

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2012

ISSUE 115

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 3 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00  
Linton Village College
- Sun 4 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 6 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 7 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 11 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
**Remembrance Day Service. 12.00,  
Wrattling Common Memorial**
- Mon 12 **Local History Club. Talk on Customs & folklore in South Cambridgeshire (part 2), by Janet Morris. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 13 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 14 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Thur 15 **Election of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire Police. 7.00 - 10pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 18 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 19 **Gardening Club. Talk by Richard Ayres on the garden at Kirtling Tower. 7.30pm, Village Hall.**
- Tue 20 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Sat 24 **Pre-School Christmas Fair. 2pm - 4pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 25 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 26 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm Village Hall. All residents of West Wickham & Streetly End are welcome to attend.**
- Tue 27 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 28 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

**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](http://www.westwickham.org)**

## YOUR PLAYGROUND NEEDS YOU!

After a detailed consultation process involving local residents, the children at the Meadow School, and even the preschoolers at Daisy Chains, the design for the new playground in West Wickham has now been confirmed. Last month I submitted two grant applications for funding, however even if successful, the biggest of these will only cover half of the costs of the project. If you know of any companies that may be willing to help with the remainder, donate equipment or services, or support 'match funding' of local projects please do let me know.

For the success of the new playground and to enable us to succeed with the funding I now need to establish a playground committee. In particular, the focus at this stage is fund raising, so that the project can go ahead. If you are interested in joining the very informal committee or would just like to propose an idea for a fund raising event please contact me at [justwickham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:justwickham@yahoo.co.uk) or call me on 01223 291395. Your village (and I!) need you!

Justin Plumb.

## RAF WRATTING COMMON Remembrance Sunday 11 November

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on Sunday 11 November 2012 at 12 noon. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm. A few of the Veterans will be attending and Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. All are welcome to attend.

## PETER AND RUTH LLOYD TRUST

The Trust, which was set up in 2008 to give an award of £800 to a student attending University for the first time, is now ready to receive applications for the Academic year 2013-2014.

The degree course must be from one of the following:- Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

The Applicant must be from one of the following parishes:- Carlton cum Willingham, Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, **West Wickham**, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and Withersfield.

Further information and application form may be obtained from:- [peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk)

Closing date for applications will be 31 March 2013

**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.**

## SO HOW WAS IT FOR YOU, JOHN?

The period immediately following the arrival of a new priest is often known as a honeymoon period. It lasts perhaps six months and in it the new priest can rarely do anything wrong. It is nearly always followed by a similar period when he or she can rarely do anything right. So as my first six months draws peacefully to its close, the opening question seems appropriate.

And the answer is blissful, as any good honeymoon should be, even though they aren't always. A friend of mine accidentally gave his wife a black eye on his wedding night and I myself was violently sick. Nothing so far has caused me to be sick violently nor, as far as I am aware, have I given anyone a black eye, literally or figuratively. I have been welcomed by Julie and the Ministry Team with grace, kindness and understanding.

Everywhere I have gone people, church goers and non church goers alike, have been welcoming and hospitable. I have been impressed by the devotion of those who keep the churches going, often in very difficult circumstances. There is also a great deal going on, both in the villages themselves and in a lot of the churches. It's a lively place. And the Parish Nurse initiative is very exciting and very challenging. On a personal level lots and lots of family and friends have been to visit what I now call Hotel Causeway. And that has been a real source of pleasure. So as I say it has been blissful.

I know it can't last at that sort of level. Even the happiest of marriages have difficult periods. But it is also the case that the optimum level of conflict within any organisation is not zero. Pearls are only produced when a piece of grit enters an oyster. So what grit do I think could be introduced into our churches?

One is certainly realism about money, a problem that is not confined to these parishes. The trouble is that when you talk or write about money the people who need to take it on board don't and the people who are already giving sacrificially feel burdened. But my well grounded suspicion is that most people haven't a clue about how much it costs to run a church and therefore what an appropriate level of giving might be.

Another aim is to achieve a greater willingness of people to serve on PCCs. Churches do not run themselves and a huge burden is being born bravely by too few people. Certainly the two PCCs I attend regularly are below the legal minimum. I would like to see that put right soon.

