

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2012

ISSUE 116

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 1 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00**
Linton Village College
- Sun 2 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Christingle. 10.45, Balsham Church
- Tue 4 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 5 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 9 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 10 **Local History Club. Christmas social with films. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 11 Black wheeled bin collection
- Sat 15 **Balsham Singers Christmas Concert. 7.30pm, Balsham Church. See page 2 for details**
- Sun 16 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 17 **Gardening Club. Short talks by members on fabulous gardens they have visited. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 18 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Sun 23 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 24 **Carol Service. 6pm, St Marys Church**
- Tue 25 **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**
Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Thur 27 Black wheeled bin collection
- Sun 30 Joint service. 10.45, Balsham Church

2013

- Thur 3 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 9 Black wheeled bin collection

Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

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

HAND CHIMES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

WANTED: 6 (at least) or 7 people, any age, who have some knowledge of and can read music, to play at the Carol Service on Christmas Eve. There isn't much time. I'd like to rehearse on, possibly, Friday evenings and/or Saturday afternoons. Please don't volunteer if you can't be here for this years service.

Hand chimes are easier to play than hand bells so with the talent I know is out there we should do fine. Chat to friends and phone me so we can arrange to start ASAP.

Jane Scheuer T: 290338

CAROL SINGING

Nicky & Marcus Cornish are taking a break from organising carol singing in the village this year. If anyone wishes to take this on Nicky can supply the collecting tins and carol sheets.

WEST WICKHAM BIG VILLAGE DIG IS ON



LOTTERY FUNDED

West Wickham Local History Club are delighted to report that we have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £6,400 to help discover something about the medieval settlement of the village – when and how it came to have the form we know today rather than remain the group of scattered farms (manors) mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The aim is to involve as many of you as possible in excavating up to 20 one metre square archaeological test pits in gardens across the village, so if you're a Time Team fan and have always wanted to have a go yourself, this is your chance. Most of the grant will be spent on expert help from archaeologists and finds experts from Cambridge University's Cambridge Community Heritage project, including village resident Britt Baillie-Warren, who will be supporting us all the way. We should also have the help of Mathew Morris, who grew up in the village and hit the national news recently as the archaeologist who excavated the possible remains of Richard III.

The excavations will take place over a weekend next summer. The project is extremely suitable for families but there will be many ways everyone can play a part – excavating, offering your garden (it doesn't matter if you live in a modern house – we don't know what may have been there before), lending equipment, recording the archaeological process, washing finds, photography, tea making or even baking a cake (archaeologists love cake!).

We will be having a meeting in the New Year when you will be able to come along and find out more and sign up for the project. In the meantime, if you want to be involved just let me know. It's going to be very exciting and a great chance for us to learn more about the village in which we live and the people who lived here in the past.

Janet Morris, Secretary, West Wickham & District Local History Club
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

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

At a social occasion, someone's friend told me that she played the organ. Like so many of us, the organist was shy about her gift and not best pleased at being drawn into the limelight. A few weeks later, when all the known organists were busy and there was an uncovered service, I asked her to play and she agreed. Without her we would have had no organist and no hymns. She used her gifts well and we all benefitted.

Recently, members of the 6 PCCs across the 7 churches met together. They shared ideas and experiences. Since the meeting I notice that they have already started to adapt each other's ideas to different contexts. There are some things that we do better together than when we act on our own.

As we draw near to Christmas, we tend to think about things to give to others. However, people often underestimate the gift of their time. Vulnerable people sometimes say to me that they do not want to be a burden, without realising just how good it is to spend time with them or how good they are at encouraging those who are able to be more active.

Last month children from this village took part in a drama at a service where there were at least 35 other children present as well as twice as many adults. They made the service fun for all by sharing their gifts.

As I write this, there is a group of people who are working to apply for grants and draw up a job description to employ a Parish Nurse. There are other people who are working together to draw up specifications to put running water and toilets into some of the churches. Rosemary, Sharon and Kathy have been encouraging work with children and families and Keith Day has begun his training to become an authorised Lay Minister in music. There is a lot of talent and energy being used in these creative ways. Hard work is being tackled and more is possible when people work together.

