

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2015

ISSUE 141

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 4 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 6 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 7 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 8 **Monthly walk. Meet 10.30 at Maypole Croft for a walk to Balsham or join the walkers 12ish at the Bell PH and walk back with them**
Sun 11 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 12 **Local History Club. To be confirmed. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 13 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 14 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village
Fri 16 Deadline for items for the February issue of the Village Voice
Sun 18 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 19 **Gardening Club. Kew Garden. Talk by David White. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 20 Blue wheeled bin collection (**no green bin collection**)
Wed 21 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village
Sun 25 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 26 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend**
Tue 27 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 28 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village

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.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

WEST WICKHAM DIG2

In our Big Village Dig in 2013 we excavated 18 test pits across the village to try and find out something about the medieval settlement - how the village came to look like it does today. We did find out quite a lot but 18 test pits weren't really enough for us to get the full picture. Your enthusiastic support has encouraged us to set up a further project. Over the next two or three years we hope to do some more test pitting to 'fill in the gaps'. We will be targeting areas with the aim of doing up to 6 test pits each year over one weekend in the summer. We will be on our own this time - no Heritage Lottery grant to pay for the project or for support from Cambridge University archaeologists. However, Mathew has volunteered to oversee the actual excavation and write up the archaeological report and our results will go into Carenza's database on medieval settlements.

Summer 2015

With the kind permission of Marcus Cornish, we are planning to dig 6 test pits in the field behind the church and the one on the other side of the road. The test pit we dug behind the church gave us the earliest pottery results leading to the possibility that the original settlement might have surrounded the church before shifting along the High Street. This is what we first wish to resolve.

We have applied for a small grant to buy some tools - mattocks and archaeological trowels - the sort of specialised equipment we borrowed before. We have also applied to become affiliated to Jigsaw Cambridgeshire, a 5 year HLF project (with 2 years to run) which offers practical help and support (but not money) to community groups running archaeology projects. We may be able to borrow tools from them but perhaps more importantly they organise free training courses on things like finds identification and analysis, archaeological techniques etc which will be open to all taking part in our project. You may have to join the Local History Club (perhaps at a reduced rate) for this, for insurance purposes and to enable us to raise some money to cover costs and if anyone would like to organise a fund raiser for us, we would be more than grateful.

In the meantime....

The voluntary group Rheesearch have offered to come and do a geophysical survey of the southern field one Sunday in January or February. The date has yet to be confirmed as they are very dependent on the weather. They are more than happy for people to go along and watch, ask questions and maybe even have a go! Their work will give us a computer printout of what is below the surface and hopefully help pinpoint the best place for our test pits. Club members and those on the Big Village Dig email list will be notified of the date. If you are not either or are on email and would like to know the date please get in touch. If you would like to take part in Dig2 - there will be lots of jobs for all abilities from digging to finds washing and recording or by supporting participants with tea and cake - please let me know so I can register your interest.

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

FROM WEST WRATTING VICARAGE

Groucho Marx, one of the Marx brothers comedy team famously sent a telegram to his club saying "I wish to resign as I do not want to belong to club which would have me as a member".

I don't want to belong to a club which would have me as a member. That would be a good motto for the Christian church in general and the seven churches of this Benefice in particular.

Occasionally people say to me that they don't come to church because they don't feel good enough. I always tell them that they obviously have never known well anyone who did go to church, as they wouldn't hold that delusion for very long. Being good is fortunately not a qualification for membership, otherwise our numbers would be even more depleted, not least in terms of clergy. Feeling that you are in fact not a paragon of virtue is actually the major qualification.

