

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2015

ISSUE 151

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 **Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church**  
Tue 3 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
**Remembrance Day Service. 12.00, Wrattling Common Memorial**  
Mon 9 **Local History Club. What we've found so far: Dig2 and beyond. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 10 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 16 **Gardening Club. Talk on the care of cacti & succulants by Richard & Sheena Drake. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
**Deadline for items for the December issue of the Village Voice**  
Tue 17 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 22 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Tue 24 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 28 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Christmas Fair. 2 - 4pm, Village Hall**  
Sun 29 Joint service. 10.00, West Wrattling Church

**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	day or evening £8.00/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](mailto:bookings@westwickham.org)  
or visit [www.westwickham.org](http://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.

## CHURCH CLOCK FACE

You will have noticed the church clock face has been removed and is being used as a template to make a new face. The clock face was second hand when it was installed in 1954 having come with the 17th century mechanism from the second church in Duxford which was closed at that time. It is now irreparable having been refurbished in the 1980s. Because the clock is such an important part of West Wickham life the PCC felt it was important to go ahead with the work.

The total cost is £6450, this I know seems a lot of money but what you probably don't realise is that it is 5 foot square. The Parish Council are going to donate £1500. I am seeking a grant from the wind farm but that is not guaranteed. I have received a few generous donations but we have a shortfall of £4000, which is a sum the church congregation will find hard to raise on top of normal running costs.

Di and Janet are having a fund raising coffee morning on Thursday 29 October and we have a special service in the church on 6 December at 9.30 am to dedicate the clock face. After the service there will be mulled wine and mince pies.

I am asking if you would like to donate, however small or large amount, to 'West Wickham PCC' and leave in our post box at Manor Farm with your name and then I can organise gift aid.

Thank you

Marcus Cornish, Treasurer/churchwarden

## RAF WRATTING COMMON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on Sunday 8 November at 12 noon. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm. A few of the Veterans will be attending and Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths and personal tributes will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. All are welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath, Friends of Wrattling Common,  
T: 07736 737174, Email [rafwrattlingcommon@outlook.com](mailto:rafwrattlingcommon@outlook.com)

## Green bin collection changes this winter



Don't forget, green bin collections change to monthly during winter when far less garden waste is put out for collection.

Monthly collections will start at the end of November and will return to fortnightly in March for the rest of the year.

Collection dates can be found on page 24 of the autumn South Cambs Magazine or online at [www.scambs.gov.uk/bins-by-parish](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins-by-parish)

For more information visit  
[www.scambs.gov.uk/content/changes-green-bin-collections-over-winter](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/changes-green-bin-collections-over-winter)

## FROM THE VICARAGE

**Please note that the times of the services have changed. 1 November, the First Sunday of the month, will be the Family Service at 9.30am. This enables us to have an organist.**

This month on Saturday 7 November 10am - 3pm, we are holding a Quiet Day on the theme of Mindfulness led by Dr Alistair Collen. Alistair is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, with a great deal of experience in exploring the mind. On this occasion he will be teaching techniques to quieten the mind and find inner peace. He tells me that this is something that can make a real difference to the way we live. This is taking place at Ferrar House, Little Gidding, near Huntingdon. The cost is £21 which includes lunch. If you are interested in coming you need to book a place (891350 or email [revjulienorris@gmail.com](mailto:revjulienorris@gmail.com))

On Monday 2 November we hold the All Soul's Service when we remember those who have died. Please write the name of the person whom you would like us to remember on the sheets of paper at the back of your local church. These names will be read at the service at 7pm at Balsham.

On 8 November there will be a Service of Holy Communion in St Mary's West Wickham.

On 29 November there will be a Joint Service hosted by St Andrew's Church West Wrattling at 10am. This is the beginning of Advent as well as the Feast of St Andrew.

