

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2015

ISSUE 142

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 3 Blue & Green wheeled bin collection
Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 5 **Monthly walk. Meet 10.30 at Maypole Croft. Contact Di Licence for details on 290434**
Sat 7 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 9 **Local History Club. William Mortlock Palmer: Linton Doctor. Talk by Andrew Westwood-Bate. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 10 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 16 **Gardening Club. Pruning. Talk by Nigel Start. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Deadline for items to go in the March Village Voice
Tue 17 Blue wheeled bin only collection
Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 19 **Local History Club Coffee Morning. 10 - 12, Village Hall. See page 3**
Sun 22 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Tue 24 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 28 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Quiz. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See page 5**
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	November - March £10.00/hour. April - September £5.00/hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 - 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 - 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 - 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/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

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.

CAROL SINGING DECEMBER 2014

Very many thanks to those who came out carol singing on 23 December, to those who provided us with much-needed refreshments, and to those who contributed so generously to our collection. We made £245 for Age Concern, to support the Small Villages Community Warden scheme.

Georgina Magin

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT THE FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS IN FRANCE OR BELGIUM?

If so, I would be very grateful if you could photograph the graves of West Wickham men who died in the conflict for our records. This is part of our ongoing project to identify and remember all those from the village who served in the First World War. There are 4 graves in French cemeteries and 3 men have no known grave but are commemorated on various memorials; 1 man is buried in a Belgium cemetery and 1 with no known grave is commemorated at Tyne Cot memorial. 1 man is buried in Cairo if anyone is going to Egypt! I have all the details of the graves (row, no etc - there is usually a plan at the cemetery entrance) and the memorials, so if you can help please get in touch.

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

CHRISTMAS QUIZ RESULTS

A reminder of the questions, with the answers:

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

Correct answers were received from Lynn and Jo Dicks, June Brazier, the Magin family, Amy and Dave Sargent and Juliet Bevan. Janet Morris also sent in a correct answer but was disqualified because of her relationship to one of the editors. Amy and Dave were first out of the hat and received a small prize. Well done everyone.

I have another challenge for those who want to while away the long winter evenings. Magpie numbers are increasing and sometimes can be seen in unusually large numbers. We therefore need an extension to the traditional rhyme "One for sorrow, two for joy etc." Currently it ends at "seven for a secret never to be told" so we need a few more lines to go up to (say) fifteen. A good entry will be published.

Peter Grieve

FROM THE VICARAGE

Clothes for Iraq. The local churches have a link with Canon Andrew White's Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME). Recently we heard via Keith Johnson of an urgent appeal for warm

winter clothes and blankets to be sent to Iraq for people who are struggling in the face of winter storms. There are many homeless and destitute people, who have fled unrest, and are now facing the snow and cold without adequate clothing. Over one weekend, from the six local parishes, we collected 400 bags of clothes, blankets and boots.



Keith Day and Keith Johnson then drove a van, packed to the roof, to a collection point in Brighton, to be loaded onto an articulated lorry bound for Iraq.



Archdeacons' visit. In February, your Parish Church Councils will be meeting the Archdeacons to discuss future strategies in the Ely Diocese. The number of active clergy is falling, the pattern of church-going has changed and the fund raising needed to finance clergy and buildings falls on an ever smaller number of people. On the other hand, this region has a fast growing population and there are many large new housing developments. The Diocese of Ely is trying to devise a strategy which will respond to this reality. We cannot take for granted that things will continue always as they have done. What aspects of the church's presence in your village are important to you? Let us know, so we can tell the Archdeacons.

Lent Course and Confirmation Classes. On Thursday 26 February, 7.30pm at Hildersham Church, we begin the joint parishes' Lent Course. This is the first of four evenings when we will look at **why people pray, what is going on in the brain when we pray, can silence be prayer, and what can we do when prayer is difficult?** We begin with the Archdeacon of Cambridge, who will tell us about different ways that we can pray and why people do it at all. Please feel welcome to come along and discuss this fascinating aspect of human experience. Confirmation classes have just begun. If you would like to join in then please let me know.

Rev Julie Norris

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 19 February

10am-12noon

Village Hall

Coffee and cake, displays of
photographs,
raffle, second hand books

Please come along and help us raise
money for our Dig2, the
archaeological project to find out
more about the history of our village.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Our Over 60's Luncheon was a great success again this year. The Brownies excelled at their entertainment – clarinet and violin solos, magic tricks, dancing, carol singing plus the Twelve Days of Christmas sang at break-neck speed. I'd like to thank all the guests and Brownies for being there, for without you there wouldn't have been a party.

