

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2011

ISSUE 100

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 4 **Charity Quiz night. 8pm at the Black Bull, Balsham. See ad on back page.**
- Tue 5 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 12 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 18 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of West Wickham are welcome to attend**
- Tue 19 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 26 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 31 4 parishes service. See Church notice board for details
Cell Talk. 7.30pm, Balsham Church. See "From the Vicarage" on page 2 for details.

The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall
School Summer Holiday 23 July – 5 September

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 £5.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00 per hour. evening £7.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00 per hour evening £10.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00 per hour evening £18.00 per 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 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.

CHURCH FETE

The fete is on Saturday September 3rd at Manor Farm. It may seem a long way off but please remember if you are having a clear out of books, toys, or good Bric a Brac to drop it in at Manor Farm. We also need volunteers to run stalls, please if you would like to help would you email me or call 290203. Email nicky.cornish@live.com.

The church needs your support even if you don't go to services but you like to walk through the churchyard and marvel at such an old building! To keep the building and the church yard in good order costs money, for example our annual quota, grass cutting and insurance. If you could donate a bottle or a raffle prize or if you would rather give a cheque or cash, however small, I guarantee every penny goes to the upkeep of the church, we don't deal in expenses! Any donation gratefully received

Thank you on behalf of your church.

Nicky Cornish

CAKE APPEAL

It is that time of year again and as usual I am asking you all for help. Please put Saturday 3 September in your diaries and make a cake for our stall at the Fete. As you know, we do a really good cake stall but it is only because everybody is so generous. Shirley and I are always amazed at the variety and quality of the cakes that turn up. Some of you are seriously talented cooks and your contributions are greatly appreciated.

I will be putting a reminder in the August Village Voice but I like to get ahead so that you can be thinking about it. Please support us once again.

Vivienne Henderson. T: 290243

Shirley Hulyer. T: 290720

PLANTS, PRESERVES & PRODUCE

Andrew & I are running this stall again at the fete. So, if you are sowing seeds, taking cuttings, making jams or chutneys please spare us a thought and do a little extra.

Janet Morris

ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

We are hoping to have an exhibition of village arts & crafts in the church on the day of the fete. If anyone has anything they would like to exhibit, please contact Vivienne Henderson T: 290243.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 13 August
Gardening Club Annual Show

Show schedules & entry forms will be delivered with next months Village Voice but a preview is available from Andrew Morris.

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

FROM THE VICARAGE

It is interesting that when we are exploring an issue we become attuned to hearing others talk about it. I have been thinking about the importance of listening. I came across an old favourite poem by Michel Quoist called 'The telephone'

I have just hung up: why did he telephone?

I don't know...Oh! I get it...

I talked a lot and listened very little.'

The writer of James suggests, we 'should be quick to listen and slow to speak.' (James 1:19) and the book of proverbs regards acting without listening as foolish, 'He who answers before listening--that is his folly and his shame' (Proverbs 18:13). Jesus talked about the need to listen to God and to the cry of a neighbour. When delivering his parables he wanted people to make a conscious choice to listen and explore the meaning, 'if you have ears then hear.'

In a recent Thought for the day on Radio 4, Professor Mona Siddiqui said, '*What makes a good leader? A sense of vision, integrity, purpose or perhaps it's something even more fundamental than that – the ability and will to understand the mood and wishes of those around you, to listen as well as be heard.*'

In the recent Diocesan synod, we listened to people talking about how to accommodate those who oppose Women Bishops, so that they can be served by a Male Bishop. The current legislation includes a Code of Practice which is not yet complete, but which is intended to protect their requirements. Producing this code requires both listening by those drawing up the Code and trust on behalf of those who require it. Listening may help us to see different ways of meeting the needs of those who cannot work with women leaders, whilst also listening to the mandate that the General Synod has already given that it believes that women are called to be Bishops and will serve God and benefit the Church of England by taking on this Episcopal ministry.

We are trying to listen to the views of others in all of the Churches. In West Wickham we are wanting to hear if there are people willing to offer to display their art or craft for an exhibition during the fête on 3rd September. There are plans for reordering to be found in Holy Trinity, Balsham, Hildersham and Weston Colville for anyone to look at and add their views, or draw ideas from.

