

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2013

ISSUE 118

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00**
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 5 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 6 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 11 **Local History Club. *A job for life: the history of apprenticeships.* Talk by Sarah Doig. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 12 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 16 **Deadline for items to go in the March Village Voice**
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Local History Club. Come and find out about THE BIG VILLAGE DIG. 3pm, Village Hall
- Mon 18 **Gardening Club. *Bulbs all the year round.* Talk by Hilary Thomas. &.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 19 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 25 **Local History Club. *The origins of Balsham: clues in the 1617 map.* Talk by Dr Sue Oosthuizen. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 26 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

Daisy Chains 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
From mid February
Louise Salter. T: 01223 291226

or visit www.westwickham.org

JUDY SAYS "AFSCHEID" (GOODBYE)



After 36 years in West Wickham our neighbour, Judy Jolly, has left us and returned to Holland. Her daughter, who lives in Amsterdam, and her other children had been encouraging her for some time to go back so that the family could be closer and see her more often. Judy's short term memory was very poor and she was becoming more confused so, although we will miss her a lot, we are sure that she has made the right decision. She has moved into a "Herbergier" (literally an "Innkeeper") which we believe is one of a number of care homes specifically for people with memory problems. She has her own apartment with her own furniture and her

walls are decorated with some of the many patchwork wall hangings which she was so skilled at making.

Judy was a lovely neighbour; sociable and generous with her time and hospitality. We like to think that those qualities were in some ways returned to her by her friends and neighbours. This enabled her to stay in West Wickham, supported as she was by Sylvia Ferraro who looked after her over the last few years.

When we first moved to the village she kept bees and sold her honey, although professed not to like it herself. She and her husband Bill used to walk a lot together and after his death Judy was a regular sight walking through the village and local footpaths. Other highlights of her life in the village were her time as Parish Clerk and her help with reading for the children at the Meadow School. She was an accomplished viola player and at one time regularly attended ancient Greek classes in Cambridge.

Judy was born in 1931 and many of us will have heard her recollections of Nazi-occupied Amsterdam where her family lived not far from the residence of Anne Frank. Judy's mother was Jewish and so the family were in grave peril throughout the war. As a 10 year old child she witnessed a brutal execution in the street, but never told her mother because she thought she would be worried. Another memory was risking death by stealing the wooden kerbs for use as fuel. Ironically Judy would have been a beneficiary of the food dropped during "Operation Manna" by planes flying from our local airfield. Her happiest memory of the war was jumping up onto a Canadian tank as they rolled in to relieve the city.

Judy had a number of dogs and cats to keep her company over the years. We have particularly fond memories of Clerk, who loved her gravy bones, and Bossy, who spent two days shut in a drawer, Judy being convinced that he was dead. Her most recent cat, Josie, has been rehoused and we hope that both Josie and Judy will be happy in their new homes.

Sue Thurston & Peter Grieve

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

The Church of England has been facing bad publicity. All the clergy and ministers serving this group of churches have had conversations with people who feel angry or disappointed about recent decisions about who can become a Bishop. The Church appears to be fragmented, and out of step with society. On the Church of England Website, Archbishop Sentamu has written an article about the Church. He quotes an African proverb, 'if the tiny toe is hurt the whole body bends low to tend it.' The Church of England is currently 'bending low' and we wait to see what healing will emerge.

The Lent Talks this year are an attempt to explore some contemporary issues. We are focusing on how the church can meet the 21st century. The first talk at **7.30pm, 27 February at Holy Trinity, Hildersham**, is by **Adrian Chatfield** who is director of the Simeon Centre - For prayer and the Spiritual Life - which is housed at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. There are forms of praying that suit different personalities. Challenges can change the way we pray. This is an opportunity to explore ways to deepen the spiritual life during Lent.

The second talk at **7.30pm, 6 March at The Black Bull, Balsham** is by **John Nicholson** who is a Mental Health Chaplain. He is going to talk about ways that we can be whole in body, mind and spirit. In a recent article he quotes this description of what spirituality is, "It is what is deepest in us – what gives us direction, motivation. It is what enables a person to survive bad times, to be strong, to overcome difficulties, to become themselves." *Spiritual Well-Being: Policy and Practice*, Bradford 2001.

