

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2013

ISSUE 128

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 2 Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of West Wickham & Streetly End are welcome to attend.
Tue 3 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 7 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00 Linton Village College
Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 9 Local History Club. Christmas social with films. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 10 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 16 Gardening Club. Gardeners Question Time. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 17 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Sat 21 Balsham Singers Christmas Concert. 7.30pm, Balsham Church.
Sun 22 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 24 Black wheeled bin collection Carol service. 6pm, St Mary's Church
Wed 25 **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**
Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Sun 29 Joint Parishes Service. 10.45, Balsham Church

2014

- Thur 2 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 8 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 Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

or visit www.westwickham.org

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

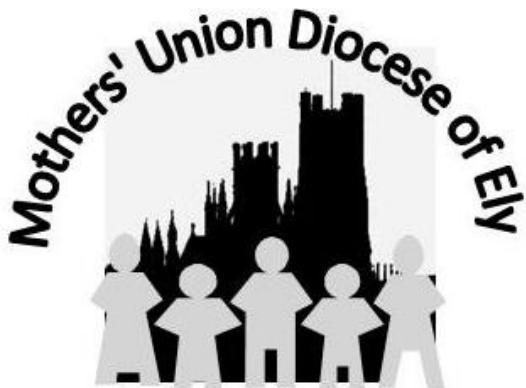
Saturday 21 December
7.30 pm, Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

You've written your cards, bought the presents, ordered the turkey. If you're that organised, now is the time to get your tickets for the Balsham Singers Christmas concert. We are singing Part 1 of Handel's Messiah plus the Hallelujah Chorus, carols by Rutter and Malcolm Archer plus John's arrangement of Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and Santa Baby. There will, of course, be a selection of carols for audience participation. Buy tickets in advance for £7 from Balsham Post Office. Tickets will also be available on the night priced £8 with concessions at £7 and £20 for a family ticket. For further information, phone Valerie on 01223 890544.

SALVATION ARMY PHOTOGRAPHS ON FLICKR

Former resident of West Wickham, Graham Hopwood, who was a member of the village Salvation Army Corps, has put a lot of photographs of the Salvation Army on Flickr. To look at them go to www.flickr.com and search for West Wickham Salvation Army. For those who don't have a computer or internet access Graham can make a DVD that can be played on a TV/DVD player for £5 inc. p & p. This can be ordered from him at 4 Moorthorpe Avenue, Thornbury, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD3 7LH. He has also created a short YouTube movie with the photographs, accompanied by music. To see this visit www.youtube.com and again search for West Wickham Salvation Army.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



Wednesday 11 December
12 noon at Great Abington Church

Ploughman's lunch and drinks will be provided

ALL WELCOME

RSVP Joanna Sanders 01223 893063/sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

FROM THE VICARAGE

In the Christmas Story, the Annunciation is the moment when the angel Gabriel meets Mary and invites her to bear the Christ-child. This is a poignant moment when Mary has a choice. She could take a different path, or do this task that was hers to do.

Here is part of a poem **The Annunciation** by Denise Levertoe

Aren't there annunciations of one sort or another in most lives?

Some unwillingly undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride, uncomprehending.

More often those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from in dread,
in a wave of weakness,
in despair and with relief.
Ordinary lives continue.
God does not smite them.
But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.
This was the moment no one speaks of,
when she could still refuse.

A breath unbathed,
Spirit,
suspended,
waiting.

She did not cry, "I cannot,
I am not worthy,"
nor "I have not the strength."

She did not submit with gritted teeth, raging, coerced.
Bravest of all humans,
consent illumined her.

The room filled with its light, the lily glowed in it,
and the iridescent wings.

Consent,
courage unparalleled,
opened her utterly.

Someone told me recently of the way that a deceased friend had changed their life. Occasionally, you meet someone and, whether in a moment or over a series of meetings, you find that they draw out of you something you may not have known was there. The seed that is conceived in the meeting takes time to grow. It can be refused, or it can be brought to birth in some way. The person who was talking to me had discovered through our friend, a love of learning, went back to study and eventually became a doctor.

