

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2015

ISSUE 146

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 6 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
**STREETLY END GARDENS OPEN
Clover Cottage & Chequers Cottage.
12 - 5.00. £3.50**
Mon 8 **Local History Club. Visit to Ashdon
Museum. Meet at the Museum at 7pm.
Details from Janet Morris. T: 290863**
Tue 9 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 10 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 13 **Meadow School June Revels. 12 - 2pm,
Balsham. See page 3.
WICKHAM FEST. BBQ, bar & music.
4pm, Village Hall. Bar & BBQ from
6pm. See page 2**
Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 16 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 17 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
**DIG 2 meeting. 3.30pm, Village Hall.
See page 3.**
Mon 22 **Gardening Club visit to Dip on the Hill,
Ousden. See page 2**
Tue 23 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 28 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Tue 30 Black wheeled bin collection

**Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday to Friday
9.30 - 12.30 in the Village Hall**

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	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

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

Email: bookings@westwickham.org
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 POST OFFICE IS MOVING TO THE VILLAGE HALL

From Monday 22 June, opening hours: 1pm - 3pm.

I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council for their support in this relocation and look forward to providing Post Office services to you all.

Clare Butfield, Postmistress.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the 1st meeting of the new Parish Council Marcus Cornish was elected Chairman and Patrick Charlton elected as Vice Chairman. A full report on the meeting will be published next month.

A new email contact system has been set up to enable you, the residents of West Wickham, to contact the Parish Council.

If you wish to email Jenny Richards, the Parish Clerk use:
parishclerk@westwickham.org

If you wish to email the whole Parish Council use:
parish.council@westwickham.org

Shortly the Parish Council will have pages on www.westwickham.org giving information such as meeting agendas, minutes, financial statements etc.

MARGARET PORTER

Last month saw the death of Margaret Porter, who was born in West Wickham, baptised and married in the Parish Church, and who lived almost all of her life in the village.

So many people have paid tribute to her. She had faced a number of adversities with remarkable resilience, and she had an ability to make people laugh. Margaret had her own innovative way of doing things. An example of this can be seen in the way that she approached doing crosswords. She didn't pay any notice to the set clues. She was interested in what words had the right number of letters and then how they might be fitted together. She even had a dictionary to help her to choose the words.

Her family tell me that she could be stubborn. She certainly would say how things really were. Yet there always was that warmth, that twinkle in the eye, that sense of fun and her ability to be a good friend.

Rev Julie Norris



ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

We have cleared the site of devastation where the Old Yew lay. I know that several of you have taken pieces to work with, the rest is now in the backyard at Manor Farm; if any of you would like any more you are welcome to have some. I don't think it will make good fire wood unless you have a very sharp chainsaw. Grass has been sown and most of the site is now looking green.

The observant among you will have noticed that the church clock face has slipped slightly, binoculars would suggest that it is rotten, it was last decorated in 1987 by my brother in law Charlie Gaydon of the Old Vicarage, who taught sign writing. He used a lot of gold leaf and did all the embellishments; it was oak and came from Duxford in the early 1950s with the clock mechanism. I think we should replace it with something similar.

We are also holding a Garden Party for all Friends of St Mary's at Manor Farm at 6.30 on Friday 3 July at Manor Farm in recognition of the help you have given St Mary's over the last year. Invitations will be sent shortly. If you would like to become a "Friend" please come to the Party.

Marcus Cornish

FROM THE VICARAGE

We have all been watching the horrific news about the earthquakes in Nepal and wanting to do something to help. The Churches have organised several fund-raising events along with other village groups. At one, one of our local primary children, Alex Kennedy, asked to join in and run his own stall. He had seen the children's News. He felt so strongly that he had to do something. He chose the toys that he thought he could do without and he brought them along to sell. His Mum was in the background. He was the one who set up and ran the stall and he raised £38.10 to go to help the people of Nepal. It is heartening to see someone so young showing compassion in such a practical way.

On 8 June there is to be a Deanery Confirmation Service at Great Abington Church at 6.30pm. Three candidates from these parishes are taking part, Stephen Johnson, Ciaran Archer and Fraser Rogers. Bishop Stephen will conduct the service. The 7-churches choir will be singing and several people from this village are involved. I anticipate that this will be an inspiring occasion.

Rev Julie Norris

HORSEHEATH COUNTRY FAIR

The Horseheath Country Fair, on Sunday 5 July, is a great day out for the family and a wonderful opportunity to see rural activities close up. Spectators can meet horses, hounds, birds of prey and other animals in and around the show. We also have a Family Dog Show open to all, equestrian events and the East Anglian Hound Show. This year the event will be helping raise much needed funds for East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA).

The venue is Horseheath Racecourse and gates open at 10am and tickets are £6 for adults, children £3, under 5's get in free. Refreshments will be available throughout the day from the Tea Tent, Beer Tent, hog roast, BBQ, ice cream and Pimms stands

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

DIG2

Come along and find out what we plan to do over the weekend of 11 & 12 July, see how you can help (there are a variety of ways – digging, sieving, finds washing, recording – so something for all abilities) and to sign up to take part.