As many of you will know, major changes are taking place in the Diocese of Ely. Huge challenges face the Diocese: fewer full time clergy, ageing and dwindling congregations, and a population explosion in the many new housing estates being built across the Diocese. The Diocese is in the process of developing a Strategy to help us all to meet this challenge. We are now in a process of consultation, which will finish at the end of March. The Group tasked with developing the strategy have come up with what they call Five Levers for Change. The First is called "Nurturing a Confident People of God". Now a problem with the Five Levers as I see it is that the language used is very churchy and for many of us it is quite difficult to relate to. So how about retitling it Helping Congregation to Feel Confident? Because my guess is that not many in our congregations do feel terribly confident about their faith or the life of their local church. Well there are all sorts of things we can do to help us to be more confident, but one way I want to suggest is to make a virtue of our weakness. All seven churches have small congregations and they are not going to be large, because our villages are small. So instead of bemoaning that fact perhaps one task for us all is to consider the ways in which small congregations can have an advantage over large. To take up General Tom Thumb's theme in Barnum: *Bigger isn't better*. Let's work out why bigger isn't necessarily better in the life of a church.

And let's celebrate those reasons and, who knows? We might feel we are a club worth joining, even though it's a funny old club that would have you or me as members.

John Fellows

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Four point of lay chickens and a cockerel, view at Manor Farm Call Nicky Cornish T:290203

GOODBYE JO OUR DIAMOND IN THE SKY



Unfortunately, our Preschool, has been rocked by very tragic news. Joanne Axford (affectionately known as Jo) passed away suddenly and very tragically on 24 November 2014 just a few days after celebrating her 36th birthday. She leaves

behind her husband Simon and her 3 year old twins, Alex and Erin.

On a personal note, Jo was also my closest friend and someone who was been very important in helping Daisy Chains stay open. She worked tirelessly on fundraising and ensuring West Wickham retains an important asset even though she did not live in the village. Jo was an awesome Mum, an amazing friend, a supportive friend and an outstanding member of our Preschool community. She will never be forgotten and will always remain in our hearts. We will miss her and will have to accept that sometimes a star illuminates your sky far too briefly.

Jaydee MacNamara.

Chair- Daisy Chains Preschool Committee

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Winter/Spring 2015 Programme

Monday 19 January.

Kew Garden. Talk by David White.

Monday 16 February.

Pruning. Talk by Nigel Start.

Monday 16 March.

Being creative with sempervivums. Talk by Angela Whiting of D'arcy & Everest Alpine Nursery.

Monday 20 April.

Ancient ancestors and distant cousins. Plants and their origins. Talk by Peter Walker.

Saturday 16 May.

Plant Sale. 10.30 - 12.00. Village Hall

Evening meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

Further details from: Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262

REQUEST FOR DOUBLE KNITTING WOOL

Mothers' Union members are great knitters and always need wool to make children's garments for sending to Eastern Europe. Perhaps you have a few balls stuck in a drawer - any colours gratefully received!

Please contact Joanna (Sanders). T: 893063

Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 1 December the following items were discussed.

Broadband: Mr Paul Jarvis from Cambridge Wireless spoke about the provision of speedier broadband with the installation of a dish costing approx. £150 providing a speed of 20 megabytes. Their website is www.cambswireless.com for further information abouts costs, installation and how it works.

Matters arising:

- a. Village Sign: This is now in place and it's good to see that the village now has its own sign. Thanks were given to Cllr. Licence and her team for seeing the project through.
- b. The White Horse PH: The Parish Clerk had received a letter of apology from SCDC over the way mistakes were made by the Planning Dept in handling this matter, which were not due to lack of information from the Parish Council.
- c. Dean Road: One gully has recently been opened up to allow water to run off the road but if flooding is to be avoided the other gully also needs doing. The pruning of the trees overhanging the A1307 at the Dean Road cross road has not been carried out and Cllr. Hickford will chase this up because of the safety factor. Some of the trees along Dean Road also needed cutting back and the Parish Clerk will write to the landowners to ask them to do this work.

Planning:

S/2521/14/LB – Conversion of existing upstairs room into bathroom – to be discussed by the Parish Council.

Finances: The external audit was satisfactorily carried out.

