

FROM THE VICARAGE

I write this having just shared a joint service with Rosemary Mead, our soon-to-be-licensed Authorised Lay Minister (she is to be authorised to work pastorally and especially with families in the 7 Churches). She lives in the Abingtons and has already done some exciting work with children in an After School Club at Great Abington Primary School. In addition to this, she has been part of a group of people across all 7 churches working with children. Last year this group organised the various Operation Christmas Child 'What's in a box' and 'Big Bang' services. We are thankful for the work that Jane Scheuer does at West Wickham with the Family services in her role as Church Warden. The nurture of families in our midst is an important aspect of our church.

On the 11th September Kathy Bishop will be licensed as an Associate Priest to these 7 Churches. This will be Kathy's first post after being curate in the Raddesley Group. Kathy and her husband Michael live at Linton. She will also be working as a chaplain at Arthur Rank Hospice alongside what she does with us and has already dipped into our parishes by leading a Midnight Communion last Christmas Eve at West Wrating, helping us at Morning Prayers at Hildersham and taking a baptism during August in Balsham. On the 11th we look forward to welcoming Kathy first at the 8am Said Communion at Hildersham which replaces the Ride. She will then come with me to share the 9.15am Harvest service at Weston Colville also shared with Steven Wheeler and the 10.45am service of Communion at West Wrating. She will come to St Mary's West Wickham soon afterwards.

Our expanding ministry group meets on Monday mornings to pray for the parishes and to plan what we do. From this shared engagement some great initiatives have emerged. Keith's links with the Middle East were the beginning of the idea which has resulted in Canon Andrew White coming to Great Abington to preach on 25th September at 10.45am. There will be an invitation at this service for us to support his work in Baghdad. He is chaplain to a large church, director of a medical and dental clinic and fully involved in conflict mediation. His charity is called 'The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East.' In addition, there are discussions talking place on Andrews's book, 7th September, 7.30pm at St Marys, West Wickham; 14th September, 7.30 at St Mary's Little Abington; 12th October, 7.30pm at Weston Colville Reading Room; 19th October 7.30pm Balsham Church Institute. Everyone is welcome.

The coming weeks are full of marriages and baptisms. There is a Confirmation class that begins on 24th September at 10am and will meet for the first time at Balsham Church Office. If you are interested email me, even if you cannot make this meeting (julienorris1323@aol.com.) There is also the Harvest Festival Family and Pet service on 23rd October at 9.30am.

On the Fifth Sunday, 30th October there will be a United, Shared Service at 10.45am at St Mary's when all 7 Churches will join together for a celebration.

There are so many people involved in the life of these churches who are making a worthwhile and valued contribution. Life is very full. I am so glad to be sharing my work with clergy, ministers and Lay people because there is something enriching about working together.

Rev Julie Norris

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

It has been a difficult growing year, with the long dry spell in the spring and a cool summer. Despite this the number of exhibits were up on last year's show and it was particularly pleasing to see an increase in the number of children's entries and flower arrangements. By the time the judges arrived, an excellent display filled the Village Hall. The children's exhibits all deserved prizes and made the task of deciding the winners an extremely hard (and unenviable) one! The quality of the vegetables was very high and it was so encouraging to see so many beans, carrots, tomatoes etc and some magnificent baskets brim full of vegetables. The colourful display of flowers was especially pleasing. The exhibits of jams, focaccia loaves and lemon drizzle cakes etc made my mouth water and certainly impressed the Judge. Well done, everyone who entered should be proud of their effort. It was also great to find that there were several new cup winners.

The cup & trophy winners were:

The Children's Trophy: Amy Condron

The West Wrating Cup for Vegetables & Fruit: jointly won by Sam Agnew & Simon Blackwell

The White Horse Trophy for Flowers & Pot Plants: Jane Scheuer

The West Wickham Rose Bowl for Flower Arranging: Hilary Thomas

The Stan & Hilda Cox Cup for Domestic classes: Sue Kiddy

The Ralph Westwood-Bate Photography Cup: Rosemary Yallop

The Bill Pearson Cup for the most points won in show was won by Rosemary Yallop with Sue Kiddy and Sam Agnew runners up.

The RHS Banksian Medal was won by Sam Agnew.

