

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2011

ISSUE 99

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 4 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
Balsham Singers Summer Concert.
7.30pm, Balsham Church
- Sun 5 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Clover Cottage & Chequer Cottage
gardens open, Streetly End. 12.00 –
5pm. Homemade teas at Chequer
Cottage
- 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
- Tue 14 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 18 **Gardening Club trip to Myddelton**
House & Capel Manor. See ad.
June Revels. 2.00 – 4.00, Meadow
School, Balsham
- Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 21 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 26 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 28 Black wheeled bin collection
- Thur 30 **Pre-School open morning**

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.

Sport Hire day or evening £5.00 per hour.

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

HILDERSHAM FETE

Sunday 12th June 2011
Opening at 2pm
Hildersham Recreation Ground

All the time-honoured stalls, thrills, and excitement of a rural village fete. Featuring a display of the traditional skills of the village shepherd, given by Hildersham shepherds, Amy and Andrew Rouse, both of who compete and are winners at the highest level in Great Britain. Amy has recently featured in 'One Man and his Dog' and the 'Extraordinary Dogs' TV series

For full details visit
www.hildersham.org.uk/hall.htm

YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Councillors who were elected on May 5 are:

Patrick Charlton T: 290027. Email: patrickbcharlton@googlemail.com
Marcus Cornish T: 290203. Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com
Peter Grieve T: 290503. Email: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Trevor Hall T: 290559. Email: trevorhall@atobviac.com
Di Licence T: 290434. Email: di.licence@googlemail.com
Andrew Morris T: 290863. Email: ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM
Justin Plumb T: 291395. Email: justwickham@yahoo.co.uk

At the first meeting of the new council Marcus Cornish was elected Chairman & Andrew Morris elected Vice Chairman. A full report of the meeting will be published in next months Village Voice.

BALSHAM SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT

SATURDAY 4 JUNE
7.30p.m. BALSHAM PARISH CHURCH

Familiar music, favourite opera choruses and very well known songs from the Shows make up a delightful and relaxing programme. Bizet, Verdi, Mozart, Rodgers and Hammerstein are amongst the composers. Bohemian Rhapsody, Moon River and Bali Ha'i are some of the songs. There will be wine and fruit juice served in the interval to add to the convivial atmosphere.

Tickets £7 and £6 (concessions) from the Post Office or on the door.

LIKE A DAY OUT?

There are still spare places on the Gardening Club's annual outing. This year we are going to **Myddelton House** in Enfield. This was the home of renowned plantsman E A Bowles and has recently undergone much restoration. Here we will be having a guided tour. Then we are going on to nearby **Capel Manor Gardens**. Capel Manor is a horticultural training college and has 30 acres of gardens to explore with more than 60 small gardens and historic landscapes. Details are:

Saturday 18 June

Leaving the Village Hall car park at 10am
leaving Capel Manor at 4.30pm.

Cost: Members £17 (£16 conc) Non-members £23 (£22 conc) – this includes coach, entry and guided tour.

Book your place with Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

DAISY CHAIN'S PRE-SCHOOL – OPEN MORNING

Thursday 30th June 10.00 – 12.00
West Wickham Village Hall, West Wickham

To all parents and grandparents of children aged 2 and upwards, we would like to invite you to join our children and staff at Daisy Chain's Pre-school. Meet 'Daisy' the caterpillar and become a gardening club member for the day with related activities and something to take home.

We are offering you 2 FREE pre-booked sessions when you enrol your child. We are OFSTED registered, fully insured and have been operating on this site for 35 years. Under 3's £9.00 per session. All sessions are available. Pre-school opening times, 9.30 – 12.30, sessions run Monday – Friday. For more information phone Pre-school Leader, Sue Harrow during Pre-school hours on 07943866294

FROM THE VICARAGE

In a recent family service in which we were looking at the work of Christian Aid with coffee farmers in Nicaragua, I asked the children to give me the name of some beans. Out of the 4,000 different types of beans, I had expected a list such as, runner bean, broad bean, baked bean etc, and I was hoping someone would mention the coffee bean. The list I was given did include some of these but also included a 'magic bean' and the 'human bean', by the same child and in the same breath.

At that service, we thought about how, with some help, a dream by an illiterate coffee farmer, for a new school and health facility, became a reality for a poor community. Christian Aid worked with a local partner organisation to help lots of small independent farmers to form a cooperative. Collectively, and with some financial assistance from Christian Aid, they bought processing equipment. By working collaboratively they improved the quality and quantity of coffee beans sent to market. This meant higher prices for the coffee. This impacted on the life-style of the farmers and left some money for community projects such as building a school and health centre. People sharing a vision, working together, can transform a community.

