

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2015

ISSUE 152

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 1 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 2 Carpet Bowls club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 5 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village Colledge
Sun 6 Family service and dedication of new
clock face. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 7 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**
7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of
the Parish are welcome to attend
Tue 8 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 9 Carpet Bowls club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 13 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 14 **Local History Club. Christmas social**
with old films. 7.30pm, Village Hall

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE VOICE

- Tue 15 Black wheeled bin collection
Sat 19 **Balsham Singers Christmas Concert.**
7.30pm, Balsham Church
Sun 20 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 21 **Gardening Club. 7.30pm, Village Hall.**
See page 3 for details.
Tue 22 Blue wheeled bin collection (no green bin
collection)
Thur 24 **Carol service. 6pm, St Mary's Church**
Fri 25 **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**
Christmas communion service.
9.15, St Mary's Church
Sun 27 Joint parishes service. 10.00, Balsham
Church
Wed 30 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection

January 2016

- Wed 6 Blue & green 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	day or evening £8.00/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

CHURCH CLOCK FACE

The clock face is now back in place and is looking magnificent. Graham (clocky) Newman of A James, Saffron Walden really has organised a wonderful finish; let's hope it lasts for many years to come.

Many thanks to those who have made very generous donations. There is still a substantial way to go, so if you would like to make a donation please make your cheque payable to West Wickham PCC and drop it into me at Manor Farm.

We are holding a service of dedication for this on Sunday 6 December at 9.30. At this service the children will also make and enjoy Christingles. You are all most welcome.

Marcus Cornish

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 19 December
7.30pm at Balsham Church

The programme includes choruses from Messiah, Vivaldi's Gloria, Brahms, Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium and a selection of carols including some for audience participation. Tickets can be obtained from Balsham Post Office or the singers - £8 in advance, £10 on the door and 18s and under free. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served during the interval.

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE

Christmas is coming but remember that the Health Centre only closes for the 3 public holidays: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year 's Day. We are open as usual between Christmas and New Year.

Christmas is a busy time for everyone at the Health Centre, but particularly for our dispensers. Our dispensary staff do not take annual leave in the run up to Christmas so that we ensure that all the requests are completed by Christmas Eve. Of course, in theory only those patients who would normally be collecting their repeat medication on the three public holiday days, or those who are actually going away for a week or so, would need to order early, but experience tells us that those weeks before Christmas are exceptionally busy. If you can keep to your regular order pattern it would help our dispensary team enormously. Please try to collect any prescriptions by 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve to enable the team to tidy up and be away at 6 pm.

When the practice is closed our phone lines are diverted to the out-of-hours service. Local GPs will be providing an emergency service over the Christmas and New Year break as they do every weekend.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas.

Dr Wheeler & Partners.

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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

Have you heard of REACH? This is the organisation behind the Haverhill Foodbank. It began when Henry Wilson wanted to do something significant to tackle poverty. REACH stands for Restore, Encourage, Action, Community and Hope and their strapline is 'Restoring Dignity & Reviving Hope.' I first came across this organisation several years ago when I met Ann Merrigan. She works for REACH. Henry and Ann came to talk to a joint meeting of the 6 Church PCCs. Ann and the team at Haverhill are tenacious in helping people to overcome problems caused by poverty. They not only distribute the food donations, they offer debt counselling and money advice. When people have to start again from scratch because things have gone so wrong, this organisation gives starter packs including basic necessities like bedding, crockery, and a tin opener. They run a furniture bank where household items can be redistributed to needy families and they are part of a scheme called ACTS 435 where requests for 'one off' help can be posted to others who can provide what is needed. Ann, like many others who work for REACH knows what it is like to be on the receiving end of the foodbank. There is no judgment made by these people because they have been there. They have also risen out of the ashes and want to help others to do so too.

Although the villages of South Cambridge are considered to be wealthy, South Cambridgeshire District Council reports that 11.7% of households are in receipt of means tested Housing Benefits. I often meet people in the villages who are in debt. or having difficulty paying the mortgage or rent. The reasons why people get into difficulty are often not because of bad management, but something happens which may be out of their control. Illness, redundancy, relationship breakdown, or a combination of small challenges which arrive together can contribute to escalating debts. Every person I know in this situation is private about it. They do not want friends or neighbours to know how hard things are.