One of the benefits of being a larger group of churches means that we can put on joint ventures. There is a great opportunity to listen to something different and inspiring on the 31st July when the play, *Cell Talk* is performed at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Balsham. This is an imagined conversation between Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe. Tickets from Joanna and Dilly (893063 and 893191)

Rev Julie Norris

ROGATION SUNDAY AT HILDERSHAM

For the last nine years we have walked round the Balsham Benefice Churches followed by tea in one of the Churches. This year the Revd Julie Norris asked Hildersham PCC if they would like to organise this event. They readily agreed and on Rogation Sunday (29 May) around 65 of us met up in Hildersham Churchyard for our outdoor service. They had worked very hard putting out chairs, a piano and excellent microphones. Julie had printed out an excellent eucharist service relevant to rogation (Rogare = to ask) particularly for blessing of the crops which this year are so short of water and to be grateful for all creation. The weather held although it was very windy and we were refreshed afterwards by coffee and cakes in the Church.

About half of us followed Andrew Westwood-Bate around Hildersham for 40 minutes or so whilst he told us a lot of interesting facts about the village. We then had our picnic lunches in the Churchyard - a most enjoyable way to celebrate rogation.

Joanna Saunders

THANK YOU FROM THE BALSHAM BALL COMMITTEE

The Balsham Ball Committee would like to thank the following people for donating prizes towards the Balsham Ball June Revels Raffle Draw:

Loo O'Carroll FitzPatrick of Ethos Conference Consultants (iPod Nano Shuffle); Borakis Ltd (Greek Oil); Anna Ludlow Reflexology; Claire Foy Personal Trainer; Donna Gilmour of House of Cake (6" bespoke occasion cake); and Jeunesse Paris in Saffron Walden (Manicure). We would also like to thank Karen Arnott Web and Graphic Designs for creating the fantastic Balsham Ball poster you see around Balsham.

Congratulations to the winner of the first prize being a pair of tickets is: Mr G Owen. Helen Pybus won the second prize of the iPod Nano Shuffle.

It's not too late to apply for tickets for the Ball on Saturday, 19th November. Application forms are available from the School Office or Balsham Stores and Post Office. Please return the form and all cheques to the school office as soon as possible to secure your table.

Also, if you wish support the Ball by sponsoring a table or would like to advertise in the Ball Programme, please contact Loo O'Carroll FitzPatrick fitzpfamily@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 893889 or you could drop us a line via Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/BalshamBall2011>

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A report on the meeting held on 9 May, chaired by Andrew Morris.

Following the Parish Council election on 5th May four new councillors joined Marcus Cornish, Andrew Morris and Peter Grieve. They are Patrick Charlton, Trevor Hall, Di Licence and Justin Plumb. The new council signed their Declarations of Acceptance and received the Register of Interest forms to be signed.

Election of Chairman: Marcus Cornish.

Election of Vice Chairman: Andrew Morris

Appointment of two councillors to represent the Parish Council on the VHMC: Cllr. Cornish was happy to continue as a representative. Cllr. Charlton was elected to be the second representative.

Streetly End Speed Reduction: A letter was received from Brian Stinton apologising for the delay and confirming that the order will be advertised in the latter part of May and the work done in September.

Youth Club Funding: No youngsters from West Wickham attend Balsham Youth Club so Council did not feel under an obligation to help with funding, however further enquiries into Castle Camps Youth Club are being made.

Withersfield Football Club: They will no longer be using the recreation ground as they have joined up with another football club.

Allotments: The vacant allotment has been re-let. The Tree Warden group are looking into the viability of using part of the 2 empty plots for a Community Orchard, growing traditional varieties of fruits and managed by the Tree Warden group and volunteers.

Blue bin rubbish: The Parish Clerk had spoken to SCDC about their contractors dropping rubbish and it would be looked into it. The suggestion was made not to fill the bins to the brim.

Children's Play area: Cllr. Plumb said he would take on the planned refurbishment project.

Finances:

a) End of year accounts had been distributed to the council. The accounts ledger and sheets were signed by the Vice Chairman and the Parish Clerk, following approval by the council.

b) Annual Governance & Annual Statement: These were

read out by the Vice Chairman and following approval by the council signed by himself and the Parish Clerk.

c) Allocated reserves: £3500 for speed reduction costs at Streetly End, £845 Clerk's retirement gratuity leaving unallocated reserves of £3153.87. These were agreed by the Council.

d) Risk Management had been updated, approved and signed.

