

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2023

ISSUE 242

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday	3 July	Blue & green
Monday	10 July	Black
Monday	17 July	Blue & green
Monday	24 July	Black
Monday	31 July	Blue & green

It is no longer necessary to book to attend any of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres.

For details of locations & opening hours visit:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

2 July	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
9 July	6pm. Choral evensong at St Mary's Church
16 July	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
23 July	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
30 July	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **22.07.2023** 7PM-11PM



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

West Wickham website:

<https://westwickham.org>

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 Sunday 16 July

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Cambridge CB21 4RY
T: 01223 290863

Email: editor_wvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

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.

A1307 CLOSURE 15 – 17 July

The Linton Greenway works from Hildersham to Dale Head Foods has been substantially completed, and the pathway and road are fully open. The Greater Cambridgeshire Partnerships (GCP) original intention was to complete the planned carriageway surfacing by closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout overnight on weekdays and divert traffic on to National Highways roads. However, they have now been advised that it is only possible to do this diversion at weekends. Due to this, they now plan to complete the carriageway surfacing work over a 48 hour window. This will involve **closing the A1307** between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout, **from 6am on Saturday 15 July until 6am on Monday 17 July.** A map of the diversion route can be found at

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKGCP/2023/06/19/file_attachments/2530411/A1307%20Hildersham%20Diversion%20July%202023.pdf

To avoid diverting large vehicles such as HGVs through small village roads, the diversion uses other available A roads, including the A143 and A11. A contingency weekend has also been scheduled for 22 - 24 July for further possible overnight closure, but hope to complete the works in full the previous weekend. All efforts will be made to keep disruption to a minimum. The GCP would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause. Warning boards and digital signage will be installed on site from Tuesday 20 June to inform road users of the closures.

How do you keep up to date with the project? Please visit the project's web page at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/A1307 or for further details on the rest of the Greenway please visit the Linton Greenway website www.greatercambridge.org.uk

If you have any questions about the ongoing works, you can contact Milestone contractors via email on a1307schemes@milestoneinfra.co.uk

(Ed. The approved diversion, mainly intended for HGV vehicles, is possibly over 50 miles long. From Fourwentways it is via the A11/A14 to Bury St Edmunds, then down the A143 to Haverhill. In all probability people will try and use local roads instead and this could cause a huge increase of traffic through our Parish! Local traffic between us, Linton & Haverhill should be OK but is classified as 'access to properties' Please look at the village website <https://westwickham.org> for more information and hopefully direct internet links that can't be put in the Voice! AM)

COFFEE MORNING

13 July, 10.30 at the Village Hall

We were a bit thin on the ground at June's coffee morning, but the weather was glorious so perhaps you were all outside enjoying the weather. There was an abundance of cakes and other baked goodies so the poor old organisers had to take some home with them to finish off – what a chore! If you are in the village on the day of the coffee morning but too busy to spend time in the Hall then, in return for a donation (which will go to charity), you are welcome to come along for a slice of cake and – if you have a reusable cup – grab a hot drink to take away. Who knows, you may be tempted to linger when you see who's there to chat to.

A warm welcome is promised.

Our next coffee morning is on Thursday, 13 July from 10.30. Hope to see you there.

Sue Thurston. T: 897811

CHURCH CLOCK & BELLS

I have been looking after the church clock and bells since 1975 and I am now finding it more and more difficult to get up into the church tower! Everything is electric, so very little to do. Is there anybody interested in taking on the job?

Marcus Cornish, Church Warden.
Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com T: 07836213307

FROM THE VICARAGE

Summer can be a wonderful time for celebrations! At the time of writing, I'm looking forward to taking my children to the June Revels at the Meadow Primary School, a really enjoyable occasion. We also have a number of weddings to look forward to in our group of churches over the summer. I feel wedding celebrations can have a ripple effect of joy into the community around them; a celebration of love, hope and faith which is both deeply personal and draws in a community of people who promise to uphold the couple in their lives together.

Then there are the numerous summer festivals. I'm a particular fan of the Christian festival *Greenbelt* held on the August Bank Holiday weekend, with its focus on arts, activism and faith. We've been going as a family for many years and in the words of Pdraig O Tuama, an Irish poet and theologian who regularly speaks at Greenbelt, it provides for many a 'sacrament of green'. It also creates, for those few days around that Bank Holiday weekend, a special community which debates, prays, and enjoys a party together!

Indeed, the Christian faith has long been rooted in this kind of community. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, said that when reading the gospels, you sometimes get the impression that if anywhere in ancient Galilee you heard a loud noise and a lot of laughter and talking and singing, you could be reasonably sure Jesus of Nazareth was nearby. His indiscriminate generosity and willingness to mix with people, considered unsuitable by some parts of his society, were vividly recollected by the gospel writers. Jesus sought out company, and the effect of his presence was to create a celebration, to bind people together.

