

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2016

ISSUE 155

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 1 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 2 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 5 Farmer's Market. 9.00 - 12.00, Linton Village College
Sun 6 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Tue 8 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 9 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Fri 11 **Meadow School PTA Quiz Night. See page 4**
Sun 13 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 14 **Local History Club AGM. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 15 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Sat 19 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Easter Eggstravaganza. 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Hall. See page 2 for details.**
Sun 20 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 21 **Gardening Club. Talk on sweet peas and dwarf pinks by John Hewson. 7.30pm, Village Hall (small room)**
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall (large room)
Compline service. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church
Tue 22 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 23 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 27 Family Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wed 30 Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) Collection
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30 Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) 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 £8.00/hour
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

Email: bookings@westwickham.org
or visit www.westwickham.org

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP SUNDAY, 20 MARCH PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP

The 'Clean for the Queen' initiative has been asking people to clear up litter in their communities on the weekend of 5/6 March in time for the Queen's 90th birthday. All of South Cambs grabbing equipment is being used that weekend by loyal subjects but it is available for us for 20 March. So anyone who would like to take part in our annual clean-up of the village on that day please come to the village hall car park at 11.00 a.m. where grabbers, gloves and refuse bags will be provided. The current state of the roadside verges, especially on the fringe of the village, is terrible.

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

IN MEMORIUM

Of Kate Gardner, late of Willow Cottage, West Wickham, more recently of Oakly Woods, Oxfordshire, who passed away peacefully on 23 January aged 87 years.

I have known Kate since I was a little girl. She was a great friend of my mother and remained so when she moved back to her native Oxfordshire. I visited her there a few times for a holiday and always looked forward to staying in the midst of oak woods and walking among carpets of bluebells and hearing nothing but birdsong. Such memories to treasure and bring a smile.

I shall miss her and think of times at Willow Cottage among the rose beds and learning all she could teach me. Kate enjoyed making preserves with fruits from the woods and picking mushrooms from the meadows in the early morning. She also made a mean elderflower champagne. All tastes to savour.

Bless you and keep you dear Kate. Goodbye my dear and safe journey.

Shirley Wilkinson

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our talk on Monday 15 February was "Feeding, Weeding and other Gardening Secrets" by David Coop, the Technical Director of Westlands Horticultural, Ltd. It was obvious from the laughter and comments from the audience that this was a very enjoyable evening, rounded off by gifts of sweet pea seeds and plant food. David's hope is that he will encourage gardeners of all levels of competence to give their plants the proper care and attention they need to thrive so that we can all be proud of our gardens.

Next month, on 21 March, we have John Hewson from Great Barton Plants coming to talk to us on "Sweet Peas and Dwarf Pinks". Then Spring will be in the offing and the sap will be rising and hey-ho, off we go on another year, battling the elements, pests and diseases, still optimistically assuming that this is the year we will successfully grow wonderful vegetables and flowers. For further information you can phone me on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop.

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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

When an archaeological survey was carried out recently in Hildersham churchyard, a Saxon family grave was unearthed just outside the north door of the Church. This included the chiselled-out chalk cradle for a child. A replica of this can now be seen in the prayer corner of that Church. It is moving to see the care taken by our ancestors 1100 years ago. This little replica reminds us today of the sadness of death, and it also speaks to us of the love and tenderness of our ancestors when a child died. A painting will be shown at Balsham on Good Friday, during the Stations of the Cross, in which we see the friends of Jesus tenderly massaging his hands with oils after his death. The horror of death is redeemed by love. The Easter story extends this further. New life can come unexpectedly from the most tragic circumstances. Love can triumph even over death.

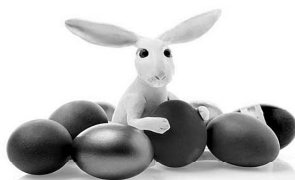
Rev Julie Norris

The Lent talks are using the film, 'The Theory of Everything' about the lives of Jane and Stephen Hawking. We meet for discussion at 7.30pm in the Black Bull on Wednesday 2 March, at 7.30pm in Hildersham Church on Wednesday 9 March and at 7.30pm in the Black Bull again on Wednesday 16 March.

