

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2013

ISSUE 119

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Fri 1 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Quiz Night. Bar from 7.30pm, quiz at 8.00pm. Teams of up to 6, £3.00 per person. Village Hall**
- 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. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 11 **Local History Club AGM. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 12 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 16 **Deadline for articles for the April issue of the Village Voice**
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 18 **Gardening Club. Butterflies in your garden. Talk by Rob Parker (Butterfly Conservancy). 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 19 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 22 **Meadow School PTA Quiz Night. Details on page 3**
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 25 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend**
- Tue 26 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 27 Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 31 **Easter Sunday. Family communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**

**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  
or visit [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)**

## CANON FRANCIS WOOLLEY

Everyone in Balsham, West Wickham, West Wrating and Weston Colville will be sad to hear that Canon Francis Woolley died on Tuesday 12th February in Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Oxford. He had been in Sobell House for several days, receiving wonderful care from the nurses and with his family with him night and day. It was the end of over ten years of a long fight with cancer, with several stays in hospital and major surgery. In all those years Francis served the people of Balsham and the local villages as Rector until he retired due to ill health in 2010. He was unflinching positive and he coped with his symptoms with good humour and great courage. His beloved dog Cholmondeley used to write the monthly letters in the Balsham Review, referring to Francis as HWTHMBO (He who thinks he must be obeyed). Francis humour also appeared in the minutes of the chapter meetings of the local clergy, as he was our Chapter Clerk, and he was a feature of the Ely Diocesan Clergy Conferences, poking gentle fun at the Church of England. He was also Diocesan Advisor for church organs and church lighting. The latter skill came from his years as a lighting director for theatres and for touring companies, before he was called to the priesthood. Please remember Francis family and friends and give thanks for his long service to the church he loved, as a wise and thoughtful parish priest, especially to the people of our villages. There is going to be a lot of laughter in heaven. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Keith Johnson

Francis was vicar of this Parish up until his retirement after having been diagnosed with cancer which he bravely fought for many years. Those of us who were fortunate to have known Francis will remember his wonderful sense of humour but also his compassion and love. He touched many of us here and in the other villages and he will be sadly missed.

Nicky Cornish



**BIG VILLAGE DIG  
13 & 14 July**



Thank you to all of you who turned out on Sunday afternoon to hear from Britt Baillie-Warren and me about the why and how of the Big Village Dig. Your interest and support is very much appreciated. We now have offers of 18 sites for archaeological test pits from all areas of the village and plenty of offers to become diggers or help in some other way. THERE IS STILL TIME for you to volunteer for what should be a fun and exciting weekend if you haven't already done so. Either fill in and return the orange form, which was in last month's *Village Voice*, or contact me as soon as possible. Over the next few months we will be keeping you all informed of what's happening and hope to have regular updates on the Village Hall website ([www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)) before long.

Janet Morris West Wickham & District Local History Club  
21 High Street Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto: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

I haven't seen a Tuit recently. Now those of you who know what a Tuit is may skip this paragraph and move on to the meaty stuff, but for those of you who don't know let me explain. A Tuit is a small circular plate and possession of one is a great boon. It means that you can get done all those jobs that have been hanging around, that you have been too bored or frightened or lazy or whatever to get done. How? Well so often we say that something will be done "when I get around to it." Well possession of a circular plate called a Tuit means that you have indeed got around to it. Yes? No? Not funny? Oh well, as Frankie Howerd used to say "Suit yerself" So on to the meaty stuff.

Lent, is, or can be, the Church's Tuit: the time when all sorts of things which need doing actually get done. Now I suspect that for many of you Lent means miserable hymns, giving up things and really not having much fun. I want to suggest a different approach.

The word Lent actually means Spring and comes from the same root as the word lengthen. Lent, like spring, is a time for growth, for new things and new life. It was originally a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays), in which those to be Baptised at Easter would prepare for their entry into full Church membership. Gradually, those already baptised joined in and so it became a universal time of preparation. But it is not meant to be miserable. So if at any time in Lent you find that your Lenten observance is making you miserable, stop it at once and re-evaluate. It is meant to be serious, but that is not the same.

