

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2014

ISSUE 140

VILLAGE DIARY

- Mon 1 **Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend**
- Tue 2 **Blue wheeled bin collection (no green bin collection)**
- Wed 3 **Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall**
- Thur 4 **Monthly walk. Meet 10.30 at Maypole Croft for a walk to West Wrattling for lunch or join the walkers 12ish at the Chestnut Tree PH and walk back with them.**
- Sat 6 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00 Linton Village Hall**
- Sun 7 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**
- Mon 8 **Local History Club Christmas social with old films. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 9 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Sun 14 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE VOICE

- Mon 15 **Gardening Club. A light hearted gardening quiz. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 16 **Blue & green wheeled bin collection**
- Sat 20 **Balsham Singers Christmas Concert. 7.30pm, Balsham Church**
- Sun 21 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**
- Tue 23 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Wed 24 **Carol service. 6pm, St Mary's Church**
- Thur 25 **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**
Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Sun 28 **United parishes service. 10.00, Balsham Church**

January 2015

- Tue 6 **Blue & green wheeled bin collection**
- Tue 13 **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	Note new charges: November - March £10.00/hour. April - September £5.00/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**

VILLAGE SIGN



Our new village sign, which was commissioned by the Parish Council to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, was erected outside the Village Hall in October. The project was led by Parish Councillor, Di Licence and the design was drawn by Trevor Hall from ideas and suggestions submitted by village residents. The sign has been cut from 6mm mild steel by Martin Chamberlain and the oak post and brick plinth were made by Tom Licence.

The sign contains elements from each 'end' of the village – Streetly End, the Church end and Burton End – with the scroll beneath symbolising the road

linking them all together. The crown-shaped surround represents the Diamond Jubilee with the wheat sheaves on top signifying both the arable fields which surround the village today and the village's historical agricultural past.

Yes, the windmill at Streetly End did once have sails and no, it's not a Spitfire but a Lancaster! To find out more about the history behind the sign why not pop into the Village Hall and see the display on the West Wickham & District Local History Club's noticeboard.



Please let the *Village Voice*, or Di or a Parish Councillor know what you think of the sign. Some feedback would be very much appreciated.

Janet Morris

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Saturday, 20 December
7.30 pm Holy Trinity Church, Balsham**

Villagers tell us that the festive season doesn't really start until they've been to the Balsham Singers Christmas concert - So don't miss out! We are singing Rutter's 'Te Deum', Chilcott's 'Little Jazz Mass' and there will, of course, be a selection of carols including some with the audience. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served during the interval.

Tickets are available from Balsham and Great Abington Post Offices; £7.00 in advance or on the night priced £8. Under 18s will be free. For further information, phone Rosemary Gray or Lisa Pechey on

01223 893092 / 894993

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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

Christmas has traditionally been the time of good will. We think of our love for other people in the light of the gift of God's love in the coming of Christ.

I watched a busy person, with many demands running a community event. This was something with no payment, not appreciable acknowledgement, but which made a positive contribution to community life. To my thanks the reply was, 'I want to give something back.' This is heartening in a context where people are constantly being invited to complain, to litigate, to look after their own interest.

Reflecting on those words, 'I want to give something back', makes me realise that quite a number of people have said this to me recently. Sometimes this has come from people who have recognised that they have had good opportunities, or some family event such as the gift of a child, or a deepening relationship, or after coming through an illness or indeed after a loss.

In such situations, to 'give something back,' to the community is not to become a 'do gooder,' or to give cold charity in an attempt to feel better. Rather it is recognition of our reliance on each other to make our community a good place to be. Sometimes it takes being helped by someone else for us to realise just how valuable our own contribution can be.

It is inspiring and thought provoking to hear someone say, 'I want to give something back,' It is not always easy to know the right way to give back, but I know that I want to belong to a community where people are like this.

If you think that there is something to give back, act on it.

Happy Christmas, Love,

Rev Julie Norris

The Diocese of Ely is undertaking a consultation on a Strategy for the future. This begins on Advent Sunday (30 November) and continues until Pentecost 2015 (24 May). If you are interested in helping us to think about the future of your church, please let Rev Julie Norris, Rev John Fellows, or Rev Kathy Bishop know. We will try to keep you informed.

Please join us in West Wickham for the Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6pm and the Christmas Family Holy Communion at 9.15am on Christmas Day.

There is a United Service at 10am at Holy Trinity, Balsham on 28 December. This is a good opportunity to enjoy some space and calm after the Christmas festivities.

We have new facilities at St Mary's West Wickham. The new toilet pod and sink unit have been installed. Our thanks to Marcus Cornish for overseeing this project.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Many thanks indeed to everyone who supported the coffee morning by coming, giving a donation because they could not come, bringing produce for the produce stall and buying generously the Christmas cards and gift paper which were for sale. It was a very happy morning and we raised an amazing £724.37 which will be doubled through the government "UK Aid" scheme which has been in place since September and closes in December. Thank you so much.