I am writing this article for two reasons. Firstly, to highlight that people can get advice from the Resource Centre where the Foodbank is in Haverhill without judgment and in confidence and getting help early can bring a quicker resolution to financial problems.

Secondly, from 15 December there will be a REACH Christmas tree and collecting box in the church at West Wickham. The tree has been donated to highlight the charity.

Please come and join us in the Christmas festival services in December, see diary for details. Hope, joy and peace to you this Christmas.

Rev Julie Norris

ED. As a qualified specialist Debt Adviser working at Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau I must point out that other organisations helping people deal with their debts and offering money advice are available! The nearest Citizens Advice Bureau to West Wickham is at Haverhill (01440 762194). CAB's offering of specialist debt advice is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. More information can be found at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Sue Thurston MIMA (Cert)

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE

The Application to Designate a Neighbourhood Plan Area was submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council in September. You may have seen copies of the Application posted on the Notice boards in the Parish and "Your Area - Your Say" notices on various telephone posts which the District Council had asked to be displayed as part of the statutory consultation process that ended on 30 October.

Comments made to the District Council can be viewed on the SCambs website at:

<http://scambs.jdi-consult.net/localplan/viewreps.php?docelemid=40809&docid=236>

In summary, the comments received are from the Environment Agency, Historic England, Anglian Water Services; Natural England and The Woodland Trust. All these organisations are automatically notified of Applications and their comments offer their support for producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Application is due to be considered at the Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting on Tuesday, 17 November. It is anticipated that the Application will be accepted as no objections have been lodged.

Trevor Hall

LUCY FRAZER MP HELPS ON BROADBAND

Access to broadband is critical to Cambridgeshire businesses and residents. As I met parish councils over the summer, it was clear that there are some small villages which are not properly connected. Some people have contacted me about poor broadband in West Wickham. At a time when we are investing in superfast broadband and increasing connectivity, it is not acceptable that many people still have such issues. I want to correct this.

On Friday 23 October I held an open meeting to bring together BT, Connecting Cambridgeshire and affected residents to resolve these problems and I wanted to update you on Connecting Cambridgeshire's and BT's position at that meeting. Connecting Cambridgeshire have given assurances that West Wickham is included in the programme to receive fibre broadband. They acknowledged the frustrations and difficulties caused by the timing being put back for over a year. The upgrade is due by the end 2016.

Whilst I am very happy to assist with all queries, Connecting Cambridgeshire is very keen for those with problems to contact them directly. For specific broadband issues and information on the broadband programme, you can contact Connecting Cambridgeshire by emailing contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk. For BT-specific issues, if you have already spoken with your service provider, you can call BT directly to try and resolve the issue.

I will continue to press Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT to deliver a service that we deserve.

Lucy Frazer MP, Email: lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk

ED. We understand the latest news is not good. The Wrattling Common cabinet will not be upgraded to fibre to the cabinet by the end of 2015 because there are "complex power issues"! Looks like December 2016 might be the earliest we get decent internet speeds! In the meantime Alex Schuilenburg is continuing to look for alternative solutions.

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club enjoyed an informal evening on 16 November when Sheena and Richard Drane from Green Lawns Nursery gave us a talk on "The Care of Cacti and Succulents". They brought with them many beautiful plants and demonstrated how to pot them up and propagate from them. They welcomed questions from members and Richard made up a bowl of succulents which we then auctioned for Club funds.

The Club Chairman, Arthur Mawby and Outings Organiser, Janet Morris met with Balsham Horticultural Society with a view to sharing a coach for the annual Club summer outing. It was agreed that this was a good idea since in recent years we have sometimes been unable to fill a coach.