But for the moment it has been blissful. Thank you for asking!

John Fellows

## OIL SYNDICATE

15 households ordered oil via the syndicate in October. Prices have risen since the August order when we paid 56.4p per litre; this time it was 59.85p and was supplied by Emo Oil (Shell). The highest quote was from Butler Fuels at 61.83 (they were the lowest last time!) I plan to place another order in December if enough of you are interested. Please let me know by 9 December if you want to be included in the order. Delivery is usually within 5 days of the order being placed; this time the order was placed on Wednesday and it was delivered to most households two days later.

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

## BALSHAM HELPING HANDS

Some recent facts. During the last 6 months from 1st April to 30th September 21 drivers made 224 journeys and travelled a total of 2616 miles.

157 journeys were to Linton and 44 to Addenbrookes. Other destinations included Sawston, Saffron Walden, Newmarket, Haverhill and Chesterton Hospital. Linton Health Centre was the most common destination, but people also visited the optician, the dentist, the vet, the chiropodist and the physiotherapist.

I hope you are impressed! We are always looking for more drivers, if you would like to join please contact me, we serve the villages of Balsham, West Wrating and West Wickham.

Sara Himsworth T: 01223 893975

## 1<sup>ST</sup> BALSHAM GUIDES

During the summer term the Guides managed to complete a packed itinerary which included celebrating the Olympics by holding an Alternative Mini Olympic event where the older Brownies from Horsesh Heath and Balsham were invited to come and join in to try Guides before moving up.

Archery is always a big favourite with the girls and there was no exception this time – the weather was kind and the arrows went in the right direction! We also utilised the lovely Rosie Green in Balsham when playing a wide game; Rosie Green gave the girls the freedom to run and shout whilst completing certain allotted tasks. The majority of the girls attended the district campfire at the Jarman Centre for a good ole' sing song and BBQ sausages.

We have now completed the 'On your Marks' badge which we have been working towards since the start of the year, it is a three part badge covering Values, Culture and Sport sections as well as completing the Diamond Jubilee badge.

We have had a lot of new girls start this term and have a full itinerary planned including a trip to Sheffield to the Big Gig, Children in Need evening and entertaining the residents of Mays Avenue.

If you have any questions regarding Guides please contact Angela Bridgeman T: 290697 or Regan Neaves T: 290956.



Girlguiding

# BALSHAM COMMUNITY FAYRE

Saturday 10 November

10am – 12.30pm – Meadow School Hall



\* Local Crafters \* Market stalls \*  
\* Refreshments \* Tombola \* Cake Stall \*

Funds in aid of Balsham Rainbows

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following are some of the items discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

*Old Filtration Plant:* Council agreed to go ahead with the offer of the land where the old infiltration plant had been, this also included the track up to it, which is now a footpath.

*Streetly End Signage:* It is hoped that this work will soon be done as contractors have been given the job and have three months in which to do it.

*Woodland Trust:* It will not be possible to have trees on the broad roadside near Bottle Hall as County Council Highways Dept has told us that planting is restricted within 5 metres of the road for services. However trees can be planted on the south side of the road and also one or two of the trees on the recreation field need replacing. With regard to the two obsolete allotments, Cllr. Licence is having a meeting with Mr Rob Mungovan, SCDC Ecology Officer, together with Steve Licence and Cllr. Hall to discuss possible funding.

*Flooding at 1 High St.:* The County Council Highways Dept have agreed that they will reconnect the drain so the flooding will be stopped.

*Field in Trust:* Following receipt of the requirements set out by the Trust regarding the recreation field it was felt that too much control of the area would be in the Trust's hands and it was therefore agreed not to go ahead with it.

*Allotments:* Daisychains Preschool has relinquished its use of an allotment. This has now been re-let.

*Planning:*

S/1684/12 – 92 High St. – new dwelling. Recommended for approval but request made that the front is not paved.

S/1616/12 – 38 Streetly End – Stabling. Recommended for approval but concern that it could be used on a commercial basis which was passed on to SCDC.