Planning:

a) S106 money from local developments: The Parish Clerk was asked to enquire how these monies can be obtained as there were to be two new developments in the village.

b) Planning Application meetings: It was agreed that Planning Application meetings would be held now there are seven councillors. The Parish Clerk will book the Village Hall and notify council when an application is received and put up a notice for the public.

Village Clear Up: Cllr. Grieve was thanked for organising this. Approximately 19 bags were filled.

Village Hall Car Park: This has now been re-surfaced at a cost of £6000 organised by Cllr. Cornish and paid for by the Village Hall Management Committee.

Report by County Cllr. Batchelor:

a) Some of West Wickham's pavements will be repaired this year between July and December.

b) The A1307 will be resurfaced from the dual carriageway to Horseheath crossroads.

Any other business:

a) Malcolm Cameron was thanked for putting up a proper noticeboard in Street End.

b) The Bottle bank has been removed. There is a new Clothes bank and the old one has yet to be removed.

Jennifer Richards. Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 18th July at 7.30pm. All residents of West Wickham welcome to attend.

Dates for Parish Council Meetings until March 2012.

Monday 3rd October 2011

Monday 5th December 2011

Monday 23rd January 2012

Monday 26th March 2012

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2011 the following matters were discussed amongst 14 parishioners including the Parish Council.

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2010 were signed as correct.

Chairman's Report: Six meetings have been held by the Parish Council during the year. Two Parish Councillors have stepped down from their duties and my thanks go to them for all the time they have given over the year.

We have had a recent election at which nine candidates stood for seven positions as Parish Councillors. This is an increase of two from five. Thank you to all those who stood and congratulations to those who were successful. We have increased the numbers on the council due to the apparently increasing workload in terms of things that we need representatives to attend. I think it took two meetings at Cambourne just to increase the numbers on the council!

It is refreshing that we have had an election and this should

encourage the Council to be proactive.

At last we have progress on the Streetly End speed reduction in that we are promised that it will happen this year.

I would like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for at last completing the car park works. It will make a huge difference to the management of the facility. One comment I received from a regular club member was that "at least we leave with a clean car interior now".

Jenny Richards, the Parish Clerk, deserves thanks for her very efficient diligence over the year. She is always helpful to the many and varied jobs that she does. Thank you.

My thanks go to our Treasurer, Andrew Morris, who manages the finances extremely efficiently and has a very good understanding of the legal requirements of managing funds of a public body, even though our annual turnover is relatively modest; this represents a serious input of unpaid time.

Continued on page 4

He has been doing this for many years and I know would like to retire from the job sooner rather than later.

Our meetings during the year usually have very few parishioners in attendance. I take this as a measure of your satisfaction with the way the Parish Council has worked during the year.

My thanks go also to the District and County Councillors who attend our meetings and take further our questions to them.

I will conclude this report with a question to the Parish. What can we do to help parishioners?

Annual Reports were presented and discussed from the County and District Councillors, the Village Hall Committee and Clubs & Societies. These are printed separately, along with any comments made at the meeting.

Finances: The accounts had been accepted and signed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 16th May. Cllr. Morris explained the reserve was higher than normal because the cost to the parish for the Streetly End speed limit work was likely to be £3500 not £6000 which we had originally been told we would need. County Cllr. Batchelor informed the meeting that the Highways Dept. would be doing maintenance work on the pavements in the village from Maypole Croft down to the Church. Nick Salter asked if funding could be found for refurbishment work on the children's playground and Dist. Cllr. Barrett said there were two funds applicable: a) Openspace Fund and b) Community Funding.

Any Other Business:

- a) The question was asked how to promote the Parish Meeting? It was suggested more notices should go up in the village, and also an item go into the Village Voice asking parishioners for questions.
- b) Cllr. Grieve wondered what was happening with the public house, as it does not appear to be used as an antique showroom. Should the Parish Council be looking again at the situation? It was suggested the Council write to the Enforcement Officer to find out how things stand at present.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The year at the County has been all about budget cuts and project management difficulties.