Our Christmas meeting will feature four short talks from our members; "Sue's Secret Gardens", Sue Kiddy, a professional gardener will describe some of the gardens she has been involved with; Sam Agnew will talk on "Weedkilling"; Ann Broscomb will tell us about a Clematis Exhibition in Holland and I will show some of the photographs I took of the beautiful wildflowers on Corfu last May. There will be wine, mince pies and nibbles along with a chance to win vouchers for £25 and £15 from Beeches Nursery in our Christmas Raffle. You are welcome to join us. For further information contact me on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have had two Brownies start with us both called Emily, one from Haverhill, the other from Great Abington and we have also said goodbye to India. This term we have been on a moonlit walk around the village, played 'traditional' games at Halloween (bobbing apples, etc) whilst dressed as witches, ghosts and vampires, held a fundraising campfire for Pudsey with 1st Linton Guides, made Christmas cards for our Over 60's Luncheon and also gazed at the stars to find The Plough, Cassiopeia and Orion. We are now practicing hard for the Over 60's Luncheon for our invited guests, the Brownies look forward to performing their 'act' every year.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

Finally, Katie, Hera, Sophie, Pat, Judith, Christine, all the Brownies and Barney would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and the joyous New Year.

Pauline, Katie and Hera. email: brownies@horseheath.info

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Thank you for your support, either by coming to the coffee morning on 6 November, bringing goodies for the produce stall or making a donation. It was a most enjoyable morning and we raised an amazing £600.07 which will be doubled by the government through AidUK. Our thanks also to Cazzie & Martin Walshe for hosting the event at Mulberry Cottage.

Jenny Richards, on behalf of the Linton & District branch of Save the Children

NATURE NOTES

Let's start with Di's observations of this year's Autumn so far. *"What a month we have had. Marvellous moons, spectacular stars, stunning shades of red, orange and yellow leaves, beautiful berries and the return of the winter thrushes and the garden birds. Where do they go? These small, common, garden birds that are part of our lives during the winter months and in the spring, bringing up their young. Within days of hanging up fat balls and seed, they appeared, not singly, but in groups, blue, great, coal and long-tailed tits, bright plumage, squeaking, chattering and chirping, several at a time on the feeders. Robins and dunnocks on the soil beneath the seed dispenser, fat grey pigeons picking up the spilt seeds."*

"Several people have told me about the large birds of prey they have seen on the fields, beyond Bottle Hall, young buzzards, we think. Sightings of barn owls along Dean Road and the West Wrattling crossroads, good to know they are about. Deer, fallow, with big antlers, (not spiked like the red deer) standing in the road. I think there is a small herd of these in Balsham woods. A fox at the end of Webb's Lane, splendid red fur with a pale brush.

The weather has been mild for November. There are flocks of gulls, lapwings and golden plover on the fields. Winter is around the corner, but let us enjoy this unusually warm autumn while it lasts."

The mild weather has also prolonged some of our wildflowers. Walking along the Devil's Dyke near Dullingham, I noticed plenty of bloody cranesbill, some harebells, devil's bit scabious and rock rose all still in flower. This autumn has certainly been a vintage one for leaf colour, but in the last few days strong winds have caused a rapid fall so that tree-lined paths are now thick with those same reds, browns and yellows that were adorning our trees only a few days ago. The sensation of trudging through such a deep carpet of leaves, rustling and giving off autumnal scents, brings on a mood of nostalgic contentment which I would recommend to everyone. Underneath all those leaves there is a lot of life going on because leaves are very useful for all the creepy-crawlies and small mammals seeking protection from weather or predators, and indeed for the hibernating animals such as hedgehogs who as we know have declined dramatically in recent decades.

Not all animals use natural habitats for their winter quarters. Our esteemed editor (Andrew) discovered this to his cost the other day when he put his hand into his gardening glove and disturbed a queen wasp. She showed her displeasure in no uncertain terms, resulting in a painful editorial finger.

Finally, a couple of questions about fungi, which we mentioned in last month's Nature Notes. First, can anyone name the flattened, but quite substantial fungus which has been in Blacklands Lane just prior to reaching the field section before Leys Wood? And second, the local Wildlife Trust's magazine this month has published some photographs taken over the last year at Fulbourn Fen. They include one entitled molten magma fungus. It's a remarkable bracket fungus coloured slate grey with red banding, which gives the impression of glowing heat. One wouldn't want to pick it up without a pair of fire tongs. Unfortunately I can find no reference to a fungus of this name either in my fungus guide, or on the internet. Can anyone help?

