

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2012

ISSUE 107

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 3 **Farmers Market. 9.00 – 12.00**
Linton Village College
- Sun 4 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
VILLAGE CLEAN UP
Meet at 11.00 at the Village Hall
- Tue 6 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 7 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 10 **Granta Deanery Spring Fair. See page 2 for details**
- Sun 11 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 12 **Local History Club Annual General Meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 13 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 14 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 16 **Press deadline for the Village Voice!**
- Sun 18 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 19 **Gardening Club. Irises. Talk by Claire Kneen. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 20 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 21 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 25 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 26 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30pm, Village Hall. YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**
- Tue 27 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 28 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 30 **Parochial Church Council Annual General Meeting. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church**

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 £5.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00 per hour. evening £7.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00 per hour evening £10.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00 per hour evening £18.00 per 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 Kathy Pelling

T: 01223 290505

or visit www.westwickham.org

VILLAGE CLEAN UP 11.00 A.M, SUNDAY 4TH MARCH

The people who drive through the village and casually throw out beer cans, fag packets and other detritus have been at it again, so it is time for us to have the pleasure of clearing up. South Cambs Council are again providing grabbers, gloves, tabards and white and black sacks (for recycling and refuse respectively).

If you want to spend an enjoyable morning cleaning up come along to the Village Hall Car Park at 11.00 am. and you will be provided with all the necessary equipment. Last year we collected 19 bags of rubbish. I suspect there may be more this year.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

JUBILEE BEACON

West Wickham has been granted the honour of having one of the 2012 Beacons that will be started by the Queen at 10.30pm on the night of Monday June 4th. Our Beacon is going to be going to be on the playing field at the northern end. This will be the climax to our celebrations, the main event of which will be held that evening on the playing field. The beacon will be largely fuelled by Lleylandii thinning which I have started to get onto the playing field.

If you have any burnables you would like to contribute to the beacon, such as pallets and the like, please contact me nearer the date.

Marcus Cornish. T: 290203

JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL

As part of the Jubilee weekend celebrations we are planning to hold a Flower Festival in the church and we want as many people as possible to take part.

If you enjoy arranging flowers and would like to be involved, we need to hear from you now. If you have any good ideas for themes related to the Queen's reign and events of the last 60 years, we want to hear them. If you don't feel that you can do this alone, maybe 2 or 3 of you could get together. We would also like the village clubs and groups to be represented.

There are many sites in the church that are suitable for decorating. It does not have to be something huge, it could be quite small if that is what you are more comfortable with. We will provide Oasis and help with containers where we can but you will be asked to supply your own flowers. Please come and talk to us soon.

Vivienne Henderson. T: 290243.

email: viviennehenderson@btinternet.com

Shirley Hulyer. T: 290720

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

In 1986 I went to USA for a term and worked as a student intern in a hospital in Boston. It was the time when Aids was just becoming known. The chaplain I worked with was a most remarkable and compassionate person. She was working hard to support some very frightened people. Many of the people had made a mess of their lives by being drug addicts. But she once said, 'Whenever I can't see them as beautiful I know it is time for me to get away and have a retreat.' She understood that at the heart of Christian faith is an understanding that every human being is wonderful and beautifully made. Each person is a unique individual who is loved by God.

This is not just being blind to what goes wrong. We understand that people sometimes do stupid or despicable things. In all our lives things have gone wrong, but this does not diminish our capacity to love or to be loved. We flourish not when we focus on ourselves but when we show to someone else that we care. It is not surprising that the first Christians were known by their inclusive acts of charity.

We are coming into the Lent Season. It is a time not just to give up something, but also to reflect on who we are, what we want from life and perhaps also to find ways to show that we care.

Some of the questions that we are asking will be tackled by the speakers who are coming to give the Lent talks.

