

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2014

ISSUE 134

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Streetly End gardens open. 2 - 5pm, see page 3 for details
- Mon 2 **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7pm, Village Hall**
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. 8pm, Village Hall
- Tue 3 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 9 **Local History Club. Walk around the castle area at Castle Camps. Meet at 7pm at Castle Camps church car park. Contact Janet Morris on 290863 for more details.**
- Tue 10 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 14 Meadow School June Revels. 12 - 3pm.
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 **Deadline for items for the July issue of the Village Voice**
- Tue 17 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 20 **Friends of St Mary's Garden Party. 7pm, Manor Farm**
- Sun 22 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Streetly End gardens open. 12 - 5pm, see page 3 for details
- Mon 23 **Gardening Club visit to Pavilion House, Dullingham. Details from Rosemary Yallop, T: 01799584262**
- Tue 24 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 29 Joint parishes service. 10.45, Weston Colville Church.

Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £5.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00 per hour. evening £7.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00 per hour evening £10.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00 per hour evening £18.00 per hour

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226
or visit www.westwickham.org

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 2 June at 8pm. Village Hall

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY

County Councillor Roger Hickford will be giving a presentation on the problem of the ever increasing traffic on the A1307 and the possibility of turning it into a dual carriageway or building a new road.

Representatives of the various groups within the village, such as the Local History Club, Gardening Club, Carpet Bowls Club etc, will be putting on a display or demonstration to explain their activities.

We have decided to have the **Bar Open** with **Pegasus Bitter** and **Wines** available in aid of Daisy Chains Pre School. Come and join the Parish Council for a drink.

Marcus Cornish. Chairman, West Wickham Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The recent special planning meeting of the Parish Council, which attracted a large turnout from residents has been the defining issue which makes us feel that there is a need for the Parish Council to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Having such a Plan allows the Parish Council to have a greater legal role in planning and local development issues and access to a higher level of funding which may be generated by the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Work has now started on seeing if a Neighbourhood Plan can be developed for the West Wickham Parish. A working group has been set up comprising of nine people from West Wickham and Streetly End who have now met twice to start the process of getting the views of residents on what they would like the Plan to achieve.

A description of what a Plan can contain will be found on the Village Hall website in the near future along with Topics for discussion in the Working Groups' meetings and also the records of those discussions following each meeting. In addition there will be regular updates on progress in the Village Voice for those without internet access.

The working group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:15 pm in the Village Hall and anyone is free to attend.

The last meeting was held on 6 May and discussions covered the application for a grant to cover costs of meetings, printing and purchase of stationery. Members of the group have been allocated tasks for determining whether the village infrastructure can support any form of limited infill development.

Work was also started on developing a questionnaire for circulation to residents, similar to the Village Survey undertaken a couple of years ago.

Continued on page 2

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.

Neighbourhood plan update continued

There will also be an information sheet, to be provided with the questionnaire, for guidance on what a Plan can and cannot contain, this will allow any suggestions you make in response to questions to be relevant to a Neighbourhood Plan.

The questionnaire will provide the evidence we need to collect to show that the Plan has been devised in full consultation with the community and allow us to proceed to the next phase which will be to devise the Plan which has to be undertaken in close consultation with the District Council whilst fully taking into account this input from residents.

Trevor Hall

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Many thanks to all of you who donated plants for our Plant Sale on Saturday 17 May and a special thank you to everybody who came along and bought them. The Village Hall at West Wickham was full-to- bursting with vegetable and flower plants. We made £578, a record for the Club, which will help enormously in paying for our speakers next year. The annual Plant Sale is our only source of income apart from our minimal subs. and small groups such as ours fight to survive in these days of ever increasing prices.

We are West Wickham and DISTRICT Gardening Club which means we are also there for residents of outlying villages. Your support at our Plant Sale and Annual Show would be so welcome, even if you cannot find time to join as a member. Indeed, should you wish to come to one of our talks please do so as a welcome visitor.

We now look forward to our Annual Outing, this year to Kew on 7 June and our two evening private garden visits - Pavilion House in Dullingham on 23 June and Richmond House in Clare on 28 July.