Speaking of celebrating community, I'm delighted to announce that Hannah Threlfall, whom some of you may know as an ordinand – or minister-in-training, has recently taken on the role of Community Minister in our parishes for two days a week. This role will include pastoral care for people and supporting local initiatives which encourage community, compassion and faith. Our ministry team looks forward to supporting Hannah in this exciting new role and please do ask Hannah more about it if you see her around.

Revd Iain McColl

SAFFRON WALDEN ROTARY UKRAINE APPEAL

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held by Saffron Walden Rotary on Saturday 15 July from 9.00am until 12.30pm on the Abington School playground. There is a need for everyday food items, shoes, clothes, especially underwear, toiletries, all types of personal washing and shampoo items, sanitary towels and sanitary pads. Items for children include nappies for babies and colouring books and school supplies for young children. Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also very welcome and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on the 15 July.

Tony Collett

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB Annual Show 2 September

Vegetable and Fruit section. There are 15 classes in this section of the Show this year. They are:

- 5 Runner Beans
- 5 French or dwarf Beans
- 3 Potatoes
- 3 Onions
- 5 Small fruited tomatoes (no larger than 35mm diameter)
- 3 Large fruited tomatoes (larger than 35mm diameter)
- 3 Carrots
- 3 Beetroot
- 2 Courgettes
- 2 or more of any other vegetable not covered by this Schedule (2 entries per exhibitor allowed)
- 9 or more berries (e.g., blueberries, raspberries)
- 2 or more top fruit (from trees, e.g., apples, plums)
- 2 or more fruit not covered by this Schedule (e.g. bunches of grapes, melons)
- 4 varieties of culinary herb (foliage predominating) displayed, for effect, in water
- The rudest shaped vegetable

Do remember that although the judge will be looking at the condition, size and uniformity of the entries and judging according to guidelines set out by the RHS, he will also be bearing in mind the growing conditions that all of us are having to endure! This years weather has not conducive to producing perfect specimens. He is a vegetable and fruit grower himself and knows only too well the challenges that face us. So please do not be put off from entering because you don't have perfect looking fruit and veg. You might be pleasantly surprised when you compare your entries with others. After all, the Show isn't just about winning? It is also about taking part in a village event.

Sue Thurston.

Photography section.

With the Show rapidly approaching, here are a few tips for selecting your best, or taking some new photographs to enter into the final category:

Contrast. We are looking for images that you love. Great pictures don't need to be taken on a brilliant camera or phone; what makes them special is the lighting, angle and subject. The chances are, if you drawn to a picture yourself, then it is likely to include a combination of these features.

You will see contrasts everywhere: in the size of different animals, in textures, in colours flowering a favourite border or possibly how the light and shade works in a special picture. They can be dramatic or subtle; vibrant or muted. Sometimes the crazier the idea, the more appealing it can be!

The rules state that entries must have been taken in the year between one show and the next. This year's other titles are **Fruits of my Labour** and **After the Rain**. Classes are open to members and non-members, children and adults. You can enter two photographs in each class.

Sally Moon

Next month I will be reminding you of the domestic classes and dispelling a few myths about the Show in a final attempt to persuade you to get involved. A full schedule with entry form for the Show will also be enclosed with the August edition.

Sue Thurston, Show Co-ordinator.
Email: mail@suethurston.co.uk, T: 897811

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Cambridge Daily News 7 June 1900

LINTON PETTY SESSIONS OBSCENITY

Alfred Flack, labourer of West Wickham, for using obscene language on the public highway at Horseheath on the 24th May, contrary to the County Council bye-laws, was fined with costs, 10s.

How times have changed! Alfred was born in 1857, one of several children of Thomas and Sarah Flack. The family originally lived in the High Street but moved to Streetly End not long after Alfred's birth. He did not marry and in 1901 he was living with his elderly parents – Thomas who was 88 and a retired agricultural worker and Sarah who was 76. The average weekly wage for an agricultural labourer in 1900 was 14s so the fine was a considerable one for someone who was presumably the sole breadwinner (a non-contributory state old age pension for the over 70s of 5s a week and 7s 6d for couples was not introduced until 1908).

You may be relieved to know (or not) that a search of the websites of both the County Council and South Cambs District Council produces no results for obscenity byelaws.

