

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2017

ISSUE 166

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 5 All ages service. 9.30, St Mary's Church  
Tue 7 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 13 **Local History Club. 1947 Fen Floods.**  
**Talk by Mike Petty. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 14 **Blue wheeled bin collection only**  
Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
**Thur 16 Deadline for items for the March issue of the Village Voice**  
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 20 **Gardening Club. Wildflower meadows.**  
**Talk by Richard Arnott. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 21 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Fri 24 **Daisy Chains Pre-School QUIZ NIGHT. 8pm, Village Hall**  
Sun 26 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 27 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.

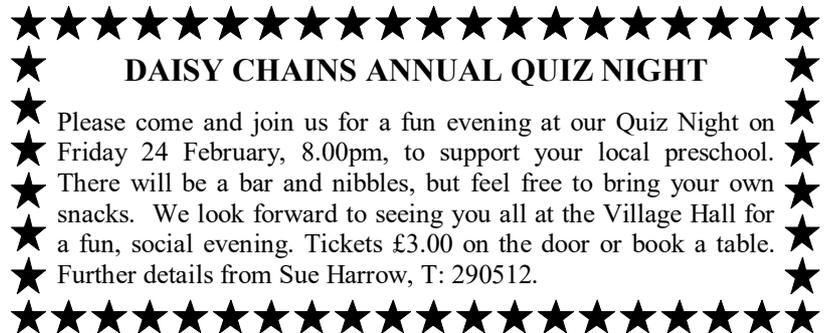
### Village Hall rates (for Village use):

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](mailto:bookings@westwickham.org)  
or visit [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

The Village Voice is sponsored by West Wickham Parish Council and delivered free to all households in West Wickham and Streetly End. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.



## DAISY CHAINS ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

Please come and join us for a fun evening at our Quiz Night on Friday 24 February, 8.00pm, to support your local preschool. There will be a bar and nibbles, but feel free to bring your own snacks. We look forward to seeing you all at the Village Hall for a fun, social evening. Tickets £3.00 on the door or book a table. Further details from Sue Harrow, T: 290512.

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

I mentioned at the Carol Service on Christmas Eve that we have received the quinquennial report from our new church architect, Helen Axworthy. This is a very thorough report which describes the condition of the entire building and surrounds. It also categorises the degree of urgency. The question I specifically put to her was what we need to do before we redecorate the interior. She has come up with a comprehensive list of areas that need repair which are largely the coping stones on the east end abutments and the gable end. She is also recommending that the ground level be lowered at the east end where there are graves right up to the wall and that surface drains are put in to match the rest of the church surrounds. She has given us a ballpark figure to work to of approximately £25000. Getting the various permissions for all this will take time, particularly relating to moving the Kettle/ Pearson graves from C1900.

Marcus Cornish, Church Warden

## SAVE THE DATE

This year by popular demand! The Church Garden Fete will be held at Manor Farm on Saturday 24 June. Those of you who have helped in the past cannot escape so please put the date in your diary.

- We need more volunteers to help run stalls please
- If you would like to run your own stall and take the profit by giving the church a fee book your pitch well in advance
- Please start sorting out Bric a Brac, children's toys, books, bottles and raffle prizes etc

We need your help this year more than ever before as we have repairs to the church that we have to do (see above), so thank you in advance for your support.

Nicky Cornish. Email: [nicolacornish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicolacornish@hotmail.co.uk)



## First Village Hub Night

Come to the Village Hall on Saturday 25 March for a social evening.

Charity bar, beer specially brewed locally for the occasion (or bring your own drink and make a donation) and music. Bring a friend and come and meet people from the village.

Doors open 7pm until 11PM

## FROM THE VICARAGE

January is nearly over and often can seem a dark depressing month. Take heart *"The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour."* - Vita Sackville-West

Maybe this is an encouragement for us to take a breath to stop and stare so that the world does not pass us by at break neck speed. Living life minute by minute seems like a dream but we can revel in those precious moments that come to us unexpectedly. The birth of a grandchild or watching lambs being born. Moments that take our breath away. Savour them and put them in a memory box for later.

Just to back track to the Christmas period, I am pleased to say that the services were well attended and in the lead up to Christmas there was a variety of Christmas events with LVC and Meadow Primary school concerts that were excellent. I hope that there will be more occasions when Balsham church can be used for their benefit.

Reports from the Abingtons and Hildersham have been encouraging. The crib service and the traditional nine lessons and carols which Keith Day led at Hildersham were a particular highlight. Rosemary Mead has been encouraging young mums and families to come to church at the Abingtons with great success. The two choir groups in Abington sang at their carol service to a full church.

