

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2017

ISSUE 168

VILLAGE DIARY

Sun 2 All ages praise. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 3 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 5 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 9 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Neighbourhood Plan Character Assessment meeting. 3-4pm, Village Hall
Mon 10 Black wheeled bin collection
Compline. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church
Local History Club. John Ramsden Wollaston - local saint & hero.
Talk by Janet Morris. 7.30pm,
Village Hall
Wed 12 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 16 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Deadline for items for the May issue of the Village Voice
Wed 19 **Blue & green wheeled bin (2 days late) Collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 22 **HUB NIGHT. 7.00—11.00, Village Hall**
Sun 23 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 24 **Gardening Club. Caring for plants in containers. Talk by Carole & John Adams. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 25 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
Wed 26 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 30 United parishes' service. 10.00, Weston Colville Church
May
Tue 2 Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) 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

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.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP - THANKS EVERYONE

We had a satisfying, if blustery, morning collecting our usual selection of beer cans, bottles, energy drinks and crisp packets from the verges and ditches, plus various other oddities including a car tyre, a sheet of reinforced glass and an old bit of agricultural equipment which I am keeping as an artistic feature, possibly to be entered for the Turner prize in future years. This all amounted to 19 bags, plus the larger items. Thanks to Andrew, Janet, Simon, Trevor, Mike, Georgie, Mabel, Patrick, Anita, Naomi, Erin, Brian and Sue. Of course the Village Clean-up is only organised once a year, but we should also recognise that some people also pick up litter more regularly, so thanks to them too. Let us hope that the habits of passing motorists change for the better.

Peter Grieve

FOUND – GOLF BALLS

We have 6 golf balls found on the playing field (3 of them on the recent litter clear). If anyone would like to claim them (perhaps for a small donation to WW Local History Club exhibition fund) please contact Janet or Andrew Morris on 290863.

'WOLLASTON: A MAN AND A MISSION'

This is the title of a play that the Stark Raven Theatre Company from Bunbury, Western Australia, will be putting on in the Village Hall on **Saturday 12 August** at 2pm. John Ramsden Wollaston was perpetual curate in West Wickham from 1825 until he emigrated with his family to the newly established colony of Western Australia in 1840 where he was instrumental in establishing the Anglican church. The play is a dramatised version of his diaries which record the tough pioneering life they led. The Company are giving their services freely and all proceeds will go towards the rebuilding work needed on the east wall of the church (as being very appropriate). Watch out for details and how to buy tickets nearer the time.

In the meantime if you would like to know more about John Ramsden Wollaston come along to the next meeting of West Wickham & District Local History Club on **Monday 10 April** (7.30pm Village Hall) when I will be giving a talk *John Ramsden Wollaston – local saint and hero*.

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

SPOTLIGHTS/FLOODLIGHTS – we need 2 spots/floods on tall stands for the play. If anyone can help or has contacts please let me know.

ROAD CLOSURES

Dean Road and Mill Road will be closed for a couple of days, probably 5 - 6 April for pothole repairs etc in preparation for surface dressing. This is currently scheduled for 7 - 16 May and again the roads will be closed. The County Council says the closure will be "whilst the work is in progress, during operational hours". Presumably they will re-open overnight; otherwise access to the A1307 will have to be via Horseheath during this period. You can find up to date information at www.roadworks.org

Andrew Morris

FROM THE VICARAGE

Good news! The advertisement for a new priest for our 6 parishes will be released to the Church Times newspaper after Easter, so we are very pleased with the progress.

More good news is that the Women's World Day of Prayer went well at Hildersham. The music was jolly and the hymns were sung with gusto. Next year the service will be written by the women of Suriname, and will take place on Friday 2 March, hopefully at Hildersham Church again. All are welcome, no matter what denomination or faith.

Compline is night prayer, and is designed to be said last thing at night before going to sleep. Its Latin name 'completorium' means something that fills up or completes something, and indeed Compline completes the Liturgy of the Hours and the day. In days gone by in monasteries they had Compline as the last service of the day. As we are in the season of Lent we are encouraged to begin by examining our conscience and it is a chance to see how the day has gone and appreciate the good things in it or even the things that were difficult. Perhaps you might like to come to one of our Compline services this year and see what it has to offer. There are services being held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word for 'command.' The 'Maundy' in Maundy Thursday refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another. Jesus shows his example of humility which we are all encouraged to follow. Come and join us at Great Abington at 7.30pm. If you have never been before I'm sure you will find it very moving.