Thursday 1st March 2012, 7.30pm at The Black Bull, Balsham. The speaker is Rev Alan Hargrave who has just written a book called, *'Living Well'* SPCK 2011. His title is, *'What do you think you're praying at?'*

Thursday 15th March 2012, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Hildersham. The speaker is Rev Huw Jones who was a consultant in Oncology at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He will be talking about ethical challenges arising from medical research. His title, *'Continuing problems in Medical Ethics.'*

Thursday 22nd March 2012, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Balsham. The speaker is Bishop Stephen Conway who will address the topic of belief in God, *'Is there a difference in believing in goodness and believing in God?'*

Thursday 29th March 2012, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Hildersham. The speaker is Rev Cally Hammond Dean of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. She has just published a book entitled *'Glorious Christianity – Walking by faith into the life that is to come'* SPCK 2012. The title is, *Eternal life?*

These are open to anyone who wants to come.

Rev Julie Norris

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Everyone who is on the Electoral Roll is welcome to come to the Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council. Please check that your name is on the Electoral Roll if you want to attend.

Please come along to the meeting. It will be held on 30th March, 7.30pm at St Mary's, West Wickham.

OIL SYNDICATE UPDATE

The number of villagers choosing to use the oil syndicate is increasing; in February I placed an order for 29 drops totalling nearly 20,000 litres. Unfortunately the arrival of snow had led to prices rising but I still think I got the best deal around on the day at 59.95p per litre with Browns of Burwell. The highest quote was once again from Shelford Energy at 65.90p.

If enough of you are interested I will be placing another order in April. This time it will be slightly later in the month due to my holiday, so the deadline will be 15th. I will remind you all again next month.

Sue Thurston. Email: oil@suethurston.co.uk. T: 290503

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Having been an avid reader of 'Nature Notes' past and present, it concerns me to think that all natural sights and sounds are not accepted by Our Village.

One often reads in newspapers about a few people in urban districts moaning about Cockerels doing their natural thing but it appears the malaise has now reached OUR little domain, what do I mean ?

Well the local brood of Guinea Fowl have been banished to Linton Zoo leaving children and locals despondent at the loss.

Oh what sorry times we live in !!!!!!!!

Vic Terry

WEST WRATTING W.I.

It is with great sadness that I have to report that, following a decision taken at our AGM, it is expected that West Wrattling WI will be suspended for three years. This is not as final as closure and does allow for the possibility of it being revived. This assumes that the decision has been confirmed and ratified at our Special Meeting on 28 February.

Assuming that this is the case, I would like to thank everybody who has supported us in any way over the years and, particularly, during my 9 years as President. I particularly regret that this has come about under my "watch".

Linda Gorman

GRANTA DEANERY SPRING FAIR

Saturday 10 March. 10.00–12.00 noon

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

*Cakes Produce White Elephant Toys Raffle
China Glass Bric-a-brac Cards Gifts Tombola
Refreshments Wide Range of Books*

Entrance: Adults 30p Children Free

Proceeds to Support the Parishes of the Granta Deanery

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2012 the following matters were discussed:

Streetly End 30mph Signage: The road rondels have still not been changed to 30mph and the painted over "40mph" is now wearing away. County Cllr. Batchelor said he would remind the Highways Dept.

Jubilee Oak: A fence has been erected and a plaque will be put in front of the Oak giving details.

Allotments: Daisy Chain Preschool Group would like to have a half of the half allotment shown to them. Council agreed that this should be rent-free. The half and quarter sized allotments will be advertised in Village Voice.

It was agreed that a skip should be hired to remove all the rubbish that Mr. Licence, Mr Jolly, Mr Ling and Mr Morris have found following a major clearance. Thanks were given for their hard work.

Finance: Cllr. Morris discussed the financial report and although the cost of the May election was considerably more than expected (£752.84) and the bill from the County Council for Streetly End speed limit change has not yet been received, there would possibly be an under spend this year,

The budget for 2012 was discussed at length and full details are given in the Minutes shown on the Notice Board outside the Post Office. Reserves at the end of the financial year would be £9943.46 subject to the invoice for the Streetly End speed limit change. Of this allocated reserves will be £7042.37 and unallocated reserves £2901.09. It was agreed that the precept be increased from £6550 to £8000.

Planning: The following applications were recommended for approval.