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

BALSHAM HELPING HANDS

During the last year, Helping Hands made 505 journeys and travelled 5590 miles! We cover the villages of Balsham, West Wrating and West Wickham taking our passengers to appointments at Linton Health Centre, various dentists, eye appointments, Addenbrookes, Newmarket and Saffron Walden hospitals. Most of our journeys are for medical appointments, but we do also include visits to care homes, the vet and Cambridge station. We also collect repeat prescriptions from Balsham post office every week day and deliver them to the Pharmacy at Linton Health Centre, and return the completed prescriptions to the PO. This is a most useful service to many residents and I would particularly like to say how much we appreciate it on behalf of us all.

I have a splendid group of drivers and three excellent co-ordinators who man the dedicated telephone line Monday to Friday each week. We charge our passengers 30p a mile, and receive 15p a mile from Cambridge County Council towards our petrol. Cambridge County Council cover our Insurance but do insist on our drivers having a DBS Certificate which is a trial for my drivers who dislike the bureaucracy, and which now has to be completed on line, not something everyone is familiar with! It is a very satisfying job and we are wonderfully appreciated for the service we provide for elderly residents who have no transport of their own, and a very limited bus service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my drivers and co-ordinators for all their support and if anyone would like to join us I would be delighted to hear from them!

Sara Himsworth, Chairman Balsham Helping Hands.
T: 893975. Email sarahimsworth@aol.com

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who supported our coffee morning in the Village Hall in October. We raised a total of £165 which meant we were able to give £55 each to the Local History Club, the church clock face appeal and the Village Hall. It was a little disappointing not to see more of you from the village there bearing in mind that requests for more social events feature regularly on village surveys and that we were using the occasion to raise money for village causes. There was also the opportunity to have a free game of table tennis. We would not have been able to make so much money if it hadn't been for members of the Local History Club, the Carpet Bowls Club and the Gardening Club who live outside the village and to whom we are grateful.

Janet & Di

STREETLY END BROADBAND

A reminder to all residents in Streetly End that you have access to faster broadband from the street cabinet in Horseheath. To confirm availability go to www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html and enter your phone number. The second line of the resulting web page (FTTC Range B (Impacted)) will give you an estimated speed of the connection available to you and should be in the region of 20-30Mbps for downloads. You should be able to order your Superfast Broadband upgrade from any reasonable ISP.

Alex Schuilenburg

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

In the past year as many as one in four residents in Cambridgeshire visited A&E when they could have used an alternative service or looked after themselves at home.

Each visit to A&E costs the local NHS £87, and that's before any treatment is given. When you look at the figures, this costs the local NHS over £4million a year. In turn this is the equivalent cost of 677 hip replacements, or 287 liver transplants or 115 more dementia nurses.

Using A&E when you don't need to can also have a knock-on effect to the rest of the hospital, as busy A&E departments resulted in 500 cancelled operations and procedures because a bed was no longer available, and longer waiting and referral times.

But you can help

- Stay healthy – get a flu vaccination if you are eligible
- Look after others – check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbours especially in spells of cold weather, help them to keep warm and have the medication they might need
- Be prepared – get your prescriptions in early before the holidays (ED. See the advice from Linton Health Centre on page 1) and see your pharmacist or GP for any issues you might be putting off
- Choose the right service – your local pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses and complaints, without having to wait for a GP appointment.

For help with finding local NHS services visit www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA

December is a good month for drawing the curtains and experiencing a good ghost story. Let us bring you a 'classic'. This superb ghost story was the first big screen adaptation of Henry James' novella 'The Turn of the Screw', a pioneering work of ambiguous, psychoanalytical horror which inspired countless subsequent works, most prominently Shirley Jackson's 'The Haunting of Hill House'. Surprisingly, 'The Innocents' was adapted by Truman Capote and John Mortimer, and it stars Michael Redgrave and Peter Wyngarde and Deborah Kerr. It will be shown at Weston Colville Reading Room, Wednesday 2 December 7.30pm with a pre-screening talk. Donations, refreshments available.

