

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2014

ISSUE 132

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 1 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 2 **Annual Parochial Church Meeting. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church**
Sat 5 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
Sun 6 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 8 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 9 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 13 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 14 **Local History Club. West Wickham 100 years ago: Photographs from our collection. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Holy Week Compline, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church
Tue 15 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 16 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Deadline for articles for the May Village Voice
Sun 20 Family Parish Communion 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wed 23 Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collection
Sun 27 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 28 **Gardening Club. Salvias. Talk by Janet Buist. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 29 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 30 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £5.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00 per hour. evening £7.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00 per hour evening £10.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00 per hour evening £18.00 per hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226
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.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Just 4 of us came along on a beautiful Sunday morning to try and do some cleaning up of the village and roadside verges. We decided to concentrate on the worst bits – the stretch between Streetly End and Bottle Hall and the verges between Burton End and the crossroads. We collected 15 bags of rubbish with the usual selection of crisp packets (one unopened), beer cans – (mainly Fosters and Stella but, worryingly, a few Special Brew), energy drinks and water bottles. Somebody had tipped out some rubbish which included passport photos. We decided not to pin them up on the Notice Board this time.

We didn't do much in the main part of the village, except round the Village Hall and playing field. The rear car park, with the goal and basketball net, was much better than in previous years, which was pleasing. The slightly depressing aspect was that two days later, driving back from Balsham, there was some freshly thrown rubbish on one of the verges we had cleared.

Thanks anyway to Sue, Sara and Brian and to everyone else who did some clearing up before and after the main event.

Peter Grieve

WEST WICKHAM RESIDENTS EMAIL LIST

ED. We understand not many people have subscribed to this useful list so we are reminding you about it by reprinting last months article.

Many of you will have attended the hastily arranged planning meeting in December. I took away from that meeting the idea that the Parish Council should look at setting up a resident's mailing list, so that important information could be distributed speedily.

With help from Alex Schuilenburg and using the excellent village website as host this is in now in place. There are a couple of simple ways to get put on the distribution list.

By visiting the following link http://westwickham.org/?page_id=1197 or visiting the website westwickham.org, selecting the community tab and selecting residents, you then need to provide your name, your e-mail and your address.

The mailing list has been set up so that only approved communications are sent out to the distribution list. The volume of communication will be limited, there will be no spam and emails will only go to residents of West Wickham and Streetly End who want to receive them. You also have the ability to unsubscribe if you want at any time.

Patrick Charlton, Vice Chairman, West Wickham Parish Council

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

*West Wickham 100 years ago:
Photographs from our collection*
Monday 14 April, 7.30pm Village Hall

Come along and find out what the village looked like. Find out who owned what and who lived where using information from the 1910 Land Valuations.

ALL WELCOME Non-members £2

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WHAT IS THIS?

The purpose of the meeting is to debate current issues in the community and celebrate local activities. Resolutions can be passed. Although these are not binding on the Parish Council they will be discussed by them. It is a meeting of the parish electors who can set the agenda. It is not a Parish Council meeting although the Chairman of the Parish Council calls the meeting and will chair it.

The meeting will be held in May, date to be announced. If there is anything you would like discussed please contact Marcus Cornish (T: 290203), the Chairman of the Parish Council, or Jenny Richards (T: 894076), Clerk to the Parish Council.

MOON WALK 2014



On 11 May Sarah Brown and I will be taking part in the London Moon Walk. This is a 26 mile walk through London at night to raise awareness of Breast Cancer, as well as to raise much needed funds to help fight the disease.

This is a disease that affects so many people across the world, including those who are close to us as individuals.

We would really appreciate any help with sponsoring us; any donation is gratefully received, no matter how small. If you would like to sponsor us, you can do this by going onto our link page:

<http://wtwalk.org/moonwalklondon2014/are-we-there-yet-1>
On this website you can also keep an eye on our training process as the time comes closer.

If you would prefer to sponsor us in a more traditional route, you're welcome to give me a shout at 83 High Street, West Wickham.

