

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

SEPTEMBER 2016

ISSUE 161

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 3 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00. Linton Village College
- Sun 4 All ages service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 5 **Parish Nurse meeting. 7pm, Village Hall. See page 1.**
- Tue 6 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 7 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 11 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 13 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 14 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 16 **Deadline for items for the October issue of the Village Voice**
- Sun 18 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 19 **Gardening Club AGM. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 20 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 21 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 24 **Daisy Chains Pre-School BINGO NIGHT. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See page 2.**
- Sun 25 **Harvest Songs of Praise, with the Salvation Army. 3pm, St Mary's Church**
- Mon 26 **Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.**
- Tue 27 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 28 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Daisy Chains Pre-School meets**
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) 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
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.

PARISH NURSE

The PCC of St Mary's Church West Wickham has agreed to hold a public meeting on 5 September at 7pm at the 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.

WEST WICKHAM VEHICLE SPEEDWATCH

Three members of the relaunched West Wickham Speedwatch team have been trained by Cambridge Police and vehicle speed monitoring activities within the parish will start in the near future. If you are interested in taking part in this important activity and could join the team please get in touch using the email address below. The larger the team, the more speed monitoring we can carry out.

Simon Blackwell, Email: simon.f.blackwell@gmail.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Once again a wonderful display of vegetables, flowers, jam, chutney, liqueurs and cakes etc. were on display at West Wickham & District Gardening Club's Annual Show on 20 August. Everyone who entered should be proud of their effort and it was great that the Show attracted a number of new exhibitors and that there were new winners of several of the trophies.

The cup and trophy winners were:

The Children's Trophy: Ernest Spencer.

The West Wrattling Cup for vegetables & fruit: Rosemary Yallop.

The White Horse Trophy for cut flowers & plants: Janet Morris.

The Stan & Hilda Cox cup for domestic classes: Sue Kiddy.

The West Wickham Star Baker: Amy Morris.

The Bill Pearson Cup for the most points in Show was won by Rosemary Yallop, with Sue Kiddy & Jean Martin runners up.

The RHS Banksian Medal was won by Rosemary Yallop.

I enjoyed it; I know those who came to see the show were impressed by what they saw. Those who were not able to come missed a very good display, so don't miss next year's Show.

Andrew Morris, Show Organiser.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 18 July the following were some of the items discussed.

Matters arising:

1. Dean Road hedging – This was looked at by Cllr. Licence with Melanie Lang, Parish Clerk for Horseheath and photos were taken which were submitted to the County Council Highways Dept. They replied they would further investigate it and would do the work, if necessary.
2. Signage repairs: Despite an email being sent to the County Council Highways Dept in June nothing has been done to replace or repair various signs. They will be written to again.
3. Flooding: No.1 High St. has again been flooded due to blocked drains. These are the responsibility of the County Council Highways Dept and they have been notified.

Traffic issues:

1. Simon Blackwell told Council that with regard to the speedwatch monitoring there were now 7 volunteers who would be trained to use the equipment. There are two “hot spots” one at Burton End and the other by the Church. Options would be to move the 30mph signs further out of the village and to have a 30mph speed limit continue from West Wickham through to Streetly End. This would be costly but an application to the Wadlow Wind Farm Fund for funding might be possible.
2. A request for a “concealed entrance” sign to be placed outside 49 Streetly End would be made by the Parish Clerk.

Broadband: Cllr. Schuilenburg reported that a new cabinet has been put in at Burton End. This was thought to be sited badly and could possibly get knocked down. Another one will be installed in front of the Village Hall.

(Ed. We understand representatives from both Connecting Cambridgeshire & BT will be providing updates at the Parish Council meeting on 26 September)

Planning:

1. S/1355/16/FL - ~W Stone. Change of use of stables to a single dwelling (recommend refusal).
2. S/0993/16/FL – C. Norman, single dwelling 39-47 High Street (withdrawn).

Finance: The Internal Audit had been received and there were no issues.

