

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2017

ISSUE 165

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
United Parishes' Service. 10.00, Balsham Church
- Wed 4 **Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) Collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 9 **Local History Club. Childhood: Bring along a bygone. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 10 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 **Gardening Club. Rethinking your garden. Talk by Andrew Sankey-Smith. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Deadline for items for the February issue of the Village Voice
- Tue 17 Blue wheeled bin collection
- Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 22 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 23 **Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend**
- Tue 24 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 29 United Parishes' Service. 10.00, Great Abington Church
- Tue 31 Blue & green wheeled bin collection

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.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Connecting Cambridgeshire let the broadband@westwickham.org mailing list know on 16 December that the new green telephone cabinet opposite the village hall, designated *West Wrattling 7*, is anticipated to go live in late December or early January 2017. This will serve premises in the centre of the village and those towards St Mary's Church. The other new green telephone cabinet at the north-east entrance to the village at Burton End, designated *West Wrattling 5*, still has power issues which are likely to be resolved by late February 2017 although this date may move forward. This will cabinet primarily serve premises in Burton End and towards the Village Hall. Further updates on *West Wrattling 5* will be available in the February edition of the Village Voice.

As the existing copper telephone cables are being used to provide the Superfast Broadband service and because these cables run alongside the road from *West Wrattling 5*, down Burton End, along the High Street and towards St Mary's Church, this means that premises between the Village Hall and St Mary's Church are likely to be served by *West Wrattling 7*. These residents therefore will be able to order Superfast Broadband from their ISPs early in January 2017. Premises from the Village Hall towards Burton End are likely to be served by *West Wrattling 5* and therefore will have to wait until the power issues are resolved towards the end of February 2017. Connecting Cambridgeshire report they are working with BT and BT Openreach at the highest level to try to resolve these issues as soon as possible.

You can still sign up to the broadband mailing list to receive updates by sending an empty message to broadband-request@westwickham.org with the subject "subscribe". Alternatively, you can sign up with Connecting Cambridgeshire at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/contact/ to receive an update when the cabinet you are served by becomes live.

Lastly, while BT OpenReach are installing the Superfast Broadband infrastructure, you are not obliged to order Superfast Broadband from BT when you are finally able to do so. In fact I strongly recommend you do your own research and shop around for the ISP which best suits your own requirements and budget, and watch out if you are still locked into an existing contract. There are numerous ISPs with high quality ratings available, the A-Z ranges from Andrews & Arnold ISP, Aquis Internet through to Zen Internet.

Alex Schuilenburg

BEWARE THERE ARE THIEVES ABOUT!

The Police have reported that a lot of burglaries have taken place recently, including two in this village. Sheds and vehicles are being targeted, with bikes and power tools being the most common items stolen. ARE YOU SECURE? The easiest way to identify any home security improvements you may need to make is to complete the self-assessment survey on the Cambridgeshire Police website:

http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/GetCloser/interactiveTool/Interactive_Crime_Prevention.html

It will only take a few minutes and based on your answers it will show what further preventative steps could help.

If you have any further queries please contact your local Crime Reduction Officer by calling 101.

FROM THE VICARAGE

On behalf of the Ministry team of our group of Seven Churches I send our greetings and best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year!

During the autumn all our churches have been busily composing the Profile, the document required by Ely Diocese as we search for our new Priest-in-charge to replace Dr. Julie Norris. That search, using the Profile, is now just about to begin. The good news is that Canon Jessica Martin who left the Duxford group of parishes in August at the same time as Julie left us, has already been replaced with the appointment of the Revd Petra Shakeshaft. Also the vacancy for an assistant priest in the Linton group of churches has now been filled by the appointment of the Revd. Dr. Ian Fisher. This doesn't mean that we will expect an appointment very soon, but it certainly brought cheer to the members of our team of clergy and lay ministers as we survived the Christmas rush!

In an earlier letter I explained the history of our group of churches. We came together in 2009 when the Bishop of Ely agreed that Julie Norris could become Priest-in-charge, bringing together in a single group the four churches of the Balsham group and the group of three churches, the two Abington churches and Hildersham as a full-time post.

