

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2013

ISSUE 120

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 3 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 6 FARMERS MARKET. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
- Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 8 **Local History Club. *History of roads: Prehistoric times to the present day.* Talk by Tony Kirby. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 9 Green & blue wheeled bin collection
- Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 15 **Gardening Club. Postponed talk - *Butterflies in your garden.* Talk by Rob Parker (Butterfly Conservation). 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 16 Black wheeled bin collection
Deadline for articles for the May issue of the Village Voice
- Wed 17 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Songs of Praise & laying up of West Wickham Salvation Army flag. 4pm, St Mary's Church
- Tue 23 Green & blue wheeled bin collection
- Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 27 **Save the Children Ceilidh. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See back page for details**
- Sun 28 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 30 Black wheeled bin collection
- 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

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.

YOUR PLAYGROUND NEEDS YOU

As you probably already know, we have been successful in gaining grants from South Cambridge District Council and Amey Cespa, which have taken us a long way towards the amount we need for our super duper new playground. Sadly we were unsuccessful in securing any money from Wadlow Windfarm for the second time. Whilst we have done really well to get this far, we are still some way short of the total required to complete the project. We still really need your help to raise funds.

The Coffee Mornings have been starting to gain momentum, with two or three having taken place already and another three in the coming weeks that I know of. We really appreciate every penny and these have raised a surprising amount of money so far. So please, if you could host one, or any other kind of fundraising event, please do get in touch. We can provide you with invitations, bunting, posters, all kinds of finishing touches!

Alternatively if you want to help but would prefer just to pledge some money then that would also be fantastic! Either way, please call me on 01223 291395 or email westwickhamcoffeemornings@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

Work on the playground will be completed in stages. The first of these will be to close the current playground and clear the site. This work will start soon, over a weekend. If you are willing to help with this please either give me a call or email justwickham@yahoo.co.uk.

Many hands make light work! Let's try and get our new playground in place for the summer holidays!

Justin Plumb

WE MISSED OUR BIRTHDAY

Believe it or not, the Village Voice was 10 years old in March and we didn't remember! We hope you continue to enjoy what is being published and find the information useful. However, the Voice would not exist without the contributions from many people and we would like to give them all a BIG THANK YOU.

Firstly and very importantly, to the people who devote time & effort to deliver the Voice to your door – to Linda Adams, Jon & Anita Debnam, Sue Thurston, Peter Grieve and Andrew Morris. Secondly, to Janet Morris who proof reads and corrects the Voice each month. Thirdly, to the many regular contributors, without whose efforts there wouldn't be a Voice. We would welcome regular contributions from village & local organisations who we don't hear from very often. Maybe this would generate greater interest and involvement in the activities of those organisations! Lastly, we must of course not forget the Parish Council who is paying for you to get the Voice free of charge.

We would very much welcome suggestions on how to improve the Voice – is there anything you would like to see included or left out? Regarding the Diary, please don't assume that we will "pick up" information from posters or adverts elsewhere. If you don't give us details of your event or activity we will not be able to include it. We are still disappointed that there have been few "Letters to the Editors". Maybe there aren't any contentious issues you want express your views on but **don't forget - the Voice is your voice, please don't be reluctant to use it as just that.**

Sue & Andrew

FROM THE VICARAGE

Our new venture in the 7 churches, is to put in place a Parish Nurse. However, conversations in some of the villages have indicated that there are still some people who are confused about what this is about. Should this be something the NHS does rather than the Churches? Will this person compete with other services? Do we really need this? Who will this help?

I used to visit an elderly man, who has sadly now died, who became a recluse when his wife died. I always found him ready to talk, and enjoyed his conversations. However, others told me that he had been known to see people off his land with a shot gun. He had become lonely, and isolated and fearful that people in authority might want to interfere. As far as he was concerned, he did not need anything. Then there was a crisis, he became ill and was taken to hospital. Suddenly there were people to talk to, food provided for him and warmth and friendship offered. He didn't know he needed these things until he was able to access them. Then he was glad of some extra support and it was lovely to see him looking well and happier, even though he was actually very ill indeed. I was saddened that we could not do this earlier and in the local community. Some of those who will benefit from the Parish Nurse may also not realise they need this service until it is in place.

