

FROM THE VICARAGE

This month the reflection comes from Steven Wheeler who lives in Weston Colville. He is licensed by the Bishop of Ely as a lay minister. Steven has taken services occasionally in each of the parishes. During his working day he makes model fruit and food for films and adverts. He also spends time each day in silent mediation. His article is below.

There is to be an open meeting at Manor Farm and everyone is invited. We want to know your views on having a toilet in Church and highlight the information about the cost of keeping the church open. This is to take place at 7.30pm 14th June.

The stained glass in churches often tells a biblical story. It sometimes also tells us other stories about the life of the glass maker, and the history at the time of installation. On 30th June, at 10.45am at Little Abington Church, there is going to be a united service for all 7 churches called, 'The Gospel through glass'. You will see some beautiful glass from Balsham Church which you may not have noticed before as well as some from West Wickham which you are more familiar with.

Do come along.

Rev Julie Norris

Prayer By Steven Wheeler

It was WH Auden who observed that when as children we learn to concentrate and pay attention at school, on say a poem, a picture or a maths problem, we establish a life long aptitude of prayer. We discover that in order to know our selves, we must draw attention away from our selves. What ever religious tradition we may or may not belong to, I would like to suggest that we are all on this prayerful journey of paying attention.

Some of us may struggle with the word prayer for all it has come to mean, but I would like to suggest that prayer can mean a lot more than asking for stuff and being sorry. If we can see prayer as an act of paying attention to someone or something out side of our self, then we can begin to see prayer as a channel through which good things come. Where the good things come from is for you to discover, but when we can look beyond our selves in such an attitude of prayer, we find a peace from within.

Many people discover prayer in moments of silence. Prayer is bigger than any amount of words we can find to speak. It is bigger than any one religion can contain. Prayer is a universal act of pure being. In the ancient Hindu texts of the Bhagavad Gita 4: 16-17 it says, "The person who in his work finds silence, and who sees that silence is work, sees the Light and in all his work finds peace."

As we come to see prayer as a silent language of relationship, we realise that prayer extends into many aspects of our ordinary life; spending time in the garden, taking exercise, singing, playing music, being creative. These can all be seen as valuable moments of prayer; times when by letting go of formal thought, we are defined by moments of solitude. During such attitudes of prayer, we become more our selves. We can rarely see this happening, but prayer continues to deepen our sense of who we are.

I hope by now that you are open to prayer being more than asking for stuff and being sorry, when it can be both of these and more. Prayer is more than we can imagine or wish for. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
Matt 6, 8

CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE OIL SYNDICATE

Those of you who read these reports or are members of the Syndicate know that the purpose of the Syndicate is to allow members to buy oil at a slightly lower price than if we were all to order individually from one of the local suppliers. It also helps the environment as this should result in fewer delivery journeys to the village.

I am always on the lookout for ways to both improve the syndicate and also to give me less work and have now found Agricole. Those of you with access to the internet can read up about them by going to their website at: www.heating-oil-prices.co.uk. A quote from their website says this about them:

Agricole is not owned or affiliated in any way to any oil suppliers or oil companies. Agricole has been brokering oil for its customers since 1995 and is part of Agricole Ltd, which brokers grain, fertiliser, ag-chem and seed for farmers throughout England.

It provides very competitive prices everyday for its customer. It is a FREE service to you as Agricole Oil receives a commission from its suppliers.

Agricole does not just use one heating oil supplier but uses a panel of oil suppliers to quote for heating oil. That way you receive a very competitive oil price every time you ring. It may not be the very absolute cheapest oil available (as we do not contact all suppliers) but we aim to get you a very competitive oil price and provide a friendly and efficient service to our customers. Agricole takes the hassle out of the oil ordering process, as we do the market research for you.

Once you place the order for your heating oil your details are passed to the 'winning' supplier. The supplier then rings you to arrange payment and delivery of your oil. Deliveries are normally 2-3 days from order. Agricole Oil never handles your payment but is in the background making sure your delivery goes smoothly.

Agricole will also make a donation to the village of £5 per calendar year for each member who places orders totalling at least 1000 litres. They will pass the money on to local charities and good causes operating in the village which I think is another good reason to let them help us.

