

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2015

ISSUE 145

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00**
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Wed 6 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
- Thur 7 **National & District Council Elections**
7am - 10pm, Village Hall
Monthly walk. See page 1 for details
- Sat 9 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Jumble Sale.**
2- 4pm, Village Hall
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 12 Blue & green wheeled bins collection
- Sat 16 **Gardening Club PLANT SALE.**
10.30 - 12.00, Village Hall
Balsham Singers Concert. See page 7
for details
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 18 **Local History Club visit to Little**
Bradley Church & Village. Meet 7pm
at the church. Further details from
Janet Morris, T: 290863.
Annual Parish Meeting. 7.30, Village
Hall. Followed by the Annual Parish
Council Meeting (AGM)
- Tue 19 Black wheeled bin collection
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Wed 27 Blue & green wheeled bins (day late)
Collection
- Sun 31 **United service commemorating 50**
years since Keith Johnson was
ordained. 10.00, Balsham Church
RAF Wrattling Common Memorial
Service. 12.00, Weston Woods Farm

The Carpet Bowls Club meets on Wednesday
evenings from 7pm

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

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.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

With 7 people standing for 7 places all candidates have been declared
elected and there will not be an election to the Parish Council on 7 May.
Regretfully, once again, no one from Streetly End was nominated. The
new Parish Council is:

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

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

Alex Shuilenburg T: 290084. Email: alex@schuilenburg.org

We invited all the candidates to write a short profile about themselves and
provide a photograph. You can "meet your new parish council" on pages
3 & 4.

RAF WRATTING COMMON

Memorial Service Sunday 31 May

A short open air service will be held at 12 noon at the RAF Wrattling
Common Memorial, to commemorate the opening of the airfield in 1943
and to remember all those who served at the airfield, especially the 260
who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing
some of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy
Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill)
Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is
situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are
very welcome to attend the service.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP 29 MARCH

Trying to pick up litter and put it into a plastic bag in a gale is
challenging. So everyone should feel proud to have collected another 17
bags of discarded drink cans, sandwich wrappers and crisp packets as well
as other detritus. There were just eight of us so we decided to concentrate
on the roadsides on the fringes of the village and between the High Street
and Streetly End, and the surrounds of the Playing Field and Village Hall.
Fosters was by far the most popular beer can this year but there were also
many high energy drinks, particularly Red Bull. Other items included a
kettle and a car exhaust. Thanks go to Arthur, Alex, Michelle, Patrick,
Mike, Tony and Sue.

It was probably fortunate that we didn't pick up in the High Street or
Streetly End, because the wind kept blowing, and after bin collection on
the Tuesday morning there was quite a lot of litter on the road which
hadn't been there at the week-end. I have a feeling that the litter problem
generally is not going to get any better without a change of attitude
brought about by education.

Peter Grieve

MONTHLY WALK

Thursday 7 May. Escape from the elections and join us on a walk to see
the bluebells in Lower Wood, Weston Colville. Meet at Maypole Croft at
10.30. Please bring a packed lunch.

Further details from Di Licence, T: 290434

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 23 March the following were some of the items discussed. The draft Minutes can be seen on the noticeboard in the High Street.

Matters arising:

Post Office move to Village Hall: The consultation has been extended to 24 April and the move will take place in June. The move is supported by the Parish Council.

Finances:

1. The updated accounts had been distributed and the authorised payments can be viewed on the draft Minutes on the noticeboard.
2. Cllr. Hall said £373.27 had been spent of the £450.00 grant received to help with the cost of setting up the Neighbourhood Plan. The remaining £76.73 will be repaid to the Community Development Foundation.
3. Cllr. Morris said that £2800 would be under spent this financial year due to reduced expenses and the lower cost of the Village Sign. This would go into unreserved funds

Maintenance: It was agreed to accept the quotes received from CGM Ltd. to cut all the hedges around the playground, playing field, back car park and in front of the Village Hall at a cost of £2,240 but it was agreed that it is to be done in the autumn. The Parish Clerk will request this when writing to accept their quote.

Neighbourhood Village Plan: Cllr. Hall read out a summary of survey results. 252 forms were returned with 231 supporting having a Neighbourhood Plan. He is endeavouring to get responses from local businesses and farmers as a list of their names is required before submitting the plan to South Cambs District Council.