We have returned to Brownies for the Spring term all 'bright eyed and bushy tailed' and have lots of events planned for this term – we will be attending our District Thinking Day celebrations on 22 February. This is when we think of our guiding sisters in other countries less fortunate than ours. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year and getting ready for our annual Brownie Holiday to the Jarman Centre in March. We also hope to make Mother's day gifts and something for Easter too.

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

STAY CONNECTED!

Sir Graham Bright, Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, has produced his first newsletter called 'Connect'. He will be using Connect to keep you informed on the activities he is undertaking to help make Cambridgeshire a safer place. Some of the activities highlighted in this first issue include our newly launched Victims' Hub and young people volunteering in the Police Cadets. He hopes you find Connect useful and informative and would welcome your feedback. The newsletter can be downloaded from <http://goo.gl/oXmQjJ> (Ed. Yes, that really is the web address for the newsletter!)

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO...THE PARISH COUNCIL

If you are new to village life (or maybe if you're not!) you are probably unfamiliar with or confused about the role of the Parish Council - so, hopefully, this may make things a little clearer.

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of local government. Parish Councillors are elected every four years (this year with the National and District Council elections on THURSDAY 7 MAY) by those on the normal electoral roll and the number is dependent on the population - West Wickham has 7 Councillors. The Parish Council should not be confused with the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) which includes the vicar and churchwardens and is responsible for the provision of facilities for worship, along with the upkeep of the church and churchyard. The Parish Council receives most of its funding annually through the Council Tax and this has to be used to enhance village life in some way. The Parish Council owns and is responsible for the allotments, the playing field and the playground. It also owns the Village Hall but leases it to the Village Hall Trust who manages it on their and your behalf. It also provides financial support to other organisations which benefit the village. For example, the Parish Council currently contributes to the Mobile Warden Scheme for the elderly, subscribes to the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke (the Roman Road forms the southern boundary of the parish and is a well-used and well-loved amenity) and is sponsoring this newsletter.

The Parish Council are continually consulted by both the District and County Councils on a wide range of issues and, in turn, use their local knowledge and understanding to represent your views back to them. They can, and do, effectively put pressure on these bodies on your behalf. The Parish Council is not itself a planning authority but is consulted on all planning applications and their views are taken into account. The Parish Council receives a tremendous amount of information from a wide variety of sources on many subjects. Some of this is displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard, some will appear in this newsletter but, because of sheer volume, much is simply circulated around Councillors, which means they should be a good first port of call for help or advice. Parish Council meetings, which are held in the Village Hall every two months at present, are open to the public (watch out for the posters advertising date & time, the next meeting is on Monday 23 March). In theory, you are not allowed to speak but, in practice, Parish Councillors want to hear your views and address your concerns and you will almost certainly be invited to make a contribution. Alternatively, you can contact a Councillor personally or write to the Parish Council Clerk to have an item put on the agenda. The Clerk, currently Jenny Richards, is employed on a part-time basis to deal with day-to-day administration and finance, service meetings and be a point of contact. At least once a year, usually in May, the Parish Council is required to arrange a Parish Meeting to discuss parish matters. There will usually be a report on the work of the Parish Council during the year but this is really your chance to question what they do, find out how they spend your money, raise any concerns or simply give Parish Councillors your support. For those who live in a village there is no mysterious 'they' who will provide facilities, amenities and social opportunities. 'They' is all of us - you, me, us - and being a Parish Councillor is a

way of making a positive contribution to the community. So, how about it? What you can do -

- take an interest in what the Parish Council does (or does not)
- think about standing for election as a Parish Councillor in May
- consider nominating someone else (you need their consent!)
- VOTE on 7 MAY (any Parish Council gains confidence from feeling it has been elected by the majority not the few) If you want to know more about the work of the Parish Council or about becoming a Parish Councillor contact any of the outgoing Councillors or the Parish Clerk:

Councillors.

Patrick Charlton (Vice Chairman) T: 290027.

Email: patrickbcharlton@gmail.com

Marcus Cornish (Chairman) T: 290203.

Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com

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

Trevor Hall T: 290559. Email: Trevor.hall@btinternet.com

Di Licence T: 290434. Email: di.licence@googlemail.com

Andrew Morris T: 290863.

Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

Justin Plumb T: 291395. Email: justwickham@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Clerk.

Jenny Richards, 11 Fox Road, Balsham; T: 01223 665260;

Email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The speaker for the January meeting was David White from Endeavour Travel and Training in Chatteris. David has been in Horticulture since he was a very young boy; gained an apprenticeship at Kew alongside Alan Titchmarsh and obtained there a Degree and a Diploma in Horticulture. His talk was all about Kew Gardens and he had many anecdotes to relate of his time there. It was a very enjoyable talk and we were delighted to find also that he and his wife Lynn had brought some unusual plants and bulbs for sale from the Nursery they have recently sold. They now concentrate on talks, organising gardening tours and David is a judge for Anglia in Bloom.