Jenny Richards, Linton & District Branch of SCF.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

There are two insects (one a moth), two birds, two mammals, two trees and two wildflowers here. Cryptic clues for each, not in any particular order. First correct entry out of the hat gets a possibly suitable prize.

1. Sideways moving computer? (4,5)
2. Kind of party sounds like McCartney would follow? (4,6)
3. Part of hero binoculars would discover (5)
4. Is inside 24 hours? Give me your answer! (5)
5. Sounds like wrongdoers can drink here (8)
6. Something you can do with your bets. Take the lot! (8)
7. Pedestrianized shopping area a road follows. (7)
8. Untruth many taken in by (4)
9. Hero of Great Expectations is twisted teller (11)
10. Outwit boxer's equipment (8)

Answers by 31 December to: Peter Grieve 29 Burton End or email mail@petergrieve.co.uk

**CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

**READING ★ ROOM
WESTON COLVILLE**
**SAT 6th DEC 2.30
4.30**
Father Christmas arrives at 2.45pm
Every child gets a gift
Teas ★ Coffee ★ Homemade Cakes
*****Gifts & Crafts*****

Horseheath Christmas Market

Saturday 6 December
1 - 5pm at Horseheath Village Hall
...For all your festive goodies...

Pat & Judith...Phoenix Cards
Tigerlillie's Accessories
Cambridgeshire Family Chiropractic Centre
Mince Pies...Close2Home
Sticks Studios... Empty Nest Crafts
Hot Chocolate & Marshmallows...Christmas cakes & Pudding
Eric's Amazing Wooden Gifts...Chocolate Tombol
The Wild Flour Kitchen...'Second Time Around'
Coffee, Tea, Mulled Wine
Children's stalls & Games...Santa's grotto
& lots, lots more...!

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 17 November the Club welcomed the author and broadcaster Caroline Holmes to talk to us on the hybridising genius of Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac who, from his nursery South of Bergerac in France supplied Monet, William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll with waterlilies. Latour-Marliac was clever in choosing for the site of his nursery, a spot on the bank of the River Lot with 2 thermal springs. This gave him the opportunity to keep tender varieties of lily and lotus over the winter, which can be harsh in mid-France. Caroline is a most interesting speaker and we are grateful to her for fitting us in to her busy schedule.

Our Christmas meeting will be a Quiz devised by Andrew and Janet Morris on a gardening theme. There will be wine, mince pies and nibbles and a draw for garden vouchers from Beeches Nursery of £25 and £15. Please do come along on 15th December for a really fun evening.

Rosemary Yallop, T: 01799584262

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have had a busy term so far. We had a good sing at our District Campfire in the middle of September; the girls did a 'turn' and everyone else joined in. It was a good evening and there were hotdogs too. Hera and Katie, our Young Leaders, organised a Halloween party for the Brownies. The girls all had fun and there were nibbles as well. To celebrate the centenary of the First World War the girls all made their own felt poppy to wear. I'm sure for some it was the first time they had sown anything. The poppies did look smart on their uniforms.

We are now getting ready for our Over 60's Luncheon. The invitations have been sent out and if you were lucky to receive one and would like to attend please let us know ASAP if you haven't already. We have restricted numbers to 50 this year so you need to reply quickly. We have started the rehearsals for the party and we almost have enough girls who play musical instruments to start up our own band. Now wouldn't that be a thing to behold?

At the end of term we will be enrolling our new starters as well as doing some Christmas crafts. In the world of Brownies it never stops. 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. Email: brownies@horseheath.info

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

The 2015 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@suethurston.co.uk

NATURE NOTES

Those of you who have been walking around looking at your feet should take note of Di's recent sightings, and look up into the sky. "For us, November has been the month of the raptor. Barn and little owls have both been seen on the new fencing at the bottom crossroads and by the church. We are frequently woken up to the sound of young tawny owls trying to perfect their calls. There seem to be large numbers of kestrels about and hardly a week goes by without seeing or hearing common buzzards. Both Ann and Jan (and Bert Watts of the Bowls Club) have had sparrow hawks in their gardens. Over the years there has been the occasional sighting of hen harriers in the parish, on their way to Africa. These have always been ringtails, either females or juveniles. So the piece de resistance this month was the sighting, on two separate occasions, of two males in less than a week. They both flew across the road just in front of the car giving us superb views of their plumage, pale grey with black wingtips and a white rump. (hen harriers have been in the news regularly in recent years because of their persecution, particularly by gamekeepers eager to preserve game birds for the gun. As a result there are only a few breeding pairs left in the country.) We recently arrived home to see a pair of red kites casually circling no more than 40 feet above the Croft." Non-predatory birds that merit a mention include the usual arrival of fieldfares and redwings, who should be pleased with this year's berry harvest, and a stonechat that I came across near Balsham Wood sitting a-top a hedge

Meanwhile, at ground level, "while it is not uncommon to see wild flowers blooming late into the autumn if the weather is mild, this year seems to have been exceptional. These are some of the plants that we have seen in flower, mainly in pristine condition. Hogweed, upright hedge parsley, meadow sweet, oxeye daisy, common daisy, yarrow, prickly ox tongue, lesser knapweed, field scabious, chickory, hemlock, herb robert and recently in Norfolk, red campion and blackthorn." With a refusal of some plants to die back for the winter, and some butterflies still flying, things do seem a bit strange so we should be grateful for those agents of decay, the fungi which I feel are having a good year. Unfortunately my knowledge of the fungus kingdom is extremely limited, although I have enjoyed some delicious mushrooms picked near Rands Wood, and at Weston Colville, and survived. Particular mention goes to a couple of non-edible bracket fungi that I have admired for some time – one on the path between Weston Green and Carlton, and another on a tree hanging over the river near Sturmer. Both have been spectacular, and deserved to be photographed, but I fear are past their best.

