

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2023

ISSUE 240

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday	2 May	Black
Tuesday	9 May	Blue & green
Monday	15 May	Black
Monday	22 May	Blue & green
Tuesday	30 May	Black

CHURCH SERVICES

7 May	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
14 May	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
21 May	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
28 May	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

For more information visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **27.05.2023** 7PM-11PM



Join the nation in celebration
12pm-4pm Sunday 7th May, West Wickham Village Hall

CORONATION
big lunch

Tea & Coffee
JOIN IN!

Bring sandwiches, Cakes, pastries, tarts, etc to Share

BBQ
Children's Fun & Games

CoronationBigLunch.com WestWickham.org

FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO

<https://westwickham.org>

If you aren't online the Editors are more than happy to help.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

AgeUK Community Warden:
Lucy Cameron. T: 07436102865
email Lucy.cameron@ageukcap.org.uk

Granta Medical Practice / Linton Health Centre:
T: 0300 234 5555 option 3, followed by option 1 for appointments, option 2 for the Pharmacy.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE Tuesday 16 May

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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.

CORONATION BIG LUNCH

We're hosting an Eden Project Communities' Big Lunch so come picnic with us, get to know some new people, and celebrate the Coronation. We're hoping to get as many local people as possible to join us on Sunday 7 May from 12pm-4pm at the Village Hall and playground. We're one of thousands of communities across the UK coming together for the Coronation Big Lunch as part of the official celebrations for the Coronation! It's the party that's right up your street, and everyone's invited, so let's have fun, food and get to know one another a little better.

You can expect a right royal knees up: namely a wonderful spread of picnic foods, a spot of music, locals meeting and eating on their blankets in and around our lovely Village Hall and playground, bouncy castle, fun and games and above all great company. We will have around half an hour to arrive, get comfy and catch up with each other over a drink. Then we'll sit down to tuck in to a delicious lunch and celebrate the opportunity to spend time with each other, with our very own Big Lunch!

Please bring food, cakes or some sweet/savoury treats to share - if they are home made, even better! Make sure your treats are covered to keep those pesky insects out, and include a label listing ingredients (for people with food allergies). Oh and if you can, bring along the recipe - it means people can take the idea away if they have enjoyed your wonderful cooking! We will have plenty of tea and coffee on the day, napkins, and smiles ☺ Please pop your treats on the sharing tables when you arrive - we'll make it obvious when we're ready to serve! We will also have a bar as well as a BBQ (including vegetarian), with all proceeds above costs going towards the Village Hall solar panel project.

Do also bring along anything else to make yourselves comfy (and weather safe!).

Can't wait to see you there!

Alex Schuilenburg

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS FROM THE PAST

On the 28 June 1838 the village of West Wickham celebrated the Coronation of the young Queen Victoria by giving a 'Public Supper to the Poor' paid for by the wealthier members of the community. About four hundred men, women and children gathered in 'Traylen's Barn', the large barn by the church, for a meal of cold beef and hot plum pudding washed down with locally brewed beer. The Reverend Wollaston (undoubtedly the main organiser), recorded the event by writing the financial accounts in the front of the parish register. The income from donors was listed on one side and was headed by the Earl of Hardwicke, major landowner and Lord of the Manor, with a donation of £10. Then came the Reverend Wollaston himself and all the larger tenant farmers with £2 each; below them were the others - village tradesmen, small independent farmers and farmers' sons - with sums ranging from £2 down to 1s. The expenditure side of the accounts shows that the food and drink were all bought from village suppliers - the butcher, two shops and all three publicans (who supplied 63 gallons in total, roughly a pint each). £1 was spent on fireworks, a similar amount for 4 fiddlers for dancing and 6s 6d on games (jumping in sacks, sixpences in flour). It comes as no surprise to see that, while 5s 6d was spent on beer for the men helpers, the women helpers had to share 1s between them for doing the washing up! The Reverend Wollaston ended his account with 'God Save the Queen'.