If you want to know more about West Wickham in the past please do get in touch:

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

CORONATION QUIZ

For those of you who had a go at last month's quiz – here are the answers

1. She claimed to believe six impossible things before breakfast (3) **Red Queen**
2. Shellfish with uncooked middle **King Prawn**
3. Former PM for a month (3) **May Queen**
4. Real tragedy (4) **King Lear**
5. Thwarted by sea level rising (6) **King Canute**
6. Cleaner the French come after (7) **King Charles**
7. Carrie author (7) **Stephen King**
8. Surrounded by drones (3) **Queen Bee**
9. only seventeen according to Abba (7) **Dancing Queen**
10. Raincoat upside down is less healthy by the sound of it (7) **Queen Camilla**
11. Not late after Peterhead (6) (K or Q) **Pearly** (King or Queen)
12. Killjoy offers no glamour initially (4) **King Kong**
13. Station (8) **Queen Victoria**
14. Theatrical event (5) **Drama Queen**
15. Writing implement with half a stout (7) **King Penguin**

Explanations will be provided on request. Winning entries will be announced next month but at the time of writing I haven't had much response.

Peter Grieve

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

NEXT DATE: **22.07.2023** 7PM-11PM



Gardening with climate change - what we can do!



West Wickham Village Hall, CB21 4SB
12 August 2023, 10.00 – 16.00

We welcome you to this unique and exciting opportunity to find out more about climate change, how it is affecting our gardens, and what we can do as gardeners to adapt, and mitigate the impacts.

Attendance is free of charge.

(This is a not-for-profit event, organised by gardening clubs in Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.)

Morning session

Three expert and stimulating speakers, each tackling different aspects of gardening and climate change.

Afternoon session

A wide range of family friendly, exciting and informative demonstrations and activities, based around gardens and climate change, including:

Plant nurseries * seed suppliers * book shop * wildlife trust * wild ponds * water conservation information * advice from experts * peat-free compost advice * tree-planting * scything demonstration * pollinator counts * children's mask-making * bug hotel making * bird-box making * nature trail * and more.....

For full details, please go to: www.climatechangegardening.org

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEWS National flu immunisation programme 2023

Eligibility for the free NHS flu vaccination is changing. Instead the following people will be invited:

- Those aged 65 years and over
- Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023
- Primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6)
- Those in long-stay residential care homes
- Carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- Frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme including those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants

We are finalising plans for our flu clinics and next month we will let everyone know what the dates are. In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Email: cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net,
T: 0300 234 5555

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

NATURE NOTES

On a hot day, Di suggests a form of inactivity which would be good for our souls. 'Sit with me for 30 minutes in my garden. It is 2.00 pm, the sun is warm and there is a gentle breeze. A blackbird is searching through the leaf litter, tossing the leaves aside looking for food. I can hear another one, trilling from a nearby tree. A wren starts its alarm call, pigeons are cooing quietly. A tiny scrap of a bird is creeping along in the fir tree, a gold crest, which as its name suggests has a flash of yellow on its head. I can hear a chiffchaff calling loudly, and a chaffinch is singing. A gang of noisy starling juveniles invade the quietness, but soon move on. A male blackbird is singing loudly from the rooftop. Several bees are exploring the poppies and one crawls right inside the iris flower. A robin sings his plaintive song, then goes for a splash in the birdbath. I look up into the oak tree and marvel at its ability to have so many leaves, and none overshadowing any others. A tiny spider descends on a silken thread, landing on the bench. A grey squirrel runs silently along the branches to the fat ball dispenser. The breeze gently rustles the leaves and every so often the smell of roses waft my way. There are many winged insects in the air, (UFI's) too small to identify. A robin is busy flying to and from its nest in the honeysuckle, feeding its young...a small snapshot of one of many gardens, they are busy, busy places.'

We are hearing more and more about the decline in the insect population so it is good that they are active in Di's garden as I hope they are throughout the village. It is impossible to over-emphasise the importance of insects to humanity and all life on earth, both as pollinators and as a food source for many species, particularly birds. One bird that is utterly dependent on insects and other small creatures who have an aerial existence, such as some spiders, is the swift. Swifts visit us for a very brief time between May and August but they haven't been seen much in West Wickham this year. They live an extraordinary life. After a chick has fledged it will spend three years in the air without landing - sleeping and even copulating on the wing. If feeding young they are known to fly many hundreds of miles to find enough insects so, for instance a swift nesting in Abingdon (which they do) might fly over to Scotland or even the continent if the weather conditions demand it.