Maintenance:

- a. A road closure notification at Burton End has been received for work to be carried out in January but with no dates so far.
- b. The hedges along the High Street & Burton End have been cut back by Thurlow Estate, unfortunately leaving damaged verges and filling the ditches with branches which will cause flooding if there is a lot of rain. However the Chairman pointed out that this was a free cut and it was really the responsibility of the landowners to keep their hedges cut. Although

requested to do this they had not done so and therefore the hedges needed a very heavy pruning, thus causing a lot of debris. He said he would look into the matter.

Neighbourhood Village Plan: Cllr. Hall said he would like to publish the final report as soon as he can and then ask for its acceptance from the Parish Council at the next meeting in January 2015. This was agreed.

Traffic issues:

- a. Cllr. Hickford reported on some of the findings of the traffic survey carried out on the A1307 and surrounding roads. 1. The traffic coming and going along the A1307 at peak time was of equal volume. 2. The amount of traffic going into Cambridge rather than turning off onto the M11 was far greater than expected. 3. 12% of traffic using corridors (rat runs) never use the A1307. There will be a Steering Committee meeting in January to discuss the report.
- b. Plans were in hand to carry out more Speed Watches coordinating with the other villages. There are three new volunteers.

Report by Dist.Cllr. Barrett:

- a. A review of the wards, with possible changes, is being carried out.
- b. SCDC and Huntingdon are joining together to deal with Planning, and the Legal and IT Depts will be shared with Cambridge and Bedford.

Report by Dist.Cllr. Fraser:

SCDC is sponsoring a VJ Day celebration in August 2015. If there are any veterans in the village please let him know so they can receive an invitation to a day at Duxford.

Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

The cost of a new pavement in Burton End as requested at last meeting: £24000 to £30000 for 160/200m. The lack of a footpath between Streetly End & Horseheath was considered dangerous as young students have to walk on the road having got off the bus at Horseheath. It was suggested that the landowner is asked if a gravel path could be provided.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 26 January. All are welcome.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Parish Council reaches the end of its 4 year term of office with elections on 7 May. The Council is made up of 7 Councillors but an election will only be held if there are more than 7 nominations. Notice of the election will be posted on the Parish Council notice board in March. This will give full details on how to make a nomination. Nomination papers will be available from the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards (11 Fox Road, Balsham, T: 01223 665260).

Please think of standing for election, the Village needs a good representation of people from all parts (including Burton End & Streetly End) who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions. Regretfully no-one from Streetly End stood in the last election. If you want to know more about the work of the Parish Council contact any of the outgoing Councillors:-

Patrick Charlton	T: 290027. Email: patrickbcharlton@gmail.com
Marcus Cornish	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

Or come to the next Parish Council meeting on 26 January. This meeting will set the Council's budget for 2015-2016 so is a good opportunity to find out more.

NATURE NOTES

Christmas is coming but for those of us who love wildlife we are faced with more doom-laden predictions of climate disaster and mass extinction, the blame for which can be laid at the door of humanity. My newspaper on Sunday said that the earth faces its sixth great extinction. The last one was when the dinosaurs were wiped out.

To counter the depressive effects of these predictions, we can try and focus on the local, and the individual. Having said this, two of my highlights of the month have been outside West Wickham and in one case, very much collective. Walking along the Stour Brook near Haverhill Golf Course I saw a sudden flash of kingfisher blue, which whizzed off down the river towards Sturmer. On return to the car park at East Town Park there were two people looking over the fence at the pond. They had also seen a kingfisher, only this one actually dived in and caught something. Twenty minutes between the two, or was it the same bird? It's a question that will have to remain unanswered. Another highlight has been the display put on by the starlings at Lackford Lakes. As the sun went down in a cloudless sky, starlings flew in from their various daytime haunts until thousands were swirling and forming all sorts of interesting patterns. Those of us watching from the visitor centre felt like an audience, so when the final group plunged down into the reeds there was a spontaneous round of applause, as if it had all been done for our pleasure.

