

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

SEPTEMBER 2017

ISSUE 173

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 4 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 6 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 9 **Balsham Community Market**
2 - 4.30pm, Balsham Church Institute.
See page 4
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 11 Black wheeled bin collection
- Sat 16 **Deadline for items for inclusion in the**
October Village Voice
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 18 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club Annual General
Meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 23 **HUB NIGHT. 7—11pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 24 Morning prayers. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 25 Black wheeled bin collection
- Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village**
Hall. All are welcome to attend
- Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Daisy Chains Pre-School meets**
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch
club) in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £8.00/hour
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

Email: bookings@westwickham.org
or visit www.westwickham.org

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

WEST WICKHAM'S BOOK EXCHANGE IS NOW OPEN!



You may have noticed that our old phone box, situated on the High Street, has been adapted ready to open its doors as West Wickham's Book Exchange.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make this new venture possible. It's testimony to what a great community this village has.

If you have not yet visited the book exchange, here is a summary of how it works (full details are also in the

phone box). We hope together we can make it a place where everyone in the community can find a good read.

BRING A BOOK

Donate a book that you would like to share with the community. Books for all ages are welcome. To make the most of our limited space, **only bring books that you have really enjoyed** and that you think others will too.

TAKE A BOOK

Help yourself to any book you like! Bring it back once you have read it and, **if you enjoyed it, place a gold sticker on the book's inside cover to rate it as 'good'**. You can also do this with books you are donating.

REVIEWS

Whether you have brought or borrowed a book, **if you really LOVED the read, please leave a review**. It doesn't have to be long – just a few words on a sticky note placed on the book's inside cover.

REQUESTS

Have you got a request? Write it on a sticky note and pin it on the notice board. If you think you can fulfil a request, leave the book on the bottom shelf and reply on the original note.

TOY LIBRARY

Our toy box is aimed for children aged 0 - 5. We welcome small, non-battery operated toys. Please do not leave toys outside the box.

Note: DVDs are also welcome.

The exchange will be checked on a regular basis and will be closed during the winter months. After a period of time, or when faced with a stock overflow, some of the books/toys/DVDs will be donated to a charity shop to make room for new stock. Those items that have been rated as 'good' with most gold stickers will be given priority to remain.

Disclaimer: Every effort will be made to keep the phone box area safe and free of inappropriate material. We cannot accept liability for any injuries caused while at the exchange or for the quality/content of material.

Perla Arteaga

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM
VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **23.09.17** FROM 7PM-11PM



ALAN SWADLING

I would like to thank all of you kind friends and neighbours who came to say a sad farewell to Alan at his funeral on 28 July at St Mary's Church. Some of you will recall him helping me in the shop and also frequently behind the bar of the pub. Right from day one he loved West Wickham and even after thirty years that feeling was still strong. In retirement Alan enjoyed gardening and he swelled with pride when folk expressed their admiration of it. As his health deteriorated he was content to sit in his armchair and watch me and the birds out in the garden of the house he adored. Thank you once again for your show of love for us both on this most difficult day.

Cynthia Swadling

FROM THE VICARAGE

Last month (on 14 August) was the first anniversary of the departure of the Revd Dr. Julie Norris. Our seven churches have now been in a vacancy for a whole year. This month a second series of advertisements are being placed in the Church Times newspaper for priests to apply to fill the vacancy. As I have asked before, please do pray for the right priest to apply to come and serve in Julie's place. Meanwhile our church services, and all the baptisms, weddings and funerals have continued. Our ministry team have gone above and beyond their normal duties, serving all seven churches as well as possible in the circumstances. We have also been generously helped by a team of other local clergy

The aftermath of the theft of the lead roof at St. Andrew's, West Wrattling has caused the church to be filled with scaffolding as the walls are being repaired and repainted. After the theft of the roof rain inevitably penetrated the church and stained the walls. Great generosity has been shown in answer to the appeal for the cost of the repairs, but the need for the plastering and painting of the walls has turned the church into a construction site. Please sympathize with the congregation, the churchwardens and the Church Council as they try to cope with the situation.

