

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE 249

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	7 February	Black
Wednesday	14 February	Blue & green
Wednesday	21 February	Black
Wednesday	28 February	Blue only

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

YOUR CHANCE TO SAY NO TO ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT AT STREETLY HALL FARM

A reminder that while the public consultation period of the first application regarding the proposed plant has closed, you can still make your objection heard by the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Add your name to the online petition using this link <https://tinyurl.com/NoStreetlyHallAD> or the QR code. The petition will be open until May 2024.



CHURCH SERVICES

4 February	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
11 February	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
14 February	10.00 Ash Wednesday service at Hildersham Church
18 February	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
25 February	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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.

FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO
<https://westwickham.org>

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Friday 16 February

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Cambridge CB21 4RY
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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.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

A big THANK YOU to those who read at the Christmas Eve Carol Service. If you would like to read next year please drop me an email and I'll be in touch nearer the time. It needn't be a long reading and we really appreciate new volunteers.

Also, is there anyone in West Wickham and Streetly End who would like to join our church flower rota? It's just one month in the year - a vase of flowers to cover four Sundays, you can choose your month. Any volunteers for this would be very welcome.

Please contact Nicky, email nicolacornish@hotmail.co.uk

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE
MORNING
8th February
from 10.30 a.m.

Future dates for your diaries:

(2nd Thursday of the month)

14th March, 11th April, 9th May & 13th June

Selection of teas & coffee

Variety of homemade cakes

LIFTS AVAILABLE

Call Di Licence (290434) or

Sue Thurston (897811)



POPPY APPEAL THANKS

Thanks are due to everyone who once again, so willingly and efficiently, helped me in organising the four villages' Poppy Appeal collections at Remembrancetide 2023. Special thanks for all the individual donations via the collecting tins, gift aid envelopes and QR code at the Chestnut Tree, The Bell Inn, The Black Bull Inn, Coffee Shop, Post Office and Holy Trinity Church. The total amount raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was £1227.64 which includes donations from PCs and PCCs, The Hub and Coffee Morning at West Wickham, The Meadow School and West Wratting Sports Pavilion.

With my thanks
Margaret Johnson (Voluntary Poppy Appeal Organiser)

CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

In last month's *Village Voice*, trainee minister, Rhona McEune, wrote about the Christian celebration of Candlemas on 2 February each year. For reasons which are not clear, Candlemas has also attracted a number of sayings about the weather some of which were noted by the Horseheath antiquarian, Catherine Parsons (1870-1956). This may be simply because days of celebration were easy markers in an age when no one owned a clock or watch let alone a calendar or possibly it was because it was roughly the half way point between the shortest day and the spring equinox – *At Candlemas, candle less* was one of the sayings, indicating that days were drawing out.

The other sayings Catherine collected were predictions:

*If Candlemas be fine and clear,
No peas or beans will fill this year*

and

*If Candlemas be clear and bright,
Winter will take another flight*

I take both these to mean the same thing – if it's a fine day on 2 February then winter is not over and frosts may kill the pea and bean (staple foods) flowers meaning no harvest. Over the years I've tried to remember to note the Candlemas weather to see if there's any truth behind the sayings. I've found that, generally, if the weather is definitely fine or definitely dull and cloudy, the sayings hold true but it's less reliable if, as is so often the case, the day is a mix of sun and cloud. Why not try this for yourself and let me know what you think?

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

Want to know more about your village and the countryside around it?

Then why not come along to the next meeting of West Wickham & District Local History Club when I will be talking on:

'A curse upon the land'?
Enclosure in 19thc West Wickham and changes to the landscape

7.30pm in the Village Hall
ALL WELCOME (there is a small visitor's charge)

For further details contact Janet Morris as above.
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

BALSHAM SINGERS

The Singers enjoyed a most successful concert on the afternoon of 16 December. It was the first time we've held an afternoon performance and it proved to be very popular. We were disappointed that we were not able to sell any tickets on the door this year due to successful advanced sales and church capacity. We will be reviewing our options before our next concert in May. We were gifted two lovely hampers to raffle and the proceeds of £450 were donated to Arthur Rank Hospice and have been presented by Sara Szabo and Valerie Hefford to Yoyo Kunzwa, the charity's fund raising officer.

The choir welcomes new members. We rehearse on Thursday evening 7.30-9.30 in the Pavilion near the church in Balsham. No experience is necessary, the ability to read music is helpful but not needed as rehearsal CD's are available. For more information go to our website at www.choirsites/balshamsingers or contact us at balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk

Jo Stinton

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We start the beginning of the term welcoming Emily to the unit, who has just moved up from Rainbows. She is bubbly so will fit in well with the rest of the Brownies.

We have an exciting term planned ranging from Chinese New Year activities; Mothering Sunday and Easter crafts as well as St David's Day and St Patrick's Day celebrations. We will be clocking up Unit Meeting Activity minutes before we start on the next Skills Builder after half-term. Our annual Brownie Holiday isn't happening until May this year when we will be joining Balsham on their weekend. Plans are beginning to form and I know there will be a lot of cake involved.

