

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2010

ISSUE 92

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 6 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 8 **Local History Club. Talk by Chloe Cockerill on *Heraldry – it's all around us.* 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 9 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 10 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Withersfield Youth Football Club v Milton Colts.
11.00, West Wickham playing field
12.00 Remembrance Service at RAF Wrattling Common Memorial, Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville
Mon 15 **Gardening Club. Talk by Prof John Parker on the trees of Cambridge Botanic Garden. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 16 Black wheeled bin collection
Fri 19 **Pre-School open morning. 9.30 – 12.30, Village Hall**
Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Evensong. 6pm, Balsham Church
Tue 23 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 27 **Pre-School Christmas Fair. 2 – 4pm, Village Hall**
Sun 28 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Withersfield Youth Football Club v Godmanchester Rovers.
11.00, West Wickham playing field
Tue 30 Black wheeled bin collection
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.

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

WEST WICKHAM PLAYGROUND

Last month I reported that the Parish Council feels that any project to provide new equipment and to raise the necessary funds should be parent led with input from the children – after all it is you who best know what is wanted. The Parish Council is quite willing to help with things like grant applications and will assume responsibility for maintenance of any new equipment. I asked people to contact me if they wanted to get things started so that I could organize a meeting. It is very disappointing that only 1 person has done so. Thank you Katie Keen.

Let me be very blunt. The uprights to the playhouse and the multi-play are rotting and this equipment will need to be replaced in the next couple of years or possibly sooner. The Parish Council will have no choice but to remove them as they become unsafe which will leave very little left. The last generation of parents worked hard to provide the playground for their own and your children. It is now your turn to do the same. So, don't let our children down and let me know if you will help.

Andrew Morris.

T: 290863. Email: ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM

RAF WRATTING COMMON

There will be a Service at 12 noon on Sunday 14 November at the Memorial Stone RAF Wrattling Common. We will be remembering ALL who have lost their lives in the Services and in particular the 260 whose names are inscribed in the Book of Remembrance in West Wickham Church.

Joining the service will be a few Veterans of 195 Squadron, the last unit to see active service (November 1944 to May 1945) at the airfield. One of their last duties was to contribute to 'Operation Manna' in May 1945 when food was dropped to the starving Dutch people.

Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will parade.

The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville and all are very welcome to attend.

Suzanne Langford T.01223 290353.

OPEN MORNING - DAISY CHAIN'S PRE-SCHOOL

Daisy Chain's Pre-School at West Wickham would like to invite prospective parents and children to an open morning on Friday 19th November 10-12pm. We are a friendly community pre-school where your children can have fun as they develop thorough their early years. The Pre-school operates Monday-Friday 9.30-12.30 during term time for 2-4 year olds and has spaces available. This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet the teachers and children and ask any questions. There will be an activity for your children and refreshments will be provided.

For further information contact the Pre-school Leader, Sue Harrow on 07943 866294.

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

Just a reminder that Family Services will continue on the 4th (usually the last) Sunday of the month at 9.30am. If the boards by the church gate say 9.15 that'll be because I forgot to change them!

Christmas is not too far away. As usual we will be looking for readers for the 6pm Carol Service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to read and know you will be around do make sure to tell me early next month (December).

Anyone who had any doubts about the vitality of the church missed a treat on 16 October. In Ely Cathedral the Bishop licensed new lay ministers and re-licensed all the others in the diocese. There is a staggering number altogether, working in all sorts of ways throughout the diocese. It was a beautiful service and fun too!

On 21 November at 6pm in Balsham we are having a sung Evensong. That should be lovely. Do join us if you can. All ages are welcome.

Jane Scheuer, Church Warden

WEST WICKHAM'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

It is that time of the year again! Daisy Chains Pre-School is holding its biggest fundraising event, our Christmas Fair, on Saturday 27 November between 2pm - 4pm in West Wickham's Village Hall. Entrance is 50p for adults and children are free.

Father Christmas is back in his Grotto again this year, presiding over the lucky dip. Other activities for children include: children's craft activity; face painting; chocolate fountain and guess the number of sweets in the jar!

