

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2010

ISSUE 85

VILLAGE DIARY

- Thur 1 **Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church**
- Sat 3 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30 Linton Village College**
- Sun 4 **HAPPY EASTER Family Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church**
- Wed 7 **Black wheeled bin collection (day late) Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 11 **Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church**
- Mon 12 **Local History Club. The glories of the 13th & 14th centuries recreated in Victorian Cambridge: All Saints, Jesus Lane. Talk by Andrew Westwood-Bate. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 13 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic bottle collection**
- Wed 14 **Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 18 **Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church**
- Mon 19 **Gardening Club. Allure, bribery & deception. The fascinating sex lives of British wild orchids. Talk by David Elcome. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Tue 20 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Wed 21 **Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 25 **Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church**
- Tue 27 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic bottle collection**
- Wed 28 **Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall**
- MAY**
- Sat 1 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30 Linton Village College**
- Sun 2 **Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church**
- Tue 4 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Sun 9 **Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church Annual 4 churches walk. From 12.00**

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE
10.30 - 12.00, Saturday 15 May
Village Hall**

**The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday
9.30 – 12 in the Village Hall**

The Village Hall

is available to hire for sports @ £4.00 per hour, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

To book the Village Hall contact Kathy Pelling
T: 01223 290505

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.

VILLAGE CLEAN –UP

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the village clean-up on 7th March. It was a lovely day and I think most people had a good time grabbing. We covered most of West Wickham and Streetly End, including the playing field, collecting 19 bags for South Cambs to take away, plus recycling some of the bottles and cans. It turned into a three way battle between Fosters, Stella Artois and Red Bull with an interesting geographical divide in that there were more Stella in Streetly End. Grolsch made a late run for glory on the Withersfield Road, but Fosters were always ahead.

Overall there was a noticeable difference to the appearance of the village, although I am sure things will continue to be jettisoned from passing cars so I expect we will be out there again next year doing the same thing.

Peter Grieve

(Ed. In the meantime it would make the village a more pleasant place to live if everyone picked up litter when they see it!)

WEST WICKHAM PLAYGROUND

The village owes a vote of thanks to Tom Licence, who has been repairing and rebuilding the equipment on the playground. All the major structures, originally built by Leo Hughes, have been repaired and strengthened. Two new swings have been built and Tom has designed and built two great new "springy" toys; a horse and a tractor to reflect our rural environment. The project is nearly completed, now just needing the refilling of the bark pits. The Parish Council has decided not to use the playpark used before but a recycled rubber mulch specially made for school & community playgrounds. This will need little or no maintenance, not attract animal waste and a 5cm (2 inch) layer has a critical fall height of 3 meters. The Parish Council will have



sufficient funds to buy this in April, at the start of the new financial year. The rubber mulch will be delivered bagged on pallets and when it arrives WE NEED YOUR HELP to wheelbarrow it to the pits. If you are willing to spend a weekend morning or all day helping please let me know. If anyone would like to know more about the rubber mulch please contact me, I have details and a sample.

You might be thinking why can't we have some new play equipment? This may be possible but the Parish Council feels its responsibility is to maintain the existing equipment and the choice of, and funding of new equipment should be led by & involve parents (and children) just as it was many years ago when the playground was first built. The Parish Council is willing to be a focus grant applications but the rest is up to you – the parents and children of West Wickham.

Andrew Morris. 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863. Email: ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM

CHURCH NEWS

One of the really good things about having an interregnum, a space between having a priest in charge, is the amount of time & effort one has to put into getting to know & work with other lay people in our other 3 parishes. I've had lots of fun & made good friends. Our first task was to get the "Benefice Profile" complete & published and sent to the powers that be. The profile will be given to any possible candidate to mull over & decide if we are what they might want.

The next major step was our recent "section 12" meeting. Anyone on the PCCs were invited to meet the powers, the Archdeacon representing the Bishop, the Master of Charterhouse who has the patronage of Balsham Church (an ancient but friendly & supportive anomalous connection) and the Rural Dean, who looks to see that we ask for what is both fair and financially viable. At this meeting it was decided that we could seek a half time priest and a house-for-duty priest (Ed. Unpaid but living rent free). We faced some hard facts and will probably never have another full time priest. There is such a shortage of clergy wanting rural postings; 40% of current clergy will be retired in 10 – 15 years and in any case we simply can't afford it! Even a half time priest living in one of the benefice rectories and a house-for-duty priest living in the other will put a severe charge on our small congregations for salaries and pensions. Never the less we will go for the best candidate we can find. Representatives chosen from each of our 4 parishes have the responsibility for interviewing & deciding. Marcus Cornish & I have this responsibility for West Wickham, so please wish us well.