But returning to insects, we are approaching the prime months for butterflies (July and August). There is a period prior to this known in butterfly circles as 'the June Gap' when many of the spring butterflies leave the scene and the later varieties have yet to appear. This spring was notable for the number of holly blues seen, and brimstones are continuing to show, while one or two of the summer butterflies are already appearing, particularly speckled woods, meadow browns and small heaths. After a blank spell while a cold east wind was blowing, my moth trap has revealed some very interesting moths. The other night I had a poplar and a privet hawkmoth, both of which are impressive creatures. Meanwhile the beautiful little ermine moths have been at work laying eggs in the hedgerows. The larvae of these moths (notably the spindle and orchard ermines) then produce a silk webbing from within which they defoliate the shrub they occupy. But the shrubs and trees do recover.

Di has come across an apple blossom weevil in her garden, which may be more damaging as the beetle feeds on the flower buds and the larvae on the inner flower organs. Black, with a brown back and a long, alien like snout with mandibles at the tip and antennae halfway along, it is a fascinating creature which overwinters in leaf litter under hedges or on the edge of woodland. Other insects with a

slightly alien feel are dragonfly larvae. Sue pulled one out of our pond recently when clearing blanket weed and returned it to the water, possibly much to the chagrin of some of the other occupants of the pond as dragonfly larvae are ferocious predators. Hopefully it will soon emerge as a beautiful adult but we may have to wait another year or two.

There have been quite a few bird related incidents which seem worth reporting. A cuckoo was heard up at Leys Wood, but on just one occasion so presumably it was moving on. The same conclusion applies to a group of house martins who appeared to be prospecting a house in Streetly End as a possible nest site, but must have found somewhere better. A pity because we see very few of them in West Wickham, with the possible exception of Yen Hall. Quail have been heard calling in a field next to the disused chalk pit in Dean road. They are very secretive and look like small partridges but we rarely see them. However their call is quite recognisable. A road kill (probably a hare) near Bottle Hall had attracted a buzzard and a kite. When disturbed the kite flew off immediately but the buzzard continued eating while I stopped the car and waited. On the way back two hours later there were two kites at the same corpse. A number of people have mentioned to me that while the kite population seems to be going up, the buzzards are going down. Probably not surprising as both birds mainly eat carrion and the kites are bigger. It's strange because when we moved to West Wickham we wouldn't have expected to see a buzzard or a kite. A young jackdaw had managed to trap itself down the chimney at Brian and Linda's house at Burton End. After much feeling around we left the bird to find its own way out and managed to catch it in the living room. Once caught it was released and flew off powerfully heading north east.

As most gardeners will know the last few weeks of hot dry weather has been stressful for plants and growers alike but wildlife also suffers and I have left a trug full of water in the copse at the top of our garden and been rewarded with some good photographs of mammals and birds taking advantage of it. In particular a fox, badger, squirrel, mouse and rat have visited the water hole but also two crows who I think are nesting up there.

Please send your nature sightings to:
Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Di Licence. T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

STOP PRESS **Village Hall solar panels**

The Parish Council Appeal Fund for installing solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall, which stands at just under £500 of public contributions including profits from the Coronation Big Lunch, has received a big boost from the National Lottery Community Fund who have agreed to provide £9,500 towards the fund. The target is £24,000 so further public contributions towards the Appeal Fund will also be gratefully received. For further information please contact me, the Parish Council Chair, Alex Schuilenburg, on 07811 364531 or alex@schuilenburg.org, or Trevor Hall trevor.hall@btinternet.com the Village Hall Committee Chair, and watch the Village website.

<https://westwickham.org/>

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting on 22 May. The following is a report on the meeting. The full draft minutes are available on the notice boards and once approved, on the village website.

Election of Chair, Vice Chair and 2 representatives for the Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Schuilenburg was re-elected Chairman, Cllr Sargeant was re-elected Vice Chairman, Cllrs. Schuilenburg and Mulley-Richards will continue to be representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Biodigester Plant: Christopher Covey explained that the proposed site at Streetly Hall Farm would be north/west of the farm. There would be a new access road, which would be used for transporting product to the site. Many questions were put to Mr Covey and it was suggested that a separate village meeting should be organised to enable people to find out more. Once a date is fixed those interested should send their questions to Mr Covey so he is prepared with answers at the meeting. Various outside bodies could be invited such as Friends of the Roman Road, the Chairs of Horseheath and Balsham. Cllr Sargeant suggested visiting an example of what Mr Covey is proposing.

Finance:

1. *End of year accounts:* These were agreed and accepted.
2. *Authorised payments and monies received.* These are shown in full in the draft Minutes.