There will also be a number of good quality crafts from the local community with a variety of Christmas gifts; soaps and bath products, homemade cards, preserves, beauty products, and children's character bags, along with Phoenix Trading, Usbourne Books and Forever Living. Delicious homemade refreshments including mince pies will be available along with a cakes stall, raffle and tombola.

So look no further to entertain the children on a cold winter's afternoon and find inspiration for those unique Christmas gift ideas.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Further details about Daisy Chain's Pre-School can be found on: <http://www.daisychains.ik.org>

All Proceeds will Benefit Daisy Chains Pre-School.

Lynsey Hubbard, Committee Secretary, Daisy Chain's Pre-school, West Wickham

THE BOYAN ENSEMBLE OF KIEV

are coming to Balsham.

**"One of the finest male voice ensembles of its time"
"Intense harmony, astonishingly low notes,
utterly glorious singing"**

Holy Trinity Church
Friday 19th November 8pm.

Tickets £15 from Balsham Post Office

or

Marion Bryant 01223 290420

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



The War memorial in the churchyard has the names of fourteen men who died in the First World War and four from the Second. You may also have noticed that there are two military gravestones nearby. One is of 22-year old Albert Mansfield, who was accidentally killed at Warren Heath Camp, Ipswich, in November 1916. The other is of 21 year old Albert Bradnam who died in a military hospital near Manchester from wounds received on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916.

Recently, Tony Beeton, a former resident of Balsham, has passed on some more details about this latter Albert. He and his elder brother, Bennett, enlisted together in Linton and were sent to Cambridge (along with many others from surrounding villages) to join the newly formed 11th Battalion (Cambridgeshire) of the Suffolk Regiment. The Battalion stayed in Cambridge until moving to Ripon for training before leaving for France in January 1916. Sometime during this period, Albert became the batman (servant) to Lieutenant Robert Gilson. Robert was an undergraduate at Cambridge and also just 21 years old when he enlisted in the 11th Suffolks. Originally from Birmingham, he was at school with and a great friend of J R R Tolkien and it is from John Garth's book *Tolkien and the Great War* that much of this information comes. On the 1 July, the 11th Battalion received heavy casualties as they were literally mown down in the advance at Becourt Wood. Robert was killed by a shell and Albert received a severe leg injury which led to his being sent home. He had two amputations on his leg but died on 7 July. Apparently, Robert's parents sent Albert £50 in appreciation of his work for their son without realising that he, too, had died. Tragically, just over a year later Bennett was also killed in action. He is buried in the Jeancourt Communal Cemetery, Aisne.

Now I need your help

Thanks to the work of Ron Pearson we know quite a bit about those men who died in the Second World War and those men and women who served. However, there are still four men on the Memorial from the First World War who have not been identified and we know virtually nothing about those who served. Unlike many villages, there is no roll of honour of service. Of the four men, two - B Brown and W G Page - I'm pretty certain are local. These are names of village families but the surnames are also quite common and without a first name or any other details it has not yet been possible to trace them. The other two - C Bentley and A Steed - are more of a mystery. These are not village names, nor can I find anyone of those names on the 1911 census. They could have simply been working here when they enlisted or perhaps their connection with the village was on their mother's side. Can anyone help? Do you know who these men were? I am trying to put together as much information as possible about those who died and those who served in the First World War. Did you have a relative who left the village to go and fight for their country? If so, I would love to hear from you. Any photographs would be an added bonus (we can quickly scan them for you so you don't lose the original). Please help me recover the story of these men and make sure they are remembered.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street

Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The meeting on 28 September discussed:

Matters arising:

Dog litter bins: Due to a change of policy by South Cambs DC no new bins are allowed, therefore Streetly End cannot have one.

Streetly End Speed Limit: It is hoped that work to make the necessary changes to the Speed Limit will soon be started.

Extra councillors: The request for 2 additional Parish Councillors made to SCDC is going through the necessary process before hopefully being agreed to.

Children's Play area: Following the RoSPA inspection there were one or two medium and low risk items which have now been attended to. Cllr. Morris thanked all those who had helped with distributing the bark in the play area.

