

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

April 2024

ISSUE 251

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	3 April	Black
Wednesday	10 April	Blue & green
Wednesday	17 April	Black
Wednesday	24 April	Blue & green

It is not 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

7 April	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
14 April	9.30. Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church
21 April	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
28 April	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **20.04.2024** 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 Tuesday 16 April

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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.

WAKE UP WEST WICKHAM



ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT AT STREETLY HALL FARM ADD YOUR NAME TO THE ONLINE PETITION (SEE BELOW)

Derek Hulyer

The public consultation period for the application to build an anaerobic digestion plant at Streetly Hall Farm has closed but you can still make **YOUR** views known to 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 8 May.



ROAD CLOSURES

The County Council has given notice of the following road closures.
2- 4 April. The Common, West Wrating, between Chapel Road & Mill Road. The diversion will be through West Wickham!
18 April. West Wickham Road, Balsham. The diversion will be via Mill Road, West Wrating and the B1052.

STAGECOACH 13 BUS TIMETABLE IS CHANGING

The timetable for the Stagecoach 13 bus will change on 14 April. This is being called a new network but at the time of writing it is too soon to see what changes are being made. I understand it will provide a faster service and more direct connections between Haverhill & Cambridge but these all seem to be within Haverhill. The new timetable should be available at www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/east/13/cambridge-haverhill/xcao013.o

Andrew

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 15 April, 7.30pm at the Village Hall
Asian woodland plants
Talk by Helen Chen of Japonica Plants Nursery

Saturday 18 May. PLANT SALE
10.30 – 12.00, Village Hall

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

VICTOR TERRY 1937 – 2024

Born in Coventry. Vic and Beryl married at All Saints' Church, Coventry in July 1959 and they adopted their twin boys Alan John and Ian Paul in April 1966.



Vic & Beryl in the bar of the White Horse, January 1987.

In 1984 the family moved to Harlow and later Vic took on The White Horse PH which he loved dearly. They moved to Streetly End when Beryl's health declined and both moved into Nichols Court in Linton and then onto Southwell Court in Melbourn. Beryl passed away in August 2022.

Vic was an avid collector of all things pertaining to his beloved Coventry and was also a freeman of the city. His funeral was held be on 20 March.

Alan Terry

West Wickham Art Club

Monday Evenings

First and third Monday of every month
At the Village Hall

15 Apr	5-7pm
6 May	6-8pm
20 May	5-7pm
3 Jun	6-8pm
17 Jun	6-8pm
1 Jul	6-8pm
15 Jul	6-8pm
5 Aug	6-8pm
19 Aug	6-8pm



Various art topics to be covered
No experience necessary
Open to all ages
£3 per session (to cover hall hire)

There may be additional minimal costs on some weeks to cover materials

Enquiries - Ashley 07873 188 784

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE MORNING

11th April

from 10.30 a.m.

Future dates for your diaries:

(2nd Thursday of the month)

9th May, 13th June & 11th July

Selection of teas & coffee

Variety of homemade cakes

LIFTS AVAILABLE

Call Di Licence (290434) or

Sue Thurston (897811)



CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

April is the month when we would expect the cuckoo to return for the summer but I have rarely heard a cuckoo in the years I have lived in the village (beware confusing their call with that of the collared dove – once heard you can easily tell the difference as the cuckoo has a higher and harder sound). They were obviously more common when Horseheath historian, Catherine Parsons, recorded local sayings about them. There were two common beliefs. One said that you would do for the rest of the year whatever you were doing on hearing the cuckoo and the other said you would go in the direction you first heard the cuckoo before the year was out. Perhaps you would like to test this out and let me know. There was also an expression used with children when they could not get what they wanted – they were told they could have it when 'the cuckoo picked up all the mud'. Cuckoos, of course, do not pick up mud to make their nests like those other summer visitors, swallows and martins, but lay their eggs in other bird's nests so the answer meant, in effect, never!

If you are interested in the past and would like to know more – about the local area, the village, your house or your family history – do get in touch or better still join us at West Wickham & District Local History Club. All are welcome.