I read the poem, think of Mary's annunciation, and the inspiration of friends both living and departed, and I am reminded of a friend I haven't seen for a while, and it makes me ask whether there are things that I need to do. What about you?

Rev Julie Norris

MISSING APPLES

Steve and I thought that the person who took our bag of apples from the allotment recently might like to know that the variety was 'Queen Cox'. We sincerely hope that they have enjoyed them.

Di Licence

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The answers are all two words. There are two trees, two flowers, two mammals, two birds, two butterflies, two amphibians and two reptiles. Apologies to the molluscs, fish, fungi, non-butterfly insects and other forms of life, especially those who don't like cryptic clues.

1. Rubens did it a lot (7,4)
2. Store cash followed by love gone wrong (4,4)
3. Inform on ladder companion (5,5)
4. Holy editor shows dog is happy (4,7)
5. I throw apple stewed (5,6)
6. Communist fraud takes in a politician and international head (3,7)
7. Iron went wrong (6,4)
8. Trip sounds painful and expensive (6,4)
9. Grabbed hold of female deer with five inside (8,4)
10. Reduce speed and row backwards to Minehead (4,4)
11. eChoir curled up in bed (3,6)
12. Exiles from north of the border get homesick (5,4)
13. A dot confused has uncouth start (6,4)
14. Good news if you are a big criminal (5,6)

I hope some of you enjoy doing this. Answers by 31 December to me at mail@petergrieve.co.uk or 29 Burton End. Please submit even if you don't get all the answers. Suitable prizes will be awarded to relatively successful solvers.

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The club were pleased to welcome Dr. Catherine Horwood Barwise on Monday 18 November to talk to us on *Women Gardeners from 1600s to the present day*. Catherine writes on the history of gardening. This year she will open her garden in Clare for the National Gardens Scheme and has kindly agreed that the Club can visit on the evening of 28 July.

This is one of our summer evening visits, the other is to Pavilion House in Dullingham on 23 June. This year we plan to visit Kew Gardens as our main Club coach outing. The Christmas meeting will be on 16 December, with a Gardener's Question Time panel consisting of Kevin Marsh from Beeches Nursery, Hilary Thomas a former lecturer at Capel Manor College and our own professional gardener Sue Kiddie. The raffle for £25 and £15 Beeches Nursery vouchers will be drawn and we will all enjoy a glass of wine and mince pies.

If you are interested in joining us on our visits and talks, why not come to West Wickham Village Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 where you will receive a warm welcome. Our first two talks in 2014 are:

- 20 January. *Planting for winter colour & scent*. Talk by Fiona Edmund of Green Island Nursery.
17 February. *Suffolk Trees and Landscapes*. (veteran trees, diseases, trees and the law, right tree - right place). Talk by David Mitchell, formerly Mid Suffolk Tree & Landscape Officer.

Our subscriptions are £6 individual membership and £10 for family - this also entitles you to up to 50% discount on seed orders from Mr. Fothergills. Please ring me if you need any further information on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop.

NATURE NOTES

As we were delivering last month's Village Voice, Jan met us with a dead redwing lying limply in her hand. A sad sight, especially as redwings are such attractive little members of the thrush family. Redwings visit Britain, along with their larger and noisier cousins, the fieldfares, in the winter to take advantage of the relatively mild climate and the harvest of berries, which this year we have in abundance. Redwings are well known for migrating at night and people in the know position themselves along known migration routes to hear them pass over. This little fellow had broken his neck. How it happened, we can only speculate.