There are people in these villages who are lonely, or who slip through the net of other services because they have not wanted to trouble anyone, or who would just like someone to talk to about a medical problem. The GPs see a lot of 'worried, well' people who, with a bit of professional care in the community, might not need to visit the surgery so often. There may be an opportunity to promote health in the local communities, and prevent problems growing into crises. Other people might feel more confident about being at home in the community with a medical problem, if they knew that there was someone they could check things out with, and who could help them to ask for what they need. Furthermore, those who are doing the sterling work of caring for someone will find someone to support them.

This is the role that we see for the Parish Nurse, working in the local communities, networking to ease people's access to other services, supporting the health of all age groups. This Parish Nurse will be a professional who will not want to duplicate work done by others, and who will have enough gap-filling, health promoting, pastoral supporting work with individuals and carers to do of their own. Although Church based, this Nurse will work with people of all faiths (or none) so everyone who wants to access his or her professional and caring skills we be able to do so.

Rev. Julie Norris

St Mary's West Wickham

Invite you to a
FAMILY SERVICE

On
EASTER SUNDAY
at 9.15 am

Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

Everyone welcome

WEST WICKHAM SALVATION ARMY

On Sunday 21 April the West Wickham Corps of the Salvation Army will be coming to St Marys to lay up the flag officially in the church. The Songs of Praise service is at 4pm. All those who attended the Salvation Army here in West Wickham please will you contact me and let me know your favourite hymn so that it can be played. And don't forget to come along.

Nicky Cornish. T: 290203

BIG VILLAGE DIG



We now have offers of 21 sites to dig in the summer but as we can drop one or two of these if necessary it's not too late to offer your garden as well. There is also plenty of room for more volunteers – diggers, finds washers, recorders, cake makers, tea brewers – we can find a job for everyone who wants to take part.

In the meantime we are trying to work out what equipment we will need to beg or borrow for each test pit. We haven't allowed too much grant money for these as most people will have some or all of them already. We have given out equipment lists to many of you and I would be grateful if they can be returned to me as soon as possible but can anyone lend or perhaps borrow from an employer any of the following?

- Mattock
- Spade
- Shovel (large and hand)
- Hand brush
- Sieve (10mm mesh, preferably metal)
- Bucket
- Plastic sheeting (5m x 4m approx)
- Trowel (100mm pointing)
- Tape measure (30m)
- Gazebo (for shelter if wet or hot!)

Please let me know if you can help

If you've offered a site please be thinking about where in your garden you want to put the 1m square test pit– avoid walls and trees and you will need some space around for the spoil heap. We will be trying to get round to all of you in the next few weeks to discuss this with you.

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

SAVE THE CHILDREN QUIZ

I would like to thank all those who took part in the Save the Children Quiz in Balsham on Friday 22 February. It was a great evening and very well supported and £620.00 was raised for this worthwhile charity. Thank you.

Jenny Richards.

D'ABO TENNIS CLUB – WEST WRATTING NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Our new tennis season will start 1 May 2013. If you are interested in receiving a new members pack then please contact the Treasurer, Mark Holme on 07768 443223 or email mark@thesafebox.co.uk.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 18 March, West Wickham and District Gardening Club invited Tim Fuller from "A Plantsman's Preference" nursery near Diss to talk on Planting with Grasses. This proved to be one of the most interesting talks we have had and Tim's enthusiasm for his subject was evident. The use of grasses amongst herbaceous plants is not just for the latest prairie type planting but as Tim pointed out, many of the smaller ones can be used at the front of a border and taller grasses make a wonderful backdrop for Autumn flowers, even in a modest garden setting.

We now begin to plan and pot-up for our annual Plant Sale in West Wickham Village Hall. It is always a very popular event with local gardeners who stock up on our veg. and garden plants at prices anyone can afford. Come early to get the best bargains. Don't forget to put the date on your calendar - Saturday 18 May, 10-30 - 12.00.

Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799584262

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have been away as a unit to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. The weather wasn't too bad and we managed to complete the Gingerbread Challenge as well as parts of the Jarman Centre 25th Birthday Challenge and Anglia 13 Challenge. Did you know you can get over 15 Brownies in a small 2-man tent!

We have also enrolled Morgan, Eowyn, Olivia and Serena into the unit. If you have a little girl living in your house who is 7 years old and she would like to try Brownies then you need to register her on our dedicated Join Us site - www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested - where all new enquiries from both girls and volunteers are now made.

At our Annual District Thinking Day celebrations on 24 February, Christine was presented with a Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East County Brooch. It was a surprise to both of us, yes even I didn't know. She was chosen to receive this award for the long service she has given to Horseheath Brownies, over 30 years.

During the Summer term we will be going on a Sunflower Safari to Scotsdales Garden Centre where the girls will be completing their Gardener badge. We will be attending the District Campfire in May and Strawberry Evening in July. What a busy few months we have planned.

If you would like more information on what we do then please drop me an email.

PAULINE aka BARNEY
Email: brownies@horseheath.info

RAINFALL FIGURES

Yet another wet, cold month - is Spring ever going to come?

	2013	2012
High Street	35 mm	18 mm
Streetly End	28 mm	22 mm
Streetly Hall Farm	27 mm	34 mm

NATURE NOTES

Winter has been like one of those uninvited guests who just wants to tell you one more thing, even though it is obvious that you have a pressing appointment. Every now and again we have a nice day, but then back comes winter with yet another burst of frost or snow. Most of the natural world seems keen to get on with all the things they do in spring, but it must be a bit of a struggle for them. I noticed a lot of activity in our pond about a week ago, and sure enough one sunny morning there were clouds of frogspawn. It was a moment to lift the spirits. Then a couple of days later the surface of the pond had turned to solid ice. Will they have been cryogenically preserved? I hope so. The first tadpole is awaited with eager anticipation.

Meanwhile our exciting news at Burton End is that, after a month's absence, Rod (Ed. Rod is a blue tit with "mod" feathers on his head), or someone very like him, has returned to the Big Brother Nestbox. Unfortunately he (or she) cannot tell us what he got up to while he was away, nor whether the bachelor pad will be turned into a family residence. Up to press, he is once again sleeping there on his own.

Great Tits have no doubt been doing quite well over recent years, judging by the numbers we see in the garden, but some of our most common species have as we know been in decline for a while. The birds in decline include house sparrows, starlings, song thrushes and greenfinches. However this year I feel convinced that song thrushes have made a slight comeback. Over the years we rarely see one in our garden, and yet this year I have seen two hopping around the waterlogged lawn and bashing snails on the path. I think other people have had a similar experience. And of course we hear them singing, especially at the beginning and end of each day, repeating the various phrases they have in their repertoire. My theory is that last year was so good for slugs and snails that thrushes had a bumper food crop and were able to have a successful breeding season for a change. I don't know whether this theory is correct but would urge gardeners to resist using toxic methods of slug control as it gets passed up the food chain.

Yesterday in Haverhill's East Town Park I saw a Barn Owl sitting at the top of a sapling. It was utterly motionless, and the shape of the bird with its narrow base and familiar patterned face made it seem to be a continuation of the stem of the young tree. I had just convinced myself that it was a new work of art that had been beautifully sculpted when the bird flew off. I was so surprised that I uttered an expletive, fortunately not within anyone's hearing distance.

A couple of mammals have a mention this month. Andrew was walking along the ditch near where there has been evidence of badger activity and he saw two bright eyes peering out at him from a plastic field drain. It was a weasel. We don't very often see them but my guess is that they do quite well around here with a plentiful supply of rabbits and ground nesting birds. A week later the same drain was gushing with water, hopefully the weasel didn't drown. Meanwhile I was walking near Skippers Hall when a vole ran out from under my feet. It was heading for the bank, but despite this I'm sure it was a field vole. It had a very short tail and no cheque book.