We now come down in scale from thousands of starlings to a single insect. Our bowls night was interrupted the other week as a coach-horse beetle made its way across the floor in the Village Hall, unaware of its vulnerability beneath all those feet. Fortunately it was rescued and carefully placed outside. The Devil's coach-horse, which feeds on invertebrates, is known for its autumnal incursions indoors, so we should not have been surprised to see it. When threatened, the beetle curls up its abdomen and opens its jaws, which is probably why it has been given such an unpleasant name. But it is a friend of the gardener, and another example of why we should not judge by appearances.

The overwintering butterflies also make use of our houses and the other day I went to get a book from our rarely used top room only to find that two black butterfly shapes were on it. Having brought the book downstairs into the sunlit sitting room, where the central heating was on, they opened their wings and begun to move. They were peacocks, no doubt confused by the light and the change in temperature, and I regretted disturbing them, especially when the cat began to look interested.

As mentioned last month we have our usual visitation from fieldfares and other members of the thrush family, including a large number of non-resident blackbirds. On a walk along the riverside in Linton the other week, blackbirds seemed to be flying out of every bush. The blackbirds we see in the summer may have moved a bit further south, before they return to breed next year. One member of the thrush family that I don't see so much of is the mistle thrush, so if anyone spots one I would like to know.

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

BEWARE OF DISTRACTION BURGLARIES & COLD CALLING

Two have been reported recently. The first on 06/11/2014 at approx. 9:30am in Milton. The householder was cold-called by a male who said he was working at a property near-by and needed to check the water pressure. No I.D was produced. He was described as white, 25-30yrs, 5ft 6" tall, slim build with brown cropped hair and stubble, wearing a black jacket and black trousers (smartly dressed), carrying a document holder and a map. The male stole valuable gold jewellery and ran away when spotted by a neighbour. Please be alert to any callers you suspect are bogus. Always check their I.D. Keep your door shut until you are satisfied they are genuine. Criminals use a number of ploys to trick their way into people's homes. They may pretend to be from a utility company such as water/ gas/ or electric, offer building or gardening work, door to door sales, or pose as Council staff or Police Officers. Bogus callers very rarely carry I.D. Be sure to check it thoroughly.

The second on 17/11/2014 between 2pm & 2.30pm in Girton . The householder was approached by a male while out in the rear garden and told he was 'looking for his cat'. The householder and the male spent a few minutes looking for the cat. The male then left. On returning to the house the householder discovered cash and bank cards missing. It is thought two persons were involved in the offence. Male 1, described as white 17-18yrs, slim build, fair hair, was wearing a blue baseball cap and a navy blue anorak style jacket.

NOT SURE DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!

We are currently looking into a company cold calling door to door called the Hertfordshire Security Company. They have been out and about in Bassingbourn and Littleington but will no doubt call at other villages across South Cambs. They often knock at doors late at night and they are reportedly offering to set up security patrols in the village after payment of a small fee. We are asking all residents to be aware of this activity and not to part with any money or enter in to any contract.

Cambridgeshire Police. T: 101

COME WALKING

This month's walk will be on Thursday 8 January to Balsham, lunching at the Bell PH. Join us there at about 12 noon for lunch and the walk back, or at Maypole Croft at 10.30am.

Di Licence. T: 290434

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

AGE UK CAMBRIDGESHIRE VISITING SCHEME

Age UK Cambridgeshire believes that age needs respect, it needs kindness and sometimes it needs help.

Too many people experience difficulties as they grow older. We cannot promise everyone good health, but we will campaign for the appropriate care and support for all of us. Where we find loneliness, we will reach out. Where age becomes difficult, we will try to lighten the load. Our vision is a world where everyone can love later life. We believe that living longer should be celebrated and everything we do is designed to change the way we age for the better and enable everyone to be part of the solution.

Easing social isolation and loneliness is one of the focuses of our Organisation. It is estimated that over a million older people are lonely & it's predicted that this figure could double as the population increases. Loneliness can lead onto illness & depression. Age UK Cambridgeshire is helping to combat this by offering the Visiting Scheme.

The Visiting Scheme is a free service which has been running for over 14 years and offers support to those people over 60 across the whole of Cambridgeshire who find themselves isolated and lonely in later life. Support is in the form of a weekly social visit, for about an hour, from a fully trained volunteer whose aim is to offer their time, friendship and help. The visits help to enhance the older person's week & to give them something to look forward to. A friendly face of a volunteer who would sit & chat, perhaps look through old photographs, play a board game or perhaps to go out. If you feel lonely & would like some more details about the scheme then please contact Dee Potter as below.

Volunteers are essential to the success of the scheme.

- Have you got some spare time?
- Would you like to help an older person?
- Would you like to help reduce social isolation?

If the answer is Yes then please contact Mrs Dee Potter, Volunteer Organiser, on 0845 521 3481 or email dee.potter@ageukcambridgeshire.org.uk for more information. All volunteers are required to go through an application process & to undertake a Disclosure & Service Barring Check, at no cost to themselves. Without volunteers the visiting scheme wouldn't be able to make such a difference to people in later life.

RAINFALL FIGURES OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

We might have had one of the warmest years on record but also one of the wettest! Met Office statistics show the average rainfall in Cambridgeshire for October as 59mm and November as 52.8mm.

	October	November
High Street	75.5mm	111.5mm
Streetly End	72mm	92.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	67mm	103mm
Total to end of November		
	2014	2013
High Street	830.25mm	530.25mm
Streetly End	735mm	509mm
Streetly Hall Farm	748mm	477.5mm

According to the Met Office the average rainfall in Cambridgeshire up to the end of November is 521.7

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR LOCAL HEALTHWATCH

Our job is to make sure that you have a say when decisions are made about local health and social care services. We are local, independent and here for you. We can link you up with the organisations that provide health and social care locally, and try to make sure your opinions are listened to. We can help you find out about local health or care services that might be able to support you. If you have a concern or complaint about any local health or care service, we can tell you where you need to go to sort this out and who could help you do this. We need to know what it is like for you to use any health or care service in Cambridgeshire. Please talk to us about your experiences. We share this information with the people who make decisions about local health and care services, to help improve care. We make sure you cannot be identified, when we share this information. Right now, we are very interested in your experience with:

- Your GP Surgery
- Urgent Care (including 111, the ambulance, and out-of-hours care)
- Mental health services
- Sexual health services

If you have used any of these services in the last three months, then please do get in touch to tell us about your experience.

Volunteer with us

We need volunteers to help us talk to people across the county about their health and care experiences. We have launched some fantastic new volunteering opportunities this autumn. Our Street Reporters will help us investigate local health & care issues that are important to people in Cambridgeshire and report back on them. Our Research Volunteers will help us research local health & care services. We still need more Outreach Volunteers, to help us promote Healthwatch and talk to local people about their experiences. Help us develop more volunteer roles by telling us what you would be interested in doing as a volunteer. We provide training, support and pay out of pocket expenses to all our volunteers. To find out more information call us on 01480 420628 or visit our website at www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/volunteering

CHOOSE WELL THIS WINTER

Find the right health service for your illness or injury this winter. If you don't know which service you need to choose, dial the NHS free of charge on 111 and they will help.

- Pharmacies can help with bugs and viruses, skin conditions, allergies and pregnancy testing.
- GPs can help with back ache, ear aches, painful coughs, mental health conditions and any illness or injury that won't go away.
- Walk-in centre or minor illness or injury unit – these can help with minor burns and scalds, bites and stings, strains and sprains and minor eye or ear problems.

Remember if somebody is unwell and you are not sure as to the best course of action, it is often best to call first for advice. For more information please visit www.choosewellcambs.nhs.uk

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas is over, the decorations are down, the New Year has begun and we are all looking forward to the exciting times and adventures this year will bring. However, we can't not mention the events that happened in December at school.

