

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2016

ISSUE 160

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 6 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00, Linton Village College
Sun 7 All ages service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Tue 9 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 10 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 14 Joint Parishes service. 10.00, Balsham Church. See from the Vicarage on page 5
Tue 16 Blue & green wheeled bin collection

Deadline for items for the September issue of the Village Voice

- Wed 17 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 20 **GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW. See page 1 for details**
Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 23 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 28 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wed 31 **Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collection**

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
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 GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Open to all in West Wickham (including Streetly End)

Visiting children or grandchildren can also enter as can residents of adjoining villages without a show of their own, so encourage a friend to take part as well.

This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter and there will be classes inspired by her wonderful books. Looking for something for the children to do in the holidays? Why not encourage them to make Mr McGregor's garden in a seed tray for example? Grown-ups could make a decorated carrot cake.

There is a wide variety of other classes, which we hope will interest you – vegetables & fruit, cut flowers & pot plants, cooking & jam making and classes especially for children. Once again a special feature in the domestic classes will be the WEST WICKHAM BAKE OFF, with an award for the STAR BAKER. There is prize money and cups to be won but the Show is intended to be a celebration of your growing and making skills and give an opportunity for you to share these with family, friends and neighbours.

**THE SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 20 AUGUST
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Exhibits can be brought to the Hall between 9.30 and 11.30am. The Show OPENS AT 2.00pm when tea and cakes will be available. The PRIZE GIVING will be at 3.00pm, followed by an AUCTION and your chance to buy some lovely home grown and home made produce.

The show schedule is inserted into this month's Village Voice. For additional copies of this, the entry form or for further details, please contact me:

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham
Tel: 01223 290863. Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

WEST WICKHAM FETE/FEST

What a fantastic event! As organisers, after months of planning, our main role on the day is to make sure people helping out have everything they need and that everyone's enjoying themselves.

Two conversations stand out; both with people from outside of the village, and both with the same sentiment. That an event like this just wouldn't happen where they live because they don't have the same feeling of community that we have in West Wickham. Somewhere where everyone chips so that we can make something really special like this work.

In that vein, thanks must go out to all of you who helped man stalls, flip burgers and serve drinks on the day; those of you who played instruments or ran the technical equipment; those of you who had the thankless task of cleaning up after everyone else had gone home and those who helped out any way big or small. Thanks also go to those who supported the event with their donations, including the Parish Council who sponsored a barrel of beer. In total we raised over £2100 for the Village Hall and Church and that's something, that as a community, we can be proud of.

Kevin Newey & Di Licence

(Ed. The Parish Council would like to thank Di & Kevin for organising this important village event.)

West Wickham Fete/Fest continued

The cake ladies would like to thank everybody who contributed so generously to the Fete Cake Stall it was a truly magnificent response to our appeal. We are not only grateful but very impressed.. There are some seriously talented bakers in our Parish. We made a total in excess of £135, which is a record for us. Next time will be a serious challenge to beat this year's superb display but with your help it can be done

Vivienne Henderson & Shirley Hulyer

Raffle. Thank you to all who supported the raffle. The proceeds of which went to the Local History Club. With your support we raised £129, which will go to supporting our archaeological project and other activities.

Janet Morris

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB DIG 3 Streetly End

Another great weekend! A big thank you to all who took part in our third community archaeology project or who supported us in anyway, including Kit & Jean and Anita & Glenn for providing their properties; John Debnam and the Village Hall Committee for equipment loans; the cake makers and, of course, Mathew Morris for taking a busman's holiday to supervise. Twenty five people took part over the weekend plus a group from Rheesearch who did some more geophysical surveys for us. We opened five test pits, more than doubling what we excavated in Streetly End in 2013. Three were in the field beside the mill, one in the Mill House garden and one in a field at the opposite end of Streetly End (where a cottage appears on 19th century maps). Medieval pottery was recovered from all five test pits along with rather a lot of roof tiles! Mathew has taken all the finds away to process them over the summer before making a preliminary report. Dig 3 was a registered event as part of the nationwide Festival of Archaeology and we had about 12 to 15 visitors over the weekend – we would have loved to have seen more of you!