*Playground refurbishment:* Cllr. Plumb has put in applications for 2 grants. The cost of equipment and erection is likely to be approx. £47,200 and Wickstead's has been selected to supply this. Quotes have been received for the fencing but no decision made.

*Bus Survey:* 15 forms were returned (9% of West Wickham householders).

*Code of Conduct:* The new Code of Conduct was adopted by Council and the signed forms will be returned to the Monitoring Officer.

*Local Development Planning:* Cllr. Grieve had attended an exhibition on development. Cllr. Morris recommended that the Village Green, Playground & Playing Field and Maypole Croft land should be requested to become protected village amenity areas. Dist.Cllr. Barrett agreed to check what needed to be done.

*Report by Dist.Cllr. Barrett:*

- a) Local Plan consultation finishes at the end of September. There will be considerable changes so need to keep in touch with developments.
- b) Housing benefits will possibly be reduced next year.
- c) The clean paper collection is down by 9% this year, possibly due to the caddies in the blue bins being broken or lost.

*Report by County Cllr. Batchelor:*

- a) The new Police Commissioner will be elected on 15<sup>th</sup> November and electorate will be receiving their voting form.
- b) The County Council Highway Dept are looking at the Dean Road junction with the A1307 particularly the central waiting area. Comment was made about the overhanging trees and shrubs which if they were cut back with enable better vision.

*Any other business:*

- a) There are concerns over speeding tractors through the village. To help identify whose they are we need to record registration numbers.
- b) The hedge in front of Home Close requires hard cutting back. The Parish Clerk is in touch with Cambridgeshire Cottage Housing as it is their responsibility.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 26 November at 7.30pm. All are welcome.**

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk T: 01223 894076

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### WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 15 October, Nigel Start gave us a most informative talk on "Self Sufficiency in your Garden", demonstrating how to provide fruit and vegetables for the family all year round. This year has been one of the most difficult for vegetable growers and he was able to give us tips on how to get the best from our crops, when to sow and plant veg. and when to pick and how to store fruit. We all came away determined to do better next year.

Next month, on 19 November we are pleased to have Richard Ayres as our speaker. Richard was instrumental in laying out the gardens at Kirtling Tower, the home of Lord and Lady Fairhaven, who open the gardens to the public in Spring. We welcome visitors to our meetings so if one of our talks is of interest to you please feel free to join us, 7.30 in West Wickham Village hall.

Rosemary Yallop (speaker's secretary) T: 01799584262.

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### £600 UP FOR GRABS IN PAPER RECYCLING COMPETITION

Six lucky residents will win £100 each in a fantastic paper recycling competition run by South Cambridgeshire District Council this winter. Sponsored by Amey Cespa, the competition aims to reward residents who regularly recycle paper in their blue bin paper caddy.

It's easy to take part, just look out for the winter *South Cambs Magazine* which will hit doormats from 26 November. Once you have received your magazine, turn to the waste and recycling pages to find the competition entry form and details on how to take part.

For more information call 03450 450 063 or visit [www.scambs.gov.uk/papercompetition](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/papercompetition)

## THE VILLAGE SURVEY – WHAT WE LEARNT

The full results of the Village Survey were presented to the Parish Council in September and it was agreed to provide a summary of the results in the Village Voice.

The response to the Survey was very positive with 76% of the survey forms being completed and returned. This compares very favourably with turnout usually experienced with national and local elections.

The findings of the survey are quite complex as they contain many varied and interesting comments. All comments have been recorded and passed to the Parish Council.

This article attempts to provide a brief summary of the findings. Some responses can be quantified and expressed numerically; some are very subjective and express personal views and suggestions and space does not allow for them all to be included here.

The results are provided in order of the questions on the survey form

### Length or Residency

Over 71% of respondents have lived in the Parish for over 10 years and 83% over have lived here over 5 years

### Age Profile

56% of respondents were in the 21-65 age group; 18% in the 5-16 year age group, 15% were over 65, 4.5% in the 0 - 4 age group and 2% between 16 & 21.

### Pre-school & Clubs

6 respondents reported using Daisy Chains

5 respondents reported that they used youth clubs. The Parish Council needed this information as it supports the Youth Clubs financially.