Emma Appleby

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for March was Julian Ives, an expert on the natural control of garden pests. He runs his own business Dragonfli Ltd. and also is consultant for Harrod Horticultural. Julian is an excellent speaker and we found his talk extremely helpful as he is obviously concerned for the environment and his advice on what to use and where to use it was well received. We were able to purchase some of his products and hope that in using them we will be safely improving our environment

Our next meeting was scheduled for Easter Monday so we have changed the date to 28 April, the following Monday, when Janet Buist from Penny Cross Nurseries will talk on Salvias.

Please take note that our Annual PLANT SALE is on 17 May in West Wickham Village Hall at 10:30. This is our only fund-raiser so we need people to buy the many diverse plants we are offering: all types of vegetables, herbaceous, shrubs, bedding, grasses, alpines all at bargain prices. That is 17 MAY! Put it on the calendar.

Rosemary Yallop (01799584262).

DAISYCHAINS PRESCHOOL

Dear friends, we would like to thank you all for coming along to make our quiz night so much fun. We hope that you enjoyed yourselves and answered at least some of the questions – it is so hard to create a good balance of subjects and difficulty to cater for all people. The runaway winners were “Keen as Mustard” with 164 points, second were “The Crofters” with 142 points and third “Marshman” with 141 points.

We raised about £930, which is a record amount for any event that we have held so we would like to say a massive thank you for your support. The money will definitely be put to good use over the next few “lean” months at Daisychains.

In April & May we have planned two “Pudding Nights” – (keep your eyes open for confirmed dates) where you will be provided with a light starter and as many puddings as you wish to eat!

On 10 May we will be having our annual Jumble Sale 2 – 4 p.m. so please keep your bric-a-brac and jumble to bring along to the village hall on the morning.

In the summer term we are planning to have a family barbeque and don't forget that on 6 April we will be holding our Family Easter Egg Hunt 2 – 4 p.m. There will be craft activities for the children to “have a go at”. These will include making an Easter chick, cress growing, rabbit masks, fairy bubble blowers, pom pom chicks, etc. and there will be a traditional Easter Egg hunt, refreshments and a bar. After a successful trial “Stay & Play” morning back in February half term, we have decided to hold two more in the Easter holidays. These will be on Mondays 7 & 14 April, 10 – 12.30 and will cost £2.50 per child (plus 50p extra for each subsequent child). We all had a really good time at the one held in February.

Meanwhile, at preschool we have had a busy term discovering more about “people who help us”. We have practiced the fire drill and all know where to go when the alarm bell rings. After Easter we desperately want to get out in our garden to grow some vegetables to sell to add to our important fundraising efforts.

If you have a 2 – 4 year old who would like to join Daisychains (rated outstanding by Ofsted in July 2013) then please phone us to arrange a visit on 07943866294.

Sue Harrow



BALSHAM VILLAGE INSTITUTE
25TH APRIL 2014
DOORS OPEN 7:30, eyes down 8:00
ENTRY £3 includes Free Game
Refreshments Available



Fundraising for a new Scout Hut

BALSHAM CUBS AND SCOUTS

This year will see the Cubs and Scouts busy fund-raising. The Scout hut is in a desperate state and the committee have taken the decision that the time has come for the hut to be replaced!

This is no light undertaking and already work has been going on in the background for planning permission and sourcing the right type of building. The hut will remain on its current site and will therefore have the same foot print. We hoped we could use the current foundations but inspection has shown that we need to restart from scratch. The treasurer has been busy trying to secure funding from various grants available for community projects such as this and because of all his hard work we need to raise around £20,000 of the £100,000 total. Some of this money is already in the pot but we need to work extra hard this year to raise the remainder.

So 25 April will see the first of our fund-raising activities – a BINGO NIGHT in the Balsham Institute. See ad. We hope to see you there!

Saturday 7 June will be our annual car wash and mile of coins so please start saving loose change for the Cubs and making sure your car is extra dirty for the Scouts! We will also be at the Balsham Feast and we hope to take up the offer of a table at the Big Balsham Sale.

If you can support with the fund-raising in any other way or have suggestions please contact myself or any member of the Scouting Group.