It's been a late autumn – the blackberries were late to ripen and we were still picking them after the devil is supposed to spit on them, but they tasted OK anyway. The leaves on the trees were slow to change colour and then slow to fall, in spite of the gale which cut our electricity. At the time of writing the willow tree in our garden is still more or less green. Last week I was pleasantly surprised to see a red admiral basking on the fence – not something we normally see in November when most of the butterflies that overwinter have found a nice sheltered place to stay put until next spring. I'm sure that by the time you read this, the cold will have set in, the trees will be bare and the butterflies will be hidden away in hollow trees, sheds and log piles. We have a small tortoiseshell that has happily ensconced itself on the beam just above our toilet. It wouldn't have been my choice of place to hibernate, but he has been there for at least a month now.

We have just returned from a weekend away on the Suffolk coast and were treated to a starling spectacular at dusk over the marshes. It was fabulous to watch the ever-growing swarm expanding and contracting and forming different shapes in the sky before suddenly dropping down into the reeds to roost. Another highlight was seeing a kestrel coming in to roost and perching in the window frame of a ruined windmill. He certainly looked the business. Of course you don't have to travel so far to see kestrels. In fact we are lucky to have more than our fair share here, especially at this time of year when it seems to me that this year's brood stick around for a while, so that it is not uncommon to see two or more in close proximity.

Sitting in the "Bittern Hide" at Minsmere we naturally did not see a bittern, but instead a group of red deer does wandered out in front of us to graze. While they were doing so, a late season common darter dragonfly landed on the windowsill, a kingfisher briefly appeared next to one of the channels and a marsh harrier soared gracefully up above the reedbeds. A bittern would have been nice but one can't be too greedy, especially as a Cetti's warbler was making itself heard from within the reeds.

Back home the shooting season is in full swing so game birds beware. Neville Barker said to me that a shoot which was taking place in Hare Wood the other day sent the deer scurrying out of the other side of the wood, making good viewing for those looking out of their windows from Streetly End. Winter is a tough time for wildlife, as it is for many of us, so batten down the hatches and watch out for the snowdrops coming through.

Peter Grieve, T: 290503, E: mail&petergrieve.co.uk

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have been very busy this term. As mentioned last time we enjoyed an international day at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket and in the middle of November we had a great time at the pantomime themed Brownie Revels, oh yes we did. The girls made Cinderella masks, fairy wands, planted spring bulbs whilst making a wish and played Panto Bingo too. They also had some 'audience participation' with campfire singing at the end. There was also a surprise presentation to Sophie of her Leadership Qualification. Congratulations Sophie!

Our plans for the Brownies Over 60's Christmas Luncheon are well on their way with a violin solo, a recorder duet and a trio dance troop to name but three items, it will all make for a fantastic afternoon for our invited guests.

We hope to enrol Daisy, Sienna, Esther, Evie, Isabelle and Helena into the pack at the end of term and we also welcomed Faye, a Brownie from Hertfordshire who has just joined us.

From January we will be working on our Big Brownie Birthday Challenge and looking forward to our annual Brownie Holiday too.

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

ATTENTION ASPIRING ARTISTS

Would you be interested in learning all the really basic things needed to enable you to begin painting beautiful watercolour pictures? Then a short Watercolour Painting for Beginners Course, planned to begin in early February 2014, may be the right place for you. The course will run once a week for six weeks on a weekday morning – day to be advised – from 10.00am to 1.00pm at Horseheath Village Hall.

Designed for complete beginners, or for those who have attended a painting course before, but been disappointed because they were expected to know the basics already, the Course will be led by an experienced tutor, and group size will be limited so that students can benefit from individual attention.

If you would like further details, please contact:
Course Tutor Susan Mackenzie on 01223 891521 or by email to sjhmac2@yahoo.co.uk.

BOTANICAL PAINTING GROUP

The group meets on the last Friday of each month at West Wickham Village Hall, from 1.00 - 4.00pm. We are not offering tuition, more a quiet place to paint without the usual interruptions one always gets at home. This has proved to be a most enjoyable 3 hours. Some of us are more able than others but whatever your expertise, do come if you want a stress free afternoon. Join us on 31 January or ring 01799584262 for more information.

Rosemary Yallop.