For further details please contact Laurence Staig.
T: 291212, Email: Laurence.staig@onetel.net

WESTON COLVILLE NEW YEARS DAY CIRCULAR WALK

We're meeting at the Reading Room at 11am for a c.5 mile circular walk, followed by lunch in the Reading Room. Wear walking boots (or wellies if it's been a rainy week and the ground's wet) BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. You can put your lunch in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas
T: 291475, Email: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

LOOK AFTER YOUR HEATING OIL

Theft of heating oil has been an issue for rural areas for some time, but it can be a particular problem at this time of year as home owners get their supplies for the winter months. Coupled with rises in the cost of fuel, oil has become a much more attractive target for thieves. Consider the position of the tank. Can it be viewed easily from the house? If it is close to a road or pathway it is more at risk. Be aware of oil levels and check them regularly. Remote oil level gauge alarms are available and cost between £60 - £95. They will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full.

Unfortunately, the Bobby Scheme no longer fit heating oil alarms as part of their range. Please see details below regarding companies that supply alarms. Use good quality padlocks, and lockable fuel caps as a thief will not want to spend a long time trying to attack your tank. Look for closed shackle padlocks, as they will be more difficult to break. Look for quality marks and attack tested products (see www.soldsecure.com)

If you have a plastic tank, consider screening it with a barrier. Think about using prickly, thorny plants to hide the tank from view, traces of blood or ripped clothing may help to identify the offender. According to OFTEC advice any screening hedge or trellis must be spaced 600mm from the tank or 760mm if it is part of a boundary and no fire barrier is erected. Alternative options include a metal cage or grill with lockable access point across the top. A specialist product called 'Tank guard' surrounds the tank with a metal enclosure; the sheet metal enclosure has lockable access doors, to allow filling and maintenance plus internal anchorage points fixing it to the concrete base. A tank guard costs less than one tank full of oil and will last many years. CCTV may help to deter thieves if there is very little natural surveillance but before you spend money on equipment make an assessment of your needs. If you have outside security lighting, ensure that the system works and that the light sensors have been adjusted correctly to detect movement.

Deter thieves from entering your property by using good perimeter security such as good fencing and strong lockable gates. Maintain boundaries and perimeter fencing/ hedges. Be vigilant by noting unusual/ out of place vehicle registration numbers, and report suspicious activity to the Police.

OFTEC also offer advice and guidance to those using and storing oil. Contact www.oftec.org Also visit our blog for local information and advice www.southcambscops

Details of Fuel Tank Alarms can be found at the following websites:

Tank Commander alarm (Secure by Design approved):

www.commandersecurities.co.uk

Fuel tank alarm: www.check-my-tank.com

Range of fuel tank alarms: www.bundedtanks-shop.com

Watchman fuel tank alarm:

www.commercialfuelsolutions.co.uk

Fuel tank alarm: www.fueltankprotection.com

Ed. If you don't have access to the internet please contact the editors and we will obtain the information for you.

Rachel Carr, Crime Reduction Officer, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

BEWARE OF BOGUS PHONE CALLS

The County Council has received reports of someone phoning residents claiming to be from the Council and asking about their recent fall. The person calling tries to engage the resident in conversation with the aim of finding out personal details. If you ever receive a call from someone you do not know saying they work for the Council, get their name and details and tell them you will ring them back. Telephone the Council general enquiries line 0345 045 5200 and ask to be put through to the named officer. Always be wary of unsolicited calls and never give out personal or financial information over the phone.

- Genuine businesses or organisations will never telephone you to ask you for your personal or financial information.
- Be wary of all unsolicited calls from companies wanting to talk to you about your recent fall / your accident / computer problems / your claim for Payment Protection Insurance or PPI. Don't give out any personal information and hang up.
- Set up call screening on your telephone so that you know who is calling your number before you decide to answer it.
- You can arrange with your telecoms provider to reject anonymous calls to your telephone.
- Register with the free Telephone Preference Service to reduce the number of unsolicited sales and marketing calls. You can register on 0845 070 0707 or online.
- Be cautious and if in doubt, hang up.
- If they ask you to call back check they have hung up first. Phone a friend first or call from your mobile.
- If they say they are from your bank, call the number on your bank statement or bank card, not the number they have given you.

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

I thought I would give you all a break from the demonic cryptic clues, so for a change here is a wordsearch containing 14 answers of which four are events held in the village, three are activities in which you can participate in the Village Hall, two meet there and five are buildings or locations. Only two of the answers are single words. The rest are two words.