In Holy Week there are Compline services taking place at 7.30pm on Monday 21 March at St Mary's Church, West Wickham, and at the same time on Tuesday 22 March at Weston Colville Church and on Wednesday 23 March at West Wrattling Church. There is a Maundy Thursday service on 23 March at Great Abington Church at 7.30pm. There will be a Good Friday service on 24 March at 2pm in St Andrew's, West Wrattling. There is also a service of reflection on the Stations of the Cross with the 7 Churches Choir at Balsham at 11am. On Easter Day there will be a Family Communion service at 9.15am at St Mary's West Wickham.



Come and join us at our Easter Eggstravaganza!



**Saturday 19th March 2016
2pm-4:30pm at Daisy Chains Preschool,
West Wickham Village Hall**

£2 per "eggsplorer" with a chocolate egg at the end!

**Join us for an afternoon of fun:
Easter crafts
Toy Tombola
Refreshments
Raffle**

We would love to see you there.

NATURE NOTES

Di wrote her observations for this month just before the snow started falling and here they are: "Nature is slowly wending its way towards spring. The dawn chorus is gaining momentum with the mournful, melancholic song of the robin, now joined by the chirpy chaffinch and the tuneless dunnock but thankfully not the cooing woodpigeon yet. These past few weeks have also had the blackbird and song thrush joining in, singing their melodious songs from high in the trees. The great spotted woodpecker has started to drum on the tree trunks, and the starlings are jabbering and twittering from the rooftops." I would like to put in a word in defence of the dunnock, who does his best with a 'deedly deedly dee' from the top of the hedge. Although he may not have such a powerful voice as the thrushes and blackbirds of this world, I'm convinced he was an inspiration to Mozart.

"Counting birds in the garden for the RSPB'S Big Garden Birdwatch surprises me every year. Making the leap from just enjoying the blue tits on the nuts and the long-tailed tits on the fat balls, to actually counting how many there are, is always a bit of a shock. How can nine long-tailed tits all be in MY garden at one time? How can there be six blue tits on one nut basket? All else was normal, apart from the two male pheasants sitting on the pergola. We take our garden birds for granted – their beauty and agility, their song and presence – all bring joy into our lives."

One who didn't make it into the Big Garden Birdwatch was the heron in Julie and Andy Champ's garden on 13 February. Andy sent me a photograph of the heron standing in their pond, with a look of deadly menace. I think the heron sees the back gardens of Burton End as a happy hunting ground. Whenever it flies over, our chickens give the impression of being very anxious, whilst the presence of a sparrowhawk doesn't seem to bother them. In our garden it was good to be able to count nine house sparrows so let's hope this is a sign that they are making a come back after years of decline.

On the mammal front, I had an interesting encounter the other day beside the July racecourse. Kip had been down in the Devil's Ditch looking for rabbits and I had to go down and retrieve her. On re-emerging a bit of a kerfuffle was developing over on the racecourse itself, and there was a lovely fox being chased down the racecourse by a couple of crows. The fox was certainly making the best of his way home under duress. I can only imagine there was a disputed bit of food. We also had a strange experience recently when about to go out of the back door, a bank vole landed on top of our boot box and ran off. He either jumped off the roof or was dropped by a bird of prey, but clearly was able to survive. Our lives seem so dull in comparison.

Di also has a mammal story. "Walking up the village one morning I encountered a muntjac standing on someone's lawn. It stood, undeterred by me, looking across the road. A lorry frightened it back into the garden, but I waited until it re-emerged and crossed the road to disappear into the undergrowth. These stocky little deer can be quite destructive in the garden and can often be heard barking at night, but nevertheless, are good to see."

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

These were some of the matters discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25 January. The draft Minutes have been posted on the notice board.

Planning:

Ulrike Maccariello of Hastoe Housing Association spoke about the provision of affordable housing and how it worked. A survey of housing needs would be carried out. Although the Neighbourhood Plan survey showed there is a need further information would be required. Priority would be given to local people. Mark Deas from Cambridge ACRE then explained how the survey would be carried out with a questionnaire sent to each household.

S/3019/15/FL – Proposed single dwelling on land between 39-47 High St. It was agreed that if the size of the house was scaled down and the side windows issue was resolved it could be recommended for approval..