CQC INSPECTION OF LINTON HEALTH CENTRE

We were given just 24 hours notice that the Care Quality Commission would be inspecting the practice on the 1st October. CQC inspections are new to General Practice and we were only the second Practice in Cambridgeshire to be visited.

The CQC is the regulator of health and adult social care in England and they are tasked with ensuring that the care people receive meets essential standards of quality and safety. There are 16 essential standards and we were inspected on 8 of them at this visit. The standards cover safety and suitability of premises, management of medicines, care and welfare of patients, consent to treatment, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, staffing levels and staff training.

The CQC inspector was accompanied by a specialist nurse advisor and they spent over 5 hours in the practice, talking to patients, staff, doctors and nurses and inspecting the premises and policies and procedures. We are pleased to report that we received excellent feedback from the inspector and the full report is now published on the CQC website.

Such a lot of work has gone in to ensuring that we can evidence compliance against the CQC standards and it is reassuring to receive such positive feedback. We mustn't rest on our laurels, but well done and thank you to all the practice staff. There is a link to the full CQC report on our website www.linton.gpsurgery.net

HEALTHWATCH CAMBRIDGESHIRE YOUR SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is the new champion for people using local health & social care services; we launched in July 2013. We work to ensure that people's voices are heard in making important decisions about local NHS, social care and public health services.

We talk to people in the local community about their experience of the care they receive to help us understand how well local care services are working. We make sure we feed this information back where it matters to the people buying, providing and regulating local care services.

- Tell us about your health & social care experiences. We want to hear about the good and not so good, as this feedback can help improve care for everyone.
- Join our Consultation Network, which will connect you with organisations that should know about your experiences and opinions of care in Cambridgeshire.
- Get problems resolved... We can make sure you know where to go if you need to sort out a problem with a local care provider. We can give you information about how different complaints systems work and who can help you get your complaint resolved.
- Find out about local care. We are developing a Signposting & Information Service, to help you find out about your choice of health & social care services.

Find out more about Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and get involved by calling us on 01480 420628, emailing enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or visit our website www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

LOCAL RESIDENTS REMINDED TO CHOOSE WELL THIS WINTER

Residents in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are being reminded to find the right health service for their illness or injury this winter.

Here's a reminder of what local NHS services can treat.

- Pharmacies can help with bugs and viruses, skin conditions, allergies, pregnancy testing and help with stopping smoking.
- GPs can help with back ache, ear aches, painful coughs, mental health conditions and any illness or injury that won't go away. Make sure that you have your doctor's number to hand. There's also an out of hours GP service which can be accessed by calling your normal doctor's number - you will be put straight through or hear a message with the out of hours service number.
- Or you can look after colds, coughs, sore throats, hangovers, tummy upsets, grazes which can all be treated at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet.
- Remember if somebody is unwell and you are not sure as to the best course of action, it is often best to call first for advice.

For more information please visit

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughhccg.nhs.uk/choose-well

STAY INDEPENDENT, SAFE AND WELL THIS WINTER

If you or someone you care for needs advice about keeping independent, safe and well this winter, the County Council's adult social care websites Your Life, Your Choice www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk and AskSARA online advice and equipment guide www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asksara provide information about keeping warm, preventing falls and the help that may be available to older and vulnerable people if they are unable to get out and about. If you are unable to access the internet staff and volunteers in the library can help you to find the information you need or you can contact adult social care customer services on 0345 045 5202.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE NEEDS YOU! Homecare workers required

More older and vulnerable people are requiring homecare to ensure they feel safe, happy and independent. To achieve this, the County Council is recruiting compassionate and caring people to start a career in care through a unique apprenticeship programme that enables them to "earn while they learn" by supporting them to get a job with a local homecare provider whilst being paid the standard rate of a care worker.

If you want to make a positive difference to people's lives and would be interested in a career in care, contact Emma Laskey-MacRae, Apprenticeship Project Coordinator by email Emma.Laskey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or phone 07917 615360 for more information about this unique apprenticeship programme. Your age and background doesn't matter, if you are looking for a career in care somewhere in your community there's a job you can do to help others.