Our next meeting will be on:

Monday 8 April

7.30pm in the Village Hall

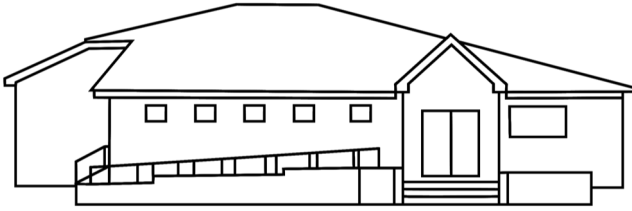
When Tony Kirby will be talking on:

The History of the Cambridge Townscape 1500-2023

For further details please contact

Janet Morris, 21 High Street.

T: 290863, Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

At the Village Hall Management Committee held on 26 February the membership of the committee changed. Martin Kerslake was elected as Chair of the Committee and I have taken on the role of temporary Treasurer from Brian Marshall who has stood down following many years in that position. A new Treasurer will be appointed after the end of this financial year.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have provided excellent support over the past few years during which we have made significant improvements to the Hall. The Hall can only prosper thanks to the effort of the volunteers who serve on the Committee as Trustees for the Village Hall Trust.

There is an ongoing need to have new faces on the committee and we are presently seeking a volunteer to take over the role of Booking Secretary. Georgina Magin has been our Booking Secretary for several years and would like to relinquish the role. Anyone wishing to join the Committee in the role of Booking Secretary should contact vhmc.chair@westwickham.org

Trevor Hall

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

Spring COVID-19 vaccine

NHS UK will contact you direct if your NHS medical record suggests you may be eligible for a spring COVID-19 vaccine. You may be offered a spring COVID-19 vaccine from April 2024 if you:-

- Are aged 75 years old or over
- Live in a care home for older adults
- Are aged 6 months old or over and have a weakened immune system

When available, there will be different ways to obtain your vaccine, including:

- Booking online
- Going to a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site
- Through your care home
- Via one of the community services

If you go to a walk-in center please remember to take your invitation letter with you. As and when we receive further information about the spring vaccine we will let you know.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services.
Email: cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net

FROM THE VICARAGE

This spring is a time of farewells in our Granta Vale churches. Our wonderful Curate, Ben Brady, is shortly to leave for pastures new as he will be taking up a new post as Team Vicar in the Berkhamsted Team Ministry - with special responsibility for Holy Trinity, Potten End - in the Diocese of St Albans. Typically, a curacy is around three years but because Ben had already completed a first curacy of a year and a half in the Manchester diocese before he came to us in November 2022, he is now ready to move on to his next role.

It's been a great joy to have Ben as part of our ministry team. He has carried out his ministry with a sense of warmth, prayerfulness and dedication and he will be much missed, especially in Great and Little Abington where he lives. We will be praying for him as he prepares to move house and start his new role. Ben's last service here will be our united service on Sunday 5 May at 11am, after which there will be refreshments and an opportunity to say goodbye to Ben. All are welcome to attend!

We will also be saying farewell to Hannah Threlfall in her role as Community Minister in late May. I'm delighted to say, however, that Hannah won't be leaving us as she will become our new Curate in the summer! Hannah will be ordained at Ely Cathedral on Sunday 30 June after which she will be serving her curacy in our group of churches. Our other two ordinands, Natalie and Rhona, however, will be departing in June as they prepare for ordination and their curacies: Natalie in the Salisbury diocese and Rhona much closer by in the Anglesey group of churches. (Ed. Parishes around Stow Cum Quy)

The book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament says that 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens'. As we acknowledge the coming weeks as a time of farewell and pray for Ben, Hannah, Natalie and Rhona as they prepare for their new roles, these changes may remind us we may look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE RECENT UKRAINE APPEAL

Saffron Walden Rotary thanks all those who kindly donated food, clothing and household items and cash at our collection held on 2 March at Great Abington School, thanks to the support of Headmaster Guy Underwood.

Residents from Abington and the surrounding villages responded so well to the third collection held in Abington that the parked UK-Aid van was full by the end of the morning. In addition, over one thousand pounds was also generously donated which will buy four generators that are desperately needed where no power supplies are available.

Organiser Rotarian Tony Collett, said 'We are very appreciative of the support we receive which together with the ten collections we have held on Saffron Walden Common means that we are one of the major donors to UK-Aid, the Felsted based charity that takes everything to distribution centres in Moldova and Ukraine for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees. This all starts with the kindness and generosity of local people - thank you'.

