, 52 Fox Road, Balsham CB21 4EZ,
T: 01223 894076

or

Parish Councillor Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham
CB21 4RY. T: 290863.

Jennifer Richards. Parish Clerk

(Ed. If there is little interest an alternative use for part of this area could be to establish a community orchard. Your views on this would be welcome)

The Rev Julie Norris and Rev Keith Johnson would like to send everyone love and a best wishes for the New Year

2010 POPPY APPEAL

What a remarkable show of support I have witnessed again this year for our service men and women who have been and are in the thick of the world's conflicts, as well as for the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of our country. This of course includes servicemen and women from the two World Wars and all conflicts since then until the present day. Our four villages of Balsham, West Wrating, West Wickham and Weston Colville, all part of my area as Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser, by their generosity during this year's Poppy Appeal, have shown that they are most definitely behind the Royal British Legion's endeavour to support every person and their families for the rest of their lives, both during and after their service to this country

This year the focus of the Appeal was about helping the Afghan generation of the Armed Forces and their families with a commitment of £25 million to the Personnel Recovery Centres including £12 million to the Battle Back Challenge Centre, a facility being built to enhance the recovery of injured and sick Service personnel. As the RBL spends over £200,000 per day to provide the welfare and support for our Armed Services, helping more than 10,000 Serving, ex-Service and family members since 2003 who are part of the Afghan and Iraq generation, the money we raise is so vital.

I am very proud to announce the figures from our local collection as follows: overall house to house, static and wreath donations amounted to £2175.43. West Wickham once again had a devoted collector obviously spurred on by Emma's wonderful help for the last few years. Wayne offered his services last year and I took him up on his offer. Helped by his sister, Wendy, he even visited outlying houses that hadn't seen a collector for many years and his efforts were well rewarded with a total of £144.02. Thank you all for such devoted help in so many different ways.

Margaret Johnson

LINTON WEA COURSE FOR THE SPRING 2011 TERM

We are all looking forward to welcoming a new, but very local speaker, Rosemary Williams next spring at Linton WEA. This term we are going to once again look back in time, but this time with a twist – as our subject title is '*The Reformation*', tracing the course of a movement that changed the course of European history. For more details see www.lintonwea.org.uk/courses2.htm or phone the branch secretary on 01223 290420.

We start our ten week term at Linton Village Hall on Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 10am. Each session lasts until 11.45 am, with a break for a cup of tea and chat half way through. We are a very friendly group and you will be more than welcome to come and join our truly happy Tuesday mornings.

The fees for this term are £44.00 for the whole course. The course will also feature an excursion at a greatly reduced rate to the student. There are schemes available to help people feeling the financial pinch that will enable them to still be able to attend our courses for free. Full details can be found on the Linton WEA website or can be discussed by contacting the branch treasurer:
www.lintonwea.org.uk/contact.htm or phone 01223 892430.

NEWS FROM DAISY CHAIN'S PRE-SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR – 2010

The Pre-School committee and staff would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair this year. Once again, it proved to be a very successful fundraising event and as you are aware, we rely hugely on fundraising in order to sustain the running of our pre-school. A big thank you to all our stall holders, to everyone who donated towards the event with either prizes, their time or their fantastic baking skills. Our biggest thank you must go to Father Christmas who managed to find the time to come and visit the local children from West Wickham and the surrounding villages!!

Congratulations to Caroline Newey who won the 'Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake' competition and to Susan Harrow who won this year's Christmas Hamper!

We can also confirm that in our Christmas Quiz, 6 entries answered 48 out of the 50 questions correctly. Those people were then put into a hat and this was drawn by one of the pre-school children. The winner was Mrs Melanie Gardner of West Wrating, who wins a Spa Day for 2 people. Congratulations to Melanie!

One again a huge thank you to everyone and on behalf of the pre-school staff and committee, we hope that you have had a Merry Christmas and we wish everyone a Happy New Year!!!!!!

Jo Jackson. Chairperson, Daisy Chain's Pre-school, West Wickham.

VALENTINE'S DAY QUIZ NIGHT 11 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 8PM

6 challenging and creative rounds!

Teams of up to 6 people

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes to be awarded with spot prizes on the night

£3.00 entrance fee (£2 to charity and £1 to cash prize)

Bar will be open from 7.30pm

What do you know about love and Cupid's bow and arrow?

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Don't forget to let me know about your memories of shops or delivery vans in the village as part of the BBC's project Turn Back Time – The High Street.

Our next meeting will be on 10 January (see Diary page for details) when I will be talking about religion in the village in the 19th century – not as dry a subject as it seems! If anyone missed the talk on allotments that we had a couple of years ago at a joint meeting with the Gardening Club, you can catch it again on 18 January at Linton Historical Society's meeting – 7.30pm in Linton Village Hall – when Twigs Way will be talking on *An Incitement to Early Marriage: A Social History of the Allotment*. They welcome visitors (£2) to their meetings as indeed we do (only £1.50).

Janet Morris, Secretary. 21 High Street. Tel: 290863. Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A very Happy New Year to you all. Below are various items discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd November.

Streetly End speed limit: The formal advertisement of Traffic Regulation Orders and Speed Limit Orders is now being processed by Cambs County Council and it is hoped the speed limit change will be carried out in the New Year.

Extra Councillors: The process of gaining two extra Parish Councillors is ongoing. Consultation notices have been displayed.

Crossroads signpost: The Parish Council were informed that if a Stop sign was requested approval would have to come from the Secretary of State and Highways who considered the "Give Way" sign was sufficient.

Children's Play area: There is some further work needed on the swings but this is in hand. There was a poor response to the request for help from parents in choosing new play equipment.

Finance: The accounts had been distributed and council were reminded of the need to think about expenditure in 2011/12. It was agreed that CGM should cut the recreation ground in 2011 and playing field hedges.

Correspondence: A request from the British Legion Poppy Appeal for a donation towards a wreath for Remembrance Sunday was agreed and a cheque for £10.00 was sent.

Football Club: The lease between Withersfield Youth FC U14's, West Wickham Village Hall Committee and West Wickham Parish Council has been signed and is with the Parish Clerk.

Allotments: The new agreement had been signed by all but one allotment holder, who had decided not to renew. There are therefore two vacant plots – see advert on page 1.

Report by County Cllr. Batchelor:

- a) The spending review had been carried out with cuts of 25% in the budget over the next 3 years.
- b) The Youth Club budget had been cut by one third and therefore the Parish Councils may be asked to help with funding.
- c) A1307 accident figures are down since the work has been carried out. In 2009 there were 68 accidents and 1 fatality compared with 118 accidents and 6 fatalities in 2008.

Any Other Business:

- a) The necessity to register the recreation ground, allotments and village hall with the Land Registry was discussed and the parish clerk will enquire as to costs etc.
- b) There is a need to look at archiving certain documents, and disposing of papers no longer required.

The draft Minutes are posted on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Post Office.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th January 2011. All are welcome.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076.

THE DIRECTORY

Regretfully I haven't had time to check everything before this month's issue of the Village Voice was published. It will come to you with next month's issue.

Sue Thurston

NATURE NOTES

I went for a walk with Dash this morning and no sooner had we crossed the road than she was in full pursuit of a muntjac. It sprang off in the direction of the Old Vicarage but quickly disappeared from view. From time to time we see fallow and roe deer as well as muntjac, and one wonders how many of them there are living around here, and how widely they range. They are very clever at remaining hidden most of the time during daylight hours so I suspect we only see the tip of the iceberg.

From the lower end of the village I hear tales of a high incidence of mice coming indoors. I would think this is to do with the cold weather, and can you blame them? I don't know whether people in Burton End or Streetly End are experiencing similar invasions or perhaps the mice in those parts are tougher. Of course there is not only the cold to worry about, there is also a variety of predators who will be feeling equally hungry, such as foxes, owls and kestrels, not to mention domestic cats. The life of a small rodent is not one to envy, although they do quite a lot of breeding.

At this time of year many species of birds tend to go around in flocks. Walking along beside hedgerows I often feel that I have unnecessarily disturbed a group of finches or fieldfares as they take themselves off to another perch, particularly when dusk is approaching and the flock may have decided to settle there for the night. If you walk alongside Rands Wood at that time of day, there is a constant flapping of woodpigeons' wings as they move off from their high perch when you walk past. What they don't seem to realise is that a person and a dog walking by in semi-darkness is no threat, especially if they are 30 or so feet below.

Jackdaws and rooks are also flocking families, only they do it all the year round. In recent weeks I have noticed as I drive back from Newmarket late in the afternoon there is quite a spectacular roosting or gathering site for rooks and jackdaws near where the road crosses the line of the Devil's Dyke. There are dozens of them crowding into just two or three trees.

Nature's lessons for December: stick together at night time and if you get really cold, stay inside.

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

HOUSE MEETING

Tuesday 18 January, 7.30 at 25 High Street, West Wickham, the home of Jane Scheuer

A year ago, a small group of women started a six-monthly 'House Group' discussion evening. At the summer meeting I was asked to devise a 'welcome newsletter' package. It has floundered, partly because I lack computer, printer etc and partly through indecision.