So you might like to read a book that will help you in your discipleship. You might like to join the Lent Study Group. You might like to give up something that is important to you, just to show that you are master of it and not it of you: like chocolate or alcohol or TV or whatever. Not as I say to make you miserable but partly because it is a good discipline in itself, and as a by-product partly to save money and the money you save can be given to a worthy cause, and partly to give you more time, which for many of us is the most precious and scarce of all commodities, more time to pray, more to think, more time to do all those necessary but often postponed tasks, like writing a letter, or visiting someone we don't find congenial. Or just generally being a better neighbour and a better citizen.

Lent is a time for growth. To grow is to change, said Cardinal Newman. To be perfect is to have changed often. So tot up all those little good deeds which you say will be done when you get around to it and treat Lent as your personal Tuit.

Canon John Fellows

## SOUTH CAMBS MAGAZINE

Various people have said they are not getting the South Cambridgeshire District Council's residents' magazine. We have been told that the spring edition will begin to be delivered to homes from Saturday 23 February and all deliveries should be completed by Sunday 10 March.

If anyone does not receive a copy by Monday 11 March please contact the contractors PDC directly on 01904 606300 or by email to customerservice@teampdc.co.uk. The communications team at the District Council will also help if PDC do not resolve their problem. They can be contacted on 01954 713289

## PEGGY MAVOURNEEN COWAN

The family of the late Peggy would like to say thank you for the many cards, letters and kind words following her recent death at the age of 91. Many thanks to the Reverend Julie Norris for a lovely service, to Nicky for the beautiful flowers in the church and to Nadine for making a much appreciated cup of tea for those who joined us at the Village Hall after the service.

Peggy lived most of her life in West Wickham and saw many changes over the years. She was of a very feisty nature and fiercely independent, which caused all sorts of problems when it was decided a couple of years ago (not by her) that she needed to have carers on a daily basis. It is fair to say that she sometimes gave these lovely people hell, but they told us that she was one of their favourite clients. She always sweet talked them in to pouring her a large glass of port before they left, no matter what time of day it was!

Although we miss her terribly we are all so glad that she was able to spend the last of her days in her own home, and that she passed away peacefully with her family beside her.

Best wishes to you all from the Cowan family.

Marlene Mizon

## BALSHAM CUBS AND SCOUTS NEWS

The Cubs and Scouts are settling back to their meetings with a bit of interruption thanks to the snow.

There are a few changes which will not affect the children directly, but the Scouting organisation has altered the way in which the Districts are organised. The Balsham Cubs and Scouts will now belong to the Newmarket District, as they have decided to lose the Granta District and absorb those Troups and Packs into alternative Districts. The only real change for the children will be a different District badge on their uniform and on their flags.

The Cubs are still desperately looking for a new uniformed leader. Debbie is doing her best to run the meetings with some help from Darren (one of the Scout leaders) but she is having to do all the planning single handed, which is obviously not sustainable. If you are interested in coming forward to help, training is given by the Scouting Organisation. The amount of time it would take up can be up to you, but the minimum would be the 2 hours on Wednesday evening for the actual Cub meeting and then some planning time each term. Debbie would love to hear from anyone who can help please! Please contact her on 01223 894498

Fundraising: It has been decided by the committee to call it a day on the 100 club. If you have been a member we would like to thank you for all your support over the years. The decision was made as it has been increasingly difficult to recruit and retain membership and we are aware of the difficulties facing people financially at the moment. BUT we will still be having our annual car wash, mile of coins, cake stall and raffle - this year it will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> June so keep the date in your diary and start collecting those annoying coins that take up too much room, to donate to the Cubs.

Juliet Bevan (on behalf of the committee)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 28 January the following were some of the items discussed.