May I wish you all a Happy Easter; I and the rest of the Ministry Team look forward to seeing you at the services.

Rev. Kathy Bishop

Services in Holy Week.

Compline services at 7.30pm

Mon 10th April - West Wickham

Tues 11th April - Weston Colville

Weds 12th April - West Wrating

Maundy Thursday Eucharist - Great Abington 7.30pm

Good Friday Services

Devotional Service - 9.30am - Hildersham

Stations of the Cross - 11.30am - Balsham

Last Hour - 2.00pm - Lt Abington

BALSHAM COMMUNITY MARKET

Thank you to those of you who came along on 11 March and supported our local farmers and food producers. It is really important to support local small business as well as British farming as they are key to the success of our local economy as well as our local community. We had a good turn out again this month although the flow of people was more steady than the previous market where the majority of people arrived within the first 45 minutes. The Easter egg hunt went down very well with the children. I think there were around 20 children who took part. Photos can be found on our website page.

Our next market is Saturday 13 May from 2pm to 5pm. As well as stalls inside the Institute, there will be stalls outside too. Keep a look out on our Facebook page or website for regular updates: www.facebook.com/balshammarket and www.balshammarket.wordpress.com

Debbie Paton

BROADBAND UPDATE

Cabinet 5. BT OpenReach still had not commissioned nor opened cabinet 5 at Burton End for Superfast broadband orders as at the writing of this article. It was due to be opened "early March" and was still imminent towards the middle of March, but BT OpenReach have been unresponsive to repeated requests by both Connecting Cambridgeshire and Lucy Frazer's office for updated information.

FTTP / Cabinet 1. Issues still abound with residents who have ordered an FTTP service where "available". These are a result of incomplete engineering work at the fibre junction boxes mounted on the telephone poles, and missing fibre segments. Contractors have been on site for the last couple of weeks addressing these issues and new installation and activation dates are now being scheduled for the end of March and beginning of April.

I will endeavour to keep residents updated through the resident's only Village Broadband mailing list and village website, www.westwickham.org. To receive and keep updated on progress, send an empty message to <broadband-request@westwickham.org> with the subject "subscribe". You can also check online by entering your phone number on <https://www.dslchecker.bt.com/>.

STOP PRESS. We have just received news that Cabinet 5 has gone live, at last!

Alex Schuilenburg

BIN COLLECTION DATES

My apologies for getting it wrong for the first of the new collection days. By the time the February Village Voice went to the printers I knew the day was changing from Tuesday to Monday but not that the order was also being changed! I assumed that as the collection on Tuesday 21 February was for black bins the one on Monday 27 February would be for blue and green bins, it wasn't! Luckily many of you also read the leaflet South Cambs DC delivered door to door and the South Cambs newsletter and put out the correct bin but some of you were caught out. I think this is only the second time in 14 years that I have got it wrong so I hope you will continue to trust the information in the Village Diary. You can also now check which bin is to be collected by going to the Village website www.westwickham.org

Don't forget that there are quite a few bank holidays in the next 2 months, when the collections will be a day late, or 2 days late after Easter.

It has been drawn to my attention that some people have difficulty putting out their bins. I hope the following information from the South Cambs DC website is helpful.

Assisted collections are designed for residents who, due to disability or physical impairment, are unable to place their bins at their collection point and where nobody else in the household can assist them. Collections can be made from a more convenient place on the property (e.g. by the front door). Complete an on-line application form for an assisted collection service (Ed. on the bin information page at www.scambs.gov.uk) or alternatively please call 03450 450 063, or email: env.health@scambs.gov.uk to request a printed form.

Andrew Morris

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN NEWS

Housing Needs Survey

At the time of writing this Newsletter (19 March), the Housing Needs Survey Report has been produced by Cambridgeshire ACRE and has been reviewed by Hastoe Housing, who sponsored the survey and by South Cambridgeshire District Council. We have received the report which has been circulated to the Parish Council and the Working Group who are presently reviewing it as some additions and corrections need to be made based on knowledge which is of a more contemporary nature. It is hoped that an amended Housing Needs Survey Report will be available for the Parish Council to discuss it at the Parish Council Meeting on 27 March. The intention is to make the Report available for inspection by residents shortly after this edition of the Village Voice is delivered.

Character Assessment Project

The next step is to produce a character assessment of the village. This will describe the distinct appearance and feel of settlement or areas within the village – the key physical features and characteristics that combine to give any one area its local distinctiveness and unique identity. This will then form part of the Neighbourhood Plan and be of help in the future to developers, architects and planners in understanding the local character and how it is valued. Hopefully, this will result in any proposals being sensitively designed and in keeping with the feel and appearance of the village.

If you would like to help with the character assessment, please come along to a short meeting in the **Village Hall on Sunday 9 April 3-4pm**. The assessment will then involve follow up walks around the village to identify and record characteristics like layout, topography, green and natural features, landmarks, buildings, land use and views. A critical part of the process is using photographs to illustrate particular points, so photographers will be very welcome.

VILLAGE PARKING PROBLEMS

I am aware from the many emails South Cambs Police officers receive and from Neighbourhood Panel meetings that parking is a constant concern for many residents in villages across South Cambridgeshire. I cannot prioritise parking patrols over investigating and preventing crime and responding to calls for service. In light of this, it means that my officers might not do as much parking enforcement as many of you would like.

I have been giving some thought on how we can meet your expectations on parking enforcement and I have decided that we are going to try something new. I have therefore set up an online web-page where you can report concerns about parking. The information that you give us will go directly to me and will help us build a picture of the exact hot-spots for parking issues. I will then use this information on targeted 'crack-down' days. There is some good evidence that crack-downs work in other areas of policing so we are going to try it for parking. For obvious reasons I will not be publicising the dates of the crackdowns in advance, but updates will be sent to you by e-cops, twitter and facebook once we have completed a crackdown day. The web page is now live and you can find it here: <http://tinyurl.com/SouthCambs-Parking>

I am not pretending that this will solve all parking problems. However, I do think that it strikes the right

If you would like to be involved but perhaps can't make the meeting contact Janet Morris,
T. 290863, Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com.

Working Group Meetings

Two Members of the Working Group attended a Neighbourhood Plan Policy Writing Workshop at South Cambridgeshire District Council Office in Cambourne on 22 February. This was attended by the representatives of many parishes in the district who were also in the process of developing Plans. It was useful to see how other parishes were proceeding and some of their draft policies on various topics were used as examples of how these should be written. The Workshop was run by someone who reviews Neighbourhood Plans as an independent assessor and supports the idea of not reinventing the wheel and keeping Plans short and concise. We took the opportunity of asking the Workshop sponsors (South Cambridgeshire District Council) what the status of the Working Group should be. The consensus was that it should be seen to employ the necessary skills to produce the Plan and be seen to have carried out its work in a transparent manner by keeping the community informed of its workings.

In order to achieve this I wish to have the Terms of Reference of the Working Group slightly revised to ensure that the decisions made are properly recorded and confirm that the financial responsibility for expenditure rests with the Parish Council but grants and expenditures will be monitored by the Working Group. The membership of the Working Group has been increased and this will be reflected by a minute at the next Parish Council meeting along with the revised Terms of Reference.

The next Working Group Meeting will be scheduled once the final Housing Needs Survey Report is available.

Trevor Hall

VILLAGE PARKING PROBLEMS

balance between dealing with parking concerns and the other important work that we do.

Recent Media Coverage about Policing in Villages

Some of you may have seen recent media reporting regarding our policing of villages. I would like to emphasise that we do prioritise policing of the villages but what I do ask is that my officers prioritise the 'hottest' areas *within our villages*. This does mean that certain areas in some villages get more attention than those villages with very low crime. I believe this is a sensible approach to policing which most of you would agree with. The main benefit of our local policing structure is that you have your own, dedicated local resources that are responsible for policing South Cambs rather than the City.

I have sought to put as much time and effort as possible over the last three years into crime prevention events in the villages (first Op Oaklands and more recently Op Hunter). Your local officers and I work hard to give you the best, most intelligent policing service we can but if you do have any concerns please do get in touch - or come to our next round of neighbourhood panel meetings where you can join in the discussion.

Chief Inspector James Sutherland - Area Commander -
South Cambs Police

NATURE NOTES

In the surveillance society, we in West Wickham are playing our part. Trevor started the trend with his otter, and now we have pictures of a badger, who has been making use of a drainpipe down by the allotments, thus vindicating Len Ling and making some of his fellow allotment holders, the badger deniers, eat humble pie. Meanwhile the televised bird box next door has been the resting place of a single blue tit during the winter nights, but lately he or she has been observed rearranging the bedding, so perhaps the solitary life is over and nest building has begun. No camera was needed however to see a weasel run across in front of our kitchen window on two mornings this month.

A few warmer than average March days has brought spring rushing forward and there has been a good response to the 'first sightings' request from last month. It seems like the village is brimming with brimstones, judging from the many reports. Carol also spotted a small tortoiseshell flying. Meanwhile the amphibians have been in action at both ends of the village. The first news of frogspawn came from Theresa, and Trevor has had a major influx of frogs into his pond – there are certainly at least 100 in there, doing a lot of croaking which you can hear from some distance away. Some are coupling so you would imagine frogspawn is only a few croaks away.

No-one has told me yet that they heard the first chiffchaff of the year. I heard my first in Horseheath on 16 March but here in West Wickham not until the 19th. The singing of skylarks also lifts the spirits. A walk round Hadstock recently was a particular delight, with the sky seeming to be full of the sound of larks. Other notable bird sightings recently include the reed buntings which Steve has seen along the ditch in the field opposite me and a bullfinch at Trevor and Carol's. I had a nice moment when crossing the little bridge over the brook opposite Tesco and spotted a grey wagtail with his bright yellow undersides below me. For the last two mornings when letting out our chickens I have been greeted by a yellowhammer perched at the bottom of the garden asking for a little bit of bread and no cheese. There are plenty of yellowhammers in the local hedgerows, but we rarely see them in our gardens. Many people have mentioned the numerous buzzards which have been up, riding the thermals during the warm spell, circling and mewing plaintively. Not many years ago it would have been extremely unusual to see a buzzard in this part of the world. Now it is commonplace, but still a delight.

It's good to see some of the early flowers coming through and I was pleased to see a small patch of coltsfoot beside the footpath leading from Horseheath towards Streetly Hall. These were growing just beyond a number of dandelions, with which they can sometimes be confused, but to see them in close proximity one could pick out the differences quite easily. There are now plenty of violets in flower, some white but others a beautifully intense purple.

We must not forget our insects which are now beginning to emerge. Andrew has seen a queen wasp, and my weeding revealed a shiny green beetle and a few big fat larvae. Was I wrong to leave them to continue their development?

Final question: has everyone spotted the two kangaroos resident in Burton End?

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

VILLAGE FETE CAKE STALL

The cake ladies, Vivienne & Cynthia will be asking for your contributions to our stall on Saturday 24 June. Please make a note in your diary. There will be another appeal in the May Village Voice but this is an advance warning. The cake ladies are on the scrounge again!

Vivienne Henderson. T: 290243
Cynthia Swadling. T: 290324

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 20 March, Rob and Denise Sheriff, previous owners of a dahlia nursery came to talk to us on how to grow dahlias. Their illustrated talk gave us all the information we needed to grow the very best blooms. It covered the storing of tubers, pests and diseases (a can of yellow sulphur seems indispensable), propagation by cuttings, supports and finally how to show off your beautiful flowers to best advantage when entering a competition. There are 56,000 varieties at the moment of which Rob grows 500. One can choose from huge giant blooms to tiny pom-poms and some of the new types of dahlia are quite stunning with many different shapes and colours in petals and foliage.

Our next meeting is on 24 April, avoiding Easter Monday, when we look forward to finding out how to plant up containers. This will be the last talk in our programme and we then get ready for our GRAND PLANT SALE on Saturday 20 May, a date I hope you all have in your diaries.

