

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2018

ISSUE 180

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 All ages praise & Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Wed 4 **Blue & green wheeled bin (late) collection**
- Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 9 **Local History Club. Victorian & Edwardian architecture in Cambridgrshire. Talk by Tony Kirby. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 10 **Black wheeled bin (day late) collection**
- Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 **Blue & green wheeled bin collection Gardening Club. Climbers, crawlers & creepers – vertical gardening. Talk by Mike Warren. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 22 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 23 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 28 **HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 29 United Parishes Service. 10.00, Hildersham Church
- Mon 30 **Blue & green wheeled bin collection**

### Daisy Chains Pre-School meets

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30  
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall**

## THE VILLAGE HALL

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WILDLIFE AREA

Will the children who are taking the logs from the wildlife area **PLEASE STOP**. They were given by members of the community to enhance the area and provide shelter for the wildlife. By throwing them into the pond, not only are you damaging the fence, which was purchased by the Pre-school, you are putting your own lives at risk, especially if you are balancing on them in the water. This area is owned and managed by your Parish Council for the enjoyment of the whole village.

Di Licence

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A reminder that there will be elections to the Parish Council on 3 May. Please think of standing for election as one of our 7 councillors. The village needs a good representation of people from all parts (especially Streetly End where no-one stood for the Parish Council at the last election) who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions.

Nominations must be with South Cambridgeshire District Council by 12 noon on Friday 6 April. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards, West Lodge, 88 High Street, Balsham.  
T: 01223 665260, E: [parish.clerk@westwickham.org](mailto:parish.clerk@westwickham.org)

We invite all candidates to provide us with a photograph and an election statement of no more than 200 words by 16 April, for publishing in an election supplement in the May issue of the Village Voice.

## DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quiz.** Many thanks to anybody who helped us, or supported us in any manner at our Quiz on 24 February. Although numbers of people at the quiz were disappointingly low we still managed to raise approximately £150.

**We need your jumble.** Daisychains Preschool will be having our Annual Jumble Sale on Saturday 12 May 2-4 p.m. Please save your jumble and bric-a-brac for us and deliver to the Hall on the day. If you need jumble to be collected please ring Sue Harrow on 01223 290512.

## UK POWER NETWORKS UPDATE

Following my report of over-voltage problems last month, UK Power Networks have temporarily installed equipment at the transformer serving the church end of the village to monitor the voltage and restrict it within the legal upper limit. This has also brought the average voltage down. At the end of the monitoring period a decision will be made about what additional actions are required to make the solution permanent.

Alex Schuilenburg

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★  
**WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

NEXT DATE: **28.04.2018** 7PM-11PM



## FROM THE VICARAGE

This year is racing by and Easter Day will be over by the time you read this. We are in a season of new beginnings. Thankfully the really cold weather has gone and now we can see the new growth springing from what appeared to be dead. It is amazing how nature reinvents itself and wonderful to see the glorious colours of spring and more daylight hours to enjoy them with the clocks going forward. I am reminded of the Easter story that tells of Jesus' crucifixion at the end of his life, or so it was thought, but three days later he rose again and is still alive inspiring and encouraging us.

There is a poem by William Henry Davies that says "What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs and stare as long as sheep or cows... and ends with "A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare". Maybe this could be our new beginning?

We have another new beginning with our new Rector joining us shortly; it is strange to think that Canon Bill Girard died just before this arrival. But we are looking forward to having someone to lead us in bringing about new ways of engaging church and community. The usual St. George's Day service will take place on 22 April, 3.00pm at Balsham church so that will give the scouts, cubs, brownies and guides a chance to meet Revd McColl.

There is a new beginning for West Wrattling church with the introduction of Café church. The first one in February was very successful and the next one will be on 29 April at 3.00pm. Also that day we have our United Benefice Service at Hildersham church, 10.00am. The service will be led by Iain and Archdeacon Alex Hughes. Do come and join us, we would love to see you.

Rev. Kathy Bishop

## FRIENDS of ST MARY'S

I am sorry to have taken so long to give an update to you about the redecoration of the church. It has been necessary to get expert advice to establish the various causes of the damp areas in the chancel. Cambridge Stonework eventually carried out this work in November and in combination with our architect, Helen Axworthy, a plan of action has been drawn up.