Traffic & Parking issues:

1. *Speed indicator equipment.* This is still has ongoing problems and the manufacturers are unable to find satisfactory solutions. The Chairman suggested applying for a grant through the Local Highways Initiative scheme for a new Speed Indicator Device.
Speeding – results for May:
W/E 01/05/23 Stirling House facing NE, 1345 vehicles; 168 over 45mph (12.5%). Max Speed 63mph.
W/E 08/05/23 between 33 and 49 Burton End, 1944 vehicles; 5 over 45mph. Max speed 48mph.
2. *Webbs Road:* This needs “road narrow” signs and Cllr Batchelor was asked to go and see its poor condition and the necessity of “road narrow”. The County Council Highways Dept had also been asked to look at it but there has been no response.

Maintenance:

1. *Footpaths* – Cllr Temple had received the marker discs and requested the purchase of 13 posts, which was agreed. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact the landowners regarding reinstatement of footpaths 28 and 23.
2. *Village Clean up:* The event on 22 April went well with many volunteers. Local residents had shown appreciation for how clean the areas are now.

Request to use the playing field for overflow parking by Gardening Club on 12 August: This was agreed but only if the weather was dry. The Parish Council would make the final decision if necessary. An item from the Gardening Club in the Village Voice about the possibility of many cars parked along the road if wet was suggested.

Boundary change. It has been confirmed that the Linton ward, which includes West Wickham, will move from the South East Cambridgeshire to the South Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency for the next General Election.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24 July.

All are welcome to attend

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

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

REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Monday 22 May

PARISH COUNCIL

West Wickham Parish Council has undergone significant changes over the 2022/2023 year. Four long-serving councillors stepped down for well-deserved breaks or retirements, with four new councillors ably stepping up to represent our small community and perform the important roles that help our village parish run smoothly. In May 2022 we welcomed Caroline Mulley-Richards and Ronnie Temple from West Wickham to the Parish Council joining David Sargeant, Allen Hazlehurst and myself, Alex Schuilenburg. Later in July we also co-opted Richard Ling from West Wickham and Graham McNeillie from Streetly End. I was honoured in May to be elected as Parish Council Chair alongside David Sargeant as Vice Chair, but must point out that every member of the Parish Council is equally important. We met formally six times over the 2022/2023 year in the Village Hall, typically on the 4th Monday of every alternate month. All residents are always welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings and invited to participate in our activities. We discussed a wide range of topics such as planning applications, finances, the children’s playground, the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, traffic and the Neighbourhood Plan. I would like to express my gratitude to the Parish, District and County Councillors for the generous time and effort which they have given to the Parish of West Wickham. I am also grateful for the experience and professionalism that Jenny Richards, our Parish Clerk, brings to the Parish Council. Thank you.

The 2022/2023 year was very busy for us. The main highlights were:

An automated external defibrillator (AED) was installed at the Village Hall.

We held a referendum resulting in an overwhelming vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, now formally adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

We held a small celebration to thank the volunteers who contributed to the Plan.

A project was initiated to refresh the footpath indicators and posts where necessary for the many footpaths through the parish.

Much needed maintenance of the children’s playground and multi-user games area commenced to address the items highlighted in the last RoSPA report as needing attention, as well as repairs of the minor damage caused by vandalism.

The Queen’s Wood was planted to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

And of course we celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

As a Parish Council, we recognised the rising rate of inflation and while we have a reasonable reserve, unfortunately we needed to ask for a 5% increase to the annual precept. This brings it to £12,600 to allow us to meet our ongoing commitments, as well as set aside some contingency funds. Despite the rising costs we managed a <1% deficit to our annual precept of £81.66

The Village Voice & the Parish website, westwickham.org, remain the primary source of local news, events and resources. I would therefore like to thank the editors of the Village Voice, Andrew Morris and Anna Fairhead, along with other contributors and helpers as well as the contributors to the Parish website. While the Parish Council remain committed to sponsoring these traditional forms of conveying news, I am also pleased that the unofficial ‘social media’ West Wickham Village community group on WhatsApp continues to grow to satisfy the immediate need

for communication within the community.

Our Village Hall remains a valuable and important community asset, so my special thanks go to the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, Trevor Hall, and the committee's members who maintain and run the Village Hall. Without you, most of the local community clubs and activities would not take place, and we could not draw in clubs and activities from further afield.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the small army of volunteers within the community that also contribute their time, effort and money to provide events such as the coffee mornings, the Hub Nights, the many superb societies and community activities that use the Village Hall, gritting of the pavements, as well as activities such as the rewilding of the verge outside the Village Hall that saw a wonderful display of colours bloom just in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Finally, I would like to thank the community for its support of the clubs, events and activities our volunteers provide. Without you these would not exist. We live in a truly wonderful countryside community.

Alex Schuilenburg, Chair of the Parish Council.