More info from Rosemary Yallop 01799584262

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We all had a great time on our weekend away in the middle of March. We had 17 Brownies, Laurené our Young Leader, Emily our Guide helper and 6 adults at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. We enjoyed being pirates for the weekend especially looking for the 'hidden treasure' when the Brownies tried Geocaching. The Brownies were joined on Saturday morning by Balsham Rainbows and they all decorated a treasure chest, made an eye patch, a pirate hat and a jewel encrusted cutlass. You definitely need to be careful with those cutlasses they look really sharp!

We will be holding a joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides as a fundraiser for Red Nose Day. We will all be wearing red, for a red fashion show, and then putting our toy pets through their paces at the Second Toy Pet Show. All entries will receive a certificate and there might be a prize for the "best in show".

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/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/). 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.
Email: brownies@horseheath.info

**WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB**

PLANT SALE

*Something for everyone
Friendly people & expert advice*

SATURDAY 20 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

**WEST WICKHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

**VILLAGE VOICE DELIVARIES IN
STREETLY END**

We would like to thank Malcolm Mizon for volunteering to take this on.

Sue & Andrew

**LINTON HEALTH CENTRE
OPENING TIMES**

Please note that Linton Health Centre has changed its opening times and is now open from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

HEALTHWATCH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

We need your help to talk to more people about Healthwatch and find out what care is like for them. Our Community Listener volunteers are people like you – you know the place you live and the people in your community.

You will listen to people who have used local health or care services. These may be your family, neighbours and friends, or people you meet within your local networks.

You may visit local groups, chat with people and record what they have to say. We will give you training and support, as well as paying agreed out of pocket expenses. As a Community Listener, you could also train to take part in our visits to local health or care services. We have a legal right to visit places that provide publicly funded health or care services, to see and hear how people experience care. In the last year, we have visited Addenbrooke's and Hinchingbrooke Hospitals.

Contact Heather or Elizabeth for an informal chat(01480 420628, enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk) or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

**ELECTRONIC MAIL BETWEEN
HOSPITALS AND YOUR GP**

We thought it might be reassuring to explain how letters and discharge summaries sent from hospitals to your GP are dealt with in what is becoming a paperless society!

We receive the vast majority of clinical letters and discharge summaries from hospitals to your GP via our secure NHSmail account. These letters are then imported directly into our clinical system at least twice daily. Each letter is matched to the appropriate patient and forwarded to either the patient's usual GP or the GP that referred the patient, even if the letter is addressed to another GP.

This can be confusing for a patient to be copied in on a letter which is not addressed to their usual GP. However this is because of the way the "Spine" is set up. The Spine is where all the patient demographics eg. NHS Number, address, usual GP, medication and allergies etc. are stored. The reason it might have a different GP name to the one you have been seeing is because the hospitals will use the organisation address of where you are registered and send documents to the Senior Partner.

Please be assured your letter or discharge summary will be allocated to the correct GP on receipt. The only occasion it might be sent to a different GP is if your normal GP is away and his/her work being covered by another doctor.

We use one clinical system across all Granta Medical Practices sites and all staff are fully trained to deal with all the clinical post in a timely manner.

Electronic referrals - E-Referral. I am sure many of you will have experienced this or Choose & Book as it was previously known. For those who haven't, the NHS e-referral service is a secure appointment booking service. We will make your first outpatient appointment for you in the first available clinic but you can change or cancel your appointments online, by phone or at your GP surgery. **Please make sure your GP is aware of any holiday or dates you are unavailable.**

Jane Bertram, Granta Medical Practice

**COULD YOU BE AN ON-CALL
FIREFIGHTER?**

On-call firefighters are a vital part of today's fire and rescue service, providing an efficient, effective service that gives emergency cover to more than 90 per cent of the UK. In Cambridgeshire they make up 56 per cent of the workforce. An on-call firefighter is not based at a fire station but carries a pager and responds to emergency incidents as and when they happen. They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

On-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime or weekend cover. When they are on-call they may be at home, working for themselves or for a nearby company or out in their local community (staying within a five-minute travel time of the fire station) and are generally located in rural communities, small towns and villages.

