

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2010

ISSUE 86

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 8 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Jumble Sale.**  
2 – 4 pm, Village Hall
- Sun 9 Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church  
**4 Churches walk. From 12.00.**
- Tue 11 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic  
bottle collection**
- Wed 12 Carpet Bowls Club. 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sat 15 **Gardening Club Plant Sale..**  
**10.30 – 12.00, Village Hall.**  
**Balsham Singers Spring Concert.**  
**7.30pm, Balsham Church.**
- Sun 16 Holy Communion. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 18 **Black wheeled bin collection**
- Wed 19 Carpet Bowls Club. 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sun 23 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 25 **Green wheeled bin, recycling & plastic  
bottle collection**

**Tue 25 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**followed by**  
**ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING.**

- Wed 26 Carpet Bowls Club. 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sun 30 4 Parishes Service. 10.30, Balsham Church  
**RAF Wrattling Common Memorial**  
**Service. 12.00 at Weston Woods Farm**

**The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday**  
**9.30 – 12 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.

## RAF WRATTING COMMON

There will be a service at 12 noon on Sunday 30 May. This will be held at the Memorial Stone, which is situated at Weston Woods Farm. The Cadets of 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron Air Training Corps will parade their standard. We remember all who have served and still serve in the Services and especially those who served at RAF Wrattling Common, ground staff and aircrew. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Suzanne Langford. T: 01223 290353.

## CHURCH NEWS

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed the Rev. Dr. Julie Norris to be the half-time priest-in-charge of the Balsham Benefice. The appointment team (2 representatives from each of the 4 parishes) met Julie a few weeks ago. We found her to be a perfect match for all the qualities we wanted. She is married with young children and keenly interested in joining us and doing parish work.

Julie will continue to live in Abington and working as a half-time team Vicar elect in the Linton Benefice. It is likely that she will only take one service per month in each of our 4 parishes but she is very keen to develop links with the Meadow School. She already works in Linton Village College.

If you are wondering why we will only have a half-time priest, the reason is partly that there are few clergy who wish to work in rural parishes but more importantly we just don't have the financial strength to support a full-time priest. We need £86 per week just to pay our share of a priestly salary and pension and then we need more to cover our other costs – heating, insurance, repairs etc. We are lucky to be allowed a half-timer! We will soon be looking for a "house-for-duty" priest to work with Julie and share the joys of our benefice.

Jane Scheuer, Church Warden.

PS. The Rev Dr Julie Norris will be licensed to serve in our parishes on Wednesday 9 June, 7.30pm in Balsham Church.

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

# PLANT SALE

something for everyone  
FLOWERS, SHRUBS, VEGETABLES  
& HERBS

friendly people and expert advice

SATURDAY 15th MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

## 9th ANNUAL FOUR CHURCHES WALK

SUNDAY 9 MAY from 12 noon

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

For more info ring Joanna Sanders 01223 893063

### THE PLIGHT OF THE MASONRY BEE

Readers will be pleased to hear that all is not lost. There are several other settlements of anthophora plumpies that I know of. The church is home to a great number of them as is the weak lime mix in a lot of the older buildings in the parish. Old flint walls also are full of them.

The location of the rubble from the building has been made known to a few people who wanted to encourage the bees into their gardens.

The planning department were asked if any permissions were required to take down this building. The reply was that any unlisted structure of less than 115cu m does not need permission for removal in a conservation area.

I did consult a local beekeeper about what I could do in summer 09 when they were causing a nuisance to residents in the immediate locality. His response was that they are very difficult to move. It also seemed kinder to demolish whilst the bees were hibernating. It was only a matter of time before the building would fall into the road as a direct result of the bees' lifestyle over the last x years.

I have had several complaints about visibility at the junction, the only cure was to remove the garage.

I would also like to report that we have a thief in our midst who also is a trespasser!

I have had 20 rabbit traps stolen and someone has taken it upon themselves to release the trapped rabbits. The trapped rabbits are humanely dispatched every 24 hours and sold. They are very good to eat and used to form a very valuable source of meat for country folk.