I enjoyed it, I know those who attended were impressed by what they saw, those of you who were not able to come missed a great display, so don't miss out on next year's show.

Andrew Morris, Show Organiser

Autumn 2011 Programme

Monday 12th September. Annual General Meeting

Monday 17th October. Bee keeping and the Gardener.
Talk by Stephen Poyser

Monday 21st November. Fruit trees and soft fruit.
Talk by Peter Jackson

Monday 19th December. Mazes. Talk by Jim Potter

All meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

Further details from: Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262

MISSING FROM STREETLY END

A Hermans tortoise 24 years old & sadly missed. Please check your back gardens and dog walkers keep your eyes open. There is a reward for his safe return

Thanks "the Camerons" T: 01223 894362

AN INVITATION FROM THE BALSHAM SINGERS

If you have enjoyed singing in the past come and renew or continue your interest by joining our 50 strong Singers. We have 12 tenors and basses and would like more. We rehearse on THURSDAYS 7.30 in the Meadow School, starting on SEPTEMBER 15th.

Our CHRISTMAS CONCERT is on DECEMBER 17th with a varied, challenging and enjoyable programme. Any questions or for further details please contact Marion Bryant on 01223290420 or rodbry@aol.com

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We return for the start of a new year of Brownies on Wednesday 14 September, same place, same time.

Michelle has joined us from Balsham Rainbows and we will be enrolling her and Jessica, who started just before the end of last term, into the pack during the term. Whilst the weather is still fine we will be exploring the local countryside in the hopes of completing our Wildlife Explorer badge – so if you see a bunch of Brownies lying on the grass watching it, don't worry we are just looking for insects.

After half-term we will be holding a Halloween Party and getting organised for our Over 60's Christmas Luncheon in December.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those you donated their Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers to the Brownies. They have all been spent wisely and we are now just awaiting delivery of goods.

If you have any skills you would like to pass onto the next generation please get in touch. We are always looking for new and interesting things to do.

Pauline AKA Barney. T: 01223 891096

WEST WRATTING W.I.

Although we did not have as big an audience as hoped for at our August meeting, those of us who did attend were treated to a fascinating illustrated talk about how the wonderful Middle Eastern tribal carpets are made, with explanations of the different styles and patterns. Our speaker brought a huge array of examples with her as well as some of the tools that the women use to make them.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 27 September at 7.30 pm with a talk entitled The Woman Who Saved the Children given by Clare Mulley. The competition is a menu for a Save the Children Dinner Party.

The title of our October meeting, on Tuesday 25 October, is Adventure to Spitsbergen by Steve Licence. Once again this is an open meeting, so we invite members' friends, partners and others to join us in return for a small donation. The competition is Ice and Snow – a photograph taken by yourself."

We welcome new members from any surrounding villages who do not have a WI of their own. For further information please contact me or Gill Holah on 290378.

Linda Gorman. T: 290653

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

I'm always amazed when I hear people say that this is not a friendly village and that they don't know anyone. Apart from a smile and hello, which I've found always works wonders, the best way to get to know your neighbours and to make friends is to join something. There are several organisations mentioned in this *Village Voice* who would welcome you with open arms! One of these is the Local History Club and what better way to find out about the area in which you live. We start our new programme of talks on **Monday 10 October** when Jennifer Hirsh will talk about the history of the Abingtons through their amazing historic maps – *Abington – 400 years on the map*.

All our meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Village Hall, so why not come along and join us.

Further details from me, Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Looking for an evening out with a friendly bunch of people and some light exercise thrown in? Then why not come along and try carpet bowls. Regular weekly meetings consist of not-too-serious competition (the winning team get a chocolate each!) with half-time refreshments. We play friendly matches, both home and away, against clubs from the surrounding area and there are opportunities to take part in charity tournaments if you should wish. Current members come from Balsham, Horseheath and Haverhill, as well as West Wickham and we welcome everyone, of any age and ability. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Village Hall. Just come along or for further details contact the Secretary, Janet Morris, T 290863 or the Captain, Eric Ellam, T 290357.