Telephone Kiosks: The contract had been signed and returned to BT with a cheque for £2.00. The telephone equipment will be removed shortly. Perla Artega and Lucy Cameron are eager to get started and hopefully they will attend the next Parish Council meeting to outline their ideas.

Traffic issues: County Cllr. Hickford was absent so some items were not discussed. Speedwatch training was requested and Cllr. Hall said he would try and set something up.

Reports by Councillors on meetings attended:

Cllr. Grieve had attended the Police meeting. He had asked about cars parking on the pavements and was told that it became illegal when it was causing an obstruction.

Reports by Dist.Cllrs. Barrett & Fraser:

1. They wished to know if there had been complaints about the Christmas waste collection. A number were passed on. The green bin collection once a month until March seemed to have been satisfactory.
2. The Community Chest fund had been increased to £1500.

Cllr. Barrett then told the Parish Council that he was not standing for re-election at the May election and this would be his last attendance at West Wickham Parish Council meetings. The Chairman thanked him for his 18 years of support and hard work, his regular attendance at the meetings and for looking after the needs of the village.

Any Other Business:

1. Cllr. Morris reported that the 30mph sign at Burton End had been knocked down and broken. The Parish Clerk will let the County Council know.
2. There was a query about having a bench on the concrete

where the Clothes Bin had been. Cllr. Licence replied that the bench was no longer an option and therefore it will be covered with earth and seeded with grass.

3. Cllr. Licence had checked the cost of interpretation panels for the wildlife area and they would be approx. £600 per panel. This would come out of next year's budget and the Chairman asked her to continue her investigations.

Cllr. Grieve gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Cllr. Morris, who was not standing for re-election, for all his hard work over the 16 years of being on the Parish Council. I would also like to thank Cllr. Morris for all his help with the monitoring the finances, setting the budget each year and generally looking after the financial affairs so ably.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 18 May at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting (AGM). All are most welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260, Email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

WRATTING COMMON CROSSROADS

Work to remodel the crossroads to try and make them safer is scheduled to take place between 5 May & 14 July. The road to Weston Colville & Carlton will be closed during this period and a diversion put in place. Traffic lights are likely to be used to control traffic on the other 3 roads. The work will result in the road from West Wrattling to Withersfield remaining as it is while the road from West Wickham to Weston Colville/Carlton will be offset.

**WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB**

PLANT SALE

*Something for everyone
Friendly people & expert advice*

SATURDAY 16th MAY
10.30 - 12.00
at
**WEST WICKHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs

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MEET YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

PATRICK CHARLTON

Sarah & I moved to West Wickham in May 1998, having lived in Cambridge for a few years. Both of us grew up in rural Norfolk in small villages and wanted to raise our family in a similar environment.

We have two children Sam (16) and Rosie (12) and Minx our dog. Both our children attended the Pre School in the village; my wife Sarah was Pre school chairperson for three years.

I believe that it is important to be an active member of the community in which you live. I have been fortunate enough to serve on the Parish Council since the last election, currently I am the Vice Chairperson. I also serve on the Village Hall Committee as one of the Parish Council's representatives; I also have the 'exciting' but important role of Health & Safety representative. Many others can vouch for me being an active member of the SODs (Ed. Society of Dads!) and enjoy our monthly outings to local pubs nearby.

My approach to the Parish Council is to use common sense and I like to shape decisions that are based on how I would like to be treated myself, i.e. fairly and with integrity. With regards to Parish expenditure it has to be for the benefit of the village and represent good value for money.

I would like to think I'm approachable and reasonable, but prepared to make challenging decisions if necessary.



MARCUS CORNISH

I have lived in the Parish since 1975 and brought my family up here at Manor Farm. My business is arable farming and over the years I have had several outside interests. Nicky and I have taken an active part in village life now for what is a very long time! I would like to continue this as one of your Parish Councillors and perhaps continue as your Chairman.

PETER GRIEVE

Sue and I have lived in West Wickham for nearly 24 years and have always been very happy here. I've been a member of the Parish Council for 9 years. I'm on the Village Hall Management Committee, and in various clubs that use the Hall. I regularly walk local footpaths, accompanied by our dog, Kip.

