

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2014

ISSUE 136

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00**
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 5 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 6 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 12 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 16 **GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW. See page 1 for details**
- Deadline for items for the September issue of the Village Voice**
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 19 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Wed 27 **Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 31 **Outdoor service (weather permitting). 10.45, Hildersham Churchyard**
- BIG VILLAGE DIG CELEBRATION. 3.15 - 5.00, 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.

The hall will be closed Monday 11 - Friday 15 August for floor resurfacing

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.

BIG VILLAGE DIG

At last!

COME AND CELEBRATE

Sunday 31 August

3.15pm-5pm

West Wickham Village Hall

Find out what we discovered about the early origins of the village
EVERYONE WELCOME

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

West Wickham & District Gardening Club will be holding its Annual Show in August. Anyone from West Wickham & Streetly End can enter, as can visiting children or grandchildren. Residents from adjoining villages without a show of their own can also enter, so why not encourage a friend to take part too? We hope you can be challenged into entering some exhibits or support by coming and seeing how well your friends and neighbours have done. The Show schedule is inserted into this month's Village Voice. For additional copies of this or the entry form, please contact me.

There is a wide variety of classes we hope will interest you – vegetables & fruit, cut flowers & pot plants, classes just for children, cooking & jam making and photography. There is prize money and cups to be won and a special feature this year in the domestic classes will be the WEST WICKHAM BAKE OFF, with an award for the STAR BAKER

THE SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 16 AUGUST AT WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL, OPENING AT 2.00pm with the prize giving at 3.00pm, followed by an auction of produce. Exhibits can be brought to the Hall between 9.30 and 11.30am.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB21 4RY.
Tel: 01223 290863. Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROGRESS

We have been awarded a grant of £500 from the Community Development Foundation to cover the cost of stationery, printing and Village Hall room hire. This grant will cover these expenses up to the end of 2014 by which time we should know from the survey results whether a Plan is supported by the community.

Since the last article in the Village Voice the Working Group have met twice and the final touches to the Survey Questionnaire are now being made before it goes to the printers. Once the Survey forms are printed they will be delivered to each house by members of the Working Group. The person delivering and collecting the survey forms will generally be someone living in your part of the village.

When we conducted the last village survey, responses were requested from each household but we found that it didn't get a sufficiently detailed response from younger residents. A copy of the new survey will be delivered to all residents aged 16 and over so the information will give a better feeling of the support for the project.

Continued on page 2

Neighbourhood plan progress continued:

As with the previous survey, all responses will be anonymous and no personal data will be collected or stored. All activities of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group can be seen on the Village hall website at

http://westwickham.org/?page_id=1242

or you can contact me directly on 01223 290559 if you do not have internet access but would like more information.

The people carrying out the distribution and collection of the Survey forms are volunteering their own time to do this work so your co-operation in completing and having the completed Survey questionnaire ready for collection will be very much appreciated.

Trevor Hall

FROM THE VICARAGE

At 11pm on 4 August 1914 war was declared between Great Britain and Germany.

‘War broke: and now the winter of the world with perishing great darkness closes in.’
Wilfrid Owen -1914

As we have reflected on the events that began on that day, people have recounted stories of family members who enlisted, of letters written home, of courage and sacrifice and the anguish of those left behind. Someone told me that their grandfather was killed within the first half hour of the commencement of battle. It is sobering to see the ages marked on the war graves which indicate just how many soldiers were too young officially to enlist.

On 4 August, all seven churches in the group will be open for people to remember those who served and those who died during the First World War. In addition, there will be a requiem mass held at Holy Trinity, Balsham at 9.15am and a short service of compline at 10.45pm at Little Abington. Everyone is welcome to come to these.

On a different note, you will not be surprised that I want to mark the vote at General Synod of the Church of England which will enable the first woman bishop to be appointed soon. The vote was not to ordain women as bishops. That had already been agreed. This was to approve the provisions for those who oppose women’s ministry, which then enables the church to go ahead with the legislation to ordain women as bishops without reneging on a promise made twenty years ago to ensure that those who oppose will not be squeezed out. The principles of the vote included a commitment to hold together those with different theological convictions and allow them all to coexist within the church. Differences are understood without excluding one another. The principles are a challenge for all of us to find ways to develop mutual respect.