Answers by email to mail@petergrieve.co.uk or to 29 Burton End by 31 December. First out of the hat wins a prize for the New Year

v e l p z f t e r c p p b k l
y l s i h o a o a l h m e d h
w a e t c o v d y v a x c s f
i s w h s n n i z y t q i n k
c t t s i z u e p a u x v i m
k n t r s l w o b t e p r a c
h a v l e b l l c o v b e h m
a l z o x e e f h h x q s c f
m p f y c t t l a t s x l y a
f w v r e x b l m r j i o s d
e z o n o n y i y c m y r i k
s f n z v k k n g h h f a a s
t i p n o t n i m d a b c d p
s y r a m t s a h y i l u h k
d u p n q t n q x k p g l q p

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It's very nearly that time of year...we are just about ready to start saying the 'Christmas' word in school! The glitter has been ordered, the Nativity costumes are pressed and the donkey is on standby. But before we get carried away with all of the Christmas festivities we need to share all of the things the children has got up to last month.

On the last day of the half term we held our Harvest Festival in the church, with Reverend Julie and some of our Year 6 presiding over the service. We were joined by representatives from Jimmy's foodbank who shared information about the important work they do and thanked the children for all of the items they had donated.

We also completed the last of the planned works in our Infant outdoor secure area. The children are now benefiting from a fantastic new surface in the water play area. No more muddy feet! We also have a new view as the dangerous trees that have been blocking the sunlight and causing us concern at the front of school have also been cut down. The extra daylight at this point in the year has been welcomed by all.

On 11 November the whole school stopped work and gathered on the playground to remember those who have sadly died fighting to protect our country. The children learnt about Armistice Day and what it meant, along with why we wear poppies. At 11 o'clock when the church bell sounded we all fell silent for 2 minutes, something everyone proudly achieved. The assembly finished with a moving poem written by Kirstine in Year 6 and the children all placing pennies they had brought in on a giant paper poppy.

Along with the rest of the country, we also raised money for Children in Need. The School Council took the lead, deciding upon a non uniform day and a bake sale. They raised over £200 and had lots of fun in the process.

We have enjoyed showing prospective families around during the month, all of whom are choosing a school for their child for September 2016. The feedback has been super and the children have delighted in sharing their learning with our visitors. Meadow children are always very happy to talk!

Our building works have finally finished! All of the windows and doors have now been replaced, and school is now looking incredibly smart. We are already benefitting from the extra warmth and insulation, with people actually asking for the heating to be turned down! Our new power assisted front doors are however causing a bit of confusion. If you visit us, please be aware they are not automatic and if you stand and wait for them to open, you may be waiting a while! Instead to open them you can either just pull or push or press the button on the barrier to the side at the front. They have already proved a big hit with parents with pushchairs, visitors with disabilities and teachers with lots of bags!

The last thing that needs to be said this month is Happy Christmas from everyone at The Meadow. Right off to find the angel wings and test the lights for the tree...

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

The 2016 Village Directory will come out with the February issue of the Village Voice. If you have any corrections, updates, deletions or information you think should be included please send to me by 16 January

Sue Thurston T: 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

This will be my last article and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Editors past and present for tolerating my monthly ramblings about life at LVC or education in general.

I can't tell you how much of a privilege it has been to be Principal of this wonderful school. I have seen a generation pass through my care in the last decade and it has been a time of great change and excitement. We have witnessed new uniform, a new logo, new buildings, we became an Academy, then a Teaching School and then a Multi-Academy Trust. We achieved an Ofsted 'Outstanding' rating twice, weathered three Governments and half a dozen Education Ministers, each with the desire to make a mark on their job.

During this decade of change I believe that the College has also remained the same in all important essentials: the staff do an amazing job and go the extra mile for the children all the time. They are Linton's unsung heroes. The students are delightful to work with. They are so often well-mannered, modest and thoughtful and I have enjoyed their company tremendously. The College remains a busy hub for community life in a way that would have pleased its founder, Henry Morris. It's a very hard place to leave, but I go on to become Headteacher at Saffron Walden County High School having learned so much in my first headship. Linton Village College and the staff, parents, governors and students who have been part of the place will always be special to me.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/content/changes-green-bin-collections-over-winter

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 14 December

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