Finance: All payments were authorised apart from a cheque to CGM for cutting the hedge around the playing field as it was felt the job had not been properly carried out. The Chairman said he would write a letter to CGM. The draft Budget for 2016/17 had been prepared and distributed by Cllr. Charlton and this was discussed and various adjustments made and then approved. It was agreed to increase the precept by 2.8% making it £11,000, to keep ahead of the increasing cost of maintenance of parish property.

Broadband: (ED. See Broadband update.)

Land down to the old sewage farm: David Spencer who is farming this land is quite prepared to cut the hedges.

Footpaths. Three issues about footpaths were discussed at the Parish Council meeting:

1. Hill Farm Paths. People often use the ditch-side route which links footpaths 13, 14 and 16. The landowner, Edward Fairhead has said that, although he is happy for this use to continue he would like people to be aware that this route is not a public footpath and he is concerned that it should not become one.
2. Footpath 21. The Parish Council were pleased to see that “Environmental Stewardship – No Access” sign has been removed so no-one should be deterred from walking on this right of way.
3. Use of footpaths by horses. Comments have been made that some of the footpaths have been used by riders in recent weeks (presumably with landowners’ permission), giving rise to them being somewhat churned up in the soft ground, thus making things difficult for walkers. A particular example is Blacklands Lane, which appears to have been used by the Hunt. (ED. Please note, horse riders do not have a *right of way* on footpaths, only bridleways).

Speeding. In discussing continuing concerns about speeding and possible action to reduce it in the village, it was felt that a revival of the Speed Watch Team would help. More people volunteering to train to carry out speed checks were needed.

Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

A1307 survey report will be published in February. (ED. To see the report go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/citydeal/info/2/transport/1/transport/12)

Budget – this has been set at an increase of 1.9%

Waste recycling – important to use the blue bins to capacity to cut down on land fill.

Report by Dist.Cllr. Fraser:

Community Chest – this will be available again in July. Each village will be restricted to three requests up to £4000. SCDC have started a housing project called Ermine Street Housing with a five year business plan with the aim of owning and managing 500 properties by the end of that period.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 21 March due to Monday 28 March being a Bank Holiday.
All are welcome.**

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk).

T: 01223 665260, Email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

BROADBAND UPDATE

BT Openreach

No news from either BT Openreach or Connecting Cambridgeshire about when work on the installation of the new cabinet at Burton End will start. In theory work needs to start by the end of March to meet BT Openreach's assurance of a live date by December 2016.

Air Broadband

The minimum number of subscribers required has been exceeded and the order for fibre in Horseheath has been placed. The survey and agreement at Hill Farm has been completed. Surveys and planning for the locations of aerials at each subscribed residence should commence mid-March, followed shortly afterwards by the individual installations. As soon as the fibre connection in Horseheath goes live - now anticipated for mid-April at the latest - all subscribers will go live. Unfortunately Air Broadband are still dependent on BT Openreach for the fibre installation, although, as this is a commercial installation, the normal completion time is 6-8 weeks after the order has been placed.

Surveys and installations will roughly be done in the order they were received, although residences in the Conservation area or Listed Buildings will be done first to allow for the householders to determine and obtain planning permission if necessary.

I am also pleased to announce that Air Broadband have agreed to provide free broadband to the Village Hall for use by those hiring the Village Hall, with the installation cost of £189.00 being met by the Parish Council.

Alex Schuilenburg

A BIG THANK YOU

With your help we managed to raise £440 for the Power Up! campaign to enable the Power family to put in a downstairs bedroom and wet room for Jack. So a big thank you to those who helped at the coffee morning, who made cakes, grew plants, made preserves, donated raffle prizes and who so generously supported us in any way.

Janet Morris & Di Licence

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

I am reliably informed that March will bring the start of spring and hopefully it may bring some warmer weather. Whatever the weather outside, the inside of school is thankfully always bright and cheerful, with the walls full of interesting and exciting displays, linked to learning. Just like the snowdrop and daffodil bulbs around school that have begun to 'spring' up lots of new work has been shooting up around school too. The calibre of writing, the detail in the artwork and the ingenuity of the link to the topic have definitely made them a talking point when visitors come round.