FOSTER CARE

Cambridgeshire County Council needs your help to change the lives of local children and young people. Foster Carers provide a stable family support network for local children and young people when they are unable to live with their own family. Every year we have over 425 children and young people looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The shortage of Foster Carers means that children and young people are placed with (independent foster carers or residential units some outside of Cambridgeshire) they may also be looked after within the county children's homes. We need to recruit more Foster Carers in order to give them the best possible future.

Foster Carer's come from all different kinds of backgrounds. It may be that you have your own children or you may have worked with children before. You may have no experience of children or possibly considering a career change?

Every child is different so we need different Foster Carers, if you can offer stability, security and the positive experience of a loving family then we want to hear from you. You might be married, in a civil partnership, single or living with a partner; from an ethnic background; in a same sex relationship; in work, unemployed or retired

Recruiting local people will mean that children and young people can live in their own community, continue to attend the same school and maintain contact with their family and friends.

We offer generous allowances including a start up package, 24 hr support and full training.

Call our freephone number on 0800 052 0078 or email fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Or visit www.cambridgesinging.co.uk

OCTOBER RAINFALL FIGURES

	2012	2013	Total for 2013
High Street	102mm	100.75mm	471.5mm
Streetly End	95.5mm	98mm	447mm

The last few months have been very damp but we have still only had about 60% of last years rainfall.

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

The 2014 Village Directory will come out with the February issue of the Village Voice. If you have any corrections, updates, deletions or information you think should be included please send to me by 16 January

Sue Thurston T: 290503. e-mail: mail@suetthurston.co.uk

KING UNDER THE CAR PARK

Uplifting is the only word for it. That's what they did to the skeleton of Richard III, and that's how those of us felt who heard Mathew Morris's skilfully presented talk to the Local History Club and visitors about the dig in the Leicester car park which uncovered the remains of the last of the Plantagenet kings.

Mathew was a key member of the archaeological team, and in fact was the one who uncovered the bones, and since the confirmation that the bones must definitely be those of Richard, he has been touring the country and beyond telling people the story of how the King was found. So many things had to go right to find the remains and confirm that they were Richard's, and they did. These included the availability of the site, the location and layout of the Greyfriars Abbey on the site of the Social Services car park, the understanding that Richard may have been buried under the choir, and the existence of just one direct descendant of Richard's mother so the DNA could be checked. So it is quite a story to tell.

Mathew is not the only West Wickham connection to Richard III, because as Duke of Gloucester, Richard was Lord of the Manor of Yen Hall. The argument about where Richard's final resting place should be is currently a two horse affair between York and Leicester, but shouldn't Yen Hall be considered as another possibility? Sadly I don't think the History Club can afford the legal fees.

Peter Grieve

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Our talk on 13 January will be *Vikings in Cambridgeshire and beyond* by Britt Baille-Warren. 7.30 at the Village Hall.

BIG VILLAGE DIG UPDATE

We're still waiting for some of the finds reports so haven't been able to put these all together and come to some conclusions about what we have actually found out about early village settlement. As soon as we've done this we will be arranging a 'celebration' meeting to share it with all of you, so watch this space!

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club

ARE YOU CONCERNED....?

I am becoming increasingly concerned that some people may be becoming isolated, uninformed and in danger of losing their independence because so many organisations assume that everyone has internet access, either at home, at work or in a library. For example, there are at least two in this *Village Voice* that give no telephone number and I have been attending County Council led meetings about buses where there is definitely a presumption that bus timetables and real time bus information are available to all via a computer or smart phone. Please let me know if you feel this applies to you or someone you know so that I can put together some information to pass on to the powers that be.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

We're now settling back in after a very busy start to the half term. The infants theme for this half term is "Sparkle" where the children will be learning about all sorts of things from precious stones and finding out where they come from to designing and making jewelry. The lower juniors continue their work on Invaders and Settlers, finding out about roundhouses and clothing. They are also continuing to practice their battle cries! The upper juniors continue their work on the Victorians. They continue to read texts such as 'Street Child' and learn about the jobs Victorian children did.

