

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

OCTOBER 2010

ISSUE 91

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 **FARMER'S MARKET. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.30, St. Mary's Church
Withersfield Youth Football Club v
Fulbourn Falcons
11.00, West Wickham playing field
- Tue 5 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 6 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.30, St. Mary's Church
- Mon 11 **Local History Club. Talk on Churches &**
Chapels since the Reformation by Tony
Kirby. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Tue 12 **Blue & Green wheeled bin collection**
- Sat 16 **Craft Fair. 10.30 – 4pm, Meadow School,**
Balsham.
Barn Dance. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See ad
on page 2
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.30, St. Mary's Church
Withersfield Youth Football Club v
St Ives Rangers
11.00, West Wickham playing field
Craft Fair. 10.30 – 4pm, Meadow School,
Balsham
- Mon 18 **Gardening Club. Talk on *Fascinating***
***Fungi* by Peter Walker. 7.30pm, Village**
Hall
- Tue 19 Black wheeled bin collection
Money Workshop. 7pm, Village Hall. See
page 2 for details
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 22 **VILLAGE HALL AGM (postponed from**
September). 8pm, Village Hall. Your
opportunity to have a say in the running
of this great village asset
- Sat 23 **EVENING OF FUN at the Black Bull,**
Balsham. See article on "Climb &
punishment" on page 2 for details
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St. Mary's Church
- Tue 26 **Blue & Green wheeled bin collection**
Money Workshop. 7pm, Village Hall. See
page 2 for details
- Sun 31 4 parishes service. See church noticeboard
for details
Withersfield Youth Football Club v
Arbury Aces.
11.00, West Wickham playing field
The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday
9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire for sports & offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables @ £4.00 per hour.

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

VILLAGE FETE

The fete and car boot this year made an amazing £2,258.72. A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped on the day and those who donated so generously for this event. This money is all profit as there were no expenses incurred. It was also a good opportunity for us all to have a get together, the church and churchyard in West Wickham is a very beautiful and peaceful place for all of us to enjoy whatever our beliefs, this money goes directly to the upkeep of the building and the grounds. If anyone has any suggestions on how we can make this event more successful please email nicky.cornish@live.com

Nicky Cornish

PLAYGROUND NEWS

A big THANK YOU to everyone who turned up to help move the new ecobark to the playground bark pits - Patrick Charlton, Mark Cooper, Paul Donart, Sue Harrow, Sam Kiddy, Kevin Newey, Justin & Deborah Plumb, Jane Scheuer, Helen Schuilenburg & Nadine Warner (I hope I haven't left anyone out!) and also to lots of youngsters for their valuable contribution. I would also like to thank all the other people who volunteered but couldn't make it on the day. There is still some edging to the bark pits to repair and one of the swings needs longer chains but otherwise the project to repair the playground is now finished. We now have 2 new swings, and 2 new "springys" thanks to Tom Licence. This programme of repairs has bought us some time. RoSPA have recently inspected and approved the playground but have noted what we already knew, that 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. As has been mentioned before, the Parish Council feels that a project to provide new equipment and to raise the necessary funds should be parent led, with a lot of input on what is wanted coming from the children of the village. I hope that you will rise to the challenge. Please contact me if you are willing to help and I will organise a meeting to get things started

Andrew Morris. T: 290863.

Email: ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM

CHRISTMAS FAIRS

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR, at Linton Village College on Saturday 6th November. With a lot of searching I have put together over 30 stalls. No duplication of jewellery or anything else so it will be a totally refreshing and unique fair for everyone. The Friends at the College are joining in with a Father Christmas Grotto and Cakes and Refreshments. The event starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm.

Jan Lupton

WEST WICKHAM DAISY CHAIN'S PRESCHOOL. We will be holding our Christmas Fair at West Wickham Village Hall on the 27th November 2010. Please contact Lynsey Hubbard on 01223 290172 if you are interested in reserving a stall for this event or for further details.

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

Those of us who went to our first Evensong in many years are very glad that it had been requested. It was so much enjoyed that we are thinking of having another in February – why wait till next summer! Possibly with singing too!

Communion Services will change to an earlier time in November. Clergy need travelling time to get around safely and happily. Our service will start at 9.15m. However, mercifully the Family Service will continue to start at 9.30 and be finished before 10.15.