**Old Filtration Plant:** The solicitor had expressed concern regarding possible contamination of this site but it was agreed by council that there was no problem and to continue with the transfer.

**Local Development Plan Amenity Area:** Dist.Cllr. Barrett had checked whether Maypole Croft land needed protection amenity status but had been told by South Cambs DC it was not necessary.

### **Planning:**

S/0220/12/FL – 10 Burton End. Dist.Cllr. Barrett had queried the fact that the S106 development payment had been disallowed following the Appeal and was told that the Inspector had been informed by South Cambs DC that West Wickham had sufficient green spaces but had not told him that the play equipment on part of this green space was being refurbished

### **Finance:**

**Budget & Precept:** Request for approx. £3000 for the Village Sign was discussed and agreed that the cost should be spread over 2 years and that £1000 should be put aside for this year to cover design costs. It was agreed to apply for a grant of £650 for the purchase of trees and wildlife conservation at the new tree planting near Bottle Hall, the Old Filtration Plant and at the old Allotments. It was agreed that if the grant is not awarded the money should come out of reserves. A grant of £300 was agreed for graveyard grass cutting and a further £300 be paid towards maintenance costs, both coming under the S137 allowance. The Precept requested was £10,200, an increase of £2,200.

**A1307 steering group:** Cllr. Hall had been to this meeting which was well attended. He felt the keynote was that there was little chance of getting any money from the large new site being developed outside Haverhill as they are having difficulty in finding purchasers for the plots.

**Playground refurbishment:** Cllr. Plumb is hoping that the contractors, Wickstead, will begin clearing the site in March. He is waiting to hear the outcome of the AmeyCespa grant application.

**Bus Service Review:** Two meetings of the User Group had been held but little progress made. Revised timetables and costings are still awaited.

### **Maintenance:**

**Telephone Lines:** It was established that BT were not responsible for cutting back branches which are a possible hazard to overhead lines but the landowners are. They will be written to.

**Footpaths:** The Parish Clerk will write again to Karen Champion requesting that circular footpaths are maintained in preference to footpaths which go nowhere.

**Road Gritting:** County Cllr. Batchelor suggested the Parish Clerk write to the Highways Dept requesting that the road from West Wickham crossroads to Withersfield is added to the gritting list when discussed at the Annual Review.

### **Report by District Cllr. Barrett:**

- The Precept will be agreed this coming Wednesday and it could be increased by 1.9%.
- Contact Centre – this is now based at Cambourne.
- The new contract for Housing Maintenance went out to tender with 18 applicants. SCDC's "in house" group did not get this contract.

### **Report by County Cllr. Batchelor:**

- The CCC will recommend an increase of 1.9% to the Council Tax at their meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- The Cabinet on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February will select a Broadband supplier.

### **Any Other Business:**

Cllr. Hall said that the Burton End street sign was broken and needed replacing. The Clerk would contact the CCC Highways Dept. to arrange this. Cllrs. Licence and Plumb wondered why the West Wickham Parish entry sign was not placed between Horseheath and Streetly End but on the road leading up to Ivy Todd Farm.

The draft Minutes are posted on the Parish Council noticeboard and the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 25 March at 7.30pm. All most welcome.

Jennifer Richards. Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076

## PTA Quiz Night

Meadow School, Balsham

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March

7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

Fish & Chip Supper

Bar

Raffle

Tickets £7.50 - available from the School office



Here to help – help to hear

Come to our

## Demonstration of Hearing Help Equipment

A chance to view and try  
Telephones, TV amplifiers, alerts and more

21st March 2013 Drop-in anytime  
10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Scotsdales Garden Centre  
120 Cambridge Road  
Great Shelford  
CB22 5JT

## NATURE NOTES

You remember Richard Toft's comments on the local badger population a couple of months ago? Well, on our way to a bowls match the other night at 7 o'clock we were thrilled to see a badger scurrying across the road towards the field where Richard had seen plenty of badger evidence last year. I would think it likely that the route across the road and along the ditch line which runs behind the village is used frequently by badgers, so if you turn left at the bottom of the village towards Streetly End, keep an eye out for them.