Next month, on 16 February Nigel Start will give us advice on "Pruning". Always informative and knowledgeable, Nigel's talk is one not to miss.

The Club has benefitted from a bulk order of seeds from Mr Fothergill's. Our Trading Secretary, Jean Martin, reported that our seed orders were big enough to qualify for 60% discount. This is just one of the many advantages of our Club Membership.

We are busy planning our Summer outing to the Savill Gardens at Windsor with its beautiful borders and wonderful rose garden and our evening visits to some stunning local gardens.

It's not too late to join us, give me a ring on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop.

NATURE NOTES

Winter has one big advantage for those of us interested in wildlife. You can see more. And part of what you see is what you missed during the summer. As Di says “the bare branches reveal hidden nests – big untidy ones from sticks, and tiny, intricately woven mossy ones”. She wondered how they could have been so close to the house and yet not spotted when in use. Two of the nests that have now been revealed were those of a wren, “secretly sited, domed and made of moss and leaves”, and of the collared dove – a messy stick pile. A third was a wasps’ nest hanging in a tree next to a footpath.

Birds are a bit easier to spot in winter too, because leaves don’t get in the way. Bullfinches in particular always seem to be more evident at this time of the year – we have had three in our garden for the last couple of weeks eating the buds from one of our trees, and I saw a couple in the hedge on the footpath to Linton the other day. In summer bullfinches are more shy and withdrawn, so with that beautiful pink chest and flashing white rumps they would have to stay well out of view to avoid being seen.

Other bird news includes a sighting by Theresa of red kites at the church meadow and a barn owl quartering by the bottom crossroads in the early hours. Andy & Julie Champ also reported seeing a barn owl quartering at Hildersham late one afternoon. It would be nice if one of these ghostly visions could pay a visit to our end of the village. When I was out for a walk the other day I saw a heron flying over – it was making a beeline for Trevor’s pond. Andy and Julie also responded to last month’s comment about the lack of mistle thrushes by spotting one in their back garden, while sadly Jane told me that one had been shot by someone shooting pigeons - a very unfortunate unintended consequence. We still see plenty of fieldfares and redwings in groups in the fields and hedgerows, feasting on berries and decomposing apples.

While the birds do the best they can to get through the winter, and the trees look bare and lifeless, Di points out that the first signs of spring are already stirring, with the sticky buds of the horse chestnut, the still tightly curled alder catkins and hazel catkins, some of which are already yellow, fully unfurled and swinging in the wind. Today, the 16th of January, I visited Wandlebury and was delighted to see the first winter aconite in flower. In a few weeks’ time they make a great spectacle mingling with the snowdrops on the floor of the wood there, so I recommend a visit.

On the mammal front, I had to stop rather suddenly to allow a badger to trundle across the road on the way back from Ashdon the other evening. He (or she) showed no sense of urgency but continued at the same pace, oblivious to any danger. Our neighbours Mike & Ruth had a weasel in their garden recently. We sometimes see one darting across the road but not so often near houses. They are efficient predators and their diet consists mainly of small mammals such as rabbits. It would be useful if they could also include rats in their diet.

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

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL GIVES YOU A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF OUR PUBS.

Over the years our branch has been active in campaigning for pubs as well as for real ale. Partly as a result, our local councils have attempted to address the issue of pub losses. From 5 January South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has been running a public consultation on whether it should adopt Article 4 Directions (A4D) to prevent pub losses in South Cambridgeshire through demolition and/or through change of use without planning permission having first been obtained. It must be stressed that even with an A4D in place a pub can still be lost. But it can only happen after planning permission has been obtained and this will give you the chance to object and put your case to your local councillors and those on the planning committee. Although it is possible that SCDC could adopt A4Ds to prevent demolition and change of use without planning permission for all its pubs it will be looking at each on a pub by pub basis and on a demolition and change of use basis. The decision on whether an A4D should be adopted for a pub will be evidence based and that is why the opinions submitted during the public consultation period are crucial. The public consultation period ends on 23 February so it is important that communities and individuals work fast.

The Cambridge & District branch of CAMRA will review all South Cambridgeshire pubs in our area and will put in numerous submissions but it is extremely important that we are not alone in doing this. We need individuals to give SCDC their views. Can you help? You don’t need to live in the village or even in the district, so long as you use the pub. Social groups such as walking groups, book clubs, sports teams etc. can all contribute, as can parish councils. Some may solely want to prevent unregulated demolitions but for us change of use as well as demolition is a big issue.

So are there any drawbacks for pub owners? If they plan to keep the pub as a pub then no, nothing changes. Only if they think they may wish to demolish or convert it or sell it on to someone who might wish to do so will an A4D affect things. It will mean that they will have to apply for planning permission. By adopting A4Ds SCDC will be able to regulate but not necessarily stop pub losses. If the planning committee decides that a pub is not viable or valued they can grant planning permission just as they currently do if someone wishes to convert a pub to residential use.

For more information and links, visit this page of SCDC’s website <https://www.scams.gov.uk/content/consultation-greater-protection-public-houses> Written submissions should be sent to The Sustainable Communities Team, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA. Alternatively, completed forms can be returned via your Parish Council and must be at South Cambs Hall by 23 February.

Ideally we would like the Government to realise the importance of the need for planning permission before pubs could be lost but this is unlikely to happen before May’s general election and maybe not for years after that. The Government has the power to introduce this nationwide. Maybe you could raise that with the candidates when they come knocking. As a group, we won’t be resting on our laurels. If South Cambs DC can take this step then so can East Cambs and Cambridge City.

Alistair Cook. Pubs Officer. Cambridge & District CAMRA

QUIZ NIGHT

In support of Daisy Chains Pre-School
Registered Charity No: 1035276

**Saturday
28th February**

West Wickham Village Hall
Bar 7.30pm – Quiz 8pm
£3.00 per person – Team of up to 6

Raffle Bar

RAINFALL FIGURES 2014

Met Office statistics show the average rainfall in Cambridgeshire for December as 46.4mm, with the total for the year as 568.1mm. So how did we fair?

December	2014	2013
High Street	63.5mm	52.75mm
Streetly End	53.5mm	54.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	52mm	64mm

Total to end of December

	2014	2013
High Street	893.75mm	583mm
Streetly End	788.5mm	563.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	800mm	541.5mm

We would like to thank Sue Kiddy, Sylvia Norton & Paul Norman for this information. We would like to know whether you find it useful.

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 course, due to take place at Horseheath Village Hall for the six Monday mornings 2 February to 9 March inclusive, 10am – 1pm.

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 on 01223 891521/ 07804 963368 or email: sjhmack2@yahoo.co.uk

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

2015 has started well at The Meadow. The children returned to school excited about our first ever whole school topic relating to 'Africa'. Our youngest children (4-7) are covering 'Africa Alive', focussing on the animals you would find on safari and people and their lives. The children recently enjoyed a trip to Woburn Safari Park to take part in their very own safari, great fun was had by all, including the monkeys that enjoyed climbing on the roof of the coach!

Our Year 3/4 children are going on a 'Journey down the Nile', looking at a range of African artefacts brought in by our families and looking at traditional African stories. Finally Year 5/6 are investigating 'A Journey to Freedom', looking at the history of apartheid and the landscape and geographical features of South Africa. We would be very interested to hear from anyone in our community who has stories to tell or artefacts to inspire awe and wonder within our children.

The Meadow is still very much a community school. The number of volunteers we have to hear children read, file work, put displays up and to help in the classrooms is great! Many of our 'helpers', no longer have children in our school, and some have never had, but still they come and join us once a week. Without all of this help, we would struggle to offer the children the rich, inspiring curriculum and learning opportunities we do. If you have some time to spare and would be interested in helping, then please do get in touch. We are particularly interested in starting up our chess club again at lunchtime. So if you know anybody who knows their way around a chess board, please point them in our direction!

We were very surprised, but also delighted to hear recently that Mr Idzi Cyrankowski, the former owner of Hunters Moon, had bequeathed a small amount of money to our school. After consulting with the children and staff we have decided to honour this extremely kind gesture by using the money to install some friendship stops in both of our playgrounds. Friendship stops are like a bus stop, where children who are feeling lonely can wait and the mini play leaders (Y6 children who help with games and play) or other children can go and invite them to join a game.

Friendships, emotional well-being and considering the whole child is a focus for The Meadow this year. I am sure you will all be aware from recent press coverage, there are national concerns regarding child and adolescent mental health and the increase in children as young as 5 who are feeling anxious, self-harming, becoming withdrawn over friendship or family issues, worrying about pressures of school or have low self-esteem are on the increase. I believe as a school we have a duty to incorporate work to prevent this within our curriculum. At the end of last year I applied for The Meadow to be the champion school of a Peer Massage pilot scheme (see www.achild2child.co.uk for more information).