As I had said that I would place the next oil order for the village on **June 13th** I am taking orders now and proposing to then pass that order with those members names, addresses and contact details to Agricole and ask them to get the best price they can. After that I propose to pass them the details of all those members who have said they are interested (& any new villagers) to add to their mailing list. You would then be sent e-mails monthly asking if you want to be included in their bulk purchase. I understand that once a bulk order has been placed it is YOUR responsibility to contact the supplier to arrange payment once you have been told who the supplier is.

For those of you who do not have e-mail, I am happy to act as the point of contact. If you phone me when you want oil, I will pass your details on a monthly basis to Agricole. I understand that the usual timing for a monthly order is that you would let me know between 24th and the 1st of the month, the order would go out for tender on 2nd, with delivery being around a week later.

If you have any queries or concerns about this, please let me know.

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

DAISYCHAINS PRESCHOOL NEWS

At long last! The weather has given us a break from the snow that has prevented us from making a start on our garden project at Daisychains.

Back in November 2010 we were thankfully awarded a grant from Wadlow Windfarm Community Fund of £500 to allow us to create a garden area at our village hall that would benefit both the preschool children and our community.

With all the bad weather we have experienced this winter we were only able to start ground works in March but with the help of expert carpenter, Steve Licence, we have marched onwards and are now proud owners of some lovely new raised beds that already have potatoes, carrots, onions, radishes and strawberries growing in them. We still have some jobs left to do but we are well on the way to providing a more interesting and stimulating environment in which to nurture our budding horticulturalists of the future.

We would like to express a big THANK YOU to the Playground Committee for allowing us to raid the rubber bark from the old playground to re-use in our garden. This has saved us a considerable amount of money that we have been able to spend on other items instead.

Hopefully, we will be having an official opening ceremony later this term so watch out for further details in the Village Voice and on posters around the village. We would love to see as many people there as possible to help us in celebrating another village achievement.

This term we have been learning all about "A journey into space". The children have been building a rocket to take them to the moon for a picnic, painting it a myriad of colours and attaching rocket boosters, computers and numerous buttons and switches made from recycled material. After half term we shall be covering the topic of "Transport and Journeys" and will be talking about the all-important subject of going on holiday.

Over the last few years we have noticed that with fewer people moving in and out of West Wickham there has been a definite decrease in numbers of children attending Daisychains.

In September we predict a particularly low number of children so we are currently in the middle of a publicity campaign to raise awareness of our group. We really do not want to be forced to close our community preschool so if there is anybody out there with a 2 – 5 year old who is looking to start preschool then please contact me to arrange a visit.

By the time that you receive this Village Voice we will have had our annual Jumble Sale to raise funds for Daisychains. We would like to thank all of you who helped or supported us in any way at all on 11 May. Without fundraising activities such as this we would not be able to continue running Daisychains Preschool so we really are grateful for your efforts and support. I will let you know how much money was raised in a later edition of the Village Voice.

Lastly, but not leastly!

Request for Playhouse

Has anyone got a "Little Tikes" type Playhouse that they no longer require? We would love to have one at Daisychains as an additional outdoor learning resource.

Until next time, take care, and enjoy the sun while it's out.

Sue Harrow (Preschool Leader). T: 290512

BALSHAM CUBS AND SCOUTS

There are now 17 cubs enrolled in the pack. This term they have celebrated St Georges day at Balsham Church, Australia day by making didgeridoos and Kaa (Jonathon) made a welcome return to help with the astronomy badge. The rest of the term will be taken up working towards Naturalist Badge and Emergency Aid Badge. Nine cubs are looking forward to spending the weekend camping near Southend with other packs from the Newmarket District taking part in lots of activities.

The Scouts, meanwhile, have been maintaining their bikes ready for a bike ride from Wandlebury to Balsham which is part of their cyclists badge. They will also be spending a few weeks preparing for a Backwood camp at the Jarman Centre which includes sleeping (or not!) in hammocks under tarps.