There are five things in particular. Firstly, the high level features such as the east gable end stone work and the line between the main body and the chancel. Secondly, the removal of the concrete ground gutters and the installation of new land drains. Thirdly, the reinstatement of the string course below the windowsills in the chancel. Fourthly, the rebuilding of the buttresses on the NE and SE corners of the chancel and lastly, the removal of salt damaged plaster internally.

The plan is to do all these works next year and redecorate the following year when everything has all dried out. The total cost is estimated to be £75,000 with VAT reclaimable. Permissions are now required from the Diocese and Westminster.

Meanwhile you are all invited to a Garden Party at Manor Farm on Friday 22 June.

Marcus Cornish

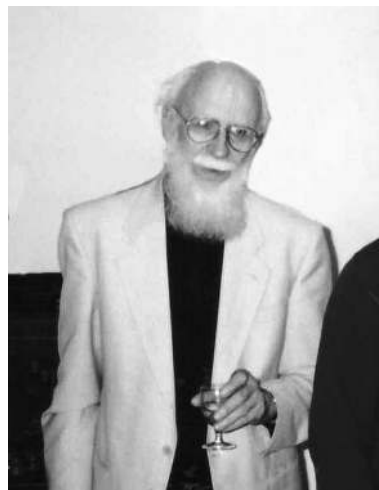
## CANON WILLIAM (BILL) GIRARD 1935-2018

It is with very much sadness that I have to report that Bill Girard died on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Bill was Priest in Charge here from 1985 to 1999 and lived at the Rectory in Balsham, initially with his mother. He was raised in Southern Rhodesia and trained as a lawyer prior to training as a priest and his ordination. Balsham was his longest posting.

Bill will be remembered here for his single minded work on church repairs, which he carried out with determination and great attention to detail. He knew his way round grant application forms and raised substantial sums for repairs to the tower, tower roof, bell frames, drains, wiring, Salvation Army window, the list goes on!

May he rest in peace.

Marcus Cornish, Church Warden



Bill trained for the priesthood at Mirfield College in Yorkshire where he also spent a sabbatical year in 1996-7. After curacies in the West Country he spent the rest of his ministry in the Ely Diocese having served as a Chaplain at King's School, Ely, and at Fenstanton and Hilton before coming to Balsham. Leaving here he lived in Little Stukely as a House for Duty

priest also looking after Hamerton. He finally retired to the Community at Little Gidding where he died after a short illness and was laid to rest.

Bill was extremely well read and was very knowledgeable about the scriptures especially the Old Testament and owned many books. He also loved cooking and, in particular, making jam and marmalade – indeed on his death 9 kilos of oranges were found in his kitchen awaiting attention.

Joanna Saunders, former Church Warden in Balsham

From a historian's point of view, Bill Girard was a joy and someone to whom we are extremely grateful. As a lawyer and academic he understood the importance of preserving church records and ensured they were properly deposited in the County Record Office (now Cambs Archives) at Shire Hall (a recognised depository for Diocesan records) where they are available for us all to consult. He particularly admired John Ramsden Wollaston, perpetual curate in West Wickham, who emigrated to Western Australia in 1840 and helped establish the Anglican Church. He collected much material on JRW, including two volumes of the printed edition of his diaries, which he also deposited at Shire Hall when he moved away from the area.

Janet Morris

Secretary, West Wickham & District Local History Club

## PARISH NURSE

It's hard to believe that I last wrote in the village magazines back in June 2017, telling you a bit more about myself and my role as your Parish Nurse. Since that time, I have met even more villagers, both visiting those that need me in their homes and getting to know some of you at the Mays Avenue Coffee mornings in Balsham and the Forget me Not Club in Abington.

At the time of writing last summer I asked if there was anyone out there who would be interested in volunteering for the project. I'm pleased to let you know that I now have a volunteer, Sue Buckingham, who will be working one day a week. Sue has many years experience working with Age UK and I'm sure many of you will have come into contact with her already.