Last month a play was staged at West Wickham, organised by the West Wickham & District Local History Club, telling the story of John Wollaston, perpetual curate, who left the parish in 1840 and travelled to Western Australia. He helped to establish the Anglican Church in Perth, in Bunbury and the surrounding area, ending up as the first Archdeacon of the diocese. The generous actors, who came from Bunbury and performed the play, asked for the proceeds of ticket sales, over £460, to be donated towards repairs to St. Mary's, West Wickham.

Summer fetes, barbecues, and many other events have taken place in all our churches through this summer. Our thanks go to all those enthusiasts who have given time and energy to keep our churches in good heart as we wait for our new 'Rector-Designate' to be appointed.

Keith Johnson

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Canon John Fellows new address is
29 Upper Olland Street, Bungay, NR35 1BE
Telephone: 01986 984414 (no change)
Email: j.fellows321@btinternet.com (no change)

YOUR PARISH NURSE

Claire Gillet RN is your local Parish Nurse, employed by the Seven Churches Group, supporting all people and communities in Gt and Lt Abington, Hildersham, Balsham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and now West Wickham, church goers or not. There is no charge or any age restrictions.



The Parish Nurse will visit you individually and be a sympathetic listener if you are:

- Grieving
- Feeling alone
- Having health or other problems
- Having difficulty in making sense of what you have been told with regard to your health
- In need of help accessing services

Claire is a qualified nurse registered with the NMC, who has extensive professional experience. If you are involved in a local group and would like support from Claire she would be pleased to speak to you.

Claire can be contacted on 07498 994205 or email 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com

Her working days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (unless otherwise stated on her mobile phone)

Please note that this is not a monitored 24 hour service.

If you have an acute illness please contact your GP or ring NHS Direct on 111 for advice

PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Over the past two years our Parish Nurse has become an integral part of our community. Funded by our community, the nurse has been quietly providing help, advice and support for those who need it most. We are immensely grateful to both Teresa, our inaugural nurse, and Claire our current nurse for their dedication and commitment in helping us to care for one another.

The Parish Nursing post was created both to meet a need and to be a self-sustaining additional resource within our villages. The role complements, not replaces, the services already provided by the NHS and voluntary agencies. The nurse works closely with existing organisations including Granta Medical Practices.

Requests for support have grown month on month, with the nurse providing help to the elderly, young families and individuals at time of difficulty. Feedback has been enormously positive. Beyond providing direct care the Parish Nurse has also been instrumental in arranging community events around health issues – dementia, childhood illnesses, end of life care and getting the best from the health services. The next event will be on 6 October in Great Abington, so do keep the evening free.

If you would like to know more about the Parish Nurse project, might be able to volunteer some time to support the project, or can contribute in any way please contact Cazzy Walshe, project secretary at 7churches.seven@gmail.com .

Dr James Morrow

WEST WICKHAM STAGES A BRITISH PREMIERE

You don't get to write that very often but that is precisely what we did on 12 August when members of the Stark Raven Theatre Company from Bunbury, Western Australia put on *Wollaston: a Man and a Mission* in the Village Hall.



Everyone I've spoken to thoroughly enjoyed Tony Martin's virtuoso performance as John Ramsden Wollaston, the West Wickham minister who emigrated from here with his wife and family to the newly established colony of Western Australia in 1840. He was touchingly supported by a virtually silent Siguri Luckwell as Mary Wollaston reflecting that this was a dramatisation of her husband's diaries with very little surviving to give us her own hopes and fears. The whole performance had an evocative musical accompaniment on the cello which was played by Gideon Gray, a recent graduate of Christ's College, Cambridge – Wollaston's own College.