### Computer Access

85% of respondents had access to a computer, with 98% of these having internet access. 77% of the internet users reported their broadband speed to be inadequate

### Transport

The survey clearly showed the dependency on cars for transport with 93% of returns having at least 1 car and an average of 1.75 cars per household.

There is however a strong need for a practical bus service for those who don't drive or have no access to a car. The survey will be useful in the Parish Council's drive to get a proper bus service for the Parish to meet the various users' needs. One area of questioning which was not asked, was information on the Park and Ride service.

### Village Facilities

There was a strong set of comments on this subject ranging between "there are none" to a lot of suggestions for different types of social clubs and activities. These comments are available to the Village Hall Management Committee.

There were numerous responses to the question on playground equipment and these have been passed on to Justin Plumb who is co-ordinating the playground's refurbishment. One comment which was frequently made was the need for seating within the playground. A zip wire also got a few votes!

### Housing Development

There was a mixed response to this question with 40% in favour of some development, 30% against and 30% nil responses.

Where suggestions were made for the type of housing which could be provided, there was a varied response but mainly for affordable housing; social housing; starter homes and sheltered bungalows.

The numbers considered acceptable varied between 2 and 300, but generally about 10-15 seemed acceptable. The main responses supporting development came from West Wickham with Streetly End wanting to remain as it is.

There was no support for large detached houses being built.

### Village Voice

There was a resounding appreciation for the Village Voice as a source of information and a number of useful suggestions and requests put forward. These have been passed on for consideration (see below).

Results of the survey have already been used for Parish Council activities on bus services; broadband provision and the refurbishment of the playground.

I would like to thank Perry, Jan, Sarah, Janet, Peter and Andrew for their help in writing the survey document, delivering them to each household and then collecting them. This involved a lot of effort and is very much appreciated.

Trevor Hall

## VILLAGE SURVEY RESULTS & THE VILLAGE VOICE

We've now had a chance to look through the survey results and comments for the *Village Voice*. We are very pleased to report that over 95% of those who responded found the *Village Voice* a useful source of information and many commented that they were happy with the way it is now. There were requests for more variety of contributors and for the newsletter to be more '**community led**', with which we couldn't agree more. Someone suggested a larger font in perhaps Arial type but this would mean far more pages and substantially increased costs. We have offered to provide those who have trouble reading the *Village Voice* with a **large print copy** and will happily continue to do so (contact the Editors).

There were lots of very good suggestions about what to include in future and there were also some that were puzzling, not really realistic or needed some clarification! This latter group we will tackle first.

### Puzzling

These included requests for **bin collection dates, parish council reports, diary of events & village news**— all of which appear regularly and always have done. **Bus timetables** are included when they change along with details of where to get copies. A **directory** of useful numbers, contacts and things like PO hours is produced annually, usually in January or February. It is produced as a separate sheet with the intention that you can keep it for reference. Newcomers to the village may sometimes miss out but we do try to drop one in if we know who you are. If you would like a copy please contact one of us.

### **Not really realistic**

Extended **list of entertainments, local sports news** and more **news from neighbouring villages** – space and cost is probably the most limiting factor. However, we are more than happy to include news from local sports clubs and neighbouring village organisations to which village people do or could belong but it's up to you. We can only print what we are given. The *Village Voice* is a monthly newsletter and entertainments, sports & other village news is probably more appropriately and better covered by our local newspapers – the weekly *Haverhill Echo* and the daily *Cambridge News*. Both can be delivered to your home, the *Echo* by Pepperpot News (07890 412028) and the *News* by phoning 0845 603 0075.

**Commercial Ads** - this has difficulties. It would require more pages, which would increase costs. This would not necessarily be re-cooped through charges and the extra weight might prove unwelcome to our volunteer deliverers. Copies posted to people outside the village would also cost more in postal fees. Style-wise, judging from other parish newsletters, we think it is all too easy for the adverts to dominate and have a detrimental effect on the content, which we feel is the important part. Above all it would need someone else to come on board to sell the advertising space. A **comments sheet** with every edition – not really a very good use of resources but we would welcome comments at any time, just get in touch.