In the 7 church meeting someone suggested that perhaps we should all secretly nominate people for roles. It is the case that some of us do not recognise our own talents and need others to invite us to share them. Sometimes we only discover we are good at something when we have a go. Everyone benefits when gifts are shared.

I look forward to seeing you for the Carol Service on 24 December and Rev John Fellows will be with you on Christmas Day.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas.

Rev Julie Norris

The PCC of the United Parish of Great and Little Abington are proposing to place a simple headstone on the grave of 'Sally' the woman who lived in the tent on the edge of the village. If you would like to make a small contribution towards this memorial to her, please give it to Patrick Daunt, the Church Warden (891485).

BALSHAM CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

**SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER
10.45 am**

Meet at 10.00 am to make Christingle oranges

**followed by
Mini Christmas Market
Refreshments - Raffle**

CHRISTMAS IN WEST WICKHAM

West Wickham is the best place to have Christmas, from the lights draped around the bare trees to the Christmas Service. I personally like taking moonlit walks in the icy cold. You've got to admit, Christmas is our favourite holiday. Here's why....

Around late November, the trees are bare and the frost has stuck like glue. People start to get in the Christmas spirit, and sure enough, up come the lights! Reindeer, sleighs, snowmen and Santas -we love driving down the road and staring, open mouthed in wonder, at the sight of them.

We also love the carol singing. Singing songs we have sung countless times before that still make people smile. It is by far one of the best parts of Christmas.

And last of all comes the church service on Christmas Eve. You can feel the anticipation and goodwill of the village all contained within a single building. The crib is set out with the Nativity scene, with Mary, Joseph and the cattle-not forgetting the Shepherds and the Wise Men. The service is great because it puts us in the Christmas spirit and reminds us what Christmas is *really* about.

There are many reasons to love Christmas, and what makes it extra special is celebrating it as a community. Merry Christmas everyone!

Georgie Salter

BALSHAM SINGERS

We are eagerly anticipating our first concert with John Clenaghan, our new Musical Director, on **Saturday 15 December at 7.30pm in Balsham Church**. The centrepiece will be "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" by Vaughan Williams. John has chosen music that he felt would be both pleasing to the choir and enjoyable for the audience. "That said, there's so much great music around for Christmas specifically, it was hard to leave things out! I was keen not to overdo the seasonal, but have just enough for people to feel we were celebrating it in our own way. I was particularly pleased to be able to fulfil our outgoing chairman's wish of having an arrangement of "White Christmas" - I hope it goes down well." We are confident that it will! Tickets are available in advance from Balsham Post Office for £7 or on the night for £8, with concessions at £7 and £20 for a family ticket.

OIL SYNDICATE – ORDER FOR DECEMBER

Oil prices are so unpredictable it seems impossible to tell if the cost of oil will go up or down, although usually as the weather gets colder and Christmas approaches, prices rise. Around the time I last ordered, on 10 October, prices shot up quite dramatically and the cheapest quote was 59.85p per litre but they have since dropped and the syndicate in Withersfield placed an order in early November at 57.75p. Who knows what the companies will be quoting on 10 December when I next place an order?

If you want to be part of the syndicate, please contact me with your details and how much you want (minimum 500 litres) by 9 December please.

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

GOOD NEWS FROM DAISYCHAINS PRESCHOOL

Imagine my delight when I opened the post on Monday 15th October to find that we have been awarded a grant from the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund (via Cambridgeshire Community Foundation) of £500.

We had filled in all the relevant forms only two weeks prior, requesting some money towards the creation of a preschool/ community garden around the patio area of the village hall. This new garden will greatly benefit the learning opportunities for the children who attend Daisychains and will enhance the area for all users of the village hall likewise. By the end of March next year we hope to have a vegetable garden, flower garden and a herb garden. Hopefully, there will be spring bulbs blossoming in the bank soon and some bushes and flower beds to brighten up the patio too. In the summer months we plan to make some hanging baskets and grow our own vegetables to sell to make some money for the preschool funds. Those of you who enter the annual garden show had better look out next year!!