Where next? We still don't have quite a big enough sample covering all parts of the village. We would very much like to dig some more test pits in the top end of the High Street/Burton End area and we have not yet opened any test pits on the east side of Streetly End. If you can offer any properties in either of these two areas please let me know – we now have a pool of experienced and keen excavators so you don't necessarily have to do the work yourself.

The bigger picture. As well as telling us more about the medieval settlement of our own village, our results are going into a wider database which can be mined by historians. Carenza Lewis, who many of you will remember supervised our 2013 Big Village Dig (and who is now a professor at the University of Lincoln), has just published an article in *Antiquity* about how pottery evidence from test pitting projects like ours across Eastern England is now providing historians with information about how and where the Black Death affected 14th century populations. I have a copy of the article if anyone would like to borrow it.

Janet Morris.

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

BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

The 46 bus that goes to Newmarket on Tuesdays is having a route and timetable change from 16 August. It will no longer provide a service to Streetly End and Horseheath but will go on from Newmarket Bus Station to Tesco's. The new times are.

Outward:	West Wickham High Street	9.46
	Near no 29 Burton End	9.48
	Newmarket Bus Station	10.15
	Tesco's	10.22
Return:	Tesco's	13.03
	Newmarket Bus Station (bay 1)	13.10
	Burton End	13.37
	West Wickham High Street	13.41

We understand full timetables will become available shortly

CONNECTING CAMBRIDGESHIRE BROADBAND UPDATE

BT have confirmed that West Wickham will now be covered by two new all-in-one fibre cabinets, which means better coverage for residents. The first cabinet will be located a little past the village sign at Burton End on entering the village from the North East. The second newer cabinet will be located at the front of the Village Hall alongside the High Street, next to where the recycling bins used to be located. BT have also confirmed that both cabinets are due to be delivered by the end of December 2016, within the existing timescale.

A representative from Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT are due to update the Parish Council on the progress of the all-in-one fibre cabinet installation at the Parish Council meeting at 7:30pm on Monday, September 26th 2016, at the Village Hall. All residents are welcome.

Alex Schuilenburg

SAWSTON ADULT EDUCATION

We are excited to offer you a completely new range of courses for the next academic year! Indian Dance, Jive, Afternoon Singers, Turkish for Fun and Travel, is just a small sample of what we will be offering....

We have some taster sessions on Saturday 10 September 10.00 – 11.00 for which we charge £5 (this is refundable upon enrolment for the same course commencing September). Booking is essential to guarantee your place. The subjects currently available to try are French beginners, Guitar, Indian Cookery, Introduction to Writing Fiction, Art History, Italian beginners, Portraiture, Spanish beginners and Tai Chi. All our new and usual courses are on our website www.sawstonadulthood.org, we are sure you will find something of interest.

If you wish to make a booking you will find a booking form on our website or alternatively, please feel free to pop in at the main reception here at Sawston Village College. Plus we have an enrolment morning on Saturday 10 September 09.00 – 12.00, so you could pop by then to book your place. The Adult Learning team will be available Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm from Wednesday 24 August. Our contact details are 01223 712424 or email community@sawstonvc.org

Sue King & Amanda Hoskins, Adult Education Department

NATURE NOTES

Wordsworth and the Romantic Poets have a strong association with nature's idyll. Nature itself, however, is often far from romantic and gives us sharp reminders of the harsh realities of the world around us. Di has witnessed the grim spectacle of great spotted woodpeckers attacking the nests of blue tits in her garden, while Carol and Trevor watched one of these birds lever the side off the nest box and try to remove the chick by pulling its leg through the gap. Gruesome but natural I fear.

Those of us with garden ponds also have the opportunity to contemplate the brutality of that little world. Earlier in the year we had plenty of frogspawn. More recently I was looking into the water and counted 8 young newts, but no more tadpoles. You can imagine what had been going on. Dragonflies are fantastically impressive fliers, and notorious predators even as larvae. Both Trevor and I have been visited by a four spotted chaser recently. It can hover in the air, perform 90 degree turns and perch on a blade of grass while watching for its next victim.