I would like to thank all of those who decorated the 7 churches, cleaned them and rang the bells in celebration of the birth of the Christ child; not forgetting those who have worked so industriously to enhance our churchyards.

On Sunday 8 January a successful service for Plough Sunday was taken by Gill Parry Brown at Balsham who had enlisted the help of quite a few ploughmen to assist with the carrying of the plough to the front of the church to be blessed for the following year. It is really good to connect with the farming community remembering their dependence on God for a good harvest.

Looking ahead I am able to say that the parish profile is almost ready to be sent to the archdeacon for him to read. The church wardens have worked very hard on our behalf to ensure we are in a good place to attract a new priest in charge replacing Julie.

A Joint Service is being held with the URC on Sunday 19 February, 2.30pm at the URC chapel in Lt Abington. Everyone is warmly welcome to come along.

Rev. Kathy

## CAROL SINGING

Very many thanks to those who came out carol singing just before Christmas, to Marcus and Nicky for their hospitality and to all those who donated to our collection. Despite several sore throats in the group, we managed to sing loudly enough to raise £181.49 for the Small Community Warden Scheme run by Age UK. The warden visits several people in our village, providing a highly valued service, and the funds to help support this are very much appreciated by Age UK.

Georgina Magin

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

We have updated and added to our page on the village website <[westwickham.org](http://westwickham.org)>. You will now find a brief history of the village, the story behind the village sign and the names on the war memorial, so do have a look and let us know what you think. There will also be a link to our new website entirely dedicated to our community archaeology project (from the Big Village Dig to Dig4). This is still under development so watch this space for more details soon.

We are pleased to welcome back Mike Petty, for many years librarian of the Cambridgeshire Collection and columnist for the *Cambridge News*, to give this month's talk:

### *The 1947 Fen Floods*

**Monday 13 February**

**7.30pm Village Hall**

All are welcome although there is a small charge (£2) for non-members.

### **DIG4 15 & 16 July**

We are still looking for a couple of sites in the Burton End area in which to put test pits. You can dig this yourself with family and friends (instruction will be given) or we can provide diggers if you can offer a spot. All work will once again be overseen by archaeologist, Mathew Morris. Please get in touch as soon as possible if you can help.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street

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

## WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Spring is hopefully on the way, so do you feel like doing something new? For gentle exercise and good company, why not come along and try carpet bowls? It's a game suitable for all abilities, quick to pick up and develop new skills. We meet every Wednesday in the Village Hall from 7pm to about 9.30pm. We don't take the game too seriously and do not play in a league but we do play friendly matches against other local clubs (about once a month) which is fun and means you meet a lot of new people.

For further details contact Captain, Eric Ellam, 290357 or Secretary, Janet Morris, 290863

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 16 January we were pleased to welcome Andrew Sankey to talk to us on "Rethinking your Garden". This was a very informative talk, giving us many tips on how to redesign your garden to make it appealing to the eye: pathways with a feature at the far end; using colour to make an impact in the border; using borrowed views by lowering hedges; and being ruthless with those plants that sulk and do not thrive. He illustrated his talk with photos of gardens he has designed in Lincoln and Cambridge giving us all plenty to think about in the coming months.

On 20 February Richard Arnott will talk on *Wildflower Meadows*. Please come along and we will give you a warm welcome.

More info from Rosemary Yallop 01799584262

## NATURE NOTES

Driving through Brinkley on Christmas morning we were given a special Christmas treat as two red kites flew overhead. Or was it so special? Seeing a red kite these days is becoming a bit commonplace, while at the same time, one of our commonest birds, the chaffinch has declined. I get quite excited when I see a chaffinch hopping around in the garden, and even more so when a greenfinch comes to visit. Both have been affected by the parasitic disease, trichomonosis, and numbers have declined significantly. Transmission of the disease is most likely to be through contaminated food or water. The British Trust for Ornithology recommend regular cleaning of feeders and, if possible, rotating their positions to prevent a build-up of contamination on the ground.

No more of the downbeat news! We have enough of that every day, so it is good to be reminded by Di that *'the sap is already stirring in some of our trees, the hazel and alder catkins are ready to burst, in the village just tight little bundles, but some in the town and at Charterhouse Bridge are already fully out, long and fluffy.*

*Our neighbours' crab apple tree is laden with rotten fruit and it acts as a magnet for the wild birds, particularly blackbirds, redwings and fieldfares. We are very lucky to get such close views of the redwings, as they are rather flighty, but birdwatching from the house has its advantages. Close up, they are stunning birds, with a bright red flash under the wing, and a distinctive white eye stripe. Fieldfares are also beautifully coloured, with an orange speckled breast, and distinctive grey head and rump. Fieldfares are larger than blackbirds, and quite aggressive towards other birds.'* As usual there has been a winter surge of blackbirds – I counted nine sharing the paddock with the sheep at the back of Platt's Farm.

If a house can be a hide for birdwatchers, so can a car as wildlife seems to fear it less than it fears people. Creatures seen through the car windscreen this month include a muntjac (twice) in broad daylight feasting on the clutch of fallen apples on Withersfield village green, a stonechat perched on a dead thistle near the Common crossroads, a heron standing in midfield near the hangar and a buzzard walking along the verge in the Fulbourn direction the other side of Balsham. To watch a buzzard walking is rather strange as they have a John Wayne-like gait. They are much more elegant in the air.

Of course the sun, the moon and the stars take no notice of us humans, but these observations from Di tell us we should take more notice of them. *'One frosty cold afternoon as the sun was poking through, we witnessed a sun dog in the cloud, when the sun reflects the colours of light through the ice crystals in the clouds. This is also happening to the moon. Refraction of the moonlight, from the ice crystals in the upper atmosphere results in a ring of light around the moon. Sue H and I witnessed this one evening walking home in the moonlight.'*

A final word for the very little creatures, which we seldom see in the winter. I was walking alongside the river in Linton hoping to see a kingfisher when a cloud of little flies appeared, whose identity I do not know, but it was good to see that they had emerged after the cold snap. Then it occurred to me that they may provide some nutrition for the grey wagtail I had seen further downstream.

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

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The answers to the Quiz were: Grayling, Minnow, Salmon, Carp, Stickleback, Pike, Trout, Eel, Perch, Tench, Chub and Dace.

Congratulations to those of you who knew their fins from their gills. There were five in all – Juliet Bevan, Katie Binks, June Brazier, the Magin family, and Dave and Amy Sargeant – all familiar names – I hope I'm not creating a cryptic crossword closed shop. Katie was first out of the hat so a suitable prize will be coming her way shortly.

Peter Grieve

## BROADBAND UPDATE

Superfast broadband has finally arrived in West Wickham with the first of the two new cabinets, the one opposite the Village Hall and designated West Wrattling 7, being opened for upgrade orders on 6 January. Most of the residents between the Village Hall and St Mary's Church are now able to upgrade and many have already done so.

The second cabinet at Burton End, designated West Wrattling 5, is anticipated to go live and be open for orders in early February, bringing most of the remaining residences also into the 21st century. Residents will be informed on the West Wickham Broadband mailing list as usual if you subscribe by sending an empty message to <broadband-request@westwickham.org> with the subject "subscribe". Alternatively, you can sign up with Connecting Cambridgeshire at

<http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/contact/>.

Connecting Cambridgeshire have apologised for the confusion caused by their upgrade notification to residents who are not connected to Cabinet 7. Unfortunately BT OpenReach are not able to accurately determine to which cabinet properties are being connected to, with some residents near St Mary's actually being connected to Cabinet 5. Connecting Cambridgeshire have stated that if, once Cabinet 5 becomes live, you are still unable to attain download speeds above 22Mbps, such cases will be individually addressed. This may mean a move to the other cabinet, some other solution, or no solution. However, you will not be moved to the other cabinet if you do get download speeds above 22mbps even if the other cabinet may be able to deliver faster download speeds.

To determine your cabinet and estimated maximum Superfast speed, also dependant on the service level you select with your ISP, you can go to <https://www.dslchecker.bt.com/> and input your area code and telephone number. Your maximum speed will be within the "VDSL Range B" reported. Residences not yet connected to Cabinet 5 will be reported as being connected to Cabinet 1 with no VDSL (Superfast) speed reported. The BT OpenReach lookup facility especially the looking up by address, is known to be inaccurate.

Alex Schuilenburg

## NEW MOBILE PHONE MAST

Planning permission has been granted to erect a new mast on Balsham Water Tower. The company involved undertakes installations for Vodaphone and O2 so hopefully we will shortly get better reception from those companies and maybe even 4G coverage!

## FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME ON THE RISE

With usable internet access coming to West Wickham, it is prudent to warn and remind residents about internet security, cyber crime and fraud which does not just happen over the internet. This is especially relevant as I was the subject of a directed phishing attack (known as spear-phishing) before Christmas, and early in January received a credit card I never ordered and had apparently "moved house" - an attempted identity fraud. A good friend lost their entire business cash, almost £500,000, through a similar whale-phishing attack (i.e big phish) - fortunately their bank has refunded the loss but not after several weeks dealing with their bank, police and lawyers and many many nights of lost sleep. Both phishing attempts were via telephone, not via email or the internet. You will almost certainly encounter an attempt at fraud, cyber crime or phishing, so I cannot stress enough that you need to be aware of the clever and complex methods cyber criminals use to defraud their victims.

Phishing, for those who have never heard the term before, refers to any email/call/message which has been received claiming to be an official body and asking for personal details, or promises rewards, prizes or shares of fortunes for small fees. Sometimes it is even just to confirm the email address or that the email has been read (set your email clients to dumb - don't display remote content unless you are certain of the sender's authenticity).

Cyber crime has risen significantly in the UK resulting in the Government declaring it a Tier 1 national threat, and the establishment subsequently of the Cambridgeshire Cyber Crime Investigation Unit. Cyber Crime ranges from attacks on large organisations, (from denial of service attacks, through to theft of data), through to targeted attacks on individuals such as fraud or theft of personal information (which allows the perpetrators access to individual's bank accounts). Methods range from social engineering, dropping USB sticks in car parks, to utilising free WiFi to capture and steal personal information, and they are becoming increasingly complex and imaginative.

80% of these crimes can be prevented through three simple rules:

- Strong passwords, with different passwords per site.
- Install and keep updated good security software.
- Keep your operating system updated.

In addition, the five banking industry guidelines should be followed:

- Treat all callers as bogus, even if they have caller ID, until you can be 100% certain that they are genuine.  
*Be very wary when receiving unexpected calls to confirm personal details, or calls updating banking details of organisations you deal with. Fraudsters even claim to be from your bank's fraud department or police requesting urgent information to prevent fraud in attempts to scare you into providing information they need. Never panic. If in any doubt, arrange to call the number of the organisation you have independently obtained, use a different phone (if possible) or call a friend first to ensure that the phone line has been disconnected from the original call.*
- Fraudsters are very plausible and are skilled in persuasion.  
*Never give your PIN, whole security number or password over the phone and never give any of these*

*details over email. Banks and building societies will never ask you for these. Watch out if they claim partial passwords or numbers are incorrect and ask for different numbers. Never hand over your card or PIN to any courier for whatever reason. Be careful who you share your birthday, birthplace and marriage details with (you can change visibility settings on most social media accounts).*

- You cannot win a prize in a competition that you have not entered.

*Never give any personal details, financial information or pay fees in order to collect a prize or competition winnings that the caller claims you have won.*

- Only ever send money to a person who you know and can trust.

*Ensure that you know, for certain, that you are sending it to the right person by a secure route. Mix validation methods, for example phone, Skype, Royal Mail, email, WhatsApp, etc. Never let anyone use your account to deposit funds on behalf of a third party. Often these funds are the proceeds of criminal activity and you could be held responsible for money-laundering.*

**Anything that appears too good to be true, almost certainly is!**

If you encounter fraud or cyber crime, whether you have lost anything or not, please report it to the National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre at

[http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)

They will pass details to Cambridgeshire Cyber Crime Investigation Unit where relevant and it helps them track down non-geographic specific attempts at fraud or cyber-crime.

Alex Schuilenburg

### FAKE AMAZON EMAILS

Action Fraud has received several reports from victims who have been sent convincing looking emails claiming to be from Amazon. The spoofed emails from "service@amazon.co.uk" claim recipients have made an order online and mimic an automatic customer email notification. The scam email claims recipients have ordered an expensive vintage chandelier. Other reported examples include: Bose stereos, iPhone's and luxury watches.

The emails cleverly state that if recipients haven't authorised the transaction they can click on the help centre link to receive a full refund. The link leads to an authentic-looking website, which asks victims to confirm their name, address, and bank card information.

Amazon says that suspicious e-mails will often contain:

- Links to websites that look like Amazon.co.uk, but aren't Amazon.co.uk.
- Attachments or prompts to install software on your computer.
- Typos or grammatical errors.
- Forged (or spoofed) e-mail addresses to make it look like the e-mail is coming from Amazon.co.uk

Amazon will never ask for personal information to be supplied by e-mail. You can read more about identifying suspicious emails claiming to be from Amazon by visiting <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=201489210>

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have returned this term with four new Brownies, Izzy has just moved back from Oman and three have transferred up from Rainbow – Ella, Sophie and Bea. We will be getting to know each other during this half-term ready for when we go away on our annual Brownie holiday in March. We are going to the Jarman Centre again as it has all the facilities we need.

After half-term we will be celebrating our Founders birthday with our Thinking Day celebrations and also hope to hold another joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides as they got on so well before Christmas. This time we think it may be a fundraiser for Red Nose Day.

We also hope to make something for our mothers as Mothering Sunday is fast approaching and something for Easter too. Katie and Laurené are already planning what we will be doing for Chinese New Year. It is the year of the Rooster so we may even have a chicken come to visit.

Our numbers are slowly growing again but we can still take more, so if you have a daughter who would be interested in joining us please register her at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/](http://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, and Laurené. E: [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.....!!

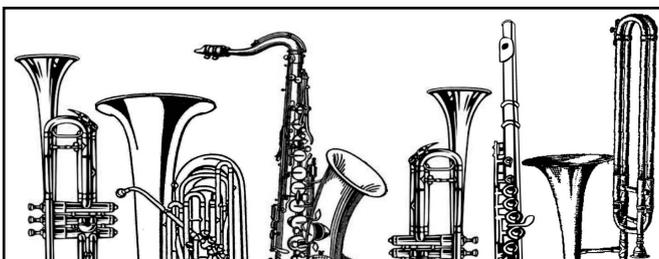
A discussion and opportunity to talk openly about some issues that at times are just too difficult.

**Tuesday 21 February- 7.00 pm**  
**West Wratting Village Hall**

- Did you attend our event chaired by Libby Purves about 'end of life' issues in October last year and want to know more?
- Did you miss this event but wish you had been there?
- Are there questions about 'end of life' that you would like to discuss with professionals in a safe and comfortable environment?

If your answer to any of the above is 'yes' or you have any other interest in this frequently avoided topic then you are warmly invited along. The discussion will be led by The Revd. Dr. Derek Fraser, Lead Chaplain at Addenbrooke's and the Rosie, and Dr Stephen Barclay, University Senior Lecturer in General Practice and Palliative Care. They will be joined by local GPs Dr James Morrow and Dr Laurence Kemp along with our Parish Nurse and members of the Ministry Team. This is a free event – refreshments will be available. For further details contact

Cazzy Walshe, [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com) or  
Keith Day [keithdday@btinternet.com](mailto:keithdday@btinternet.com) 01223 891527



# LINTON JAZZ

Saturday 4th March

7:30pm

Linton Village College

Tickets £10

OAPs £5 Under 16s free

[www.lintonjazz.co.uk](http://www.lintonjazz.co.uk)

Collection buckets for  
Anthony Nolan Trust

**ANTHONY  
NOLAN**

saving the lives  
of people with  
blood cancer

## BALSHAM COMMUNITY MARKET

Another cracking market on 14 January with a fantastic turnout from our local community. Once the doors opened at 2pm, people were flowing through the door and it didn't slow down till 2.45pm. The Institute was bursting at the seams once again. The atmosphere was electric. Quite a few stall holders had sold out within the first hour of trading! Thank you to those of you who could come along and support us. We look forward to seeing you at our next market on Saturday 11 March, doors open from 2pm to 4.30pm in the Institute. The theme will be chocolate and Easter!

More information can be found on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/balshammarket](http://www.facebook.com/balshammarket) or follow us on [www.balshammarket.wordpress.com](http://www.balshammarket.wordpress.com).

Debbie Paton

## YOUR CHANCE TO BAG UP TO £5,000 FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

TESCO is inviting local community groups, green space projects and other organisations to apply for their share of a £12MILLION carrier bag charge fund. The supermarket has teamed up with the charity Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which sees the money raised from the 5p bag levy being used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities. Tesco customers will decide on a monthly basis which groups get grants in regions up and down the country.

It's expected the new monthly format will see more than 100 projects receive vital funding across Cambridgeshire every year. Funding will be awarded to projects that use and develop outdoor spaces in ways that will benefit their local community. Find out more about how to bag your share or nominate a good cause at [www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco)

SAVE THE DATE!	MEADOW SCHOOL PTA	<b>24.03.17</b>	TICKETS £10
	<b>Quiz ★ NIGHT</b>		

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

*"We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them."* – Hillary DePiano.

