

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2011

ISSUE 96

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 1 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 2 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 5 **Farmers Market. 9.30 – 12.30**
Linton Village College
Balsham Singers Concert. 7.30pm,
Balsham Church
Sun 6 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 8 Black wheeled bin collection
Sun 13 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 14 **Local History Club. Annual General**
Meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 15 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 16 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 20 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 21 **Gardening Club. Herbs & their culinary**
uses. Talk by John Webster of Herbal
Haven. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 22 Black wheeled bin collection
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.
7.30pm, Village Hall. YOU ARE ALL
WELCOME TO ATTEND
Wed 23 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Fri 25 **Meadow School PTA Quiz Night**
7.30 for 8.00. Fish & Chip Supper, Bar,
Raffle. Tickets £7.50 - available from the
School office
Sun 27 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Tue 29 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 30 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

The 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 £4.00 per hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £4.00 per hour. evening £6.00 per hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £6.00 per hour evening £9.00 per hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £10.00 per hour evening £15.00 per hour
Children's party	£25.00 daytime £36.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£50.00
Wedding reception	£120.00

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.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Parish Council reaches the end of its 4 year term of office with elections on 5 May. The Council will be made up of 7 Councillors but an election will only be held if there are more than 7 nominations. Notice of the election should be posted on the Parish Council noticeboard by 25 March. This will give full details on how to make a nomination. Nomination papers will be available from the Clerk, Jenny Richards (52 Fox Road, Balsham, T: 894076) from the first week in March

Nomination forms have to be with the Electoral Registration Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EA by 12 noon on 4 APRIL.

Please think of standing for election, the Village needs a good representation of people from all parts (including Burton End & Streetly End) who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions. If you want to know more about the work of the Parish Council or about becoming a Parish Councillor see the simple guide on the back page or contact any of the outgoing Councillors:-

Malcolm Cameron	34 Streetly End	T: 894362
Marcus Cornish	Manor Farm	T: 290203
Peter Grieve	29 Burton End	T: 290503
Andrew Morris	21 High Street	T: 290863
Nip Pearson	Platts Farm	T: 290875

We intend publishing an election supplement in the May issue of the Voice and invite all candidates to provide us with a photograph and a maximum of 200 words about yourself by 16 April.

WILL YOU BE HIT BY BUS ROUTE CUTS?

The County Council have decided to withdraw the £2.7 million per year subsidy for bus routes. Funding will be phased out over 4 years and they hope community transport schemes will play a greater role. They will be given extra funds to do this. What does this mean for West Wickham? All our buses, the 16a to Cambridge, 16 to Haverhill & Cambridge, 46 to Newmarket & the 19 shuttle bus from Linton used to return to the village in the evening are all subsidised, so the horrifying answer is that there will be no buses servicing the village at all! You will have to walk a mile and a half or get a lift to Horseheath to use the only bus left running in this area, the Stagecoach 13.

Do community transport schemes provide an answer? Not at the moment, they are dial a ride schemes providing a one off journey to/from the Health Centre or the supermarket but do not provide a regular service. They are also run by volunteers, so are dependant on volunteer availability and their operating hours are limited.

West Wickham Parish Council is very concerned that people will be trapped in the village. In order to make a case against this cut they need information about how many people it would affect. Please let me know if you rely on the buses and how frequently you use them. It would also be useful to know if you have ever used the 3CT community transport scheme in Haverhill (the only one in this area) or even whether you knew about it!

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

FROM THE VICARAGE

When I meet people, I often have conversations about topical issues. How do science and religion sit together on issues about genetics and biotechnology? What is the church view on climate change and should we be doing more about it? Can Christians work with other faiths or must they promote their faith over and against the others? What should we be doing about injustice and are there such things as Human Rights? How can we hold together faith in a good God when there is so much suffering?

This Lent, I have invited some people who know about these questions to come and help us to explore them. Rev Professor Michael Reiss is Professor of Science Education at the Institute of Education in the University of London and has written extensively about genetic engineering and its implications. Mr Wayne Talbot is an environmental scientist and educator who chairs the Diocesan Environment Committee. Rev Keith Johnson has served as an Anglican Priest in Kuwait and Bahrain where he had to address questions about the relationship between faiths. Professor Robert McCorquodale is an international lawyer working in the area of Human Rights with governments and non-government organisations. Rev Jonathan Borough is the Chaplain of Arthur Rank House Hospice in Cambridge. These talks are open to anyone who is interested and not just to those who usually go to church. Do feel free to come along.