Rev Julie Norris

## AUTUMN CONCERT AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BALSHAM IN AID OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WEST WRATTING

On behalf of the West Wrattling PCC and all the organisers, we would like to thank everyone who supported our 5th Autumn Concert either as members of the audience, by the giving of donations or raffle prizes, or helping in any way before or on the day. Once again, it seems to have been an artistic success as well as raising a useful sum of £780.00 towards the St. Andrew's Restoration Fund. We would personally like to thank all our helpers as well as those who attended and for the kind comments we have received, the Holy Trinity PCC for allowing us once again to take advantage of their facilities and, particularly, to church warden, Gill Parry-Brown, for all her assistance, support and patience.

Linda and Michael Gorman

## WRATTING COMMON CROSSROADS

We have received a letter from a resident raising concern about the untidy state of the crossroad. We wholeheartedly agree and have passed this on to both West Wickham & West Wrattling Parish Councils so they can raise the problem with the appropriate authorities. The cross road is actually in West Wrattling parish.

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The AGM of West Wickham and District Gardening Club was held at the Village Hall on Monday 21 September. Our gardening year 2015 was successful despite difficult growing conditions at times, a cold spring, dry start to summer and then rain and more rain. The membership saw a small rise in numbers. Our talks from October to April were well received and attended; unfortunately we had to cancel the summer outing to the Savill Gardens, there not being enough people to fill the coach; one of our evening visits had to be cancelled due to thunderstorms; the plant sale raised a record £679; and the Club's Show in August attracted many new exhibitors.

The Club was delighted to welcome Joanna Crosby from Trumpington Orchard Project on 19 October. She gave us a most entertaining and instructive talk on the history of the apple, the care of apple trees and how to fight pests and diseases. Joanna has an extensive knowledge of her subject and set up the Orchard Project on an acre of land at Trumpington community allotments, planting many old varieties native to our area such as Histon Seedling, Sturmer Pippin and Cambridge Seedling. We brought in our own apples, some to be identified by Joanna and others to be cut up and tasted. Owners of ancient, gnarled old trees were thrilled to have the opportunity of identifying the apples.

This was the first of our series of talks from October till April, always on the 3rd Monday of the month, 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall. Next month we have Richard and Sheena Drane from Green Lawns Nursery at Sudbury to talk on "Cacti and Succulents". Visitors to our meetings are always welcome so if a subject interests you please come along.

Rosemary Yallop, T:01799584262.

**Daisy Chains**  
Pre School West Wickham

**Come & meet  
Santa at our  
Christmas Fair  
West Wickham Village Hall  
Saturday  
28th November  
2pm - 4pm**

**Childrens fancy dress competition 3pm**

face painting    homemade refreshments    Santa's grotto  
raffle    childrens craft activities    tombola  
cake stall    chocolate fountain    lucky dip

exciting gift ideas from our selection of craft stalls

All funds raised go to Daisy Chains Pre School

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

**Monday 9 November**  
7.30pm in the Village Hall

### *What we've found so far: Dig2 and beyond*

By the time you read this some of us will have done some pottery identification, courtesy of Jigsaw (a HLF project to support community archaeology projects like ours and to which we are affiliated). So, come along and find out what we are learning about the settlement of the village and how we are changing our thinking as a result of the project. You can also find out what we would like to do next (Streetly End) and how you can get involved.

Janet Morris  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish council meetings were held on 28 September and 9 October. Minutes are on the notice board and website. Here are some of the main points:

**Dene Road / A1307 junction** – the County Council has agreed to cut back trees to improve visibility. The Parish Council would like them to cut back further to prevent the problem recurring quickly.

**Wildlife and footpath interpretation maps** are to be erected and a quote of £150 has been approved.

The Parish Council has agreed to make a grant of £1500 towards the **repair of the church clock**.

The Parish Council is opposing a **planning application** (S/2108/15/FL) for the conversion of stables to a dwelling in Streetly End (meeting 9 October).

The proposal to develop a **Neighbourhood Plan** covering the whole parish has been submitted to SCDC who are currently consulting landowners and businesses. SCDC will then decide whether we can go ahead and decide what goes in the plan.