Neighbourhood Plan: Before applying for a grant to cover costs it was necessary to decide on which professional services would be needed and Cllr. Hall said he and his group would be looking into this.

Maintenance: The Parish Clerk was asked to find out which Council (District or County) should be cutting the grass verges as the height of grass is impeding the driver’s view. Cllr. Licence spoke about three bad areas of pavement two of which have been painted yellow, meaning they will be repaired but the worst one had been left out and she had emailed the County Council Highways Dept about this.

Playground report: Cllr. Plumb had received the annual inspection report from Wickstead which was mainly satisfactory. He would deal with the one or two minor issues. The gate into the play area is being changed to stop dog walkers going through this area.

Dog Noise: There have been complaints received about continuously barking dogs causing neighbours stress. The Chairman would put an item in the Village Voice about this issue (Ed. Published in the August issue).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 26 September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurlow Hunt Kennel Open Day. Sunday 11 September. 2pm onwards at Wadgelis Farm, Sowley Green, Gt Thurlow. Entry free. Tour of kennels, dog show, pony rides, farriery demonstration, ferrets & dogs. Tea & cakes, BBQ, ice cream.

Weston Colville ‘Pub’ Quiz. We’re holding a ‘Pub’ Quiz in the Reading Room on Wednesday 21 September at 8pm. Up to 4 per team, prize for winners, entry £2 per person. Wine, lager, cider and draft ale. All welcome. Enquiries: 291475 jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

Weston Colville Circular Walk. Our next circular walk will be on Saturday, 1 October: meet at the Reading Room at 10am, 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. Enquiries—see above.

Meadow School Craft, Gift & Food Fair. 8 & 9 October. 10.30am - 4pm The Meadow School, Balsham. Entrance £2.00 adults (includes tea/coffee), 50p under 16’s.

Autumn Concert in aid of St. Andrew’s Church, West Wrattling. Saturday 8 October. 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. An exciting programme of choral & instrumental music. Tickets £12.00, children free. Tickets available from Balsham & Weston Colville Post Offices or Michael Gorman. T: 290653



BINGO
night
Lots of Great Prizes
West Wickham
Village Hall
Saturday 24th Sept 7.30 for 8pm start
Bar & Raffle
Tickets £3 - includes one free game

Daisy Chains
Pre-School West Wickham

All proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham

Tickets available from:
Daisy Chains Pre-School West Wickham or on the door.

NATURE NOTES

Walking beside Rands Wood we were struck by the number of dragonflies in the air above our heads, frequently leaving their perches and making forays out above the wheat, showing their incredible versatility in the air when in search of prey. Unfortunately they were not close enough to identify more specifically but did a passable impression of a scene from the Battle of Britain.

Talking of which, Lyn Kimble contacted me to express her concern at the recent decision of the Civil Aviation Authority to allow testing of drones (not bees, but metal contraptions) in the fields around Balsham. A newspaper article referred to the dangers to birds, particularly buzzards, and also long-eared owls, which were said to nest in the area. I would be interested to hear if anyone else knows about the long-eared owls, about which I am somewhat sceptical, but as a confirmed technophobe I certainly share Lyn's concerns about the drones.

Like me, Di has been thinking about insects this month *August is butterfly month, (did you take part in the 'Big Butterfly Count'?). They are everywhere, mostly flitting in the long grass and settling on the late summer flower heads, enjoying the sunshine. There are three brown and orange ones that are fairly common and frequent our fields. They are the meadow brown, the largest and dullest; the hedge brown or gatekeeper, smaller with brighter orange patches, which will sometimes stay still long enough for identification and the tiny skippers, which have a very distinctive rapid flight. The footpath at the July racecourse at Newmarket has clouds of beautiful chalk hill blue butterflies amongst the harebells and field scabious and the many other flowers that grow on the chalk grassland. If you only walk 100yds from the car park, (but it is well worth walking further) you will see them. [I can add to the chalkhill blues a couple of sightings of the brown argus, a handsome little brown butterfly with orange spots round the rim of its wings, which can be confused with the female common blue] Two other brown butterflies seen regularly in the wildlife area are the ringlet, a dark brown beauty and the lovely speckled wood.*