The wet summer seems to have encouraged plant growth although some may have found the competition a little suffocating. Di draws attention to the bee and common spotted orchids that have been evident alongside our local footpaths, but also a single pyramidal orchid on the bank behind the Village Hall. Grasses have done particularly well and Steve has found a new first for him in the parish, a grass called crested dog's tail.

Butterfly Conservation are predicting a bad year for most species because of the rain and cold weather, but one butterfly that seems to have benefited from the lush grass growth is the ringlet – an active, dark brown butterfly that has a certain beauty if only it would keep still for a second. Meadow browns are in evidence but supposedly well down in numbers, while I have as yet seen only a single gatekeeper though perhaps these are yet to emerge. On the Devil's Dyke beside Newmarket racecourse I saw six marbled whites on a recent walk and then a real surprise, we saw one of these striking insects near Rands Wood, far away from its normal chalk grassland habitat.

Di has an uplifting story of bats returning after a long absence. *"Many years ago we had a large colony of about 80 bats in our roof but haven't seen or heard any in residence until recently, when Tom noticed some mouse-like droppings at the side of the house. This could only mean one thing. At 9.30 p.m. one dry, though not warm, summer evening, I lay on cushions on the ground, next to the wall, and waited. I could hear lots of squeaks and scuffling and rustling, then out they came, one after the other. They were pipistrelles, our smallest bat. I counted 39 in all."*

Although I started this piece with some of the less endearing aspects of the natural world, there is a more heart warming side – the long tailed tits who raised their brood less than a metre from the front door of Elaine and Cliff's house in Streetly End; the robin feeding its three young on the fence at Connie's house; the buzzard that perched on the telegraph pole and fell asleep as Andrew worked on his allotment.

In the last few days we also have had a pleasant experience. A beautiful white racing pigeon came down Brian and Linda's chimney, was rescued and took advantage of a few days Burton End hospitality. We released him but he decided to stick around for a while until today, when we hope he has returned to his real home.

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

THANK YOU

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came to Charles' aid when he had his motorbike accident in Burton End on Sunday 3 July. He will in time make a full recovery but it may be a long, slow process. Thanks also to all those who have offered their help and support in the days following the accident. It is good to know that we have such kind and wonderful neighbours around us.

Thank you all.

Charles and Gillian Dixon-Payne

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Firstly, thank you to everyone who donated their Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers to the Brownies, we collected a staggering 3123, which isn't bad for a small unit in a rural area. These have been passed on to the District for central ordering. Not sure what items will be purchased this year; I'll let you know when they arrive.

We were visited by 14 US Girl Scouts from California at the end of June for an afternoon of activities along with 1st Linton Guides. We had hoped to have an outdoor campfire but this wasn't possible due to the numerous thunderstorms we had. Instead we put some nightlights into the fire pit and had a good sing-song anyway. Each group took turns to lead a song and at the end of the afternoon we exchanged SWAPS – a simple whatnot affectionately pinned somewhere.

To finish off the Queen's 90th Birthday Challenge we made crowns fit for a Queen and decorated horseshoes. For the Mission Spectacular badge, which celebrates the centenary of the Senior Section, we spent the evening getting our hearts pumping using the play equipment.

During the final meeting of term we enrolled Jessica L, Jessica M, Emily S and Katie M into the unit. We also wished Hera and Katie F the best of luck with their exams and getting the university places they wanted. We will continue to see them at Brownies along with Laurené our new Young Leader.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us 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 us an email.

Pauline, Katie, Hera & Laurené.

E: brownies@horseheath.info

STREETLY END ART & CRAFT GROUP

We are looking for members to join our group which is held each Thursday (or Wednesday) evening from 7 - 9pm.

Please phone or text Anita Debnam on 074633966208 for details.

FROM THE VICARAGE

I have really enjoyed being the Priest in Charge in these parishes. It has given me an opportunity to work with wise and inspirational ordained and lay colleagues. The Very Rev Keith Johnson and Rev Kath Bishop, and Steven Wheeler are all continuing to lead the worship and take the weddings, funerals and baptisms when I have gone, along with others who have agreed to help such as Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford who has moved into Hildersham to live. Keith Day, will continue to develop the music and worship across the parishes and Rosemary Mead is going to be offering prayerful reflective services in Great and Little Abington along with her meetings on contemplative prayer, her work with families and children and the pastoral visiting. It is good that we now have Teresa Letimier, our Parish Nurse to offer pastoral care to those in the villages.