The third talk at **7.30pm, 13 March at Hildersham Village Hall** will be given by the **Bishop of Ely** in the context of a Café Church simple meal. The meal is free, but you will need to get a ticket for this because we need to know how many to cater for. Bishop Stephen will give us something to nourish our thinking and living as we approach Easter. Tickets from Cathy Myer (892848)

The fourth talk at **7.30pm, 20 March at the Black Bull, Balsham**, will give **Archdeacon John Beer** an opportunity to address some of those issues which you have raised with us about the Church and what is being done to bring about necessary change.

These are open to everyone who is interested and not just those who go to church.

Rev Julie Norris

THANK YOU

Many congratulations and much appreciation was given to me to pass on to both the readers and the hand chime team who performed at the Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

Two questions:

1. Did all readers hand in their laminated copy? If not, please let me have it soon.
2. Please can the Hand Chime Team play again? I suggest at the Family Service on Palm Sunday, 24 March. Could we do a hot cross bun bake at my house on 23 March?

Hand chimes will need to start practicing a few weeks before. Should we recruit a few spare members (practicing on hand bells) so we don't have to cancel? Please contact me if you are able to read music and likely to be free on Sunday 17 March 9.30 - 10.30 am.

Jane Scheuer. T: 290338

CAROL SINGING

Many thanks to all those who came out carol singing on 23 December, to Kathy and John Pelling for a very welcome refreshment stop, and to all those who contributed so generously to our collection. We raised £158.61 for Age UK, to help support Janet Falaize, the Community Warden who visits West Wickham.

Our Community Warden looks after those usually over 60 who just need a bit of help with light household tasks (not nursing or cleaning) on a daily basis. The Parish Council contributes to the funding as does the District Council and the clients who pay £5 a week for the community warden to make contact with them everyday if necessary. Sometimes people are just home from hospital or need short term help following an accident, our warden is Janet Falaize and if you would like Janet to call on you or a relative please contact her direct on 07773617553

Georgina Magin & Nicky Cornish

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11 February (7.30pm Village Hall) when Sarah Doig will be talking on *A job for life: the history of apprenticeships*. This should give us some more background information about the medieval period and beyond and could well interest anyone researching their own family history. Visitors are very welcome as usual for small charge of £2.

We had to postpone our January meeting because of the snow and this has now been re-arranged for **Monday 25 February** when Dr Sue Oosthuizen will talk on *The Origins of Balsham: Clues in the 1617 Map*. This talk is linked to our HLF **Big Village Dig** project and a similar project being undertaken by the Meadow School. All are again welcome and this talk will be FREE.

BIG VILLAGE DIG 13/14 July

The archaeologists are booked; the Village Hall is booked (many thanks to the Village Hall Committee for their help) so all we need now is YOU.

Come along and find out what we are planning to do, how we are going to do it and how you can become involved – there will be opportunities for everyone to take part (the more the merrier):

**Sunday 17 February
3pm in the Village Hall**

You should have a flier about this with your Village Voice – if not please let me know.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street. Tel: 290863
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

REQUEST FOR A LAPTOP – ASAP

Has anybody got a laptop that is surplus to requirements that can be donated to Daisy Chains Pre-School? We really need a laptop to fulfil some of the IT curriculum that is a requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Please contact me if you can help.

Sue Harrow. T: 290512

NATURE NOTES

January 1st is an exciting day for people who start diaries, join gyms and begin a new list for birds seen in the garden. People whose thoughts appear in this column tend to fall in the latter category. Consulting my own lists from years gone by there seems to be a worrying trend of fewer species each year. This doesn't stop the rush of optimism when the year starts, especially when a bullfinch and a sparrowhawk appear on the first day. They were actually in the garden at the same time, although understandably the bullfinch didn't hang around for very long. Di tells me that Steve has seen a female sparrowhawk patrolling their garden when the birds are feeding and she put the collared doves up into a spin, flying through the pergola amongst them.