With the funding squeeze being applied by the Government the County has had to make difficult decisions about how their budget would be affected. They have chosen to reduce their budget by £165 million over five years, equating to about 35% of the current disposable budget. The cuts will start biting in the coming year with 450 staff posts going. The headline issues are chopping all subsidies buses, reducing roads maintenance further and putting local libraries under threat. But the big change will be in the way services are to be delivered. With such large cuts this means that the County will move away from delivering its own service to being a commissioner of services from others. The cuts are larger than they could be as the administration is basing its forecasts on the assumption that there is no increase in council tax for the next five years. Given the choice of losing valued services or paying a little more tax I wonder what decision the tax payers would make?

The other big issue of the last few years is the Guided Bus. It should have been up and running way back in the early

part of 2009, but it is only in the last couple of weeks that the bus way has been handed over to the County by the builder. The last bits of work are being done now and, hopefully, the route should be open soon. But that is not the end of the story. The project is running about £80 million over budget, the builder is refusing to accept responsibility so it seems inevitable that more money will have to be spent pursuing the matter through the court. We have not heard the last of this one.

This week sees a new leader and a new cabinet taking over the administration at the County Council. The new leader is Nick Clark, the County Councillor for Fulbourn. This should be an opportunity to review some of the cuts and look at different policy options. I hope he does just that, but I doubt that it will happen.

John Batchelor.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR RICHARD BARRETT

Finance. This has been another difficult year agreeing the budget with no council tax increase and a poor financial settlement from Government. As far as possible vacant posts have not been filled, but this is leaving us with a much leaner staff with ever more responsibilities to contend with. To help with this we have taken one million pound from our reserves.

Housing. Due to the down turn in the housing market, social housing has been affected as it relies on, in most cases, the 106 agreement to provide 40% on this. Consequently our waiting lists are increasing.

At the moment the Government demands about 53% of our rental income, around ten to eleven million pounds. This cuts in half the amount we can spend on maintenance, upgrading and response repairs to our 5 ½ thousand properties.

Planning. Over the last six months a task and finish group has been set up to look into planning in general. This has involved the IT systems, listed buildings, conservation, trees and general planning. Parish councils, general applicants and developers have been involved in these meetings.

Communication. Special sessions are arranged for Parish councillors to meet with Planning Officers and Cabinet at Cambourne. Cabinet members are also happy to attend Parish council meetings.

Mobile Warden Scheme. Funding for this has been agreed by the District Council up until the end of this financial year. I understand the County Council are reviewing this in October of this year. I am awaiting further information on this.

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR 2010/2011

Usage. The Hall has been well used again this year by the Daisy Chains Pre-school, local clubs, for sports hire and parties. Thanks to our Bookings Secretary, Kathy Pelling, for her considerable efforts booking and providing access for all these activities.

The pre-school is going well with 17 children attending at the end of 2010 and an advertising plan has been agreed for

2011. The discretionary reduction for the autumn term will be reviewed later in the year once the numbers are known. The KenYuKan club have continued their sessions and now provide the second largest income after the pre-school. The Carpet Bowls, History and Gardening Clubs continue solidly.

The Withersfield Youth U14s have indicated that they will be playing at a different venue next season and we wish them well with their matches.

Committee. John Pelling retired as Chairman and stepped down from the Committee at the 2010 AGM. We are extremely grateful to John for his commitment, energy and effective management of the Hall over the years. Thanks to his efforts, and those of the Committee, the Hall is passed on in good repair and with a positive balance sheet.

Maintenance. Various items of maintenance have been conducted this year, including repainting of the exterior doors. Thanks to John Pelling and sons for taking on this labour intensive task, asking only for cost of materials. Richard Grenville was appointed to fix the gutter downpipes and a number of smaller jobs and will now address ongoing maintenance at an agreed hourly rate. Nadine Warner, our caretaker, continues to keep the hall in fantastic condition.

Finances. With the price of electricity alone rising 43% since 2008 (source Times), the Village Hall rates have gone up for the first time in five years, and the new rates were published in the Village Voice in May. The Hall is breaking even today, but without much surplus to cover replacement of equipment or large maintenance items. Maintenance costs are expected to increase sharply as the building is no longer 'new'.