I think that there are grounds for optimism for the future in these Parishes. There have been a lot of people who have been involved in bringing about change over the past years who have made the churches vibrant and loving places for people to be part of and this goes on. In each village the churches are places where people can drop in and enjoy tranquillity and a sense of history. There have been teams of people working to make the buildings more accessible to the communities and to try to think of ways to make them places where activities can take place that will enable people to address the spiritual and practical issues of today and tomorrow. During the vacancy, there will continue to be opportunities for people to deepen through prayer and study through regular corporate prayer during the week, the Julian Group and Rosemary's Contemplative 'Space to be' meetings.

It will be good for a new Priest in Charge to come into these villages to bring fresh energy to all of this and to help to develop a new vision to take these parishes into the next stage of their development.

On a personal level, I continue to miss the many people who have been a part of the life of the churches and villages who have died. They have left a legacy that continues to inspire and encourage us all to invest in church and community life. It has also been a delight to share in the other significant moments in people's lives such as at weddings and baptism. I feel very privileged to have spent this time with you. Thank you.

Caroline Walshe is going to be a significant help during the vacancy by running the Parish administration from her own home. You can contact her on 7churches.seven@gmail.com and she will point you in the direction of who can help.

Meanwhile, you are all invited to the Vicarage Garden Party 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday 13 August at the Vicarage in Little Abington. It will be good to spend time with you at this event and to say Thank You to you for all the good times and shared services and events.

Please also come to the United Service at 10am Sunday 14 August at Balsham Church. This will be my farewell. The Choir are going to sing a most beautiful Rutter piece, there will be an activity for children, the Parish Nurse will take part and there will be Holy Communion. All the ministry team will have a part in this.

Rev Dr Julie Norris

PARISH NURSE

You may have heard from the other parishes that the Parish Nurse, Teresa Letimier has already helped a lot of people. The PCC of St Mary's Church West Wickham has agreed to hold a public meeting on Monday 5 September at 7pm at West Wickham Village Hall to see if it might be possible to raise funds so that the Parish of West Wickham can become part of the Parish Nurse Scheme too. This meeting will include the Parish Nurse giving a flavour of what she does, one or two people from neighbouring villages who have accessed the scheme and appreciated it, members of the Management Group who can say how other parishes have raised funds, and give an overview on how the scheme is running. The Management Group have agreed that they would welcome West Wickham parish joining the scheme and that they are not going to be setting a target figure for the parish to raise in order to join. They do need a number of people who show a financial commitment of 'however much they can raise', then it will be possible to get other funding from grants. Whilst West Wickham Parish would have immediate benefits of the nurse's time, the new funds raised will be taking the scheme into a fourth year, which is good news for all.

Rev Dr Julie Norris

REVD DR CARRIE PEMBERTON FORD

Just at the time when we need extra help, Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford has moved into the Parish of Hildersham and is willing to help us out with church services.

Carrie is the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking. This is an internationally recognized research network diving deep on issues of Human Trafficking. Currently Carrie is working on the capacity of the Black African Churches in the UK to build resistance to trafficking of West African women, children and men, regionally and internationally. This report is due out in the Autumn of this year.

Carrie was ordained priest in the Ely diocese in 1992, and went on to develop a role in policy work at central Government, advising the Chief Constables of Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire and South Yorkshire, on the complex impacts of European migration in their regions. She was the first ordained clergywoman to be appointed as a Women's National Commissioner - reporting to the Minister for Women where she undertook some scoping research on sport, gender and schools, and chaired the increasing BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) 'representation in Public Appointments' committee. Carrie has been working in the area of migration, gender studies, NGO advocacy and first responder in human trafficking work now for over fifteen years.

Carrie says,

'I am delighted to assist the churches to retain a regular celebration of the liturgy whilst change is underway, and look forward to being a part of the ongoing worshipping and pastoral life of the parishes, as across the benefice they seek the next steps forward in serving the communities in which they are set.'