The latest news on **superfast broadband** is that some lucky people in Burton End should have speeds in excess of 22 Mbps by the end of this year. The rest of the village will have to wait until the end of 2016. See the latest update from Alex Schuilenburg on page 4.

Someone will be coming to the next meeting of the Parish Council to talk about **recycling of electrical equipment**.

The County Council is asking everyone to make sure we only put compostable waste in the **Green Bins**. This does not include “recyclable” plastic bags, which don't rot down fast enough for the composting process, and the Green Bins are being contaminated. This means that lots of green waste ends up in landfill, costing us all money in Landfill Tax.

**The draft Minutes are available on the Parish website ([www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)) and also posted on the noticeboard.**

**The next meeting will be on Monday 7 December. All are welcome to attend.**

Jennifer Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council.  
T: 01223 665260. Email: [jrichards007@talktalk.net](mailto:jrichards007@talktalk.net)

## KIP LOST AND FOUND A THANK-YOU

Many of you will have heard about Kip's night out on the 24 September and her return the following morning.



I give my heartfelt thanks to all the Oram family, particularly Chris, Victoria and Nathan who were out with me in the moonlight with their torches, calling to no avail; and to Di, who came and sat in my house with the back door open, temperatures dropping rapidly, in case Kip walked back in while I was out. Di stayed until 11 o' clock that evening.

Thanks also to my neighbours Guy, Liane and Ruth and to all the people I spoke to the following morning, who said they would keep an eye out for her – particularly Catherine, who gave me some good advice about people to contact, and Jane who took Hippo on a long and tiring walk near Rands Wood.

Unbeknown to everyone, Kip had been found on Common Road by Lucy, who was on her way home from work, less than an hour after she had gone missing from our back garden. Lucy took Kip to nearby houses, and to the Chestnut Tree in West Wrattling, but nobody recognised her so she went back to Swaynes the vets in Haverhill. When Kip was found, she had a blue rope round her neck. We don't know how it got there. A phone message from Swaynes was waiting for me when I got back into the house that morning (and for Sue, who was up in Norfolk and knew nothing of what had been going on overnight).

My emotions? A wave of relief, exhaustion from a traumatic night, and a warm glow thinking of everyone's kindness.

Peter Grieve

# WEST WICKHAM BROADBAND UPDATE

Thanks to all those residents who attended the meeting on 23 October in Stetchworth set up by Lucy Frazer MP with BT OpenReach and Connecting Cambridgeshire. West Wickham was well represented and the frustrations and anger felt by our community of the lack of progress towards decent broadband and the poor communication from Connecting Cambridgeshire I believe were resoundingly expressed.

To summarize the meeting with respect to the broadband update status of West Wickham and surrounds:

1. A single new FTTC (fibre to the cabinet) cabinet, known as a Onesie, is to be installed at the Burton End of the village by the end of 2016. This will bring download speeds in excess of 22Mbps and up to 76Mbps to the majority of the village using the existing copper-pair connections. Outlying properties use this copper to receive speeds above 22Mbps are to be connected separately by fibre, providing superfast speeds. This Onesie cabinet is also reported to be future-proof to allow those connected to benefit from future new technologies that potentially can provide speeds of a couple of hundred Mbps and above.
2. The existing cabinet on the Common Road is still to be upgraded to FTTC, reportedly by the end of 2015, although the directors of BT OpenReach could not confirm that date at the meeting. This will provide an interim improvement in broadband speeds for some residents until the new cabinet is fully commissioned. More details on this in the Wratting Common Road Cabinet update below..

After the meeting I also had the opportunity to speak face-to-face to a couple of the directors of BT OpenReach and the one of the Connecting Cambridgeshire staff. It was very apparent to me that there has been poor communication between BT OpenReach and Connecting Cambridgeshire which in turn has left the community in the dark about progress, or rather lack thereof. In addition, Connecting Cambridgeshire, despite their protestations to the contrary have not been updating the community. The only news update email Connecting Cambridgeshire send directly to members of the community is to inform them after their cabinet has been upgraded.