Finance: The External Audit had been completed satisfactorily and the necessary notice posted on the noticeboard. The budget is on schedule except money spent on the repairs and refurbishment of the play area had gone over budget.

Linton Neighbourhood Panel meeting: Cllr. Grieve had attended this meeting and reported that the main issue was road safety with another serious fatal accident occurring on the A1307. The "speed" sign had still not been wired up for use. The council then discussed the Common crossroad where another accident had occurred. It was felt that there should be more explicit signage not just a "Give Way" sign. Following on from this Cllr. Morris told council that two sessions of the Speed Watch monitoring had been carried out and cars were slowing down when shown to be speeding. More sessions were planned.

Football lease: The Chairman reported that the terms of the lease had been agreed but not yet signed. There were some issues about unsupervised children being disruptive outside the hall whilst the football club were there and the Chairman is dealing with this. However the games are being well supported.

Report from District Cllr. Barrett:

- a) SCDC are waiting to hear what the government cuts will be for next year, however the community charge will not go up, but there are likely to be cuts made in other ways.
- b) There may be changes to Planning and Licensing with more consultation between parish council and local government.
- c) The Blue bins appear to have been welcomed by users.

Report by County Cllr. Batchelor:

- a) Again cuts are being made and various grants cut by the government with £595,000 less allowed for work on roads and no money for maintenance. The A1307 speed camera by Hildersham turn off has been put on "frozen list".
- b) The Linton Wind Farm appeal has come to a halt but it is unlikely that the Wind Farm will go ahead as NATS were totally against it for safety reasons. Wadlow Wind Farm will start being built in 18 months time.

The draft Minutes are posted on the Noticeboard and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd November. All are welcome.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076

NATURE NOTES

Stragglers

A few days ago I saw what will probably be the last Swallow of the year in West Wickham, about to embark, presumably on its long journey to South Africa. Let's hope the journey is a successful one. I also spotted a Red Admiral butterfly enjoying some pleasant October sunshine. Most of these butterflies migrate to the Mediterranean for the winter, often flying through the night, although apparently some do overwinter in the far south of England. Even the wasps' nests, which have been in my garden for most of the summer were still fairly busy up to a few days ago. The natural world is therefore fully occupied either moving to warmer climes or taking advantage of the autumn glut.

In fact Di Licence has written about how much we can appreciate Autumns plentiful treasures at this time of year – *"the magnificent berries in the hedgerows, particularly on the Roman Road where there is a tremendous variety, including the usual juicy blackberries and the rich reds of rosehips and haws, the tiny black shiny fruits of the purging buckthorn and the marble-sized sloes. These lovely shiny berries often appear multi coloured, ranging from grey to purple due to the "bloom" on them. They are very bitter, but when mixed with gin and sugar, make a famous winter drink. There were strings of shiny red beads of the white bryony, slung across the hedges and (my favourite) berries of the spindle tree, bright shocking pink fleshy cases, which burst open to reveal bright orange seeds (a rather strange colour combination). Walking home we found a yew tree covered in fat fleshy berries, and everyone's favourite, the holly. Quite a colour show – all for free."*

Di also let me know about some of the insects she disturbed while clearing her runner beans – ladybirds, shield bugs and more red admirals, as well as a bright green bush cricket on her window sill and a humming bird hawk moth on the lavender.

Of course to some species, our winters are comparatively warm and we always seem to play host for a few weeks at least to the golden plover, which, Di tells me, have already made their appearance, so listen out for their piping calls as they huddle in a group in the middle of fields. There has also been a minor incursion of mistle thrushes – seen fighting over the whitebeam berries on the Croft. Di asks where do they go in the summer? Any ideas?

Returning to the subject of butterflies, the results of the butterfly/moth count from July have been published

The top ten for the east of England were:

1.Large White 2.Small White 3.Gatekeeper 4.Meadow Brown 5. 6 Spot Burnet 6.Common Blue 7.Silver Y 9.Red Admiral 9.Peacock 10.Comma.