For further information please ring me on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop

GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

This will be held on Saturday 16 August. We will be distributing the schedule to all households nearer the date but a preview is available from me for anyone keen to plan ahead.

The photography classes are always very popular so we are publishing these in advance of the show. They are:

- Colour in the garden
- Spring
- A country scene

You may also wish to start thinking about the Children's classes. These will be:

- A person made out of vegetables and/or fruit
- A necklace made of natural materials
- 3 decorated cup cakes

The novelty vegetable class will be the 'strangest' vegetable.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863.
Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Following the successful launch of the Friends of St Mary's last September, which led to vital funds for the Church being donated by village members, the PCC would like to say a big thank you for your support and invite all 'Friends' to a **Garden Party on Friday 20 June**.

This will take place at 7pm at Manor Farm with wine and nibbles. We very much look forward to your company. RSVP to helenwells4@aol.com or 290901.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Friend of St Mary's and helping with the upkeep of our most historic building, please contact Marcus Cornish on 01223 290203.

FROM THE VICARAGE

Nora was an unsung Saint of my teenage years. When I first met her she was depressed and couldn't care less about her appearance; she was forgetful and she hardly talked. A weekly Day Centre for elderly people opened in my Church. People were referred to the Club by Social Services. A host of volunteers were galvanised to provide transport, cook lunch, run activities, make cups of tea and to just be there to listen to the people. Like everyone else, I was drawn in to what was an amazing weekly experience as we watched people being transformed by friendship and fun. At the Club, Nora felt listened to and that she mattered. In a short space of time her appearance changed and she got others to join her in knitting thousands of vests for a children's charity. Around her there was always lots of laughter. She was flourishing again. Nora had a particular skill - she was an encourager and people around her began to have a go at doing things they never thought they could. This included flower arranging and glass engraving.

In each of our villages there are clubs and groups for older or vulnerable people as well as some intergenerational activities. These also make a difference to the lives of those who are part of them. In Abington, there is the Forget-me-not club, the monthly lunch club and Jeremiah's Café. In Hildersham, there is a monthly Tea Time and in Balsham there is a regular gathering at May's Close. At West Wrattling, there is a monthly Lunch Club; at Weston Colville, a new monthly group gathers for afternoon tea and, at West Wickham, people gather for occasional purposeful events such as flower shows and fetes, and there is hope in the future to provide more once the toilet and water are installed in St Mary's Church. All of these are run by volunteers.

(ED. There are also many clubs and societies that meet regularly in the Village Hall and give people of all ages the opportunity to meet.)

YES, you did read it correctly. We are moving towards installing a toilet and running water into St Mary's Church, West Wickham. The plans are currently with the Chancellor and, having already secured approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and English Heritage, we are hopeful that we will be given the go ahead.

This month, the churches in the group are hosting a presentation on Dementia and elderly people's mental health on Thursday 5 June, 7.30pm at the Balsham Church Institute. It will be given by local GPs, including Dr Emma Tiffin, who is often heard on BBC Radio Cambridge, and by other mental health professionals. This is free and open to everyone

Rev Julie Norris



Members of the Local History Club enjoying some hands-on history on the Sturmer Heritage Trail. (photograph - Sandra Bebbington).

Come and join us for a walk around Castle Camps castle site on Monday 9 June, see diary.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We all survived our trip to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry at the beginning of April, we also managed to come home with the same amount of Brownies we started with which is also a bonus. Thank you Pat for organising the day and booking the weather.

Our numbers have now swelled to 33 after Elizabeth, Kitty, Sydnee-Lei, Phoebe and Anna joined the unit after Easter. It is great that some many young ladies wanting to be Brownies and join in all our activities.

We have had a busy half-term already. We have been working on our display about our trip to Whitechapel, learned the St Bernards Waltz for the Church fete and have held a Campfire with 1st Linton Guides. After half-term we will be joining Brownies from the rest of the District at a Fun Day at the Jarman Centre with activities based on the Big Brownie Birthday Challenge. There is also Strawberry Evening to look forward to as well as our annual litter pick-up around Horseheath. We also hope to complete our Agility badge too.