I have heard from Sue Kiddy, who has had two treats while out walking her dogs along the gallop going towards Yen Hall. First of all a Barn Owl flew out of the ditch, and then she saw four crows mobbing a buzzard. These sightings made her morning, although apparently the dogs were unmoved.

The big news at this end of the village is that our neighbours, Brian and Linda, have installed a nestbox with built-in camera, and on Christmas Day someone decided to use it as sleeping quarters. Initially it was difficult to identify this ball of spiky fluff, but after a while the head of a Great Tit emerged. Of course it is not possible to distinguish between male and female great tits, but the bird has been christened Rod and has become compulsive viewing every evening when he returns to the box and settles down for a good night's sleep, fluffs up his feathers and does his Rod Stewart impression. What will the future bring? Will he attract a mate? Keep reading Nature Notes to find out.

Everyone needs to find shelter in the winter, especially when the snow is lying on the ground. Yesterday, Sue noticed a butterfly flapping about in a glass candle holder.

It was a lovely peacock. He was carefully removed from his temporary home and is now sitting on the windowsill apparently looking out at the snow. The Peacock is a variety that can overwinter and then breed in the spring. This one is a fine specimen that doesn't seem to have too many miles on the clock, so fingers crossed.

With snow covering the ground everyone has the opportunity to do a bit of tracking. I am no expert but I convinced myself I could see some fox, rabbit, hare, pheasant and partridge tracks mixed up and crossing the dog and welly prints. It would be interesting to hear if anyone has spotted any others. Andrew has told me that he sees far less evidence of hare activity than at this time last year, when he witnessed many cavorting in the snow. Di has commented on last month's mention of the deer prints, confirming that there are lots of them but no sightings, "*but we were serenaded by very loud barks of the muntjacs recently, late one evening.*"

She continues "*It's been a mammal month, as our resident grey squirrels have been raiding our peanuts on a daily basis...a real nuisance, but lovely to watch their clever tricks. A large brown rat is living under either our shed or our neighbours. He is very cautious and takes away the larger bits of food that we have left on the ground. We also have a mouse in our shed, eating the apples stored there, and nibbling at the fat balls we have for the birds. Our neighbour Annabel tells me she has seen a mouse in her conservatory, maybe it's the same one.*"

Not forgetting the plants, Di reminds us that "*aconites, snowdrops and primroses are all in flower, and the hazel trees in the hedgerows are showing tiny tightly furled catkins, waiting for the day length and warmth to elongate them.*" If winter comes, can spring be far behind?

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

ARE YOU A BOTANICAL ARTIST?

We are Botanical Artists, working with Coloured Pencils and Watercolours and wonder if there is anybody living locally who shares our interest. We work at home alone and would like to be able to meet with other Botanical artists to exchange ideas, compare technique and draw together.

Is there anyone out there who would like to join an informal group to work together on a regular basis? This would be a self-help group, not a class with a teacher, possibly meeting once a month, depending on how it went. If you are interested, we would really like to hear from you.

Nicky Cornish T: 290203. email: nicky.cornish@live.com
Vivienne Henderson T: 290243
email: viviennehenderson@btinternet.com

OIL SYNDICATE

If you're interested in ordering with the syndicate the deadline for orders is **Thursday, 14 February**. Checking the boilerjuice.com website beforehand will give you an idea of the movement of oil prices.

I wrote quite a long piece in January's Village Voice about the syndicate and ways you can help me if you want to place an order.

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



Bar Prizes

QUIZ NIGHT

in support of Daisy Chains Pre-School

Friday 1st March

West Wickham Village Hall
Bar 7.30pm - Quiz 8pm
£3.00 per person Teams of up to 6

Daisy Chains
Pre-School West Wickham

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We just started back to Brownies and welcomed Morgan, Eowyn and Olivia to the pack. Morgan and Eowyn were previously Rainbows but Olivia is new to guiding and her Mum made the enquiry through our new dedicated Join Us site - www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested - where all new enquiries from both girls and volunteers are now made.