We are extremely grateful to Tony, Siguri, Gideon and dramatist (set builder and acting director), Norm Flynn, for giving up their holiday time to stage this for us. Thanks must also go to the Village Hall Committee who allowed us to use the Hall, Di for sterling work selling tickets and organising the provision of tea and cakes by the PCC,



Jane for the loan of props, Pete for helping put out chairs and Andrew for tickets and posters. The tea and cakes certainly helped make this an extra special occasion and our visitors have told me they really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and chat to us afterwards. Thank you also to all of you who bought tickets and came along and supported us. We raised £462.50 for repairs to the church, our oldest standing building and particularly appropriate given the subject.

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO OCCUPY THOSE AUTUMN EVENINGS?

Then, why not come along to the Carpet Bowls Club on a Wednesday evening (7pm in the Village Hall). Carpet Bowls is easy to learn and suitable for all ages and abilities. There is a very friendly atmosphere and the evening provides a wonderful opportunity to make new friends both from our own and surrounding villages. Further details from Janet Morris, 21 High Street, Tel: 290863

NATURE NOTES

At a time when certain unpredictable fingers are hovering over the nuclear button, what better antidote to our anxieties than to see and hear the wild creatures and plants of West Wickham? There's so much to appreciate if you keep your eyes and ears open. 'A smorgasboard of nature', as Di calls it.

A highlight this year has been the two swallows' nests that we have in our garage. As I write, one of the broods has just fledged, so it won't be long now before we can park our cars in the garage again. It will be a small consolation, because when they have all gone we will miss them swooping in over our heads and delivering sustenance to their chattering offspring. The journey to South Africa is a long and perilous one, but we hope that we will have another visit next year.

Birds of prey feature strongly this month. Ten red kites were seen circling and coming to rest on a newly cut field of hay in West Wrattling, while many of us in Burton End have noticed the racket made by a buzzard family. Kestrels too, can be particularly noisy at this time of year. It seems that birds of prey remain in family groups for quite some time after the young leave the nest, and they like to communicate with each other. Meanwhile, owls have also been seen and heard – Doug having to stop his car in the High Street to allow a young tawny owl to move, and a barn owl seen quartering along the hedge in Webb's Lane. Di heard another young tawny 'practising his call unsuccessfully, as if he had a sore throat.' At this time of year with the fields being ploughed we expect to see gulls, but I was surprised to see the other day in Sainsbury's car park two common terns perching on the lamp posts.

Did anyone do the big butterfly count? Most of the butterflies I counted in July have now disappeared and been replaced by others. Brimstones are currently on the wing. This is the new brood which will hibernate through the winter and reappear in the spring as one of the first butterflies you see. Speckled woods are also plentiful after having had a poor early summer. The larger butterflies like the peacock, red admiral, comma and small tortoiseshell are also ones to look out for at this time of year. Di noticed a patch of nettles with several moving black leaves which turned out to be a mass of caterpillars, destined to become peacock or small tortoiseshell butterflies. Painted ladies are visitors from the continent who do breed here once they arrive, but cannot survive our winters. I saw a couple on the footpath leading up to the back of the playing field, after having seen others earlier in the year, so perhaps these were offspring.

Di has had some interesting visits from other creatures – notably a green bush cricket and a hummingbird hawk moth which came into her conservatory, and a beautiful pink elephant hawk moth on the inside of the hall curtain. In addition there are pipistrelle bats in her loft. Our houses don't fully belong to us do they?

Most amphibians have removed themselves from water at this time of year and tend to seek out long grass or other hiding places. Di had a toad and a newt on her compost heap while I have been cutting some of the long grass in our garden with shears and both toads and frogs have had to take avoiding action.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24 July the following items were discussed. The full Minutes in draft form are available on the notice board and on the website.

Matters arising:

1. Dean Road/A1307 junction hedging: The Parish Council has made several requests to the County Council Highways Dept for something to be done about the overhanging branches. Recently an officer from the Dept was seen looking at the junction by Cllr. Cornish, who told him about the problem. He agreed that the trees were the responsibility of the County Council and needed cutting back.
2. Gritting bins: These have not yet been put in place and the Parish Clerk will chase.