Rev Julie Norris

QUESTIONS OF LIFE Lent Course 2011

14th March 7.30pm The Black Bull, Balsham:
Rev Prof Michael Reiss

Should we use medical technologies to enable people to live for hundreds of years?

21st March 7.30pm Holy Trinity, Hildersham:
Mr Wayne Talbot
Fasting for the Future

28th March 7.30pm The Black Bull, Balsham:
Rev Keith Johnson

Can there be genuine tolerance and understanding between the faiths?

4th April 7.30pm Holy Trinity, Hildersham:
Prof Robert McCorquodale

Human Rights and Christian Responsibilities

11th April 7.30pm The Black Bull, Balsham:
Rev Jonathan Borough
Where is God when it hurts?

VILLAGE DIRECTORY UPDATE

West Wickham Post Office opening hours have changed to:
Monday. 10.00 – 12.00
Thursday. 9.00 – 12.00

Pepperpot News has a new phone number: 07890 412028.

Last month I offered to include a list this month of anyone living or working in West Wickham or Streetly End who had their own business that they wanted to promote. However, no one has e-mailed me so regretfully, no list.

Sue Thurston

RAF WRATTING COMMON

I have been collecting photographs and history of RAF Wrattling Common for many years now and wonder if anyone has any old photographs which I could borrow to copy. Anything of when the airfield was operational during the war years 1943 to 1945 would be appreciated, but of special interest too would be any photographs or history of the hundreds of displaced people liberated from the war camps across Europe who were accommodated at RAF Wrattling Common until the early 1950's.

Suzanne Langford. T: 01223 290353.

BALSHAM SINGERS CONCERT

March 5th 7.30 pm
Balsham Church

We were disappointed to have to cancel our Christmas Concert due to the snow. We are looking forward to singing much of the beautiful music in our original programme with some added items. Pieces by Parry, Elgar, Bruckner, Bach, Karl Jenkins and Brahms will be performed plus some other haunting melodies and the chance for you to sing Jerusalem.

Tickets £7 and £6 are on sale at Balsham Post Office or on the door. Tickets for the December 18th concert can still be used. Refreshments in the interval make this a social occasion. We look forward to seeing you there.

Marion Bryant

HORSEHEATH A604 CLUB

We are a friendly Club for the Over 50's in Horseheath and the surrounding district. We meet in Horseheath Village Hall on alternate Wednesdays @ 2.30pm. We used to have members from West Wickham, but sadly they have all died (if they were alive they would all be in their 90's)

We have a variety of speakers and an outing planned for the coming year, finishing up with a Christmas. Lunch.

On March 9th, Nannette Blackmore is giving a short talk on Ghosts, on March 23rd Sylvia Norton on cousins of the Sweet Pea, on April 20th, we will be having a Fish & Chip Lunch (we order this in), and on May 4th Puskin Gowlett hasn't decided what she is talking about yet, but it will be very interesting.

If you are interested and wish to know more contact Mary on 01223 891025 or Christine on 01223 891086 or pop along to one of our meetings, we would love to see you.

Christine Newman

WEST WRATTING W.I.

The speaker at our March meeting will be Jane Heeney talking about **Jimmy's Night Shelter** on Tuesday 30 March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The competition is for ideas for raising awareness of the work of Jimmy's.

Please do come and give us a try, especially if you are new to the area.

Linda Gorman

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2011 the following items were discussed:-

Extra Councillors: It has been officially agreed that West Wickham Parish Council may increase its members to 7 Councillors and this will come into being at the Parish Council election in May this year and there is an official notice on the Noticeboard to this effect.

Land Registration: Having received a map and details of documents which Adams Harrison hold on the Council's behalf it was agreed that Cllr. Grieve would check the Land Registry on-line to see if any of the parish property has been registered.

Hedge Cutting: The hedges round the recreation field have now been cut and it was agreed to accept the quote from CGM for £280.00 to cut the hedge between the Village Hall and the new houses down to the road and to request that CGM leave a few trees that are a decent shape.

Children's Play Area: Two more people have expressed an interest in helping choose and organise the replacement equipment for the Children's play area and a meeting will be organised soon. It was agreed that RoSPA should carry out their annual inspection of the recreation ground and the play area.

