

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

OCTOBER 2014

ISSUE 138

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 2 **Monthly walk. Meet at 10.30 at Maypole Croft for a walk to Horseheath. See Page 2**
Sat 4 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village Colledge
Sun 5 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 7 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Fri 10 **Village Hall AGM. 8pm, Village Hall**
Sat 11 **Craft Fair. 10.30 - 4.00, Meadow School, Balsham. See page 2**
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Craft Fair. 10.30 - 4.00, Meadow School, Balsham.
Mon 13 **Local History Club. Little Bradley: a thousand years of life in a tiny village. Talk by Wendy Barnes. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 14 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 16 **Deadline for items for the November Issue of the Village Voice**
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 20 **Gardening Club. The Humble Spud (and other related plants). Talk by John Walker. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 21 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Sun 26 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 28 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

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 - OCTOBER UPDATE

The members of the Neighbourhood Plan working group have now delivered the survey questionnaires to all the properties in the parish. It was hoped that they would be delivered by hand to all residents but in some cases, to avoid repeat journeys to the same address, they may have been posted through your letterbox. The target was to deliver about 360 survey forms to all residents over 16 years of age but a number of younger residents were not at home and some residents did not wish to participate in the survey. By 12 September we had collected about 250 replies and will continue to collect the outstanding ones before the end of September.

I would like to stress the importance of this survey for the village residents and more importantly the Parish and District Councils who need to find out what the housing needs of the area will be in the next ten years or so. West Wickham like most towns and villages has an ageing and growing population and there may well be a future need for retirement homes or smaller starter homes for those people wishing to stay within the community. Anybody who sees that they could benefit from new housing and who have not completed a survey form can call me on my home telephone and I will drop one off. It is also important that any changes meets the desires of the residents and is not determined by external developers. A Neighbourhood Plan gives you a voice and gives you a choice!

An initial inspection of the returned survey forms show a strong feeling exists about traffic passing through the area. The main concerns are speeding and farm traffic. The issue of farm traffic will have to be discussed more broadly once we have all the surveys returned and analysed. However, the issue of speeding can be addressed by using the local Speedwatch system. In a recent Village Voice article I asked for volunteers to support a parish Speedwatch team and as a result I received just two responses. To make the system work we would need some more volunteers, so if you are concerned about speeding and wish to do something about it, please let me know and I can arrange for the Police to run a training session for us.

Trevor Hall T: 290559

WILDLIFE AREA

In the January Village Voice I wrote about the Parish Council setting up a wildlife area for the community. Now it has a sign, (thanks Steve and Tom) and the paths are being cut regularly. It is just past the metal gate to the left of the back car park at the village hall, a little path through the copse opens out into a wild meadow with some native fruit trees. Do walk around and enjoy the late summer flowers, sit awhile on the bench and listen to the birds and the insects. PLEASE keep to the paths as the ground is uneven in many places, and there are rabbit holes where the bench and table are, so take care. The ripe blackberries are attracting the butterflies, especially the red, white and black 'red admiral' and brown and yellow spotted 'speckled wood'. The purple knapweed and yellow vetchling are a magnet for the bees. Swallows are flying overhead and the robin has started to sing his plaintive autumnal tune. It is a lovely spot at any time of the day, so do please make use of this little piece of nature. The Parish Council would love some feedback, so please email me, or tell me your comments.

Di Licence, Email: di.licence@googlemail.com

FROM THE VICARAGE

The granddaughter of someone in the church entered a picture in a competition. She painted the athlete Christine Ohuruogu. She did not win the competition and thought no more about it. She recently received a letter from Christine. The school girl's picture had been pinned to the wall of the room where Christine was staying as she competed, bringing the athlete pleasure and encouragement. Christine had hunted out the school and she wrote to the girl to say thank you. This act of generosity is something that the little girl will never forget. It may help to inspire her when she faces her own challenges. It may make her do the same for someone else. Generosity of spirit is something that has a ripple effect which spreads beyond a little act of kindness to make a wider difference.

We have all been thinking of Christians, Yazidi people and others, who have been slaughtered or threatened in Iraq, Syria and Kurdistan. Across the 7 churches here, people have given money to the Fund for Reconciliation and Relief which is run from St George's Baghdad and promoted by Canon Andrew White (Vicar of Baghdad). Over £940 has been raised. This act of generosity on the part of local people will not only bring practical help to people who really need it, but is also a symbol of the care and concern that people here have for them. Andrew highlights the way that acts of kindness can be instrumental in making reconciliation possible.