Despite the current financial situation, the Committee decided to make a considerable investment in having the car park resurfaced, as this was the one area letting the facility down. The work has now been completed; many thanks to Marcus Cornish for finding a very competitive quote and for organising the work over the Easter holiday.

Fundraising will be required to bolster funds in future, so please let the Committee know if you have ideas, or time and energy for fundraising, and please be ready to support your Village Hall when the time comes.

Website. A new website is up and running at www.westwickham.org. Thanks to Helen and Alex Schuilenburg for putting this in place. Initially it is being populated with basics such as booking information and rates, but over time we hope to extend the content to include information about the various clubs/users of the hall, and any other relevant community content.

The AGM for the Village Hall is expected to be in October. The date will be announced nearer the time in the Village Voice and posted on the website.

Nick Salter. Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

Comments were made following the report about the misuse of the electricity supply with heating being left on with the thermostat turned up. Mr Schuilenburg said he had a solution to this problem, using a programmer if it was compatible with the system, which would turn off the central heating after a period time.

It was suggested that the new website being set up could be enlarged with a broader base with the Parish Council

information going on it as well as information from the various societies and clubs. It was agreed to discuss this with the Parish Council and local clubs.

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Club has 24 members from West Wickham and the surrounding area. Numbers at our weekly meetings have been a little down in the last six months with several members 'out of action' for a while. Nevertheless, we have still managed to play our usual number of friendly matches, both home and away, against other clubs in the area. We have had mixed success in these but it is the enjoyment of meeting people from other villages that really counts rather than results.

As well as our weekly meetings we run 2 club tournaments in the year. The singles tournament was again won by John Short and the doubles, for the Founders Cup, was won by Brian Ellam & Jane Ruse. Several members have also taken part in tournaments organised by neighbouring clubs, usually in aid of charity. Here we have had some success this year with Sheila Hayward & Peter Pearson recently winning the Ashdon Open Pairs Competition while a team from West Wickham won the Withersfield Club quiz for the third year in succession – so now we have two shields to show off!

Carpet bowls is a fun game suited to all ages and abilities – why not come along and give it a go (it's a great social evening too).

Officers for the year:

Chairman	Richard Barrett
Secretary	Janet Morris
Treasurer	Mary Ellam
Captain	Eric Ellam

Further details from the Secretary, Janet Morris, 21 High Street. T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB June 2010 – May 2011

The Club has had another successful year with membership remaining around the mid forties and the monthly meetings have mostly been well attended. The programme of talks has been interesting and varied and has included, Fascinating Fungi, Trees of the Botanic Garden by Prof. John Parker, Rare and unusual perennials by Tim Fuller of the Plantsman's Preference Nursery, The A-Z of Roses by Simon White of Peter Beales Roses, Herbs and their culinary uses, which also turned into a fun tasting session and the history of the cucumber in the 18th century, in which members were amazed at the popularity of this salad vegetable, a very different type from the one found in our supermarkets today. The Plant sale last May raised over £500 and attracted a large number of people from the local area. In June members and friends were able to enjoy a coach trip to The Swiss Garden near Biggleswade and Coton Manor in Northamptonshire. These were very different gardens, as the Swiss Garden was conceived in the 1820s as a pleasure ground and Coton Manor, a private garden still undergoing development, is divided into different areas each with its own mood and theme. They provided a very interesting day out with their contrasting

styles and planting. Members also had an evening visit in June to Pauger's Plants at Debden on the A143 where they were shown round the owner's private garden before buying plants in the nursery. The Annual Show in August despite the difficult weather attracted some quality entries but the number of entries was down on previous years, particularly in the children's classes. Membership subscription was increased last year to £6 and the money from this together with the profit from the Plant Sale means that the Club has a healthy credit balance. This is necessary with the increasing cost of speakers and in particular their travel expenses.

Hilary Thomas. Chairman

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The Club remains small in numbers (about 15) but has had a full programme of talks during the year on a range of subjects including Cambridgeshire churches since the Reformation, heraldry and religion in 19th century West Wickham. We also had an evening looking at old films of the area and there was an evening visit during the summer to Bartlow church and the Bartlow Hills. The small membership does make it difficult when it comes to booking speakers and we are lucky in being able to call on some 'home-grown' ones and friends but we could desperately do with some more support. We will again be organising a programme for the coming year and all are welcome to come along to any or all meetings.

Research into the history of the village continues and there are still many enquiries from people investigating their own family links to the village from near and far. These often give insights that would be hard to discover otherwise and have resulted in some additions to our photographic collection. Another major addition this year has been a collection of school group photographs, mostly dating from the 1920s and 30s. We are very grateful to Peter Pearson and Pam Jolly who 'rescued' these for us. The originals have all now been scanned and we are in the process of trying to name some of the children. Another ongoing project is the identification of the men who died in the First World War and are listed on the war memorial in the churchyard. Unlike in other villages, there is no Roll of Honour but we now have some details for all but one. The next step is to go through the local newspapers for the period (a rather daunting task) to see what further information they might contain (notices of death, photographs etc).

In April, the Club had a display board about the school at the annual conference of the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History, whose subject was 'Educating the Poor'. The Club is affiliated to both the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History and Cambridge Antiquarian Society so our members are able to attend their meetings and conferences. Personally, I am a member of the Council of CAS and represent them on both the Committee of CALH and the County Advisory Group on Archives & Local Studies. This provides lots of useful contacts and sources of information and ensures that there cannot be many in the local history community at least who aren't aware of the existence of our village!

Janet Morris, Secretary. 21 High Street. T: 290863
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

CAN YOU SPARE 15 MINUTES....

...to count butterflies in your garden or in the wider countryside? The charity Butterfly Conservation is again asking people to simply count butterflies for 15 minutes during bright (preferably sunny) weather anytime from 16 to 31 July (an ideal project for the school summer holidays). Butterflies react quickly to change in their environment which makes them excellent biodiversity indicators and the count will also identify trends in species that will help plan how to protect butterflies from extinction as well as understand the effect of climate change on wildlife.

If you are counting from a fixed position like your garden then all you have to do is to count the maximum number of each species you can see at a single time. If you are on a walk you just need to total up the number of butterfly species that you see during the 15 minutes. You can submit separate records for different dates and different places – your count is still important even if you see nothing at all. You can only submit results online - the website will be open to receive results throughout July and August

www.bigbutterflycount.org

The website has all the details of the survey and you can also download a Butterfly ID Chart if you want.

And don't forget to let Pete know what you see in the village for 'Nature Notes'.

Janet Morris

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF POLICING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The 'Have your say' section on the force website (www.cambs.police.uk/newpolicingapproach/haveyoursay/) will feature weekly projects being considered for a more efficient and effective policing model. The force faces a number of challenges over the next few years as we work to balance the books and ensure we make the best use of resources. Work is already underway to review the existing force structure to create a new policing model that provides the best possible service to the public. Our focus remains on frontline duties and a commitment to bringing offenders to justice and keeping people safe. Now you can get involved in helping us achieve this by having your say about the changes being made to the force.

We are very interested in your opinions and will be taking the responses into account as we redesign the force's structure. Each week a topic under review will be posted on the force website for people to comment on or post questions. All comments, questions and answers will be viewable and the forum will be live for at least the next three months. The first topic will be the review of all non-frontline duties carried out by police officers. This includes managerial, analytical, training and call handling. Over the life of the restructure we will look at each of the officers in these posts and consider which should be returned to the frontline and in what timeframe.

Chief Constable Simon Parr

NATURE NOTES

We all need reassurance from time to time, and the cycles of nature do provide it. You know something must be right when the sights and sounds you expect to see and hear each year come up with the goods at the right time. But together with reassurance there is also an element of anxiety, and it wasn't until nearly the end of May that Carol Hall let me know that she had heard a cuckoo in the field behind her (phew!), while turtle doves seem to have deserted us at this end of the village, and there is a distinct shortage of house martins.

Before I got too worried, however, Di wrote to remind me about the abundance of wild flowers this year, including "*spikes of broom rape, greater knapweed, and field scabious already out around the parish.*" I would also like to give a mention to the oxeye daisies, which seem to have been even more prolific than last year – especially along the footpaths near Skipper's Hall. Di also talks about the bee orchids, "*stunning little flowers, pink with a large brown and yellow body exactly mimicking a bee, hence its name.*" There have been a number of reports of bee orchids, including from Shirley, Sheila and Steve. If I were a bee I would find these plants a bit off putting. Why land on it when it looks as though there is a bee there already? However the thought processes of the bee presumably don't go along those lines. Incidentally the field scabious that Di mentions is clearly a destination of choice for bees. There seemed to be one on every flowerhead as I was out with the dog the other evening.