If you have been intrigued by what you have read about the Brownies and you have a 7-year old girl, or older, living in your home and think she might like to join us the please email me on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com or register her on www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/ and I'll get in touch. Also, if you have a daughter who is 5 years old, she could be a Rainbow or if she is over 10 years old then she could be a Guide, we have units in Linton that have spaces. Email me for more details.

Pauline, Katie and Gemma



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

NATURE NOTES

At the time of writing we are entering a very cold snap, so it's important to keep the bird feeders topped up and to provide a supply of drinking water in the garden. When everything is frozen the birds and other creatures, who spend their time in the open, need all the sustenance we can give them. When you top up the feeders it is important to clean them regularly in order to limit the spread of disease. The disease **trichomonosis** has adversely affected finch populations, particularly greenfinches, which have been declining in the last 20 or so years. The symptoms of the disease are general lethargy, plumped up plumage, difficulty in swallowing and laboured breathing. We would be interested to hear of anyone who has a greenfinch (healthy or not) visit their garden. Chaffinches are also susceptible to the disease and I see very few of them in our garden, although Di tells me she sees plenty.

Di had a brief meeting with a couple of carrion crows raiding mealworms put out for the robin, which surprised her. In contrast I rarely look out of the window and do not see a couple walking about with an air of high importance. Crows, like all the corvid family, are very intelligent. I usually say hello to them as I walk past and I could swear that they answer me, but maybe that is taking imagination too far. The other corvids who frequent the area – rooks, jackdaws and magpies are full of character and although sometimes we disapprove of their activities, who are we to judge?

Bird table politics is always worth watching. Although size is a factor, attitude also plays a role and the less pushy types have to take the opportunity when there is a lull in the activity. Such birds are the coal tits recently visiting Di's bird table. Wrens do not often visit bird tables as they are essentially insect (and spider) eaters so they tend to scuttle around at ground level. On cold nights wrens have to do what they can to keep warm and it has been known for large numbers of them to be sheltering in a single nesting box.

At this time of year it does us good to hear some positive news and the other day I was reading about the revival across Britain and Europe of oak moss, which is in fact a lichen not a moss and grows on the bark of many trees as well as oak. Its presence is a marker of the quality of the air, because it cannot tolerate sulphur dioxide or high levels of nitrogen which have resulted from our human activities since the Industrial Revolution. In particular, the closure of so many coal-fired power stations seems to have given oak moss a new lease of life. Look out for it when you are passing trees in well-lit situations. It is pale grey-green in colour so you are more likely to notice it at this time of year against the dark background of the tree bark.

It is also good to hear that a roe deer has been seen in the new Queen's Wood, although the young saplings may view its presence with a different perspective. The roe deer is one of our two native deer species and unquestionably the most beautiful. Out with the dogs recently I disturbed two who sprung out of the hedge on the Roman Road and made off with their balletic movement in the direction of Streetly Hall farm. Fortunately the dogs were on the lead.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As we soar into the new term, our youngest learners in Key Stage 1 are gearing up for an exciting exploration into the skies with their captivating topic, "What's Up There?" This will involve learning about The Wright Brothers, exploring a range of aircraft and thinking about where flight can take you.

In Years 3 and 4, the adventure unfolds with their topic, "South American Adventure." Students will delve into the interesting and varied cultures, geography, and history that make South America a captivating continent. From the lush rainforests to the Inca Empire, the children will acquire lots of new knowledge and interesting facts.

For our upper Key Stage 2 students, the theme is "Where in the World," with a particular focus on the United States of America. The children will embark on a cross-country exploration, unravelling the diverse tapestry that makes the USA such a captivating and influential nation.

High-Flying Adventures at Duxford. Our little explorers of Key Stage 1 have kick started their learning already this term by embarking on a thrilling trip to Duxford Air Museum. The day unfolded with wide-eyed wonder as our young aviation enthusiasts marvelled at all the majestic aircraft that once soared through the skies. Their faces lit up with awe as they explored the historic hangars, discovering vintage planes that echoed stories of courage and innovation. The Museum's interactive displays engaged their curious minds, allowing them to touch, feel, and even go inside some legendary planes.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

At the College we are lucky to have a Student Senate that actively contributes to the running of the school. I am involved in The Senate and, along with Will and Lilian, LVC's Head Students, House Captains and Prefects, I meet regularly and work alongside the College's staff House Leads and Ms Price, Inclusion Lead. LVC has four houses: Voyager, Endeavour, Pioneer and Discovery.

We meet once every two weeks and discuss up and coming events and how we can contribute to the school and the wider Linton community. The Senate helps to organise and run regular competitive House Events with input from House Leads. It is also a valuable opportunity for us to voice our opinions and suggestions. We hold forums with the wider student body to gain student voice on topics such as catering, behaviour and the curriculum. We have recently met with our local Member of Parliament, Lucy Frazer.

In terms of charitable endeavours, we have been involved in fundraising and meeting with the Friends of LVC to support with our annual sponsored walk which raises valuable funds to enrich our educational experiences and learning environment at LVC. Last term, The Senate was also involved in organising charitable events such as our Christmas jumper day raising money for Tom's Trust, the reverse advent collection for Jimmy's in Cambridge and the 'Bearpee Challenge' for Children in Need.