Youth Club Funding: It was agreed in principle to support the clubs, however we are still waiting for information on the number of West Wickham children attending.

Finance:

- a) **Precept Budget.** Cllr. Morris went through the budget figures previously distributed to the Council and suggested that the Precept for 2011/12 should be £6550, which is considerably less than last year because the Parish will not now have to pay the full costs of the Streetly End speed limit change to 30mph. Cllr. Grieve proposed that the budget and Precept discussed be accepted, seconded by Cllr. Cameron and it was agreed. Also minuted was the agreement by Council for the payment of a £250 *ex gratia* payment to the Parish Clerk, as there has been no increase in salary scales for 18 months.
- b) **Internal Auditor:** Due to Mr Gutteridge being unable to do our internal audit this year the Parish Clerk had made enquiries and is following these up to find someone to carry this out.

Linton Neighbourhood Panel Meeting: This had been attended by Cllr. Grieve. There had been a discussion about the increasing problem of oil theft and the best ways of protecting oil tanks, which they were making a priority. There had been a problem of oil spillage in the High Street in West Wickham due to oil being stolen twice from one house, which the Environment Agency had cleaned up.

Allotments: Nobody has expressed an interest in the 2 vacant allotments. The Pre-School would possibly like to have a small area for the children. These two allotments are in a poor state and at present are waterlogged and are also in a very shady area. A suggestion was made to divide them into 6 smaller plots, turning the most shaded one into a community orchard.

Village Hall Management Committee AGM: The Chairman reported on this as a Parish Council representative. Nick Salter is the new Chairman with Richard Greville in charge of Maintenance. Kathy Pelling remains the Booking Officer. Cllr. Cornish is in charge of

looking at costings for the carpark. John Pelling was thanked by the Parish Council for all the work he has done over a long period of time as Chairman of the VHMC.

Road Gritting: The salt bin has been delivered but is now empty. It is hoped a fresh delivery of salt will be arriving soon.

Report from Dist.Cllr. Barrett:

- a) The District Council is asking Parish Councils to consider their Precept carefully, bearing in mind that there will be cuts made at SCDC.
- b) There have been delays with Planning Applications in the Planning Dept. partly due to a new IT system. A sub-committee has been set up to look into these problems. It is important to settle them because SCDC receives a grant from central government for each application on which a decision is made within the required time.

Report from County Cllr. Batchelor:

- a) The budgets are still being discussed. Over the next four years there will be cuts made of £160,000,000.
- b) Areas where cuts may be made are:- possibly withdrawing bus subsidies, which would only leave No.13/13A available for this area along the A1307. Libraries are under review and some will close, some run by volunteers and some run by trustees. Social services will inevitably be cut, a possible £1M for community transport.
- c) Localism Bill is to be ratified shortly.

Any other business:

There was a complaint about a 5" deep pot-hole which had been reported but had not been filled in. Holes deeper than 3" should be repaired. Cllr. Batchelor said he would look into it.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd March. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. The draft Minutes are now posted on the Notice Board

Jennifer Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council. T: 894076

COMMUNITY GOVERNOR THE MEADOW SCHOOL

A vacancy has come up for a Governor at the Meadow. We are looking for an enthusiastic person from the local community to join our friendly and busy team of Governors working for the benefit of the whole school and its community. You do not need to have previous experience, training is provided. We would be particularly interested however in a candidate with experience in Human Resources or Finance. Expenses can be claimed if needed for babysitting or travel. You do need to be available for approx 4 meetings a term, which are usually on Monday evenings 6.30-8.30 and for occasional visits to the school or training courses. The school will need CRB or equivalent checking. Being a Governor is extremely rewarding – Please consider joining us. If you are interested please call to discuss the post further:

Mary Watson. Chair of Governors. T: 893213

MEADOW MATTERS

News from The Meadow School

Half term is here – what a relief.

Curriculum topics this term: FS/KS1 is boxes and banks. The classrooms are full of boxes of all descriptions, piggy banks made out of papier mache (they look great) and even a Post Office. The children even played ‘Who wants to be a millionaire’. Y3/4’s topic this term is ‘Chocolate’. They held a chocolate day where they learnt about the history of chocolate, fair-trade, and tasted chocolate (the last bit sounds the best part!). Y5/6 are learning all about rivers; they have been on the Riverboat Georgina and sailed down the river Cam.

PTA Jumble Sale - Once again the annual jumble sale proved extremely popular as people were queuing in the cold from 1pm! It was absolutely frantic to begin with as everybody raced to find the piles of clothes, books and toys, and in just two hours a grand total of £1200 was raised - the best ever total to date. Thank you to everybody who helped support the School by either attending the jumble sale or trawling through their cupboards to donate so much ‘stuff.’

50/50 Club Draw

January: 1st Clare 2nd Kim 3rd Alice
February: 1st Liz 2nd Alina 3rd Ruth

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

Linda Wain

Forthcoming events:

Book Fair: 13th-17th June June Revels: 18th June
Balsham Ball: 19th November

NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

On Tuesday 1 February, Linton Village College converted to Academy Status. Our early adoption of the status is a consequence of the fact that the Secretary of State for Education invited only outstanding schools to take this opportunity in the first round of conversions

Our conversion follows extensive consultation. The Governors did not take this decision lightly. They did, however, conclude that it was in the interests of our students and our local community to convert. Academy Status means that we now receive our funding directly from central government and can then make decisions about which services to buy into. We can look for best-value and services that are tailored to our specific needs. As a foundation school we already did that to some extent but now the amount of flexibility has increased. Another attractive feature of Academy Status is the flexibility we now have around delivering the national curriculum. There may be aspects we do not wish to pursue. As an Academy we have the freedom to decide what is best for our learners.

However, as far as our students and parents are concerned, little will perceptibly change: Our name remains ‘Linton Village College’ and our values and ambitions go unaltered. We still seek to provide the best possible education that we can for our students and to serve the needs of our community in the way that our founder, Henry Morris, intended.

Caroline Derbyshire. Principal

VILLAGE FARMER AND HIS EMBARRASSMENT OF PIGLETS

Bryn Pope has begun to keep a few pigs. On Saturday the 5th of February, one of his three sows (Fudge) was due to farrow. And boy did she do it. He had to help to deliver the first few piglets, because he found there was a bit of a “log jam”. And for the next few hours we got text messages raising the number delivered. When I woke in the morning, I received a text saying, “20 delivered, 2 stillborn and one runt died soon after delivery.” That meant she had 17 live, viable piglets. With 14 plugs this meant problems!

Bryn had very little sleep over the next few days, as he helped her by assisting in 3 hourly relay feeds. I keep goats, on the farm and he rigged up a system where they could drink goat’s milk from pans (ex cake tins) in the creep, to supplement the sow’s milk. This and some piglet starter pellets, introduced after a week, has worked.

He has now split the litter and has the six largest on watered down goat’s milk and starter pellets and all 17 are thriving. My goats are forgiven any bad behaviour, for the time being, but I am looking forward to having enough milk for cheese and yogurt in the, not too distant, future.

The whole pig thing started when Bryn’s son, Jack, asked me if he could have a pig for his 10th birthday because he wanted a sow who would stay and have a name. It was agreed that he, his Dad and his Grandad would all have a pig and look after them together

Jack is coming up to 14 and wants to be a farmer, “like his dad.” Well done boys!

Denny Pearson

SPEEDWATCH

This scheme allows the public to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood. It is used in areas where speeding has been identified as a problem at quarterly neighbourhood panel meetings. The scheme is run by the Cambridgeshire Police, alongside the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership. The aim is to educate motorists in the law in relation to speeding and monitor any trends in speeding in neighbourhoods.

Now that the days are getting longer the village Speedwatch team will be monitoring vehicle speeds through West Wickham & Streetly End. In the past we have concentrated these hour long sessions on the “rush hour” but we would like to try other times and during the weekends. For that we need more volunteers. Volunteers are trained to use speed indicator devices which display the vehicle speed to the driver. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter from their local neighbourhood policing team, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community. Areas identified as having speeding problems can then be targeted for a check by the police.

I will shortly be organising another training session. If you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more please contact me on 01223 290863 or email to ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM

Andrew Morris. Speedwatch Co-ordinator.

NATURE NOTES

February 14th is traditionally the day when birds start getting together. I think some of them this year have been sending their Valentine's cards early. On the 8th, which was a gloriously sunny day, Dash and I walked to Horseheath and back, and were treated to several uplifting outbursts from song thrushes – the first I had heard this year – along with a couple of contributions from chaffinches.