This term has been a relatively quiet one with respect to the numbers of children who are currently attending – we could really do with a few more at preschool so if you know anybody with a 2 – 5 year old then please let them know we are here; 9.30 – 12.30 every weekday morning.

Although we may be few in number we are still very busy getting used to the new and updated curriculum that was rolled out in September 2012 and we have covered the topics of “At the shops” and “Colours and light”. This week we have celebrated Dhwali, a Hindu festival to welcome in their new year. We have made candleholders and Peda – these are sweets that Hindus make to offer up to their respective gods at Dhwali. We made our Peda in the weekly “Daisychains cookery school” which is an every popular part of the children’s week – they love taking part in this activity and so far this term we have made banarockets, ham & cheese envelopes, dateballs, bread rolls, “worm soup” and drop scones – wonder what we’ll be making next week?

As I write this, our Christmas fair is looming so I would like to thank all of you who will be coming to our fundraising event (or have already been depending on when you received your copy of the Village Voice). Without your support and help we would not be able to continue to provide an education for 2 – 5 year olds in West Wickham, so Thank You all so much.

Sue Harrow (Preschool Leader). T: 290512

A WEST WICKHAM TEA CLUB?????

Are you over 55?

Would you like the opportunity to meet with other people in the Village Hall on a regular weekday afternoon for tea and a chat? (paying £1 for tea/coffee and biscuits). If successful, this could include an occasional speaker, possibly a bring and buy table, a book/magazine swap, etc. If you like this idea, would you like to help set this tea up once a month? Five or six people are needed to put out tables and chairs, serve the tea, make sure that everyone who comes has someone to talk to, do the washing up and clearing up.

If you are interested, please contact Perry/Nicolette on 01223 290074 or perry@nicolper.freeserve.co.uk.

THE BIG BREAD BAKE!

We had such fun making bread for harvest. It was lovely having my house full of laughter and chat while people of all ages weighed, kneaded, decorated and watched dough rise before baking. Many thanks for the instant offer of



neighbouring ovens and a special tribute to Peter Grieve who not only gave us a simple recipe to follow but also contributed the ingredients! (Ed. He also took the photographs)



Thanks also to Phil who supervised the decorating of the ornamental gourds given by Janet Morris and to bigger children who kept littler ones entertained and playing happily; also to the tea makers who kept the kettle going.

I'd like us to have a card games afternoon one cold wintery weekend - any thoughts!!

Love

Jane Scheuer

POLICE NEWS CYCLE SAFELY

Whilst patrolling the neighbourhoods this week, we have seen a large number of people using bicycles in the hours of darkness with no lights. Can I please ask those that do need to use their bike during the evenings to ensure that lights are fitted and working correctly. Bright or Hi-Vis clothing is another good way to keep safe at this time of year to help ensure you are seen by motorists, and let's not forget a good quality cycle helmet.

PCSO Pulley and PCSO Fisher. Linton Safer Neighbourhoods Team

NATURE NOTES - WHY DID THE BADGER CROSS THE ROAD?

Amid the gloom of ash dieback, I've been looking for reasons to be cheerful. Richard Tofts provided me with a boost the other day by letting me know about recent badger sightings. Safely away from the culling zone, Richard and Emily have seen badgers on the path near the church and barn, and even followed one round the corner into the pub car park. Sadly, the badger was out of luck and could not get served. Joe and Debbie have also seen one crossing the High Street and there is evidence of their activity in the fields to the south of the High Street with newly dug holes and latrines in use around the perimeter. There is also a population in the Dean Road area between the chalk pit and Webbs Lane and a number of individuals have been seen in this location. Badgers, like hedgehogs, are not noted for their road sense so if you are driving in this area after dark, keep an eye open and ease off the gas.