We have produced a newsletter with information about the work that the Parish Nurse has achieved since the project started and talking about our plans for the future. If you would like a copy please contact Cazzy Walshe at [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com) or 01223 891442

Our next Parish Nurse event takes place on Thursday 26 April at the Black Bull in Balsham when we will be hearing more about the work of the Buurtzorg nurses. See below for more details.

A reminder that as your Parish Nurse I work for the 7 churches, covering West Wickham, Weston Colville, West Wrating, Balsham, Hildersham and Great and Little Abington. I work three days a week. Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am not an emergency service or a replacement for the services already available to you through your General Practice. I do however hold an honorary contract with Granta Medical Practice and have access to the surgery.

If you would like to get in touch my contact details are 0749 899 4205 or email [7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com)

If you would like to know more about Parish Nursing please visit the Parish Nursing Ministry website at [www.parishnursing.co.uk](http://www.parishnursing.co.uk)

Claire Gillett

### **“WOT – NO MATRON?”**

#### **Nurses not Managers**

A Parish Nurse event

6.30pm – 8.00pm, Thursday 26 April,  
The Black Bull, High Street, Balsham

As part of our programme of Parish Nurse events please join us to hear more about the work of the Buurtzorg nurses and how they could change the way we think about future care in the community. Buurtzorg is a pioneering healthcare organization, originating in the Netherlands, and established 10 years ago with a nurse-led model of holistic care that revolutionised community care. The scheme has received international attention for its innovative use of independent nurse teams in delivering high-quality, relatively low-cost care.

Please note that this is a free event - no booking required. Refreshments will be available

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

## NATURE NOTES

A bat, a bee and a butterfly were all spotted as signs of spring arriving in between visits by *The Beast from the East*. Having been lured out into the open by the rising temperatures, the second coming of the Beast must have been rather a shock. The bat was seen by Trevor and Carol and quickly identified as a pipistrelle on Trevor's bat detector app, a must-have for all would-be naturalists. Janet spotted the brimstone butterfly in her garden. I am sure the bat and the butterfly would have retreated to their respective hide-outs, as indeed would the bee, I hope.

In the bird world it's all change at this time of year. Di told me she had seen a mass gathering of fieldfares and redwings in the trees, possibly a sign that they are about to return north for the breeding season. The RSPB say many more fieldfares are visiting gardens this year and when Di was watching one foraging around the base of a tree, she noticed a movement on the trunk and was delighted to see a tree creeper working its way up the tree. They are lovely little birds with a white underside, a tawny back and a finely pointed curved bill, designed to get into the crevices in the bark. If you are lucky enough to see one, they tend not to be deterred from their routine, flying from tree to tree and working their way up, starting at the bottom.

Another bird we sometimes see in the winter months is the snipe, and Steve and Di disturbed snipe on the wet meadow next to the Old Vicarage on three consecutive days. They have a distinctive zig-zag flight. Their dogs flushed out a woodcock when walking round the gallop as well. Woodcock are similar to snipe but with a broader base to the bill and a pale stripe across the top of the head, while the snipe's stripe is a continuation of the line of the bill. A cock stonechat, normally found on heathland, has been seen several times near the airfield crossroads as he was last winter. If you see him, he is unmistakable with a black head and dark buff breast and a tendency to perch upright on top of a shrub.

Prior to the most recent cold snap I saw two frogs in our pond conjoined. I hope 'the beast' didn't cool their ardour. This is the time of year when frogs make their way to ponds for spawning, sometimes crossing roads in the process, so please try and avoid squashing them. We have lots of ponds in West Wickham. Di has already discovered a headless frog lying on the verge, surrounded by blobs of white jelly. Are there any amphibian experts in the village who can tell us what the blobs might be? I was also told of croaking noises coming from a Balsham pond, while rooks in the trees above seemed to be mimicking the noise. Far-fetched? Possibly.

Things to look out for in April: blackthorn and ash trees coming into flower (buds are already waiting to burst); the arrival migrant birds (chiffchaffs are probably already here – let me know if and when you heard the first one) and early wildflowers coming into bloom before the trees come into leaf.