Jane Scheuer. Church Warden.

PETER AND RUTH LLOYD TRUST

The above Trust was established in 2008 in memory of Peter and Ruth Lloyd who both met and served at the wartime airfield of RAF Wrattling Common. Due to their love of the Wrattling Common area and the many friends that they made over the years, their surviving children decided to set up the Trust to aid young people going to University for the first time. Students from the parishes of Carlton cum Willingham, Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, **West Wickham**, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and Withersfield are eligible to apply for consideration.

The Trust has now made its second award of £800 to Laura Bass of West Wickham who will be reading Sport and Coaching Science at Birmingham University

Applications are now open for the 2010/2011 academic year. Full details and Application Forms may be obtained from peterandruthlloydtrust@fsmail.net.

MONEY WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 19th & 26th AT 7:00PM
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Would you like a better understanding about money and acquire some life skills in how to manage it? A two session workshop is being offered (free) aimed at all ages and assumes no prior knowledge. It seeks to inform and provide awareness of the choices open to us. It is amazing what can be achieved with modest and secure savings.

This session is provided by myself, there are no financial products sold, no advice is given. These sessions will be interactive and use some smart money management tools/calculators. My objective is enlighten you as to what can be achieved and how, whether you are a student or a working adult.

86% of those aged 18-24 have not received any understanding about how to manage money at school as confirmed in a YouGov survey I commissioned involving 2,250 people.

If you are interested to know more and see some of what will be covered visit www.managemoney4life.com

Wanting to attend? Either just turn up or call me
Andrew McWilliam on 891247 or e-mail
contact@managemoney4life.com

CLIMB AND PUNISHMENT!!

So...with the upbringing I have had, and the parts of the world I have explored, it is safe to say that a sense of adventure is in my blood, coupled with a love of the great outdoors. It was no surprise then, when during one of our not uncommon visits to the Black Bull in Balsham, my best friend, Martin and I, whilst throwing mad suggestions around, threw Kilimanjaro into the mix! Soon after it turned from a passing fancy into a more serious investigation. During early discussions, Megan and Louise who both work at the pub began to show some interest and were soon hooked on the idea!

We decided to climb it for charity, and after some discussion, chose the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Addenbrookes. The girls chose the NSPCC. We paid a visit to the PICU to look round and further understand what exactly we would be raising funds for. In our case, some units nicknamed 'trams' which monitor carbon dioxide levels via a skin sensor, thus alleviating the need for an extra nurse to take a blood sample and take it away for analysis.

Happy with our chosen charity we booked our trip. Next July is the big event, 10 days of climbing to reach the summit, at 5893m, the highest free standing Mountain in the world. With that in mind, we began a training regime...of sorts! Trips to Scotland, Wales and the Lakes have been planned, and started, as well as (fairly) regular cycling and other fitness we can manage!

As well as improving our fitness, we are looking to raise £20,000 between the four of us, to be split between our two charities. The first event we are holding to help us with this, is where it all began, in The Black Bull in Balsham. Saturday 23rd October we are offering an evening of fun... with Vic and the Vagues along with Emma Rice performing. Drinks on arrival and canapés throughout the evening as well as a charity auction, a fun evening out for all. £10 tickets available from the pub, or from Martin or myself.

If you wish to contribute to our cause, we have a 'justgiving' site set up online. For those less technically minded of you, cheques are welcome and we have money boxes located at the pub and Balsham post office.

If you have any further interest in either of our charities, we would be more than happy for you to contact us. Otherwise we hope to see you on the 23rd...

Tom Licence (tom.licence@gmail.com)

For PICU, visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Martin-and-Toms-climb-and-punishment>

For NSPCC, visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/louiseandmeganclimbandpunishment>

Weston Colville Cricket Club

present a

BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

7:30 – 11:30pm

MUSIC BY THE
BERT SANTILLY BUNGALOW BOOGALOO BAND

£10 – includes hot supper

For tickets call Bridget on 01223 290082

CONSERVATION AREAS

The definition of a Conservation Area is an “area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.

Conservation Areas may be small or large, can vary in appearance and have different characteristics.