night

Lots of Great Prizes including cash prizes

**West Wickham
Village Hall**

Friday 23rd Sept 8pm

Bar & Raffle

Tickets £2 - includes one free game



All proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham

Tickets available from The Chestnut Tree Pub West Wrattling,
the Post Offices in Balsham & Weston Colville,
Daisy Chains Pre-School West Wickham or on the door.
For more information please contact Jo Jackson 291258 or Lynsey Hubbard 290172

NATURE NOTES

You know the scene in the film where the victim goes round the house locking all the doors and windows, only to find that the murderer has been locked inside? I think my cabbages must have felt like that as my efforts at keeping out the white menace had the reverse effect to what was intended. They found a way in, but not out. As a result, my enthusiasm for doing a butterfly count at the end of July was somewhat dampened, and I regret that I did not submit any results. In contrast, and despite the unkind weather, Janet Morris did manage a fifteen minute butterfly count. She reports: "This year, red admirals were predominant – 5 or more sometimes sunning themselves on the buddleia (and there are still several around). Apparently, people were recording far fewer peacocks this year but there was no drop in numbers in our garden. I also saw commas and both small and large whites (although not in large numbers). Since the Count, I have had the odd common blue, brimstone and, for the first time in the garden, a speckled wood. The results of the Butterfly Count have yet to be published."

Not having buddleia, most of the more decorative species have been shunning our garden, apart from a lonely comma and a red admiral. The large numbers of whites missing from Janet's garden were probably on my cabbages. However, further afield I was treated to clouds of chalkhill blues on the Devil's Dyke near the racecourse, plus a couple of brown argus.

Meanwhile Di has also been on the lookout for butterflies, and spotted "a pair of commas mating on the hop one evening, and they were still together the following lunchtime, joined and hanging under a green leaf, looking for all the world like a dead brown leaf, almost invisible, camouflaged beautifully." Apart from this little piece of voyeurism, Di has also noticed red admirals, speckled woods, skippers and wall browns.

Di was writing in late July, and commented on how the normal late summer season seemed to be in a rush to get going, with the flowers and berries you normally expect in August and September flowering and ripening much earlier. Other signs of late summer – the ploughing of the fields, flocks of lapwings and large numbers of black backed gulls following the plough and the swallows and martins gathering in groups on the wires – have all been in evidence. Perhaps they realised that this was going to be a double version of the Village Voice and no more Nature Notes until the November edition, so this was their last chance to become famous.

A small white caterpillar took a different route to fame by appearing on one of the prize-winning exhibits at the Gardening Club Show – the thirst for celebrity status is evidently not limited to humans.

Two final notes on the bird front. The little owl which Di has mentioned in her comments in previous editions must have produced a family. They have been making a right din near us around bedtime, and judging by the response from a nearby tawny owl, it's not going down too well with him. Also there have been several reported sightings of a red kite in recent weeks.

Don't forget to let me know if you see or hear anything exciting in the next couple of months.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

A FINAL REMINDER FOR BALSHAM BALL TICKETS:

If you haven't already applied for your tickets to the Balsham Ball on 19th November you still have an opportunity to. You can collect application forms from the Meadow School office or the Balsham Stores and Post Office. You can also download the form via Facebook/Balsham Ball 2011 (group).

Please return any application forms along with the cheques to the Meadow School as soon as possible to have your table secured.

Tickets will be sent out towards the end of September, early October.

Hope to see you there!

Debbie Paton. Ball Committee

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING AT LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

The autumn Adult Community Learning programme is fast approaching and you should by now have received a brochure outlining what we have on offer from September. If you have not then you can visit the LVC website and view it there by visiting www.lvc.org and clicking on the Adult Education tab.

We have several brand new courses as well as the older favourites, it is a very exciting time and one that I hope you will be a part of. Enrolments for courses will begin on Monday 29th August with the majority of courses due to start week beginning the 20th September albeit a couple such as Pilates will begin the week prior to this date.

On Monday 12th September we will hold an Open Evening in the school where many of our Adult Education tutors will be on hand to give demonstrations and answer any questions you may have – there will also be refreshments available so please do come along and see what is on offer. The Open evening will run from 7pm – 9pm.

I look forward to seeing some of you in September.

Steven Austin.