The Cubs and the Scouts are getting ready for their annual fundraiser on 8 June. Please come and support us by bringing your car to be washed at the Bull Public House in Balsham and leaving loose change for the mile of coins. Any spare cash could then be swapped for a lovely cake and some raffle tickets outside Yole Farm Butchers Shoppe. We look forward to seeing you there! It all starts at 8.30 until 12.

If you wish to find out any more information about the Cub pack or the Scout troupe please contact the respective leaders in the first instance

Debbie Mower C.894498 for Cubs
Paul Carter C.890129 for Scouts.

Juliet Bevan

Every penny counts!

Balsham Scout and Cub fundraiser

Mile of coins and car wash

Raffle and cake stall

8th June 2013

8.30 am - 12 noon

The Black Bull



**All your spare change.....every
coin gets us closer to a new hut!**

SWEET TALK NEWS

Newsagents/Convenience store

77 High Street, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4HS

01223 971558 / 01223 893480 / 07828279909

email: ajayndpkl@gmail.com

**Interested in newspapers /magazines/grocery delivered
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NATURE NOTES

We all know that spring was a little late this year, but just how late can be judged by the annual appearance of the St Mark's Fly. It is traditionally supposed to appear as an adult on St Mark's Day (25th April) but this year it was only on 11th May that I first saw a cluster of them in Haverhill, presumably just emerged. The male flies with his legs dangling, so they are quite easy to spot, and my first sighting of them each year cheers me up just as much as hearing the first chiffchaff or seeing a brimstone.

Di also reminds us "*May is a lovely month, especially after the long winter, with the trees unfurling their fresh green leaves. Steve and I were trying to make sense of the old saying "oak before the ash... a splash, ash before the oak... a soak." There are many oak trees out in leaf, and ash too, but also some that have no leaves at all, only flowers, so we are not sure how much rain we will get. Tree flowers are often overlooked as many aren't showy colours or scented, but take a closer look and they are exquisite. We all recognise the horse chestnut spikes and the apple blossom, but the oak and ash flowers are just as stunning....just more subtle and less obvious as they are wind pollinated and don't need to attract insects.*

Take a walk up to the woods this month and feast your eyes on the bluebells. ... a carpet of blue with a very delicate scent barely detectable. Together with the cowslips, oxlips and primroses we are lucky to be in an area that has them all. Dandelions are everywhere brightening our verges, and unlike our gardeners the bees love them. There is a small clump of pink lady's smock on the verge near us, and despite being cut regularly, each year it comes up and flowers. I noticed some odd looking spikes poking through the grass along the footpath, extraordinary looking things, and Steve told me that they were the fruiting bodies of the horsetail plant."

Di also mentioned a few of her bird highlights, including a barn owl near Bottle Hall. She also saw a buzzard sitting in a tree next to a corn bunting. Sometimes you can't choose your neighbours.

News from the back garden of "Cobwebs" include a badger triggering the security light one night, regular sightings of a pair of bullfinches and a rather distressing tale of ducklings on the pond, who are in constant danger of being drowned by rival drakes. Not a pretty sight.

At the time of writing, we are looking after a racing pigeon, which I picked up walking down the middle of the road with one wing trailing. He was on the way back to his home in Tilbury from Wetherby and is now living in our old chicken house. Meanwhile Rod the Great Tit living next door continues to occupy the nesting box with a camera, but seems only to use this for sleeping quarters while his mate uses another box for the nest. He nevertheless sits in a tree next to the televised box, proclaiming his territory, which perhaps says something about his priorities.

As usual I would like to hear from anyone who hears a cuckoo in the village, or indeed a turtle dove. Both have been in decline in Britain and it was not so long ago that Nip Pearson in his column would refer to the purring sound of the turtle dove at the back of the farm each year. We also used to hear them at this end of the village, but not for the last 5 years.

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

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

At the beginning of term we said goodbye to Kaycie, Sophie, Milly, Olivia and Anastasia, we hope they enjoy Guides if they decide to join and carry on with their guiding life.

This term we have been concentrating on learning First Aid. The Brownies have all, hopefully, learned how to bandage a wound and put a sling on whilst knowing it is important to get adult help as quickly as possible. They have also tried "hands-only CPR" with a *Little Anne* resuscitation manikin, they didn't all manage it but at least they all 'had a go'.

