

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2015

ISSUE 147

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 4 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
OPEN STUDIO, Manor Farm.
See page 1
Sun 5 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
OPEN STUDIO, Manor Farm.
Horseheath Country Fair. 10.00 - 4.00
Horseheath Racecourse
Tue 7 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 11 **DIG 2. See ad on page 1**
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
DIG2. See ad on page 1
Tue 14 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 18 **OPEN STUDIO, Manor Farm.**
See page 1
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
OPEN STUDIO, Manor Farm.
Tue 21 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 26 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 27 **Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.**
Tue 28 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 29 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

**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

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 & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

DIG2

11 & 12 JULY

Test pit excavations in fields to north and west of the church
Displays inside the church

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US

It's not too late to volunteer to help -
there are jobs to suit all abilities.

Contact Janet Morris

Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com



CHURCH CLOCK

In early June I was contacted by a firm who were replacing the power lines from West Wickham to Horseheath. This included work with a Land-Rover mounted cherry picker, I managed to persuade the driver to come to the church so that I could measure accurately the old clock face, which is completely rotten, and also as it happens, the clock repair man was in West Wrating and he came to take off the hands. How's that for a bit of good fortune. We await the estimates!

Marcus Cornish

HAVE YOU GOT ADMINISTRATION SKILLS? WE NEED YOU!!

Revd Julie Norris needs help with the administration of the seven churches served by her ministry team. We are looking for someone to make a difference, is that you? If you would like more details about this interesting and flexible paid work with Julie and the team please contact Andrew Westwood-Bate via: HolyTrinityHildersham@gmail.com or (0787 546 9538. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 15 July.

CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS

You are invited to the Workshop/Studio
Manor Farm
on the weekends of

4 - 5 July. 11am-6pm 18 -19 July 11am -6pm

Where Nicky Cornish will be displaying her watercolour, ink and pencil drawings of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Refreshments available.

Please would anyone be prepared to make a cake or biscuits for the teas at the open studios at Manor Farm? The proceeds from the teas are going to the church so any contribution would be greatly appreciated.
Call Nicky Cornish on T:290203



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on 18 May prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Under Matters Arising: at last year's Parish Meeting the question of the accidents occurring at West Wickham/Weston Colville crossroads was discussed and it was hoped something could be done to make a safer crossing. It was therefore pleasing to be able to say that a staggered junction was in the process of being created.

Reports sent in by local clubs and societies were read out by Cllr. Grieve. Nick Salter, Chairman of the Village Hall read out his report and the Chairman, Cllr. Cornish gave his report on the Parish Council's year. All these reports can be seen on the notice board and on the village website.

The accounts were available to view prior to them being signed off at the Parish Council meeting.

County Cllr. Hickford reported that a study of the A1307 had been set up and will be completed by January 2016, funded by City Deal, looking at solutions re traffic flow etc. from Haverhill to Four Wentways. A road turn into Hildersham from the left hand side of the road has been agreed and there will be an island. The cats eyes have been removed from the road from Balsham to the A11 as it is being resurfaced. It is not yet known whether these will be replaced although many people have made complaints about this.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Firstly the forms of Declaration of Acceptance and the Register of Interest forms were signed by the 7 Councillors elected in May, followed by the election of Chairman, Marcus Cornish and Vice Chairman, Patrick Charlton. Di Licence and Patrick Charlton were elected to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Matters arising:

Post Office: It was understood it will reopen in the Village Hall on Monday 22 June.

Dean Road: Because Cllr. Hickford had left the meeting it was agreed to email the County Council with photographs showing how road sight is impeded by hanging branches.

30mph sign: This has been repaired but other signage was also in need of repair and the County Council will be contacted about this.

Hedging round Playing Field: CGM will be cutting these in September/October.

Wildlife & Interpretation maps: A grant of £1000 from the Cambridge Community Fund has been awarded to the Pre-school to develop the wildlife area following Cllr. Licence and Sue Harrow making an application. Cllr. Licence requested funding from the Parish Council to purchase a footpath map board to be sited hanging on the Village hall outside wall. The cost would be approx £360.00. Three quotes will be needed and the Council needs to look at the budget for this coming year before agreeing.