Community Business Manager. Linton Village College.
T: 01223891233 ext 131

PLEASE POOP & SCOOP

In the February Village Voice Jo Newton wrote about a family walk spoilt by the minefield of dog faeces they came across and asked dog walkers to clear up if their dog fouled the footpaths. Regrettably nothing seems to have changed. Recently I have been walking a friend's dog regularly and have been pooping & scooping when necessary but I have been horrified by the amount of dog faeces on our footpaths, left where other people can step on them.

May I put a thought to the people who are allowing their dogs to foul our footpaths – do you always remember where it happened? It could be you or your children who gets fouled by your own dogs faeces the next time you go out! So please train your dog to "poop" off the line of the path or poop & scoop and make walking the footpaths of our lovely village the pleasure it should be.

Andrew Morris

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th July the following items were discussed.

Streetly End Speed Limit: Work should begin in September

Children's Play Area: Two laminated notices will be put up in the children's play area concerning the danger of overhead power lines and saying dogs are not allowed in the children's play area.

Clothes Bank: The old clothes bank will be removed and the new one, now on the top of the bank, will be put down next to the salt bin.

Youth Club Funding: Having received information about costs and numbers regarding Castle Camps Youth Club, the Council agreed to donate £100 to this club as 4 youngsters from West Wickham attend. Regarding Balsham Youth Club, the Parish Council is prepared to support it if the club promotes itself in the Village Voice.

Finances:

- a) The internal audit report was discussed and found to be satisfactory.
- b) The Financial Report distributed by Cllr. Morris showed that the budget was on track.

Planning: S/0948/11 – Rear conservatory at 65 High St. This had been recommended for approval by the Parish Council.

Diamond Jubilee: 2 - 4 June 2012. The Parish Council would like to receive ideas from the village on how they would like to celebrate this event. Cllr. Licence is prepared to head a "steering" group. (Ed. An item written by her on this was in the last issue of the Village Voice.)

Village Website: The Parish Council expressed interest in joining forces with the Village Hall in developing a website for the village. Cllrs Charlton & Morris will discuss this with the Village Hall Management Committee.

Report by County Cllr. Batchelor: A review is being carried out on the subsidised bus services and the next round of cuts scheduled for October are being reconsidered as CCC have been taken to court for a judicial review because of lack of consultation.

Report by District Cllr. Barrett: He reported that a recycling target of 65% is being aimed for. At present it is 59%.

The draft Minutes of the meeting are on the Notice Board outside the Post Office.

The next meeting will be Monday 3rd October and all are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Richards. Parish Clerk

BALSHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 8 October 2011

2.00 - 4.00

Meadow School, Balsham

Entrance 50p

Items for the Jumble Sale can be left at the school on the morning of the sale.

No furniture, electrical items, shoes - Thank you



AUTUMN CHARITY CONCERT

In aid of
ST ANDREWS CHURCH
WEST WRATTING,

Saturday, 1st October 2011, 7:30 PM
at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

An exciting programme of choral & instrumental music
featuring vocal works by two choirs and instrumental
works for flute, violin, and organ

Tickets, price £10.00, children free

Available from

Balsham Post Office or

Michael Gorman 01223-290653

BEWARE OF COMPUTER SCAM

People are being targeted by telephone cold callers, sometimes pretending to be from Microsoft, claiming that they can fix a fake computer problem

The scam always starts the same way: the phone rings and the caller asks for the householder by name before saying we've had a report from your internet service provider of serious problems from your computer." Or, and this is particularly relevant with the slow broadband in this village "we know your computer is running slowly and can fix this"! Dire forecasts are then made that the computer will become unusable if the problem is not solved. The computer owner is directed to a website and told to download a program that hands over remote control of the computer, and the caller "installs" various "fixes" for the problem. And then it's time to pay a fee of a couple of hundred pounds for a "subscription" to the "preventative service".

The only catch: there was never anything wrong with the computer, the caller is not working for Microsoft or the internet service provider, and the owner has given a complete stranger access to every piece of data on their machine. The victims are convinced by the apparent authority of the callers.

If the payment has been made on a debit card - as many are - there is little hope of reversing the payment. A number of payment organisations, such as PayPal, have shut down scammers accounts.

Microsoft state they do not make unsolicited phone calls to help you fix your computer and recommend that "If you receive an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft Tech Support, hang up.