**SUNDAY 21 JUNE
3.30pm, VILLAGE HALL**

If you want to know more or can't make the meeting please get in touch

Janet Morris, T: 290863

Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Many thanks to all of you who donated plants for our Plant Sale on Saturday 16 May and a special thank you to everybody who came along and bought them. West Wickham Village Hall was full-to-bursting with vegetable and flower plants. We made £679, a record for the Club, which will help enormously in paying for our speakers next year. The annual Plant Sale is our only source of income apart from our minimal subs and small groups such as ours fight to survive in these days of ever increasing prices.

We are West Wickham and DISTRICT Gardening Club which means we are also there for residents of outlying villages. Your support at our Plant Sale and Annual Show would be so welcome, even if you cannot find time to join as a member. Indeed, should you wish to come to one of our talks please do so as a welcome visitor.

We now look forward to two evening private garden visits - Dip on the Hill, Ousden on Monday 22 June and Cobbs Hall, Great Saxham on Monday 13 July followed by our Annual Show on Saturday 15 August. Our autumn programme of talks can be found at <http://westwickham.org/clubs/west-wickham-district-gardening-club/>

For further information ring Rosemary Yallop on 01799584262.

WICKHAM FEST 2015

Family Camping, BBQ, Bar & Music

In aid of the Village Hall and St Mary's Church

Saturday June 13th
West Wickham Village Hall

Doors Open 4pm
Bar & BBQ from 6.30pm

£10 per tent including breakfast
£1 for evening-only tickets

To pre-book tickets and guarantee your pitch
e-bookings: <http://westwickham.org/wickhamfest@westwickham.org>
or call 07823348132

NATURE NOTES

Remember Rod, the bachelor great tit, whose solitary lifestyle included nightly stopovers in Brian and Linda's spacious televised bird box? Well he has become a victim of a kind of avian bedroom tax, because his sleeping quarters have now been taken over by a hard-working family of blue tits, who are clearly "doing the right thing" and are currently incubating a clutch of eggs. We are not sure whether there are five, six or seven eggs, but they will be incubated for almost two weeks so expected hatching is around 26 May. I'm sure the tension will build as the day approaches.

Our swallows seemed to have returned and we left our garage open for them. They flew in and out a number of times but have not taken up residence yet and we haven't seen them for a few days, so perhaps they have found a better place. It was good to hear a group of five swifts screaming as they flew near the cricket ground in Weston Colville the other day, and to see three house martins drinking from a puddle in the road at Carlton, but I have not heard a cuckoo yet and have had no local reports. It would be good to know if anyone has heard a cuckoo nearby.

Di comments on the flowers and trees: *"Early May has produced swathes of wildflowers in our hedgerows, woods, fields and roadside verges. Creamy white blossom festoons the hawthorn bushes; pink and white flower spikes on the horse chestnut trees; and the mountain ash flowers fill the air with their heady scent. The verges are yellow with buttercups and behind them the stands of white, shepherd's parsley, known to many as Queen Anne's lace. Our woods are carpeted with bluebells, giving off a delicate fragrance on warm evenings. Just outside Weston Colville on the Brinkley Road is a remarkable sight, a pink field of red campions in flower on a large area of set aside. The trees are all in leaf, each with their own shade of green, but then merging into one as summer approaches"* I would also like to give an honourable mention to the stitchwort, whose small starry white flowers seem to be more in evidence than ever this year.

You may have heard that next year it is proposed to introduce the lynx to this country, as a way of controlling the burgeoning deer population and that one of the places they are to be released is in Norfolk. I'm always a bit wary of attempts by humans to manage the natural world by bringing in new predators, but it will be interesting to see how this experiment works out. Maybe the lynx will expand its range and we will one day find it roaming around West Wickham, although some of us believe that big cats are already on the loose and have been seen locally. (See Village Voice May 2004).

A predator that definitely is around us is of course the fox, and this is a particularly dangerous time of year for those of us who keep chickens and ducks. Foxes will be feeding young, so they are more likely to take the chance of coming near houses so they can take home a meal. Mind you the other day I was walking with Kip past Rands Wood and came across a lovely fox curled up in the middle of the path enjoying the sunshine. He was startled, leapt into the air, across the ditch, through the adjoining wheat field and into the wood.

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

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

At the end of last term we said goodbye to Emily, who has moved up to 1st Linton Guides and also to Saffia; at the beginning of this term we have welcomed Ella from Haverhill and India from Horseheath into the pack.

As we are now in the Summer term we have been concentrating on completing our agility badge and getting outside into the early summer sun. So far we have jogged around the cricket pitch, learnt about warm up and cool down exercises, learned how to 'French skip' and completed circuit training in the playground. We still have to master our ball skills and then that should be the badge completed.

During the second half of this term we have our Brownie Fun Day and Campfire to look forward to as well as a joint event with 1st Linton Guides. It is all go in the life of a Brownie.