S/2254 and S/2255/11 (extensions at Walnut Tree Cottage, Streetly End).

S/2265/11 (vehicular access at 14 High Street).

Parish Map: It was agreed by the Parish Council that a

"Parish Map" should be set up at a cost of £20, and £10 p.a. for membership. This can be linked to the West Wickham website so various things e.g. footpaths, damaged signs, tipping could be shown on the map.

Steering Group for A1307: Cllr. Morris had attended the first meeting. There is continued interest in the safety of this road by the local councils and the police. The Parish Council's concern about visibility at junctions was noted.

District Cllr. Barrett's report & County Cllr. Batchelor's report:

a) Both Councils are in the process of setting their budgets and it is possible that the Council tax will be increased as the grant promised by the government if council taxes are not increased is only for 1 year and so the deficit would be even greater in 2013.

b) Cllr. Batchelor told the Council that there had been another consultation carried out regarding a decision to stop bus subsidies as the first one was found to be illegal. Only 3% of those surveyed are in favour of the reductions.

Any Other Business: There is a sewage problem in the High Street, between Cobwebs and Home Close. Anglia Water are possibly going to put in a camera to see where the fault lies. It is essential the problem is sorted out because sewage water is running down the road and can be splashed onto people and will also get into the ditches. A letter is being sent to Anglia Water.

The draft Minutes are available to view on the notice board outside the Post Office.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 26th March 2012. All welcome.

Jennifer Richards. Clerk to the Parish Council.

T: 01224 894076. Email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

A retirement message from Dr Jonathan Silverman

After over thirty highly rewarding years working as a partner at Linton Health Centre, I decided to retire in February. For some time now I have worked half-time at the practice and half-time in the Clinical School at Addenbrooke's, and I will still be continuing half-time in my academic post and living in Linton. My wife Barbara is still continuing to work at Addenbrooke's as a consultant rheumatologist. The practice has seen amazing changes over the last thirty years. When I first started there were four male partners and one female assistant, and the practice had recently moved from much smaller premises in Bartlow Road to the current site. Since that time we have had two major extensions, which have provided fantastic facilities for the people of Linton and surrounding villages. There are now eight clinical partners and three assistants plus a managerial partner, and now women considerably outnumber men. Despite many changes in government policy, I hope that the practice is still seen as one which values personal care and gives time to each patient and their problems.

I will still be busy working as Associate Dean at the Clinical School where my main responsibility is teaching communication skills to medical students and doctors. I'm

fortunate that my work takes me to many countries throughout the world, and I will have more time for these travels now. After I retire from Linton we will be visiting New Zealand to see our son who now lives there, and then do some work on the way back in Australia. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the patients of the sixteen villages that the practice looks after. I have had a thoroughly enjoyable career working in a lovely area with a population that has been very supportive to me and the practice. I'm sure the practice will go from strength to strength and look forward to seeing many of you around as a civilian!

Welcome to Dr Reem Al-Shaikh

Dr Al-Shaikh will be joining us at the beginning of April, working full-time as a salaried doctor. She trained in London, and then completed her General Practice Training in Cambridge, so knows the area and Addenbrooke's Hospital well. She is looking forward to joining the team here and getting to know the patients.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

ABC Cabs (Haverhill) are now Star Cars. T: 01440 712712

Email: enquiries@trartraveluk.com

Web site: www.startraveluk.com

NATURE NOTES

It's been an exciting few weeks since the last Nature Notes were written because we have been privileged to play host to a pair of short-eared owls around Burton End. Over a period of a couple of weeks a small group of us bird nerds were virtually setting our watches by the appearance of these impressive birds, dutifully gathering at around 4.30, just as the light was beginning to fade, to see them hunting low over the "set aside" uncultivated fields where last year's dead grass hides the small mammals that they seek. They hunt in a similar way to Barn Owls, and are paler in colour than Tawnys, but are noticeably larger than either, their wingspan of up to 3.5 feet being the most impressive feature of them. Their normal habitat is either moorland or fen country and after the snow we felt that they may have returned to more familiar territory, but recently they have been seen again over at Weston Colville near Lower Wood. Let's hope they stay in our part of the world for a bit longer, because they are a wonderful sight, and their presence means that we have four varieties of owl in our village at one time. That is a statistic to be proud of.