We do currently have a serious rabbit problem as myxomatosis no longer seems to have the virulence that it once did. Readers will have noticed the severe grazing of the wheat field nearest the church for example. This will have reduced the potential yield from that 6 acre field by at least 6 tons or 8000 loaves of bread!

Marcus Cornish

### ADDITIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

We have been advised of the following new local services:

**Gog-Magog Lawnmower Services** specialise in garden machinery. They cover lawnmower sales, lawnmower repairs and generally all aspects of garden machinery. Address - Unit 1 Copely Hill Business Park, Cambridge Road, Babraham, CB2 4AF. T: 01223 832894.

[www.gogmagogmowers.co.uk](http://www.gogmagogmowers.co.uk)

**Running Total Bookkeeping.** Local book keeping service for all types and size of businesses. T: 01440 702845

[www.runningtotalbookkeeping.co.uk](http://www.runningtotalbookkeeping.co.uk)

**Field (compost) Ltd.** Peat free compost delivered to your door. Also supplies soil conditioner, woodchip mulch, raised bed topsoil mix, topsoil, grow bags & lawn dressing. Contact Chris Field at:

Tara, Broad Road, Thurlow, Suffolk CB9 7JJ.

T: 01440 966966, mobile 07748 029489.

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

West Wickham & District Gardening Club met for their last talk before the summer break on Monday 19 April to hear David Elcome talk on 'Allure Bribery and Deception – the Sex Life of Wild Orchids'. It proved to be a fascinating story – one, which not many of us were familiar with. We now look forward to May 15 when we hold our annual plant sale in West Wickham Village Hall (see advert).

During the summer we have an evening visit to Paugers Plants of Depden on Monday 28 June and our annual coach outing on Saturday 19 June (see below)

Rosemary Yallop

### COACH OUTING

Saturday 19 June

There are some spaces left on the Gardening Club's outing to the Swiss Garden, Old Warden, nr Biggleswade, in the morning and Coton Manor, Northants, in the afternoon. We leave the Village Hall at 9.30am and arrive back at approximately 6pm. The cost is £22 for non-members (£16 for members). If you would like to join us please contact Janet Morris

Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

### STREETLY END GARDENS OPEN

For the National Gardens Scheme

Sunday 6th June 11am-5pm

**Clover Cottage** (Shirley Shadford)

A 17th century cottage (not open) flanked by a high old red brick wall. Trees, borders with many varieties of hardy geraniums. Areas with rambling roses and clematis, raised fruit and veg beds, pond, sunken garden and summerhouse overlooking paddocks and open countryside.

**Weaver's Cottage** (Sylvia Norton)

1/2 acre garden exuberantly planted for fragrance with spring bulbs, shrubs, herbaceous climbers, old roses, scree garden. Plant Heritage National Collection of Lathyrus exhibited at Hampton Court Flower Show, planted throughout the garden.

No dogs, Tea, Plant stall.

Combined admission £3.00, children free.

Weaver's Cottage also open on Saturday 5th June for Plant Heritage. 11-5. Admission £2.00.

### HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE

#### Films for May

Wed 5	Micmacs (12A)	7.45
Fri 7	Alice in Wonderland (PG)	7.45
Sat 8	Alice in Wonderland (PG)	2.30
Sat 8	The Hurt Locker (15)	7.45
Mon 17	Invictus (12A)	1.30
Tue 18	Invictus (12A)	7.45
Wed 19	Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll (15)	7.45
Thur 20	Shutter Island (15)	7.45
Wed 26	A Single Man (15)	7.45
Sat 29	Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (U)	2.30
Sat 29	A Single Man (15)	7.45

Box Office: 01440 714140

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 the following items were discussed:-

**Speed limit at Streetly End:** Following a request by a Streetly End resident the police visited the village to see the pace of traffic going through the village particularly with regard to children crossing the road to wait for their school bus. The police agreed there was a problem and will be writing a report to the County Council recommending a speed change.

**Car Park resurfacing:** The work is to be carried out once the weather improves. However Council needs to be consulted over any alterations. Meanwhile it was suggested that road planings could be used to fill the holes as a temporary measure, this is being looked into.

**Recycling Clothes bank:** The Parish Clerk was asked to chase this up and you will now see that you have the bank in position.