The special character of these areas does not come solely from the quality of the buildings, although Conservation Areas are often centred around listed buildings as these are generally sited in the historic core of settlements, the historic layout of roads, paths, boundaries, public and private spaces such as gardens, parks and greens, trees and other features including archaeological sites and scheduled ancient monuments may also be incorporated. Important views can be included where they contribute to the special character and distinctiveness of the area.

The meanings and value that buildings and features have for local residents are important, however when areas are assessed for designation by Local Authorities the special qualities of the area are judged against both local and regional criteria.

The Conservation Areas in West Wickham

The District Council is responsible for the designation of Conservation Areas and this is normally carried out with the support of both the Parish Council and local residents. The District Council is also required to prepare character appraisals and management proposals for its Conservation Areas and to periodically review their boundaries, however

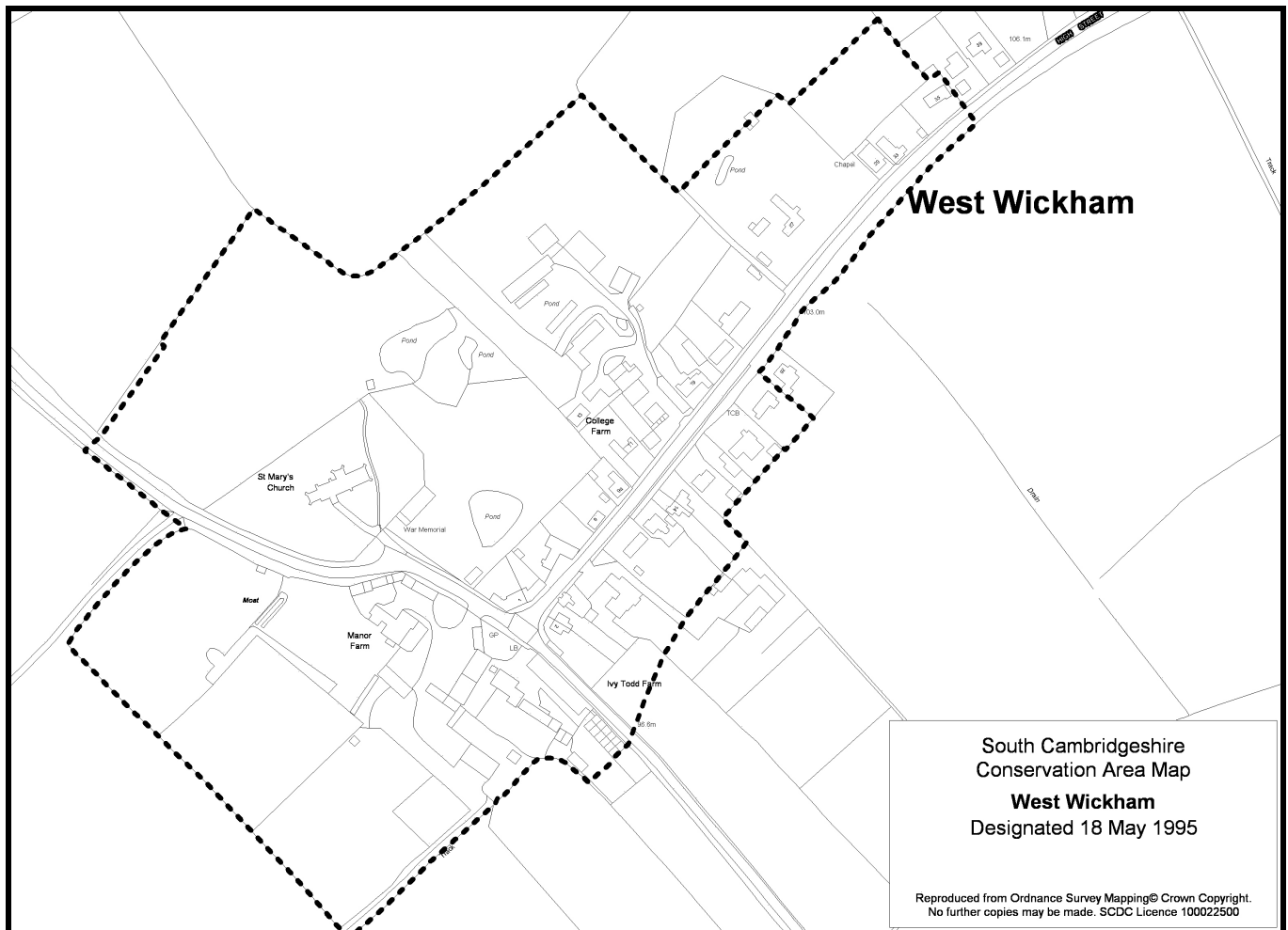
with over 80 Conservation Areas in the District the priority for Conservation Area Appraisals has been centred on those Parishes where the threat of major development is most imminent.