In Old and New Testament, love for God is mirrored in love for neighbour. Insights into God's nature inevitably invite those attuned to them to actions of justice, mercy and peace. For this is how God cares for each and all. The individual is not isolated, but part of a flock, a community, a church. Some of the individual's identity comes from being part of a shared exploration of God's grace with other people and each person shares a responsibility for the welfare of the whole community.

Over the coming month there are some great events planned in the 7 Churches and in their villages. There is the Abington Amble around some beautiful gardens in Great Abington on 4th June. That day there is also a concert by the Balsham Singers in the evening at Balsham. There are Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity services in the Churches. There are Open Gardens at Weston Colville on 19th June. There is a remarkable Flower Festival using flowers from gardens, fields and hedgerows at Weston Colville on 25th and 26th June. We need the magic of 'human beans' to make these events fun and productive for the Churches and communities.

Rev Julie Norris

WEST WRATTING W.I.

This year Alison Harris will be our hostess for the June Garden Meeting on Tuesday 28 June at 7.30 pm. We will have our usual wine tasting and raffle. The competition is for the best potted plant or hanging basket. Husbands, partners and friends are welcome but are asked to make a small donation. Please bring a contribution for the buffet.

We have also decided to open the July, August and October meetings, again in return for a small donation. The subjects are, respectively, "*From Fleece to Floor*" oriental carpets; *Bayeux Tapestry and Adventure to Spitsbergen*.

Linda Gorman. T:290653

THE BALSHAM BALL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY Saturday 19th November 2011.

Yes, it's hard to believe the Balsham Ball is 10 years old this year! The Ball was initially organised by a small group of parents in a gigantic effort to raise money to fund a new ICT suite for the school. However, since its inception in 2001, The Balsham Ball has become a hugely successful community event as well as a major fundraiser for the school. Because of the enormity of the occasion, it is held biennially, so while this is its 10th birthday, this year's event will actually be the 6th Balsham Ball.

Over the years, The Balsham Ball has raised in excess of £20,000 which has been injected into various major projects within the school. This year it is intended that monies raised will be used towards improvement of the outdoor areas of the school such as new (Key-stage 2) playground equipment, sheltered areas and the gardens.

Ticket prices will remain at £50 per person which includes a reception cocktail, three course dinner and a band. Application forms for tickets will be available from the Meadow School office from Friday 17th June. Please send your completed forms along with payment to the Meadow ASAP. Be warned that this event is extremely popular and tickets usually sell-out very quickly! **Don't Miss Out!!**

Sponsorship Opportunities. To help keep the ticket prices down, the Ball receives valuable support from local companies and individuals through sponsorship and donations. If you would like to know more, please contact Louise O'Carroll FitzPatrick 01223 893 889.

Alternatively come and see us at the June Revels on Saturday 18th June. You could also be in to win two tickets with our raffle.

Further information and updates on the Ball arrangements can be found on the "**Balsham Ball 2011**" Facebook Page.

Debbie Paton/Angela Barks. Balsham Ball Committee

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

The Brownies celebrated the recent Royal Wedding by completing the 'Royal Wedding' challenge badge in the week leading up to the wedding. They completed a 'royal' word-search, made buttonholes, from tissue paper, to wear whilst watching the broadcast and learned how to lay the table fit for a banquet.

We are now busy learning more campfire songs ready for the District Campfire being held at the Jarman Centre, Newmarket (where we went on Pack Holiday). The Brownies are really good singers especially when they choose the action songs! I think this may become a regular feature of our meetings and especially if we have a campfire too! We hope to have lots of fun outside this term and will be helping to keep Horseheath clean with our annual litter pick up during June. We also have the annual District Strawberry Evening in Linton at the beginning of July.

As our numbers are on the increase we would like to welcome any adult volunteer who has a skill they could share with us or just have a fun evening helping with Brownies. If you are interested or want more information on what we do, please get in touch. We are a friendly bunch, honest.