**Speed watch:** An additional four parishioners will have their speed watch training in April and a rota will be organised for monitoring.

**Road Maintenance:** Following consultation with Highways Dept. they are unable to change the work already listed as it is part of a Capital bid and work will be carried out between the Church and 25/26 High Street and not in Streetly End where it is most needed.

**Litter Picking day:** Cllr. Grieve said this had been a success and thanked all those involved.

**Children's Play Area:** The work is now completed and there are two new swings and two new springy items. A recycled rubber mixture called Ecoscape has been ordered to replace the bark floor covering. This is very low maintenance. When it arrives there will be a "rally to arms" to lay the mulch on the necessary areas.

**Finance:** It was agreed that M Gutteridge should be asked to carry out the internal audit again this year.

**Tree Warden Scheme:** Cllr. Morris and Carol & Trevor Hall had attended a meeting where the status of trees and the need for a complete review of any trees with preservation orders on them was discussed. There are at least three trees in the parish which might benefit from such an order, two Yews in West Wickham and a large old Elm in Streetly End. It was agreed that a full survey of the parish's trees would be valuable.

### **Reports by Dist.Cllrs Squiers/Barrett:**

- 1) Cllr. Barrett said that there was grant money available to help with the cost of refurbishing play equipment. Cllr Morris said this cost had been budgeted for but if new equipment was needed then an application would be made.
- 2) Members of the Cabinet would be pleased to come to a Parish Council meeting if required.

**Any Other Business:** A request was made for a Dog Waste bin for Streetly End. The Parish Clerk will look into cost etc.

**The next meeting, which will begin with the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, will be held on TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.**

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

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 May, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. It is not a Parish Council meeting although the chairman of the Parish Council calls the meeting and will chair it. The purpose of the meeting is to celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community. Resolutions can be passed, although these are not binding on the Parish Council. It is a meeting of the parish electors and they can set the agenda. If there is anything you would like discussed please contact Marcus Cornish (T: 290203), the Chairman of the Parish Council, or Jenny Richards (T: 894076), Clerk to the Parish Council by 17 May.

Andrew Morris

## LINTON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING PANEL MEETINGS

What are they? Public meetings where you have the chance to have your say about issues that affect you. This could include safety issues such as crime, anti-social behaviour, road safety and traffic management, as well as other matters that affect the quality of life in your neighbourhood.

At the last meeting held in Linton on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010, attendees from parishes, the police, the district and county councils considered action taken against previous priorities:

- a) **Criminal damage in Linton Village** has resulted in high visibility patrols in the village at varying times of day on foot and in vehicles and a security light initiative to reduce attractiveness of causing damage.
- b) **Perceived lack of confidence in Policing in Linton Village.** Close engagement with Linton Village College who have confirmed that they feel we deliver a good level of service. Elderly residents spoken to ensuring that they have confidence in the local team, and feel happy to report things to us. Youth Club Organiser has confirmed that visits to the club are effective at reducing offending.
- c) **Dwelling burglaries – Balsham & Teversham.** Burglary information packs have been personally delivered to all victims of burglary in the area and crime prevention advice given to make properties less attractive to potential burglars. Increased patrols of both villages, as well as other hotspot areas have been made.

### **New Priorities Agreed included:**

- Implement preventative measures to reduce the impact of seasonal anti-social behaviour across the neighbourhood.
- Review existing procedures to manage traffic on A1307 and in surrounding villages in the event of closure of A1307.

For more information about this meeting:  
<https://www.cambspolice.co.uk/myneighbourhood/meetingSummary.asp?mid=159>  
Then click on 'View Minutes'.

### **Future Meetings:**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Fulbourn Centre, 7.30pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at Linton Heights Junior School, 7.30pm

## NATURE NOTES

This is my favourite time of year with so much stirring into life, a hopeful reminder that things aren't really that bad after all. It's a time for firsts – the first celandine, the first chiffchaff, the first swallow and the first brimstone. Soon it will be the first whitethroat and the first turtle dove.

Di Licence tells us about one part of West Wickham that is at its best in Spring. She writes:

*"If you go down to the woods today...."*

*West Wickham has many footpaths which take us across fields and through woods, but my favourite at this time of year is Blacklands Lane (as you go out of the village towards the airfield, just before the sharp bend, turn right, signposted Withersfield). A stretch of grass leads into a tunnel of green; the trees are coming into leaf and there are violets, wood anemones, cow parsley and dogs mercury on the ground. Our resident birds sing alongside the summer visitors (mainly warblers from countries far away) advertising for mates and protecting their territories. This time of year belongs to the flowers, though, mainly the bluebells. At the end of the tunnel, keep going across to the woods and take in that amazing sight of an English bluebell wood, an extensive carpet of blue flowers. If you concentrate you can get a faint whiff of their delicate scent. It is a beautiful sight, and one that fills me with pleasure. Beside the path two more spring flowers grow, both yellow – cowslips with lovely butter yellow heads (as a child growing up in Essex they were known locally as 'peggles') and oxlips – similar, but with a bigger, much paler yellow head like our wild primroses. But the pearls on this footpath are the bluebells. Do go down to the woods today...."*

I can only endorse what Di has said, although I have a soft spot for the lovely white wood anemones (or windflowers) which this year seem to have spread more deeply into the wood and amongst the bluebells that are about to flower at the time of writing. The field that adjoins the tunnel seems to be bunting country at the moment – I have seen plenty of yellow hammers and corn buntings there, as well as a beautiful male reed bunting.

Other highlights since the last Village Voice include numerous Barn Owl sightings in the last few days of March, and a pair of treecreepers in the recently thinned out Rands Wood (although I am told that they were technically just over the border into West Wrating.)

### **Batwatch 22<sup>nd</sup> May 9.00 p.m. sharp – Invitation from Sylvia Norton**

You are invited to Weavers Cottage, Streetly End to watch and count bats as they emerge for their evening insect hunt. Sylvia is hoping that Chris Vine, who is the Secretary of the bat organization, will be able to join us with a tracking device, which means we will be able to hear them as well as see them.

Please bring a chair and let either Sylvia (T: 892399) or me know in advance if you are coming.

You may recall from the Nov. 09 edition of the voice that the bats seen previously at this location were pipistrelles but Kit Martin has shown me a picture of a long eared bat found at the Mill House, so who knows what we might see?

Peter Grieve. T: 290503

## BALSHAM SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

**15 May, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham**

The Balsham Singers (Musical Director Greg Mckenzie) will take pride in performing Fauré's Requiem together with other lyrical pieces, accompanied by a selected small Chamber Orchestra and Organ

There will be refreshments in the interval

Tickets £7 and £6 (concessions), from Balsham Post Office or on the door.

**We hope to see you there and that you will thoroughly enjoy the concert**

## MEADOW MATTERS

### News from The Meadow Primary School

The Easter holiday are here, as I write, and what wonderful weather it has been – so needed after a long and cold winter. The summer term is now upon us – where has the year gone – and this promises to be, yet again, a busy term.

But looking back to the end of last term: if you were lucky enough to visit the school during the last 2 weeks of term, you would have seen a little bundle of visitors – baby chicks. We had 10 eggs delivered last Monday and have watched 8 hatch into cute fluffy chicks. Children and staff were so excited and often were seen talking and cooing over the babies – myself included – needless to say not much work was done! Other events in Science Week have included designing, making and testing safari jeeps in Foundation and KS1, investigations around friction in years 3 /4 and a visit from a moth man in years 5/6 – very interesting.

On Monday before Easter, we had our 'Eggstravaganza' with chocolate eggs, Easter buns and biscuits. Thank you to parents for contributing the chocolate eggs, this event raised £247.71 for the PTA.

Last term, Charlotte and Caitlin (both in Year 6) performed in the Linton Village College Music Festival finals in the Key Stage 2 category. They both did extremely well - Charlotte on the recorder and Caitlin singing. They should be very proud of themselves; there was a large audience to entertain. It was a lovely evening and great to hear both the girls and the musical successes of past pupils. Well done girls!

The children did really well raising £380.62 for Haiti. This is especially impressive as it was the children's own work and at their instigation.

### **Forthcoming events:**

Fashion Show - 18<sup>th</sup> May

June Revels - 26<sup>th</sup> June

Linda Wain

### **PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May**

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