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

REV FRANCIS WOOLEY

There will be a thanksgiving service for Francis on Saturday 25 May at 3.00 in Balsham Church.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

In today's world, which is full of various activities outside work and school, there is little time to support church and the religious guidance that it offers. St. Mary's West Wickham is almost idyllic in its appearance from the outside and comforting and peaceful from within.

Its regular congregation is minimal, on average varying from five to a dozen people including the occasional worshipper from Balsham. Therefore its weekly collections are small and its overheads are vast including its general upkeep building wise, insurance, payment of clergy etc. The expensive building works i.e. the tower and the roof has been covered by generous bereavement donations. Sadly all things including money do not last forever.

The residents of West Wickham have shown support of the church by attending Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, the Christmas carol service and of course the summer Fete to mention but a few.

In order for this to continue we need to raise funds just to keep ticking over, but if you want the church to move into the future and provide such facilities as toilet and kitchen area then we need your backing.

We would therefore like to invite each and every one of you to a wine and nibbles evening on Friday 14 June at 7pm at Manor Farm, courtesy of Nicky and Marcus Cornish on behalf of Reverend Dr Julie Norris and the PCC.

Please put a note in your diaries to come and support this as the future of St. Mary's depends on your views.

Thank you

Cynthia Swaddling

SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

Summer is not far away, so put those hanky boxes down, pick up the phone and call for more information on some of the exciting classes that we plan to run week commencing 22 April.

A selection of classes on offer are Understanding Computers for over 60's, Cook4Life, Guitar, Feltmaking, Tai Chi, Pies, Puddings and Picnics and Sustainable Eating : How to eat great food that won't cost the earth. There are 5 and 10 week courses as well as Saturday Workshops. The next workshops are on 18 May.

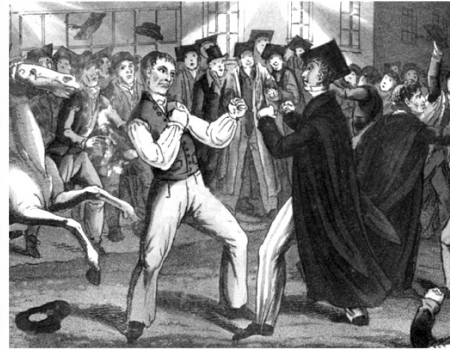
We will shortly be preparing our brochure for September and are looking for ideas for new courses to run. All suggestions welcome! We are also looking for new tutors and speakers so if you would like to offer your services, please contact us.

For more information on any of the above or a copy of our programme, please contact Sue or Wendy on 01223 712424 or via email at community@sawstonvc.org. Alternatively please check our website www.sawstonadulthood.org for more information.

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Cambridgeshire Association for Local History in association with the Linton and District Historical Society and the Linton WEA Branch are holding a Spring Study Day at Linton Village Hall on Saturday 6 April 2013.

The day is entitled 'Riotous Assemblies' and looks at troubled times across the centuries such as in Cambridge the relationship between Town & Gown, the strong opposition



to the drainage of the fens, the Littleport Riots and in this centenary year Votes for Women and Suffrage in Cambridge.

These fascinating stories will be brought to us

by some of the county's leading experts Dr Rosemary Horrox, Brian Jones, Mike Petty, and Sue Slack.

People from the surrounding villages are more than welcome to attend at the special local price of just £10 for the day, a sandwich lunch will be available at £6. This will be a great day and the more support we have the more we can put this sort of event on in our local area.

For more details and a downloadable booking form can be found at <http://www.calh.org.uk/conference.htm> or contact Andrew Westwood-Bate on 01223 892430 or 0787 5469538

WEA COURSES

The Linton WEA in association with Hildersham History Recorders HLF project '*Hildersham - A century of change between 1800 - 1900 - A village transformed*' is over the summer months of 2013 going to put on a selection of individual courses to help local people gain new IT skills that will help you develop your skills and knowledge in areas which play a vital part of everyday life.

These will include the following:

Digital Scrapbooking and Personal Archiving

Learn to create a digital scrapbook – This course will be a great way to begin digitally documenting your personal and family history.