I am retired now after nearly 30 years working for local authorities, including Cambridgeshire Police Authority, and then 12 years at Newmarket College. I therefore have a reasonable understanding of some of the problems facing local government, which are likely to get more serious in the next few years, with a possible knock-on effect for Parish Councils, which have limited powers, despite the Government's "localism" policy.

Most people know that I am very keen on wildlife and the natural environment. Other human needs can sometimes clash with the interests of the natural world. We all need somewhere to live and the world needs feeding, but we shouldn't forget that we are not the only ones and it is in all our interests to keep a healthy environment for the benefit of all creatures and plants.



TREVOR HALL

Our family moved to West Wickham in 1988 and both our children went to Linton Village College and then to Sixth Form Colleges in Cambridge.

I was a merchant navy officer for 23 years and served as a ship's Master for 2 years before coming ashore to work as a superintendent and ship manager. I retired in 2000 and set up my own company working from home. I still work part time but now find I have more time to devote to local matters.

I have been a Parish Councillor for 4 years and have been active in developing a Neighbourhood Plan, acting as a Tree Warden and supporting the development of the wildlife area and helping to design and erecting the village sign.

I am very concerned that any development in the Parish should reflect what the residents need and that the nature of the two settlements is not spoilt. The recent survey has indicated the expectation of residents and I would like to continue the work in delivering a Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the benefits of living in the Parish are maintained and if possible, improved.

Continued on page 4

MEET YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

DILIGENCE



I have lived in West Wickham for over 30 years and enjoy life in this rural community. Enjoying walking and nature makes me want to preserve this environment for future generations. I have been on the Parochial Church Council for many years and the Parish Council for the last term. I think we have achieved many positive things during that time, not least, a splendid new playground and a wildlife area. I intend to serve the next term with as much enthusiasm as the last.

JUSTIN PLUMB

I have lived in West Wickham since 2002 and have been a Parish Councillor for the past 4 years. During this time I have greatly enjoyed learning about many of the things that make a small village like West Wickham work and being involved in the variety of projects that make this happen.

It has been very rewarding to be able to represent the views of the parish and to be directly involved in the work that has been carried out by the Parish Council during this time. I am delighted to be able to continue that for the next 4 years.

I hope that the community continue to be as active in this time as they have in the past. There are some projects such as the Neighbourhood Plan that will need everyone's support in order for it to be a success.

I will continue to be open and honest about what can be achieved and am driven to improve things if I feel they could be better. I believe that my experiences from work, along with my family life in West Wickham have given me a well balanced view. I hope that people will continue to provide me with their views in the future so that I can represent them on the Parish Council fully.



ALEX SCHUILENBURG

Helen and I made West Wickham our village home over 15 years ago when we moved here from Shepton Mallet, Somerset. It is where we added Michelle to our family over 10 years ago, have made many good friends and have enjoyed both the countryside and community of West Wickham. Having grown up in South Africa, I appreciate the countryside and rural nature and atmosphere of West Wickham provides and which is important to me.

I am a "techie" and managing director of my company which I established with former colleagues in West Wickham some 13 years ago, before moving it to Cambridge. As a result I have experience in dealing with local, regional and national government and agencies. I also established the village website with the West Wickham Village Hall committee, which I also wish to make a useful village resource.

By giving of my experience, time and deep appreciation of the open countryside, I hope to contribute back to the West Wickham community as a parish councillor. I would like to help protect the rural nature of the village, but also help build and ensure essential services are provided, for current and future generations to enjoy.

LINTON NETBALL CLUB

are excited to announce the opening of a new youth section to their club. This section is for girls of all abilities in school years 9 to 11. This is a great opportunity for this age group to train together locally and play matches in a league. Training will be led by a qualified level 2 netball coach.

Training will start on Monday 11 May and will be each Monday (term time only) 6.30 to 7.30pm on the outside courts at Linton Village College. The cost for the junior sessions will be £2.50 per week, paid termly.

If your daughter is interested in coming along for a free first session or if you are interested in our adult club also on Mondays 7.30-8.30pm then please contact Bridget Savill on 07972598668 or Angela Bridgeman on 07729879300.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 7 June, 10am – 2pm. 6th BIG BALSHAM SALE
Garage & Table Sales throughout Balsham. Refreshments and maps at the Meadow School (look out for the red balloons)

Antiques, plants, china, clothes, jams, toys, house clearance, garden furniture and much more!