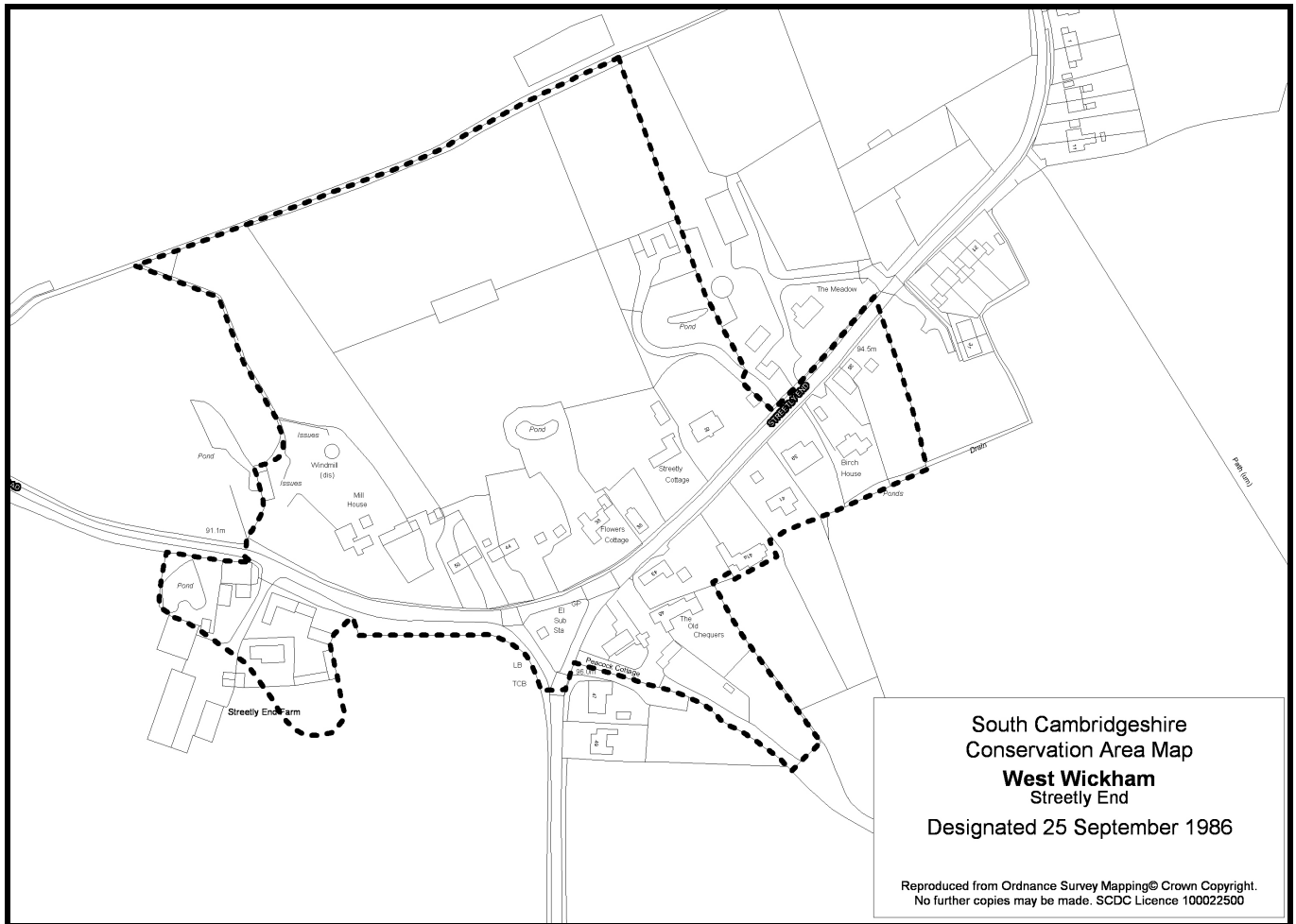
West Wickham has two Conservation Areas, the first to be designated, in September 1986 was that at Streetly End which received the full support of both the Parish Council and local residents although at the time the Parish Council were seeking to include a larger area on land adjoining the settlement than was eventually designated.