If you would like to know more about the history of the village do contact Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club.
Tel: 290863 Email jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

*Something for everyone
Friendly people & expert advice*

SATURDAY 20 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

**WEST WICKHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

Payment by cash or cheque only

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs
VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

R.A.F. WRATTING COMMON Memorial Service Sunday 28 May

A short open-air service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 28 May at the R.A.F. Wrattling Common Memorial to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the commissioning of the airfield. The last Sunday in May was chosen for this annual service as it was the same day in 1943 that the airfield was commissioned. The Memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville and all are very welcome to attend the service. For further information please email:
rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. This is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath

FROM THE VICARAGE

Early this May we look forward to an historic moment in the life of our nation when we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, as well as enjoying a bank-holiday weekend. As someone who usually loves any excuse for a celebration, I am looking forward to gathering with others to enjoy this occasion! On that Sunday, we will also have a special service in each of our village churches when we will mark the coronation and reflect on the life and calling of Jesus, the Servant King.

Then, on the Monday of the Coronation weekend, the Church of England is joining with others in encouraging voluntary acts of service in our communities as part of the **Big Help Out*. Hopefully, this will be a good excuse to celebrate all the voluntary work already going on in our communities and to reach out to others and share our time and gifts. Perhaps consider how you might make a small act of kindness or service on that day, and reflect on the ripple effect it may create.

The last Sunday of the month will also be a special occasion when we celebrate Pentecost, sometimes known as the 'birthday' of the Church. At Pentecost we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection of Jesus. This astonishing gift of God's Spirit, as described in the Bible in the book of Acts, bound together the early church in worship and shared life, and empowered them to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. This in turn created an amazing ripple effect that continues today. Pentecost is therefore both a celebration and helps remind the church of its calling, as we seek to share the good news of life in the Spirit.

How wonderful that we can come together to mark out such times and seasons in our lives and be grateful for all that is good around us. This may shape our sense of purpose, helps us cherish the time we have, and increase our capacity for joy. It may also, as Pentecost reminds us, draw us more deeply into the life of the Spirit and lead us, in all the seasons of our lives, to praise, prayer and thanksgiving.

Revd Iain McColl

*For more information about the Big Help Out go to
<https://thebighelpout.org.uk>

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE

MORNING

From 10.30 on Thursday

11th May

Selection of teas & coffee
(ground & instant)

Variety of homemade cakes

LIFTS AVAILABLE

Call Di Licence (290434) or

Sue Thurston (897811)



Everyone welcome

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The Trust will be visiting St. Mary's Church on Sunday 14 May at 3.30pm. They will be doing a tour of the church and talking about the history. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us.

Di Licence, Church Warden

WELLBEING AND NATURE

With the excess of Easter behind us we enter are moving into the final month of Spring. The lengthening days help us to step outside, whether for a walk, to sit in the sun or to garden. The benefits of nature for our mental health are well documented. Here are a few of them:

- We regain health more quickly if we can see plants / trees from our windows, and need less pain medication.
- Friendly bacteria in soil helps us to produce serotonin - actively lifting our mood. Garden without gloves if you can.
- Standing / walking barefoot on grass helps our nervous system to balance and is known as grounding. This effect appears to be linked to the interaction between the earth's negative charge and humans positive charge.
- Absorbing vitamin D from the sun (safely).
- 20 minutes exposure to natural morning and evening light can help set our circadian rhythm - enhancing sleep and digestion. Especially if you don't look at a device within 30 minutes of getting up and you put your device down 1 hour before bedtime.

If you would like any more information on the above or other ways to support your wellbeing please get in touch:

Laura Hawksley, laura.biodynamic@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

We are very used to seeing the sad sight of dead badgers at the roadside but I was shocked to come across a body away from the road, near the sett which is partially in our garden. I have had so many photographs of the badgers on our trail cam that I have become rather attached to them. They are just as much at home here as we are. They even have a line of 'latrines' just the other side of our fence to denote the boundary of 'their' territory. I do not know the cause of death but I sense a loss.