Jane Scheuer. Church Warden

THE 4 PARISHES EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday. West Wickham. 7.30pm	Eucharist
Good Friday	
10.00 am Balsham.	Reading of the Passion
2.00 - 3.00 pm West Wrattling.	The Last Hour
Easter Day	
9.30 am. West Wickham.	Family Eucharist
9.30 am. Weston Colville.	Family Eucharist
10.30 am. Balsham.	Family Eucharist
10.30 am. West Wrattling.	Family Eucharist

9th ANNUAL FOUR CHURCHES WALK SUNDAY 9 MAY from 12 noon

Walk, ride (horse or bike) or drive around the four Churches in our Benefice and round it off with tea in Balsham Church (2.30 onwards)

For more info ring Joanna Sanders 01223 893063

VILLAGE FOOTPATHS

You may have noticed that the County Council has been putting up new waymark posts on public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways). I've noticed and have received reports that some of the arrow signs are not pointing in quite the right direction and are confusing. If you see any like this please let me know and I will arrange for the signs to be realigned.

Andrew Morris. T: 290863

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

At the meeting of West Wickham and District Gardening Club on Monday 15 March we enjoyed a fascinating talk on 'Mary Delany (an 18th Century botanist and crafts woman) and her Flower Collages', given by one of our members Sylvia Norton. Sylvia is the National Collection Holder of Lathyrus and lectures on these and other subjects. Our next talk on Monday 19 April is entitled 'Allure, Bribery and Deception, the fascinating sex lives of British wild orchids', by David Elcome. This promises to be a most interesting evening so do come and join us. We hope you will put our annual 'Plant Sale' on Saturday 15 May, starting at 10.30am, in your calendars in red pen. This is always an exciting occasion with West Wickham Village Hall full of wonderful plants.

See you there. Rosemary Yallop, Speakers Secretary

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

The date for this year's show is Saturday 14 August. We will be distributing the schedule to all households nearer the date but a copy of it is available from me now for anyone keen to plan ahead. The photography classes are always very popular so we are publishing these well ahead of the show. They are:

Grow your own
Shadows
Animal antics
Coast

You may also wish to start thinking about the Children's classes. These will be:

A winter home for a frog, toad or newt (You will have to think about this one).
A miniature garden arrangement no larger than 25 x 25 cm. It must include some natural materials
A miniature scarecrow. No taller than 30cm.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863

HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE

Films for April

Tue 6	It's Complicated. 15	1.30
Tue 6	Mugabe and the White African, 12A	7.45
Wed 7	Astro Boy. PG	11.00
Wed 7	It's Complicated. 15	7.45
Fri 9	The Princess and the Frog. U	2.30
Tue 13	The Princess and the Frog. U	11.00
Wed 14	Precious. 15	7.45
Fri 16	The Princess and the Frog. U	11.00
Mon 19	The Last Station. 15	1.30
Mon 19	A Prophet. 18	7.45
Wed 21	The Last Station. 15	7.45
Fri 23	The Last Station. 15	7.45
Tue 27	The Lovely Bones. 12A	7.45
Wed 28	The Lovely Bones. 12A	7.45
Thur 29	Crazy Heart. 15	7.45

Box Office 01440 714140

NATURE NOTES - THE BEES AND THE BIRDS

On 16th March, I received this contribution to the Nature Notes from Lynn Dicks

“This is the month when the hairy-footed flower bees, Anthophora plumipes, emerge. The females are large black bees similar to bumblebees, with dark orange hairs for gathering pollen on their back legs. The males are smaller, less hairy, appearing brown-ish with a yellow face.