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids for us again this year. As Sainsbury's have now stopped issuing them could any vouchers you are still holding be put either in the box in Horseheath Post Office or put through our door by 15 June. Ranmoor, Haverhill Road, Horseheath.

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

STREETLY END GARDENS OPEN

For the Red Cross. Sunday 1st June, 2 - 5pm.
Clover Cottage and Weaver's Cottage.

Free entry, donations for the Red Cross very welcome.

For the National Gardens Scheme. Sunday 22 June
12 - 5pm. Chequer Cottage, Clover Cottage &
Weaver's Cottage.

Combined admission £4.00, children free.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available and plants for sale on both dates.

NATURE NOTES

I am sure most people will now know the fate of the poor rhea, who I mentioned in last month's Nature Notes. After spending a couple of happy weeks relaxing on Barkway Golf Course, he was shot by a gamekeeper. As if in sympathy, for the past number of days, a willow warbler has been singing from the hedge opposite our front door. The liquid, descending notes of his song seem to be saying "Oh, why, why, why, why, why?", a sorrowful message for which none of us has the answer, but delivered in such a beautifully musical way. Birdsong is probably at its peak in May, with all the summer migrants having arrived, and breeding, nesting and territorial battles in full swing, but has anyone heard a cuckoo? We went to Paxton Pits near St Neots in the hope of hearing nightingales, but we heard a cuckoo instead, and earlier heard one in Essex, but nothing so far in West Wickham.

Di has had a nice couple of experiences with mass gatherings of our smaller brethren: "*We have had a nest of tiny yellow spiders in our conservatory, about the size of a smartie. It moves around during the day, and if you blow on it gently, hundreds of tiny spiders run along silken strings, radiating out from the central nest. When all is still again, they will regroup. Eventually one morning the entire thing is gone, and then you find them everywhere as individuals, miniscule arachnid dots. My father and I opened a huge oak door in a local church and found hundreds of ladybirds in the doorjamb, huddled together in groups, an amazing sight!*" Still in the insect world, she also reports watching, "*as caddis fly larvae crawled up the grass stems in their curious 'handmade' tubes and as mayflies took their maiden flights across the surface of a river*". As for me, sitting by the pond contemplating the wiggling tadpoles the other day, a dragonfly larva looking like a rather futuristic submarine came to the surface for a moment. Apparently dragonflies can live up to four years as larvae before emerging in all their glorious, but relatively short-lived splendour. I wonder when that one will emerge.

Dragonflies are, of course, fearsome predators. We've been seeing and hearing some others during the last couple of weeks, including a double meeting with a fox at midday while I was out for a walk with Kip. The first meeting resulted in me quickly returning home to lock the chickens in, but when I started out again, there he was – giving us a long look of appraisal before slipping away into the rape. On the owl front, Sue saw a barn owl at Balsham – they have been very scarce since the 2012/13 winter – and little owls have started calling. Di reports seeing two kestrels being set upon by crows – apparently there is rivalry over nests in the big coniferous tree in Trevor & Carol's garden. Both Di and Trevor have commented on how noisy kestrels can be when excited. Talking of nests, jackdaws are building in Brian & Linda's chimney, so they can expect some interesting sounds too, when the chicks are born. Finally a word for the amazing "Snail Trail" that I was reminded about the other day. The Devil's Dyke near Stetchworth is lined with snail-covered trees. It is a phenomenon I have never seen anywhere else. I assume that they climb up to breed because there are lots of tiny snails, but there seem to be snails up trees all the year round, so if anyone else has a better explanation, please let me know.

Stop press – I (and half the village) heard a cuckoo on Sunday 18th – just passing through.