I believe both BT OpenReach and Connecting Cambridgeshire at least took away a better understanding of the frustrations felt. I also hope that I got my message across after the meeting that Connecting Cambridgeshire needs to actively provide regular updates to the community, including broadband champions, parish councils and village newsletters, and that BT OpenReach needs to provide honest and regular updates of broadband progress to Connecting Cambridgeshire to pass on.

Finally, speaking to a resident of Streetly End at the meeting, it became apparent that not all residents of Streetly End connected to the cabinet at Horseheath (i.e. telephone numbers beginning with 89) have been informed that their cabinet has been FTTC enabled. This means you have access to Superfast Broadband now!!! To upgrade you have to actively contact your ISP and ask to upgrade.

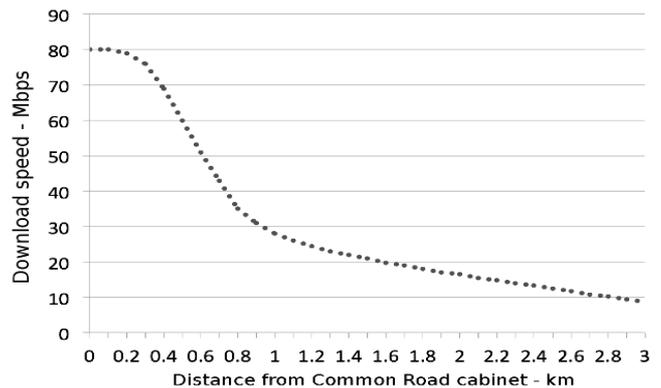
## Wratting Common Road cabinet update:

Unfortunately the majority of properties currently with the poorest speeds and hoping to see an improvement with the December 2015 upgrade of the Common Road street

cabinet to FTTC will still be disappointed. Only properties that are able to get speeds in excess of 5Mbps through FTTC will be able to switch as slower speeds are considered too unreliable for such connections. While Connecting Cambridgeshire report that only BT will currently provide "Superfast" broadband between 5Mbps and 15Mbps through FTTC, with others requiring a minimum speed of 15Mbps, I have found other ISPs who provide connectivity from 5Mbps. I hope to report on these next month once they confirm we can switch to the "Onesie" at no extra charge when it becomes available.

If you wish to switch yourself, do not try BT OpenReach as they only sell wholesale and do not deal directly with the public.

For those wishing to know where you stand and if you are able to benefit, the chart below indicates what download speeds are achievable through a FTTC cabinet based on the length of your phone line from the street cabinet, assuming a near-perfect copper line. If you walk the distance from the cabinet you need to add around 50% to allow for unseen twists and turns of the copper. This chart also illustrates why a new cabinet at Burton End is required as properties below Burton End are unlikely to achieve "Superfast" (i.e. 22Mbps+) speeds without it.



Upgrading to FTTC may not be simple for some as I have been informed that those on Broadband+Telephone packages (e.g. Sky and Talk Talk) will not be able to benefit from the Common Road upgrade unless they switch back to a BT-OpenReach based reseller. This is because such packages are normally provided on a LLU (local loop unbundling) circuit which I understand will not have access to the benefits provided by the 2105 cabinet upgrade. Be warned that if you are on a Sky or TalkTalk LLU bundle, they will charge you around £40 to switch

## Burton End Onesie update:

The earliest date for this is end September 2016.

## Community Broadband update:

The broadband voucher scheme for businesses has unfortunately been suspended. BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK), the government office responsible for distributing the allocated funds, have apparently already committed all of the remaining funds. While no businesses have stepped forward either, this has made our existing attempts to put a community WISP (wireless internet) solution into place more difficult. However, the WISP providers are still talking to us, and one was present at the broadband meeting.