If you think it can't happen to you – it can. I have been receiving a lot of these phone calls, often several in one day. Someone living in the village was taken in recently and now doesn't dare turn on their computer. Attempts have been made to take money fraudulently from their credit card but fortunately they realised something was wrong, alerted their card company in time and had the card stopped. Cancelling things quickly may stop any direct financial theft but not the loss of information stored on your computer!

Never take advice or make a purchase from someone who makes an approach to you, only from someone you know you can trust and who you have approached yourself.

Andrew Morris

MEADOW SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR

Celebrate our 22nd annual Craft Fair on
Saturday & Sunday 15th & 16th October 2011
from 10.30am - 4pm
At the Meadow School, Balsham

Over 40 stalls of quality crafts and gifts, plus:
Amazing tombola prizes
Delicious homemade refreshments
Face painting
Ample free parking
Entrance fee Adults £1, children 50p
under 5s free
A PTA fund-raising event

**LOTS OF GREAT GIFT IDEAS NOT TO BE
MISSED!**

FUN DOG SHOW

Does your dog have the wettest nose? Maybe your dog has the most appealing eyes, is your child's best buddy or is the fastest dog in the neighbourhood. Why not come along to Milton Country Park on Sunday 11 September and find out by entering the fun dog show in support of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. In addition to the many fun classes, there will be merchandise for sale and a tombola stall. There will be chances to meet puppies in training and working partnerships. We will be demonstrating a puppy class in action and giving a short talk about the charity. Why not come along and find out more about our work? All entrants to the dog show will receive a goody bag to take home (the first 25 entrants to the dog show will also receive a special dog toy in the goody bag) and there are prizes on offer for class winners. Cost for the dog show is £1.00 per dog per class. The fun scurry will take place for 30 minute sessions at 11.00, 12.00 and 3.00 while the dog show classes will take place from 1.00 to 3.00 pm

This event is part of the Food, Farming and Countryside day at Milton Country Park where there will be local food stalls together with information and activities from wildlife and countryside organisations. This promises to be a great family day out so why not come along and support us. Car parking charges at the park will apply. The whole event is from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

For more information about the dog show please contact Jenny Parker on 01223 833562 (evenings only please) or jennifer.parker5@btopenworld.com

Jenny Parker. Branch Co-ordinator

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

RIDE and STRIDE

SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2011

Cycle or walk around Cambridgeshire churches.
Contact Di Licence C 209434 for details

TEXTILE AND SHOE RECYCLING

Nationally, consumption of new textiles and shoes has risen substantially in recent years. Around half of the textiles and shoes purchased in the UK, amounting to over 2 million tonnes in 2009, are disposed of despite being either reusable or recyclable.

In South Cambridgeshire we hope to reduce the amount of unwanted textiles and shoes sent to landfill and provide more local recycling facilities for these items. Residents living in West Wickham can use the local recycling bank at the Village Hall to conveniently recycle a wide range of items such as:

- Clean and dry clothing
- Shoes
- Bags
- Belts
- Towels
- Blankets
- Duvet covers
- Pillows
- Sheets
- Curtains
- Fabric

Unwanted clothing and shoes are often perfectly wearable and can be used again, providing affordable and much needed clothing for others. Items which are not reusable such as fabric and worn out clothes can still be placed in the bank for recycling, just make sure they're clean and dry. Cotton can be turned into rags for wiping and polishing. Car insulation and stuffing can be made from knits and woollen materials. And other materials find their use in a variety of other ways, such as building materials, reprocessed upholstery fibres, and home insulation.

For more recycling information please visit
www.scams.gov.uk/recycling
or email bluebin@scams.gov.uk

BARKING DOGS

I've recently been asked how to deal with the problem of dogs that bark constantly and disturb people. South Cambs District Council advise that you first approach whoever is responsible for the dog. They will often not realise their dog is disturbing you. The majority of complaints can be resolved informally and you may well get a quicker result than if you involve officialdom. In cases where personal approaches have not worked or where you might feel threatened, you can report the problem to the Council's Environmental Health section on 03450 450 063.

Andrew Morris

**A reminder that regretfully there will not
be an October issue**

**PRESS DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE:
16 October**

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