Peter Grieve

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

A couple of months ago the Department for Education announced that it was 'minded' to allocate some additional money in 2015 to less well-funded education authorities like Cambridgeshire. Although this idea is still at the consultation stage, the news was greeted with some pleasure by educationalists in our county because it does demonstrate that we have won the argument that the current funding situation is deeply unfair to our children. The additional funding would not be enough to give us a level playing field with our county neighbours but it would make the beginning, we hope, of a more significant and transparent review of the amount of money that is allocated to schools to spend on education. For those of us who have been campaigning for change it would be a step in the right direction. In the meantime Linton area schools are still faced with balancing ridiculously small budgets. How are we all coping? In the case of the College we cope through ingenuity and the generosity of our community. In recent years we have been delighted by the way in which the wider community has rallied to support us. We have had donations of furniture from Shell, donations of second-hand, but still very workable computers from Marshalls, donations of time and energy from volunteers who support our reading intervention schemes, the amazing fund-raising efforts of our Friends group and the donations to the College Trust Fund that our parents sign up to. State education, I would agree, shouldn't work like a charity. Sufficient funding should be an entitlement for our young people, but when things are tight we are so grateful for the extra help that we get.

A lovely example of this came to light this week. The Mills family have had 2 delightful children pass through the College: Laura and Joe. Laura popped back in to see us yesterday bearing a gift: 20 free entrance tickets to the Matisse: cut out exhibition at Tate Modern Art Gallery. Mr Mills has access to these through his company at Hanjin Shipping and was kind enough to think of us. The tickets will enable a group of young artists to visit the Gallery for free which is fantastic for them and for Ms McGrath who will organise the trip. In this way a family can 'plough something back' into a school that has helped them to grow and develop. When things like that happen you are reminded how lucky we are to live in such a caring local community with such an amazing spirit of giving. Thanks everyone!

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Daisy Chains
Pre-School West Wickham

Pudding Night

Join us for a light supper and a selection of puddings!

Friday 27 June
Balsham Church Institute
7.30pm

Tickets £12, call
Sue on 01223 290512

Pavlova Apple Crumble Custard Cheesecake Cream

Raffle Bar

LOST SPUR THIGHED TORTOISE

My tortoise Blot has been missing from my garden in Streetly End since the early May bank holiday weekend. Please keep an eye out for him in your gardens and on dog walks. He will be active when sunny. We miss him and are concerned for his welfare. Thank you.

Lucy Cameron. T: 894362

MEADOW SCHOOL JUNE REVELS

The Meadow School PTA's June Revels in on Saturday 14 June from 12pm to 3pm on the school grounds. The Revels Relay ticket returns this year. It allows the purchaser to have as many turns on the inflatables as they like for only £8. Pay- as -you- go options are available as well. This year we have different inflatable activities such as the surf simulator; basketball dunk; target shooting range along with your old favourites such as the bouncy castle and assault course. There will also be the usual stalls including the Meadow's CodeClub, ballet performance, along with refreshments, BBQ, Pimms tent and for the first time this year, we are very excited to welcome the Black Bar who will be selling their specialist craft beers. You can find out more about Joe Kennedy on www.blackbar.co.uk. Do not forget our substantial raffle prize draw where we have some fabulous prizes this year. The top five prizes are: a Lenovo Computer; Photo shoot with Urban Picnic; HP Envy smartphone printer, afternoon tea at the Hotel Felix, Spa day at Imagine, plus many, many, more. All monies raised will be assigned to the new FS/KS1 project, the re-development of the outdoor area. If you would like to know more, please contact us via email: pta@meadow.cambs.sch.uk

DR PETTER TAKING A GP SABBATICAL

I have worked at Linton Health Centre since 1994 and after this time here I have earned a sabbatical break. I shall be away from the practice for a few months over the summer and am delighted that Dr Cath Tooley has agreed to do my locum until the autumn. Dr Tooley is an excellent GP who has worked at Linton Health Centre for a couple of years previously and knows the area well.

During some of my time away from the practice I shall be working as a ship's doctor for the Jubilee Sailing Trust. This is a charity which organises sailing for disabled people. I shall be on a Tall Ship, which is a three masted square rigged sailing boat. The boat has a permanent professional crew, and in addition takes about twenty disabled crew who are buddied up one-to-one with twenty able bodied crew. Everyone gets involved in sailing the boat, setting sails, going up the rigging, helming or working in the galley etc, according to their ability.

Dr Roger Petter

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 June

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