As we lurch headlong into autumn, the hedgerows are beginning to change, the high flying screeching swifts have flown south already, and swallows are beginning to gather on the wires. The brambles are shedding their flowers for berries, the red mountain ash berries at the Village Hall are an amazing colour, and already the blackbirds are eating them. The horse chestnut trees have conkers forming and the hazel trees also have a good crop of nuts. Bullfinches are back eating the honeysuckle berries in the garden, and the spiders are back. The fat bodied, orb web and garden spiders, with stripy legs. Where do they go to in the summer? They are busy constructing their webs among the bramble bushes and grasses. There is an amazing funnel web spider web in our greenhouse, which not only spreads horizontally across the ground, but is also about two foot high, a vertical sheet of web, suspended by a few silk strands from the roof. He sits in the entrance waiting for his unsuspecting prey. A nightmare indeed for arachnophobes!

One insect that appears to be worryingly absent so far this year is the wasp – perhaps welcome for those who like to sit outside with a glass of something. But wasps are an important part of the ecosystem as pollinators and recyclers of waste, so don't be too happy about it.

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

FROM THE VICARAGE (I)

Seven years ago Canon Woolley had left the Balsham Rectory and the four parishes he had been serving were in an interregnum or vacancy. Until the Revd. Dr. Julie Norris was appointed to succeed him we had a period of waiting.

Seven years later it is all happening again! Julie has been encouraged by both of our Diocesan bishops to take an eighteen month sabbatical to write a book which our national church needs urgently. Julie's doctorate was on the topic of the ethics linked to advances in medical research, and she is being asked to go to the next stage and write a book on the same subject. New medical procedures are being announced on a regular basis, and there is a need for careful study about their use. Will they be used in a way that is acceptable? There will be a whole range of similar questions that need much thought and careful answers.

Meanwhile we are beginning a new interregnum, and our churchwardens will be composing a profile of our seven churches group, outlining the needs which the new Priest-in-charge will have to fulfil. They will do this with the guidance of the Archdeacon of Cambridge, and then the search will begin for Julie's replacement. The ministry team which has been led by Julie includes the Revd Kathy Bishop, Steven Wheeler, Rosemary Mead, Keith Day and myself, with the assistance of the Revd. Dr. Carrie Pemberton Ford and Revd. John Pinder. We also have the invaluable ministry of our Parish Nurse, Teresa Letimier who joined our team in January.

Julie's legacy includes spearheading the project to appoint a Parish Nurse, and the adoption of the policy of Ely Diocese to make every parish church open and equipped for the use of the surrounding community. Under Julie's leadership three of our seven churches, Hildersham, West Wickham, and (to be completed in October) Great Abington have already been converted for use in this way, with toilets and kitchen facilities. The plans for Balsham include constructing a Parish Room at the west end with toilets, and the funding for this is also almost complete. Weston Colville church has had a new nave floor, opening the church up for community use and a new heating system for the Chancel. West Wrating suffered a theft of lead from its roof in April and the Church Council are doing everything they can to complete repairs before the winter weather.

What we can all do is to support all those involved in taking our services in the coming vacancy with our prayers. It is vitally important that the right person is called to serve as our new Priest-in-charge, and so your prayers matter probably far more than you can ever realise.

Keith Johnson

'WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING'

Broadcaster Libby Purves, Rev Prof Alasdair Coles and the Bishop of Huntingdon, engaging in a conversation about the spiritual issues around end of life, care of the dying and support of the bereaved. This is a health awareness event and is free to attend. Monday 3 October, 7.00pm (talk starts at 7.30pm) at the Meadow School, Balsham.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Having spent the end of the summer holidays celebrating the achievements of our outgoing Year 11 students, we start the new academic year by welcoming a new cohort of students into Year 7. What both groups will appreciate, from experiencing significant examination periods in the summer term, is that the process of being tested is also a test of character; it examines resolve, focus, discipline, resilience and work ethic.