Juliet Bevan on behalf of the Scout committee.
Email g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have just returned from our Annual Brownie Holiday to the Jarman Centre. The weather was glorious and we all had a wonderful time wandering through the woods, following tracking signs, to get our lunch on Saturday with the Rainbows from Balsham.

During Saturday afternoon we took part in a Harry Potter wide game – our theme was Witches and Wizards – where the Leaders had to have a cup of tea or coffee in an interesting place unseen by the other girls or Leaders. Sophie had her tea on the archery field, Toni-Ann was perched on a log pile and I had mine on a tree stump in the double lime tree avenue.

The girls also had to dress one of them as Dobby the house elf, fake wounds, solve a code and make a solar still. After they had finished all the clues they had to put their hand, whilst blindfolded, into a bowl of troll boogies (mashed potato), bat droppings (mousse dessert with fruit peelings) or spiders legs and bat wings (dried leaves and twigs) to find a miniature Goblet of Fire (egg cup).

We are off to London at the beginning of April to the Bell Foundry with All Saints Church

If you would like to put your daughter on our waiting list please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested. If you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop Sophie and I an email.

PAULINE and SOPHIE. E: brownies@horseheath.info

NATURE NOTES

This time last year we were stuck with well below average temperatures and nothing much was happening. This year spring is early and the natural world is falling over itself to get in on the act. Celandine, speedwell, primrose and violets are all in bloom. One patch of violets on the footpath leading up the hill to the back of the playing field is particularly striking in deep purple. Some cowslips are flowering in the ditch going to Skippers Hall and even the oxlips in the wood are on the point of blooming. The chiffchaffs have landed. We heard our first of the year on 15th March on a walk near Felsted in Essex and again the following day alongside the Kennett between Moulton and Dalham, and then the next day here in West Wickham, on the edge of Randswood. A plentiful supply of frogspawn suddenly appeared in our pond, in common with others in the village, Bumble bees are on the wing and I have already seen four species of butterfly (brimstone, peacock, small tortoiseshell and comma).

Mammals seem to have been more in evidence this month, although two of them were dead. We had a mole lying on our garden path a couple of weeks ago. He didn't appear to be marked so the cause of death was unknown – if it was a cat there was no blood. On the day of the village tidy-up we came across a badger in the ditch near Bottle Hall – presumably the victim of a car – he had been there for a few days I think. There is clear evidence of badger territory on the edge of Leys Wood near Hill Farm. They mark their boundaries with small hollowed out “latrines” which have been mentioned in Nature Notes previously. I do feel sometimes as though I am intruding on their private world as I peer at their excrement, but it is fascinating. We had a rare visit from a hedgehog the other night. Sue thought it was a brush. Then it moved. As we know, hedgehogs have declined dramatically in recent years so when you do see one it is all the more special. I have seen fewer hares than I would normally expect at this time of year. Maybe they are staying sane for once, or maybe I am just not going to the right places. Please let me know if you have seen much activity.

Andy Champ contacted me to say he had seen a red kite over the airfield. He has recently moved here from Berkshire and is used to seeing them daily. We only have the occasional sighting in West Wickham, but we do have plenty of buzzards and often hear their calls as they rise on the thermals, especially at this time of the year.

Finally, I would like to mention an insect which was new to me, although my book tells me it is fairly common. This was a wasp beetle, unmistakably wasp-coloured, but in other respects a beetle, which has been making a few appearances in the house over the last couple of weeks – presumably having survived the winter, because they are not supposed to be around until May- July.

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

BIG BALSHAM SALE

1 June, 10am to 2pm

The Meadow School PTA has been given an opportunity to run the Big Balsham Sale in June. We are opening this up to our local community with a table top sale opportunity at the Meadow School. The cost is £7 per pitch. Please contact Tina Daniels on 07592 798 174 for more details or to book your pitch. Book early to avoid disappointment.

FROM THE VICARAGE

The Diocese of Ely has just begun a link with the Diocese of Kigali in Rwanda. Christians from both places will get to know each other. Reports from those from the Diocese who have already visited Kigali are full of stories of people who are lively and open and wanting to meet us.