Di has also been monitoring birdlife, starting with the Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January, and she writes:

“Like many people on Saturday, we took part in the RSPB Great Garden Birdwatch. It never ceases to amaze me, once you start counting how many different birds come to our gardens. I appreciate it is ‘cupboard love’, just coming for the food that we put out. The half coconuts filled with fat are always brilliant; we had five longtailed tits at one time on one, producing a mass of bodies and tails with no heads! Apples thrown out attracted many blackbirds, pigeons, and our resident male pheasant. Our neighbours’ crabapple tree is a magnet for the thrush family, even attracting fieldfares this winter - I’ve never seen them so bold. We’ve even had redwings on the Croft searching under the fallen leaves. We get a lot of goldfinches in the trees, twittering away, but never on our feeders, they prefer another neighbour’s garden, who puts out niger seed. I have counted up to six at a time on their feeder. The robins and dunnocks can’t manage to stay on the seed feeders for long, but have learnt to wait underneath for the dropped seed when the greenfinches feed. The great tits, bluetits and willow/marsh tits on the nuts and fat balls are always a delight. Steve has done a species count for the parish for January...39 in total.

As you know, I love owls, and last week was delighted to see two separate sightings of little owls. One was early in the morning as I drove past the churchyard. He was sitting silhouetted against the grey sky on the branch of one of the

lime trees. The other was down Webb’s Lane. I was watching a flock of fieldfares in the top of a tree, and I caught the familiar stubby shape in my vision, and there, on the pollarded willow he sat. It is great to know that they are around the village.

The catkins are looking lovely...always a reminder that spring is on its way. There are lots of hazel trees along the bottom road, near Marshalls park, and they are beautiful. As a child we called them ‘lamb’s tails’, and I loved to search (I still do) for the ‘red stars’ (the female parts , which become the fruit) which come out later than the catkins, and catch the falling pollen to produce the hazel nuts. The snowdrops and aconites have just come out along there too. The aconites seem to be spreading , not only are they in the wood, they seem to be along the roadside too.

During a walk down Temple End Lane recently we were delighted to see a pair of buzzards calling and circling over the wood...our first this year. We also came across a flock of hundreds of fieldfares gabbering away, feeding on the fields.

I was pleased to read that Pete had seen a little egret in Hildersham. We often see one at Lode, which we think is resident as we see it regularly...lets hope the Hildersham one decides to stay too.”

I have also had a report of an egret seen near Haverhill – surely we must see one in West Wickham soon.

All news about wildlife in the village is welcome, including the slithery, the slimy, the creepy and the crawly, all of whom will be coming more active in the awakening spring.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC HEATING OIL TO THE “WEST WICKHAM OIL SYNDICATE”

I understand that Shelford Energy has written to everyone in the village who ordered their oil via Kathy, encouraging them to continue to buy oil from them by offering a preferential rate (although as a member of the syndicate myself I haven't received a letter yet). This is what they have written:

As you are probably aware, Kathy Pelling has decided to cease being the co-ordinator for the Oil Buying Syndicate that has been in operation in your village for several years. I am sure you will agree that she has always done a fantastic job for the local community in fulfilling this role.

In the absence of a new co-ordinator to take on the role, I write to advise that Shelford Energy will continue to offer preferential rates to each individual within the group, even though each person will now order directly from us, and will not necessarily be joining together at a specific time to place their orders.

Please call us on 01223 846846 and our staff will be delighted to help you – please advise that you are a member of the West Wickham Syndicate and we will ensure that you receive the preferential rate.

I have also enclosed an information leaflet outlining the details of our Monthly Payment Scheme, which may be of interest to you.

We hope that we can continue to be of service to you, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Steve Randall - Business Manager

They have said that if their letter is circulated via the Village Voice this would open up the offer to the whole village. I have asked them how preferential the rate is, but at the date of going to press, haven't heard back.

I understand from Kathy that she has had no takers for the role of co-ordinator but I am proposing to do a bit of research to see if it might be possible to join with another local group, consider any other options there might be and I'll report back in a future edition.

Sue Thurston

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO...THE PARISH COUNCIL

If you are new to village life (or maybe if you're not!) you are probably unfamiliar with or confused about the role of the Parish Council - so, hopefully, this may make things a little clearer.