Parish Council website requirement: Cllr. Schuilenburg said it would be sensible to have a separate website for Parish Council information. He said that the Village Hall website could be a village website, containing more general information about events and meetings etc., calling it the West Wickham website. He will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

Telephone boxes: These have now been adopted by the

village and Perla Artega outlined her plans for the High Street box, intending to clear and paint it and use it as a mini library. She hopes it will be ready by 4 July.

Finance: The end of year accounts were accepted and signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk, as was the ledger. The Statement of Accounts for the external auditor was agreed and signed as was the Statement of Governance after it had been read out. Former Cllr Morris had proposed that the allocated reserved of £4066.16 be accepted and this was agreed.

Planning:

S/1044/15/RM – Land at Balsham Hill re S/2433/13/OL application was recommended for approval but the Balsham Hill access must be closed.

S/1160/15/OL - 95 High Street, 2 single dwellings & garages following demolition of a garage. A planning meeting will be arranged to discuss this.

Electrical Recycling: Cllr. Licence said she would investigate a scheme operated by Shudy Camps where old electrical goods are collected on a particular day and the Parish Council is paid £40.00 per ton.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall will be sending an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area to SCDC. This is a precursor to producing a neighbourhood plan. Cllr. Hall was thanked for his hard work. (Ed. Watch for an article on this in next months Village Voice).

Any other business:

Cllr. Charlton had chased up Connect in Cambridge re superfast broadband but had had no response.

It was noted that the Church clock face needs replacing.

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 27 July. The meeting dates for the next 10 months are: 28 September, 23 November, 25 January 2016 and 28 March. All are welcome to attend.

The draft Minutes can be read on the Parish Council noticeboard.

Jennifer Richards. Clerk to the Parish Council.

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

This will be held on Saturday 15 August. The show schedule will be delivered to all households with next month's Village Voice but if you would like an early copy please contact me.

A reminder that this year we are celebrating the "Year of the sunflower" and there will be classes featuring this wonderful flower. In the children's section there will be a class for "a sunflower collage picture". In the cut flower section there will be a class for "a vase of 3 stems of sunflowers". In the domestic section there will be a class for "a sponge cake decorated with a sunflower theme". This will be the show stopper going towards the "Star Baker Award". The signature dish will be a fruit loaf and the technical challenge 4 chocolate éclairs. The "novelty vegetable" will be the longest runner bean.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham.

T: 290863. Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

LETTER TO ALL DOG OWNERS!

To the owner of the dog that allowed it to poop outside our path.

Thank you for not being a responsible owner and allowing it to foul the pathways for your neighbours to walk in. I have two dogs and I am sure you would not be so complacent if I was to allow my dogs to foul the path outside your property. Treat your neighbours as you would yourself.

Jo Newton

WICKHAMFEST 2015

The folk of West Wickham are a hardy bunch and despite over ten hours of constant drizzle, great food, beer and friends ensured an amazing time was had by all, in the process raising £450 shared between the Village Hall and the Church.

Thank you to everyone who turned up to support the event. Special thanks go to local musicians, Jo Tofts and Alex Bevan, who both played fantastic sets, and also to the SODs of West Wickham and surrounding villages who were the engine of the day, manning the bar & BBQ, helping to pitch tents, making breakfast and doing the inevitable clean-up.

The primary aim was to provide a focus for people to gather together as a community, contribute and socialise in whatever way suited them best. A number of people have asked if we're doing a similar event next year, and if you have any ideas for what we could do for a repeat event, I'd love to hear them.

Kevin Newey. Email: kevin.newey@gmail.com

FROM THE VICARAGE

In the last two months John Fellows and I have had the privilege to conduct the funerals of many people whose lives made a difference in our communities. These are sad times but I would like to celebrate their contributions by remembering one of them here.