Under Julie's ministry and hard work we have grown together and a great deal has been achieved in improving the churches as centres equipped for use by everyone in our villages. This was well demonstrated in the time between Remembrance Sunday and Christmas when so many people took part in our services. Further good news is that as a result of a lot of hard work and fund-raising the people of St. Andrew's West Wrattling have managed to organise the repairs to their church roof after the tragic lead theft last April. There has been amazing generosity both from individuals and charities. The St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council has done an amazing job.

As I have said, we send you our greetings for 2017. May it be a good year for us all, and especially may it bring us our new priest to carry on the work begun by Julie.

Keith Johnson

WHATS ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Weston Colville Cinema Club. On 4 January we're taking Cinema Club's first adventure into sci fi with a 1972 film. *Silent Running* has been suggested by one of our regulars and inspired such later films as *Battlestar Galactica* and *Star Wars*. Set in a future world in which plants have become extinct, our hero botanist tenderly tends the few specimens remaining, in domes just outside the orbit of Saturn. Cue a brand of sci fi that's both haunting and comic, with acclaimed effects and soundtrack. 7.30pm in the Reading Room, refreshments available, all welcome.

From Michelin in Mayfair to Commercial Model Making. Steven Wheeler will give a talk in Weston Colville Reading Room about his work. To give you a flavour of what might be in store, the day I write this he's working on 'a Venus fly trap and a scorpion for someone to wear'. Thursday 26 January, 7.30pm. Refreshments available, all welcome. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

NATURE NOTES

The trouble with having an otter as the star performer one month is that it is a difficult act to follow. A snow leopard possibly, or maybe a crocodile? I guess we just have to be satisfied with the otter for the time being. In any case, Di has been talking to Len and he remembers, as a child, groups of men and dogs – otter hounds – going hunting in the local ditches. Thankfully times have changed and we place more of a value on this beautiful mammal, although we also have to remember that otters are highly efficient predators, so as always, it depends on your point of view.

Another creature that has been spreading through the country in recent decades is the little egret, which is a white, heron-like bird. I spotted a couple within the parish flying around over Dean Road. The next day they were standing near the stream which is crossed by the Roman Road near Mark's Grave. In previous years I have seen egrets in Hildersham and Haverhill but these were the first I had seen in West Wickham. Di has received several reports of barn owls, *mostly along and around Dean Road and up towards Bottle Hall. Barn owls are struggling, with numbers dwindling, due to a lack of suitable nest sites. Modern barns don't have the same access points or cosy rafters for them to nest on, but they obviously have found a territory and home around here. They have a lovely golden brown plumage when stationary, but when flying they appear white and ghost-like, especially when flying towards you with wings outstretched.* We were visited by a female sparrowhawk recently. She sat on the fence staring furiously through the kitchen window at us with her yellow eyes. I went for the camera, but just as I was about to click, she flew off.

As we said last month, the visiting thrush family (redwings and fieldfares) have been taking full advantage of the berry crop and Di comments that there have been a lot of blackbirds too, doing the same thing, but not in a mixed flock. Blackbirds do migrate, so those you see in your garden in the summer are likely to be replaced in winter months by their northern cousins. Di also asks '*Has anyone seen a waxwing yet? The experts tell us it is a good year, so keep eyes peeled for these handsome birds. They too like our hedgerow berries, but are not so flighty as the thrushes, tending to fly on to the next bush, rather than away when disturbed.*' I was once told that the best place to see waxwings is in Tesco car parks, as Tesco's planting regime is just what the waxwings want.

Apart from a brief cold spell at the beginning of the month, it has been another unseasonably mild December and nature has responded to the mildness. I've heard a song thrush in full voice singing from the Old Vicarage on a couple of occasions, the odd dandelion and chamomile are in flower, and Sue saw a bat flying as she returned from her evening dog walk. Insects are normally quiet in December but I walked through a cloud of tiny flying creatures the other day and the butterflies that had been hibernating in our house were fluttering at the window.