The school has now had its second Local Authority Implementation Group meeting. This involves the school improvement team and members of the Local Authority (LA) meeting in school to discuss how the school is performing against the High Level Plan that was put in place in September. We had an extremely good review and the school is on target with the improvement objectives set by the LA across Teaching & Learning, Leadership and Management and Pupil Progress. This is great news for the school and it stands us in a strong position when HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectors) come into school at the end of November. I am determined with the ongoing support of the staff, children, parents and community we will return The Meadow quickly to the position it once was. Thank you for your continued support and words of encouragement.

The Meadow is still very proud of the creative opportunities we provide for our children. This was reflected this half term when our school choir had a very exciting time recording a selection of songs including 'Supercalifragilistic', 'Any dream will do' and 'All things bright and beautiful'. They also included some children's poems to give variety to the performance. We will be selling the DVD to help raise funds for a choir outing! As the recording was such a success we have decided to send two of the songs to the Barnardos School Choir Competition.

We also took part in raising funds for Children in Need by coming into school dressed in our pyjamas. It was a very funny sight seeing everyone come into school dressed up and we raised £280. Earlier that week I held a School Council meeting and I was extremely moved by (and very proud of) the mature and caring attitude of the Council members. They were discussing raising money for Children in Need and they brought up the subject of the terrible typhoon that has devastated parts of the Philippines. They had been very shocked by the images and news footage that they had seen at home and suggested that we donate half of the money raised for Children in Need to the disaster fund. We also held our second Parent Voice meeting which gives parents the opportunity to meet to discuss issues and ideas that have been identified in order to improve communications and encourage parents as volunteers in any capacity. We had a really good turnout and some great ideas were suggested and interesting questions were raised.

And finally, we are on the look out for volunteers in the community who may be interested in supporting our enrichment programme by helping with crafts, baking, gardening, music or coming in to hear pupils read. If you are interested in this, please contact Mrs Helen Loe (Interim Deputy Head) via the school office for more information.

Nichola Connor. Interim Head of School

NEXT MONTHS VILLAGE VOICE

Normally we publish and deliver a few days before the month starts. Because of Christmas closures and family commitments next months Village Voice will come out in the first week of January. A reminder that we need your articles by 16 December.

To help you we have included the first two rubbish collection dates of 2014 in this months Village Diary.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The autumn term has brought a number of charity events to the LVC calendar.

On the last day prior to half-term, the whole school dressed up to trek the 10km sponsored walk to raise money on behalf of the LVC Friends. 10km is actually a reasonable distance to hike for many modern teenagers who are not always as used to walking as we think they should be, but I was once more impressed by the speed at which they moved and the positive spirit with which they approached the event as a whole. We raised in excess of £6k for the school hall and we now have enough money to pay for the new sound systems, the refurbishment of walls and floors and replacement curtains. An improved school hall will benefit the whole of our community in many ways since it has year-round use as a venue for concerts and presentations.

Another tradition that has grown in the last few years at the school has been to hold a 'Children in Need' Bake Off event. It is always very popular with students and ends with a bake sale in support of the charity.

These two events are then additions to the more long-standing commitments we have to the ever popular OAP Coffee and Carols, hosted by our Year 9 students and the end of term Charities Fair.

As you can see we are always very keen for our students to think of the needs of others and to put real effort into their charitable ventures. The Christmas Charities Fair is an excellent example of this: the students have to work in their houses to create popular 'stalls', and then they have to be enterprising in their marketing and promotion to make as many sales as they possibly can. They compete to be the house that raises the most money that morning. All of the proceeds go to the charities that our students nominate. It is a little like 'The Apprentice', but the rewards are not self-interested ones. We sometimes feel that we live in a world in which the only question that anyone asks is 'What's in it for me?' That is never a question that I expect any student at LVC to be asking.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 December

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