Rev Julie Norris

PREPARE YOUR BEAR

Due to the enthusiasm and enjoyment of those who parachuted their bears from the church roof during the Diamond Jubilee weekend celebrations, (despite the rain!) we are planning to repeat this on Sunday 28 September after the Harvest Festival service. Please join us, so prepare your bear!

Di Licence

Monday 4 August A COMMEMORATION OF THE DECLARATION OF WAR 4 August 1914

9.15 am. Requiem Service at Holy Trinity, Balsham,
with Holy Communion.

Candles will be lit in all seven of our churches during the day at each War Memorial. All the churches will be open for private prayer and commemoration of family members who died.

10.45pm. Compline will be said at
St. Mary’s, Little Abington.

War with Germany was declared at 11.00 pm. on
4 August 1914.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We had a great District Fun Day at the Jarman Centre with Brownies from Burrough Green, Balsham and Linton. I think some parents were surprised when their Brownie arrived home with a bandage on their arm but they shouldn’t have been, the activity I was running was making fake wounds and then bandaging them up. It is amazing how some Vaseline and red food colouring can look so realistic. We also attended the District Strawberry Evening in Linton with the rest of the Rainbow, Guides and Brownies from the local area.

On Saturday 12 July we joined 800 other Brownies and their Leaders at Churchill College in Cambridge for the Big Brownie Birthday Star Quest, the final event for our Centenary year. The Brownies took part in lots of activities spread through three time zones – past, present and future. In the past they tried on uniforms through the ages as well as pitching bell tents, maypole dancing and making rosebud badges. In the present they really enjoyed the pedal go-karts and bouncy castles as well as the pot-hole maze and finally in the future they learned about Guides, made aliens and also built rockets.

At our final meeting of term we enrolled Phoebe, Kitty, Elizabeth and Anna into the pack but also said goodbye to Naomi, Georgia, Michelle, Emma and Amy who are all moving onto Guides in September. We will miss them but know that they will also have a great time at Guides.

If you would like to put your daughter on our waiting list, as we will still be very full in September, 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

RAINFALL FIGURES - JUNE

Met Office statistics show the June average rainfall in Cambridgeshire as 51.5mm.

	2014	2013
High Street	46mm	18.75mm
Streetly End	34.5mm	16.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	25mm	15mm

In total we have had more than 100mm more rain than last year!

NATURE NOTES

Trees, flowers and hedgerows: Di says “*experts tell us that nature is two months earlier than normal. Our roadside verges certainly agree with this. The late summer flowers are all in bloom already, in early July! The delicate lilac field scabious and the darker purples of the mallow and greater knapweed, together with the yellows of St. Johns wort, ladies bedstraw and ragwort all hedgerows are full of ripening berries, and the horse chestnuts and field maples are already showing their conkers and seed pods.*” I have spotted a few hazel nuts in some of the hedges, normally taken by squirrels well before they ripen. I don’t suppose they will last much longer.

Insects: July and August are the butterfly months and so far it looks like a good year. Small tortoiseshells have bounced back well from their alarming decline, we had a surge of ringlets earlier in the month, then meadow browns and in the last few days gatekeepers, and of course plenty of whites. Sue and I came upon a huge cluster of them by the river in Weston Colville and they flew up all around us. On the Devil’s Dyke at Newmarket, I’ve seen numerous chalkhill blues, and a couple of marbled whites at Gog Magog Down. Back home there is a patch of tufted vetch at the roadside where we saw 5 small (or Essex?) skippers. Di reports that “*Carol and I found a number of black spikey peacock caterpillars on some nettles. We had been watching a huge brown privet hawkmoth chrysalis under some broken pots, hoping to see it emerge. Unfortunately, it managed to do this without being seen. We have been visited by a hummingbird hawkmoth on the honeysuckle on several occasions, and the wildlife area had a major hatching of 6 spot burnet moths on the yellow vetchling and a stunning blue moth with red spots on the wings; both Andrew and I saw several at one time.*” Insects are doing quite well this year, judging by the number of beetles, ants and thunder flies that are around, and it was great to hear grasshoppers chirping away the other evening as I walked up the road.

Birds: Peter Pearson has had a report of a barn owl between here and Balsham seen at 10 o’ clock one morning, while Di’s pair of blackbirds in the honeysuckle hedge are feeding a third brood and the swallows in our garage have successfully reared five chicks. Di’s best birds this month are a family of three young wrens lined up on a branch, and a pair of buzzards being ‘buzzed’ by a pair of red kites in Brinkley, while mine was a kingfisher whizzing down the Granta between Linton and Hildersham and a rare flock of about 30 lapwings on newly ploughed land near Yen Hall. Lynn has written to say that, as well as skylarks and yellowhammers giving voice as she goes up towards the crossroads at the Airfield, she has also seen and heard corn buntings “*singing from the wire that carries our precious internet and telephone signals. The corn bunting has declined a lot in Britain and is protected by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Like the skylark, it is ground nesting, so it needs fields that are not heavily worked during the nesting season. We should all be very proud that corn buntings are still doing OK around West Wickham. The corn bunting is a brown streaked bird, the largest of the buntings but unremarkable to look at. It has a distinctive song, like someone jangling a bunch of keys. It’s also unusual in that the males pair with several females, not just one*”. Corn buntings can also be seen on the Roman Road west of Marks Grave and along Dean Road from the cross roads. However, this year they have also been seen in

the field in front of Cobwebs, and the Gallop near Yen Hall. Locally buntings seem to like us in general – I saw a couple of reed buntings on the Horseheath side of the Roman Road the other day.

Next month - mammals, amphibians, molluscs and reptiles, so any news about them would be great. Thanks to all those who provided information this month

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

BEE SPECIAL

Bee keepers Jan Lupton and Malcolm Cameron have given reports on how their hives have been performing this year and it’s mostly good news.

Jan says it’s been a great year for honey and she’s run off the first of the harvest. There doesn’t appear to be any rape seed honey and what has been collected is excellent and has not granulated. Once the honey is collected and cleared, some will remain as runny honey and for the first time in 6 years of keeping bees she will be producing creamed honey which is a process of seeding the honey collected with a small amount of honey that has been creamed previously, setting up a reaction that alters the composition of the collected honey so it does not granulate and become set honey as it would normally.

The bees Jan keeps are remarkable in that there is no sign of varroa - a mite that settles in the brood and damages the bees before they emerge from their cells and can do untold damage to a hive. There have been no signs of swarming whatsoever and the queens have been industrious layers. On one hive there have been 7 supers - a record for Jan’s bees, and the weather has been a lot kinder to them than last year when the spring, which seemed to start early, set the queens laying, then turned more wintery and a lot of bees were lost.

There have been a couple of sightings of swarms this summer. Jan has offered to collect any swarm that settles locally as long as it doesn’t involve a very long ladder or dangling precariously from a tree!

Malcolm tells us that there are now 6 busy hives in Streetly End. He has had 4 swarms from his own bees, one colony having swarmed twice, and kept just one the other three being given away to help other beekeepers. He collected several swarms locally and kept 2 of them as they were large (measured in pints!) and strong. Two swarms re-swarmed and left quickly before he could get them re-homed and one he again gave away.

The first honey harvest in May was modest as it was effectively from only two hives yielding about 40lbs of sweet honey which sets quickly as it comes mostly from the oil seed rape crop. This honey has been gently warmed, filtered and allowed to settle prior to bottling and is now available for sale from the door. The next harvest will be due within the next 4 – 6 weeks and looks promising as the hives are all heavy on “hefting”. This should be a more floral honey as the OSR has passed. There is also likely to be some cut comb honey available for those who prefer the “real thing” – completely untouched honey including the comb.

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Bees special continued

Malcolm says that if there are any budding bee keepers in the parish they are most welcome to visit his apiary to see the bees up close. You're more likely to get stung by the desire to have your own bees rather than actually stung (although it's inevitable if you do want your own!)