Generosity is not just about money, but about an inner attitude where we let go of some of the things that we hold close to us and give them away, or share them with others. Harvest was traditionally an occasion when produce was given to be used to support people in need and the giving was symbolic of the offering of other parts of us and our lives to be used for good. It was recognised that generosity is good for us as well as making something good happen for others.

You may have noticed that St Mary's Parish Church is undergoing building work. A toilet pod is being put into the tower room. It has been necessary to protect the organ and furniture in the main body of the church whilst the work is completed. This has hampered our plans for the Harvest Service. We are also not going to hold a family service in October. We are hoping to have a Service of Thanksgiving on 2nd November at 9.30am when we hold a late Harvest celebration with pets and a teddy jump from the tower. This will also give the village a chance to see what has been done.

Rev. Julie Norris

COME WALKING 2

We had a lovely day for our first walk in September, when seven people walked past the church, down to Webbs Lane, up the Roman Road to Woodall Lane, lunched at The Bell, Balsham, then back via the water tower, along Dean Road and up the fields to the back of the allotments. Janet tells me it was just over 7 miles. Shirley asked if people could join at the lunch stop and just do the walk back ... a great idea. So next month, 2 October, Maypole Croft 10.30am, we will be walking to Horseheath and will stop for lunch at The Old Red Lion at about 12 noon, so if you want to join us there and walk back, please do.

Di Licence

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

BIG VILLAGE DIG

Thank you to all who came along to our end of project 'celebration' event where we presented the results and conclusions from last year's Big Village Dig. You should receive a leaflet with a summary of these in this issue of the Village Voice. If by any chance you haven't received a copy, please let me know. We also have 3 display boards about the project which are available for community or school events. Again please let me know if you would like us to bring them to your event – this is part of our 'sharing with the community' commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many people at the meeting expressed a keen interest in taking the project further and doing some more test pits. We are actively trying to set something up for next summer, so watch this space!

We start our autumn/winter programme on **Monday 13 October**, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when **Wendy Barnes** will be talking on *Little Bradley: a thousand years of life in a tiny village*. We have a link with Little Bradley when the rector, Charles Lamprell, was also perpetual curate in West Wickham between 1840 and 1866. He seems an interesting character so we are looking forward to finding out more. Do come along and join us. We would very much welcome new members or visitors to any particular talk.

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

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

25 October 10am-4pm

Girton Glebe School, Cambridge Road, Girton

Free admission & car parking

Over 20 stalls including family and local history societies, photo identification, postcards, charts, storage and more + various talks throughout the day at £2 each

Further details from Cambridgeshire Family History Society
www.cfhs.org.uk

MEADOW SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR
25th
1989 - 2014

THE MEADOW SCHOOL
25th
CRAFT & GIFT FAIR
Saturday 11th
Sunday 12th
October 2014
10.30am to 4pm
Meadow School, Balsham

Meadow School Craft and Gift Fair
Proudly Sponsored by:

Cheffins **TWI** **ARM**

FEATURED
Handmade Crafts & Gifts
Tombola, Lucky Dip
Sweet Stall
Face Painting
Refreshments

NEW FOR 2014
Food Hall
Come along,
have a browse and
stay for lunch!
You may find that perfect
gift for a loved one
Entrance £1
Children/Concession 50p
Ample Free Parking
All Under Cover
30 new stall holders

The Meadow School PTA is a Registered Charity: 1148295
High Street, Balsham, Cambridge, CB21 4DJ Telephone: 01223 894 400
www.facebook.com/balshamcraftfair pta@meadow.cambs.sch.uk

COMMUNITY OIL BUYING SCHEMES

Now is the time to consider your heating oil requirements for the winter months. Traditionally heating oil prices in the summer and early autumn months tend to be cheaper and deliveries faster than in the colder weather.