PARISH MATTERS

At our last Parish Council meeting I agreed at a parishioner's request to write a piece for the Village Voice regarding dog barking and behaviour within West Wickham. I thought I would also take the opportunity to cover a couple of other points that councillors are often asked about.

Dog noise and behaviour

We are fortunate to live in a lovely rural village, many parishioners like my family are dog owners and enjoy the lovely open spaces and good network of footpaths we have in the Parish to walk with them, often enjoying a chat with other dog owners at the same time. Quite a few people have commented recently that some dogs are barking a great deal, sometimes well into the evening, and this is adversely affecting those who live close by. In some instances dogs barking aggressively at one another is making some feel unsafe in their own gardens.

This is not strictly a Parish Council matter but covered under Environmental Protection Act and enforced through the District Council. It is illegal to let your dog be dangerously out of control in public or in a private place (the www.gov.uk website expresses 'dangerously' as attacking another dog or makes someone worried about an attack and 'private place' as, e.g. a neighbour's garden or the owners home)

The first step is to talk to your neighbour explaining your concerns (this might also be bonfires for example) and giving them the opportunity to get your concerns rectified. If everyone is reasonable, a solution hopefully will be found.

If there are still concerns the next steps would be to contact the Environmental Health section of the District Council to investigate (T: 03450 450 063).

Useful links

www.gov.uk/how-to-resolve-neighbour-disputes/overview
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/problems-where-you-live/neighbour-disputes

(Ed. We recommend that you keep a diary of when the problem/s occurred)

Planning Applications and the Parish Council

Recommendations and responses made by the Parish Council to planning applications are made strictly on the lines of "material considerations" based on the Planning Policies presently in place or under consideration in the Local Plan. Parish Councillors attend training courses run by the District Council and other local government organisations to make them aware of planning issues to be considered when looking at planning applications and are also made aware of topics which are not to be considered material.

In making recommendations and responses, the Parish Council also considers previous planning decisions to try to ensure that all responses are made in a consistent and fair manner for all applicants within the Parish. Personal views do not influence the Parish Council's response. The decisions on planning applications are made either by a delegated decision by the District Council Presenting Officer, who considers all representations made on the planning application, or by the Planning Committee.

Communication to Parishioners

Currently we have the excellent Village Voice, a residents E-mail group, and the village website as communication tools for the Parish. Details of how to sign up to the residents group is on the village website and I would strongly encourage parishioners to sign up. There won't be too many emails, but it would help with getting information like the current devolution consensus or suggestions for local bus hubs out to the maximum number of Parishioners. <http://westwickham.org/community/residents/>

Parish priorities

Trevor Hall leads on our Neighbourhood Plan and we are very appreciative of all the volunteers that are giving up their time and expertise to assist on key elements of this plan. The Parish Council is currently attempting to define the village key priorities going forward and we would welcome your feedback to what you think these should be.

Parish Councillors contact details can be found on <http://westwickham.org/2016-directory/your-representatives/>

Patrick Charlton, Chair West Wickham Parish Council

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH DEVOLUTION

A public consultation has been launched today to gather views on a proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal. The formal consultation follows all the Councils in the area agreeing to sign up to launching a consultation. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough deal follows initial proposals by Government for a deal covering the whole of East Anglia. Details of the consultation can be found by visiting www.scams.gov.uk/devolution or www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/devolutionsurvey or by phoning 03450 450 500

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our gardening year has nearly come to an end, only the Annual Show on 21 August to look forward to.

Our summer outings were affected by the unpredictable weather; the trip to Norfolk was on a very rainy Saturday but none the less very enjoyable. We were luckier when we visited Spencer's at Little Yeldham, the rain stopping for a few hours while we were shown round by the owner. A woodland walk by the river Colne with the sun setting was really magical. It is sometimes difficult for a Club such as ours to spend time together socially so with that in mind we were invited to the garden of Gill and Michael Hicks in Little Saxham. Gill and Mike were for quite a few years active members of the Club. It was a beautiful evening, the garden looked stunning and we enjoyed tea and cake whilst sitting watching the sun set.