Tony Collett

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★

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NATURE NOTES

As Samuel Johnson might have said – ‘when two dog walkers meet, their first talk is of the mud’. After one of the warmest, wettest winters on record, going for a walk on most footpaths is something of a squelchfest. The Roman Road between Horseheath and Streetly End has been under water for some weeks. Two **mallards** were swimming on it recently. Does anyone fancy a bet on a hosepipe ban in the summer?

Despite all the rain, **spring** is coming. **Blackthorn** is lighting up the hedges with its white flowers which emerge before its leaves. There has been no ‘blackthorn winter’ this year and its cousin the **hawthorn** is now coming into leaf. At the same time, we are seeing the pale-yellow flowers of the **primrose** in ditches and woodlands – a contrast to the brighter yellow of celandine. Primroses spread easily, thanks in large part to the wood ant. The seeds of the primrose are coated with elaiosome, like many other plant seeds. This is irresistible to ants, who carry the seeds back to their nests, eat the chemical and discard the rest of the seed, which germinates in the soil. Plants have very cunning strategies to maintain and spread their species.

Brimstone butterflies hibernate during the winter and emerge in spring when temperatures are sufficiently high. In between the downpours there have been some warm sunny moments, and Ann Denley has had a sighting of this insect, which, it is thought, put the ‘butter’ in butterfly. The sulphur yellow ones we see in early spring are the males, who emerge in advance of the paler females to wander about seeking a mate. After mating, the life cycle proceeds quickly so new adults begin to appear in August and September, ready to spend another winter hibernating.

Another sure sign of spring arriving is the annual **frog and toad** pilgrimage to the ‘mecca’ which is the pond of their birth. They have been seen crossing the High Street towards the Chairman of the Parish Council’s garden pond and in Webb’s Road making their way over to the large pond in front of Streetly Hall Farm. There are also crossing points elsewhere in the village, notably at Burton End, so drive

carefully and watch out for movement across the road, especially on warm damp nights. Quite a few of them have evidently made a successful journey because I have heard of a number of people whose ponds are boiling with activity which will produce frogspawn, tadpoles and froglets to resume their perilous lifecycle.

Our native birds are beginning to find their full singing voices, and Di has heard her first chiffchaff (albeit at Minsmere on the Suffolk coast – along with a booming bittern). I look forward to hearing of the first West Wickham chiffchaff of 2024, but in the meantime my personal highlight was the barn owl that interrupted a zoom chat by flying over the fence into our garden where it glided right up to the top and over the hedge. An electrifying moment for all concerned – even the other zoomers who could only see our reaction.



Drawing by Maureen Williams

Finally it was sad to see the Huntingdon elm in Webbs Road having to be reduced to a ‘monolith’ as it appeared to have finally given up the ghost. The part of the tree that remains, still contains a hole which has been used by nesting owls in the past, and we hope that maybe one day it will follow the example of the sycamore tree in Hadrians Wall and produce some new shoots. Fingers crossed.

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

A CALL TO VOLUNTEERING

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, Hearing Help, has been maintaining hearing aids for nearly half a century. We are proud to have 19 venues across Cambridgeshire, where people with NHS issued hearing aids have their aid(s) maintained and/or collect hearing aid batteries for free.

We are currently expanding our service into new local community hubs, and in tandem with new locations we need extra volunteers to join our existing band of 40. This is a call to all those out there who think they might be able to help run these hearing aid maintenance sessions.

We have two volunteering roles: receptionists to welcome our clients, note details, offer batteries and book further appointments, and technicians to maintain hearing aids, replace the tubing and/or domes and assist clients with any difficulties they are having. Full and ongoing training and support is provided to help you support those who are struggling with isolation, due to hearing loss, to remain socially connected to friends and family. Vital in this our fast-paced world.

If you are interested, please call Su Fletcher on 07384 403338 or email su.fletcher@cambsdeaf.org. For a list of our current locations and schedules go to www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

BALSHAM WI

At our meeting on 12 March, we had a session on Mindfulness by Mel Cunningham. Mel explained a little bit about mindfulness and how it could be used to help relieve stress. She then did some mindfulness tasks with the group. We tried eating a square of chocolate in a slow, mindful way by looking at it, then smelling it and nibbling it slowly while trying to work out what ingredient had been added to it. By doing this you are slowing down and thinking about one thing rather than the myriad of things that are usually going through our minds. I think we all felt quite serene at the end of her talk!