Those of you who took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch should have been sent the results for the Eastern Region, which are quite interesting although we have to remember that they only reflect observations made in one hour on one particular weekend in January. In the 'top ten', the stand-out success stories were long-tailed tits (up 58.1%) and goldfinches (up 10.7%). House sparrows retain the number one spot having seen a slight revival of their fortunes (up 2.9%). As climate change progresses I wonder whether in years to come we will be recording species that normally migrate to warmer parts of the world, happily overwintering in Britain. Already some blackcaps and chiffchaffs choose to stay and I note that lesser whitethroats were recorded in Norfolk in February. Those who did migrate are beginning to return and to sing. Chiffchaffs have been audible since mid March and now blackcaps and willow warblers are being heard. There has also been a report of a garden warbler, whose song is hard to distinguish from that of a blackcap. Other exciting bird sightings include a kingfisher looking for stickleback in the ditch near Streetly Hall farm, daytime barn owls, a hen harrier flying across the road near the church, and grey partridge in roughly the same location as the hen harrier but hopefully avoiding it. One swallow has been seen at the allotments but we could do with a few more to herald summer. The swifts will not arrive until May, although a group of alpine swifts has been in the country for some weeks, possibly blown off course from their normal breeding grounds in the mountains of southern Europe.

The first part of April has been quite up and down weatherwise but on the few sunny and still days some of those overwintering butterflies have ventured out - particularly the brimstone but also peacock and small tortoiseshell. One that would have wintered as a chrysalis, the holly blue, has also been seen. If you see a blue butterfly in April, you can be sure it is a holly blue as the other blues are much later. Keep your eyes open for orange tips

Other insects who have been active include bumblebees, even in rather inclement weather, the occasional queen wasp, and Di spotted a bee fly (*bombylius major*), which has a long proboscis and hums like a bee but is in fact a fly.

All these insects depend on the nectar from flowers to give them energy. In return for this, they pollinate the flowers, of which we have been seeing wood anemones, also known as windflowers (named after the Greek wind god, Amenos), cowslips and oxlips. A visit to Lower Wood in Weston Colville was rewarded by a particularly fine display of windflowers and oxlips and many bluebells were bursting into flower as they will be soon in our own Leys and Hare Woods.

Please send your nature sightings to:

Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Di Licence. T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com



DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Potholes. The issue of pot holes is raised with us every winter, when the issue is exacerbated due to the colder weather. However, this year the issue seems to be a lot worse than it has in previous years. Pot holes are appearing at a faster rate than previously and holes that have been filled are reopening at a larger size than before. Cambridgeshire Highways, who have responsibility for maintenance of the public roads and footpaths, are attempting to address these as soon as they are able. However, they are up against the usual constraints – staff and money. Their contractor only has a set number of crews that they can deploy to fill them and the Highways Dept only has a limited budget for filling them. The County Council pumps more and more money into the Highways budget each year but it is never enough to do the job thoroughly. (Ed. We understand that an additional £200 million was allocated to pothole repairs in the spring budget. This would result in an additional £4.1 million for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – spend it well!)

The County Council Highways Dept are looking at improved technology to try to speed up and improve the quality of the process but this will be some years off implementation. The message from Highways is to keep reporting them via the website

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

The more reports of certain holes the more the Council sees the issue.

A1307 Works. The last element of the cycle path should be nearing completion and work on the roundabout at the Bartlow Crossing will start early May and go on for about 40 weeks. For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website:

www.greatercambridge.org.uk

and look for the Cambridge South-East project.

£2 Bus Fare Extended. The Government subsidy capping bus fares at £2 per journey, due to end this month, has been extended to the end of June.

Contact Details.

District Councillor Geoff Harvey: geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Councillor Henry Batchelor:

henrybatchelor89@gmail.com



West Wickham Village Hall

Open for hire by Residents, Local Clubs and Organisations

Suitable for family functions, childrens parties, meetings social events and fund raising

Hiring provides the use of all facilities including the bar area, table tennis and badminton equipment and tables & chairs. The kitchen includes crockery, cutlery, a dish washer, cooker, microwave, fridge & freezer.

The Hall is licenced for music and performing arts.

Bookings can be made to:
bookings@westwickham.org or
by using the online booking/query at www.westwickham.org
Alternatively by leaving a voice message on 01223 789719

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following is a precis of the discussions at the meeting on Monday 27 March. The full draft minutes are available to read on the notice boards.

Planning: 20/3502/S73: Query regarding works at 103 High Street. Permission was granted in 2020.