Keep watching and listening for wildlife everyone, and let us know what you see and hear. What will 2017 have in store?

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 November 2016 the following items were some of the issues discussed.

Matters arising:

- a. Dean Road/A1307: Funding has been allocated by Cambridge County Council for cutting back the trees at this junction and the work will be done in this financial year.
- b. Dean Road/Mill Road/Balsham crossroads: The County Council has agreed to dig out the grips as there has been flooding at this location on several occasions. Following on from this it was agreed that a plan showing respective responsibilities for roadside ditches, hedges and grips between Highways authority, Environment Agency and Landowner would be beneficial.
- c. Overhanging branches in Maypole Croft have been cut back and BT is not now concerned about interference with the telephone lines. Branches in the High St also required attention and Cllr. Licence would raise this with the land owner.
- d. Recreation field hedging: The recent cut by CGM had been carried out satisfactorily.

Planning:

S/2821/16/FL: 34 Streetly End: Proposed annex replacing a garage and outbuilding. Supported by PC but application withdrawn.

S/2334/16/FL: Spring View (between 98 & 100) High St: Single story extension. Supported by PC and approved by SCDC.

Finance: Details of authorised payments and monies received are shown in the draft minutes posted on the Noticeboard. The Chairman thanked the editors, distributors and contributors to Village Voice for their hard work in keeping the village informed of events and issues.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cambridgeshire ACRE has been appointed to conduct the Housing Needs Survey. The survey documents will be delivered to all households in early January and collected after 16 January. There will be a drop-in meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday 14 January to answer any queries regarding the survey. Contact details of people outside the village wishing to return were needed so they could also be supplied with the Housing Needs Survey form.

Maintenance: Gritting: The pavements of the High Street round to the Church and Maypole Croft will be gritted by volunteers who will be supplied with wheelbarrows. Cllr. Licence volunteered to cover the section from Maypole Croft down the south-east side of the High Street as far as the Village Hall. Cllr. Schuilenburg has organised this with Council Council. More volunteers will be needed to complete the gritting programme. (Ed. Contact Alex Shuilenburg on 290084 if you can help).

Allotments: There is a vacant half allotment available for letting. (Ed. If you are interested in renting this allotment contact the Parish Clerk, contact details below).

Local Forum Meetings: Cllrs Hall and Schuilenburg have attended two meetings and commented on the positive outcome, e.g. highways issues resulting in action being taken or planned for. The Council discussed the possibility of sharing interactive speed signs with other Parish Councils. Speedwatch would resume once equipment became available again.

Playground: Some minor maintenance is to be carried out in order to comply with RoSPA recommendations.

Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr. Schuilenburg had attended a Neighbourhood Watch conference and circulated a summary. Information packs giving safety and security details and front door stickers to deter cold callers were available and it was agreed that a number should be obtained and made available to anyone in the village via their nearest Councillor.

The date of next Parish Council meeting is Monday 23 January 2017, all are welcome.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk).

West Lodge, 88 High St. Balsham. T: 01223 665260

email: j.richards597@btinternet.com



**THE MEADOW SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

*Summer
Balsham
Ball*

— ON —
SATURDAY
JULY 8TH 2017
— AT —
CHILFORD HALL

More information and tickets on sale in the new year.
www.balshamball.co.uk

DIG4?

Since 2013 we have dug 28 test pits across the village in our attempt to find something about medieval settlement. 36 to 40 pits would give us a better representative number, so we are looking for areas in either Burton End or on the east side of Streetly End to dig some more test pits over the weekend of 15/16 July 2017.

You don't have to dig a test pit yourself if you don't want to, we have a core of volunteers, but if you can offer us somewhere to dig a test pit in either of the areas above I would be grateful if you could get in touch as soon as possible. You will be helping us find out more about the history of the village and it's a lot of fun.

Janet Morris. West Wickham & District Local History Club. T; 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

We will be starting the new year not only looking forward to all of the exciting things ahead, but also reflecting back on the very happy memories of the events that brought our school community together in December.