Get to know your own Laptop

Bring in your laptop to gain general confidence in using your computer, find where things are and how to use them. We will be answering your particular questions and passing on our own hints and tips on how to do things more easily.

Digital Photography

For beginners who own a digital camera and want to maximise its potential.

All these courses will be held at Hildersham Village Hall, to find out more details please visit either www.lintonwea.org.uk/courses.htm or www.hildersham.org.uk/history.htm or info@lintonwea.org.uk

MEADOW SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Meadow Governors aim to promote continued school improvement by supporting and challenging the school, providing strategic direction and engaging with children, staff, parents and the community openly and honestly.

The main focus of governor activity is supporting staff in implementation of the Raising Attainment Plan (RAP). This is the plan that the school produces each year, identifying priority areas where the school will focus particular effort. In 2012-13, the priorities are developing the coaching and mentoring role of senior staff, improving attainment and progress in writing, and promoting the pupil voice and home-school partnership.

Governors have been involved in a number of ways, engaging with children on writing, with parents on spelling and handwriting, and with a number of communications initiatives, including a substantial up-dating of the school website.

Funding continues to be a concern. Cambridgeshire is the most poorly funded county in the country and our school is one of the most poorly funded in Cambridgeshire, as we are a relatively affluent area. The falling birth rate in the school catchment over recent years and consequent falling school roll has reduced the funding further.

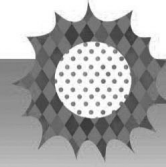
Cambridgeshire has been lobbying the government about its financial difficulties in education and the school contributed to this process when David Laws, Education Minister, visited Cambridgeshire recently. Governors are investigating alternative funding streams as well as continuing to look at best value for money when making purchasing decisions for the school. The PTA continues to be a major support to the school and we will be relying on them increasingly to help provide non-essentials for the children that enrich the curriculum.

Governors have convened a Working Group, including volunteer parents and staff, to discuss options for maximising use of the school swimming pool. We can no longer afford to employ a specialist swimming teacher and class teachers have been taking swimming sessions in recent years. This disrupts classroom learning, however, and means less use is made of the swimming pool than we would like. We are extremely grateful for the generous offer of help with providing swimming this year from several parents who are qualified swimming teachers.

We also have an ICT Working Group involving parents, staff and governors, pursuing options for improving the school's ICT provision. A very generous donation of equipment has made it possible to install WiFi this year, which is of major benefit to teaching and learning for both children and staff. We are extremely grateful to Mark Howell for the equipment, and to Balsham Parish Council, the Balsham Parochial Charity and the Ploughmen for their support, which is helping us to up-grade the technology provision in the school.

We welcome feedback from the community on the topics outlined above or any other issues. Please contact us via the school office at office@meadow.cambs.sch.uk.

Dr Mary Watson. Chair, Meadow School Governors



Meadow School PTA

WANTS YOUR

- unwanted crockery.
- surplus healthy flower and vegetable plants.
- surplus plant pots.

For our crockery smash and plant stall at the

JUNE REVELS

SATURDAY 15TH JUNE

Meadow School PTA is a registered charity: 1148295
Meadow Primary School, High Street, Balsham CB21 4DJ
Tel: 01223 894400 www.themeadowbalsham.co.uk



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MEADOW SCHOOL

Wine Tasting	17 May
June Revels	15 June
Craft and Gift Fair	12 and 13 October
The Balsham Ball	23 November

YOUR HELP PLEASE

The Centenary of the Great War is only just around the corner and over the last year we have been all hearing about the 1912 war games along our local village hilltops. While researching this and the history of Hildersham Village Hall which in a previous incarnation was a surgical ward at the World War One - 1st Great Eastern Hospital in Cambridge, we have come across the interesting fact that 2013 is the Centenary of the VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Hospitals being opened in our local villages. At Linton this first opened at the old workhouse in Symonds Lane, before moving to the Manor House in Coles Lane; while at Balsham the first hospital was opened at the Green House (House on the Green) with the new Village institute being used as a dining hall, recreation room and kitchen, as this was so successful later in 1913 a second hospital was opened at Park House.