Di has some bird observations: "*As a child, 14 February was the day that the birds got 'married', and already the garden birds are beginning to show a great deal of interest in each other. Usually the males are sparring, but most noticeably it's the singing in the morning and evening... proclaiming a territory and advertising for a mate. Their plumage seems to have been polished to a sheen, especially the pink of the bullfinch and chaffinch. It's been lovely to hear the song thrush and blackbird sing their familiar melody from high in a treetop....a real herald of spring. The male pheasants are also becoming quite cocky, sparring in the road, ignoring the traffic and two robins fighting under the bird table took no notice as I approached. Much to my delight I witnessed two buzzards displaying and performing an aerial display recently. The rooks are out in the fields, strutting their stuff and throwing their heads back looking for mates. At this time of year the birds flock together and walking the footpaths we have seen noisy flocks of yellowhammers, and linnets and most spectacularly the golden plover wheeling in the sky, and the huge numbers of pigeons on the fields, as they fly up you can hear the beat of their wings. When the snow lay on the ground we saw a flock of skylarks on the bottom fields...usually camouflaged, but easily spotted on the white background.*"

On the bird theme, I'm sure you want to know how Rod is getting on. After continuous use of the nest box from Christmas Day to Valentine's Day he went missing on the night of 15 February. In view of Di's earlier comments, could he have been on his honeymoon? If there are further developments, you will be informed.

Meanwhile, back on the mammal front, there are plenty of foxes about although I keep missing them. Sue saw one run past the end of our garden last week, and today Charlie told me one had just run across the road behind me. I must try to be more alert. Andrew has retracted his concerns expressed last month about the dearth of hares. Soon afterwards he had seen a good quantity of them playing and he has also seen a woodcock, which is rather more unusual. Di also says "*The hazel catkins are out now, delightful yellow tassels...we called them 'lambs tails' as children. Down along by Marshall's park, if you slow down you can see a yellow carpet of aconites in the trees and further along huge clumps of snowdrops.*"

On the subject of aconites, I went for a walk round Wandlebury yesterday and they really are a splendid sight, all along the bank at the car park, and near the Highland Cattle field (some of which, I think, used to live in West Wickham). I stood there with Dash for a few minutes looking at the cattle, but none of them came over to say hello. They must prefer their new friends.

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

## OIL SYNDICATE UPDATE

I placed an order for 12500 litres on Friday 15 February at the still very high price of 63.5p per litre. This time the supplier is Birmingham Fuel Oils who we haven't used before. The highest quote I had was 68.77p. The deadline for the next order of the syndicate will be Thursday 13 June so I will remind you in the June edition of the Village Voice. A list of all the dates is shown on the village website [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

Sue Thurston

## 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.

Applicants who wish to be considered for this year's £800 award are reminded that written applications must be received before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. All queries to: - [peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk)

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

There are a few messages the Service wants to remind residents of as we leave the winter months behind.

**Get sweeping:** Chimney's should be professionally swept and brickwork inspected at least once a year to prevent chimney fires. Our advice is to check yours before and after the winter period.

**As the clocks go forward, push the button:** Everyone should have a correctly fitted, working smoke alarm in their home. You should test it at least once a week by pushing the button. If you have forgotten to do yours recently, why not test it when you turn your clocks forward?

**Easter school holidays:** Arson can often increase during the school holidays. Stay vigilant, call 999 if you see a crime taking place and do not attempt to put the fire out yourself. If you are a parent, speak to your child about the dangers of playing with fire.

**It's DIY time:** We frequently receive an increase in calls relating to homeowners having accidents associated with DIY. These can involve electrical equipment which has been stored in a damp shed over the winter and heavy-duty garden equipment. Be careful, read the instructions and take expert advice from a DIY store.