In West Wickham, you may have noticed a spectacular colony of these in the wall of an old garage alongside the Balsham to Horseheath road, opposite Ivy Todd Farm. This bee species is described as ‘usually a subterranean nester (nesting in the soil), but also nests in old crumbling masonry.’ The wall is an aggregation of nests, rather than a colony, for the hairy-footed flower bee is a solitary bee. Each female lays eggs in her own nest hole, and stocks the nest with pollen and nectar from flowers for her own young. They don’t help each other, or raise another female’s young, as honey bees and bumblebees do. I don’t know how long it has taken for our aggregation of hairy-footed flower bees to become so large, but I do know it covers the entire wall and there are so many bees you can see them from a car as you drive past.

The males emerge first, because male eggs have been laid last and so sit nearer the entrance of each hole. They are smaller and less hairy than the females. The female bees, which come out a week or so later, will mate first and then be busy laying eggs, gathering supplies from flowers and stocking their nests for about a month. Look out for them in your gardens – they are fond of aubretia, cowslips and comfrey and move slightly faster than bumblebees. If you ever have a chance, stop and watch them at their nests for a while, and marvel that each female bee can find her own nest amongst all the other holes in that wall. Once the nests are stocked, the bees die and you won’t see them again until next spring. But inside their holes in the wall, the young

bees will hatch and slowly consume their parcel of pollen as they grow. At first, they are grubs. Then they will pupate. Remarkably, the adult bees emerge from pupae in late summer, but sit tight in the nests right through the winter and don’t fly until the spring.”

Sadly, on the day the email sent, the building was being demolished, because it was in a dilapidated state and slightly obscured sightlines for drivers emerging from the High Street. Besides being disastrous for the bees, the event has many unhappy ironies bearing in mind the timing, the location within a conservation area and the vital role bees play as pollinators in our fields and gardens. The story feels to me like an allegory. Lynn has asked me to add this: *“I am really sad to see that the old garage wall has been removed. A friend told us that this group of bees had been a feature of the village since she was a child. Was any attempt made to retain the rubble with bees in during the demolition, I wonder? If so, I’d love to have some of it in my garden.”*

Nature of course has a great ability to regenerate, and spring is a time to keep this in mind. Late though it is, the hazel catkins are dangling and the pussy willow is out. Song thrushes have been singing for some time, along with a good number of yellowhammers. Our passing friends the golden plovers have not let us down – I saw a large flock a few days ago, and people have mentioned recent sightings of brambling, corn bunting and sparrowhawk. Hopefully next month can be a bit more upbeat again when the spring flowers are out.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

(Ed. There is a great website, www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk which tells you all about the wildlife in your garden (including whether it is endangered or not) and how to attract more.)

DO YOU WANT A FASTER BROADBAND SERVICE?

Then register with **EREBUS (Eastern REgion Broadband Uplift Scheme)** www.erebusonline.org.uk

Their goal is to encourage commercial suppliers to invest in next generation broadband infrastructure in the East of England. The overall aim of the project is to register as much demand for next generation broadband services as possible in an information resource. The purpose of this resource is to demonstrate that there is sufficient demand to make commercial investment in next generation broadband worthwhile. Nothing does this like listing real world (potential) customers (domestic, business and public sector) and the services that they require. The project will establish a database that will map demand down to post code level. This data will be made freely available to anybody who needs it to provide a service - although we will not provide personal data on individuals.

For more information, visit their website or contact: admin@erebusonline.org.uk

EREBUS is a project funded and run by EEDA (the East of England Development Agency. For more information on EEDA and its activities, please go to www.eeda.org.uk

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

What an exciting time we have had since the last issue, we’ve attended our Annual Thinking Day Celebrations – This year they were held in Abington where we had a lunch, prepared by the Linton Trefoil Guild and Linton District Friends of Guiding, a talk on the work of Save the Children and ate snacks from Countries all over the world. We had a very enjoyable Pack Holiday at the end of February – 15 Brownies and Leaders stayed at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket but were joined by the rest of the Unit and 7 Rainbows from Balsham for some crafts and outdoors games. I know that all the Brownies enjoyed themselves and they’ve already started to ask ‘when are we going away again?’ We are continuing to work on our Adventure 100 Challenge and have made Mother’s Day cards and Easter gifts. We will be enjoying more of the outdoors now that the better weather has started to arrive. At the end of term we will be enrolling Georgie, Caitlin, Isabel, Maisie and Holly in to the pack.

Finally if you are aged between 7 - 10 years and are free from 5.45pm to 7.15pm on Wednesday evenings then pop along the Village Hall in Horseheath and give us a try. We are a friendly bunch.

BARNEY (Pauline), Your Brownie Guider
T: 01223 891086

NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

In January a teacher at Linton Village College died after a year-long fight against cancer. He worked at the college for three years and I have written this in his memory.

David Cox was a quiet, decent man. One of those people who got on with things and didn't make a fuss. I met him 6 years ago when he was starting to train to be a teacher after having run his own business. Things hadn't worked out for him and he had turned his hand to other kinds of work. He'd ended up packing boxes in a factory and had come to the realisation that he was wasting his talents. We took him onto the Graduate Teaching Programme at Saffron Walden County High School to do ICT teaching in the sixth form there when I was curriculum deputy. It was a successful new direction for him. He had a talent for explaining IT to young people, so he trained to be a teacher. It gave him a new direction, quite late in his career. He went to work at Hedingham School and then came to work for us at Linton. He enjoyed his time at Linton in particular because he appreciated the good manners of the students here, he told me.

He had a wife, Frances, and two grown-up children and was a proud family man. He was warden of his local church and had been in the Territorial Army. You'd never guess the latter to look at him. He lived in a gorgeous village in Essex, right in the middle of nowhere. When we went to his funeral, we drove for miles down uninhabited country roads. You don't think such places exist in this part of the world. He was very involved in his community and known by everyone in his village.

I knew Dave as a good natured, gentle, hard working man with a northerner's sense of humour that I could relate to. His IT room was his kingdom. It was more than just a classroom.

Mr Cox's illness was a great surprise to us. He seemed such a fit and energetic man. Even though we knew that he was very ill, we still hoped and prayed that things would improve for him, hiding the extent of his illness from the students at the school. When his brother Paul phoned me to say that he had passed away it still came as a shock. We broke the news to the students and right across the school you could feel a wave of deep sadness pass across the face of every child who knew him. He was very much one of us and we will miss him.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

NEXT MONTH'S VILLAGE VOICE

We normally aim to publish the Voice in the last week of the preceding month. Regretfully this will not be possible for the May issue which will hopefully come out in the week beginning 3 May. We have therefore included the first week of May in the Diary for this edition. We have also changed, for next month only, the date items have to be sent to us from 16 April to 20 April.

Sue & Andrew

WEST WICKHAM POST OFFICE

Will be closed on Thursday 1 April.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY BALSHAM SINGER'S SPRING CONCERT

Saturday May 15th 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

MEADOW MATTERS News from The Meadow School

So far this half term, it has been quite quiet. There are a few things organised leading up to Easter.

Blunderbus Travelling Theatre came to do a show and workshops for Foundation Stage and KS1 children – the show was called 'Rainbow Fish' and was again a really good production for the children. The moral of the story was how to make and, more importantly, how to keep friends. Blunderbus theatre group visit the school annually and I don't think that there has been a bad show – they have been booked again for next year.

Open Afternoons/Mornings have been taking place again this term for all year groups. FS and KS1 children invited parents in to show them a phonics/reading lesson – parents were first given some instruction as a group in the hall and they then were 'let loose' in the classes – parents found this a very informative morning. Y3/4 parents were invited in to help the children with some DT work connected to their project on India – the children had to make puppets out of papier mache and dressed in saris – this must have been quite a messy afternoon, but good fun!

Y5/6 children's open morning has not taken place, at the time of writing. They have planned, however, to go on a trail to West Wratting with lots of activities taking place, en route. Plenty of parents have offered to come in to take part and help, so weather permitting this should be a lovely morning (if it's raining, it probably won't be quite so lovely!).

A working party consisting of Governors has been set up to try and resolve the parking/traffic issues. Some research was carried out to find out whether the School could have a crossing built outside the front of the school – the answer at the moment is 'no'. After many calculations, we didn't quite have enough 'points' (basically we needed 250 cars in a half hour period, but we only had 247 and there were not enough pedestrians crossing in that same period). Due to the close numbers, this will be looked at again next year!

Dates for your diary
18th May – Fashion Show
26th June – June Revels
16th/17th October – Craft Fair

The PTA are hoping to hold a Fun Run in September, so please watch this space.

Linda Wain

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th April

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