However Lynn let me know of a possibly worrying development which also has relevance to the bee population in that the EU is allowing farmers to plant peas and beans in their previously uncultivated Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs). Peas and beans are flowering crops and there is some evidence that this benefits bumblebees during flowering, but does not provide enough forage to lead to increases in numbers of queens produced by bumblebee colonies, which need forage throughout the summer. Solitary bees that have a shorter flying season might benefit more, but don't much visit peas and beans. There is evidence they benefit from the oilseed rape crop. Both peas and beans are normally treated with insecticide and fungicide during flowering, which means that there is a clear risk to bumblebees and solitary bees. There is no particular benefit to other wildlife, such as mammals birds and plants, unlike the semi-natural habitats otherwise suggested for EFAs, which definitely benefits both bees and other wildlife.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Denise Hall is retiring from her work at the College at the end of the summer, bringing to a close nearly thirty-two years of service. She has taught thousands of children in this time, many of their parents and a handful of youthful grandparents too. She started out employed as a teacher of Religious Studies, became a Head of Department, then a Head of Year, the Professional Tutor for teachers training at the school, Assistant Principal and in this, her last year, Deputy Principal.

I've had the pleasure to work very closely with Denise. If I have ever needed information about the history of the College, I would always turn to her. If I was going to meet someone in the village, I would always ask her if she knew them and invariably she did. Denise has been the queen of LVC operations. She has written the calendar, masterminded trips, events and parental consultations and made sure that transitions between primary to secondary school and secondary school to sixth form run smoothly. For many years she has been the first LVC person that new children meet and often the one they say their last goodbyes to at the Leavers' Ball.

When I tell people that I work at Linton, they very often ask me 'Does Mrs Hall still work there?' and when I confirm that indeed she does the usual response is 'I really liked her when I was there' or 'She was an excellent teacher ... one of the best! The good news for us is that we will not be losing Denise entirely because she has agreed to stay on as one of our governors. And, of course, as a member of our local community, we will continue to see her out and about, probably more so than we have done now that she will not be working at all hours.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of our community to thank Denise for her many wonderful years of service and to wish her a very happy retirement indeed.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

AUTUMN CONCERT IN AID OF WEST WRATTING PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 4 October 2014, 7:30 pm at
Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

An exciting programme of choral & instrumental music
from around the world

Tickets £10, children free

including interval refreshments will be available from
Balsham and Weston Colville Post Offices
from 1 September or Michael Gorman 01223 290653

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

We have now come to the end of a very eventful year at the Meadow School. I am delighted and very proud to announce that our fantastic Year 6 has achieved record SATS results! All of the children have made amazing progress and have worked incredibly hard over the last year and are all leaving the school fully prepared for their new adventure at secondary school. Well done to all of you and good luck! We are all very, very proud of you.

It's not just the Year 6 that have worked hard, our Foundation children have made amazing progress – with an extremely high percentage achieving the highest level of progress that Early Years children are measured by. Our Year 1 children scored a brilliant 100% in their phonics tests and our Year 2 children have also made huge levels of progress with a staggering percentage entering Key Stage 2 with a high Level 2s and Level 3s. It doesn't stop there either, our Years 3, 4 and 5 have also made amazing progress and are all fully prepared for their next class. The teachers and the staff at the Meadow are so very proud of all of the children and we wish all of them a well deserved summer break and we look forward to seeing them all on 8 September when the new school year starts.

The school is now being showcased by County and other schools that find themselves in the same position that we were in last September and are now coming to see what outstanding teaching looks like. I am also sharing all of the improvement plans that we have created with these schools to help them on their road to recovery. This is a huge achievement and a great reward for the staff who have worked tirelessly to improve standards and embed good and outstanding practice.

Next year brings all sorts of new challenges. The teachers and I will be spending a large part of the summer holidays putting together a fresh new curriculum. We will be reviewing all of the school improvement plans to ensure that we focus on the weaker areas and still continue to build on the strong areas. We are reviewing the learning environments and looking at the value added aspects of the school to support and enrich the experience the pupils have that attend the Meadow.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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