The year has started incredibly well. The feeling within the school community is 2017 is our year to shine. We have continued to push the theme of 'Aspiration and Inspiration'. The aim being that we ensure that all of our children can have dreams for their futures, with the message that no ambitions are beyond their reach.

I made a plea for help from our parents to share their achievements with the children and they didn't disappoint. We have parents who have skydived for charity, rowed for Great Britain, fought against the odds being brought up abroad in poverty and with limited access to education and then have gone to University and achieved great things. Others have worked their way up to be an integral part of the team producing graphics for films such as *Gladiator* and *Harry Potter*; worked hard to serve our country as a police officer, or were part of the hugely important Human Genome Project. Some of the stories they shared with me, genuinely made me very emotional. They were incredibly inspirational and nearly every single story involved a huge amount of determination, self belief and support from others.

In a world where there is so much negativity in the press providing our children with the opportunity to think big, dream and have a focus is hugely important. I am very excited about this project and the snowball effect it is already having. In the summer term we will be holding a careers fair for all of the children in school to visit. They will have the opportunity to listen to people talk about their jobs and how they think they will change in the future, along with seeing what the world has to offer. If you have a career that you could share with us, then please make contact as we would love to hear from you.

To support our Aspirations and Inspirations we have continued to think carefully about our topics so that we continue to provide children with new experiences. The Infants have already been to The London Aquarium for their new topic, 'Life on an Ocean Wave'. The look on their faces as they saw sharks and giant turtles literally swim past them was truly amazing.

Not to be outdone Y3/4/5 have ventured 'Into the Freezer'. They started by looking at artwork painted by artists inspired by the polar regions and then had a fantastic day being amazed by the equipment used past and present during expeditions, along with finding out just how cold it can get in the Polar regions when they visited the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Finally Y5/6 literally did start the year and term with a bang! On the very first day back they had an African Drum workshop launching their 'Africa – Land of Diversity' topic, learning traditional African songs along with playing a number of different African drums. So we already have had children declare they are going to swim with sharks when they are older, climb Everest and visit Africa. If these aren't inspiring topics, providing aspiration then I don't know what is!

So, if we have one message for all of our community this year it is think big! *'There is never any excuse to let anything stand in the way of your dream. Everyone is entitled to their dreams even if they seem unattainable.'* Jaydee McNamara, parent.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Extra-curricular opportunities are a key strand of schooling. There is a reason why this element of our provision is entitled 'Enrichment' at LVC; such experiences are truly enriching for students' learning and their wider, formative education.

I'm sure that most adults can fondly recall trips from their own school days. My highlights include a French exchange, aged 11, and the increased independence and cultural exposure that the trip to Lille involved.

International, far-flung adventures and local excursions certainly have the ability to enhance, extend and enrich children's learning.

At LVC, students have a plentiful enrichment offer. This term, students have benefited from enterprise, careers and science trips including a visit to Dalehead Foods and Oxford University. This month we wish our GCSE French students 'Bon voyage' as they embark on a week's immersive stay at a Château. Meanwhile, plans for our annual Enrichment Week are underway with almost every Year 9 student signed up for a residential trip to Derbyshire, Paris or Lanzarote, and significant fundraising is taking place for our Camps International trip to Cambodia in the summer.

Enrichment opportunities such as these offer students the chance to develop relationships and a raft of personal skills as well as memories (confidence, endurance, risk-taking and responsibility to name but a few). They also have the potential to be transformative opportunities: to spark a passion or interest that might have remained untapped in the parameters of a regular classroom.

Staff invest time and energy above and beyond their regular duties to organise and supervise school trips, often giving up their evenings, weekends and holidays, because they recognise their value and importance.

As a comprehensive state-school, we want all of our students to benefit from enriching learning opportunities. While our trips vary in terms of budget, money can ultimately be a barrier for a number of families.

LVC's Trust Fund enables voluntary contributions from parents, the school's alumni and members of the community to provide financial subsidy for families that would otherwise struggle to afford extra-curricular activities. Anyone wishing to donate to the Trust Fund can contact [jackie.bailey@lvc.org](mailto:jackie.bailey@lvc.org) at the College.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

### FILM NIGHT IN WESTON COLVILLE

On 1 February our film is Woody Allen's *Sleeper*, the award-winning fantasy starring the man himself alongside Diane Keaton. Held in the Reading Room at 7.30pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Jacqueline Douglas 291475 [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com) and Jeremy Newton [newtonjed@gmail.com](mailto:newtonjed@gmail.com)

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