More dramatically, Andrew phoned me one day to say he had risen one morning and seen a bird of prey consuming a blackbird in his garden. Was it a sparrowhawk or could it have been a peregrine? He thought it was a peregrine! He also saw a barn owl gliding along beside the A1307 – a beautiful pale bird against the snow.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, E: [mail@petergrieve.co.uk](mailto:mail@petergrieve.co.uk)

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **28.04.2018** 7PM-11PM



## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Hemerocallis to most of us is the old orange thug that we inherited years ago but at our March meeting West Wickham and District Gardening Club found to their amazement that there are 5,000 or more different daylilies. Dr. Paula Dyason and her husband Chris run the Strictly Daylilies Nursery at Histon and hold a National Collection. The slides she showed us included every mix of colour bar blue and white. Paula hybridises them herself at the nursery and the beautiful shapes and mix of colours were amazing. Easy to grow in any soil, they only need a fairly sunny spot. I would advise going to the Strictly Daylilies Nursery web site where you can see all these varieties in bloom and check the dates of their open days in July.

Next month is the last of our series of talks before the summer and we have a real treat to offer you. Mike Warren is coming from Ipswich to give a talk on "Climbers, Crawlers and Creepers" which sounds slightly sinister but I am assured is more to do with vertical gardening. This is on Monday 16 April 7.30pm at West Wickham Village Hall.

Already we have seeds germinating and plants being potted up for our annual Plant Sale on Saturday 19 May at West Wickham Village Hall. Be sure not to miss out on it this year, see advert opposite for details.

Rosemary Yallop. T: 017995584262

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have just returned from our annual holiday to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. Our theme was "All the Fun of the Fair" and the girls made skittles and a bowling ball (sock version), mardi-gras masks, clown puppets and decorated old CD's as clowns. They also tried to find the geocaches they had hidden last year and with some help they did. We also held a campfire with the Rainbows who were sleeping upstairs.

As our numbers are quite low at present we haven't decided whether to book our 2019 weekend holiday or to wait and see if a sleepover would be better.

Also this term we have made Mothering Sunday cards, had a trip to Horseheath Church and celebrated our Founder's birthday at the District Thinking Day service. We now have Easter crafts to look forward to at the end of March as well as a Promise celebration for Tayla-Mae and Hollie.

We are a small group of Brownies and would welcome any new girls joining our merry band 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/interested) or if you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop us an email.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené, E: [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB

# PLANT SALE

*Something for everyone  
Friendly people & expert advice*

**SATURDAY 19 MAY**

**10.30 - 12.00**

*at*

**WEST WICKHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

## WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

**Quiz.** As this seems to have become quite a popular twice-yearly event, we're holding another at the Reading Room on Wednesday 18 April. Up to 4 per team, with a prize for the winners, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

**Pamper Day.** New for Weston Colville! A day to relax with a treatment – treat yourself to a massage or manicure. We've arranged two local beauty therapists, Emma and Andrea, to come to the Reading Room on Saturday 21 April from 10am-4pm and appointments are bookable now:

Appointments with Emma Townsin: 07581 156302.

Head/shoulder/face/hand massage £10 for 15 minutes).

Hopi ear candling £10 (15 minutes).

(with 10% discount for combined treatments. e.g. 30 minutes will be £18)

Appointments with Andrea Aston: 07715059040

Manicure £24 (45 minutes)

Pedicure £28 (45 minutes)

Combined mani/pedi £50

Refreshments will be available and all are welcome – come and relax, chat and be pampered.

**Circular Walk.** Our March walk was our first outing in the snow since we started the circular walks in 2015. Next walk: Saturday 28 April. Meet at the Reading Room 10am, BYO lunch, & maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

General enquiries: E: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)  
T: 291475

## NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM SURROUNDING VILLAGES

To find out more of what's going on in the area it is worth looking at the websites of other villages such as  
<http://balsham.net/> <http://linton.info/>  
<http://westwratting.org.uk/>

These websites also have links to online editions of the village newsletters which include adverts for local services.