Finance:

1. Budget 2023/2024. The Chairman said that there would be a £918 deficit in the 2022/2023 budget. It was agreed that the budget should remain as for last year but the Chairman listed a number of costs extra to the normal expenditure. For The Big Lunch event it had been agreed to set aside £1500. The Solar Panels to be fitted on the Village Hall will be purchased by the Parish Council with funds from the Village Hall set aside for this purpose. Lottery funding has been applied for. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk will receive an increase of £288 p/a.
2. Audit Exemption letter. It was agreed to apply for exemption from an external audit for 2022/2023 as the income and outgoings were under £25,000.

Traffic & Parking issues:

1. Speed indicator: The present shared Speed Indicator Device is not working correctly. The Chairman will look in to this and if not fixable he will complain to the company from whom it was purchased.
2. "Road Narrows" signs: These have been suggested for the road from Streetly End to the T junction with the High Street and also Webbs Road. It was understood that any changes would first require a traffic survey. It was agreed that the width of the road needed to be checked to see if it was narrower than the standard size. Possible change of speed limits between West Wickham and Horseheath had also been suggested and would be raised at the next Joint Parish Council meeting with the Highways Officer.

Maintenance:

1. Footpath maintenance: Cllr Temple showed a more detailed map showing where the posts and yellow discs were missing with 13 posts needing replacing. It was agreed that these posts should be purchased.
2. Wildlife board for new wood: This was discussed but put on hold for the present.

Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

1. Play area maintenance issues: Cllrs Sargeant and Schuilenburg have completed most of the minor repairs needed before the RoSPA inspection. The work on the fencing has been nearly completed by Tom Licence.
2. Coronation Tree: A tree to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III has been planted on the playing field. Martin Chamberlain, who made the village sign, will be asked if he could make a plaque for the tree.

Communications from residents:

1. Bird deterrents. Whilst the disturbance to the village was recognised these are legally allowed and as in previous years installed in line with NFU guidelines.
2. Thurlow Hunt – Hounds got loose at the top end of Burton End and when questioned Thurlow Hunt apologised noting that they were not their hounds but belonged to the Pytchley with Woodland Hunt.
3. Walking Event – A flour trail and food was left by walkers through the village. (Ed. How is going to be taken up to prevent it happening again?)

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22 May at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.30pm . All are welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

GIRLGUIDING LINTON DISTRICT

Now is the time in our district for having camps, holidays and overnights. The Jarman Centre are having their ever popular family day on the 4 May with a Coronation theme. Then it is the Coronation of our king. We are also doing the big help out too in May. This is part of the UK's biggest volunteer recruitment drive.

We are extremely proud that our Cambs East County Commissioner, Karen Johnson, has just become Anglia Regions Deputy Commissioner. Our newly appointed Chief Guide, Tracy Foster, was also Anglia Region's Chief Commissioner. How amazing to be able to grow from being a Rainbow or Brownie to volunteering as our Chief Guide showcasing everything we do around the world as well as in the UK.

As well as all this you may have noticed that the Trefoil symbol has just changed as we begin the biggest rebranding in 113 years. We also have 5 new adventure badges for our girls; snow, water, sport, height and land.



Girlguiding also asks girls, parents and volunteers if they would like to take part in things like focus groups and surveys to ensure Guiding stays current and add to the challenge, fun and friendship we have. By giving every girl a voice. Take a look at our website www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested to find out more. Or better still come and see what we do. Linton District has something for everyone of every age very near you.

Louisa Powell-Owens
lintondistrict@gmail.com, Linton PR 07711 614 328

BALSHAM SINGERS

Spring Concert

Musical Director: John Clenaghan

Music by Vaughan-Williams, Haydn and Whitacre, plus opera choruses, songs from "Matilda", "Jekyll & Hyde", and songs made famous by Eva Cassidy and Frank Sinatra.

Saturday 13th May 2023
Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham
7.30pm

Tickets £10 (under 16's free) available from choir members, Balsham or Great Abington Post Offices or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Join the nation in celebration
12pm-4pm Sunday 7th May, West Wickham Village Hall

CORONATION

big lunch

Tea & Coffee

BBQ

Bring sandwiches, Cakes, pastries, tarts, etc to Share

Children's Fun & Games

JOIN IN!