Interestingly, for the country as a whole, the Gatekeeper topped the list and the eastern region was the only one to have moths (Spot Burnet and Silver Y) in the top ten – the Green-veined White and the Small Tortoiseshell featured instead in the other regions. My brassicas certainly bear witness to the prevalence of the large and small whites in East Anglia

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Last weekend we said goodbye to our 3 visitors from Boepathutse Secondary School, as they flew back to Johannesburg from Heathrow. Hosting our visitors was very enjoyable, but rather tiring. They brought with them all kinds of paraphernalia from the World Cup: mugs, a football and vuvuzelas. The World Cup, Sarah Seroka, the Principal, explained had been so much more to the children at our link school than a football tournament. It had been about the pride of the rainbow nation, about opening fully to the world after the dark years of apartheid and about demonstrating that South Africa could manage the organisation of such a huge international event. The children of the school had all waited with baited breath for the appearance of their great hero, Nelson Mandela, at any of the stadiums and were beside themselves with happiness when he appeared, briefly, at the final. The township, we were told, partied all summer long.

During their visit, our guests learned all about the very many uses to which we now put ICT in the school and we provided them with lots of resources to use with their own computers. Our next fund-raising project will focus on raising enough money to provide some of the Boepathutse teachers with laptops, so that they can improve their own skills. Our target amount to raise is £3K. In July, four teachers and 16 students will go out to Boepathutse. Apart from laptops for the teachers, and some wall clocks to help teachers to time the parts of their lessons, we will be taking the sports leadership initiative with us. The idea is that our own young sports leaders train the students in South Africa in the skills of sports leadership and that they, in turn, pass those skills down to the years that follow. We hope to hold a sports festival at the end of the visit to showcase all that we have done.

We are going to channel our fundraising into two particular projects: a Christmas Fayre for the local people and a whole school link walk in the summer. We will set up a 'Just Giving' site for donations and very much hope that we can get the whole community behind this project in 2010/11.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

DAISY CHAIN'S PRE-SCHOOL BINGO NIGHT

The Pre-School Committee and Staff would like to say a huge thank you for everyone who either attended or contributed, or both in many cases, to our Bingo night!! It was a huge success and we managed to raise a lot of money for the Pre-School. As you know, we rely hugely on fundraising in order to sustain the running of our Pre-School and so we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support!

We will definitely be looking at the calendar for 2011 to see when we can organise our next one!!

Thanks Again

Caroline Newey, Chairperson, Daisy Chain's Pre-School.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The club held their first meeting of the new season on 18th October with a talk by Peter Walker on " Fascinating Fungi" a very appropriate subject for this time of year. Not only did we learn which Fungi not to eat under any circumstances, we also saw just how beautiful they can be. A whole range of different organisms were shown to us, including Stinkhorns and Slime Fungus, and beneficial mycorrhizal fungi . The meeting was well attended by members from various villages around West Wickham. Our next talk on November 15th will be on the trees in Cambridge Botanic Gardens by Professor John Parker and we welcome visitors to what promises to be a very interesting evening. For more information telephone 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have only just returned back to Brownies this term as I had some important duties to carry out with my 'other' Guiding hat on.

We said goodbye to Daisy but hello to Alannah, Anastasia, Milly and Lily bringing our number up to 22 Brownies plus we should have another 8 join us in January.

During the summer holidays Jessica, Kaycie, Frayr, Sirena, Rebecca and Maisie visited our Centenary Camp at Quy, along with Christine and Pat, as I was already there with Brinkley Guides. They took part in various activities with the Guides from face-painting to Spider Mountain , bubbles wands to push-carts, and peddling a bicycle to make a smoothie. They came and had lunch on my sub-camp where they had the opportunity to see where the Guides were living for the week and ask them questions so that they could finish the 'Day Visitor Challenge'. They all had a great time and I think they may all join Guides when they are old enough so that they can experience it all for themselves.

Our finale Centenary celebration took place on Wednesday 20th October in Ely Cathedral but only a few Brownies wanted to attend this so we will be holding our own 'finale' on Wednesday 3rd November.

We will soon start our rehearsals for our Over 60's Luncheon which is happening on Sunday 5th December. Invitations will be coming out in November so don't forget to check your letter boxes and reply by the date.

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, your Brownie Leader T: 01223 891086

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 November

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