### **Needing clarification**

**Facilities for older people** – if someone would like to suggest what sort of facilities (health, recreational?) they would like to see included we will do our best.

Other possible opportunities for **collective purchasing** (apart from oil) – again if someone has suggestions we would certainly include these.

### **Good suggestions which we can do fairly easily**

**Car share schemes** – we aren't aware of any locally but there are a number of careshare websites to investigate if you are interested. The following come from a *Which* report into car share schemes: [www.carshare.liftshare.com](http://www.carshare.liftshare.com), [www.liftshare.com](http://www.liftshare.com), [www.carplus.org.uk](http://www.carplus.org.uk) and [www.shareacare.com](http://www.shareacare.com).

**Police reports** – we can put these in but luckily there is little crime in the village and reports may not be regular. You can also find these on the Neighbourhood Watch email list (see article on page 6).

**Small ads** – we're happy to include things you have for sale or are offering free to a good home space permitting.

### **Good suggestions for which we need your help**

**Rainfall figures** – if you keep these would you be prepared to let us have them either monthly or three monthly?

**Births, deaths and newcomers** – we think this is a really good idea but we are going to have to rely on you to let us know.

**Contributions from children** – we'd love to include some of these.

**Profiles of local people** – is there a budding journalist out there who would be prepared to interview people? We will advise and help.

**More news** – please let us have any interesting news of your family and friends and we will try to include this.

**More photos** – we're certainly happy to do this if you send them in, space and suitability permitting.

**Cartoon** – if anyone can draw cartoons of village life please get in touch.

**More quizzes** – Pete's working on this but if anyone else can come up with something this would be welcome.

Above all, don't forget that this is **YOUR NEWSLETTER**. It's sponsored by **your** elected Parish Council and is edited and delivered by **volunteers** from the community. Thank you for your support and long may it continue.

Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris, Editors

The Survey revealed that there is some confusion as to the roles of the Parish Council (PC) and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) so here is a quick guide:

**PARISH COUNCIL** – this is the lowest tier of local government. Parish Councillors (West Wickham has 7) are elected every 4 years by those of you on the electoral roll. The Parish Council receives most of its funding annually from the Council Tax and this has to be used to enhance village life in some way. The Parish Council are continually consulted by the District and County Councils on a wide range of issues and, in turn, use their local knowledge and understanding to represent your views back to them. The Parish Council additionally receives a tremendous amount of information from a variety of sources on many subjects. By sponsoring the *Village Voice*, the Parish Council's aim is both to make this information readily available to all residents and keep you informed of local issues.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** – this is elected annually by those on the church electoral roll. To be eligible for this you have to be a regular church-goer. Two churchwardens are ex-officio members of the PCC and together they are responsible for providing facilities for public worship, discussing the form it will take, maintaining the church building and its furnishings, paying the parish share of clergy and central services and representing the parish views to Deanery & General Synods.

## **BUSES**

There have been 2 meetings with the County Council recently, the first with Parish Councils and 10 days later an open meeting for everyone in this area. I regret to say we appear to be getting nowhere and that the County Council seem not to wish to take on board the results of the recent bus survey. This clearly showed that people in this area wanted the reinstatement of a regular direct bus service to Cambridge & Haverhill. At the open meeting the County Council trotted out the same proposals, all based on the shuttle bus to Linton and largely rejected by the earlier meeting with the Parish Councils. Nor had they considered any of the practical suggestions made by the Parish Councils. Hopefully these will now be looked into by a "user group" being set up. West Wickham will be represented on this user group by Janet Morris and myself.

The only light on the horizon is a proposal for the new 19 shuttle bus to Linton to stop in West Wickham on all journeys out of the village, not the one journey at present and for all return journeys to stop in the village "by request". The route would also be changed to stop at Sainsburys in Haverhill. However, it is not yet known whether this will happen, or when!

Andrew Morris. T: 290863.

Email: [ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM](mailto:ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM)



## DO YOUR BIT TO BRING BETTER BROADBAND FOR ALL

Have you registered for the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign to bring better broadband access for everyone across the county?