Funds raised will go towards the Meadow School and volunteer work in Borneo

Saturday 13 June 12pm-3pm Come along to the June Revels at The Meadow School, Balsham, Bouncy Castle, Bungee Run, Assault Course, Tombola, Cakes, Pimms Tent, BBQ and much, much more. All welcome, free entry.

NATURE NOTES

So far spring is butterfly friendly for the second year in a row. The fairly still, sunny and warm conditions are just right for those butterflies that have overwintered as adults. Hence we have seen plentiful numbers of brimstones, their name derived from the pale yellow, sulphurous colour of the males. The females are much paler, almost white, and can be mistaken for large whites, but they are also on the wing. Tortoiseshells and peacocks, both of whom quite like to spend the winter indoors are now also out and about. I spotted another overwintering variety, the comma, on a tree trunk in Lower Wood. The orange tips in contrast spend the majority of their time in the form of a chrysalis, but should be emerging very soon. They are one of the signs that spring has definitely arrived, but I haven't seen one yet. It would be good to hear of the earliest sighting.

The butterflies that are flying at this time of year rely on the early spring flowers and they seem to be in good supply at the moment. Celandine and early dandelions are showing bright yellow, while violets are everywhere, including the white varieties, and primroses are prolific. Lynn contacted me to say that she had noticed the increase in the number of oxlips on the edges of Leys Wood, which together with the windflowers, are a pleasure to see. Oxlips are a speciality of this part of the country, only found on chalky boulder clay between West Bucks and Suffolk/North Essex. We await the bluebells, which at the time of writing are on the point of coming into flower. Di points out that another insect that appreciates the spring flowers is the *Bombylius Major*, a hovering bee-fly with a long proboscis.

Last month's request for news of the chiffchaff's arrival brought positive messages from both Ann and Lynn and there certainly seem to be plenty of them around now. Di said she thought she had heard the more melodic song of the willow warbler and sure enough, one has been singing in the hedge opposite our house for the last few days. I have seen and heard blackcaps while walking in Haverhill recently and I expect we will soon be hearing the scratchy song of the other fairly common warbler, the whitethroat. I am sure everyone has been looking out for the first swallows of summer. Di saw and heard swallows twittering as they flew over last week and I saw one on Monday. We are hoping that those who nested in our garage last year will return, but possibly not until we get back from a week's holiday.

Talking of nesting, the jackdaws who filled up Brian and Linda's chimney last year have been trying it again. Only this time one of them fell down to the bottom of the flue just above the wood burning stove, and got stuck for 24 hours, with much flapping. Eventually some judicious poking, combined with shining a torch up the chimney provide the necessary encouragement and guidance, and the jackdaw flew back up the flue to safety.

There have been a number of red kite sightings in recent weeks, and one of them provided a highlight on Monday when I was in the field opposite our house with Kip. The bird flew right over the top of us and looked down, with Kip staring back. When I got back into the house the phone was ringing and it was Ann to say there was a kite out the front. Birds of prey certainly have something special about them.

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

ELEGY FOR A LOST YEW TREE

If we could chronicle the thoughts of trees
What tales we'd hear! What secret histories!

Some talk of Agincourt,
And how the longbow, made of yew
Gave glorious victory to our happy few.

And then the gentle lute
Whose form was fashioned from the self-same grain
So minstrels played their sweet refrain.

Our tree has been allowed to stand
And guide souls of the dead to shadowland
While others mourn their loss.
It may have heard the scuttlings of creatures after dark
Or felt the hand of people propped on scaly bark
Or watched a weary ploughman
Or heard a poacher plan to part a squire from his game
Or seen on every headstone someone's name.

Now it has fallen. Felled by a fatal gust.
What then will guide the souls from dust to dust?

A pile of body parts is all,
Exposing the scars of ages and disease,
The fate we know, of all great towering trees.
It was the oldest living thing
But all its memories in time will fade.
None now will sit in thought beneath its shade.

Peter Grieve

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE – AN UPDATE

We have been running our rapid access clinic for six months now. The rapid access team, doctors and a nurse practitioner, work together to see all the urgent cases booked on the day, including visits and telephone enquiries/consultations.

How is it working?

Visits are being undertaken much earlier in the day. This is good for patients, especially for those that may need admission to hospital.

Telephone call-backs are usually dealt with quickly and, in some cases, save the patient a trip to the surgery. The feedback from patients in this respect has been very positive.

The access for those patients wanting an urgent, on-the-day, appointment is definitely much improved and appreciated by our patients. Inevitably, there are times when emergencies occur and the clinicians run behind but our reception team try to keep everyone informed and the feedback from those using the rapid access clinic has been very positive.

Prime Minister's Challenge Fund – once again Sawston and Linton Practices submitted a joint bid for funding to extend their opening hours but once again we were unsuccessful.

'Relate Cambridge' will be delivering a counselling service from Linton Health Centre on Wednesday afternoons starting on the 29 April. The relationship counsellor will work with individuals or couples.

For more information, or to make an appointment phone Relate Cambridge on 01223 357424.
Or visit www.relatecambridge.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE

One or two of us, I suspect, will be in need of a lie down in a darkened room after the second weekend in May. It's going to be, well, interesting to say the least. For those of you who have been down a coal mine with a bucket over your heads just recently, I have to tell you that Thursday 7 May is General Election day. Added to this, however, is the fact that Friday 8 May is the 70th Anniversary of the end of the War in Europe (V.E.Day). Saturday 9 May will be Celebration day with a "noise" time when church bells will ring, ships hooters sound, sirens wail and so on. On Sunday 10 May there will be a national Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Queen. All in all it's going to be quite a few days. Hence my opening remarks.

In many ways it is a fortunate coincidence that the General Election, when we vote for a Government, and VE Day should fall cheek by jowl, as at least one of the things that the Western allies were fighting for was the right to do just that, for the people freely and openly to choose their rulers. Only once in my adult life have I not voted, and that was because I hadn't organised a postal vote. And who do I normally vote for? Well, I was rather pleased when a referee once said that he had listened to my sermons for ten years and still hadn't a clue where my political allegiances lay. In fact I have voted for all three main parties over the years. Even that not quite as varied as my churchwarden in Surrey, who was the Conservative Chairman of Surrey County Council, who told me that he had voted Communist in 1945, to get rid of the officer class!

Some of you, I know, are quite pleased that Bishops in the House of Lords do not have a vote; such was your displeasure at the Bishops' advice to voters. After a while, hearing many of you complain, I had honed a stock response: "Well, I didn't write it and I suspect you haven't read it." In fact, if the Bishops of the Church of England were serious about changing the way people voted, they wouldn't have given their advice in a 56 page document. Not what you would call snappy media savvy electioneering. Whether or not you agree with what they wrote, they do have the right to express their views. You do not cease to be a Christian when you go into a polling booth. And perhaps we in comfortable South Cambridgeshire do need to be reminded that the austerity of the last few years, although it's impact seems to have been relatively muted here, has bitten in other places very sharply. One of the Church of England's great strengths is that it is a truly national institution. There is supposed to be a report in the Kremlin saying that when the Communists took over they should get control of the Church of England, because it covered the whole country. Everyone had a parish priest. And so the Bishops are sometimes aware of currents and feelings from elsewhere of which you and I are largely oblivious. Whether that will convince any of you to read the 56 pages before polling day is I suspect doubtful.

But it's still going to be quite a weekend.

John Fellows

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 - 16 MAY

Watch out for the red envelopes for Christian Aid donations either delivered to your house or plenty in each Church. Any enquiries please to Joanna Sanders T: 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

Daisy Chains
Pre-School West Wickham

JUMBLE SALE

West Wickham Village Hall
Sat 9 May
2 - 4pm

**Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric-a-Brac,
Refreshments, Cake Stall,
Tombola**

Please drop in any jumble you would like to donate between 9.00 -12.30 on the 9th May. To drop off sooner, or for larger items please call Daisy Chains on 07943866294 Mon-Fri

All Proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham

Registered Charity No: 1035276

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Anyone who drives past our College can see how lucky the children are in terms of the sporting facilities that we have available. In the evening and weekends these are heavily used by the local community sports clubs, but in the day the students have the run of the well-equipped fitness suite, two sports halls, astro turf, tennis courts, outdoor cricket nets and two large playing fields. I've never known a state-funded school with the array of goodies that we have available.