You may recall that until fairly recently the village had its own oil-ordering syndicate, but after some research I, as the co-ordinator, concluded that the service offered by Agricole would provide a better deal for buyers as they were ordering in bulk and would be able to negotiate a cheaper price per litre. There is no joining fee and they will make a donation to the village of £5 per calendar year for each member who places orders totalling at least 1000 litres. (Last year the Parish Council received a cheque for £80 which is being spent on helping create the small wildlife area near the allotments which Di Licence has written about elsewhere in the Voice). I recently checked with them and they told me that they achieved prices of less than 50p per litre for oil orders in July & August. Agricole's website can be found at www.heating-oil-prices.co.uk or you can phone them on 01954 719452. For those of you without e-mail, I am willing to be your point of contact if you wish to use Agricole; if you let me know when you need oil and how much, I will contact Agricole on your behalf.

If you would like to make a comparison with another scheme, Cambridgeshire ACRE has a community oil buying scheme which can be viewed at www.cambsacre.org.uk or phone me for information.

Sue Thurston, 29 Burton End, T: 290503

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We hope you all had a good break over the summer as we all did. We return for the new term with six new Brownies; Megan, Katie, Tally and Poppy from Balsham Rainbows plus Sunshine and Ruby who have not been in guiding before. We also have a new Young Leader, Katie from Brinkley Senior Section, who will be helping us on a weekly basis.

This term we will be attending the District Campfire at the Jarman Centre as well as decorating All Saints Church Horseheath with our harvest pictures. We will also be getting ready for the Over 60's Luncheon in December. We hope to make this year's performances better than ever before. We also hope to make more use of our surroundings and perhaps go on a night walk around the village to see how things change in the dark.

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

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL MAGAZINE

The magazine should have been delivered to you between 20 August & 14 September. If, like me, you didn't receive it contact 01904 606300 or customerservice@teampdc.co.uk and complain.

Andrew Morris

NATURE NOTES

Writing Nature Notes with Scotland's referendum still to come, I have been thinking about how wildlife establishes and defends territory, but also how it moves around to respond to changes in environment or climate. We were in Scotland earlier in the year, and it was interesting to note that the speckled wood butterfly, which has been plentiful in West Wickham, particularly this year, is spreading North as the climate warms. Experts were checking its progress and asking everyone to complete forms if they saw one. No doubt in a few years this little creature will become an accepted form of "Scotland's wildlife", even though it is blissfully unaware of the strange lines on the map which form our National boundaries. Closer to home, we have had a few days in Norfolk, where the increasing numbers of little egrets is very apparent. This bird used to be a rare sighting in Britain, but is becoming more and more common as temperatures increase.

Newts of course need to be near water, where they breed and spawn. When we returned from Norfolk, a newt had found its way into our chickens' water bowl and seemed quite happy in there. I picked it out and put it in the long grass next to our pond but didn't really examine him or her carefully. Meanwhile, Andy Champ sent me a photograph of a newt next to his pond, which could be a great crested. There are only three varieties of newt in Britain, the smooth, palmate and great crested. The breeding male great crested can be distinguished by its ragged crest, dark spotted flanks and orange belly, but the females are more difficult to tell apart although the great crested is bigger than the other two. We have a lot of ponds in West Wickham, so I would welcome information about local newt activity. Smooth newts, which are the most common, tend to spend the period from October to February hibernating under stones or logs, while the great crested spends all year in the water. At some stage in my education I acquired the idea that all life was originally under water and our ancestry can be traced back to the first living things that crawled out of it. Whether this is still true, I feel a common bond with the amphibians, who manage to balance the two existences and make use of our artificially created habitats, as well as what Nature provides. This year's crop of young frogs are out and about in the long grass at present so try and be careful with the shears and strimmers when you are cutting back. That frog could be a distant relative.

We are promised a spectacularly colourful autumn this year, although only the horse chestnuts have seriously begun to change colour so far. What we have definitely got is an extremely fruitful year – a bountiful crop of blackberries is accompanied by beautiful haws and rosehips in the hedgerows. Also look out for spindleberries, sloes, elderberries, and honeysuckle. Most of these are either inedible or unpleasant to eat, so the advice is stick to blackberries.