Alex Schuilenburg

## NATURE NOTES

The story of the month actually happened in August, but definitely needs to be told. Jo Newton tells me that she heard a scuttling noise at the back of her log burner, suspected that a bird had come down the chimney, but needed to go out for a couple of hours. On return, she discovered that there was a little owl staring at her through the glass doors. Step up hero of the hour Bryn Pope, who rescued the bird, completely unharmed, and released it on Platts Farm. Next time you hear a little owl calling, think about this little fellow and his adventure down the chimney. It's now autumn of course, and Di comments on "*the flocks of birds on our newly ploughed fields - lapwings and golden plover, fieldfares and seagulls, starlings and jackdaws. The smaller birds also flock together, for safety - yellowhammers and skylarks, rising like dust clouds as you walk through the stubble, twittering away.*" The lapwing is a bird that has declined dramatically in the last few decades, so it is always good to see them and, today as I came up the road from Balsham direction, there were a number of lapwings tumbling about mixed in with some jackdaws on the field below Bottle Hall. Meanwhile the starlings seem to be showing their appreciation for the erection of the new electricity wires running between Horseheath and West Wrattling. I witnessed a mini-murmuration the other day near Yen Hall as a group of around 100 whirled about before settling on the wire. I assumed it was a starling subgroup foregathering in advance, before joining the main swarm at some predetermined location.

A number of people have mentioned seeing buzzards recently. Di suggests that these predators, together with red kites and sparrowhawks, which have done well in this part of England in recent years, are attracted by the flocks of smaller birds. I also think newly fledged buzzards tend to stick around their nest sites for a while, so at this time of year we tend to see and hear more of them.

The final butterflies of the season are taking advantage of plants that flower late. In recent weeks we have been visited by a comma, a brimstone and a red admiral, which may overwinter as adults, tucked away in a clump of ivy or possibly the shed or garage, whereas peacocks and small tortoiseshells tend to find their way into the house. Meanwhile, Di also has had some small visitors - two female brown crickets in their conservatory and different types of spider. Her best sighting "*was on the alder trees on the Croft. Several of the leaves had strange patches on them and on closer inspection they turned out to be nursery groups of tiny hawthorn shield bugs, with larger adults on neighbouring leaves. I am not sure whether the adults had mistaken the tree type, but the youngsters were eating their way through the alder leaves.*" Hawthorn shield bugs do in fact feed on the leaves of other trees when berries are not available on hawthorn. Certainly they can have no complaint this year as the crop of haws has been amazing.

Another bounty of autumn, as Di says are "*the beautiful fungi, just appearing where there was none yesterday. They come in so many shapes and sizes and appear almost everywhere, on the lawn, on tree stumps and in the fields.*" In general we Brits are somewhat ignorant about the different fungi, in contrast to our European cousins who eat them with relish. But what we do know is that they are a vital part of the process of decomposition and renewal that keeps our natural world ticking over.

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

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Our new College Principal was appointed in September and I am delighted that Helena Marsh has been the choice of the Trustees: I have known Helena for three years, have worked with her since 2014 and have had the pleasure of witnessing an intelligent, caring and very energetic leader going about her current role as Deputy Principal in charge of teaching and learning at LVC. It's a great choice for the school and the community and it means that I can leave at the end of term knowing that both the College and the Meadow School are in safe hands.

Since September I have found it difficult to take my eye off my emails in the hope that I would see another one from Jenny Pullin. Jenny is our Examinations Officer, a job which she does with her usual vigour and efficiency, and since the beginning of term she has been returning exam paper after exam paper to the Boards because our staff have been most unhappy with the standard of marking we have seen. In total we have sent back 111 papers - an unprecedented number and over a third of those we have returned have been marked up; when this happens, Jenny sends me an email. I think you will agree that the number of errors made is a little shocking and I have made my thoughts on this known.