It is small wonder that so many of our children are keen on their sport and that we do so well in local sporting competitions. In recent months our Year 8 boys have been to the finals of the District Football, our Year 9 girls are District Champions in netball and basketball, 4 of our students represented the District in the National Cross-country Championships (Lauren Murphy, Thomas Keen, Cameron Ackroyd and Dominic Brophy) and a large number of students are playing at county level in a range of sports, perhaps the most impressive of which is Harry Wendelken who represents Great Britain in his age category in tennis. On site we have a level 5 tennis coach in Paul Harms and an energetic, enthusiastic team of PE teachers who coach the young people through the week.

We have just been told that we are in the top 100 state-funded schools in the country for academic success at GCSE, but the amount of sport that our youngsters do at LVC provides an important and healthy balance in their lives.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

This academic year is literally whizzing by. The enjoyment, enthusiasm, knowledge and skills the children have gained is a testament to the exciting and engaging topics all of the staff have worked so hard to produce this year and the summer term is no different.

This half term the Infants will be studying 'New Life'. Already we have a tank of frogspawn and tadpoles in school, which are literally entrancing the children. The speed at which they change and develop day by day, has reminded us of the importance of the changes and progress our own children make. The excitement levels are very high within the 4 classes at the minute, as we eagerly await the eggs which we hope will hatch out into our very own brood of chickens. Whether the excitement will remain as high, once the children realise they are also in charge of cleaning them out daily – we will see!

For the rest of the school, they are all embarking on topics that will last the term. Years 3/4 are focussing on 'From Field to Fork'. As so many children now seem to have limited appreciation of the origins of food and how it links to the land around us, we thought we would focus on plant reproduction, how and where crops are grown, where food travels from, and the impact of intensive farming on both animal and arable farming as well as animal welfare. The finale will be a day at Peterborough Showground for a 'Children's Food and Farming Day.'

Years 5/6 are very busy at the minute, with Year 6 revising hard for their end of Key Stage 2 tests, that will quickly be upon us. However, we are ensuring that all of our children still receive a broad and balanced curriculum, even when tests are happening. With this in mind, they too have started their final topic, 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat.'

The children will be exploring the journey of Joseph and his family. Whilst identifying key geographical features, and considering wider geographical issues. ICT will be used to study the manipulation of effective video clips, presenting to specific audiences. The topic will finish in spectacular style, with a production of Joseph. The songs are already being learned and yes, they are already stuck in my head!

With all of this going on, it is hard to forget all of the fantastic things that happened in the week we broke up. Y3/4 put on a super production of 'A Glimpse of Gold', linked to their 'Journey Down the Nile' topic. They all sang, danced and acted their hearts out. It was a great way to end the term.

While this was going on Year 5 were at Burwell House on their residential trip. For the first time ever, they all slept on the first night! The days of pond dipping, playing games such as Burwell Fox and Burwell Challenge all helped. They were real ambassadors for our school, and had a great time too!

It isn't just children though who are willing to work hard. You may have spotted the skips in the car park if you have driven past of late. We are just finishing the last big clear out as we continue our 'out with the old and in with the

new' journey. The school was open for one of our regular 'Helping Hands' days on Saturday 18 April, and my goodness the turnout was fantastic. With over 30 adults in attendance (and lots of children too) we achieved a great deal in our outdoor area. The Meadow is a school that has an amazing community spirit, which just grows all of the time.

As we move into May, the general election is upon us, and who knows by the time I next write, who will be in power and what will be happening to Education. All I can say is that I hope whoever it is, allows schools like ours the opportunity to continue to plan topics that interest our pupils, work alongside our parents as we do and fun us fairly. I love working at The Meadow and we just manage with the finances we have but imagine what else we could achieve if funding was fair across the country!

We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham. Check it out!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

BALSHAM SINGERS CONCERT

20th Anniversary Year

"BALSHAM SHALL REJOICE"

Saturday 16 May. 7.30pm at Balsham Church

Handel - Four Coronation Anthems

Rutter - The Sprig of Thyme

Plus

Parry - I was Glad

Faure - Cantique de Jean Racine

Tickets £7.00 in advance from Balsham Post Office

£8.00 on the door. Under 18s free

WEST WRATTING ARTS COLLECTIVE AUTUMN EXHIBITION

10 and 11 October

Following last year's success, we are delighted to announce our 2015 Autumn exhibition featuring artists working in a range of media including watercolour, oils, charcoal, acrylics, linocut, fine art photography and solar plate printmaking.