Time is running out and we need as many people as possible to register before December 2012, when a supplier will be selected and planning for the big broadband rollout begins.

It only takes a minute to go online at [www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk) or fill in a Freepost reply form in the leaflet at your local library or council offices.

All we need is your postcode and a landline phone number, and whether you are a home or business user – and we will only use this information for the campaign.

The more registrations we get, the more likely we are to get the investment needed to install better broadband connections for all (2 Mbps minimum) with superfast speeds (25mbps minimum) for at least 90% of premises by 2015.

Latest figures show that over 18,000 homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have already registered their demand for better broadband making our campaign one of the fastest growing in the country.

Much of the support is being generated through the fantastic efforts of more than 80 Broadband Champions, who are busy promoting the campaign locally through leaflets, posters, events, and community websites.

Many parish councils and local councillors are also backing the campaign because good broadband connections are vital for our businesses and communities to thrive, particularly in rural areas, with benefits for health and education too.

So, why not do your bit so that more people can benefit from better broadband?

To find out more, visit  
[www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk)  
email [contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk) or call 0345 045 5200

**Ed.** So far just 57 people have signed up in West Wickham & Streetly End. This is only 25% of households in the village yet the village survey shows a very high dissatisfaction with internet speeds. Signing up improves the possibility of getting something done in this area so please sign up straight away.

## ELECTION OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE

Don't forget to vote for your choice of Commissioner on Thursday 15 November. Our polling station will be the Village Hall, open between 7.00am & 10.00pm. Details of the candidates can be found at [www.choosemypcc.org.uk](http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Ed.** We are repeating the article published in August because only 5 people (including the Editors) have signed up to this useful service. Since it was set up there have been 2 burglaries in West Wickham (see the Police reports below).

A new neighbourhood watch email list for West Wickham, <[neighbourhoodwatch@westwickham.org](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westwickham.org)>, has been established. This mailing list is open to all residents of West Wickham and its surrounding area and allows its subscribers to distribute, share and discuss relevant news, alerts and general information relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and security by simply sending an email to the address above. The list is subscriber only - you must be a list subscriber to receive and send email to the list and access its archives which are available at [http://westwickham.org/mailman/private/neighbourhoodwatch\\_westwickham.org/](http://westwickham.org/mailman/private/neighbourhoodwatch_westwickham.org/)

To subscribe to the mailing list simply send an email to <[neighbourhoodwatch-request@westwickham.org](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch-request@westwickham.org)> with "subscribe" as the Subject and body of the message, or fill in the form at [http://www.westwickham.org/mailman/listinfo/neighbourhoodwatch\\_westwickham.org/](http://www.westwickham.org/mailman/listinfo/neighbourhoodwatch_westwickham.org/). When you have sent your request, you will receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription - simply follow the instruction in the email to complete your subscription.

The list also receives regular updates about crime and anti-social behaviour from e-cops (<http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops/>), our local neighbourhood policing team, as well as feedback from the team about what they're doing to tackle it.

Alex Schuilenburg

## RECENT POLICE REPORTS

25/09 - Burglary - Burton End, West Wickham - suspects have entered the property by forcing a rear window, an untidy search has taken place and jewellery taken.

Between 1800 hours on the 19/10 and 1100 hours on the 20/10 - theft of various gardening equipment, hedge trimmer, strimmer etc from a garden shed at a property in Burton End, West Wickham.

## NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM - KENT

Recently Janet and I had a visit from a couple from West Wickham, Kent. They had been staying in Cambridge and before returning home decided to find out what our West Wickham was like. They gave us a copy of the West Wickham Residents Association Autumn Newsletter. In it was a report on their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. I was very taken by the following:

*The church service on Sunday morning filled the marquee to overflowing. The famous Revd. Roly Bain presented God's message in a new way with the aid of a tightrope and a humorous slant.*

It is unclear whether it is the message or the tightrope that had the humorous slant! Whichever, I suggest this could be a challenge to Julie Norris and her team!