Academic success doesn't rely on genetic ability and very few students are able to excel in terminal assessments without the help of effective preparation through revision and, more importantly, the acquisition of understanding and positive learning habits through their school careers.

We are proud of this summer's GCSE results at LVC. However, we are even prouder of the people behind this percentage: the students that not only achieved excellent value added in terms of their progress scores, but developed strong values and character during their time with us.

While qualifications are important, colleges and employers do not simply appoint applicants on the basis of grades; candidates' attitudes are just as important as their aptitudes. Communication, team work and initiative and flexibility feature highly in employability surveys. Furthermore, success, happiness and fulfilment in life depend on much more than test outcomes.

In consultation with students, parents and governors, the Junior Leadership Team at LVC are in the process of formally launching The Linton Learner: a new code of conduct for students that recognises the behaviours that we value, teach, endorse and reward at Linton Village College. The learning attributes listed below are the key characteristics that we seek to promote to help students to develop into successful learners and well-rounded young people:

**Caring Curious Reflective Responsible
Ambitious Independent**

While it is crucial that students leave school with great academic outcomes representing excellent achievement and progress, it is even more important that they develop character traits that will equip them with the ability to adapt, thrive and succeed in life.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICE FLU CLINIC'S

Flu jabs are recommended for everyone age 65 and over and for those in clinical at-risk groups. Once again we will be running flu clinics on three Saturday mornings starting on 8 October. We are taking bookings now.

Children aged 2, 3 & 4 on 1 September and those in the at-risk group are eligible to receive the nasal spray vaccine.

The shingles vaccine is also available to people who will be aged 70-73 and 78-79 on 1 September 2016. This is a one off vaccine that that can be given at the same time as the flu jab, we cannot give this to anyone over 80 years.

Meningitis ACWY vaccine can be given to anyone under 25 years of age who will actually start university this year or who were born between 1/9/1997 and 31/8/1998. Please make an appointment in a routine nurse's weekday clinic.

FROM THE VICARAGE (II)

From Rev Julie Norris for the last time as Priest in Charge of the seven churches.

Dear All

It was really moving to be part of last Sunday's Service with so many of my colleagues taking their part. Before the service began, at the back of the Church I listened to the bell ringers welcoming us to worship and then the Seven Churches Choir sang one of my favourite pieces of music which are words by Lancelot Andrews set to music by Rutter. It has been such a privilege to work with Very Rev Keith Johnson, Rev Kathy Bishop, Steven Wheeler, Keith Day, Rosemary Mead and Parish Nurse, Teresa Letimier along with Cathy Myer and Gill Parry Brown who, along with Andrew Westwood-Bate have started training for leadership roles in the future. There are also new people who have recently joined the team. Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford has begun to take services in the group and her ministry is already appreciated. As I leave, I know that you are in good hands with this delightful team who will not just keep things going, but continue to make their own mark.

I was also moved by the generosity of words, gifts and cards which were extended to me. What beautiful and lovely gifts. I take these away to trigger the many rich memories of conversations, activities, events and services that we have shared together. I feel that I have been very blessed to have been here with you at this time. Thank you.

All this came after a lovely Garden Party. The weather was perfect, the numbers who came were better than ever, and it was all made possible by the remarkable effort of so many people who gave time and energy not just to setting up, running the stalls, but also to clearing up and finding new homes for the car boots full of books and children's toys which have accumulated each year in the Vicarage Garage. And more than £800 was raised.

Now as we turn our energy into sorting, packing and moving, I will hold onto my memories of you and your encouragement, which will be a great help on any day when I feel that the book is book is hard to write.

Rev Dr Julie Norris

NEW OR USED POST CARDS STAMPED OR UNSTAMPED (Please leave stamps on)

Postcards are urgently needed to sell at Postcard Fairs in order to raise money for the Church in South Sudan and Sudan where life is very tough with renewed fighting. If you have any postcards you can part with please contact Joanna Sanders

T: 01223 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 September

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