Another recent talking point has been the wood burning stoves we borrowed from the Local Authority. What started off as a stimulus for a piece of instruction writing for Y3/4/5, grew into a whole school phenomenon, with many of the classes keen to take a turn. On what was one of the coldest days of the year Heron Class braved the elements, collected their sticks and tried to light their fires so they could make hot chocolate. After using nearly a whole box of matches, we decided we were no Bear Grylls. However, after much perseverance (and a lot more matches) the fires were lit, the kettles were boiled and hot chocolate was finally served. After Heron Class shared their wisdom with their peers, the other 6 classes that had a go were naturals!

Always keen to try out new things, our school kiln has never been used so much. With all the amazing clay creations we have seen in recent weeks, we have now begun a new project during enrichment with 3 classes, glass fusing. Don't worry, I had to Google it too! The process involves the children designing a glass tile by overlaying coloured glass, beads etc on the top and then the whole thing being fired in the kiln, which then causes a chemical reaction and voila, at the end of the process, you have a glass tile with the design fused (melted) into it. They really are fantastic!

All of the experiences we offer our children at The Meadow are carefully planned and not just on a whim. The staff are committed to developing life long learners and we want to ignite and keep the passion for learning going well after they have left our school. The displays, the writing, the clay and glass work undertaken in the kiln, the topics and the activities such as learning to light fires, which encompasses, risk assessment, safety, co-operation, perseverance, science and maths (to count all the matches we used) are all done to inspire, promote interest and curiosity and a thirst for learning and broadening knowledge. Sadly this year I feel that this is not what we are being asked to do by the Government anymore. I am deeply concerned that the time given over to things such as the wood stoves, learning about the topic of peace in RE through being outside in our beautiful grounds, or offering regular sessions where every child in the school chooses to listen to a story being read for 30 minutes by an adult in school, purely for pleasure will in time have to stop. There may no longer be time in an already jam packed curriculum for things such as this. Instead we need to work harder on modal verbs, subjunctive verb forms and the use of commas after fronted adverbials – all of which are tested in the Year 6 writing task and spelling, punctuation and grammar test, along with 47 other grammatical terms. Have a look on the DfE website, and see how many points you can score!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

SAVE THE DATE!	MEADOW SCHOOL PTA Quiz ★ NIGHT	11.03.16 BOOKINGS: 01223 894 400	TICKETS £10
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LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

One of the messages that I shared with parents at my first Parent Forum in January was: It takes a village to raise a child. Originating from a traditional African proverb, and since used in many different guises and contexts, I firmly believe in the substance of its message: the whole community around a child influences the child's values, upbringing and maturation.

As a school, we play a significant influence on the lives of children. The ability to make a difference is what motivates teachers and other staff to work at LVC. And yet, in reality, we play a fairly minor role in comparison with the sway and direction that parents, wider family and friends will have on a student's life choices, attitudes and decisions.

I take the community aspect of the school's ethos very seriously, particularly as the Principal of a Village College. I believe that the joint efforts of home, school and the wider community can play a far more significant role together than any of these one elements can individually.

The Friends of Linton Village College is one example of how support and parental involvement can be harnessed to benefit young people and the local community. The Friends of LVC consist of a group of volunteers, mainly parents of current and former students, who organise events to raise additional funds for the school. They not only enrich and enhance students' experience at school but also provide facilities for use by the local community.

The sponsored walk, quiz night and Year 11 ball are among the annual events that they arrange. The Friends raise significant amounts of money to improve the facilities at school and, perhaps more importantly, they create opportunities that bring students and/or villagers together for a shared purpose and celebration.

The Friends of LVC are recruiting for new committee members to support and continue the great work that they do. If you would like to find out more about what's involved and how you could contribute, please come along to a Friends Open Evening at 7pm on Thursday 21 April at the Village College, or contact Steve Kiddy, the Chair of the Friends Committee: friends@lvc.org.

We also have vacancies on our Governing Body. If you are keen to play an active contribution to the life of the school please contact the Clerk to the Governors: tracy.coston@lvc.org.

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 March

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