There is obviously much more to find out and a presentation will be given later in the year, but for now if you have any people in your recent family tree that was involved with the VAD hospitals or indeed the 1st Great Eastern hospital in any way we would love to hear from you. Please contact Andrew at hildershamhistory@gmail.com or 01223 892430

SAVE ££££ ON YOUR WAY TO WORK

If you could share your journey to work even only once a week you could save £200 a year! Car sharing saves you money, is sociable, reduces pollution and reduces wear and tear on your car.

There is probably someone living near you doing the same journey as you, day in, day out – you just don't know them yet.

Why not try to find them for FREE using www.CamShare.co.uk - you may have seen our ads as you filled your car up recently?



What is CamShare?

CamShare matches your journey to other people who live near you who are making the same journeys to the same destination or in the same direction.

Once matched you can choose to car share as little or as often as you like and with who you like... or not at all – but we do hope you can give it a go – most people love it once they get going!

And you can

- Save ££££ on fuel and parking costs
- Enjoy the social element of getting to know someone else
- Cut congestion and pollution
- Reduce the stress of driving

Car Sharing aims to make life easier for us all by reducing the number of cars on the road carrying only one person. In this way car sharing can speed up your journey and helps the local economy by reducing congestion and reducing CO2 emissions.

Sign up for FREE NOW at www.camshare.co.uk – you've got nothing to lose and £££s to gain!

(CamShare is run by the Travel for Work Partnership. To find out more visit www.tfw.org.uk or call 01223 715550)

MORE CHOICE IN SOCIAL CARE

Social care is provided to people who have been assessed as having substantial or critical support needs with personal care, getting meals, managing medication and staying safe.

If you need social care the County Council will arrange your care for you, but they now have a duty to offer and provide Direct Payments. Direct Payments are an alternative way of getting the care and support you need. They are cash payments made directly into a Direct Payment bank account so that you can use the money to make your own social care arrangements.

With a Direct Payment you have more choice, control and independence about how your care is organised. If you would like to find out more about Direct Payments visit the Your Life, Your Choice website at:

www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk

pick up a leaflet from your library, phone adult social care enquiries on 0345 045 5202, or contact the Cambridgeshire Direct Payment Support Service on 0845 6000 684.



Ceilidh

Come to a
springtime dance
at West Wickham
Village Hall on Sat.
April 27 at 7.30 pm



Tickets £15
inc. a delicious meal.
£35 family ticket
from
Jenny Richards 894076
Nita Miller 893250
Bar – Raffle

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Can anyone tell me why it is that children in Cambridgeshire have less money spent on their education by the Government than any other place in the country? Is it because our children are considered to be less important than others or is it because a long time ago, possibly in the Dark Ages, some bureaucrat made up a rule about postcodes and deprivation factors and counties that seemed to make sense to the 'suits' back in the day, but no longer makes any sense to any of us now?

What on earth can they have been thinking? Teachers cost the same to employ wherever you are (apart from in London where they receive a London allowance), utilities are the same price, as are resources like books and computers.

It does just cost 'so much' to run a school, any school wherever they are.

Anyway, Cambridgeshire is now the worst funded Local Authority in the country, 151st out of 151, and in real terms that means that the Government spends something in the region of £500 less on each of your children per year than it does on children in other places. In spite of this, many of our schools still manage to get great results. It makes you wonder how good the results would be if a fair amount was spent on our children.

There is talk about bringing in fairer funding in the future, but, of course, if the funds were redistributed fairly so that children received the same irrespective of which county they live in, then there would be schools that would 'lose' money and might howl about it. Cambridgeshire Headteachers, and especially those of us in the Linton cluster, have little sympathy for those in other counties who have had it so good for so long at our children's expense. Perhaps we need to 'howl' too.

The Cambridge News has started its own 'Fairer Funding' campaign and the Heads of our local schools are right behind it. Watch out for the pictures with various members of our community wearing T-shirts with '151' on them. We need to raise the profile of this matter now, so that the problem can be addressed quickly.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 April

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