Saturday 10 October: 10.30am – 4pm

Sunday 11 October: 11am – 4pm

If you are interested in exhibiting with us or need more information, please contact Jan Cassidy Tel: 01223 893818, email: jc@jancassidy.co.uk or Colin McCall Tel: 01223 290046, email: sisse.mccall@googlemail.com.

Venue: West Wrattling Village Hall, 79 High Street, West Wrattling CB21 5LU

D'ABO TENNIS CLUB – WEST WRATTING

Our new tennis season will start on 1 May.

The Annual Supper will be held on Friday 15 May at 7.30pm in West Wrattling Village Hall.

If you are interested in receiving a new members pack please contact the Treasurer, Mark Holme on 07768 443223 or email treasurer@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk



INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM WEBSITE PROJECT

In October 2014, the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford launched a website to tell the stories of the American airmen based in Britain during the Second World War and the British people they met. The website is based around a collection of around 15,000 photographs which depict the people, planes and places that contributed to their experiences.

We need the help of local communities such as yours to identify the people and places shown within the pictures and we would also love to capture and preserve some of the photographs and memories which you or your families may also have of the Americans in Britain. The website is editable by anyone who registers on the site.

Perhaps your home was used by US servicemen during the war? Or maybe you have a war bride in the family? If you or your relatives have memories of the Americans in Britain then we would love for you to register on our website and begin adding to the knowledge which we have already collected: www.americanairmuseum.com

INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR ADULTS AND OLDER PEOPLE IS CHANGING

Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and Uniting Care are working together and with the voluntary sector to improve the information and advice available to the general public as well as service users, in order to help them with care and support. This is part of our changes in response to the Care Act. From April 1, we will go live with a new online resource that will work as a promoted way into information on care and support and wellbeing, linking to more specialist sites for details. This site will replace the current Your Life, Your Choice site. People who find their way on to YLYC will be directed to the new care and support home page.

The new site address is:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/careandsupport

The site is expected to be the first port of call for information for everyone - staff, volunteers and the public, based on subjects that the public and staff have requested, with more specific links to other local or national sites for more specialist detail. We understand that people also want to talk to people to start to understand options, what they can do themselves and where to get help. The publically promoted telephone number is: 0345 045 5202 and people can go into their local library to get help if they do not have online access.

DON'T FORGET

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

PLANT SALE

Saturday 16 May
10.30 - 12.00 at
West Wickham Village Hall

BEWARE OF ADOBE AND LINKEDIN PHISHING EMAILS

Current spam email campaigns are trying to infiltrate or infect email accounts by pretending to come from either Adobe or LinkedIn Support. The emails from LinkedIn claim 'irregular activities have prompted a compulsory security update'. With the Adobe emails attempt to direct the user to the latest updates.

Phishing is an attempt by a fraudster to steal valuable information by pretending to be a company that you know and use. It relies on people to think the message is genuine. Victims are initially sent an email that will have either a link to a website, or contain an attachment. What the fraudsters want you to do is click on the link or attachment so that they can steal valuable information from your computer, like your bank account or credit card details.

Protect yourself:

- Look at who the email is addressed to – many will say "Dear user" or "Dear valued customer" and will not be addressed directly to you.
- If there are images included in the email they may be of a poor quality but will try to look like the company they are trying to represent.
- The message may have a few spelling mistakes.
- Do not click on the link supplied. Instead, go to the relevant website and log in from there.

If you need to report a fraud, please call action fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use the action fraud reporting tool, via the action fraud website - <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>.

TAKE IT TO THE TIP – DON'T BURN IT Advice from Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

SPRING is here and lots of households are clearing out, sprucing up the garden and carrying out DIY. The majority of Cambridgeshire's residents take extra rubbish, old furniture and garden waste to their local waste and recycling centre. However, our crews are still getting called to households and businesses that are choosing have a bonfire instead. We're urging you to avoid burning waste and instead dispose of it responsibly. If you do decide to have a bonfire, please make sure you follow these essential tips to avoid a visit from the fire service:

- Check the weather – never light bonfires in windy conditions.
- Don't leave bonfires unattended.
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, fences and hedge.
- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire, and never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres, and batteries.
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May

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