CoronationBigLunch.com WestWickham.org

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

At the end of the spring term, a large company of students performed in our annual dance show. This year's theme was songs from the movies. The audience was treated to a great variety of star performances with film scores from *James Bond*, *Top Gun*, *Mamma Mia* and a number of other iconic musical numbers.



Ninety-nine students in Years 8-10 were accompanied by twelve members of staff on a week-long skiing trip in Salzburg, Austria at the start of the Easter holidays. Unfortunately, channel crossing queues and other unforeseen delays shortened their time on the slopes but everyone showed a great deal of positivity and resilience. They demonstrated Linton Learner values of care, responsibility and independence. Most were novice skiers and for many it was their first residential trip abroad.



Children's author, Julian Sedgewick, visited the College at the end of April to give a talk and deliver workshops to Year 7 and Year 6s from The Heights Junior School. Students have also been involved in a creative writing competition, writing their own villain origin story to be judged by Andy Stanton, author of the award-winning Mr Gum series. These opportunities were arranged by the Linton Book Festival.

It's brilliant that children aged 6-12 get to benefit from such an amazing, free literary event. Many LVC students have fond memories of visiting the school as primary aged children to hear from visiting authors. We are looking forward to hosting the Linton Book Festival again on 13 and 14 May.

Helena Marsh, Principal

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

NEXT DATE: **27.05.2023** 7PM-11PM



MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

We are now in the final term of this academic year and looking forward to forest school, swimming outside in the school pool, more opportunities for learning outside, sports day and our school fair: June Revels - hopefully the weather will be kind to us! The children have launched into their new learning topics for the Summer Term, which are:

Foundation Stage: Life On The Ocean Wave. Understanding the world: this Early Learning Goal covers past and present, people, culture, communities and the natural world.

The children will be comparing the UK with Madagascar. They will be looking at explorers who have travelled the world. They will look at chronology and timelines, examine what life would have been like at the time, using historical sources to help them. The children will be exploring living things and their habitats, identifying that most living things live in a habitats and how different habitats provide for the basic needs of a range of animals and plants. The children will also get the opportunity to enjoy some forest school sessions where they will have hands on experiences with nature as well as getting to practise the characteristics of effective learning skills; problem solving, taking risks, and using their imagination.

Key Stage 1: Life On The Ocean Wave. History and Geography: In Geography, they will be completing a comparison study between the UK and a contrasting non-European country (Madagascar). They will be using the golden threads: "What would I wear if I were there?" "Where in the world?" and "Where are all the people?" to explore climate, places and settlement. In History, they will be looking at explorers who have travelled the world. They will also look at chronology and timelines, examine what life would have been like at the time, using historical sources to help them.

Years 3 and 4: Water Cycles, Rivers and Seas and Ancient Greece. History and Geography. In Geography, pupils will be exploring the water cycle, rivers and seas. They will recap their learning of climates and landscapes from Key Stage 1 before applying this knowledge to water. They will look at how rivers are formed and learn about the water cycle through observations and experiments. In History, they will be learning about what life was like for the Ancient Greeks. They will discover what life was like in ancient Greece, including having a look at the Olympics. They will end the unit by thinking about the impact the Ancient Greeks had on how we live today.

Years 5 and 6: Black Britain and Balsham. Black History: this unit explores the themes of slavery, immigration and discrimination for people of western Caribbean and African heritage in Britain during the last three centuries. In particular focusing on the Tudor period and during both World Wars. Children will observe, measure, record and present the human and physical geographical features in the local area of Balsham.

Meadow History. We have also been having a Spring Clean and, whilst sorting out some cupboards, we came across a box at the back. When we opened it, we were amazed to find records of the school dating from the early 1920's. There were old school registers, timetables and ledgers. There were two items that really intrigued us: a book detailing corporal punishment that was started in 1928 and details in the most beautiful handwriting the number of 'strokes' of the cane given to children for being lazy, not completing work, smoking pipes in the playground, disobedience and much more including the school inspection report from 1945!

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head