By the time you read this we will have attended the District Campfire at the Jarman Centre and enjoyed a BBQ'd hot dog whilst having a good sing. The Brownie Sunflower Safari at Scotsdales Garden Centre in early June is the next big event, we just hope it warms up and stays dry that day. This will be followed by our District Strawberry Evening in Linton.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated their Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers to us, we have collected just over 2,000 so far. The scheme finished on 22 May so if you still have some you would like to donate to Horseheath Brownies please can you place them in the box in Horseheath Post Office by 15 June.

As mentioned previously 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 drop Sophie and I an email.

PAULINE and SOPHIE. E: brownies@horseheath.info

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

We have a few staff changes to tell you about this month. Dr Yash Uttarwar is leaving us in July after over 4 years as a partner. She had her first baby last summer and has decided that the demands of a partner in a modern general practice are such that she felt that she was missing out on time with her young son. She will work as a locum GP in the Cambridge area, which fits in so much better with a young family.

As one door closes, another opens as they say, and Dr Reem Al-Shaikh is going to take up a full-time partnership from the 1st of August. Dr Al-Shaikh has been a salaried doctor with us for over a year now and is looking forward to being more involved in developing the practice as a partner.

Another change is that Liz Bowden, practice nurse, is marrying and moving to Nottingham. It is a bit too far to commute, so we wish Liz all the best in her new life up north.

Best wishes to Mel Kemp who retired from the dispensary at the end of May (a little early it must be said!). Mel is looking forward to a relaxing break before being enticed back to provide some holiday cover for us in the summer. Lastly, we welcome Esperanza Anstee who is joining the dispensary team in June.

Dr Wheeler & Partners

THE SALVATION ARMY IN WEST WICKHAM 1886 – 1993

On Sunday 21 April the flag of the West Wickham Corps was laid up in the church beside the window commemorating the presence of the Corps in the village for more than one hundred years. The Corps closed in 1993 and there are many who will not know about its work, so this is the ideal opportunity to recount a little of its history.



The Salvation Army is usually more associated with ministry in towns and cities and areas such as mining and fishing communities but a rural campaign was also part of the early strategy. William and Catherine Booth started their Christian Mission in the east end of London in 1865 and by 1878 this had evolved to become the Salvation Army, with its use of military terms and structure, that we know today. The underlying belief is in salvation by actions as well as through faith with a commitment to reaching out to the poor, friendless and desperate. This had great appeal to ordinary people and growth was rapid. By the end of 1883, there were 519 Corps in England & Wales with 2 in Cambridgeshire and by 1905 there were 705 with 24 in Cambridgeshire including the one in West Wickham.

Two innovative and distinctive features characterise the Salvation Army – the equality given to men and women and the use of music. Both are apparent in the history of the West Wickham Corps. The Salvation Army mission came to the village via Cambridge and Linton. As was normal Salvation Army practice, open air and cottage meetings were held and once there was sufficient support, an outpost and then a corps was formed. Alice Gault was the first to be converted, soon followed by her future husband, Charles Beavis. A Band was formed at an early stage and John Simkin, another early convert, went on to do remarkable service as Bandmaster for well over sixty years. He recalled in later years that the first instrument was a cornet bought



Former members of the Sunday School

new for 30s (about twice the weekly wage of an agricultural labourer) and that the first drum was a relic from the Crimean War.

Although open-air services were the norm, the Corps was soon able to rent three cottages for use as a hall and officer's quarters (now 19 High Street). When this was sold just after the Second World War a new hall was opened almost opposite in 1949 and was in use to the end in 1993 (now the site of 12 High Street). The Corps celebrated its centenary in 1986.

The importance of the work of the Salvation Army in West Wickham for over a hundred years cannot be underestimated either its ministry – services, open air meetings, band and singers and Sunday school (5 men from the village also trained as officers) or its contribution to the social life of the village – sales of work, jumble sales, tea parties, work with young people or the annual coach trip to the seaside. The West Wickham Corps is remembered with affection.