For free home fire safety advice, log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk). Like our fan page on Facebook by searching Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue, and follow us on Twitter @cambsfrs.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.

## WE NEED YOU!

We are currently looking for a play worker to join our team at Daisychains Preschool. (NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, or above). If you are energetic, enthusiastic and enjoy working with children and want to know more about the job then please ring Sue on 01223 290512 or send a short CV to Laura Bassett, Prospect Cottage, Streetly End, Cambs.

Sue Harrow

## YOU CAN HELP OLDER PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Local charity Care Network Cambridgeshire is looking for local people to help older people find their way to activities and services which they would enjoy or find useful.

There are lots of good groups, services, and support available in Cambridgeshire but not everyone knows what is out there or how to access it. We want all older people in Cambridgeshire to have someone in their community who they can turn to for information.

The type of information being given could be pointing people in the direction of a club or activity group, helping them access local transport like a community car scheme, or they may need information on benefits, modifications to their home, or help at home with the things they find difficult. Whatever the query we want all older people to have a 'Community Navigator' local to them who can help them find what they want.

By helping people find what they want, at the time when they need it, you can help older people avoid isolation and loneliness and remain active and independent for longer.

We will provide free training and on-going support to help you build up the skills, knowledge, and confidence to carry out the role. Plus your local co-ordinator will always be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Being a Community Navigator only takes a few hours a month, and compliments any involvement you may already have in your community. It's an opportunity to be part of something that can make a real difference to people's lives, and it should be interesting and fun too!

Whether you are already active in your community, or you would be willing to learn, we want to hear from you. Contact your local co-ordinator Rob Wallace for more information.

Call: 01954 211919 or Email: Rob.W@care-network.org.uk



'There's no way I'd  
**keep up** if I still  
smoked'

CAMQUIT can help you quit smoking for good. We will arrange Nicotine Replacement therapies at prescription only cost and for those who don't pay prescriptions these are free.

Call 0800 018 4304 or visit  
[www.camquit.nhs.uk](http://www.camquit.nhs.uk)

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 18 February West Wickham and District Gardening Club were pleased to have their former Chairman, Hilary Thomas give a beautifully illustrated talk on "Bulbs for all seasons". We have all seen Hilary bent double taking close up photos of plants on our various outings but had not till now seen the results. The temptation now is to buy and pot up some of the plants she has shown us, not just for Spring but to try some later flowering bulbs like eucomis and crocosmia.

Our next talk will be by Rob Parker from Butterfly Conservation who will show us slides of those Butterflies we should expect to see in our gardens. This will be on 18 March, 7.30 at West Wickham Village Hall. Hope to see you there, all visitors warmly welcomed.

Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799584262

## RICHARD III THE WEST WICKHAM CONNECTION

First of all thank you to all those who recognised Mathew on television recently and have made such kind remarks. Mathew was indeed the archaeologist in charge of the excavation of Richard III but West Wickham has other connections with the king as well.

In 1471, following Yorkist victories at the battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury, Richard was given considerable land by his brother, Edward IV, including the Manor of Yen Hall in West Wickham. I don't for one moment think he was much aware of this let alone visited his estate, these matters would have been handled by others, but the manor court (which dealt with property and misdemeanours) would have been held in his name so people here would have been well aware of him. In 1475, rather ironically as it turned out, Richard gave the manor to Sir William Stanley. The role of the Stanley family at the battle of Bosworth is much debated but their intervention or non-intervention undoubtedly swayed the battle in favour of Henry Tudor! Other manors in West Wickham belonged to Sir William Alington of Horseheath Hall. The Alingtons were Yorkist supporters and Sir William died at the battle of Bosworth fighting for Richard. Men of West Wickham would have been obliged to accompany their lord to battle and they, too, may well have died there.