It is not that long ago that these people faced a terrible genocide. In 1994 a million men, women and children were killed. Neighbours turned against each other, and churches were particularly vulnerable. Whole congregations were slaughtered with few survivors. As they remember, the people of Kigali repeat these words,

*'If you knew me
And you really knew yourself
You would not have killed me.'*

Yet these people are actively working for reconciliation and forgiveness and the church is at the forefront of this process. As they do this, these people bring healing to each other. I think that we have a lot to learn from them.

As I reflect on Easter and resurrection and new life, I find the stories of the people of Kigali inspiring. I hope that when we meet some of them, we will be able to share their energy for life.

I wish you a very happy Easter.

Rev Julie Norris

Over the last few weeks the PCC has been looking into the possibility of putting a toilet and running water into St Mary's Church, West Wickham. This will make the church a much more comfortable place to hold services, weddings, funerals and baptisms. It will also encourage the village to use the building in other ways such as flower festivals and musical concerts. It will enable the church to better support the work we already do with families. The plans are currently being looked at by the Diocesan Advisors. We will update you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 2 April. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church

Lent talks

3 April. Rev Simon Talbott, Priest in charge of Great Shelford *'Why are church buildings special?'* The Black Bull, Balsham, 7.30pm

10 April. *Any Questions.* The ministry team will be there to try to answer questions. Hildersham Church, 7.30pm

Lent lunch

In aid of the Parish Nurse, 3 April, 12.30-2pm, hosted by Julie Norris, 35 Church Lane, Little Abington.

Holy Week services - See diary. Details of services in other churches can be found on the church notice board.

Confirmation class

This will begin in May. Please let me know if you would like to be part of it. Rev Julie (T: 891350)

FEBRUARY RAINFALL FIGURES

Another very wet month! Met Office statistics show the February average rainfall in Cambridgeshire as 34.5mm.

	2014	2013
High Street	79.25mm	35.5mm
Streetly End	67mm	27mm
Streetly Hall Farm	89mm	28mm

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

By the time this goes to press, Linton Village College and The Meadow School, Balsham will be part of the same Multi Academy Trust: Chilford Hundred Education Trust. The Trust will have a Board of Directors and the standards of both schools and their use of resources will be scrutinised by this Board, rather than by the Local Authority. The Meadow School becomes an Academy, sponsored by LVC and will continue its journey of rapid improvement to become, once more, one of the best primary schools in the country. The signs are already very encouraging: most teaching is now good or better, leadership has been praised by two subsequent Ofsted HMI visits and the children are on track to achieve great progress. From 1 April the school is lifted out of Special Measures and is on its journey back to Outstanding.

Once Chilford Hundred Education Trust is underway, my own role changes to become Executive Principal across both schools but I will retain the 'hands-on' role of Principal at LVC. We aim to appoint a permanent Headteacher at The Meadow School by the end of April. LVC's own Senior Leadership Team will grow slightly to accommodate my change in role: Tim Darby will be Deputy Principal and will share this role with new Deputy Principal, Helena Marsh, who currently works at Sawston Village College. Doug Brechin is Assistant Principal and will be joined in this role by Angela Cassidy, who has been on maternity leave this year and a new appointment to Assistant Principal, Shahla Matarazzo, who comes to us from Saffron Walden County High School. In addition to school Bursar, Stuart Tinsley will become Director of Finance across both schools. I will have a very strong, capable team behind me.

The only sad piece of news is that, after 31 years at the College, our much loved Denise Hall is retiring. Denise has now taught generations of children in the Linton area, their parents and some of their grandparents too. She is something of an LVC legend and will be greatly missed, but in her last term at LVC we are determined to make a huge fuss of her and give her a really enjoyable send off. If you have any special memories of Mrs Hall, please do contact us at elaine.clayton@lvc.org.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

D'ABO TENNIS CLUB – WEST WRATTING New Members

Our new tennis season will start 1 May.

The Annual Supper will be held on Friday 16 May in West Wrattling Village Hall.

If you are interested in receiving a new members pack please contact the Treasurer, Mark Holme on 07768 443223 or email mark@thesafebox.co.uk

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 April

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