Finally, a fond farewell to the swallows who successfully raised two broods of chicks in our garage. Now it's just a question of clearing the mess from the floor and hoping they make it to South Africa. Actually one of the youngsters from the last brood seemed to stay around for a few days after the others had left. Whether he was contemplating a winter in West Wickham I'm not sure, but he obviously decided to follow the family in the end.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

This time last year, things at The Meadow were looking rather bleak. We were still reeling from our July 2013 Ofsted report and spirits were low. What a difference a year makes! It was only over the summer, when I had time to reflect on everything we have accomplished, that I realised just how busy we have all been. In July 2014 we received our Key Stage 2 (Year 6) end of year SAT tests results. Last year these had been incredibly disappointing, with only 65% of our children achieving an expected level 4 in maths. I am delighted to say this year we have achieved the best scores the school has ever had! We achieved 100% level 4+ in reading, 98% level 4+ in maths and 91% in writing. Our level 5 and 6 results were also the best we have had. Our accomplishments did not stop there; we achieved a 100% pass rate in our Year 1 phonic tests too. Our Year 2 and Foundation Stage children also achieved extremely well, and above the national average in their end of year assessments. As you can imagine there were many tears from staff, children and parents, but all for the right reason this year and I was an exceptionally proud Headteacher!! At our final Local Authority Inspection meeting in July we were given high praise, the challenging targets we had been set were either met or exceeded and in record time too. The summer was definitely a time for celebration.

Our drive to improve The Meadow has not just been based around results. The new school roof is nearly completed (no more buckets when it rains!) and the cutting of some of the trees on the boundary has ensured they are safe and we can now appreciate their beauty once again. You may remember from previous communications we have been working hard to redevelop part of our Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage outdoor area. It was quite neglected and in much need of a revamp and this was also an area the previous Ofsted report had commented upon. Thanks to Mr Russell Mills (local builder and a parent at The Meadow) and a huge group of parent helpers we have completed stage 1 ahead of schedule. We now have the most amazing sand pit of differing depths, a pebble beach and decked area with pulleys and canopies, along with an adventure area of tractor tyres and a super messy mud kitchen- yes a mud kitchen!!

It never ceases to amaze me how much the community have united this year to support our school. From raising money, digging out weeds, cleaning the school signs, building and creating, supporting the road safety week, to positively promoting the school; the parent body have been unstoppable. Thanks also to Mr D'Arbo for the loan of a tractor and trailer for a day to move excess soil during the re development. To everyone who has helped create this fantastic new learning environment 'Thank You' from all of the staff and children at The Meadow.

We all feel very positive about the start to the school year and with the superb community support and spirit, The Meadow can only go from strength to strength.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

THE CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS MOVED

Jenny Richards has moved to:
11 Fox Road, Balsham CB21 4EZ. T: 01223 665260.
Her email address remains jr-richards007@talktalk.net

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The new college year started on a glorious sunny September morning. There was a special "buzz" around the place. The mood, enhanced by the good weather, was generated by the combination of feeling delighted with the school's results and excited by the prospect of working with a group of talented new staff.

Results at LVC have been great, in one way or another, for many years, but there is often one result you feel a little more disappointed by. This year, however, that simply was not the case. 93% of the students achieved 5A* - C results, 75% achieved this including C or above in English and Maths and 38% of all results were at A or A* grade. Overall, these were the best set of results we've achieved at GCSE in the College. You won't find results to match these in any of our neighbouring non-selective secondaries in Cambridgeshire, Essex or Suffolk. The even more reassuring thing is that we can't see that the class of 2015 will do any less well.

There are some new faces at the College this September and I will take the opportunity to introduce you to two new members of our team, in particular: Helena Marsh and Shahla Matarazzo. They join us on the Senior Leadership Team which manages the school. It is the first time, since I joined LVC, that I've been the oldest team member and I'm not sure that I entirely like being reminded of that fact! Helena joins us from Sawston Village College, where she was Assistant Head and Shahla from Saffron Walden County High where she was a Senior Teacher. The slightly larger team will give us the capacity to do the outreach work we do in supporting other schools and in developing CASSA, our Teaching Schools Alliance.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

RAINFALL FIGURES - AUGUST

A horrible wet cold month! Met Office statistics show the August average rainfall in Cambridgeshire as 50.8mm.

	2014	2013
High Street	151mm	42.75mm
Streetly End	129mm	42mm
Streetly Hall Farm	123mm	34mm

POST CARDS

(OLD OR NEW) (STAMPED OR UNSTAMPED)

This is my annual request for postcards – PLEASE leave the stamps on! These are urgently requested to raise funds for the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan where over a million people are in camps or displaced due to major inter-tribal unrest earlier in the year. I can collect cards if need be.

Joanna Sanders 893063 sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 October

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