There is also a more modern connection with Richard. In the 1990s, a stained-glass window was commissioned to commemorate Richard in York Minster. Richard's personal emblem taken from his coat-of-arms was a boar. Dr Derek Booth from Milton, a scientist whose research work was to do with the commercial farming of boar, was asked by the artist involved for help in photographing some boars for reference. Guess what? Derek bought him to see the boars of Will Stone, so West Wickham boars are now on permanent display in York Minster.

Mathew has agreed to come and talk to the Local History Club later in the year on the search for Richard III. All will be welcome so watch out for the date.

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

I don't often watch the local news on television, but for some reason I found myself watching it a good deal in January and became increasingly dismayed: one programme was attacking headteachers in Suffolk schools for their poor position in the GCSE league tables, another was criticising heads of state comprehensive schools and singing the praises of selective grammar schools and another was blaming heads for closing their schools at the slightest hint of snow. Isn't it someone else's turn to get picked on, I began to feel? What about traffic wardens or dental hygienists next week?

The snow story was a particularly vicious attack and one designed to whip up public anger. Heads who had not closed their schools were being held up as shining examples, those who had were being attacked by presenters with little understanding of the issues involved.

So, I thought I might take a few minutes of your time to explain what those issues are on behalf of the four schools in Linton so at least your readers can understand how decisions about closure on snowy days are made.

When a head teacher wakes up to snowfall they have 3 considerations:

1. Can I clear my school drive and make my site safe in time for the start of school?
2. Can my staff make it into school from their homes, usually miles away, in order to supervise the children?
3. Will the buses run? The bus companies have their own risk assessments to determine this.

If the head can answer 'yes' to all 3 questions they are safe to open. If the answer is 'no' to any, then they have to close. Whether your staff can make it in depends on where they travel from. This is why it is possible for 4 Linton schools to make 4 completely different assessments of the risk in opening: why LVC and Linton Infants stayed open on 21 January and the Heights and Granta closed. All the heads made the right decisions for their schools. Only they had all the cards in front of them to inform those decisions.

I actually opened my school on the snow day in January because Camgrain came round at midnight on Sunday to snowplough the drives, because the caretakers were up bright and early to do the paths and because our Cambridgeshire highways, at least, had been gritted and were driveable. Teachers made it in, the buses were running – there was no reason to close. However even 'opening' was a really controversial thing to do: I had messages on every form of social media and communication technology from parents (not their children – that I'd have expected) saying that they wanted a snow day and were keeping their children off. As the old saying goes, you are damned if you do and damned if you don't. When it comes down to it, every school has to make its own decision and stick with it, then ignore the inevitable moaning.

I wait the spring with eagerness.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

### RAINFALL FIGURES

Surprisingly the figures for January were less than in 2012!

	2013	2012
High Street	53mm	63.5mm
Streetly End	45mm	60.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	56mm	78mm

**Would you like to share your  
love of reading with young  
people by becoming a  
Reading Coach?**

**At Linton Village College  
we are looking for volunteers to help  
children who find reading difficult.  
Your time with them could make a  
difference to their future life chances!**

If you are interested, contact Ruth Keys and I will send you an information pack and an application form.

Ruth.keys@lvc.org



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR DOG FOULING

Articles about dog fouling are one of the most repeated in the Village Voice and I did not think I would be one to contribute to the loop until today. Don't get me wrong, my family and I love animals and almost always have had one or more pets. Further, most pet owners I know are responsible and caring citizens. Unfortunately there are one or two thoughtless and selfish dog owners who not only allow their dog to foul on the pavement outside our property in an area where the local children gather to catch the school bus, they persistently do not pick up the mess their pets leave behind. Once is an accident, twice careless but in my books three or more times is deliberately disrespectful. In my eyes, your inaction is as good as smearing the faeces of your pet on my child's shoes and trousers before school yourself, causing considerable distress let alone annoyance to all concerned. I would expect to encounter all sorts of droppings out in the countryside, not dog faeces on a regular basis on a pavement frequented by school children. With pet ownership comes responsibility, so I appeal to the person or persons unknown, please pick up your pet's litter.

Alex Schuilenburg

### PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 March

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