We are looking forward to 2024 and opportunities to raise further money for worthy causes over the coming year.

Rupert Warden-Hill, Deputy Head Student



GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

Appointments update

Here at Granta, we continue to offer a mixture of face to face, telephone and online appointments. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our appointments system works and what is available to Granta patients.

- Firstly, please be assured that no-one apart from clinicians make clinical decisions about your care when you first contact us. Our reception teams have clear criteria, set by GPs, as to what can be put straight onto a clinician's urgent list. However, if they or you are unsure, they will take your details and discuss your concerns with the clinical team and then get back to you.
- When ringing for an appointment you will be asked if there is a particular clinician you would like to see, either for continuity of your presenting problem or continuity of overall care. It may be that you don't mind who you see – you just need to speak to someone about your current medical problem.
- Please do help our reception team by providing as much information as possible. All information is treated as confidential and will only be used for triage purposes. They are simply trying to make sure you are seen by the right person, in the right place, at the right time.
- If you do feel that your problem is not urgent, you will be asked if a routine appointment may be more suitable, or perhaps a long term medical conditions appointment, a palliative care appointment, or whether we can help you in any other way.
- If your appointment starts with a telephone call then, together with the clinician, it can be decided whether a face to face appointment will be the appropriate next step.
- Routine appointments are available a few weeks in advance, all pre-bookable via our reception teams and online. New routine appointments are released daily at 8am and at 2pm to allow for regular availability. If you ring and there is nothing available, our reception team can send you a link that is valid for 7 days (that you can check daily) to pre-book a face to face or telephone appointment, so that you do not need to ring back.
- Alternatively, if you would prefer, you could use Accurx Patient Triage via our website to have an online consultation with a clinician. We do ask however that you only send routine queries as it can take up to 72 hours to respond.

There will always be sickness, annual leave and the perception that clinicians are not seeing patients. However, on average, Granta's doctors and nurses see around 4,000 patients face to face per week, and consult with another 3,500 via the telephone and online. We continue to try and accommodate all of our patients in a way that suits and please be assured that we are continuously reviewing and revising patient access.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

SNOWDROP TIME - OPEN GARDEN

Clover Cottage, 50 Streetly End

Shirley Shadford will again be opening her garden for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on Sundays 18, 25 February and 3 March 2pm-4pm. The garden is well worth a visit and has been featured in several magazine articles and at least one book. Plants will be on sale and refreshments available. Shirley would be delighted to see you all. For more information on the NGS go to www.ngs.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

This chilling reminder of death is the first part of the sentence said as the clergy smear ashes on the foreheads of those attending church services on Ash Wednesday. And no less demanding, the sentence ends, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ". To non-believers, and believers alike, this *can* be heard as a further sobering threat: "Get your act together, my dear, or you won't get to heaven!" But I don't think that's the case.

You may already have guessed, from the bizarre sight of Easter Eggs on supermarket shelves at New Year that, indeed, Easter is particularly early this year, on 31 March. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent is on 14 February. Lent marks the six weeks of preparation for the events of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday: the Friday before the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. So, perhaps, that sentence about remembering that "you are but dust" seems a bit premature, and especially mean when we've all just seen our New Year's resolutions crumble!

No, the discomfort, or even shock, of being reminded of one's mortality - is pressing us to ask the right question. The sort of '*meaning-of-life*' question: a fundamental question mark in the life of any adult. But equally, for all of us, the easier option is to swerve back from this thought to the multiple (and necessary) distractions in our lives, drawing us away - arguably in a psychologically healthy fashion - from those uncomfortable questions about our pettiness and failures, the abandoned hopes and, dare we wonder, ultimately the futility of life?

Sadly however, many of the more serious distractions; again, war in Europe, the endless atrocities in the Middle East, and the perilous consequences of unchecked global warming - merely compound our sense of helplessness and fears for the future. "Here's something else the world's unlikely to be able to fix!" So, in the end, what's the point? Isn't it just best to skim over the surface of life as best we can? The demand to "Turn away from sin", doesn't seem that helpful perhaps, especially if read primarily as something about being 'good' and, even, doing your bit to fix the world.

No, essentially for Christians, Lent is firstly an invitation into the much more difficult space of being clear-eyed about yourself, and about the world, and most particularly about the dark underbelly of the suffering and failures that can't be fixed ... and the futility of it all *if*, anyway, death is its' final full stop and then, staying there as best you can. Staying there and wrestling and trusting that the path we follow to Good Friday will this year yield up another piece of the puzzle and deliver the glimpse of a deeper answer. An answer that surprisingly, shockingly gives the inspiration for New Life... the life, and selfless love, and hope and joy of Easter.

Alistair Collen. Licensed Lay Minister – Granta Vale Ministry Team

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT

GARDENING CLUB

Monday 19 February
Companion planting for a balanced garden
Talk by Dr Ian Bedford
7.30pm, Village Hall

Further information from Sue Boase
T: 07716 401646. Email: wwdgc@westwickham.org