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, Sophie, Kate and Hera.
E: brownies@horseheath.info



THE MEADOW SCHOOL PTA JUNE REVELS

Saturday 13th June

12pm – 3pm

Meadow School, Balsham

Featuring at 12 noon

A special appearance by The Snow Queen

FREE ENTRY



BBQ MEAT SUPPLIED BY YOLE FARM BUTCHERS

The Meadow School PTA is a Registered Charity: 1148295

**REVELS RELAY
TICKET**
£8 per person
New for 2015
Toddler Tickets £3

ASSAULT COURSE

BOUNCY CASTLE

RODEO SHEEP

BUNGEE RUN

BASKETBALL DUNK

TARGET RANGE

SPLAT THE RAT

GREASY POLE

PAY AS YOU GO OPTIONS
AVAILABLE ON ALL ACTIVITIES

PLUS
Beat the Goalie
Soft Toy Tombola
Bottle Tombola
Class Stalls
Plant Stall
Candy Floss
Raffle
BBQ
Refreshments
Pimms Tent
Plus much, much, more....

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

We are well and truly into the last term of the academic year...where did it go?

We are very lucky to have a running club organised by a group of very dedicated parents every Friday lunchtime. Come rain or shine, they take an eager bunch of Key Stage 2 children down to the Rec and coach them in distance running. Some of the Y5/6 runners recently got to show off their skills when participating in a cross country relay team event in St. Neots. We entered 2 girl's teams and 3 boy's teams, all whom did themselves incredibly proud, running on a challenging course. Over 65 schools entered, with each entering up to 8 teams - there were lots and lots of children there!

Our results were:

Girls A team - 33rd place.	Girls B team - 85th place
Boys A team - 20th place	Boys B team - 57th place
Boys C team - 96th place	

Our Infant children recently welcomed several new arrivals into their team. They waited and watched eagerly as 10 chicken eggs arrived in an incubator. After two days, they declared they were not hatching and could we swap them for the ones in Tesco, after some gentle encouragement and a lesson in patience the children were rewarded when the chicks started 'pipping' (a technical term we have learnt for when the chicks use their egg tooth to make a hole in the egg shell). The excitement quickly spread through school and anybody and everybody paid a visit. By the end of day 4 we had 7 hatched. The children thoroughly enjoyed becoming their surrogate parents, cuddling them, feeding them, talking to them, although they weren't too keen on cleaning them out!

They learnt so much and the quality of the writing and work they produced, based around the chicks was absolutely amazing. We have now waved goodbye to our feathered friends, and they have gone back to life on the farm (and to enjoy the peace and quiet)!

In May our Year 6 children showed courage, determination, dedication and perseverance as they took the end of key Stage 2 SAT tests. As always the Meadow staff rallied around, volunteering to come in early and prepare a banquet for breakfast every day. I have never known children eat so many rounds of toast, bowls of cereal and bacon sandwiches, but it certainly helped prepare them for the tests. We will find out the school results in July, and look forward to sharing them with the children and the community.

Our Y6 children are currently looking forward to being rewarded for their hard work with a week long residential trip to Finborough. My suitcase is packed and ready, the welly boots are in the car and I am looking forward to a week of very little sleep! We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham. Check it out!

We were very sad to hear the sad news that Sandra Lamper, a former Meadow School teacher, passed away recently. She taught at The Meadow for 24 years, from 1976 - 2000. She will have touched the lives of many of the families who have passed through our school. We send her family and friends our thoughts at this time.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Last month, this letter went out to parents and students at the College announcing my departure in January 2016.

Dear Parents and Students

I have to advise you that Caroline Derbyshire, our Executive Principal, has been offered the position of Executive Principal of Saffron Academy Trust and Principal of Saffron Walden County High School and has accepted. Needless to say we will be very sorry to lose her, but I am sure you will all want to join with me in thanking her for the outstanding contribution she has made to LVC and Chilford Hundred Education Trust over the last ten years and wish her every success in her new job.

This will leave the Trust Board with the difficult task of finding a replacement to step into Caroline's shoes. Fortunately, Caroline will not be taking up her new position until January 2016, so we have time to make a thorough search.

Caroline has built a strong management team around her and I am confident that the high standards that we are all so proud of will be maintained.

I will keep you informed of our progress over the coming months in our recruitment for an exceptional person to be our new Executive Principal.

John Batchelor, Chairman Linton Village College Governors & Chilford Hundred Education Trust

January is a very long way off and it is really not time to think about that yet for me, although the Trust Directors are already setting about the task of recruiting my successor. I am going to be sad to leave LVC and the Chilford Hundred Education Trust, but there are very many things I am keen to see achieved in the next few months: a new AstroTurf for the school, completing the restoration work on the listed building, getting a really excellent Ofsted report for The Meadow School, achieving great GCSEs for the class of 2015 and writing a new improvement plan which ensures the ongoing success of the College. It is important to me that I leave a job I have enjoyed and a school that I have loved in the very best shape possible for our community and I will endeavour to do just that.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

is proud to present Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers' in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, on:

Wednesday 10 June at 7.30pm - £9

Thursday 11 June at 7.30pm - £9

Friday 12 June at 7.30pm - £10

Saturday 13 June at 2.30pm (matinée) - £6 and

7.30pm - £10.

Tickets and further information are available via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by contacting Caille Peri on 07541 554845 or by e-mail on sbst.tickets@gmail.com

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