In December the Brownies gave the best performances yet at the Over 60's Luncheon, the number of 'congratulations', 'what a lovely bunch of Brownies', 'they are so talented' I've had is tremendous. I knew they were talented but I didn't know how talented.

We are busy getting ready for our annual Pack Holiday to the Jarman Centre towards the end of March. We will hopefully have better weather than last year and be able to have a picnic outside for lunch when the Rainbows visit. We will also be attending the District Thinking Day celebrations, being held at Castle Camps Village Hall, in February as well as crafts and activities for the Chinese New Year of the Snake. Which year were you born under? I'm monkey but I guess you knew that anyway!

As mentioned above, if you would like to put your daughter on our waiting list you will need to register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested but if you would like more information on what we do then please phone me or drop me an email.

PAULINE AKA BARNEY. T: 01223 891086.
Email: brownies@horseheath.info

DAISYCHAINS PRESCHOOL

Well, Christmas is now well and truly over and done with and we had loads of fun last term making loads of Christmas decorations and gifts for mums and dads (hope the presents all got home in one piece!)

This half term we will be learning about "SHAPES" and then after February half term we will be looking at "Under the Ground". Plans are well underway to get the Daisychains garden planted up and in full bloom by the summer and we have several charity events in the pipeline.

After a very successful Christmas fayre (almost £1000 raised) our first event of 2013 will be a fun quiz which will be held on 1st March at the Village Hall so please put this in your diary. I have volunteered to set the questions for this year's quiz so don't expect to have to tax your brains too much, after all, we all want to have fun, not give ourselves a headache, don't we?

We will be looking for groups of six to enter as a team so please ask your friends to join you for an evening of intellectual stimulation. Watch out for more information about the quiz and notices around the village.

As always, we thank you all for your continued support which enables us to keep the preschool open at a particularly "lean" time regarding numbers of children attending.

We look forward to seeing you at the Quiz Night.

Sue Harrow. Preschool Leader.

BALSHAM QUIZ NIGHT

*In aid of Save the Children
Will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd February
in Balsham Church Institute
Tickets cost just £8.00*

To register your team's table (8 max.) or offer yourself as a team member

*please contact Jenny Richards 894076
Nita Miller 893250 or Marian Corbett 891057.*

Bring your own drinks, we will provide the glasses and there will be light refreshments.

POPPY APPEAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2012

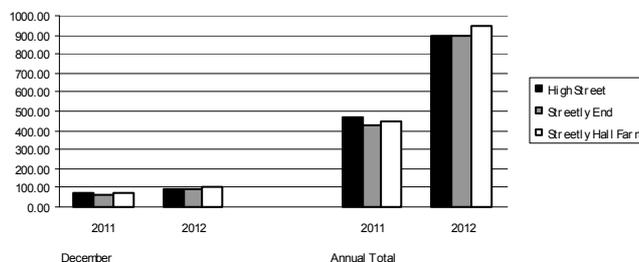
Although the week before Poppy fortnight is really busy and hard work, opening parcels, unpacking stock, preparing poppy boxes and tins, delivering poppies, badges, wrist bands, posters and wreathes, it has never failed to be rewarded. West Wickham alone raised the sum of £223.13 which is incredible, but due to the dedication of Wayne and Moira Ripsher and family who went to the far ends of the village in some really horrid weather, to collect your donations in exchange for a paper poppy. We would not be celebrating an overall increase to £2714.60 in the amount collected in our area which includes West Wrattling, West Wickham, Weston Colville, Balsham and the Gog Magog Farm Shop without the help of forty collectors.

My role as Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser is to thank you on behalf of the Royal British Legion for helping them continue their work. On a personal level, I just want to say that I couldn't do this and wouldn't be able to find the energy to do this, without the amazing support all you collectors and those who help with counting, as well as my husband, so generously give to me – my grateful thanks.

Margaret Johnson

RAINFALL DATA

December 2012 was another very wet month! This chart shows a comparison between December 2011 & 2012 and a comparison between the whole of 2011 & 2012. It shows that Streetly Hall Farm was the wettest part of the parish in 2012 but also reflects how heavy showers affect us! The chart shows rainfall in millimetres.



PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 February

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