If you would like to become an on-call firefighter, or find out more, then please go to our website at www.cambsfire.gov.uk and search for on-call firefighter under the careers section.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

You may remember last month I wrote that we had been inspected by Ofsted at long last. This was a high stakes few days for us with the staff and children giving everything they had to showcase our fabulous school. In the days where being a headteacher is similar to being a football manager – one bad match (inspection) and you can be sacked I am astounded to say 2 months after our visit we still have not received our inspection report.

I do promise that when it finally does arrive I will happily share it with you all! Check out our website www.themeanowbalsham.co.uk or our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham

Whilst on my soapbox, I am feeling very disheartened by the new funding formulae that the Government are proposing. For years Cambridgeshire has been significantly underfunded with us receiving a considerable amount less per pupil than our neighbouring schools in Suffolk and Essex. Under the new proposals Meadow will see an increase in funding of only £8000 per year which sees us still a long way behind the national average.

What is really worrying is that a formulae that was supposed to make things fairer will see almost one third of primary schools in Cambridgeshire have their funding fall. What makes our children any less important and worth less in monetary terms than any other child? Please do continue to support us by lobbying your MP for a fairer deal for all. We have been incredibly proud of our sports teams this month. We sent teams to play in tournaments for tag rugby, netball and hockey. Sadly we didn't win any of them but our team spirit and brilliant attitude was recognised and we won the 'Spirit of the Games' award in hockey. Congratulations to all of our sports stars.

We were also invited by the organisers of the Balsham Community Orchard to take all of our children from the Infants to the orchard to help plant the new hedgerow. The children had a fantastic time and absolutely loved being tasked with the very special job. We look forward to being able to keep visiting this wonderful community venture and see how our hedgerow is growing.

We have also been treated this month to a spectacular production of 'King of all Polar Bears' by Years 3/4/5. The children put on a super show. Well done to all of the children and staff for a great way to end the topic.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

AGRICOLE'S REBATE FOR THE VILLAGE

For those of you who order your heating oil via Agricole (www.agricoleoil.co.uk) you may recall that a bonus of doing so is that they give back to the village a rebate of £5 per householder who order over 1,000 litres during the year. In previous years the rebate has gone to the Village Hall to help pay for equipment and also to help the wildlife area near the allotments. This year the rebate of £120 has gone towards essential repair works needed to the church. If any of you who order from Agricole have particular views about where next year's rebate should be spent, please let me know.

Sue Thurston

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The phenomenal performances of students at LVC outside the regular school timetable in recent weeks has highlighted the importance of a wholesome and holistic education.

Enriching education and extra-curricular provision can too often be seen as the preserve of the privileged. Public schools boast rich co-curricular experiences while state schools can be tempted to narrow their curriculum to focus on the three 'R's.

Linton Village College has a proud tradition of rich, inclusive education. Watching a large cast and crew performing 'The Sound of Music' to a professional standard confirmed the importance of delivering such a broad curriculum. In recent weeks, LVC students have also shone in sports tournaments and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) events.

These kinds of activities can easily be perceived as fringe opportunities. In some schools, the expense, time and energy required to deliver extended learning experiences can be seen as supernumerary.

Head teachers across the UK have publically shared their concerns about insufficient school funding on social media with images of events such as sports fixtures, extra-curricular clubs and performances in response to the question: what would you cut?

When stretched with finite resources, it may be tempting to salami-slice provision belonging to schools by compromising aspects that don't feed directly into performance tables choosing instead to direct time, money and energy into areas that will influence league table positions.

At LVC we believe in the importance of an enriching educational offer and don't see academic and extra-curricular outcomes as competing factors. This ethos has been validated by a letter from MP Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, confirming that LVC's student progress sits in the top 5% of schools nationally.

Schools face great challenges at present in terms of recruiting and retaining great staff and having the financial means to do so. Amidst the pressure, our children deserve the very best opportunities to enable them to develop into creative, ambitious and confident young people. A broad, rich curriculum is key to achieving this.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

WESTON COLVILLE 'PUB' QUIZ

We're holding a 'Pub' Quiz in the Reading Room on Wednesday 26 April at 8pm. If you would like to enter, it's up to 4 per team, with a prize for the winners, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, lager, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

Enquiries: T: 291475,
Email: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

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