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of local government. Parish Councillors are elected every four years (this year with the District Council election on THURSDAY 5 MAY) by those on the normal electoral roll and the number is dependent on the population - West Wickham will have 7 Councillors from May this year. The Parish Council should not be confused with the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) which includes the vicar and churchwardens and is responsible for the provision of facilities for worship, along with the upkeep of the church and churchyard.

The Parish Council receives most of its funding annually through the Council Tax and this has to be used to enhance village life in some way. The Parish Council owns and is responsible for the allotments, the playing field and the playground. It also owns the Village Hall but leases it to the Village Hall Trust who manages it on their and your behalf. It also provides financial support to other organisations which benefit the village. For example, the Parish Council currently contributes to the Mobile Warden Scheme for the elderly, the First Responder emergency scheme, subscribes to the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke (the Roman Road forms the southern boundary of the parish and is a well-used and well-loved amenity) and is sponsoring this newsletter.

The Parish Council are continually consulted by both the District and County Councils on a wide range of issues and, in turn, use their local knowledge and understanding to represent your views back to them. They can, and do, effectively put pressure on these bodies on your behalf. The Parish Council is not itself a planning authority but is consulted on all planning applications and their views are taken into account. The Parish Council receives a tremendous amount of information from a wide variety of sources on many subjects. Some of this is displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard, some will appear in this newsletter but, because of sheer volume, much is simply circulated around Councillors, which means they should be a good first port of call for help or advice.

Parish Council meetings, which are held in the Village Hall every two months at present, are open to the public (watch out for the posters advertising date & time, the next meeting is on 22 March). In theory, you are not allowed to speak but, in practice, Parish Councillors want to hear your views and address your concerns and you will almost certainly be invited to make a contribution. Alternatively, you can contact a Councillor personally or write to the Parish Council Clerk to have an item put on the agenda. The Clerk, currently Jenny Richards, is employed on a part-time basis to deal with day-to-day administration and finance, service meetings and be a point of contact. At least once a year, usually in May, the Parish Council is required to arrange a Parish Meeting to discuss parish matters. There will usually be a report on the work of the Parish Council during the year but this is really your chance to question what they do, find out how they spend your money, raise any concerns or simply give Parish Councillors your support.

For those who live in a village there is no mysterious 'they' who will provide facilities, amenities and social opportunities. 'They' is all of us - you, me, us - and being a Parish Councillor is a way of making a positive contribution to the community. So, how about it?

What you can do -

- take an interest in what the Parish Council does (or does not)
- think about standing for election as a Parish Councillor in May
- consider nominating someone else (you need their consent!)
- VOTE on 5 MAY (any Parish Council gains confidence from feeling it has been elected by the majority not the few)

Notice of the election should be on the Parish Council noticeboard by 25 March. This will give all details on how to make a nomination. Nomination forms have to be with the Electoral Registration Officer at South Cambs Hall, Hills Road by 12 noon on 4 APRIL

If you want to know more about the work of the Parish Council or about becoming a Parish Councillor contact any of the outgoing Councillors:

Malcolm Cameron	34 Streetly End	T: 894362
Marcus Cornish	Manor Farm	T: 290203
Peter Grieve	29 Burton End	T: 290503
Andrew Morris	21 High Street	T: 290863
Nip Pearson	Platts Farm	T: 290875

or Parish Council Clerk: Jenny Richards. 52 Fox Road, Balsham. T: 894076. Email: jrichards007.talktalk.net

VALENTINES QUIZ NIGHT

in support of Daisy Chains Pre-school, West Wickham.

To all those extremely generous people who attended on 11th February to raise funds for our outside play area, new allotment and children's gardening club, the committee would like to extend a genuine thank you for making the night a great success from which we raised a total of £472.88.

In addition, another thank you to parents, grandparents and friends of the children who registered with Haven funfitness and in record time, reached the required level to claim free sports equipment for the children. This equipment has now arrived and is being tested to the extreme!

Our next fund raiser will be our annual jumble sale on Saturday 7th May.

Jo Jackson. Committee Chair

(Thank you from the Editors for a very enjoyable evening)

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 MARCH

Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris
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21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB1 6RY
or contact Sue on:
T: 01223 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk
contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.
e-mail: editor_wwillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk