

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2017

ISSUE 171

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 2 All ages praise. 9.30, St Mary's Church  
Mon 3 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 5 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 8 **Balsham Community Market.**  
**2 - 4.30pm, Balsham Institute. See page 2**  
Sun 9 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 10 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Wed 12 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 15 **LOCAL HISTORY CLUB BIG DIG 4**  
**See page 1**  
Sun 16 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
**LOCAL HISTORY CLUB BIG DIG 4**  
**See page 1**

**Deadline for items to be included in the August edition of the Village Voice**

- Mon 17 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 19 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 22 **HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall**  
Sun 23 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 24 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
**Parish Council meeting. 7.30 pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend**  
Wed 26 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 30 United parishes' service. 10.00 Little Abington Church  
Mon 31 Black 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.



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

# DIG4

15 & 16 JULY

**Test pit excavations in Streetly End & Burton End.  
Pot washing & dig HQ on the green outside White Gables (104 High Street)**

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US**

**It's not too late to volunteer to help -  
there are jobs to suit all abilities.**

Contact Janet Morris

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



## CELEBRATION & ARTWORK TO MARK 80 YEARS OF LEARNING AT LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Linton Village College is preparing to celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The College will hold a celebration on **Sunday 17 September 2-4pm**. During the event the College plans to display photos, stories and memorabilia from 80 years of school life at LVC. Former students willing to share memories or lend items for the occasion are invited to contact Anna McMahan ([LVC80info@gmail.com](mailto:LVC80info@gmail.com)), call 07931 966952 or write to LVC80, Linton Village College, Cambridge Road, Linton, Cambs CB21 4JB.

The school first opened its doors in September 1937 and since then generations of students have grown up through the College. Thousands of young people have gained essential skills and qualifications as well as forming lifelong friendships and memories during their time at LVC.

Students and staff from across the decades will be warmly welcomed "back to school" on Sunday 17 September to remember good times over tea and cake, and to admire the school today with a chance to tour the new buildings and facilities. Updates about the anniversary will be provided on Facebook: @LVC80.

### Commemorative Mosaic

As a permanent commemoration of Linton Village College's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1937- 2017, this summer term students will be installing a ceramic mosaic in the original part of the school building.

The mosaic will be a lasting legacy for the College and Linton community, designed and built collaboratively by Year 7 students and professional artist, Jim Anderson. London-based artist Jim ([www.kenya-mosaic.com](http://www.kenya-mosaic.com)) has many years of experience in mosaic-making with schools and community groups around the world. He grew up in Linton

Continued on page 2

## Celebration to mark 80 years of learning at Linton Village College cont ....

and still has family in the village. Examples of Jim's work can be seen locally in the foyer at Addenbrooke's hospital.

The installation will take place 22-23 and 29-30 June. The mosaic will be formally unveiled at the anniversary celebration on Sunday 17 September.

*Linton Village College's anniversary celebration is made possible by funding from Linton Parish Council. The commemorative mosaic is being funded by Linton Parish Council, Friends of LVC, the Anderson Trust and Crofton Engineering Ltd.*

## WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club has enjoyed a varied number of talks from October to April and we pulled out all the stops for our Plant Sale in May. The Village Hall was overflowing with plants of every kind, grown and donated by our members. The publicity worked well so that at 10.30 there was a long queue of eager buyers who went away with boxes of superb plants. The final total was a record for our Plant Sale and we will be able to use these funds to pay for our speakers next year. On 12 June we met for an evening visit to Ashdon Hall. The weather was warm and so was the welcome from John and Jo Padfield. What a wonderful garden! They also open for National Garden Scheme so if you have the chance, do visit - it is one of the best the Club has ever been to. We have another evening visit on 3 July to Moat House at Little Saxham and on 30 July we join Balsham Club on a coach trip to Wisley. We will not have a Show this year in August. Our AGM will be held on 18 September and from then on we meet every month on the 3rd Monday. If you would like to find out more information you can visit the village website ([www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)) or ring me.

Rosemary Yallop, T: 01799584262.

\* Eat Well \* Live Well \* Celebrate Community



**EAT LOCAL**  
get closer to your food

# Balsham Community Market

**Bringing Food & Friends Together**

**Saturday 8th July 2017**  
**2pm to 4.30pm**  
**Balsham Institute**

**Inside and Outside Stalls:**  
Beef, lamb, wild game, lamb charcuterie, sausages, pork pies, quiche, sausage rolls, bread, cakes, preserves, chocolate, Greek food, juices, dairy, wild bird food, plants, flowers, allotment produce, Chilli Designs Jewellery, Luna Bear Gifts

Café - homemade cakes, cream teas

Follow us on Facebook and WordPress for news and updates

[balshammarket](#) [balshammarket](#) [balshammarket@gmail.com](mailto:balshammarket@gmail.com)

## GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

During April the Barley Practice (Barley and Market Hill Surgery in Royston) merged with the Granta Medical Practices (Linton and Sawston) to form one practice. The obvious question is why?

The NHS as a whole, and general practice in particular, is facing major challenges. The average rate for all users of consulting a GP has more than doubled per head of the population in the last decade. More and more patients who would previously have been in hospital with complex problems are now being treated in the community by the practice team. This is only made possible through moving from the traditional "Dr Finlay" model of general practice into a team-based service, with a mix of skills, training and backgrounds.

This team can only work effectively at a certain scale – and NHS England has made it clear that future investment in general practice will be directed to those practices who have between 30,000 and 50,000 registered patients.

The mergers of Linton, Barley, Royston and Sawston into one practice has created a single practice of some 34,000 patients. More importantly, the mergers have come about because of a shared aspiration and belief within our teams that by merging we can better meet our local healthcare needs.

By coming together patients of the Granta Medical Practices now have access to services across four sites, including extended opening hours every day of the working week. The practice also has Emergency Care Practitioners (Paramedics) supporting the doctors and nurses in providing rapid home assessments for those unable to attend the surgeries. With a bigger team comes the opportunity to share expertise and specialist skills across a bigger population.

Granta Medical Practices has just been recognised nationally as a "Primary Care Home" – an entity seen as one sustainable model for the future of the NHS. Over time, as a Primary Care Home, the practice will gradually provide more and more services including some currently delivered in hospital outpatients or day case surgery. The model encourages all those working around our patients to come together in a single structure, where patient needs come first and traditional NHS boundaries between organisations become more fluid. We are hopeful that this status will give us enhanced access to new funds and support as it becomes available.

As a practice we are positive that these changes will strengthen our ability to provide high-quality personal and human care to our local villages. Already, the practice is getting other GPs asking to come and work within Granta – and this is happening at a time when there is a national and regional recruitment crisis for GPs. This is a major vote of confidence from the profession for Granta and will help ensure that all of us continue to have access to high quality general practice for years to come.

We are enormously grateful to all our patients for their support during the transition and look forward to developing the service in partnership in the months and years ahead.

Dr James Morrow

# WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

## JOHN RAMSDEN WOLLASTON PART 2 'LOCAL SAINT AND HERO'

In October 1840 John Ramsden Wollaston, along with his wife, Mary, and five of their seven children, aged from 19 down to 7 years, left West Wickham for London. There they finalised arrangements for the journey to a new life in the newly-established colony of Western Australia. Originally John was going as chaplain to the Australind Land Company, a speculative town development company in the area of what is now the city of Bunbury but this arrangement fell through at the last minute and John managed to secure a position as a government chaplain (there were only 2 Anglican clergyman in the whole colony in 1838; John was one of 4 to arrive between 1841-4).

John took with him two young men from Horseheath as indentured servants (he failed to persuade anyone from West Wickham) – 19 year old James Everett and 16 year old Joe Stinton – whose presence would entitle him to a bounty in the form of land. As well as furniture, household goods, books, pictures and a large medicine chest, the family packed seeds and tools, a prefabricated wooden building and enough supplies, including food, to last the 3 month journey. They also took with them sheep and sheep dogs given to them by Jonas Webb, the famous sheep breeder, and other members of the Webb family from Streetly Hall. Last but not least were items for a new church such as communion plate and church linen.

They left London on board the 'Henry' in November 1840 and it was then that John started his diaries detailing their experiences to send home to family and friends. The journey was horrendous – it took 5 months instead of 3 with only one stop at Cape Town and they were nearly shipwrecked twice. They finally landed at Fremantle in April 1841. They continued their journey by boat along the coast until they landed at Point Casuarina on the 13 May where they were literally left on the beach. Luckily, they were able to buy a small farmstead at nearby Picton almost immediately (named Charterhouse by John after his old school) and to add to it with another 100 acres assigned for the indentured servants.

John and Mary were 50 when they arrived in Western Australia and not exactly prepared for the hard pioneering life they were to experience. They had to learn to cope with poor soil, with much of the land needing clearing, along with a different climate and seasons. They had to hunt for food on a daily basis with as many as 10 mouths to feed once their two eldest sons had joined them. Added to this there was no infrastructure or markets in the colony and they were forced to lead a subsistence life. John's *Picton Diaries* cover this period and have been dramatised in *Wollaston: A Man and a Mission* (see right). John was not allowed to receive his stipend as government chaplain until he had a church, so he set to with the help of his sons and Frederick Hymus, who had recently emigrated with his family from West Wickham, to build one. This wooden building, St Mark's, still stands and is now a National Monument.

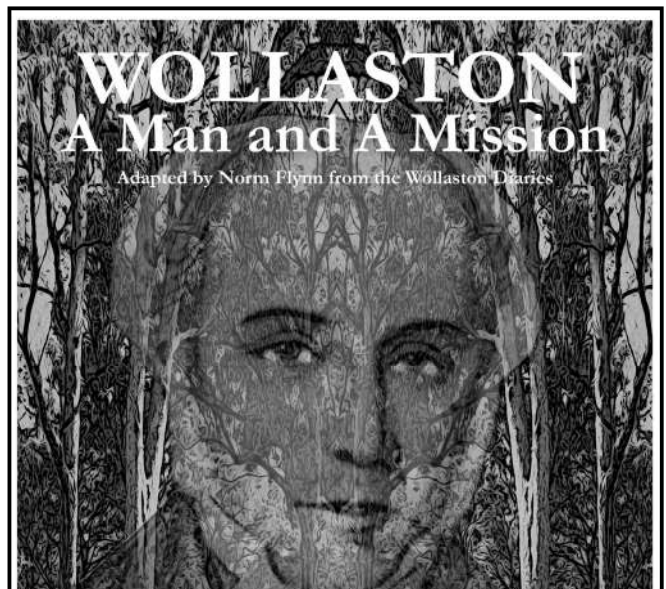
In 1848, John was given a new appointment in Albany on the south coast, a major port in a beautiful situation with, more importantly for them, a stone church nearing

completion. Life was much improved. A year later, John was made the first Archdeacon for the whole of Western Australia. Between 1849 and 1856 he made 5 archidiaconal tours – each one covered about 900 miles and lasted 3 months as he travelled on horseback from settlement to settlement (often sleeping rough in the bush) establishing and supporting the Anglican church. Two months after he returned from his tour in 1856, John died of a stroke and was buried in Albany cemetery.

However, it was not until 1984 that John's work was finally recognised and he was designated 'a local saint and hero of the Anglican Communion' in Western Australia.

### COME AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS REMARKABLE MAN ON 12 AUGUST

Janet Morris



With Tony Martin & Sigari Luckwell as John & Mary Wollaston

From perpetual curate of West Wickham to famous diarist and colonial figure in Western Australia, John Ramsden Wollaston is the central character in this acclaimed and dramatic presentation performed by members of Stark Raven Theatre Co. of Bunbury, Western Australia.

#### West Wickham Village Hall

**2.00pm 12 August**

Tickets £12.50 Concessions £10 Schoolchildren £5  
Available from Janet Morris, 21 High Street, T: 290863  
Proceeds to St Mary's Church Repair Fund

*In association with West Wickham & District Local History Club*

### AGEUK SMALL VILLAGES WARDEN

AgeUK have a vacancy for a part time warden (14 hrs per week) to visit older people living in their own homes, in any of the small villages supported by this service (Ed. This includes West Wickham). The warden provides a sense of reassurance and security to older people living on their own by providing daily contact and help with small tasks.

For further information and to request an application pack please contact Marcia Short on 01354 696650 before 13 July.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on 22 May the following were some of the items discussed and resolved.

### ***Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman & appointments of two councillors to represent Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.***

Cllr. Charlton was proposed for Chairman & Cllr. Cornish was proposed for Vice Chairman. This was agreed. Cllrs. Licence & Schuilenburg agreed to continue as representatives of the Council on the VHMC.

### ***Matters arising:***

1. Dean Road hedging and signage in West Wickham & Streetly End: Nothing has been done regarding these two items and they will be raised at the Parish Councils Forum meeting on 24 May.
2. Proposed Community Volunteer scheme: Cllr. Grieve reported that having asked for volunteers at the "Litter Pick Up" day two people said they would be prepared to help. It was agreed that insurance cover would need to be obtained. All members of the Parish Council should be included. This would also apply to those running the Speed Indicator scheme.
3. Village Sign: The repair work has been carried out.
4. Hedge cuttings opposite Village Hall: Cllr. Hall will draft a letter to Bryn Pope regarding his responsibility to clear away the debris left after Mr Pope had cut the hedge.

### ***Finance:***

1. End of year Accounts 2016/17: These were first discussed and then agreed and the spread sheet and bank reconciliation were signed. The Statement of Accounts and Statement of Governance, which will go to the external auditor, were agreed and signed.
2. Authorised Payments & Receipts: A full list is in the draft Minutes posted on the website and notice board.

***Planning:*** A list of applications is included in the draft minutes shown on the notice board and website. It was agreed that any "comments" made on the returned planning applications should be available to the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk agreed to this.

***Maintenance:*** Gritting bins: Two have been ordered but the siting of the West Wickham bin has been changed to the corner of No.2 High Street.

### ***Traffic Issues:***

1. Speed Watch report: Cllr. Licence reported on their findings whilst on speed watch patrol. 10 out of 34 drivers were speeding, 29% were speeding up to 48mph. The time, car number plate and make are recorded and any serious speeder will be contacted by the police.
2. Speed Indicators: A decision on the make/type will be made shortly and what each parish will have to pay.

### ***Report by Dist.Cllr. Turner:***

1. Local Plan has still not been completed but possibly will be by December.
2. Boundary Commission: This has been ratified and our district will have 3 District Councillors instead of 4.
3. Devolution: a new Mayor has been elected and a sum of £66M made available by the Government for economic

development.

4. The change of recycling and rubbish collection days will make a saving of 20,000 miles each year giving a £700K efficiency saving over next 3 years.
5. Community Chest: Grants of up to £1000 are available to voluntary and community groups and parish councils. Each parish can put in for 3 grants.  
(Ed. See the South Cambs DC website [www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest))
6. City Deal is providing funds for improving the A1307. Cllr. Grieve had attended the Forum meeting. This was split into 4 working groups to look at plans for improvements to A1307 but they were given just 15 minutes to discuss it.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 24 July at the Village Hall. All welcome.**

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk), T: 01223 665260  
Email: [j.richards587@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards587@btinternet.com)

## WEST WICKHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This was also held on Monday 22 May. Four people attended plus the Parish Council, Dist.Cllr. Turner and the Parish Clerk. The following were some of the items discussed

**Chairman's Report:** See below.

**Reports on Village Hall, Societies, Groups & Associations.** See below.

**Finances:** Cllr. Charlton, Chairman, gave a short outline on the finances of the Parish Council which were in good order. The final accounts will be published on the website, and the notice board. No questions were raised.

**Any Other Business:** Cambridge Rock Festival. Horseheath Lodge 3 - 6 August. It was felt important to note whether it caused any problems.

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Your Parish Council has met six times during the year.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for the time and effort that they give so generously to the West Wickham Parish. Many different meetings are attended by the Parish Councillors on your behalf: Parish Forum, A1307 Parishes Forum, Village Hall Committee, Neighbourhood watch, Police liaison and various Planning meetings to name but a few.

We are fortunate to live in the lovely village of West Wickham, but like many other rural villages we face many challenges going forward. As a Council, we set the precept at around £65 per household, currently this gives us an annual surplus to allow for the unexpected and with the knowledge that more financial burdens will be passed down towards Parish Councils.

Planning in South Cambridgeshire would appear to be a bit of a free for all in the absence of a signed off and agreed South Cambridgeshire District Plan so the risks are that we get development that we are unable to influence within the Parish. South Cambridgeshire District Council is under

pressure to accept many planning applications, many of which the Parish has raised material concerns about. Conversely there are incidents where we have supported local parishioners in plans that have not been supported by our District council.

Trevor Hall and his Neighbourhood Plan Working Group continue to develop a plan that considers the needs of our rural community covering many aspects of village life; it isn't just about affordable housing requirements. Thank you, Trevor, and your Group for all the hard working and making sure Parishioners are well informed of progress.

Good broadband as we all know is now a necessity, especially for school children and for those running their own businesses, but also for day to day living with most business and institutions assuming all have adequate broadband speed. On behalf of West Wickham, I would like to thank Alex Schuilenburg for his tireless and tenacious efforts to bring superfast broadband to the village. West Wickham was chosen by Lucy Frazer MP for a visit by the Minister for Digital Culture, Matthew Hancock, to celebrate our success story. Alex rightly was given three cheers from grateful villagers for all his efforts.

As I said earlier we live in a lovely village environment and I would like to thank Peter Grieve for organising the village litter pick, Di for all things environmental, Justin for his ongoing stewardship of our playground and Marcus for stepping in with his farm machinery to put things right when others have messed up.

Speeding is a concern for many Parishioners and I would like to thank Di Licence and Trevor Hall for their involvement in speedwatch, as a Council we take this seriously and will work hard to make the village slower and safer.

A fairly new development is the West Wickham Pub Hub having now met twice, spearheaded by Di Licence, it is a great opportunity for some village community spirit.

Jenny Richards our Parish Clerk has done another year's sterling work on behalf of West Wickham and we are truly grateful for her professionalism.

Patrick Charlton, Chair West Wickham Parish Council

## REPORTS ON VILLAGE HALL, SOCIETIES, GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

### West Wickham Village Hall

**Bookings.** The Hall continues to be used regularly by groups and clubs from within and outside the village, and income from hire charges has been similar to previous years.

The recent introduction of the Village Hub Night has proved popular and these have been well attended, bringing the Village Hall right back into the heart of the community. Daisy Chains preschool ([www.daisychainspreschool.co.uk](http://www.daisychainspreschool.co.uk)) is the most frequent user of the Hall. Their finances remain finely balanced and current occupancy rate is at about two thirds. The Committee applied a discretionary 25% discount for the autumn term when intake is always slow, to help alleviate the financial pressures on the preschool.

Both KenYuKan and Karate Clubs have twice weekly bookings and the Carpet Bowls Club also has a regular evening booking ensuring that the Hall is in use almost every day. As with previous years, there have been many ad

hoc sports hire bookings and functions held during the year. History and Gardening Clubs within the Village continue solidly and are represented on the committee.

The Post Office also continues to operate out of the hall, run by Clare Butfield.

**Health and Safety.** Health and Safety (H&S) continues to be a priority for the Committee and regular checks have been performed as part of Preschool's compliance with Ofsted regulations. In addition all regular users are asked to report any concerns, so that they can be investigated and assessed promptly. The regular fire extinguisher service was undertaken.

**Committee.** The Committee met three times during the calendar year and the meetings were all well attended and productive. There have been significant changes in the make-up of the Committee in the last 12 months, particularly in the executive roles

Nick Salter decided to step down from the Committee in October, after five years as Chairman and has been replaced by Vice Chairman, Simon Keen. The Vice Chairman role has now been filled by James Cowell. The Committee would like to thank Nick for steering it over the last few years and maintaining the Village Hall as a key asset to the community.

Paul Donert has also stepped down as Treasurer and has been replaced by Brian Marshall. The hand-over process is well underway and Paul has agreed to continue to help Brian through this initial period. The Committee would like to thank Paul for his long service and help over the years.

**Maintenance.** No large maintenance work was carried out in the calendar year. The Hall remains in a state of good repair with work being performed as and when required. Sufficient funds are available for anticipated maintenance over the next few years. Nadine Warner, our caretaker, has once again done a great job keeping the Hall clean and tidy.

**Finance.** The Hall has made a useful profit this year, thanks to very consistent bookings, fundraising income, and no large maintenance work undertaken. Following the survey of the Hall, an estimate now needs to be made as to how much needs to be put aside every year to cover on-going wear and tear and maintenance.

**Fundraising.** The SODs of West Wickham and Di Licence held a combined Village Fete and second 'Wickhamfest' fundraising event at the Hall in June this year, raising over £1616, of which 50% went to the Hall. ARM Ltd provided a generous £500 charitable donation taking the total for the Hall to £1308!! Many thanks to Kevin Newey and Di Licence for organising the event and to the SODs, who once again manned the BBQ and bar all afternoon and into the small hours of the night.

**Website.** The website (<http://westwickham.org>) content continues to grow steadily. The online enquiry and booking feature is being used regularly with users checking the online calendar for availability.

**Miscellaneous.** After experimenting with different sports hire rates for summer and winter, a single rate was reinstated at £8 per hour.

Simon Keen, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

### Daisy Chains Preschool

Although it is fair to report that Daisy Chains has had another successful year we have unfortunately experienced

## **Annual Parish Meeting reports continued....**

a downward turn in numbers of children joining the Preschool over the school year.

Obviously fewer children means fewer parents so this year we have struggled with committee members and helpers to run our fund raising events, however we have still carried on with our calendar of events even though we have had a skeleton staff sometimes.

We ended the school year in July 2016 with 11 children leaving us to go to primary school, thus only leaving us with 10 to start the new school year.

6 Children started throughout the year and we currently (April 2017) have 15 on our books taking up a total of 41 sessions each week. Fees currently stand at £11 per 3 hour session. Since April last year we have covered six themes, one each half term, these being Under the Ground and Into Space (Summer Term), Water and Fairy Tales (Autumn Term) and All Creatures Great & Small and Light & Colour (Spring Term).

We believe that although we have a strict curriculum to adhere to in the Early Years Foundation Stage it is still important to give the children a topic to focus on each half term.

Tuesday and Thursday lunch clubs still prove to be popular extended sessions and we have again continued this throughout this year.

Our garden continues to flourish and it looks like we are going to have a bumper potato and raspberry crop this year. The sensory garden has really grown up and gives off some lovely scents, some of them are even used in our cooking that we still continue to do on a weekly basis.

On election day we embarked on our annual outing. This was to Audley End Miniature Railway where we all went for a trip through Fairy Woodland on the steam train and then went around Fairy Village with a real life fairy and elf spinning us fairy yarns as we went.

After managing to obtain £1000 in 2015 to establish a conservation area we are now able to safely take the preschool children up there to extend their knowledge of the natural world. They love to don their wellies to go up to the nature reserve and look out for The Gruffalo. Our continued thanks go out to all volunteers who have had any part in the process of preparing the conservation area and maintaining a safe area for us to use.

**Staffing.** In late Spring 2016 Lucy (our Deputy Preschool Leader) announced that she was pregnant and would be leaving us at Christmas to start her Maternity leave. Since we had already taken on a fourth person in the latter part of 2015 (for Emergency cover) we were able to ask her if she could fill in for Lucy's shifts when she had her baby. Leander Peppercorn was keen to take on this role and has been a great asset to our team as our fourth permanent member of staff instead of being our emergency cover girl.

Next came one of the biggest events of last year, this being Leander and Oliver's wedding in July. Staff and children alike milked the event for what it was worth and talked about all things weddingy for the whole of the summer term..... And then she became Leander Bearton.

**Fund Raising.** We have continued to hold fund raising events throughout the year including bingo in September, Christmas Fair in November, a quiz night in February and have just held a Jumble Sale .Unfortunately we had to cancel our Easter Eggstravaganza at the last minute due to the fact that only four people were available to run it!

Although we tried a different tactic in running a summer term bingo night last year it was a bit of a disaster and we only cleared a small profit. The quiz night was particularly successful and we were caught on the hop when 5 more teams than we had prepared for came to take part but we accommodated them with no more ado.

**AOB.** Back to the baby issue for a moment, Lucy had a healthy baby boy on 27 January, weighing in at 6lb 15oz. He has been named Miles Henry, and is a little brother to Luke who attended our preschool for his foundation years. Lucy is expected to return to Daisy Chains in September but we shall have to wait and see!

OH NO, another baby alert - Leander announced in March that she is due to have her second baby in November and will be going on maternity leave in October !!!! Will it be flavoured pink or blue? I just cannot keep up with all these babies.

On a personal note, I have taken over the role of Health and Safety Officer on the Village Hall Committee. This has worked out to be a good idea because as the main users of the Hall the preschool carry out Health and Safety checks every day, therefore I can ensure that the Village Hall Committee are notified of any outstanding issues as soon as possible.

The safety finger guards have now arrived and need to be fixed on the doors.

In May Alex Schuilenburg carried out PAT Testing at the Hall and has now tested all electrical applications. All defective appliances (2 kettles) have been disposed of.

As always, we strive to advertise our lovely Preschool at every opportunity and we thought that a feather flag was an attractive and noticeable way to meet this objective. We need to get the word out that we exist here in West Wickham (and have a lovely Village Hall too). Our apologies to those of you who did not like our up-to date advertising methods. We don't want West Wickham to lose another important community resource so we do what we think necessary to keep Daisy Chains and West Wickham on the map.

Next April will be the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Pre-School so we have plans to celebrate in big style ! Further information will be forthcoming in 2017 – 2018.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee for their continued support over this last year. The discount on Hall rental at the start of the year really helps us a lot with our finances.

Susan Harrow, for, and on behalf of, the Daisy Chains Preschool Committee,

## **West Wickham & District Gardening Club**

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting for the twelve months to 30 April 2017.

The Club once again had a successful year, which broadly followed well established lines but which included one significant innovation.

The major events in the Club's year continue to be the Annual Plant Sale in May and the Annual Show in August. The first of these two, the Plant Sale, is by far the largest single contributor to the Club's annual income, and is also the most practical contribution the Club makes to the village's gardens, through the good yet inexpensive plants it makes available. It is thus most gratifying that the Plant Sale continues to go from strength to strength; for each of the past three years its takings have set new records, so that in

May 2016 it produced almost double the income of three years previously, and it makes a most generous contribution to the Club's finances. The second of these two events, the Annual Show, was once again most successful, with a marked increase in the number of exhibits compared to the previous year (including an increase in children's entries), with an excellent team of judges, and with the supportive context of tea and cake organized by Val and Allen Scott. As always, the success of the Show is very largely due to the efforts of Andrew Morris and the Show Committee.

Between these events, the Club made its conventional two Monday evening summer visits to local gardens of interest. This year the Programme Secretary, Rosemary Yallop, arranged visits to two very different gardens - the first to the spacious but distinctly fading gardens of Spencers of Little Yeldham (a former Courtauld and R.A. Butler house), and the second to the compact but vital garden in Little Saxham of Gill and Michael Hicks (formerly of this Club). Both visits were well supported and were (just) accommodated by the weather.

The significant innovation of the year concerned the Club's third summer visit, the all day coach trip further afield. As explained in my Report of a year ago, it is difficult for a club of our size to sustain a coach trip on its own, and it had been decided to experiment and conduct a joint trip with the Balsham gardening club. In consequence our trip organiser, Janet Morris, teamed up with the Balsham organiser, Lyn Bobrow, to organise what proved to be an excellent and very well supported trip in mid June, to Peter Beales Roses in the morning and East Rushton Old Vicarage in the afternoon. The sharing of the event was so successful that our A.G.M. agreed that it should be repeated this year, and we hope it will become a regular fixture in our calendar.

Important though all these events are, it is nevertheless during the preceding autumn, winter and spring months that the Club is at its most vital, through its Monday evening meetings. These were once again arranged by the Club's excellent Programme Secretary, Rosemary Yallop, who year after year compiles a really diverse programme of speakers who cater for both the novice and the expert. Thus for example during the past year the novice learned how to grow plants in containers while the serious gardener received expert advice on growing dahlias, and in December everyone found themselves learning how to make Christmas garlands out of readily available plants. Speakers often bring plants for sale to these meetings, and advice is always readily available, at events which are the core of the Club's existence.

Arguably the most practical of the Club's activities is the bulk purchase of seed and other products for members at a considerable discount from a designated supplier. This valuable and time consuming operation is organised by our Club Trading Secretary, Marian Corbett, and the Club is

much indebted to her for this work. Another of the Club's practical activities is the dispensing of advice and information to members through the publication of the occasional *Newsletter*, and for this we are much indebted to Janet Morris. And a third practical activity, whose impact is enjoyed by all users of the Village Hall, is the maintenance of the strip of garden at the front of the Hall, in the main by the kindness of Sue Kiddy on behalf of the Gardening Club. The finances of the Club continue to be carefully managed by our excellent Treasurer, Andrew Morris, with our income coming from members' subscriptions, the Christmas Raffle and the Plant Sale, and our main expenditure being on paying speakers and on hiring the Village Hall for Club events. As with many small clubs, cheque books and paper financial records remain important to the Club's operations.

The membership of the Club remains stable, at 32. We will very soon be planting in the village's wild life area an ornamental crab apple tree in memory of Sylvia Norton, one of the Club's most loyal members and one of the village's most accomplished horticulturists, who died last year.

Arthur Mawby, Chairman

#### **West Wickham Carpet Bowls Club**

The Club has 17 members from West Wickham and outside. As well as our normal Wednesday club evening we continue to play friendly matches against other clubs both home and away. Carpet bowls is fun, friendly and easy to pick up. Everyone is welcome to come along and give it a try.

Janet Morris, Secretary

#### **West Wickham & District Local History Club**

The Club is a small one but is still managing to put on a programme of talks and evening visits. Dig4 this summer will probably be our last test pitting exercise and we will then be looking for grant aid to identify our pottery finds before completing the final report. After that we will be looking for a new archaeology project. In August we will be involved in something completely different as we promote a dramatised production of the Australian diaries of John Ramsden Wollaston. John was perpetual curate in West Wickham for 15 years until 1840 when he and his family emigrated to Western Australia where they led a pioneering life and he did much to establish the Anglican church in the newly established colony. We are very pleased to welcome members of the Stark Raven Theatre Company from Bunbury, WA, who are giving their services freely and we have decided that all proceeds will go to St Mary's Repair Fund as being particularly appropriate.

Janet Morris, Secretary

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★

**NEXT DATE: 22.07.17**



## NATURE NOTES



Patsy the red legged partridge has star billing this month. As last month's Village Voice was being printed, she had built her nest outside Dave and Amy's front door. As the Voice was being delivered, she

had laid 17 eggs, which hatched on 11 June. Partridges are ready to run around and feed themselves shortly after hatching, but are vulnerable to predators and other mishaps, such as being run over by speeding vehicles. We wish Patsy and her brood the best of luck, but they must have decided to move away as they have not been seen since the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile two doors away Ann had a heartening experience when she rescued a young blue tit that had fallen out of the nest, returned it carefully with the help of a stepladder and then a couple of days later saw all the chicks fledge.

Di and I have both been away for a while (in Mull and Dorset respectively) and have been comparing the wildlife in the north and the south with what we have here in West Wickham. Here are some of the highlights from all three places:

**Mammals:** in Mull there were red deer, highland cattle and otters in the loch. Here Trevor has had roe deer browsing an oak tree in his garden and I have captured two on infra-red camera.



In Dorset the saddest sight was a baby badger lying dead beside the coastal path. I think it's an area where they are culling. The most exciting was a pod of bottle-nosed dolphins off Portland Bill.

**Birds – Corvids:** No rooks or carrion crows in Mull, but instead the handsome black and brown hooded crow. Here, jackdaws continue to feed on our chickens' corn, while in Dorset they nest on the cliffs alongside gulls and fulmar. Ravens could also be heard saying 'never more' in their deep voice.

**Water Birds:** In Scotland greylag geese were numerous along the shoreline with lines of goslings between adults. In Dorset we were treated to the diving exploits of gannets and plenty of guillemots. Obviously West Wickham is land-locked but next door's moorhens are still going strong.

**Warblers, Flycatchers and other small birds:** Di saw redpolls and siskins daily on the birdfeeders, heard willow warblers but no chiffchaffs – unlike both West Wickham and Dorset. Kit and Jean have a pair of spotted flycatchers nesting and have reported them to the Cambridgeshire Bird

Club following the article in last month's VV. This is great news.

**Cuckoos:** In Mull one was singing all day long. Here, Valda responded to last month's challenge by reporting hearing a cuckoo on 20 April. The last one I heard came from Hare Wood in early June.

**Insects:** Biting and bloodsucking varieties were evident in Mull (midges and ticks). Here there are plenty of damsel flies and dragonflies including our usual broad-bodied chaser. Summer butterflies are emerging, but so far the highlight has been a couple of painted ladies (one at either end of the village). Butterflies were also a delight in Dorset – particularly the skippers and blues.

**Flora:** In Scotland they call the land between moorland and seashore the 'machair'. It is cropped short by rabbits and when Di was there it was covered in spring flowers, including orchids, primroses, bluebells and yellow irises. We have our orchids here too – I walked round West Town Park (opposite Sainsbury's) this morning and the pyramidal orchids were plentiful. They could also be seen in Dorset but the predominant flower while we were there was viper's bugloss – a great favourite of the burnet moths, which covered every bloom.

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

### BEE SWARMS

*"A swarm of bees in May, Is worth a load of hay.  
A swarm of bees in June, is worth a silver spoon.  
But a swarm of bees in July, isn't worth a fly!"*

So goes the old country poem which I first heard from Nip (Pearson) a decade ago.

It's swarming season again; a wonderful and exciting time of year. To see a swarm is a real treat, and don't worry if you should come across one; they have better things to do than sting you! In fact, they are preserving all the stores they bring with them and their own numbers as best they can, so can't afford to bother you.

Half of the colony has set flight and is off to find a new home, usually with the old queen. The first thing you will notice is the sound, a building crescendo of noise as they gather in the air and turn the sky a little dark. Scout bees will have found a staging post, a place where they will regroup and settle. Hopefully, this is a low hanging branch on a tree or similar where they can be accessed. A swarm looks like a dark, rugby ball shaped mass of gently shimmering bees hanging the branch with a few fliers around. Allow them to settle and then that's the time to call a bee keeper if you know one. If you don't, no problem, just type "I have a swarm" into Google and the British Bee Keepers Association website will find the nearest one to you with the aid of a postcode. Be mindful of course that the keeper may not be available right away.

Swarm collection is always a most rewarding job for the bee keeper; getting a colony of bees into a skep is great fun and surprisingly straightforward - if you know what to do and have the right kit! Do stay and watch. The bee keeper will leave the skep on the ground until later when all the bees are in and then return to collect them around dusk.

Continued on page 9



## Bee swarms cont .....

For the apiarist, he or she has a new young colony and for the property owner, there is relief that the unexpected visitors have gone. Of course for all of us there is a need for bees, so look after the swarms and don't be alarmed by them. Without these busy pollinators, it's suggested we'd all be doomed!

I should add that if a swarm has got into the fabric of a building the bee keeper can't always help so spotting them early is definitely best.

For those interested by bee keeping, the Cambridge Bee Keepers Association runs an excellent course in the spring.

Do let me know if you see a swarm and I will try and help.

Malcolm Cameron, malcolmcameronfrcs@gmail.com

## SHED SECURITY

Many people underestimate the value of the items they store in their sheds. Unfortunately criminals are fully aware of the value of the goods that some people do store in vulnerable places. The following advice can help to keep your property secure and reduce the chance of you becoming a victim of crime.

Whilst a shed is not designed to withstand any form of determined attack, there are some simple measures you can take to make them more secure. Position your garden shed as near to your house as possible so that it is clearly visible from your home.

Consider painting your house number and postcode onto your valuable gardening equipment (e.g. lawnmower, strimmer and tools). This makes them much less attractive to potential thieves as it makes them more difficult to sell on, and also increases the chances of the property being recovered and returned to its rightful owner if it is stolen.

Avoid storing valuable items such as power tools, fishing tackle or golf clubs in a shed. These items should be stored inside your home or a secure garage.

If you have been working in your garden ensure that you lock away tools such as spades or forks when you're finished. Tools left out overnight could be used by an intruder to gain access to your property.

If you don't intend to use the windows in your shed you can make them secure by screwing them shut or fitting window locks. Hanging old curtain or netting up against the window will prevent any prying eyes from seeing what is stored in your shed.

### Locks and Bolts

The most effective way to secure shed doors is to fit a strong hasp and staple (also called a 'padbar'). Secure this with coach bolts (long bolts with a smooth head that cannot be undone with a screwdriver or spanner) and lock the hasp over the staple with a closed shackled padlock.

You can further protect your shed with items such as 'shed bars' and larger items such as cycles can be secured to shed shackles. These and other approved products can be found at [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) or [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com).

Secure the shed door hinges with 'clutch head' or 'coffin' screws. These are a special type of screw that once fitted can only be unscrewed with a special tool. They can be purchased from DIY outlets and on the internet.

(Ed. There have been several shed burglaries in West Wrating recently so please heed this advice)

Cambridgeshire Police

## FUNDRAISING NETBALL SESSIONS

Frayr Bridgeman, along with other students from LVC are going on a once in a lifetime trip to Peru in the summer of 2018. When there they will be helping in the local community and trying to make a contribution to community development and environmental conservation projects in the less fortunate regions of the country. As a part of the experience the students have to raise all the money themselves to fund their trip.

In order to raise this money Frayr has already had a raffle at the community market and a stall at the Big Balsham Sale as well as cake sales outside of the village. Frayr's next event is to run fun netball sessions for children and adults in the summer holidays. Only £5 per session. Contact us on [angela.bridgeman@abnetballcoaching.co.uk](mailto:angela.bridgeman@abnetballcoaching.co.uk) or 07729879300 for further information or to book a place.

Monday 31 July 7pm-8.30pm Ladies

Tuesday 1 August 1pm-3pm Children in KS2

Tuesday 1 August 3pm-5pm Girls in KS3 & KS4

Wednesday 2 August 1pm-3pm Girls in years 7 & 8

Wednesday 2 August 3pm-5pm Girls in years 9, 10 & 11

Angela & Frayr Bridgeman

## WHATS ON

On 15 July **Linton Jazz** will be performing at St. Mary's, Great Abington. The evening will begin at 6.15 pm. and there will be a Barbeque. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the music and the food! Tickets are £10.00 each, and under-18s are free. Tickets are on sale in Great Abington village shop, or from Anne Hall (892275), Marilyn Broadhurst (893214) Mary Miles (891083) and Tony Collett (893447).