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Summary of Items contained in the Report

- The Management Committee has met regularly
- All Trustees are entered on the Charity Commissioners' website
- All Trustees make significant contribution to running the Hall.
- All equipment has been inspected and relevant certificates are up to date.
- The financial position is good with adequate reserves of money.
- A contract cleaner continues to provide a high standard of cleaning.
- The Management Committee is trying to reduce the hall's carbon footprint and has proposed fitting a photo-voltaic (PV) system on the roof along with a battery storage option. A grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council has been received.

Trustees / Committee Meetings. The Village Hall Management Committee have met 6 times, including the AGM in October 2022. The Committee comprises of 10 trustees and was reformed in April 2022 when 2 new members joined and one former trustee left.

Safety. All surveys and inspections are up to date.

Financial. The Hall has 2 accounts with Lloyds, a current account and a deposit account. The deposit account has the £4000 grant received from South Cambridgeshire District Council for the PV installation. These accounts are accessed on-line by the Chairman and the Treasurer. The Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2022 was submitted with the annual return to the Charity Commission following an independent assessment. Reserves continue at an acceptable level in the region of £25,000 in the current account.

Income. Income has recovered since the Covid 19 shut down, with additional activities such as the Coffee Morning, dance meditation and badminton being booked and regular clubs such as Karate and Iaido continuing as before. However, due to the increase in electricity charges the hire charges were increased from January 2023 in order to maintain to suitable level of reserves.

Cleaning. The standard of cleaning by the contractor

has been very good and has been favourably commented on by users.

Maintenance. The fittings in the bar have been upgraded and a number of plumbing repairs have been carried out in the toilets, with some further repairs needed in the near future.

PV Installation (ED. Solar panels). An application to install a PV installation was made via the Cambridgeshire Together Scheme run by Cambridgeshire County Council, in the 2021-22 financial year and a quote for the installation was received from Greenscape Energy. This initial quote was for £13,970.

Following an onsite survey Greenscape Energy advised that we were not eligible for an installation under the Cambridgeshire Together scheme and we were offered a commercial installation for a quotation of £24,739. This change in quotation was based on the Hall having a 3 phase power supply. Alternative quotes have been sought. Unfortunately, this cost was determined too burdensome for the Hall to bear alone, so the project was abandoned. The Parish Council were informed of this decision and, recognising the benefits of the PV installation and that the installation will be a capital expenditure which added value to the Hall, offered to take over the project. The Parish Council will set up and manage an appeal fund for subsequent fund raising and grants for the project into which it would also contribute.

Trevor Hall
Chair, West Wickham Village Hall Management Committee.

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Ill health has rather taken a toll on our membership and the Club is currently running at a loss using reserves to pay costs. We would desperately like some new members as the Club provides easy exercise and, more importantly, a social evening for those living on their own. We have been joined by some young people after inviting them in out of the cold while hanging round the Village Hall. They are very good bowlers and seem to be enjoying themselves – we certainly appreciate their muscle power in getting out the equipment. Carpet bowls is easily learnt, suitable for all abilities and a fun evening with a friendly lot of people. Any help the Parish Council can give in promoting and supporting the Club (by actually coming along and trying it perhaps) would be welcome.

Janet Morris, Secretary

WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The Local History Club continues to hold monthly meetings from October through to April each year and membership has increased slightly. Talks have covered a wide range of subjects with a local flavour and have been on Cambridgeshire maps, the Herveys of Ickworth, the Great Plague in Cambridge (the parallels between the plague of 1660 and the Covid pandemic - such as lockdowns and enforced isolation - were remarkable) and the history of cottage gardens (this a joint meeting with the Gardening Club). We had to postpone our Christmas meeting because of the snow but had the delayed quiz and seasonal refreshments in January. Like all activities in the village it would be good if we had more support. We do try to engage people with the regular pieces in the *Village Voice* and there is a degree of interest but it doesn't result in membership. A larger membership would enable us to attract more speakers as many don't feel it is worthwhile to talk to a small group even for proper payment.

Janet Morris, Secretary

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our AGM, usually held in September, coincided with the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, and therefore, as a mark of respect, it was agreed that we should postpone it until the beginning of the following meeting in October. The significant change to the Committee was the standing down of our Chair, Arthur Mawby, who had led the Club admirably for some years, and most recently guided us through the challenge of running a club during the time of the Covid Lockdown. It must be noted here that we are all most grateful for all the energy and enthusiasm Arthur has put into the club, and we thank him for his dedication.

We welcomed Indi Liepa onto the committee who takes over the role of programme secretary. This had been very ably maintained at that point by Janet Morris, in an acting role following the death of Rosemary Yallop earlier last year. Loraine Temple also joined the committee and has taken on the supervision of catering for the Club.