This was followed by our annual meeting when plans for the coming year were explained, leading up to our Centenary celebrations in 2025

New members are always welcome – why not come and try us out? We are a friendly bunch and welcome anyone over 18 who identifies as female. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

Our next meeting, on April 9, will be a social meeting with board games and chat as well as tea and cake!

Debbie Mower

COFFEE MORNING RECIPES

Jam Layer Flapjacks

You will need

A 20 cm square cake tin,	250g unsalted butter
180g golden syrup,	180g golden caster sugar
Oil, for greasing,	500g porridge oats
2 tsp almond extract,	200g jam

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas 4.
2. Line and grease the cake tin, leaving an overhang. This makes it easier to lift the flapjack out.
3. Heat the butter, syrup and sugar in a pan on a low heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved.
4. Add the almond extract to the melted butter mixture and stir well.
5. Combine the oats with the buttery syrup in a large bowl, mixing thoroughly.
6. Transfer half the mixture into the tin, flattening evenly across the base and pushing into the corners.
7. Spread the jam thinly all over this oaty base and top with the remaining mixture, using the back of a spoon to flatten into an even layer.
8. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes. The flapjack should be golden around the edge but not fully set when you take it out.
9. Leave to cool in the tin on a cooling rack.

Note: mincemeat can be substituted for the jam.

All recipes in this series are kindly provided by West Wickham residents.

COFFEE MORNING

11 April from 10.30 in the Village Hall

There was a good gathering of us at the March coffee morning and your generous donations towards the refreshments resulting in us raising £60 for Comic Relief. We are always open to suggestions as to which charities to support and this year have also sent payments to Mind Over Cancer and the MS Society.

Do make a note on your calendar that the next one will be on **THURSDAY 11 APRIL**. There is always a selection of tea and coffee and cold drinks on offer together with a variety of freshly made cakes, etc. Anyone wishing to bake something for us would be very welcome to – either bring it along on the day or contact one of us beforehand.

Everyone - young and old, Burton Enders, High Streeters, Maypole Crofters, Home Closers, Streetly Enders and outliers are all welcome. Do come along.

Sue Thurston (C. 897811) & Di Licence (C. 290434)

BALSHAM SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

Directed by John Clenaghan
Accompanied by Ralph Woodward
at
Holy Trinity Church Balsham
SAT 18 MAY at 7.30pm

To include music by Faure, Bruckner, Stanford and medleys from West Side Story & Little Shop of Horrors. Adults £12; Under 16s £1, to include refreshments. Charity raffle. Tickets available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers or from Balsham and Abington Post Offices.
Jo Stinton

FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE

The Community Warden Services in South Cambridgeshire were at risk of closure due to a shortfall in funding. However, South Cambridgeshire District Council has now agreed at their recent Cabinet meeting to meet the £100,000 shortfall for the affected Community Warden Services. This is for the 2024/25 financial year. This gives much needed time to consider how to ensure the services are sustainable for the future. The significant value of the Services was recognised by the District Council and its continued support is much appreciated.

Melanie Pittock, CEO of Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Come and visit Linton library this April for...

- Easter holiday fun activities for kids – Drop-in crafts, picture hunts and more.
- Our Monthly talk on Wednesday 10 April, 2 – 3.30pm, will be from the volunteer group FROG (Friends of the River Granta) whose aim is to protect and enhance the local River Granta. It's free but please book your place by contacting the library or email: cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- Storytime. Rhyme-time. Duplo-time, our friendly group for 0-4-year olds, 10am – 11am, every Tuesday (in term time) for stories, songs and Duplo play.
- Knit and Natter, which is now on every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on – it doesn't have to be knitting and table space is available.
- Daylight Readers. Our Book Groups meet on Friday 19 April, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm and always welcome new members!

Bus Passes - We can help with new ones or renewals. Contact us to book an appointment.

If you are having problems working out your smart phone or laptop, the IT Club are here to help. Drop-in any Wednesday from 5pm – 7pm.

Ann King and Melanie Symonds,
Community Library Assistants, Linton Library
Opening hours: Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4-7pm;
Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm
Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have been very creative this term with making Mothering Sunday flowers from paper, Easter bonnets and cards. We have also been helping Girlguiding with the design of the new uniform. Girlguiding wanted every current member to have their say in what colour, logo design/size etc they wanted, and we are all excited to see what they come up with.