We would love to have input from people who have either:

- Had a wonderful welcome elsewhere.
- Have ideas about what they would have liked as a welcome here.
- Wished to meet more people in the village.

Come and join in and share ideas and experiences. Our agenda will have a second item for discussion, 'The Church and Charity'.

Do come and join in.

Jane Scheuer. T: 290338

DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER

Between now and 2012 analogue TV signals will be switched off across the UK and all terrestrial televisions will be converted to digital. Many people will be confused about the Switchover and be in need of new aerials and equipment. The process gives rogue installers the opportunity to target vulnerable people by charging extortionate fees for devices that do not work, equipment that isn't required and unnecessary labour. The Registered Digital Installers Licensing Body (RDI-LB) is the UK's only official body to register licensed digital aerial and TV systems installers. All official installers carry identification with a registered ID number, will never call without an appointment and have undertaken a Criminal Records Bureau check. By using the Registered Digital Installers website www.rdi-lb.co.uk or phoning 01353 644040 you can check the installer's id number. A Digital Switchover Help scheme, launched by the government, is also available to help the elderly and vulnerable get their television upgraded. For more information call free on 0800 40 85 900 or visit helpscheme.co.uk. Lines are open 8am to 9pm 7 days a week.

For more general information on the digital switchover visit www.digitaluk.co.uk.

MEADOW MATTERS NEWS FROM THE MEADOW SCHOOL

By the time you read this, Christmas will have been and gone but at the moment, we are still in a festive spirit. KS1/FS production has been held this week to packed performances every day. I managed to watch it before doing mammoth servings of teas and coffees to grandparents, senior citizens. It was a lovely performance – one of my favourites – which brought a tear to the eyes in some parts and chuckles in others when children started bickering on stage as to where they should be. KS2 are now practising for their Carol Concert, which to me always starts off Christmas.

Other events this month has been the annual Christmas Disco – the school rocked with music from the hall, although I think Barry the DJ did keep the volume down a little bit. Lots of old favourites played like I am the Music Man, YMCA, etc (the old ones are always the best!). A success as always! Thank you to Barry and Nicky. We also held a Christmas craft making afternoon for parents and younger siblings; glue, tinsel, glitter, and paints everywhere, but lots of Christmas decorations made – thank you to the parents for supporting your children in these activities.

50/50 draw

The latest draw has taken place and the winners for November are:

1st Prize: Linda 2nd Prize: Michaela 3rd Prize: Tina
If you would like to add your name to the list of winners, please contact the school office for an application form.

Forthcoming Event:

25th March – Quiz Night

The Meadow School would like to thank everyone who supports the school throughout the year and to wish you all a Happy New Year!

Linda Wain

JUMBLE SALE

The Meadow School, Balsham

Saturday, 29th January 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Raffle Cakes

CLOTHES- * Mens * Ladies * Childrens * Babies *

* Second-hand Uniforms *

* Books * Toys * Puzzles * Games * Shoes, Boots &

Wellies * Bric-a-Brac *

Admission: 50p (Primary School aged children FREE)

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Written on 10 December 2010

It is nearing the end of term, Christmas is approaching but this year there feels little joy in it all.

The reason for this is that, once more, our school community is facing up to the deaths of two young people: Benn Joyce (Ed. Grandson of John & Aileen Joyce formerly of the White Horse pub) and Jess Gower.

I'd like to say a few words here about each of them and to publically pass our condolences to the two families suffering the tragic loss of a child. We can't know how you feel, but we offer you our support and care.

Benn, who died in such a distressing way in our village, went to the College some years ago. He was a tall, friendly, mature boy and very pleasant to talk to. He left us in Year 9 to live with his father and we saw little of him after that, but he returned to the village and made close friendships with many of our students past and present. His death was a real shock and it is at times like this that you are reminded of how important a sense of community is everyone looking out for each other, standing side by side.

Jess Gower's death was, sadly, not a shock, but the impact was as great. Jess was a Year 10 student at the College. She had been struggling with cancer for over 18 months, but finally lost this struggle just before Christmas. Jess was a popular girl: bright, caring and energetic. We had known how ill she was and her year group had organised a fun run in her honour to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust back in June. The staff and students at the College have been hoping and praying for her recovery, willing her all the way. Her bravery throughout each painful treatment was incredible. Her loss has been almost harder to bear because of this.

Teenagers have an ability to support each other at times of crisis that inspires awe: they hug, cry and comfort their friends instinctively and on the occasions of both deaths I was left feeling proud of them as they reached out to include everyone in the wave of community warmth that enveloped us.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 January

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