Other statistics were collected by a number of people as part of the RSPB garden watch at the end of January. Di commented on the sudden arrival of a large quantity of blackbirds, having 11 in her garden on one morning, partly attracted by a pile of rotting apples. It does seem as though we have had a larger than usual winter invasion of blackbirds since Christmas. Other varieties that made it in time for the count were house sparrows, long tailed tits, robins and collared doves and a male pheasant. Frustratingly some regular visitors didn't appear at the right time. These included bullfinches, starlings and great spotted woodpecker. A single redwing has appeared since the snow fell, joining a fieldfare, song thrush and blackbirds on the rotting apples giving four members of the thrush family in one place. I saw a mistle thrush recently, which together with Di's four makes a nap hand of thrushes.

The snowfall has given us all a chance to brush up on our tracking skills. Away from the official footpaths, which quickly get trampled down by humans and dogs, the number of hare and rabbit tracks show how active they are when there is snow on the ground. Andrew Morris was lucky enough to see hares - 15 of them - in one field alongside Mill Road having a bit of a party, charging round, kicking snow at each other and generally enjoying themselves. Apparently they were there again a few days later. Hare and rabbit prints were definitely the most numerous, though careful inspection will reveal squirrel tracks as well as tiny hoof marks where deer have walked and occasionally you can see feather marks, the most common being pheasant and magpie, whose tail feathers are apt to trail. I should be interested to know if anyone spotted any other interesting marks in the snow, particularly badger prints.

Now the snow has gone and we shall be looking for signs of spring as they appear. Spring flowers pushing up, trees coming into leaf, and birdsong are the three main signposts for me but I'm sure there are others. Let us know when you hear the first chiffchaff. It will be sometime in March.

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

BALSHAM LENT LUNCH
in aid of Canon Andrew White's Church in Bagdad
12.30 pm on Monday 19 March
Nine Chimney House, Balsham
EAT FRUGALLY AND GIVE GENEROUSLY!

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

On Friday 27 January 2012, we held a lovely event: the official opening of our new school building. The order of proceedings was a welcome to our 80 guests from me, speeches from College Council reps Luke Evans and Trudi Fisher, a speech from Councillor John Powley, Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council and then our special guests, Dr David Hemery revealed the plaque, the Councillor handed the key to Jane Bowen, our Chair of Governors and we then returned to the new common rooms for sparkling drinks, canapés and the music of the College Windband. It was a proper celebration, not just of the new buildings but of all that the College has meant to our community for the past 75 years.

The College first opened its doors to our community in 1937. It was built to school some 250 local children and the same number of adult community learners. I am told that one of the first activities that the girls were told to do was to make workshop aprons for the boys. How times have changed! As the College grew in the 50's, 60's and 70's a hotchpotch of buildings was added to the original; an original which had once been stylish and cutting edge: full of light space, the latest technology, curved windows and Art Deco tiles. The additions did not respect the design of the 1937 building, nor were many of them permanent structures and by the 1990's were in a very poor state of repair. The current building project was more than just a replacement for the tattered Vic Hallam and Horsa extensions. It was also an excellent way to put the style back into the site. Once more we have curved walls, lots of glass and attractive open spaces. The building looks great from the outside and complements the original remarkably. It is also light, warm and pleasant to work in. Finally we have, once more, a Village College building that our community can be proud of. There are very many people to thank for what has, in effect, been a labour of love: Cambridgeshire County Council for funding the project, the local authority team for honouring the building even after we converted to academy status, Andy Silverthorne and the design team from Mouchel, the construction team at Morgan Sindall who did such a great job, my bursar, Stuart Tinsley who put so much of his personal time and energy into the project and last, but not least the staff, students and governors at the College who supported the project with patience and enthusiasm and rarely moaned about the noise!

75 years after our Village College opened we are in great shape.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 March
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