In 1994 an approach was received from the Parish Council to designate a further Conservation Area within the Parish, subsequently a boundary for two areas was drawn up for discussion. The first area was centred on Manor Farm and the High Street with a second smaller area proposed at Burton End. Following a Parish Council consultation with residents those in the High Street were keen for the area to be designated whilst those at Burton End rejected the proposal. The boundary for the High Street Conservation Area was approved in May 1995.

The designation of a Conservation Area brings with it extra **controls** over demolition, minor developments and the protection of trees but it does not prevent **new development**. Instead it enables the Council to influence change and ensure that new proposals fit in with the distinctive character of the area.

Decisions on planning applications take into account the Conservation policies set out in the Local Development





Framework and Supplementary Planning Documents, including “Development affecting Conservation Areas” and the District Design Guide. New design should pay special attention to matters such as height, bulk, detailing and the use of good quality materials. Generally new development is built in a traditional form, however innovative modern designs where they complement the Conservation Area can offer an alternative approach.

Some **alterations** to residential buildings in Conservation areas will require planning permission. These controls may cover the siting of satellite dish antenna, dormer windows, flues/chimneys, the use of external cladding and the construction of some outbuildings. Further information is available on the Planning Portal at www.planningportal.gov.uk or from the Council’s Area Planning Team East.

All **trees** including fruit trees over a certain size (with a trunk diameter over 75mm when measured at 1.5m from ground level) are given protection by Conservation Area status. This brings similar controls on trees works to those given to trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders. Works to carry out topping, lopping and felling of trees require consent from the District Council.

The total **demolition** of unlisted buildings and structures within a Conservation Areas requires Conservation Area Consent from the Council. Partial demolition of residential buildings is currently exempt as is the demolition of some small buildings and low walls.

The need for **Listed Building Consent** for alterations and demolition work to Listed Buildings (and buildings and structures within their curtilage) remains the same when a

property becomes included within a Conservation Area

The District Council supports the conservation of historic buildings through timely and sympathetic maintenance and repair. In addition some properties also give opportunities for enhancement. The Council may award **grants** towards the repair of historic buildings, to help offset the cost of using traditional materials or employing a higher standard of craftsmanship when carrying out specialist repairs. The grants are discretionary and are subject to the availability of Council budgets. Eligibility does not confer an automatic right to receive grant aid.

Further advice and guidance is available by accessing the District Council’s website www.scambs.gov.uk or contacting the Conservation and Design Section by email at conservation@scambs.gov.uk. Alternatively, please write to us:

The Conservation and Design Section
 Planning and New Communities
 South Cambridgeshire District Council
 South Cambridgeshire Hall
 Cambourne Business Park
 Cambourne
 Cambridge
 CB23 6EA

Tel 03450 450 500

(Ed. We are very grateful to Shona Smith of the Conservation and Design Section of South Cambridgeshire District Council for providing this article)

A CALL TO ARMS

West Wrattling W.I. was formed in 1923 and we hope to celebrate our 90th Anniversary in 2013. However, for various reasons, our membership has fallen to levels that may make it difficult to continue next year. We all live busy lives nowadays and there are many demands on our time but I still think there is a place for the Women's Institute. To quote from this year's W.I. Diary "The ideals of the Women's Institute of truth, justice, tolerance, and fellowship are as strong and important now in the 21st century as they were at the birth of the W.I. in 1915. The WI is the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. It exists to educate women to enable them to provide an effective role in the community, to expand their horizons and to develop and pass on important skills."

When we moved to West Wrattling in 1990, I and my mother found it an excellent way to get to know other ladies in the village over a cup of tea and biscuits, combined with entertaining and/or informative talks and demonstrations. It also gave us the chance to visit places and take part in events that we would otherwise not have had the chance to do. This is still the case, whether on a local, county or national level. One also gets the chance to influence government policy on matters that affect many of us through our Resolutions. As evidenced by the appearance of senior W.I. officials on the national news, the W.I. is still relevant to today's Society. It is an organisation for all age groups.