Thanks must be given to the other members of the committee who continue to put in so much work to maintain the life of the club: Andrew Morris for his role as Treasurer and Membership Secretary and leading on the Plant Sale, Janet Morris for her work on the programme and the regular newsletters, Marian Corbett for again organising the purchase of seeds from Mr Fothergill Seeds, Sue Herbert for producing careful and accurate minutes of all our Committee Meetings, and to Sue Thurston for organising the Annual Show.

The club has very healthy financial reserves, and therefore there was no increase in the annual subscription. Membership is steady. We currently have 35 paid-up members.

The first presentation of the year was given by Peter Jackson guiding us through the various scented plants that one can grow. The following month Sharka Baxter gave us an inspiring talk entitled 'The Forward-Looking Gardener'. Janet and Andrew Morris stepped in at the last minute to provide us with a Christmas Quiz in December, when the arranged speaker was unable to attend. The careful mix of topics for the monthly meetings continued to be maintained into 2023. In January we had a presentation and discussion on how climate change is affecting gardening. This has led to an event in August on this topic (Ed. See page 3). In February Ian Bedford talked on 'Everything you wanted to know about slugs'. This was followed in March by the curator of Hyde Hall, Robert Brett, who described why we all have such a need for plants. Our own Janet Morris completed the season of talks presenting a historical take on gardening with: 'Fact or Fiction; a brief history of cottage gardens'.

It must be said that the extreme weather last year, both the high temperatures of the summer, and the extremely cold weather during the winter, have had quite an impact on many of the plants in our gardens. Within the Club this has been quite a topic of conversation, and we have joined with some other local gardening clubs to organise an event on 12 August this year entitled 'Gardening with Climate Change, what can we do'. This event, with a mixture of talks by experts in the field, and stalls focusing on the various aspects to consider, such as drought tolerant plants, composting, and encouraging wildlife in our gardens, will be held in West Wickham Village Hall. We hope this will help inform gardeners in the local area as to how to adapt, and mitigate the changes we are all now being faced with.

Sue Boase
Chair, West Wickham & District Gardening Club

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

A1307. The upgrades to the A1307 have continued to be implemented over the last year. The 'Greenway' (a path suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horses), that will ultimately link Linton and the new Park & Ride site that is proposed to be on the outskirts of Babraham, has been steadily moving forward with the construction of the section between Linton and Abington progressing, as well as the new pedestrianised crossing at the Hildersham junction being finished and very much in use.

There was some good (we hope) progress made on the decision of where the route of the Abington leg of the Greenway should go. The original plan was to direct the route along Linton Road, through the middle of the village and then out along Bourne Bridge Road. This option was met with some robust challenge locally, from residents, your councillors and the parish council. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) then went away and have decided to only look at the option that runs along the side of Pampisford Road. The downside of this is that it will take longer to construct, as there are compulsory land purchases required, which involve lawyers, and these always take time.

The next, and final, phase of the scheme to upgrade the A1307 will be starting in May this year. This is to construct a roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton and also to remodel the highly dangerous Dean Road junction on the A1307. The work will run for just under a year, which will very likely mean some disruption to traffic, but the plan is to build a temporary road around the area that the roundabout is being constructed in to avoid any closures to the A1307. Some concerns that rat running will increase during this time has been responded to by the GCP with the reassurance that sufficient signage will be put up to inform people of the temporary road and to deter them to take more rural detours. Full detail can be seen at

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-south-east-transport>

Greater Cambridge Partnership. The other big news that came from the GCP this year was that Cambridgeshire are being offered a large sum of money (many many millions) by central government to help improve the local public transport network in and around the city. The reason for this isn't random - Cambridge scores very poorly on congestion and pollution metrics - some saying it is the 3rd worst city for congestion in England and that it emits over 25% more pollution than the national average.

A solution to this, that the government are looking to support financially, is get a very reliable and cost-effective public transport system, as we have seen works in other cities. This would eventually have to be self-funded however and a proposed way to do this would be to charge for road usage, a congestion charge, or what is being labelled as a Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ).

The GCP published an initial proposal back at the start of 2022 which outlined which areas of the city could be affected by a STZ. This stretched to most of the city limits and also included Addenbrookes hospital. The GCP then ran one of the largest public consultations in Cambridgeshire's history on the topic, to garner the thoughts of the public on this important decision. Some 24,000 responses were received, which equates to roughly 15% of all adults in South Cambridgeshire, an enormous response. The full results of this are currently being collated and will be available for viewing in the summer.

Personally, we aren't against the principle of congestion charging as a medium to help fund a much-improved public transport system, however, the plans as they currently are need some improving before they can be in a supportable

state.