Planning: The Chairman complained about the South Cambs DC Planning Dept for totally discounting the Parish Council's view with regard to S/1722/17/FL (single story glass roof veranda at 90 High Street) which was given retro planning permission despite opposition from the Parish Council. The same applied to S/1803/17/FL (former White Horse PH) where the Council queried the fact that only 3 of 4 sheds were shown on the plans and that the shepherds hut is for commercial use. Dist.Cllr. Fraser was asked if something could be done about the ridiculous conditions set out with the planning permission for S/1415 and S/2483 (new dwelling opposite 3 Streetly End) with which he agreed and the Chairman will write to the Head of Planning with these complaints.

Finance: The authorised payments are set out in full in the draft Minutes.

1. The internal audit was satisfactory.
2. The budget was on target.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall told Council that the Character Assessment is in the process of being produced. All areas of the Parish have been visited and the first draft of the overall view of the settlements has been written and circulated. The detailed assessment of the lower end of the High Street is being written and will be circulated shortly.

Maintenance:

1. Speed indicator: Cllr. Hall hoped a discount of 5% will be allowed on their order from Swarco, who are also supplying a bulk order to Cambridgeshire County Council. He had learned that there would be a charge by CCC for inspecting the siting of the posts in the village. Again the question of 30mph labels on bins was raised and it was agreed that some labels could be purchased and distributed to those who wanted to display them.
2. Footpaths: Footpath No.6 behind the Village Hall which was overgrown with hanging branches had been bought under control by the secateurs of Cllr. Licence. Footpath No.5 requires some attention on the bridge near the Church and the Parish Clerk will contact the County Council about this.

Playground report:

1. The repairs required following the inspection by Wicksteed are being carried out. It was agreed that the playground needs more regular check-ups to keep it in good order.
2. Tennis Court: There is some interest in putting a tennis court on part of the car park and it was agreed that this suggestion needed to be put to the Village Hall

Management Committee for discussion. If agreed funding would be looked for.

Mobile phone coverage: Despite the new mast now in place mobile phone coverage is poor in various places in the village. The suppliers are aware of this and agreed there is a fault which they are looking into.

Local Forum meetings: A1307 informal meeting – this was concerning the City Deal consultation. The “Position” survey paper was still not finalised but Dist.Cllr. Fraser said the new report is much the same as the original one saying that the A1307 is adequate for its purpose but not at peak times.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 25 September. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260, Email: j.richards597@btinternet.



↑ Eat Well ↑ Live Well ↑ Celebrate Community

EAT LOCAL
BY PRODUCERS AND BUYERS

Balsham Community Market

Bringing Food & Friends Together

Saturday 9th September 2017 2pm to 4.30pm
Balsham Church Institute

Featuring:
Camcattle/Camlamb; The Radwinter Wild Game Co;
Parkins Butchers sausages; The Lamb Charcuterie Co;
Jigsaw Bakery; The Wild Flour Kitchen savoury foods;
Chocs-Away/CB21 Cheesecake Co; Jane's Cupcakes;
Borakis Greek Foods; Spoonstruck ice cream;
Nikki's Homemade preserves; iBalans Nutrition;
Old Butchers; allotment produce; Old Granary Organics;
plants; The Ethnic in the Village fine silver jewellery.
Café serving homemade cakes and cream teas.

Follow us on Facebook and WordPress for news and updates
balshammarket balshammarket balshammarket@gmail.com

KENNEL OPEN DAY & DOG SHOW

At Wadgells Farm, Sowley Green, Great Thurlow

**2.00pm onwards
FREE ENTRY**

Activities during the afternoon include:
Tour of the kennels and meeting the hounds
Family dog show and Pony rides
Farriery demonstration and Ferrets
Tractor & trailer tour of part of the Thurlow Estate Farm
Bouncy Castle and other children's entertainments
Teas and cakes, BBQ, ice creams,
homemade produce for sale



GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES FLU CLINICS

Flu jabs are now available to book.

Linton Health Centre, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4JS

From Saturday 30 September 8.30 am to 2.00 pm

Sawston Medical Centre, London Road, Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HU

From Saturday 23 September 8.30 am to 2.00 pm

The flu jab is available at all sites, just ring your own surgery and then specify which one you want to attend.

You are eligible for a free flu jab if you have any of the following conditions:-

- Ischaemic heart disease
- Stroke and TIA (Transient Ischaemic Attack)
- Liver and kidney disease
- Immunocompromised – HIV, on certain drugs, patients without a spleen, on chemo or radiotherapy
- Morbidly obese – BMI greater than 40
- Chronic respiratory disease – COPD, bronchiectasis, fibrosis.
- Asthma – but must be using inhaled steroid
- Are a carer
- Cancer patient
- Family of people on chemotherapy living in the same house
- Pregnant mums
- Aged over 65
- Diabetes

We can offer pneumonia and shingles to those who are eligible.

If you are not eligible but want a flu jab we are offering private flu jabs through the Granta Pharmacy at all sites. Please ask Reception for details.

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Circular Walk. We're heading out Saturday 30 September. c5 miles. Meet at the Reading Room at 10.00am, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. One of our newer regulars is bringing a chilli, with a veg option too. You can put food in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

Demonstration and Talk: John English - Woodturner. John, a member of the Essex Guild of Craftsmen and the National Association of Woodturners, will come and demonstrate how he works with wood. As he also *teaches* woodturning, he's adept at 'show and tell' and this promises to be an informative and entertaining evening. Wednesday 27 September, 7.30pm at the Reading Room, no ticket required, all welcome, refreshments available.

'Pub' Quiz. Wednesday 20 September, 8pm at the Reading Room. Up to 4 per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draught ale. No need to book, all welcome. Enquiries for all events:

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 291475

DOOR TO DOOR SALESMEN

Cambridgeshire Police have been receiving reports of door to door salesmen in the area that have been causing some residents concern. Please see the information below regarding this issue.

Pedlars – It is illegal to sell door to door without a pedlars licence. Door to door pedlars can cause alarm to residents as people fear that they may be “casing” or “eyeing up” your home. The truth is that the majority of pedlars are young people who are duped into buying stock, then driven around by a gang master to sell door to door. They are often unaware of the legal requirement to have a licence. People falling for this scam can have fallen on hard times, and can often look unkempt or not appear to be very good sales people, thus suspicious. Whilst people continue to buy from them, they will return to an area. The best thing to-do as a community is to politely decline door step sales.

Door to door sales people – These are people who are trying to generate leads for a business or charity. Police advice again is that you do not buy or sell at your door, but many nationally recognised and reputable firms will send people door to door. As with pedlars these persons can be young people who have struggled to find other employment and without any disrespect to them, may appear unkempt and not behave like you'd expect a sales persons to act, thus again being suspicious to many residents.

For further information please look at the following website <https://southcambscops.org/2013/05/20/door-to-door-sales-what-you-should-know/>

If you require any crime prevention advice please visit www.cambs.police.co.uk/ and follow the links to 'Crime Prevention'.

ADVICE FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The school summer holidays are coming to a close and we hope you have enjoyed the time with family, going on holiday or even creating your own adventures at home. Before the children head off back to school, take the opportunity to teach your children about fire safety and design your very own fire escape plan for them to share with teachers and other students back in the classroom. We recommend every household has a fire escape plan and regularly runs through it with the family – especially when guests are coming to stay. Here are a few things to consider when writing yours:

- Everyone should know where the window and door keys are.
- Your normal way out of the house is your best escape route so always keep it clear of clutter - think of the difficulties you'll have using this route in pitch darkness or smoke.
- Walk your escape route with the rest of your family or housemates and make sure everyone can open windows and doors easily.