Bees and other insects are benefiting from the flowers, as Di comments "*The dog roses are everywhere in the hedgerows, and the cow parsley has been replaced with the huge creamy white heads of the hogweed on our verges. The roses and honeysuckle in my garden give out a heady scent in the evenings and attract a lot of insects, one of my favourites being the beautiful humming bird hawk moths. We have had many honeybees, bumble bees and ladybirds.*"

Most of the trees are now displaying, as Di says, a uniform summer green apart from the horse chestnut trees, some of whose leaves are "*already changing to yellowy brown on the horse chestnut trees, caused by the moth that attacks them.*"

Di's final comment is that she was "*lucky enough to have two of our nest boxes occupied by blue tits this year, and Jan had a great tit nesting in her ivy. The garden trees are now full of squeaks and twitterings which are the fluffy replicas of the parent birds constantly demanding food. Unfortunately their constant noise attracts the magpies, also nesting nearby.*" I wonder how many people have had birds nesting in their garden this year. If you have had a brood, let me know and we can make a judgement on whether it's been a baby bird booming year in West Wickham.

Footnote: In addition to the arboreal snails, I have recently discovered a literary chiffchaff. It flew into our library at school through the open door one hot day. It seemed to know how to behave because it didn't make a noise, but was eventually rescued from the fiction section and returned to the trees outside.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503. Email: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

WEST WRATTING W.I.

I am pleased to say that our spring stall raised £179.00. Thank you to all those who donated goods or money, helped on the day and/or came and purchased. This will be a great help in keeping our W.I. and the Over 60's lunch going.

We had a very interesting discussion of the two resolutions at our May meeting at which both were passed. Our thanks go to Pamela Forbes from the NFU who spoke to us about the pros and cons of "megafarms".

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 26 July at 7.30 pm when we will be very pleased to welcome Sara Barber from the Persian Carpet Studio in Long Melford with a talk entitled "*From Fleece to Floor.*" This is an open meeting so we invite members' friends, partners and others to join us in return for a small donation. The competition is a design for a rug and you are invited to bring any (small) rugs that you would like to find out more about or get advice about caring for.

For further information please contact me.

Linda Gorman. T: 290653

OIL SYNDICATE UPDATE

I didn't place an order for oil in June as planned, having only five households wanting a top up. I plan to place another order in August if there is enough interest but to make it worth my time and effort in ringing around all the suppliers and placing an order, I think a minimum of a total of 5,000 litres is a reasonable figure. For those of you interested, the Withersfield Syndicate which I have been heavily promoting placed an order for 12,000 litres on 20th June with the lowest quote (from Goff) coming in at 53.65p per litre. On the same day had you ordered 500l from Goff it would have apparently cost you 55.75p per litre or 54.9p if you wanted 1000l. The website boilerjuice.com which monitors the price of oil and through which you can also place an order was quoting 57.91 for 1000 litres on the same day. It all goes to show that you can certainly save money ordering through a syndicate.

Sue Thurston

FARMERS MARKET RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Fresh strawberry and white chocolate sundae

Ingredients – for 4 people
200g/7oz white chocolate, chopped
400ml/14fl oz double cream
450g/16oz strawberries, quartered
2 tbsp icing sugar 2 tbsp kirsch mint, to garnish

Preparation method

Put the chocolate into a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water and heat until almost melted. Remove from the heat and leave to melt completely then stir until it becomes smooth. Pour in the double cream whilst you whisk all the time until the cream holds its shape. Place strawberries, icing sugar and kirsch into a pan and heat for three minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool. Place a little of cooled strawberry mixture in the bottom of a serving glass. Add a layer of cream mixture. Repeat layering until glass is full. To finish, top with strawberries and a sprig of mint

NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

On our College Improvement Plan, we make a pledge to our young people that they should all have opportunities, whilst at LVC, to do the following: visit the theatre, go to a concert, sing, dance, play a musical instrument, try out a sport we do not teach in school, attend a national sporting event, meet a writer, travel abroad, visit an art gallery, set up camp and sleep in a tent, talk to someone who speaks another language in their language, have a conversation with an old age pensioner, do some community service and give a talk in public.