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club

RAINFALL FIGURES

A few warm days and we are back to cold windy weather! These are the rainfall figures for April, a surprisingly dry month!

	2013	2012
High Street	27.5 mm	120.5 mm
Streetly End	26.5 mm	126 mm
Streetly Hall Farm	24 mm	123 mm

The total so far for the year is:

	2013	2012
High Street	160 mm	224 mm
Streetly End	143 mm	235 mm
Streetly Hall Farm	148.5 mm	263mm

BALSHAM BALL

Saturday 23 November

Raising funds for the Meadow School

Black tie. Drinks reception, 3 course meal, live band, cash bar, raffle & casino. Tickets £55 available from 3 June.

Information & tickets visit www.balshamball.co.uk

Email balshamball@gmail.com or phone Debbie Paton on 01223 291932

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

When Linton Village College first opened in 1937 it was equipped with a number of contemporary features which included metal Crittall windows. The windows were a revelation. The ones surrounding the bowling green were hinged to fold out, allowing children to spill out onto the steps underneath. They brought a sense of light and space to the classrooms: something previously unheard of in school design. This feature really suited the rural children of our villages who enjoyed the outdoors and fresh air. As the years passed, the windows rusted, hinges became broken, the paint peeled away and attempts to patch them up resulted in fused doors and unworkable fittings. When I became Principal, the windows were a source of annoyance: they had been listed, they were in poor repair, rooms were draughty in the winter, hot in the summer and the peeling paintwork was an eyesore. It would cost half a million pounds to replace them 'like for like' (a condition of the listing) and that was simply not affordable. Once the new building work was completed in 2011, we had the frames meticulously filled and painted, so at least they did not look so dreadful, but the practical flaws have remained.

Imagine my delight, therefore, when the opportunity to submit a bid to the government for their replacement arrived along with our academy conversion. Last month we were successful in that bid and LVC is now able to replace the Crittall windows with functioning ones which will look exactly as they did in 1937. We have also been successful in our bid for money to replace all of the flat roofs across the building. Those of you who have ever had to manage flat roofing will know how useful that will be. Following that, we will re-plaster and refurbish the hall with the money raised by The Friends of Linton Village College. It will be lovely to see the old building get the attention it deserves, once more.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

GARDENS OPEN IN STREETLY END

Sunday 2 June. 2.00 - 5.30

CLOVER COTTAGE (Shirley & Paul Shadford)
WEAVERS COTTAGE (Sylvia Norton)
Combined entrance £3.50, Children free
In aid of British Red Cross
Refreshments and plants for sale

**Saturday 15 June & Sunday 16 June
12.00 - 5.00**

CHEQUERS COTTAGE (Debbie & David Sills)
CLOVER COTTAGE (Shirley & Paul Shadford)
WEAVERS COTTAGE (Sylvia Norton)
Combined entrance £4.00, Children free
In aid of the National Gardens Scheme
Refreshments. Art studio open & art work for sale. Cakes, honey and preserves all home-made at Chequer Cottage. Plants for sale at Clover Cottage



THE MEADOW SCHOOL PTA

JUNE REVELS

**Saturday 15th June
12pm - 3pm**

Meadow School, Balsham

FREE ENTRY

BBQ BEER TENT REFRESHMENTS



The Meadow School PTA is a Registered Charity: 1148295

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2013!**

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And many more of your
old favourites**

PLANT SALE

at the Meadow School June Revels

Do you have a green thumb and a love for plants? Come along and you will find vegetable plants, bedding plants, hanging baskets and planters for sale. Plant donations will be accepted during the week of 11 June. Contact the Meadow School Office for more details on 01223 894400 or visit www.themeadowbalsham.co.uk/pta.asp

Home from Home Childcare Day Nursery

Exhibition Farm, Skippers Lane
Withersfield CB9 7SJ

Email: huelins@go-plus.net T: 01440 709 254

OPEN/FUN DAY

2-5pm, Saturday 8 June

Free Entry

Stalls Face painting
Garage/yard Sale Bouncy Castle
Raffle/Tombola
Pets Corner BBQ

Lots of fun for all the Family
All welcome!

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 June

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