Margaret Porter - A weaver of community through her laughter and her friendship

Each one of these people has made their contribution and helped to shape local life. I wonder though whether we may have missed opportunities to thank them when they were alive.

There is a group of people to whom I want to pay tribute today. They are the postmen and post women. When I visit lonely people, these postmen and women have often been ahead of me, cheering people up and sometime spotting when something is amiss. They are sometimes the only people who have passed the time of day with some of the more isolated members of the village. Their contribution to our rural community life goes beyond bringing the mail to our door.

Things are changing rapidly for these frontline post people. First their bikes have been taken away and trollies introduced and now there is talk about moving the Sorting Offices into the city centre and making more use of vans. We need to watch out for them and for the future of the Post Offices and shops in our villages because they contribute to the well-being of people and help to make these vibrant communities.

Rev Julie Norris

NATURE NOTES

First some very sad news. Brian and Linda's blue tit eggs duly hatched on 25 - 26 May as predicted but after five had hatched, the nest box was visited by a green woodpecker. We think it took out one of the adults (probably the female), leaving the young chicks helpless. The male stayed with them overnight but then abandoned the nest, and with no-one to feed them, all the chicks died. There were six of them by this time because another one had hatched. All this happened just after last month's Village Voice had been printed. Now when we hear the woodpecker's resounding yaffle from the oak tree in the middle of the field, it feels as though there is a touch of menace in it. But we have to remind ourselves that nature is like that.

In the meantime life continues and on the other side of our house a nest of starlings has fledged and is now causing havoc around the bird feeders. There are at least ten of them going around mob handed spraying sunflower seeds in all directions and asking to be fed by the adults and generally making a racket. It's quite an uplifting sight and sound - rather like a children's playground when you have no responsibility for keeping them in order.

The starlings nested just under the thatched roof overhang and they are not the only creatures using items in the garden not intended for the purpose. Bees have colonised our compost tumbler, using the holes in the sides for their entrance and exit, while thirty feet away another bees' nest has been created in a bird nest box. I stand and watch the activity occasionally, with little understanding of what is going on, although it certainly feels that when I come within a certain distance, one bee after another will fly out on a wider arc to check me out.

As the summer advances, and it is advancing, despite the rather chilly north-easterly blowing as I write, other insects are emerging including the many species of dragonfly, with which I am not yet familiar enough to be certain of identification. However, we are fortunate that we once again have the unmistakable broad-bodied chaser. This splendid insect has regularly been in our garden for the last few summers, presumably breeding on our pond, although I have only ever seen the male, with his impressive pale blue abdomen with yellow spots down the side. He tends to perch fairly high up on a rose bush or the hedge from which he makes forays in pursuit of prey. There are also several pairs of blue and red damselflies, often flying around coupled together, but the chaser puts them in the shade.

No-one has contacted me to report hearing a cuckoo in the village, but we made a trip out to Lakenheath Fen for the Dawn Chorus walk. It's a popular place for cuckoos because of the large number of reed warblers (their favourite host) and the availability of the big furry drinker moth caterpillars, which cuckoos are uniquely adapted to eat despite their toxicity. There were reportedly ten cuckoos on the Fen and we heard and saw a number of them. But that has been my one and only cuckoo experience this year.

Things will get quieter for the birds as July progresses, but this is when many of our butterflies come in to their own so watch out for the skippers, gatekeepers and ringlets, not to mention the blues and the browns.

Remember if you see anything interesting growing, crawling, flying or walking please let me know.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The final half term at The Meadow started in sadness. Our dear friend and colleague, Maria Wright, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly the day before we returned. Maria was known by the whole school community as our assistant cook and by much of the local community for being our lettings manager and just a thoroughly lovely member of the Balsham community. Maria's life was recently celebrated at a service in the local church, and the children at school have their thinking caps on to plan a way we, as a school, can also remember her. The whole of The Meadow School community send our love and thoughts to Maria's family at this time.

As we approach the end of a very busy academic year, there is absolutely no let up with the pace in school. The Infant team have started their new topic of 'When I Grow Up', learning all about different jobs and what they entail. They are having lots of visitors in to showcase their profession. I can't wait until later in the term where they will all come to school dressed to impress in an outfit that represents their ideal career!