On Tuesday 9 December the school running club went to Royston Heath to participate in the South Cambs schools cross country event. The temperature gauge in the car said -1 as we arrived, so it was certainly a chilly morning for a run! The children all finished the course, which involved over 612 children competing over 4 races and a very steep hill at the end! We are very proud of all of the children who competed; nobody gave up and were great ambassadors for team effort.

We were also treated to a superb production of 'Santa's on Strike' by our Infant children. We had over 100 children dressed as elves, stars, reindeer, carol singers and of course Santa, singing, dancing and acting their hearts out. As always, there are the moments in every school play where costumes fall off, children forget lines and someone wobbles precariously at the edge of the stage, but it really wouldn't be Christmas without these small mishaps!

Another festive tradition at our school is the Christmas Carol Concert, held in Balsham Church. Nearly all of our Key Stage 2 children turned out to sing a variety of traditional carols and modern Christmas songs. The church was, as always packed to the rafters, and the singing nearly lifted the roof off. As the candles flickered and the mulled wine was served we were given time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. If people didn't feel in the Christmas spirit before the carol concert, they certainly did afterwards!

As the New Year begins, the drive for improvement at our school does not stop. The Meadow recently had a review from the Local Authority to check on progress, which was very pleasing. It shows the journey we have been on and the huge amount achieved in just one year. The highlights of the report were:

'The Head Teacher and senior leaders have a strong and highly successful drive to improve or maintain the highest levels of achievement and personal development for all pupils in The Meadow. Any actions taken are based on a deep and accurate understanding of the school's performance and of staff and pupils' skills and attributes..... The Meadow is now definitely on the upward trajectory and there are very many positive aspects which reflect the hard work of all those involved.'

'Teaching is judged as good and there is increasingly outstanding practice. Outcomes at the end of key stage are higher than national and there are some very good attainment and progress outcomes. The school's practice consistently reflects the highest expectations of staff and the highest aspirations for all pupils, including the more able and those with special educational needs.'

We are certainly looking forward to working alongside our whole school community in 2015 and hope that it will be as prosperous as last year. Happy New Year to you all!

Nicola Connor, Head Teacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

At Christmas, it is traditional for our thoughts to turn towards helping other people and, specifically, to charity. Children at the College are very keen on raising money for charity: our most recent charity day supported 'Save the Children' and its efforts to fight Ebola. The charities are always decided by the students themselves. What you may not know, however, is that LVC has its own charity: The LVC Trust Fund (charity number 298575). It was created over 20 years ago to help students in our school community to afford enrichment activities that might otherwise be beyond their parents' pockets. Over the years, the College has, via The Trust Fund, paid for hundreds of young people, from less affluent homes, to go on trips and visits, to take part in sporting activities and to have music lessons. Many of these opportunities have been truly life-changing for them and have a very positive impact on our wider community. In recent years, however, the funds have diminished somewhat: we have noticed greater calls on this money during the recession, and fewer donations. It is time, therefore, to build the fund up once more so it can continue to do some good.

If you have, as a family, benefited from Linton Village College, please consider contributing to The LVC Trust Fund charity. You can make a one off donation, or if you can afford to, pay a small amount per month. Send an email to amanda.clay@lvc.org who will arrange the donation for you. I very much hope that the good work can continue for years to come.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for something new to do in 2015? Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for volunteers in your area to join our successful Community Champion scheme. Community Champions encourage local residents to carry out fire safety checks in their homes, visit community groups and educate about fire safety and escape plans. We will train you, give you a uniform and provide you with a wide range of activities to choose from, all of which will help to keep our communities safe from the risk of fire. Anyone interested in becoming a Community Champion should call Rachael Brown at Cambridgeshire ACRE on (01353) 865038; email rachael.brown@camsacre.org.uk or log on to <http://cambsfirechamps.org.uk/>. Cambridgeshire ACRE coordinates the Community Champions Scheme on behalf of CFRS.

And don't forget to make a New Year Resolution to test your smoke alarm, and that of your elderly relatives, once a month by pressing the 'test' button on the device. To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching @cambsfrs.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 January

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