Staff are currently being fully trained and the project is being rolled out into the classes. Already the children are commenting how they are feeling less anxious and are being taught techniques to help them relax and not feel so pressured. Teachers are also noticing a difference in the attitudes and behaviour of the children after completing the daily 10 minute program. We are watching and waiting with great excitement to see how the program develops, we will of course be sharing the results with you all!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

NEWS FROM HEALTHWATCH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Our job is to make sure you have a say when important decisions are made about local health and care services. We are interested in any recent experiences you have of a local health or care services that you are happy to share with us.

The big health story in the news this New Year is about pressures on our local hospitals. We know that these are linked to other issues like getting to see a GP when you need to and getting care in place when you are coming home from hospital. We have two new projects that will look at some of these issues from a different view point.

In our **"First Steps to Health"** project we want to find out about the first thing you would do to solve different health issues. Would you work it out yourself, see a pharmacist, call NHS 111 or see your GP? We all solve things in different ways. Knowing what you do can help our local GP Practices and the people who make decisions about local health services plan better care. Please do take part in our survey either on our website or by contacting our office.

We also need you to help us develop our local **"Care Home"** project. We want to use our statutory **"Duty to Enter & View"** in local care homes. This means we have a legal right to visit places that provide public health or care services, to see what kind of care they are providing.

We need to recruit **volunteers to be "Authorised Representatives"**. Your role will be to go into local care homes and talk to the people there about the care being provided. This might include talking to residents, their relatives, friends and care home staff. You will get lots of training and support.

Do you have any recent experience of a local care home, or do you know someone who has? Please tell us about it. We will use what you tell us to plan which homes we will visit and what to look at. We are also talking to the County Council and the Care Quality Commission, to help us plan where we should visit.

Get in touch to find out more or we can come and talk to your group about Healthwatch. Call us on 01480 420628 or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you become one of our volunteers who, like our Help at Home volunteers in 2014, provided practical and emotional support for people who were unwell, returning home from hospital or in a crisis over 2000 times? Or our Community Navigators who provided over 6000 pieces of information to help older people make informed choices about useful or enjoyable activities in their area.

People we've helped say:

"Well, when I came out of hospital, I was fairly confident about going home, but I couldn't walk. The Help at Home volunteer would do my shopping and pop up to the surgery to get my prescriptions for me. I must say that I couldn't have asked for anyone better."

"The Community Navigator gave me numbers and leaflets of places and things I might need and she explained it all. I can't praise her enough. I've got to 82 without knowing Care Network existed. I've never needed any help before. I can't thank you enough. It made all the difference"

"It made me feel like there were people out there who cared."

We believe it's important that volunteering is flexible and can fit around your other commitments. You give as much or a little time as you would like. Care Network volunteers are people who help older, isolated or vulnerable people living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent and maintain social contact. They are all ages and from many different backgrounds, but have one thing in common; they gain great satisfaction from helping people. They are trained, supported and paid any out of pocket expenses. Could you be part of our volunteer team and make a difference with just a few hours a month or are you interested in setting up a group or activity to support older or vulnerable people where you live? Call 01954 211919; Check our website on www.care-network.org.uk, or email volunteering@care-network.org.uk for more information.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Those of you who have visited the College or driven past in the last few weeks may well be wondering why it is that we have wrapped up the 1930's listed building like a parcel. Well it is long story, but I will try to give you a brief account.

For years the windows in the listed building have been a headache. In 1937 they were beautiful: made by Crittall with the most up to date technology, they looked shiny, operated with precision and folded out in a French window-style to allow the children of rural Linton to sit outside, close to their classrooms, on sunny days. For the first 30 years of their life they performed like this but in the 1970's, 80's and 90's they began to rust, hinges broke, fasteners dropped off and they fell into disrepair. Attempts were made to paint them and this resulted in windows that were fused with rust and gloss. Eventually most became unusable. Unfortunately by this time the building and the windows had gained 'Listed' status and using standard education funding it was not possible to replace them. Last year, however, the Academy gained a large grant to enable us to replace the windows with Crittall units that looked virtually identical to the existing ones. Twice, however, South Cambs DC refused to approve the replacements. It was infuriating: we finally had the money to fix a 50 year old problem and we were not being allowed to put the solution in place! What we have been allowed to do however, is strip them right down, repair the originals and then repaint them. This is a timely and costly business. The money we have been awarded has to be used by April, so the work needs to happen now in the coldest part of the year. To enable this to happen a plastic tent is covering the building to keep the windows free from wet and frost while the work takes place. All of this sounds idiotic doesn't it but it is as it is. By April we will, at least, have windows that work and also look back to their shiny best.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 February

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contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.
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