This issue has, and will continue to, get a lot of media attention so you won't have to look very far to get an update on this. We do always encourage people, when formulating a view, to look at the facts, as there is a lot of opinion out there which doesn't always represent the full picture.

New HQ. The County Council's brand-new purpose-built HQ, in Alconbury, was formally opened in July last year. This replaces the previous location in central Cambridge. Our view is still that it is in the wrong location, given the non-existent public transport links and the fact it is an 80ish mile round trip for us living in the south east of the county.

Waste issues. Back in the Autumn last year the governments various departments, DEFRA and the Environment Agency, informed local authorities that they would be bringing into force legislation that means some wholesale changes to the way that the County Council has to dispose of various things.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – these are essentially upholstered items such as sofas, chairs etc. The new legislation dictates that they can no longer be put into landfill and have to be incinerated. This causes a problem for the County Council as their contact with the waste disposal company doesn't stretch to incineration, so this led to a week where the Council couldn't accept these items at their recycling centres whilst they looked for a solution. They now have one and have been accepting the POPs at their recycling centres since January. The District Council also has a bulky item collection service, that is chargeable, if transportation is an issue.

Food waste – again, an announced change in legislation by DEFRA is meaning that, in a few years time, all food waste will have to be collected and disposed of separately to all other green household waste. Some of us have been taking part in a, District Council arranged, food waste collection trial for the last 3 years in preparation for this change. The issue the County Council has is, again, contractual as they will now have to renegotiate their current contract with their waste contractor, or find a new one, that has the capability to dispose of food in the appropriate way, which is different to regular green waste. This is ongoing to watch this space

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Local Plan. The District Council has been going through the process of looking at the next Local Plan – which is a blueprint for where development, both residential and commercial, will be happening over the next 30 years. This plan needs to be updated every 5-10 years as the local picture is constantly changing.

Currently the District Council have a very healthy '5 year land supply' which means they have allocated, and approved planning permission for, enough houses to accommodate the growth of the area over the next 5 year period. This means that we only have controlled development and the Council don't have to relax their planning rules to allow uncontrolled, unsustainable development – as they had to in 2014-18 and we ended up with a lot of unplanned and unsuitable developments, such as Horseheath Road and Bartlow Road in Linton, Linton Road in Balsham and Bartlow Road in Castle Camps.

The District Council are currently going through the process of allocating the sites for the next Local Plan, which we were all consulted on last year. Their current principle is to concentrate development into existing towns and larger settlements, such as Cambourne, Northstowe, Waterbeach New Town, Bourne Airfield etc and they will leave the villages as rural villages. We hope they continue with this principle and we know a lot of parishes wrote in supporting this concept.

This will be an ever evolving process, that we will keep you

as updated on as possible, so please do watch this space.

Ukrainian Guests. More than 800 Ukrainian guests have been welcomed to South Cambs since the war started last year. This is the highest number of any District Council in the country. This is a great achievement and says much for the humanity of those who have opened their homes to these people in need. More hosts are needed as Ukrainians continue to arrive or move on from their current accommodation. If you can help just contact the team on: HFULiason@Scambs.gov.uk

Elections May 2022. The District Council Election saw the Liberal Democrats increase their majority. The current distribution of seats is as follows: Lib Dems 35, Conservative 9 and Independent 1. Thank you to everyone for voting to re-elect us both, we're very privileged to continue to do this job We now only have elections every 4 years so the next District election will be in 2026. The County Council is due to hold elections in 2025.

Contact Details

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MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

This will be a very busy half term with lots of sporting and outside events as well as preparing the Year 6s to leave primary school. However, it is also the half term that we host transition events with our new Reception children coming into school, initially with their parents/ carers, for Messy Play and Stories and Songs in preparation for September! It was lovely to see many happy, confident and smiling 'little people' in school.

Summer Fete and Sports Day: We have already held our annual school Summer Fete in very warm sunshine and children enjoyed the bouncy castles, class stalls, BBQ and café. We are now looking forward to Sports Day which consists of a carousel of team activities which encourages co-operation and support as well as competitive races.

Y5/6 Quadkids: Continuing with the sporting theme, we took 10 children to Wilberforce Road Athletics Stadium to compete against 15 other teams in 4 events. The events were a 75m sprint, 650m race, howling vortex throw and a standing long jump. The weather was fantastic as was the team spirit. We were delighted to finish 5th out of 15.



Now there are just a few more weeks until we break up on Wednesday 19 July but before we can do that we have Year 6 Leavers Events, Year 5/6 Production of Pirates of the Currybean, Open Evenings for pupils and parents/carers to meet the new teacher and The Summer Disco as well as teaching and learning!

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head