We have helped out with and supported various village activities over the years but our main regular event is the Over 60s Christmas Lunch. This is funded to a great extent by our other regular events, our bi-annual cake, plant and book stall. It would be very sad if we were unable to continue to do this. Another highlight of our year is the June Garden meeting with wine tasting to which husband and partners are invited.

The more members we have the better speakers we can book and the more frequent and interesting outings we can arrange.

You don't have to live in West Wrattling – we are pleased to welcome members from other villages.

For further information please contact me, Linda Gorman on 290653 (evenings) or Gill Holah on 290378 or Di Licence (West Wickham) on 290434

HORSEHEATH 60's/70's REUNION

We are organising a disco/get together at Horseheath Village Hall on Saturday 27th November from 8pm until 12.

Tickets £10.00 to include food.

60's Disco

Bar

We are hoping to make a bit of profit to donate to the Village Hall as most of you will have attended the village hall when it was a school. Please phone or email Sue Orwell (Ruse) or Di Licence (Suckling) for further details.

01223 894977 (Sue)

01223 290434 (Di)

susieorwell@googlemail.com

di.licence@googlemail.com

NATURE NOTES – SHOULD I EAT IT?

It being the time of year for harvesting mushrooms, and having had the courage to do so for once, I thought we should give a mention to the fungus kingdom – so far neglected in this column. It comes in many forms and performs an essential role in the cycle of life as, along with the armies of bacteria and invertebrates, it assists in the process of decomposition. Unfortunately I am no expert on fungi (hence the need for courage when harvesting the mushrooms) but would like to know more about them – particularly those which grow in the local area. (Ed. If you're interested in fungi why not come along to the next Gardening Club meeting (see Diary page) and find out more? Visitors are always welcome (£1 inc refreshments). In the hedgerow behind us there were some fine looking specimens of what I took to be parasol mushrooms. They are supposed to be edible but I decided to play safe with these. A question I would like answered is: why have some fungi evolved to be delicious to eat, while others are deadly poisonous? Incidentally, even the delicious ones can be deadly. It was reported last month that 18 Italians were killed in accidents in mountainous terrain while searching for the much-coveted mushrooms of the local area.

Another part of the natural world that I have neglected is the amphibians. Andrew Morris reported watching a stand-off between a robin and a frog, which the frog won (what was that all about?), while Perry Morley and Nicolette Flook contacted me to say that they have had a mini-invasion of toads over the last few weeks – most of which appear in the late evenings near their back wall. They have apparently had to be rescued from their dogs on a number of occasions, although of course toads do have a poisonous secretion in their skin, which helps to protect them from possible predators. Toads do hibernate, so I expect they have been on the look-out for slugs and snails both of which have been more active in recent weeks since the dry summer gave way to moister conditions. In preparing a hard standing for the new recycling bins, my neighbour Brian Upton lifted a slab and revealed two beautiful orange-bellied newts, which were carefully removed to a place in the garden where they will hopefully find some equally suitable accommodation. These creatures have been around for so much longer than us mammals – it seems a shame when we disturb their living arrangements.

Di Licence has also sent me a piece about the autumnal activities in her garden – "*blackbirds appearing in the mountain ash and gorging on the red fruits; bullfinches sitting on the honeysuckle and plucking off the red berries, rolling them around in their beaks to extract the seed, then wiping their beaks on the stem to remove the flesh; the fat bodied orb-web spiders spinning in the blackberry bushes to catch unsuspecting flies; three hornets in the fig tree eating the ripe fruit and the grey squirrel in the walnut tree*". It all sounds such a pleasant scene. Peter Pearson's description of three kestrels – seen from his back window, all hovering in unison also sounds like a wonderful spectacle. Nature is certainly still hard at work.

Thank you to farmers. As a postscript, Perry and Nicolette asked me to pass on their gratitude to farmers who maintain footpaths and field boundaries, thus preserving habitats for birds, insects and small mammals and making walking around West Wickham such a pleasure.

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

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

It's typical isn't it! It rained throughout the summer holiday and as soon as there was the prospect of a new school term beginning again the clouds parted and the sun came out. I do feel very sorry for the young people. Many returned from their vacation with tales of being stuck indoors for much of the time and then, when they did get away for a spell at the seaside, their tents practically blew away with the rain and wind. Many looked quite pleased to be back when school started again this morning.