Andrew Morris

## SNARES

Some of you may have seen signs on footpaths north of the High Street & Burton End indicating the presence of snares. Walkers with dogs are asked to keep them on a lead in those areas. Being ignorant on the subject of snares I wanted to find out more and turned to the DEFRA (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) & RSPCA websites for information. I also found another site [www.snarewatch.org](http://www.snarewatch.org) which has been created by the animal welfare charity OneKind to collect information about snare use in the UK, and the animal welfare problems caused by these traps.

The questions and answers below come from the RSPCA website.

### “What is a snare?”

A snare is a wire noose that is attached to a stake or heavy object that acts as an anchor to stop the animal escaping. Snares are usually set to catch foxes or rabbits, but their victims can often be badgers, cats or dogs.

### Snares and the law

There are some regulations governing the use of snares. It is illegal to set snares for birds, deer and badgers (but remember that snares cannot distinguish between animals and may trap the wrong one). In 1981, the Wildlife and Countryside Act outlawed the self-locking snare which, as a variation on the traditional noose, tightens with a ratchet-like mechanism. Under the Act, users of other forms of snare must take all reasonable precautions to prevent injury to protected animals, but precautions provide no guarantee against such an event. It is also a legal requirement that snares be checked at least once a day. Yet it would appear from the severity of the injuries caused to a lot of animals that many people do not follow even this minimal requirement.

### Why aren't all snares illegal?

There are those who argue that for the purposes of pest control, especially control of foxes and rabbits, there is no practical alternative to a snare that has been well set up and regularly inspected by an experienced person. But all too often RSPCA inspectors have to deal with incidents in which snares have inflicted indiscriminate injury and extreme suffering to animals. Whilst the Society would like to see snares banned, the government has stated that they will not do this. The law regarding snares was tightened up in Scotland in 2004. The government consulted on some possible changes in England and Wales but has so far not implemented any change. Defra has promoted a ‘code of good practice’ on use of snares.”

The DEFRA code of practice can be accessed by going to this page of DEFRA’s website:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife-management/control-methods/>

It contains the following paragraph:

**Snares must not be set on or near public footpaths, rights of way, near housing and areas regularly used for exercising domestic animals to avoid capturing pets.**

Sue Thurston. T: 290503

## NATURE NOTES

The bulk of the nature notes this month are from Di, recently returned from Madagascar to the only slightly less exotic glories of England in October.

She writes: “Autumn is a great time for spider watching. The common garden spider builds his orb web in the garden and hedgerows, and as the sun rises, these spectacular webs are bejewelled with morning dew. Spiders may be scary or fascinating depending on your point of view, but they really are worth observing. Watching them catch, dispatch, then wrap prey is in itself an art, but watching the smaller male plucking the web, trying to persuade the female not to eat him is spellbinding. Plucking and waiting, for 20 minutes he played his game until finally rushing up to the female who seems somehow mesmerised by his web plucking, delivering his sperm then dropping down out of harms way on a silken thread ...drama indeed....reminds me of the ‘milktray’ advert many years ago.

*The trees are turning and the hedgerows are full of shiny red berries which are attracting blackbirds in my garden and a mistle thrush on the Croft. It is lovely to hear the plaintive song of the robin again as it returns to our gardens, and starts to sing. A small flock of Canada geese flew over the other morning honking loudly...always a joyous sight, they seem to fly around West Wickham most mornings, we think they come from Streetly End or Horseheath and then there is the young tawny owls practicing their calls after dark.. lovely to hear but not much fun for insomniacs. We have seen a small flock of golden plover recently and look forward to our other winter visitors,. thrushes,. fieldfares and redwings ,which will arrive soon in great numbers to winter in Britain in our milder climate.*

*Wandering around the unploughed fields I noticed the scarlet star shaped flowers of the scarlet pimpernels having a second flowering and the tiny yellow and purple heads of fluellen mixed in amongst the stalks of the harvested wheat. The hedges were rich with berries, blackberries and rosehips in the main, but also some sloes and shiny red strings of black bryony. Having missed the swallows and martins gathering on the wires it was nice to see a flock of starlings chattering away, presumably gathering together before roosting. As well as the usual flocks of pigeons and jackdaws, there was a small flock of finches gathering together for the winter. They were very flighty but I identified chaffinch, yellowhammer and linnets in their midst. I got caught in a shower of rain, but was rewarded with a rainbow in the autumnal sunshine. On the village green, three male pheasants were strutting around, and in Vivienne’s trees there was a busy, noisy gang of long tailed tits.”*