The upgrades, particularly those in English have had a significant impact on our headline figure of 5 A\* - C, taking it up to 75% which is a figure that is not bettered by our local schools and much more in line with what we expected. It is disappointing for the class of 2015 that so many hardworking students were kept on tenterhooks for so long and their places on chosen courses were in jeopardy. However, it has all come right in the end and we can celebrate the results as a tremendous success a little belatedly.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

## CYCLE THEFTS

There have been a number of cycle thefts in South Cambridgeshire over the past three months. Cambridgeshire police recommend that you lock your cycle securely with two locks, one on the rear wheel and another through the frame of the bike, to a fixed object. Flimsy locks can easily be cut or broken off. It is recommended you choose a lock that has been attack tested - for products see [www.sold.secure.com](http://www.sold.secure.com). You can register your bike for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). It only takes a few minutes and the police will have a greater chance of tracing and returning your property when ownership can be proven.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN Linton & District Branch COFFEE MORNING

Friday 6 November  
At Mulbery Cottage, Fox Road, Balsham  
11am - 12.30pm  
Christmas cards, wrapping paper & Raffle  
£1.00 entry

Look forward to seeing you  
Caroline Walshe

# MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The first half term has been and gone and so much has happened.

The children are all now fully settled into school and our whole school topic of 'Best of British' is well under way. The first hurdle of the topic has been to ensure the children know which countries make up the UK. Once we had established that the Netherlands, Portugal and Greece were not part of the UK, we were up and running!

The topic has enabled us to celebrate the many amazing British artists, writers, musicians and Royals we have; something that we can so easily forget. The children have been engrossed in their learning and this is reflected in the many fantastic displays that adorn the walls of the classrooms and corridors of school.

I am relishing my role as 'Queen of School', having already been invited to attend a street party, garden party and a very British poetry slam! Watch this space next month for news of our very own British Bake Off, with hopefully a very special judge!

As has become tradition over the last few years, we kick started our fundraising with our Meadow Mile. On a Friday in October, the weather was perfect for the whole school to don a costume and walk 1 mile to raise money for the school Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The array of costumes was amazing as always, with everyone getting into the spirit.

The children skipped, danced and walked around the recreation ground in record time. Escorted by staff and



parents dressed up to, it was a brilliant sight. It is after all, not everyday you see Batman walk through the churchyard. Once completed the children all made their way back to the school field for a much needed drink and to collect their wristband to celebrate completing the mile. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a child. The money we raise goes straight back to providing equipment and resources our school budget does not allow for.

Another annual October event was the Craft Fair. This year the classrooms and hall were once again filled with visitors coming to buy gifts and food from over 50 stalls. The comments from first time visitors are always lovely to hear, with people surprised at the range of products on offer and with just how much we can fit in. The Craft Fair team and the PTA once again put on a brilliant weekend – thank you all.

We also received some very good news recently. After submitting a bid to buy a class set of iPads, cases and storage boxes we were delighted to receive a grant from the Wadlow Wind Farm for £9,200. A huge thanks to the panel for such a generous contribution and to one of our Grandparent's, Mr Chatten for writing the bid. What a great result!

You may remember in June this year a much loved member of staff passed away suddenly. Whilst the staff had the

opportunity to say goodbye at Maria's funeral, the children didn't. We asked the children what we could do as a school to remember her, and they chose a picnic. So that is what we did! On 15 October we held our, 'remembering Maria' special picnic lunch.

The children were served a lunch full of smiles (and their favourite foods), with homemade pizza, smiley face potatoes and salad, with a smiley face biscuit for pudding. The children sang her favourite song and we were really delighted to be joined by Maria's family and friends.



With the money so kindly donated by members of our community in memory of Maria, we plan to have a bespoke bench made with a lunchtime theme so that we can continue to remember a special person for many more years to come.

We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow\_Balsham. Take a peek!

Nichola Connor, Head Teacher

## ACTION FRAUD - FREecycle ALERT

Fraudsters are targeting online advertising platforms where items are acquired for free. The fraudsters will list items on the website and advise any purchasers that they have recently moved from the area they were originally living in and can arrange a courier to dispatch the items for a fee. The payment requested for this service is usually via Money Transfer such as MoneyGram or Western Union, or an e-money voucher. The items they were promised are not received and any attempts to contact the individual to gain a refund are unsuccessful.

Protect Yourself:

- Stay within the auction guidelines stipulated on the website.
- Ask to view the item in person.
- Be cautious of making advance payments to a stranger via Money Transfer or e-money products.
- If the item advertised seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- 

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

**PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 November**

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