Di also has some more upbeat comments: *"The great thing about the natural world is its unexpectedness....everyday things like driving to work and seeing a magnificent red kite being mobbed by crows over the A11, Janet clearing away a pile of leaves in her garden to discover a hibernating hedgehog, enjoying watching the blue tits on the nuts, and a greater spotted woodpecker flying in to join them, picking blackberries and watching a garden orb spider dispatching an insect, and oddest of all for me, seeing a heron walking amongst Brin's sheep and then flying to perch on top of my neighbours' willow tree. Driving past Wood View I noticed a yellow bird on the roof, a grey wagtail, normally a bird that lives near running water...a first for West Wickham for us.*

We walked up to Balsham water tower, and were rewarded with six female fallow deer and a stag, grazing on the field edge, not too worried by our approach. The resident replica owl was still sitting on his straw bale, the hedgerow was awash with red berries and therefore birds eating them. We were lucky to see fieldfares and amongst them three redwings. A couple of hares were running across the field and of course pigeons and starlings doing their thing.

Chatting to Teresa in the churchyard in the late afternoon sunshine, watching the sunset turn the yellow leaves to burnished gold, she was telling me about a beautiful barn owl seen flying up the High St. past her house and away behind the White Horse, two little owls doing their 'bobbing' thing on the church tower, a sparrowhawk in the churchyard and bullfinches on her honeysuckle berries.

Another fascinating thing that appears in autumn are fungi; they appear overnight, weird fruiting bodies that are thrust up above ground from the mycelium below. Trevor pointed out a 'chicken of the woods', an amazing yellow and white, crumpled affair, on the beech stump in the churchyard, lots of chocolate brown circular fungi on the village green, shaggy ink caps on our lawn and some tiny white stems on the Croft. I know nothing about fungi...do we have any experts in the village?"

My personal highlight this month was when moving a bag which had been growing potatoes only to reveal a pile of snails, on top of which were six froglets no more than a couple of inches long. It was a nice dark, damp place to shelter but I did wonder about their future. Are they going to stay there all winter and if so how do they survive? Answers would be welcome.

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

1ST BALSHAM GUIDES

We held our fundraising event for Children In Need on 17 October and we were joined by Balsham Rainbows. Our theme for the evening was 'The Great Pudsey Bake Off'.

Rainbows had 6 teams who had to make and decorate Chocolate Truffles. Our judges for the evening were Peter Friskey and Mike Champion from The Black Bull. Judging the competitions proved very difficult as all the girls were brilliant.

After the Rainbows had made their Truffles Peter demonstrated how to make Raspberry Soufflé and Chicken Nuggets.

Then 5 teams of Guides took to the tables to make and decorate Strawberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake. Again our judges found this quite difficult to choose a winner.

1st Balsham Guides would like to say a big thank you to Emma and all her Rainbows for helping us make this event so special.

We would all like to say a huge THANK YOU to Peter and Mike and The Black Bull for being our judges and for the fantastic cookery demonstration.

We raised £52.00 for Children in Need.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Our highlight for this term will be when we entertain 50 friends and elderly residents of Horseheath at the Christmas Luncheon. They will enjoy home made soup – winter vegetable, stilton and broccoli, chicken and vegetable, parsnip and bacon and finally tomato. They will also enjoy cold meats with jacket potatoes followed by trifle. I'm sure I will see a couple of them undoing their skirt and trouser buttons.

The Brownies also have entertained our guests with campfire songs and their own individual pieces, Emily will be playing her violin and Holly will give us another fantastic puppet show. There was also piano playing and dancing too. What a talented bunch of Brownies I've got.

Thanks as always to Mother and Pat for all their help, as well as Sarah, Toni-ann and Joyce in the kitchen. To Gloria and Audrie for providing soups but especially to the Brownies for being such angels, if only they could be like that every week!

During the rest of the term we completed the last part of the *On Your Marks* challenge when we joined with 2nd Linton Brownies and 1st Linton Guides at the Infant School in Linton. The girls made their own mascots and mosaics, tried circus skills and learned a simple form of Zumba. They all enjoyed themselves and have said they'd like to do another joint event in the future.

At the end of term we will be saying 'goodbye' to Georgie as she will be moving up to Guides in January, it will be sad to see her go but I know we will be seeing her at District events in the future. We will be welcoming Eowyn and Morgan in January from Rainbows and will then start work on our Holiday to the Jarman Centre. We also hope to have a visit from a Paralympian but more on that next time.

If your daughter would like to try Brownies please drop me an email for more details.

PAULINE AKA BARNEY.

Email: brownies@horseheath.info

1ST BALSHAM CUBS AND SCOUTS

The Cubs and Scouts have settled back into the autumn term and are as busy as ever.

The summer saw the Cubs on their rather 'damp' camp but despite the weather great fun was had by all. This term the Cubs have been demonstrating their cooking skills to gain their Chefs badge and have also taken part in some hikes for their hikers badge. At the moment they are working on their promise challenge.

Both the Cubs and Scouts were well represented at the Remembrance Sunday service in Balsham church with Adam doing one of the readings.

The Scouts have been just as busy. In September a few of the boys and the leaders undertook a cycling challenge and rode from the Scout hut to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket, returning the following day. This was part of their cycling badge and no mean feat! They are currently working towards the IT badge which has involved learning about internet safety and producing a computer generated advertising poster. They are looking forward to taking part in an indoor archery session.

If you wish to find out any more information about the Cub pack or the Scout troop please contact the respective leaders in the first instance – Debbie Mower C .894498 for Cubs and Paul Carter C.890129 for Scouts.

Juliet Bevan

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club met on 19 November to hear Richard Ayres talk on the Making of the Garden at Kirtling Tower. Despite suffering from a damaged Achilles tendon, Richard (with his leg bound up) was still able to deliver a very interesting talk. The Gardens are stunning in spring with acres of bulbs and this year will be open in the summer for charity. Richard designed the now famous Winter Gardens at Anglesey Abbey and was most entertaining when describing the work which Lord and Lady Fairhaven undertook to make their garden from what was pasture into 14 acres of herbaceous borders, rose gardens and a pinetum. It was most fortunate that Lady Fairhaven had access to JCBs and 180 tons of mushroom compost!

Our Christmas meeting on 17 December will feature our usual mince pies and wine, plus four of our members will put together a show of photographs from their trips to the Cotswolds, Ninfa in Italy, the Patio Gardens of Cordoba and Autumn colours at Sheffield Park East Sussex. Please feel free to join us in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

2013 programme of talks

- Monday 21 January. Water lilies at Latour-Marliac & Monet by Caroline Holmes.
 Monday 18 February Bulbs all the year round by Hilary Thomas
 Monday 18 March Butterflies in your garden by Rob Parker (Butterfly Conservancy)

All meetings are in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262

PETE'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ COLUMN

TREE QUIZ

For those of you with twisted minds (but others are welcome to have a go)!

The answers are all **trees**. One word, except where stated. Not all to be found in West Wickham

- Fed on Barcelona stew. (3 words)
- On river (Suffolk river) ...
-is permitted...
- ...to propel boat with headless man.
- Metal worker chops works off. (2 words)
- Good man has little inside, upper body and head. (2 words)
- Endless torment has the beginning and end in the middle.
- Fail drugs review with nothing taken internally. (2 words)
- Plan for the French – don't bat first (2 words)
- Punishment for pirate. (2 words)

Suitable prize for first entry opened after 31st December. Answers to mail@petergrieve.co.uk or drop it in at 29 Burton End.

Peter Grieve

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	J	H	H	W
J	O	N	T	O	S	R	E	I	R	Y	K
S	C	Y	M	L	N	H	A	R	R	B	E
N	T	J	N	L	E	N	Y	A	E	E	O
O	N	R	P	Y	C	M	M	J	G	L	T
W	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	N	L	E
M	F	H	A	E	I	O	B	T	A	S	L
A	N	G	E	L	K	U	Y	R	M	U	T
N	R	H	T	I	N	S	E	L	W	S	S
G	N	Y	Z	W	A	C	Y	V	I	E	I
V	H	W	K	M	R	A	D	P	U	J	M
N	I	B	O	R	F	J	O	S	E	P	H

Find the 17 words which have an association with Christmas. They can be found forwards, backwards, up, down & diagonally.

Now can you draw or paint a picture of one of the words you have found?