Barney AKA Pauline. 01223 891086

OIL SYNDICATE UPDATE

In last month's Voice I told you how the first order had gone, let you know about the Withersfield Syndicate, which is already in existence, and asked for some feedback about whether syndicate members and other oil users in the Village would like to stick with a West Wickham syndicate or join the Withersfield one, where members are asked to make a minimum donation of 0.5p per litre to a choice of local charities. Perhaps the fine weather has put the thought of ordering heating oil to the back of your minds, but no one has contacted me to express a preference. I plan to place another order on 11th June and the Withersfield Syndicate will be placing its on 20th June. If you would like some oil, please contact me on oil@suethurston.co.uk or phone 01223 290503 by 10th June and let me know how much and access arrangements etc. If you decide you would like to place an order with the Withersfield Syndicate then you can contact Cliff on 01440 708648 (evenings & weekends) or look at the website <http://theoilsyndicate.wordpress.com>. If there appears to be very little interest in placing an order in June (prices could be slightly lower than the last order - see <http://www.boilerjuice.com/heatingOilPrices.php>) I will let those who want oil know and they can then decide whether to postpone buying any, go with Withersfield or place their own order.

If you have missed reading any of the previous exciting instalments of the Oil Syndicate Update, please let me know and I'll fill you in.

Sue Thurston

NEWS FROM PLATTS FARM

We are half way through May and we have had so little rain, it is obvious why we are categorised as a semi - arid area. We actually have less rain than some deserts, even if it does not seem like it, in January.

Things have moved on from when Bryn had his mammoth litter of pigs. They are all weaned and are living the life of Riley in their outside pen, where they are behaving like live ploughs. We had a visit from Daisy Chains Pre-school to see them, when they were small and again when the lambs were small. The sheep only produced one lamb each, but they are growing very fast.

We are now on to chickens and we are using our incubators to hatch some successors to our present flock. People, who buy eggs from us, will be aware that there are some unusual colours. We have two breeds of hen, who lay blue/green eggs, so that accounts for the variety of colours. They are not duck eggs.

Now that the Charlock has come on flower, Bryn will have to go out and spray it, in order that it does not out compete the beans and the grain crops. All our fields are sown and now we just want the April showers to make a belated entrance. It has always been said that they bring forth the May flowers, but we will settle for late May and June.

The big treat at the moment is waking up to the vibrant songs of the thrushes and the surfeit of blackbirds. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I do

Denny Pearson

NATURE NOTES

Adapting to desert conditions

This must be one of the driest springs ever. Us gardeners look forlornly skyward for the merest drop of moisture, water butts are drained to keep the seedlings alive, and it's only a matter of time before the Government appoints a minister for rain. Nature, however, just has to get on with it. So far, judging by my correspondents, it's not doing too badly.

Lynn Dicks tells us that *"this warm spring has brought out an amazing diversity of insects. I can't remember seeing so many orange tips. The ones you notice are the males. The females, which don't have orange-tipped wings, mainly lay eggs on just two plants - hedge garlic (sometimes called Jack-by-the-hedge or garlic mustard), and cuckoo-flower (also known as Lady's Smock). If pushed, they'll use rocket, horseradish or garden honesty. Look out for bright orange eggs, or long, bright green caterpillars.* Lynn also saw green hairstreaks on the Devil's Dyke just south of the golf course - Britain's only green butterfly and quite spectacular as long as you can spot them resting. In flight, these small butterflies look brown or grey-ish.

Lynn's observations were made during April, and Di has also written about the glories of that month, recalling Robert Browning's 'Home Thoughts from Abroad', which begins 'Oh to be in England, Now that April's there' *"Watching the buds on the trees slowly unfold into a hundred shades of green"* she says she can understand the memories that are at the root of this poem. *"The big sticky buds of the horse chestnut that protect the developing leaf buds from frost and hungry insects during the winter, suddenly break forth into broad green leaves, followed by flower spikes of pink or white. The flowers on trees are often overlooked, but are easily as beautiful as the wayside/ woodland flowers, if you look closely, often a soft shade of yellowy green. Elm flowers are small and delicate, the lime flowers have a lovely fragrance, and the ash are very beautiful, reminding me of delicate coral. The hawthorn blossom is magnificent in the hedgerows, looking like a layer of snow on the branches, you either love or hate the smell."* Browning tells us that 'after April, when May follows, the whitethroat sings and all the swallows..' Whitethroats have certainly been singing, including Lesser Whitethroat (on the allotment), and Di writes *"the swallows and martins have arrived. I love that wonderful tweeting noise as they swoop overhead or skim the fields looking for insects. The swifts are back too, although I haven't seen any in the village yet. They fly in formation up the road in Fulbourn, as I drive to work, and screech as they fly past."*

Di also gives honorable mentions to the Little Owl, seen and heard in the garden of Walnut Cottage, a wheatear on the chimney pot of Hill Farm, and some more insects - a small tennis ball size swarm of honey bees investigating but ultimately rejecting their house as a possible nesting site, a hornet chewing wood from their shed and plenty of butterflies including speckled wood and an early red admiral.