## **SAFE AND WELL VISITS**

### **Helping you to stay independent in your own home**

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of residents in all of the communities that we serve. The Safe and Well visit will provide us with sufficient information to support you and, with your permission, refer you to selected partner agencies, who will be able to support you further. We will not share your data with marketing companies or for other purposes.

Our visit will last no longer than 60 minutes and is completely **FREE** of charge. Our visit will assess six key elements:

- **Fire safety in the home** - including cooking, general safety and escape plans.
- **Falls prevention** - including simple remedial action such as replacing lightbulbs or taping down loose carpet.
- **Alcohol use** - Alcohol related hospital admissions are steadily increasing. We can provide you with helpful information.
- **Stay well and warm** - Can you afford to heat your home? Do you have access to a hot meal? Do you access all the services available to you?
- **Crime reduction** - We can provide advice on making your home more secure in addition to advice to make you less vulnerable to scams or fraud.
- **Smoking** – need a helping hand to quit? Our partners can offer you the help and advice you need to stop smoking.

You are under no obligation to answer any questions that you do not want to, but the more information you provide us with, the better we will be able to support you. We can also provide advice in relation to promoting the health and safety of individuals with hoarding concerns, as well as providing valuable information to care providers.

**To find out if you are eligible for a visit, call us on 01480 444500 or email us at [firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk).**

### **FALSE TELEPHONE PREFERENCE SERVICE CALLS**

Fraudsters are cold-calling victims, falsely stating that they are calling from one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They call victims claiming to provide a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring service, which includes barring international call centre.

The fraudsters ask victims to confirm/provide their bank account details, informing them that there is a one-off charge for the service. Victims instead see monthly debits deducted from their accounts, which they have not authorised. The fraudsters often target elderly victims.

In all instances, direct debits are set up without following proper procedure. The victim is not sent written confirmation of the direct debit instruction, which is supposed to be sent within three days.

On occasions when victims attempted to call back, the telephone number provided by the fraudster was either unable to be reached or the victim's direct debit cancellation request was refused.

Protect yourself:

- There is only one Telephone Preference Service (TPS). The TPS is the only official UK 'do-not-call' register for opting out of live telesales calls. It is FREE to sign-up to the register. TPS never charge for registration. You can register for this service at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>.
- You will receive postal confirmation of genuine direct debits. If you notice unauthorised payments leaving your account, you should contact your bank promptly.
- Always be wary of providing personal information, or confirming that personal information the caller already claims to hold is correct. Always be certain that you know who you talking to. If in doubt hang up immediately.

If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

### **LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING COURSES**

**Our new and exciting summer term programme starts on 16 April**

Why not come along and try something new? New courses include conversational Spanish & French which will be useful for holidays. Spanish on a Tuesday, French on Wednesday both run 7pm until 9pm for 5 weeks. There is a pottery course on a Wednesday 7pm-9pm for 10 weeks and a Real Indian food cookery course on a Tuesday 7pm - 9pm.

Daytime classes include watercolours at Hildersham VH on a Monday 1.30-4pm and floristry at the College on Wednesdays 10.30-12.30pm, for 5 weeks. Evening courses that still have places available are cake decorating, photography, mindfulness, fun with textiles, upholstery, Silver jewellery, Tai Chi.

We offer Saturday workshops on the second Saturday of each month 10am until 4.00pm fee £35.00. Some courses have an additional cost for materials/ingredients. Topics include Indian cookery- vegetarian delights or authentic Indian cookery made easy, silver jewellery, floristry- party flowers or brides on a budget, pottery, sketch book school, holiday Spanish and mindfulness.

For more information regarding a course or workshop or if you would like an enrolment form please email [adult.education@lvc.org](mailto:adult.education@lvc.org) or telephone 01233 891233 Ext 303 or 317

We are recruiting tutors to start in September, please get in touch if you have a skill or talent that you would like to offer.