Next term we will be starting the Innovate skills builder which will involve us being even more creative than we've been this term. We also have our Brownie holiday with Balsham Brownies to look forward to in May, with 6 Brownies wanting to stay from Horseheath and 12 from Balsham. It will be good to go back to the Jarman Centre for a "relaxing" weekend.

In June we hope to meet up with some US Girl Scouts who

Continued over....

Horseheath Brownies continued.....

will be touring the UK for three weeks. Plans are being formulated to have a "getting to know you" afternoon between the US Girl Scouts, 1st Linton Guides and Horseheath Brownies. It will be great for all the girls to meet up and exchange ideas between the two countries.

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, 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 a Guide. We have units in Linton that have spaces they could join. Email me for more details.

Pauline, Katie and Gemma.
Email: horseheathbrownies@gmail.com

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The month ahead promises to be an exciting and bustling time! Our talented Year 3/4 students are diligently preparing for their anticipated production of Snow White, where they will showcase their acting and musical talents. Meanwhile, we are practising hard for our Easter service at Balsham Church, where students will come together to reflect on the significance of the season and celebrate the spirit of renewal and hope. Additionally, our adventurous Year 5 students are gearing up for a residential trip to How Hill, where they will embark on hands-on learning experiences amidst the beauty of nature. With so much to look forward to, it's bound to be a month brimming with creativity, spirituality, and unforgettable experiences for all our children!

World Book Day. On 7 March, in celebration, our students embarked on an exciting literary journey diving into Mariarjo Ilustrajo's captivating tale, "Flooded." Engaging their imaginations, KS1 students envisioned our school submerged underwater, brainstorming innovative solutions such as crafting goggles, constructing bridges, and inventing flotation devices. Meanwhile, KS2 students unleashed their creativity by designing bespoke wellington boots and creating poignant acrostic poems inspired by the themes of resilience and adaptation within the book. It was a day filled with literary exploration and inventive thinking, showcasing the boundless possibilities ignited by the power of storytelling.

Comic Relief. Friday 15 March looked a little different at The Meadow. A spirited fundraising initiative for Comic Relief, spearheaded by our dedicated school council saw the children 'Break the Rules' for a day! Pupils were granted the exhilarating opportunity to defy convention by bending traditional school rules. From sipping squash in water bottles to indulging in tasty snacks at breaktime, and even ditching the uniform for fancy dress or own clothes, the day was a whirlwind of excitement and rebellion. With wild hairstyles and rule-breaking spirits in abundance, our school community united in support of a worthy cause. The event proved to be a resounding success, as we proudly raised over £250 for Comic Relief, demonstrating once again the immense generosity and goodwill of our families and students.

From everyone at The Meadow Primary School, we hope you have a wonderful and restful Easter filled with love, laughter and cherished moments with loved ones. We'll see you in the Summer Term!

Faye Facer, Assistant Head teacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

World Book week at LVC's library

At LVC we are lucky to have a thriving and popular library. Run by our amazing Librarian, Dawn Hay, the library serves as a hub for our student community in a variety of different ways. Dawn has been our Librarian for over six years now and works tirelessly to instil in our students the love of literacy and reading. The reason, she says, she became the librarian in the first place.

To commemorate World Book Day, we welcomed Mark Woodley, an ex-LVC student and published author, for a visit. Mark entertained students across all year groups on World Book Day with a book signing and informal chat over lunch followed by a year 8 talk on the struggles of writing and becoming a published author. Students were enthralled by a giant-sized lost hammer of Darkerden which features in Mark's first book.



The library is first a centre for learning and love of books. Students in year 7 use the space for a paired reading initiative before school, where some of our Year 10 students sit down and listen to them read and support them in being more confident readers. The Lexia literacy programme for years 7 to 10 helps students improve their grammar, comprehension techniques and ability to use language and new words. Homework club after school provides support and IT access for some of our students that may need to stay after the end of the school day.

The library is also very popular in the school's social times. In fact, it is so popular that the queue often reaches all the way down the corridor. Students can play chess, Warhammer and a variety of different games, as well as using the computers to help with their learning. Knit and Stitch on Thursdays provides an opportunity for students to talk and craft.

In the next few weeks, the library will host our infamous Harry Potter night for students in Year 7. Dressing up, games, Harry Potter crafts and a themed buffet make this night one the students always remember.

Helena Marsh, Principal

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

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