If you, your neighbour or family member might be vulnerable or have trouble escaping from their house in a fire, get in touch with us to see if we can help by calling 0800 917 9994. For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, go to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

ALICE WESTLAND TROPHY 2017

In memory of her daughter Alice, a former pupil at the Meadow School, each year Anne Westland presents a trophy to the KS2 pupil who she considers to have produced the best work. A couple of pieces of creative writing, selected by teachers in each class, are sent to her for judging. This year Lizzie Coles was the winner for her imaginative piece on the Phenomenal Ferris Wheel. Freya Humphrey was runner up and Emily Loe and George Green were highly commended.

This is the winning piece

The Phenomenal Ferris Wheel

When the sun has set and the dark has come,
One radiant light stands in its way.

With a myriad of colours The Ferris Wheel smiles,
And fights for the luminous lights of the day.

As the children clamber on for the final ride,
Enthusiastic, vociferate screams and deafening cries
Echo through the deep-blue sky,
Then the wheel starts to gyrate and the chattering dies.

Clinging frantically to the cold steel bar,
The children tremble in the nervous air,
By the dizzying, stomach churning heights,
Now that they realise this ride is quite a scare!

Vibrant, pulsating lights lace the hypnotic eye,
Like a vivid light in the sky,
The Ferris Wheel dazzles every nook and cranny,
With its sensational smile in the sky high.

In a kaleidoscope of colours,
And like wonderful dreams,
The children scream and whoop vociferously
Under the light of the moon beams ...

The unstable carriages sway in the cold breeze,
With bright and brilliant scintillating lights,
Then the unmistakable smell of diesel fills the air
While the children overcome their fears of heights.

A bitter taste of metal fills the children's mouths,
Now the colossal ride has come to an end.
The faint squeal of brakes run through their ears.
Now tell your family and tell a friend
Of the magnificent ride: The Phenomenal Ferris Wheel !

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club organises a series of monthly talks from October to April on a wide variety of subjects from particular plant species to gardening techniques, from individual gardens to the history of gardening – something we hope for everyone. Non members are very welcome to come to these meetings for a small fee. We hope the following will entice you.

Monday 16 October. Aquatic, marginal & bog plants.
Talk by Ian Seagers.

Monday 20 November. Hemerocallis. Talk by Dr Paula Dyason of Strictly Daylilies Nursery, Histon.

Monday 18 December. Members questions and answers.

Meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Healthy competition has an important role in education. Having recently witnessed great sporting achievements and house spirits at our sports day, I am proud to recognise and reward the successes of students at LVC.

Competition doesn't only take place on the sports field, though. This summer our Year 11s vied for their places on the bell curve of exam results to govern their academic outcomes. Students' relative performance, compared with all other entrants, determined the letters and numbers that they will have received in brown envelopes on 24 August. The same is true of schools.

Education itself is not a competitive sport yet as I write this, awaiting the publication of GCSE results, I am acutely aware of how the school is judged against other institutions on the basis of a few select headline measures.

School league tables were introduced in 1992. The stated aim by the government at the time was to give parents the consumer information they needed to create a free market in school choice. This 'Compare the Market' style approach offers a very narrow and reductive assessment of schooling and creates a false sense of commercial competition. Furthermore, when the stakes are high, they can encourage immoral or divisive practices.

At LVC we believe that collaboration is more fruitful than competition. Our involvement in a number of educational networks, including our Teaching School status and our role as founding school in the Chilford Hundred Education Trust, reflects our commitment to reciprocal relationships that work in the best interests of all children. CHET's opening of a new primary school in Red Lodge and exploration of partnership with Long Road Sixth Form College are indicative of the Trust's ambition to sustain and grow educational excellence in the region.

An important vacancy of Clerk has arisen at CHET. This part-time, flexible role plays a significant function in supporting the Board of Directors to ensure the effective running of the organisation for the benefit of local education and students. Further details about the post and how to apply can be found in the vacancy section of the LVC website. We look forward to applications from those that share our commitment to securing exceptional education for all.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The Meadow School Governing Body is looking for someone interested in becoming a non-parent governor. If you are interested please contact Clare Gorman, Chair of Governors, on clare.tidswell@gmail.com for further information.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 September

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