I would just like to add that several people have mentioned hearing the geese fly over. They have been grazing on the fields at the back of the High Street and apparently one non-Canada Goose has been spotted amongst them. Also, the Little Owls have been calling out quite loudly again in the early evening, after a few months relative silence.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, Email: [mail@petergrieve.co.uk](mailto:mail@petergrieve.co.uk)

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

As I write we have just come to the end of two days of Open Mornings. The first was for prospective parents considering a place at LVC for their children. Close to 500 people came to see the school on what was an ordinary school day. Clearly we couldn't let parents just wander around for child protection reasons so our Year 11 prefects took them out and about on tours around the site. It enabled parents to see what children experience in their lessons on a day to day basis, the kinds of activities that happen in a modern comprehensive and the active learning that is part of the way that we teach. People reported back that they very much liked what they saw: children were engaged, the atmosphere was calm but purposeful and they were particularly impressed with the good manners of our young people. We only have 165 places available in September 2013 and I imagine, however, that once more we will have many more applications for a place.

The second Open Morning was a new event for us and I believe that everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a chance for our current parents to see the school in action on a normal day. This time, the Senior Leadership Team were the tour leaders and we took questions at the end.

Some of our parents had been to the school as children themselves so were fascinated by how the spaces had changed. We gave tours to around 50 parents and I think it is something that we should repeat every year from now onwards.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

**Daisy Chains**  
Pre School West Wickham

**Come & meet  
Santa at our  
Christmas Fair  
West Wickham Village Hall  
Saturday  
24th November  
2pm - 4pm**

**Childrens fancy dress competition 3pm**

face painting refreshments Santa's grotto  
raffle childrens craft activities tombola  
cake stall chocolate fountain lucky dip

exciting gift ideas from our selection of craft stalls

All funds raised go to Daisy Chains Pre School

## INVITATION to the stART network

On Tuesday 20 November, 7.00 - 8.30pm West Common Room, Linton Village College, Cambridge Road, Linton CB21 4JB

Involved in the arts? Then the stART network is for you. The stART network was set up to provide an opportunity for groups and individuals who contribute to the creative life of our communities to come together to meet and talk. You are warmly invited to the first stART network evening to be held in the new buildings of Linton Village College. Join us for an evening of ideas exchange, and find out about how you can be involved in the new EMERGE Festival. Refreshments provided.

The evening is free and open to anyone to attend. Please extend this invitation to other people in your organisation or to other groups or individuals you think may be interested.

RSVP to Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager for the Sawston and Linton area on 01223 712825 or [lesley@start-arts.org.uk](mailto:lesley@start-arts.org.uk).

stART represents a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District Council and 7 Village Colleges. Find out more at [www.start-arts.org.uk](http://www.start-arts.org.uk).

## EMERGE - the arts on your doorstep

Next spring villages across South Cambridgeshire will be celebrating the arts in all its forms as part of the EMERGE festival. From February to March 2013 venues and community groups will be staging a whole range of events for local people from comedy nights to pantomimes, workshops and talks to film screenings and so much more.

The Festival is all about celebrating the rich and vibrant cultural life in our communities. There will be events hosted by schools, community groups, village halls and arts companies. The festival will also include the stART Arts Awards - the annual ceremony to acknowledge outstanding contributions made by volunteers in their own community. Local residents are invited to make nominations later this year.

If you are a community group or venue who would like to host an event for the festival please get in touch. Maybe you already have a show that you would like to promote to a wider audience, or perhaps you are looking for support and advice to plan an event in your village. To find out more please get in touch with your local Arts Development Manager, Lesley Morgan. Call 01223 712825 or email [lesley@start-arts.org.uk](mailto:lesley@start-arts.org.uk).

For a full programme of events or to find out what is happening on your doorstep please visit [www.emerge-arts-festival.org.uk](http://www.emerge-arts-festival.org.uk).

**PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 November**

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