Our enrichment week, this year held in the first week of June, provides all of our students with a chance to tick off many of the opportunities on this list all in one go and I think this year was our most varied programme ever:

Year 7 (11/12 year olds) went to an eco-theme park, visited a long list of museums in the local area, saw a play by Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre, solved a murder mystery and competed in some new sports.

Year 8 (12/13 year olds) were taught how to build gliders and then built them, visited 'Jimmy's Farm', climbed up a wind turbine at an eco-centre and travelled to France on an exchange where they had to speak a good deal of French to their host families.

Year 9 (13/14 year olds) went on residential visits to the galleries of Paris, the volcanoes of Southern Italy, the delights of Cornwall including the Eden Centre, water sports in the South of France and team activities with Granta Special School in the Peak District.

Every single child in the three year groups had an exciting and packed week.

The pressures on us not to run these kind of intensive weeks are very many: the cost to parents (although a Trust Fund is used to support those experiencing financial difficulties) is an obstacle, the modern day obsession with risk assessment might persuade many not to run them and the demand on teacher time is very great; not all members of staff are in a position to be away from their families 24 hours a day.

However, even weighing up these problems and the difficulties that need to be overcome, I think enrichment week is a very special part of the offer we make to our young people at the College, and, while I remain Principal, it is here to stay.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT!

We are holding a quiz to raise a few last pennies for our trip up Kilimanjaro...

Come and help us and test your knowledge!!

at the Black Bull...

Monday 4th July at 8pm

hot snacks provided...

Teams: max.6 people £20 entry per team (ALL going to charity)

Prizes for winning team! (and losers!)

For those of you who are unaware, we (Louise, Martin and Tom) are climbing Kilimanjaro in July to raise money for the Paediatric intensive care ward at Addenbrookes and the NSPCC. By all means come and chat to us on the night if you would like any more details. Hope to see you there!

MEADOW MATTERS

News from The Meadow School

(Ed. This came in too late for last months Village Voice but we thought it still of interest.)

First of all, apologies for not reporting for the last couple of months – because we seem to have had so many holidays (it's a hard life), and, therefore, hectic, the village magazines were the last on the list!

I won't report on everything that has happened, but suffice to say that the school has been busy with trips to Hedingham Castle, Hatfield House, Cadbury World, Burwell House residential for Year 5s and music festival for Year 2 children. The PTA ran a very successful Quiz Night and in the process raised over £600.00 so thank you to those of you who attended and supported this event; the questions were based on television quiz shows like: QI, The Krypton Factor, Catchphrase, Eggheads..... to name but a few.

Red Nose Day also came and went with a mammoth £429.93 being raised. The amount was helped along by Miss Rowe (the headteacher) being 'gunged' to great cheering and applause. Children paid 50p to stir and add to the mixture and this raised £58.00 – lots of children obviously took great pleasure in gunging the head!

The 'Royal Wedding' was a very grand affair here at the school, with some children in KS1 dressing up as the bride and groom, the vicar, and bridesmaids. The rest of the school and children all dressed up as wedding guests and a short wedding service was held at Balsham Church. It was a lovely day, with all the children having a picnic out on the playground; we must say a special thanks to Serpil the school cook for preparing all those sandwiches and some wonderful 'wedding' cakes. We would also like to say thank you to the PTA, who bought a lovely commemorative mug for all the children.

50/50 Club Draw

March: 1st Linda Wain, 2nd Bernadette Battom, 3rd Emma Penfold

April: 1st Andy Mitchell, 2nd Annie West, 3rd Ruth Hicks

If anybody would like to join the 50/50 Club, please contact the school office for a registration form.

The Meadow School would also like to take this opportunity to thank both the Ploughmen and MOOSC for their very kind donations towards the new PK2 playground. The first phase is almost complete, which can be seen as you walk along the back of the school. A slight problem with the weather being so dry is that the site manager has had to try and keep the new grass on the mound watered – a mammoth job. It shouldn't be too long, however, before the children will be able to enjoy playing on the new slide.

Forthcoming events:

15th/16th October – Craft Fair

Linda Wain

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 July

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