To win a prize, submit your list of words and picture to Peter Grieve, 29 Burton End. The winner will be the person who has the most or all the correct words and, in the event of a tie, the best picture, in the opinion of the judges.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Who'd have known that the under-16 population of our villages spend so much of their leisure time dressed up as cows, tigers, penguins and zebras? Well, in the privacy of their own homes, apparently they do! It seems that a very high proportion of our children own a 'onesie' and on our whole school sponsored walk they were not afraid to show it.

If you are not acquainted with a 'onesie' it is a soft brushed cotton all-in-one suit which zips up from head to toe rather like a babygro. 'Onesies' come in many shapes and sizes but the most popular seem to be the animal versions which have ears on the hood and animal markings on the main body of the garment. Hundreds of our students were dressed in these and other costumes as they set off around the local countryside during the sponsored walk: from a distance it must have looked as if someone had left the cages open at Linton Zoo!

They were walking for a very good cause: to help us to raise money for the restoration of our community school hall which is in a state of disrepair. The walk raised £6K which, when added to the £17K already committed by the school and The Friends, gets us well towards our target amount of £35K.

Following the walk, the students returned to their form groups to plan their enterprise activities for the Christmas Fayre which we hold on the last day of the autumn term. Once more the students themselves will decide which charities they wish the money they raise will go towards. In the past we have supported Great Ormond Street, Macmillan, the Teenage Cancer Trust and our link school in South Africa. It is fantastic that, even in the midst of a recession, we are in a position to help others as well as ourselves.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

ONLINE SCAM!

The Police are warning the public about an online scam. The scam involves a message flashing up on the screen causing the computer to lock. It claims to be from the Met Police and informs the user they must pay a £100 fine in order to unlock the computer.

Two recent incidents have happened in Swaffham Bulbeck, where a 62-year-old man paid the money using a card but managed to cancel it before any money had left his account, and in High Barns, Ely, where a 29-year-old man paid using a voucher in a local shop.

The fraud operates through malicious software which infects personal computers after users have accessed certain websites.

Detective Sergeant John Yore said: "This is a fraud and we would urge people not to pay out any money or hand out any bank details. Genuine law enforcement agencies would never contact members of the public via email and demand funds in this way.

"We would advise anyone who has been deceived by such a message and handed their banking details over to report the matter to the card issuer immediately and call police."

In order to reduce the chances of being infected by this or similar malware police recommend that anti-virus software is both used and, importantly, routinely updated to keep pace with new threats as they are discovered.

MORE POLICE NEWS VEHICLE SECURITY

This area has recently been hit with a number of thefts from motor vehicles and in light of this we give the following advice:-

Remove the temptation.

- Never leave anything on display in your car; even an old coat on the back seat is an invitation to a potential thief.
- Take all your belongings with you when you leave your car. If you are unable to, lock them in your boot at the start of your journey.
- The following items are of particular interest to the thief so should never be left in your car: -
- Mobile Phones
- Laptops
- Credit and debit cards
- Receipts with card numbers on
- Cheque books
- Cash
- Vehicle Registration Documents
- Private mail showing your address

Locks or other security devices will deter potential thieves; they will go for an easy target: -

- Electronic Immobilisers are a way to put thieves off. These prevent the car from being started. They must be fitted by main dealers or installers accredited by the Vehicle Security Installation Board. All new cars sold in the UK since October 1988 are fitted with electronic immobilisers.
- Mechanical immobilisers such as steering wheel locks are a good alternative to electronic immobilisers. They are not expensive and are easy to fit.
- Fit locking wheel nuts. Wheels can be a target for thieves. Wheel nuts are not expensive and are easy to fit.
- An alarm can help to keep your car secure but it must be installed properly.
- Keep your car keys safe. When you leave the car always remove the ignition key and lock all doors – it only takes a few seconds for a thief to jump into your car and drive away.

Register and protect your property free on
www.immobilise.com.

If you see anybody hanging round a vehicle or acting suspicious please report the incident to us, when it is happening on 101.

PCSO's Leanne Fisher and Chris Pulley.
Linton Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 December

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