Year 3/4 are continuing with their topic of 'From Field to Fork', busily learning about where food comes from and how it gets to their plates. It always amazes me when children suddenly 'realise' that bacon comes from pigs and burgers from cows. Their faces are a picture! They will end their topic with a trip to Peterborough Showground, to learn all about food and farming.

Year 5/6 are literally on a rollercoaster of a ride this half term with their new topic of 'Thrills and Spills'. They are investigating and researching the history of the fairgrounds, stall, rides and of course food. They are even planning on making their own fairground food, I can't wait to try it. They will finish their topic off with a trip to the fair at Hunstanton.

Speaking of Hunstanton, we have decided to try something new (and perhaps a little bit mad). We are taking the whole school to Hunstanton beach for a day of sandcastle building, shell collecting, beach games, ice cream and of course a paddle in the sea. This day will launch our new whole school topic for September, entitled 'Best of British'. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a glorious day. The children are literally bouncing with excitement at the minute, watch out for our convey of coaches on the 14th!

The weather wasn't as kind to us a few weeks ago when we hosted our annual 'June Revels'. However, the damp and drizzle didn't put the crowds off and the day was a huge success. Splat the rat, greasy pole and of course the bungee run were popular as ever, as was the candy floss, which appeared to be the same size as the children!

This has been a fantastic year once again at The Meadow, the support from the community has been tremendous and the children and staff have worked incredibly hard. The next school year will see Ofsted back to visit us and a full inspection. Whilst this is a daunting prospect, it is also an exciting time, and an opportunity for us to showcase our fantastic school. I certainly am one very proud headteacher.

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

We have just got to the end of another enrichment week at the College. Many schools no longer have such extravaganzas, but I have always firmly believed that strong programmes of enrichment help students with their educational development as great people and great learners. Let me describe the Year 7 trip to Boulogne for example.

The day before the trip, the students spend time with their language teachers learning and practising the words and phrases that they are going to use. They are encouraged to go to the canteen and order an ice cream in French, they have to find French items in a treasure hunt around the school and they are taught how to recognise the shops and public places they will experience on their trip.

At 5 am the next morning, we gather at school and set off on our journey. Around half of the 170 children will never have been to France before, so the excitement is tangible as we near the channel. The Pupil Premium Allowance that we get for every disadvantaged child allows us to provide the trip to those children for free. This is a trip that those children would never have experienced with their families and that makes it feel quite magical.

When we arrive in France we visit the Aquarium at Nausicaa and marvel at the sharks and sea lions, then we head into town to buy things: silly berets and sun glasses, hats, patisseries, bread and candy floss and pancakes. All of these items are bought using French to negotiate the transactions. Every child has to use their language skills and the shopkeepers and waiters play along, even if their own English is very good. The children are always immensely proud of their purchases in French. We end the day with a trip to Cite de Europe to stock up on French goodies before we return home for around 9 pm. It's a long day for the staff, someone is always travel sick, there are always complicated problems to sort out ... a lost passport, a broken phone or camera, a spilt drink, a parent who forgets to collect their child, but it is always memorable and fun. Apart from the French learned and put to use it is also a great way for a teacher, the head teacher perhaps, to really get to know a small number of children in a more relaxed setting. Relationships are so important in teaching and count for so much. They help us to understand what motivates the children and for the children to know how to get the best out of us too. Long may enrichment week continue.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

ASHDON MUSEUM

You really should go along and visit this great local museum. It is arranged in lots of small rooms absolutely packed with 'an eclectic mix of rural and domestic by-gones' plus it has a wonderful tea room. Open Sundays, Wednesdays & BH Mondays 2-5pm. Entry is free but they appreciate a donation. For more information See www.ashdonvillagemuseum.co.uk

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Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris

Correspondence & News to:

21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB1 6RY
or contact Sue on:

T: 01223 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk

contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.

e-mail: editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk