

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2016

ISSUE 153

VILLAGE DIARY

- Fri 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
Sat 2 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00. Linton Village College
Sun 3 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Wed 6 **Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) Collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 11 **Local History Club. Tudor Cambridge. Talk by Honor Ridout. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 12 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 16 **Deadline for items for the February issue of the Village Voice**
Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 18 **Gardening Club. South African Fynbos. Talk by Alex Summers from Cambridge University Botanic Garden. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 19 Blue wheeled bin collection
Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 23 **Jumble Sale. 2pm, Meadow School, Balsham**
Sun 24 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 25 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm, Village Hall. At this meeting the parish budget for 2016/17 will be discussed and decided. All are welcome to attend.**
Tue 26 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 31 Joint parishes' service. 10.00, Balsham Church. Bishop David will preside & preach

Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £8.00/hour
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

Email: bookings@westwickham.org
or visit www.westwickham.org

THE PETER & RUTH LLOYD TRUST AWARD

We are again pleased to report that a good amount of high standard entrants were received for the 2015 Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust award. After interviewing several candidates the trustees agreed to present the award to Lewis Manning from West Wrattling. Lewis has gone on to study Biological Science at the University of East Anglia. Lewis was presented with a cheque from the Trust for £800 to help with course materials, in front of the RAF Memorial stone at Weston Woods Farm. Well done Lewis, we wish you every success in the future!

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2016. A scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following: Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and University offer are known. The applicant must be living in one of the following parishes, Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Willingham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and Withersfield.

The application form and supporting documents have to be received at the latest by 31 March 2016. For further information about the trust and award please contact: Jonathan Drury 01223 290968

For an application form please apply via email to:
peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB

GONE TO EARTH

Reading Room Wednesday 6 January at 7.30pm.

This film has a mixture of mysticism and romance and is one of the finest films ever made about the British countryside, with stunning photography, glorious Technicolour and a haunting score. All this and an ending you won't easily forget. Donations welcome and refreshments available.

GT. BRADLEY WEA

A new course starts on 6 January with a free taster week just to see if you enjoy yourself before committing to the 10 week course. The subject this term is Little Hall in Lavenham. The property has a long and immensely interesting history and Julie Barnes, a local historian, will be running this particular course which will include a visit to Little Hall during the term. The cost remains at £49 and coffee and tea are served during the morning. Times are 10.15am to 12 noon and the course is held at Gt. Bradley Village Hall where there is plenty of parking available. Should you require further information please contact Peter at helen@foxgreen.plus.com

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.

FROM THE WEST WRATTING VICARAGE

The trouble with Easter – I know we have barely got over Christmas, don't forget that I am writing this before Christmas, but bear with me. The trouble with Easter is it's never on time. It's always *early this year*, or *late this year*. Well this year it is early, therefore Lent will start on 10 February. So by the time you get the February magazine there won't be much time to prepare for Lent. So as a pre Lenten exercise I am going to talk about our use of money. A few years ago I heard Archbishop Rowan, as he then was, preach about money at the Tercentenary Celebration of Queen Anne's Bounty, the forerunner of the Church Commissioners. Rowan pointed out how little time and attention Christians tend to give to the use of their money, the right use of their money that is. It rarely figures in lists for self-examination for example.

I was reminded of this reading an article, a very serious article - so serious that I had to read it twice - about how to do good with money. And when you consider how much Jesus warned against the dangers of money and possessions, the right use of money is of crucial importance to Christians. Only if we do good with our money can we possibly even begin to justify having it. And amid a host of criteria for judging which charity we will donate to, these two are worth pondering

In terms of the good it does, money given to third world charities is always more effective than money given to charities in the west, even taking into account a degree of corruption etc. A £ will go much further and therefore do much more good in a poor country than a rich one. This is not an argument against local or British charities. But it is important that we realise how fortunate/lucky/ blessed (you choose the adjective) we are. I know charity begins at home, but that saying started life as an ironic comment in a 16th century devotional work and the writer certainly wasn't advocating that charity stayed at home. We don't want to be like Mrs Jellaby, in Dickens' "Bleak House", who worked tirelessly for the natives in Borrioboola Gha, but neglected her own children. But for most of us that is not a problem. Most of us need our horizons broadening, not narrowing

Don't be too hung up on the CEO's salary and admin costs. The labourer is worthy of his hire and in any event when you buy a car or a computer or even a saucepan, you don't worry about salaries. You ask is the thing you are buying worth the price. Low admin isn't necessarily a sign of effectiveness. I could walk down Newmarket High Street giving £5 notes to people who looked in need. I would have very low admin costs but nobody would argue it is an effective way of alleviating poverty. Some charities may seem to be run for the benefit of the staff, but costs as such should not be not a defining issue.

And so I could go on. .But do think this Lent about how you use your money. And how you do good with it.

John Fellows

WRATTING COMMON CROSS ROAD

Further to the item in the November Village Voice. We understand that West Wrattling Parish Council has complained to the County Council about the unfinished landscaping at the crossroads and that work will start shortly on finishing the job.

NATURE NOTES

At the end of a month in which the leaders of 195 countries have indulged in a group hug and signed a global deal on action to limit climate change, are we all now safe from catastrophe? Certainly nothing could have been further from the mind of the very small hedgehog I watched slowly crossing the road in Woodhall Lane near Balsham Post Office. For a hedgehog so small at the beginning of December, I would imagine his prospects for surviving the winter would be limited, given normal temperatures. Still, at least he made it to the other side of the road, and the continuing mild weather (at the time of writing) may give him some respite. He might even be grateful for global warming.

Fortunately we haven't been visited by storm Desmond in his full fury, but we have nevertheless had some very windy days and nights in the last few weeks. Rooks are renowned for their aerial activity during windy weather but on a windy afternoon last week I was walking near Dullingham and became aware of the piping cries of golden plover. Up above me high in the sky were at least a hundred birds flying seemingly randomly (not grouped as they normally are). We sometimes assume that all wildlife behaviour has a vital purpose behind it to do with eating, breeding or surviving attack. This, however, looked as though they were just having fun up there surfing the air currents.

For those of you who remember Rod, the solitary great tit who occupied Brian and Linda's televised nesting box last winter, and the pair of blue tits who subsequently nested there but tragically lost their young family, the box (newly refurbished) is now being occupied nightly by a single blue tit – yet to be named. It certainly is a safe haven for night-time roosting but during the day in our gardens small birds have to be wary. We were visited by a sparrowhawk the other day, perching ominously on the back of one of our garden chairs before making an unsuccessful foray into the pear tree which is a favourite haunt of many smaller species. Looking out of the window a few seconds after the departure of this intrepid hunter, the garden was deserted. In this case, flight did have a vital purpose.

Walking along the lode from Quy recently, we were lucky enough to see a kingfisher skimming away over the water. The bird had not been perching on a post or overhanging branch, but was right down by the water's edge among some reeds. There are definitely fish in this stretch of water because humans can be seen there fishing from time to time, so we almost certainly disturbed this avian angler from the prospect of a tasty meal.

The coppicing work in Lower Wood at Weston Colville is continuing with the ultimate aim of creating a hazel grove and thereby attracting dormice. In the meantime the warden has constructed himself a hide with a cunningly concealed feeder. He has managed to capture on film visits by great, blue and marsh tits, treecreepers and nuthatches.

I hope everyone has a very happy new year and include in your new year's resolutions something that will assist the 195 world leaders to deliver what they have signed up to. I'm sure there are plenty of things I can do to reduce my carbon footprint.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, email: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7 December the following items were issues discussed.

Dean Road Crossroads: The County Council will not cut the hedge obscuring visibility back any further despite requests from the Parish Council but the Council has the option of doing the work themselves.

Signage needing repairs: Various 30mph signs have been replaced. Cllr Hickford was also informed that signage at the Dean Road/Mill Road crossroads was in need of repair. He will look into it.

Electrical Recycling: Unfortunately, due to a drop in the market for recycled electrical goods, Paul Duggan is not taking on any more parishes into this scheme. He will be in contact with us next year if things get better.

Footpath clearance: The owner has now cut away brambles on the correct line of footpath 18 in Burton End.

Finance: A full list of payments is shown on the draft minutes posted on the notice board. An updated spreadsheet of the accounts was distributed to all the councillors.

Planning: Two decisions by the District Council on planning applications were discussed:

95 High Street S/1160/15/OL South Cambridgeshire DC's Planning Committee had granted permission for the amended application for one dwelling. The Parish Council had objected to the application partly because it was not wholly within the Development Framework and partly because it was considered "backfill" which the Parish Council has consistently resisted. The Chairman and other Councillors expressed the concern of the PC that their comments had been disregarded and that the report to the Planning Committee was erroneous in a number of ways. In the ensuing discussion, attended by Councillor Robert Turner (a member of the South Cambs Planning Committee), it transpired that "backfill" was not a term recognised as a factor in deciding planning applications and that in the absence of an approved Local Plan, the Development Frameworks of villages did not exist at present. The District Councillors considered there were no planning reasons to refuse the application. It was also noted that the Notice of Approval issued by SCDC was for two dwellings not one. The District Councillors present agreed that this was incorrect and that they would look into it. (Subsequently this Notice of Approval was withdrawn and replaced by a correct Approval for one dwelling).

Opposite 3 Streetly End. Although the Parish Council had supported this application it had been turned down because it was a traditional build in flint and therefore didn't fit in with the council houses opposite.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall said the submission had been approved. There will be a public meeting & presentation to discuss what is achievable.

Broadband: See separate article opposite.

Maintenance:

1. The hedge bordering the right of way down to the old sewage farm requires cutting back. It has been established that these fields are being rented and the tenant will be contacted.
2. Public footpath 21 off the Withersfield road has had an "Environmental Stewardship area – No access" notice placed on it. The Chairman will write to the owners, the Thurlow Estate asking for it to be removed.
3. The Parish Clerk will contact CGM to complain about the rough cutting of the playing field hedges.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 January and all are welcome. The draft minutes will be posted on the Noticeboard.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL THE RESIDENTS OF WEST WICKHAM PARISH.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk

BROADBAND UPDATE

As alluded to in December's Village Voice, the street cabinet upgrade on The Common Road is not going to happen. Connecting Cambridgeshire has confirmed it will now never happen despite the on-off-on-off status the cabinet has gone through. If we wish to receive Superfast Broadband from our existing Internet Service Providers, we now have to rely on the proposed new street cabinet in Burton End and mentioned in Lucy Frazer's letter last month. Connecting Cambridgeshire have also reaffirmed that this cabinet is due to be installed by the end of 2016.

Should BT OpenReach meet this target on time, most residents will also be able to upgrade to Superfast Broadband with their existing providers. However, Connecting Cambridgeshire also informed me last month that the BT OpenReach director mis-spoke at Lucy Frazer's meeting in October when he said a fibre-based solution would be provided to those properties unable to obtain Superfast Broadband from this new cabinet. No solution will be provided under the existing scheme to these properties, although there is a possibility these properties may be able to apply for funding to receive Satellite Broadband at a future date.

As a small consolation, there has been a recent equipment upgrade in the West Wrattling exchange providing an average improvement of around 0.2Mbps, although some residents have seen improvements as high 0.5Mbps.

This leaves us without a Superfast Broadband solution until the end of 2016 if Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT OpenReach keep to their promises and schedule this time. Unless we opt for a different technology, which is where Air Broadband come in. Air Broadband were asked to present their solution at an open meeting on 19th December at the village hall where they could also answer questions by residents and gauge interest by residents. The cost of their solution however requires a minimum of 30 subscribers to be viable at prices comparable to existing copper-based solutions. Their residential solution would provide Superfast Broadband up to 30Mbps for most residents within 6-8 weeks.

There are other providers similar to Air Broadband, such as RedRaw Internet. However their current offering is more expensive and only available to residents within sight of their Bartlow antenna. Satellite and 3G/4G mobile phone solutions are also available, but each suffers from various issues (unsuitable for gaming, video or voice calls, or degraded service with increased subscriber levels).

Alex Schuilenburg

STOP PRESS. Lucy Frazer MP is organising a meeting on 22 January to enable independent service providers to put forward alternative solutions. If you would like to be informed about where and what time contact her PA, at amy.hind@parliament.uk

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year from all at The Meadow Primary School.

December really was a month that seemed to fly by. The Infant team once again put on a marvellous traditional nativity play. Don't be fooled though, it was no ordinary nativity play. This one was done with the traditional story being told through rhyme. The children enjoyed every single moment of it and put their hearts and souls into making it such a special occasion.

Nearly all of our Key Stage 2 children and the school choir turned out to sing a variety of traditional carols and modern Christmas songs at our Carol Concert. After joking for several weeks that I wanted livestock in the nativity we were performing alongside the songs, I actually managed to make it happen! With permission very kindly given from Reverend Julie to have a donkey walk down the aisle alongside Mary and Joseph it was a really wonder moment. It made everyone feel full of the Christmas spirit. Whilst also listening to the true story of Christmas being read. It ensured everyone spared a thought for those not as fortunate as ourselves and what the real meaning of Christmas is actually about.

Away from Christmas activities we did manage to fit in some sport too. In November we took a team of 11 to the South Cambs Tag Rugby event. This was a brand new event and team for us and we were runners up to the team that has won the event for the past 5 years! The county finals are in March. In December the school running club went to Wimpole Hall to participate in the South Cambs schools cross country event. The children all finished the course, and we were delighted to find out we had finished 4th overall.

With all of the sporting events we are entering we are desperate for new kit. We look very much the underdogs when we turn up at the moment with mismatched items and holes in some parts. If you know of a company that would like to sponsor a new team kit. Please do let the school office know.

We still haven't had our Ofsted visit, but remain prepared. The Autumn term ended with a visit from the Local Authority to monitor standards, discuss data and outcomes and look ahead to the current year. The final verdict was that the school has continued to grow and flourish and is a very different place to when visited 5 years ago. January looks to be as busy as ever. There are still things the staff would like to achieve.

We very much look forward to continuing our collaboration with the local community over the coming year.

Happy 2016 to all!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

The 2016 Village Directory will come out with the February issue of the Village Voice. If you have any corrections, updates, deletions or information you think should be included please send to me by 16 January

Sue Thurston T: 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

January marks a New Year and with it the tradition for fresh starts and resolutions. Those of us that are connected to schools are used to experiencing two of these a year: the formal start to the academic year in September, marked by crisp clothes and shiny, new stationery, as well as the beginning of a new calendar year in January. This New Year holds particular significance for me as I start as Principal at Linton Village College and Executive Principal of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust. I have the privilege of leading a very special and successful school and a team of excellent staff and exceptional students across both LVC and The Meadow Primary School in Balsham. Since being appointed to the role in September, many people have asked me about my leadership vision and what changes I want to bring about when in post. My answer has been a fairly simple one: to maintain what is great about the school and to create opportunities for the school and Trust to continue to grow and improve.

When starting as a new head teacher it is customary to instigate lots of changes; to quickly make your mark through bold, symbolic and often cosmetic gestures such as a new school logo, uniform, structure or rules. When taking over an underachieving school, changes such as these can help to rebrand and rejuvenate. However, I would rather prioritise colleagues' energies and expertise on the most fundamental aspect of school life: securing outstanding teaching, learning, achievement and care for all.

Having high expectations of all students and providing an inclusive, enriching and challenging curriculum and a supportive environment in which everyone can flourish and thrive is fundamental to my educational vision. I am keen to build on Caroline Derbyshire's legacy and the school's success and achievements to date with the core values of comprehensive, whole education at the heart of any changes that I initiate. As with any New Year's resolutions, in order to make ambitions achievable and realised they need to be well-considered and have buy-in from those involved.

While taking the helm at Linton as an internal candidate gives me the advantage of knowing the school well, one of my priorities is to listen: to take the opportunity to speak with the school community and to get a real sense of what all stakeholders value most about the school and what they would like to improve.

Over the coming months there will be formal opportunities for students, staff, parents and other members of the school community to voice their opinions about the school through consultation activities. I look forward to keeping in touch with the wider school community through monthly contributions to the local news publications and by meeting more of you face to face.

Happy New Year!

Helena Marsh, Principal

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