Our Annual Show is always worth a visit to see the vegetables, fruit, flowers and produce we have entered and to buy these at knock down prices in the auction. If you have thought about joining us why not come along from 2 p.m. on 21 August, meet some of our members and find out about our talks and activities. Or you can ring me on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Another school year has drawn to a close and what a year it has been! In fact not just what a year it has been, but what a three years! Many of you will remember that in July 2013 we had an Ofsted which moved the school from Outstanding to Special Measures. One of the teachers reminded me of the significance of the date this year and we all took time to reflect on how much has changed since then. Those three years have flown by I realised how much we have actually achieved. I am sure this list isn't exhaustive either!

- An amazing team of dedicated staff who deliver a superb standard of teaching and learning to the children.
- A new Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.
- A broad and balanced curriculum offering differentiated learning.
- New cross curricular topics to interest and inspire the children.
- A new fully implemented assessment without levels system.
- Becoming an Academy alongside Linton Village College, forming the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.
- 8 exciting school productions.
- The best Y6 SATs results the school has ever posted over the past few years, including great results this year in the new system where the expectation and standard had risen considerably.
- Three years of 100% pass in the Year 1 phonics check.
- Amazing Early Years and Year 2 results.
- Half termly 'Reading for Pleasure' sessions.
- A twitter account and a new website.
- Superb presentation using cursive handwriting across the school.
- Visits from other schools and members of the Local Authority to showcase the work we do and our superb teaching and learning. A peer massage programme to promote well-being for the children.
- New clubs established such as our very successful running club.
- Over 25 school trips planned and carried out.
- A new roof on the school to replace the buckets catching the rain in the corridors.
- New windows and external doors that we can now actually open!
- A refurbished school office to ensure a smoother running school.
- A re landscaped Infant outdoor area including, sandpit, stage, mud kitchen, water play area and a woodland walkway.
- New bright Postura coloured chairs that improve sitting position for each child.
- A newly refurbished ICT Suite with 34 PCs in opened by ex pupil and cricketer Tom Westley.
- Establishing our hugely successful Helping Hands days.
- New interactive CleverTouch screens in every classroom.
- Swimming Pool refurbished, including changing rooms painted as beach huts.
- 40 I pads in school (with another 30 on order!)
- New computers for each classroom (to arrive before this September).
- Business and Enterprise sessions – where the children organise sales to raise funds for things or charities.

- 2 fantastic whole school trips.
- The beginning of the transformation of our new forest school area – to be continued in September.
- And who can forget Declan – the real life donkey at the Christmas carol concert in the church.

I am so proud of everything we have achieved over the past few years and feel lucky to work in our school. The hard work and commitment of the staff, pupils and parents shines through and we really are in such a different place to July 2013. Thank you to everyone who has supported our journey thus far. Here's to the next three years!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

August is a very significant month for secondary schools. Despite being closed for the summer break, the publication of GCSE examination results at the end of the month is an important milestone in students' educational journeys.

This is the last year when A*-C grades will be used as a universal attainment measure – next year's new English and maths GCSEs will be graded from 9-1 and other courses will follow suit the next academic year. Whatever the number or letter awarded to qualifications, at LVC we are always really keen to encourage students to go beyond the bare minimum expectations and to be ambitious for themselves. I flinch when I hear students making comments such as 'I only need 3 'C's for my college course' when they are capable of much more. While GCSE grades are only one rather narrow measure of educational success it is important that students achieve the best that they can.

League table measures are also changing this year to recognise the progress of all learners. Existing headline statistics give a great amount of attention to the percentage of students achieving 5 A*-C grades including English and maths without giving any attention to students' starting points. The focus on the C/D borderline has been the cause of low aspiration among some groups of students and unethical practices with some schools targeting support to students who 'count' more.

Last year at LVC we opted into the new achievement measure, Progress 8, a year early. We welcome the move to focus on all students and their relative progress across all subjects, rather than the narrow view of a threshold that does not reflect the success of the whole cohort. Although, like many other benchmarks, Progress 8 has its limitations, we appreciate the more holistic view that it takes of all students' performance across eight subjects.

We look forward to celebrating individuals' achievements and hard work on 25 August and will be keen to recognise those individuals who have made the most significant progress during their time at LVC, not just those with the highest grades.

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 August

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