For those wanting an update on the arboreal snails - they are still there and there seem to be lots of mini-snails as well. Final thought - has anyone heard a cuckoo in the village yet?

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

It was tremendous to hear from Ofsted following their recent interim inspection of the College that they grade us as outstanding once more.

I've always maintained that it has taken the fullness of the College's history (75 years in 2012) to reach the point where standards in so many aspects of the school are excellent and during this time some very special teachers have devoted a large part of their careers to the place. This year I want to mention three outstanding long-servers: Pete Robins, Jenny Pullin and Denise Hall.

I'll begin with Mrs Pullin and Mrs Hall, as many in the community who are lucky enough to have been taught by them, will remember them. Last month both of them were honoured at Shire Hall for their long service to Cambridgeshire schools: 30 years in Jenny Pullin's case, 28 years in Denise Hall's case.

Mrs Pullin joined LVC in 1983 and has taught generations of children (now many of them mums and dads) in our area how to cook. During her time at LVC she has been Head of Food, Deputy Faculty Leader, Exams Officer and an excellent form tutor. Mrs Pullin has the kind of magic with teenagers which enables her to say the tough things that they won't accept from their own parents and yet they love her for it too. I hope she stays at LVC for many more years to come.

Denise Hall is an LVC institution. She was appointed in 1983 as Head of RE and has been Head of Year and Assistant Principal during her time here. This last post is the one she currently holds. Everyone knows and remembers Mrs Hall either as a much-loved RE teacher or as the person who helped them sort out that impossible problem they had with their child – I now meet three generations of local people in the same family who have all been taught by her. She has brought a special, caring warmth to the school during those 28 years. Long may she continue to do so.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to Pete Robins who retires this year. Pete is very special to LVC because Linton was his first teaching job and he has never taught anywhere else. He came to the school in 1975 and has stayed here ever since. He is currently our longest serving teacher. Pete has taught English and drama during this time, been a Head of Year, a Head of Drama and a man who has led many enrichment activities: sports clubs, numerous dramatic productions and talent shows and the legendary Rockley water sports trip. He has been a highly respected teacher, a very kind and considerate colleague and a witty public speaker: he is our commentator on sports days and the compere of so many concerts and shows. You never hear a child speak a bad word about Pete Robins and that's one of the biggest tributes you can give to any teacher. He has helped to shape the ethos of LVC and left a lasting impression. We are making up a 'Memories of LVC' book for Pete. If there are past students or parents who would like to write a message for Pete in this book, please send it to the Principal's PA: elaine.clayton@lvc.org

Thank you to all 3 for the huge contribution you've made, and continue to make, to this outstanding College.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Summer is here and we are looking ahead at ways to promote and encourage those within the community to become more involved in the variety of activities and events that we have on offer.

The Linton Community Sports Centre exercise class programme will continue throughout the summer months, classes include Boxercise, Circuits, CardioTone and Zumba plus two new classes - Belly Dance and 50 plus Yoga. As an added incentive we are now also offering loyalty cards for all our class attendees, the cards are stamped on each visit and after 8 stamps users receive a free class, it couldn't be simpler. Ask at sports centre reception when you next visit.

June 18th will see the launch our very first Car Boot sale, this is something new to Linton and we believe it will prove to be a great success – everybody is welcome. The cost for a pitch is £8 and the sale will run from 7am – 2pm. We will hold a further two sales in July and August – dates for these are to be confirmed but will be released via our website and this publication nearer the time.

After several months of negotiation and funding applications we are proud to launch our brand new 3rd generation outdoor cricket nets, four floodlit bays on a sand based artificial green. The nets are available to hire, to book or for further information please contact sports centre reception.

I am always interested in receiving feedback, good or bad plus any ideas or suggestions for activities and events you may have. If you would like to contact me directly please feel free to email me at steven.austin@lvc.org. For all other enquiries relating to sports centre activities call the centre on 01223 890248 or email lsc@lvc.org. You can also visit the Linton Community Sports Centre website at www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk

Steven Austin. Community Business Manager. Linton Community Sports Centre

THANK YOU

The Pre-school Committee would like to thank all those children, parents, grandparents and neighbours who supported us by attending our recent Jumble Sale. We raised £443.10 which is just grand!

Jo Jackson. Committee Chairperson

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 June

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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