They returned to school to be greeted with our good news: the College got the best exam results in its history with 99% of our students gaining 5 passes and 90% gaining 5 or more A* - C grades. A number of students also gained good grades in the A/S levels they had taken a year early. It is with great pleasure that I reflect back on how these results have continued to improve. At the end of my first year at the school the A*- C stood at a worthy 76% and, at the time, we considered it a steep challenge to break the 80% ceiling. Four years on and we've added a 14% improvement to those results. The improvement has not come about because the students are any brighter year on year, but I do think we now offer a really good range of courses and our staff work exceptionally hard to make sure that individuals do achieve. This involves endless mentoring, chasing, encouraging and, actually, toughness. We just don't give up.

By the time you receive this we will just have said goodbye to some important visitors. Sarah Seroka, the Principal of our link school in Soshanguve Township, South Africa is visiting us with her daughter Phetile and fellow educator Dorothy Mkhabele. This visit precedes a trip back to South Africa for our Year 11 students in July. This time we are taking 15 young sports leaders to the Township to coach their young South African counterparts and to introduce the sports leadership programme to their school. When I last visited our link school I was conscious of how keen the students were to learn new sporting skills and how frustrated the students were that their PE teacher had been on maternity leave for a year. No maternity leave cover had been provided for the duration, so PE teaching had disappeared from the curriculum.

If we can develop young sports leaders at Boepathutse, then the students can coach and teach each other if such a situation arises again. The Linton Village College students can't wait to take up that challenge.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

21ST ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October 2010

10.30am – 4pm each day

The Meadow Primary School, High Street, Balsham

**£1 adults, 50p children and senior citizens
children under 5 free**

This is a school fund-raising event organised by the PTA. With over 40 stallholders of top quality crafts, face painting, amazing tombola prizes. Homemade refreshments available all day long.

Lots of Christmas gift ideas. Ample free parking. Don't miss it! For more details contact Claire 01440 783342.

MEADOW MATTERS

News From The Meadow Primary School

Another year has started, here at The Meadow School. The summer holidays passed in a flash as usual – and rainy, as usual! As of writing this, we are now 2 weeks into the term and everybody seems to have settled in well – even the little Reception children – with 284 children on roll.

Topics for this term are: Life on the Ocean Way for the younger children; Earthquakes and Volcanoes for Years 3 and 4; and Ancient Greeks for Years 6 and 6. All classes have held activity days based on their topics and the school has seen pirates, Greeks and children with sleeping bags and torches holding a 'disaster day'. These all proved good starting points for the projects and the children seemed to enjoy themselves and learn at the same time – I'm sure school is a lot more fun than it used to be in my time.

Over the summer holidays, the library area has been revamped and is now very near to completion. The library has been extended and closed in, the kitchen has been extended with new cupboards and work areas and a new art area has been included. It's looking really good and the children will benefit greatly from it.

Help required – do you have any craft or art that you could teach children? One afternoon a week, all children take part in an enrichment afternoon where they take part in activities away from the curriculum, ie dance, gardening, cooking. If you would be interested in volunteering some time, please contact the school office for more information. All volunteers will have to undergo a CRB/List 99 police check.

Linda Wain

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

As a regular walker, sometimes with my grandchildren and a pushchair, I would like to thank all who really do clear up after their dogs. It makes such a difference not having to deal with the unpleasantness of cleaning dog poo out of sandals or off the wheels of a pushchair. Dog turds really are much more unpleasant smelling than rabbit droppings or even horse muck and they seem more adhesive. So thank you all who care and take the trouble to clear away their dog's mess.

Jane Scheuer

HOWEVER...

Who are these people who bother to clear up after their dog but then leave a plastic bag tied to a tree or bush or throw it into a hedge or ditch? The Law accepts that placing the resulting 'package' in a specified dog litter bin (there are none in the village at present) or a 'receptacle for the disposal of waste' (ie your black bin) is the appropriate action. So, thank you for clearing up after your dog but please take this home and dispose of properly, not leave an unsavoury eyesore (which will not rot away) for someone else to deal with.

Janet Morris

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 October

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