Margaret Kiddy, Adult Education & Lettings Manager

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **28.04.2018** 7PM-11PM



## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As I sit and write this, the sun is shining and it feels like Spring is finally upon us. It is hard to believe that only two weeks ago the school had to take the decision to close the school at mid-day as the snow fell down thick and fast. Decisions such as this are very difficult to make, but in this instance, the school bus company made the call to collect the children, to ensure their safe journey home to the outlying villages. Our emergency plan to send children home in the middle of the day was implemented smoothly thanks to the efficiency of staff and parents. The decision to close the school due to adverse weather is never an easy one to take, but so many factors have to be taken into account and in this case, the ability to bus the children to school safely was a major contributing factor. As a rural school, with so many children living outside Balsham, this is sometimes unavoidable. Let's hope Spring is now here to stay!

Although this term is always a short one, we have still managed to pack in so many experiences which continue to make school an exciting and memorable place for the children. It is our vision that children learn to be responsible and confident citizens. The children in Key Stage One have been learning all about jobs from the past and thinking about possible jobs for the future! As part of this topic, the whole of Foundation Stage and Key Stage One went to Kidzania in London, an indoor city run by children! Enormous fun and learning was had as the children visited the 'jobs', earned money and learnt what it was like in a place of work. We have many budding firefighters, vets, dentists, pilots and even chocolate makers in our school!

Providing this broad and balanced curriculum has continued further up the school as well. Year 3 and 4 visited the synagogue in Cambridge as part of their RE topic on Judaism. We aim to ensure that children learn about all the world religions in school and the children were fascinated by the talk they had from the leader of the synagogue. Learning such as this is vital to help our children become well-rounded and tolerant citizens.

Part of our continued drive to improve our school further is to gain the Arts Mark. We already offer children opportunities to perform in productions, play musical instruments and take part in music lessons but we want to ensure that children are exposed to a broad range of arts. This term we have welcomed two different performing groups in school. The first was the 'Demon Barbers' an English folk music band and the other was 'Blues and Roots Ensemble' who entertained the school with an amazing jazz workshop and concert. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performances and they have hopefully inspired our own budding musicians and performers who are performing in their own musical soiree evening this week and in the Year 3 and 4 production of 'Journey down the Nile' next week.

As Easter approaches and another term ends at The Meadow we are reminded once again of the privilege it is to teach enthusiastic young children, eager to soak up all the experiences we can offer to them. The children and staff have all worked hard and are ready for some rest. We wish everyone in the community and school a very Happy Easter.

Nichola Connor, Head Teacher

★ HUB NIGHT! ★  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **28.04.2018** 7PM-11PM



## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

One of the most memorable moments of the spring term at LVC (heavy snow aside) has been the College's production of 'The Crucible'. The play was an absolute triumph and showcased incredibly accomplished performances by our students. The high standard of compelling acting was very impressive for an 11-16 College, especially given the mature themes in Arthur Miller's play.

Performing a script that centres on the Salem Witch Trials in 1690s Massachusetts certainly stretched the students' dramatic skills as well as their historical knowledge. Miller wrote this as an allegory for McCarthyism in 1950s America. This rich political undercurrent offered powerful messages for members of the audience and cast with some very emotional and poignant scenes, demonstrating the spell-binding power of the Arts.

The cast and crew developed in all sorts of ways in the lead up to show nights. Team work, commitment, confidence and resilience, to name a few of the aspects of personal growth.

Historically, when discussing subject option choices with students as they make decisions about their future studies, a number of them have shared the view that the Arts subjects will provide light relief from their other options, or even, sadly, that they are hobbies rather than academic courses. It is credit to the Arts Faculty that these misconceptions are not widely held at LVC. In recent years we've seen a dramatic increase in numbers of students opting for Arts subjects.

With current technological advances it is arguably those that are most creative in their fields that will exceed the functions of automation. Additionally, the creative industries provide a significant proportion of employment opportunities and £84 billion annually to the UK economy. Any student (or adult) that has experienced the pain-staking commitment of learning lines and perfecting a performance, hours of instrumental practice or artistic experimentation will appreciate the discipline and dedication required to excel in creative arts.

I was thoroughly proud of the achievements of students and staff to achieve such stunning performances. 'The Crucible' was an example of the power and beauty of the Arts and an important reminder of the importance of enriching, educational opportunities.

Helena Marsh, Principal

**PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 April**

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