**The Outspoken Theatre Company** are coming to Hildersham on 29 July to perform '*All's well that ends well*'. They will be in the Old School Wood and the performance will begin at 6.30 pm. The gates will be open at 6.00 pm. Tickets on the gate are £12. Pre-booked tickets are £10, available from Cathy Myers (892848) or [catherinemyer43@btinternet.com](mailto:catherinemyer43@btinternet.com)

**Weston Colville Circular Walk.** Our next circular walk will be on Saturday 8 July. We'll walk c.5 miles. All welcome - meet at the Reading Room at 10.00am, 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.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas  
(291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com))

**Weston Colville Harvest Swap.** We're trying a harvest swap this summer and have chosen three Saturdays hoping to catch those 'gluts' your garden may produce. Bring produce that's too much for your table and go home with something different in exchange. All fruit and veg welcome, plus preserves. Nothing to swap? No problem - come and see local produce you might like in exchange for a donation. Refreshments available. The Saturdays will be 15, 29 July and 12 August, all 10.00 until 12.00 noon.

Jacqueline Douglas  
(291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com))

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Linton Village College has a strong reputation for industry links, having been designated a Business and Enterprise specialist school since September 2003. We continue to enjoy effective relationships with industry and our young people benefit from access to enterprise opportunities.

In June, all of our Year 10 students spent enrichment week engaged in work experience. Many had sourced their own placements to pursue a specific interest ranging from the Park Inn Radisson Hotel in Ostrava, Czech Republic and at the Aircraft Restoration Company, Duxford working on the BBMF Lancaster bomber, to experiencing legal practices in Haverhill and interior design in Linton. While we support our learners in developing skills ready for life beyond LVC, and provide them with careers education, advice and guidance, experiencing employment situations first-hand provides students with rich learning. For some it has confirmed career decisions, for others tested them. The feedback from our students and the companies about the week has been incredibly positive.

As a member of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Local Enterprise Partnership we benefit from industry support, including careers training and business mentoring. Our long-standing partnership with Dalehead Foods, through the BITC Business Class programme, is an excellent example of the positive impact that business links can have. Our students have enjoyed annual enterprise projects and employability skills opportunities. The school has also benefited from improvements to the site through the company's volunteer scheme.

We have, in addition, been fortunate to receive financial donations from local businesses to support school events and projects. As has been well-publicised in the local and national press, education budgets are incredibly challenging at present due to real-term reductions in funding. The school is grateful for such generous monetary contributions.

We are keen to continue to develop wider community and business links to enrich the curriculum and provide students with opportunities for authentic, real-world learning. If any local companies are able to offer support we would be keen to hear from you. We would also welcome additional work experience placements for future cohorts.

Ian Simmons, Head of the Business and Enterprise Faculty ([ian.simmons@lvc.org](mailto:ian.simmons@lvc.org)) would be happy to receive any support that local industry is able to offer.

Helena Marsh, Principal

### **NEED TO FIND LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES QUICKLY?**

#### **'MyHealth' app for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**

A new app to help Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents find local NHS services available to them has been launched. Quick and easy to use, the app will direct you to your nearest appropriate NHS service. This includes local GPs, pharmacies, minor injury units, and dentists, based on your location or postcode. Free to download and available in five other languages, including Polish, Latvian, and Lithuanian, MyHealth provides up to date information on current services including directions, opening hours, and contact details. The app is available to download for iOS via Apple Store, Android via Google Play, and Windows phones via Microsoft Store by searching for 'MyHealth C&P CCG'.

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As the summer term races towards the finish line if anything school just gets busier. Our Year 6 children recently completed their week long residential trip. Once again a week from home saw them come into their own. The confidence, resilience, camaraderie and friendship that they demonstrated was amazing. From cheering their peers at the top of the abseiling tower to splashing or capsizing one another while kayaking on the river their cheery nature and positive attitude did not desert them. They even got the hang of going to sleep at night after encountering rather grumpy and sleep deprived teachers after the first night!

June has thankfully been beautifully sunny which has helped the sporting events we have participated in. The children never cease to amaze me with their positive nature and have a go attitude. Quadkids and Y4 Mini Olympics both held at Wilberforce Road sports ground were huge hits and saw some of our children win races and The Meadow win the Spirit of the Games award for their support for every competitor, whether they were from our school or not. The same effort was seen at Kwik Cricket events where our Y5/6 teams played on Parkers Piece in Cambridge and our Year 3/4 team who not only made their debut as a team at Sawston cricket ground but won the competition!

The sports theme has continued in school with Y2 visiting Linton Heights for a multi sports event, competing against our cluster schools. Weekly swimming for every class began at the end of May and of course our annual sports day has taken place with the help of Sports Leaders from Linton Village College, which was a huge success. It really makes me proud that sports takes a prominent place on our school timetable alongside core subjects such as Maths and English and the fear of only teaching to the test has not broken our school yet.

Whilst the juniors have been busy competing in events the infants have been very busy looking after their new charges. They recently became proud parents to 6 ducklings which they watched hatch in an incubator. The ducklings are Peking ducks and yes, they are the breed you get with pancakes! We have decided to keep two as school pets and these have been named Puddles and Pancake by the children. We will of course keep you up to date with their progress over the coming months.

Our final piece of news is very exciting! Mrs Faye Facer our Early Years Leader has been announced as a Silver winner for the National Pearson Teacher of the Year. Earlier this term we had visitors from the award come and visit us at school after Mrs Facer was nominated. They were so impressed they have now made her a gold finalist. She has to go to a huge awards ceremony in London in October and this is televised on the BBC. Good luck Mrs Facer!

Nicola Connor, Head Teacher

### **PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 July**

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