On the mammal front, the deer population seems to be increasing, judging by the number of recent sightings, although Kip, our dog, attempted to reduce it by one when encountering a muntjac in the Rosie Green Wood in Balsham, an experience I hope is not repeated. A more pleasant piece of news is that Vivienne Henderson has had a badger foraging for apples in her orchard, but she hasn't seen any climbing trees to reach them, as they showed on Autumn Watch.

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

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

When the College acquired the rubber crumb Astro-turf I had just been appointed to the post of Principal. England and West Ham striker Trevor Brooking was invited along to open it up and various members of the school community tried to save the penalties he knocked into the new goals. That does not feel that long ago. It amazes me, therefore, that we are currently negotiating a new surface for the pitch that has almost reached the end of its natural life. We have been saving for the replacement, via an annual sinking fund, since it was purchased nine years ago and the idea is that the rest of the funding is provided by the Football Association, just as it was back in 2005. The old pitch has seen a huge amount of use: Aztecs, Cambridge United, Linton Granta and the PE Department all give it a good hammering so it has served the community very well indeed and lasted just long enough for us to have saved enough to replace it. We are incredibly lucky at LVC to have the fantastic sporting facilities that our children and our community enjoy – the gym, the sports hall with its new flooring, the dance studios, the tennis courts, the cricket nets and the generous amount of field space make us the envy of all around. Getting a brand new Astro-turf once more will be the icing on the cake.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

BRING SOME COLOUR INTO YOUR WINTER!

There is still room for a few more budding artists to join the next watercolour painting course

Newcomers will be welcomed by our small, existing group of friendly people for the next Watercolour Painting Course, due to take place at Horseheath Village Hall for the six Monday mornings 2 February to the 9 March 2015 inclusive, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

The Course, under the guidance of experienced tutor/watercolour painter Susan Mackenzie, is primarily designed for those with some previous knowledge of watercolour painting, but Susan is always happy to help the less knowledgeable get up to speed, so don't be put off if you haven't lifted a paintbrush in years!

Numbers are kept to a maximum of ten students so that everyone can receive plenty of individual attention, which means prior registration will be necessary.

To register, or simply to request further details, please contact: Susan Mackenzie. Tel: 01223 891521.

Mobile: 07804 963368, Email: sjhmac2@yahoo.co.uk

HALLOWEEN... 'TRICK OR TREAT'

I don't usually take part in this evenings activities but a friend asked if she could bring her grandchildren down, so I made an effort. They bought me "poisoned" biscuits and told me jokes as a trick, which was nice but they were followed by two other older groups, who when challenged for a trick threatened to 'punch me in the stomach'...not what I had expected! So parents, next year when you allow your children to knock on strangers doors for 'treats' please explain to them that a 'trick' is NOT physical violence and a 'thank you' would be nice when they receive a treat.

Di Licence

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Last month proved to be a one of supporting charities, reflecting the school ethos of 'We Respect, We Care, We Learn'.

On 11 November we fell silent along with the rest of the country to remember those that died fighting for their country. The whole school gathered on the playground for a special assembly. With the sun shining down, our beautiful grounds surrounding us and the bell of the church to remind us of the time, it was a very poignant occasion. The highlight was Finlay in Year 5 who read a very moving poem he had written about the importance of red poppies, bringing a tear to many an eye. As the bells chimed

11 we stood silently and I was incredibly proud as even our youngest members of the school, were impecably behaved. We drew the assembly to a close with the children all placing a coin they had brought in on a giant poppy we had made.



Later that week we also took part in Children in Need with 'Superheroes' descending upon the school. The children could choose, in exchange for a small donation, to come dressed as a fictional hero or a real life hero to them. Once again our parents did us proud, designing and making an array of costumes. Staff were not let off the hook either, they too came dressed for the occasion. When we all gathered in our Friday celebration assembly, there were more capes and eye masks in our school hall than there were left on Amazon!

Supporting charities that benefit others overcome tragedies, loss, abuse and poverty and offer practical support are incredibly important. As Christmas approaches we all need to take stock of how lucky we are to have a home, family, a place to be educated and friends and colleagues who care for us too.

We are now looking forward to celebrating and providing our own memories to 'remember' with our Infant Christmas Production and KS2 Carol Concert. From everyone at The Meadow Primary School, We wish you a very 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

Nicola Conner, Headteacher

Because of the Christmas holiday break the PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE is 14 December

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