Our Infants treated us to a spectacular performance of Hey Ewe, which was based around a curious sheep and the Christmas story. As ever the audience was amazed at the range of songs that the staff manage to fit into a nativity production. To name but a few Steps 5, 6, 7, 8, Rizzlekicks starring Shaun the Sheep, Don't Stop Believing by Journey and Mariah Carey All I Want for Christmas is you. I will leave how they fit in to your imagination!

The Key Stage 2 children and staff also had their chance to shine with the candlelit carol service in the church. The church was packed with standing room only. With Year 6 leading the readings telling the story of Christmas and Reverend Kathy kindly overseeing the whole evening it was a huge success. After a selection of traditional and modern Christmas Carols being sung the parents and children were served refreshments courtesy of the Parent Teacher Association including mulled wine and mince pies. It was a perfect opportunity for staff to chat to families and for friends who hadn't seen each other for a while to reunite and catch up. We were delighted that Mrs Sarah Bassett was able to play the piano for both Hey Ewe and the Carol Concert. It was greatly appreciated by the staff and children. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their dedication and commitment over the last 12 months. We have a fantastic team at The Meadow, one I am incredibly proud to work with. Likewise, we are incredibly lucky with our community. Our parents have once again supported us without hesitation. I know everyone is looking forward to the year ahead and when they finally arrive, showing Ofsted how amazing our school is!

As we begin the New Year we start looking forward to the times ahead. This term the topics and learning for each phase of school change. The Infants have jumped aboard a ship and are preparing for, 'Life on an Ocean Wave'. They will visit the London Aquarium in the next few days which will provide them with so much stimulus for the coming months in studying life under the sea and then pirates who live on the sea.

The Year 3/4/5 team will be studying, 'Into the Freezer'. They are starting their topic with a trip to The Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, learning all about the different polar regions, conditions, landscape and who or what lives there.

Finally, our oldest children in Years 5/6 will be travelling the furthest, to the opposite of climes and studying Africa! They will be considering the different countries that make up the continent, lifestyles, landscapes and climate along with art and culture. Sadly due to budgetary constraints they won't be going on a trip to Africa but they will hopefully be having an African based workshop!

We look forward to sharing more of our learning with the community over the coming year. Please do get in touch with us if you could help enrich our learning or share some knowledge relating to one of our topics with us.

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

POO ON THE PAVEMENT!

Yes, someone let their dog foul the pavement, AND THEN left it there. PLEASE PICK IT UP.

Di Licence

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The advent of a new calendar year brings opportunities for reflection and ambition, two of the core Linton Learner values. For me, the date holds particular significance as it marks a year since I started as Principal of Linton Village College and Executive Principal of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.

A recent piece of research into leadership styles published in the Harvard Business Review identified five types of head teachers: philosophers, surgeons, accountants, soldiers and architects. Each has their own characteristics; some enact immediate, short-term change, others take a long-term strategic view. I recognise myself as a philosophising architect.

I recall a question posed to me by the student panel at interview: 'What has been your proudest achievement to date?' I expect that they were expecting me to share a specific, impressive accomplishment; my answer was 'lots of little things'.

In my inaugural LVC News, I challenged the notion that effective leadership had to involve bold, resolute change and asserted my intention to maintain what is great about LVC, do more of what works well and reduce less successful elements.

Reflecting on 2016 at LVC and across the Trust, there has been a great deal of refining and re-defining - my first year has definitely been more of an evolution than a revolution.

Our Year 11 students are currently in the process of submitting applications for post-16 study. A key element has been writing personal statements including their motivations, achievements, skills and ambitions for the future. Despite belonging to a selfie generation, many of our young people have found this kind of self-promotion uncomfortable.

2016 was an interesting year in terms of leadership role models for them. While at school we promote the virtues of hard graft and grit, our students have witnessed the power of personality and popularity on the world's stage. Although charisma and entertainment value may encourage a following, let's hope that our young people recognise that substance is more important than style.

John Dunford's 4 Hs make for a very helpful blueprint for leadership and wider success in life: hope, humanity, humility and humour.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 January

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