



## FROM THE VICARAGE

Coming back from holiday, facing the hundreds of emails, letters and the pile of things we didn't quite finish before we went, can be a challenge. The holiday is quickly forgotten.

What makes all the difference for me is the people whom I meet each day. It is a privilege to be there when someone talks about something that matters and is real. There are constant reminders for me in these encounters of the depth and the vitality of the human spirit.

The people who share our journey can be a gift from God. When things are dull or challenging the person who walks alongside us, or meets us on the way, can brighten and lighten our load. They can bring perspectives we miss. They can delight us with new ideas and help us to understand what it is to be a good friend and neighbour. St Patrick talked about recognising Christ in the stranger who ultimately becomes a friend.

During September the six parishes are going to be supporting Stephen Plant as he explores his journey towards Anglican Ministry. You can read something about Stephen below. He also comes with a wealth of theological expertise. He is well known amongst theologians for his work on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and he is about to start as Chaplain at Trinity Hall. While we engage him in the full life of these Churches and Parishes, we will undoubtedly benefit from his insights.

Whatever challenges are ahead of you as September arrives, there is something to be gained by the solidarity of friends who share the journey.

Julie Norris

### Stephen Plant

Stephen has been a Methodist minister for 19 years. He has worked in inner-city London, rural Hertfordshire, and was for 6 years responsible for the work of the British Methodist Church in continental Europe. Since 2001 he has been Senior Tutor at Wesley House, the Methodist Theological College in Cambridge, where he has taught Christian theology and ethics in the Cambridge Theological Federation and in Cambridge University. He is married to Kirsty and they have 2 children, Caleb (aged 8) and Leah (aged 6). He enjoys cricket, opera and food.

## CHURCH NEWS

In response to someone saying "why don't we have Evensong ..... I like evensong ..... remember when I was young .....". We are planning to have an evensong at 6pm on Sunday 12 September in St Mary's, West Wickham.

The scaffolding you noticed at the church recently was for emergency roof repairs, which cost us £4500!

Our regular 9.30 service time is likely to change. A decision will be made on 2 September to ensure that people taking services will be able to get to the next service without either dangerous driving or running late.

Do bring pets and/or pictures of them to our annual pets & harvest thanksgiving on 26 September.

Many of you ask after Francis Wooley. Sadly the latest news is not good. He is in a lot of pain and has a shadow on his lungs. Please remember him and all who look after him.

Jane Scheuer

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

### ANNUAL SHOW

Heavy rain and hail in the days leading up to the show did not bode well and understandably the number of exhibits was down on previous years. However, it was very pleasing to see such an excellent display. The quality of the vegetables was very high and it was so encouraging to see so many beans, carrots, tomatoes etc and some magnificent trugs or baskets brim full of vegetables. It was particularly good to see the colourful display of as these were badly affected by the preceding weeks awful weather. The exhibits of jams, Swiss rolls & Bakewell tarts etc made my mouth water and certainly impressed the Judge. Well done, everyone who entered should be proud of their effort. It was also great to see some new cup winners.

The cup & trophy winners were:

The Childrens Trophy: Amy Condon

The West Wrating Cup for Vegetables & Fruit: Andrew Morris

The White Horse Trophy for Flowers & Pot Plants: Rosemary Yallop

The West Wickham Rose Bowl for Flower Arranging: Jane Scheuer

The Stan & Hilda Cox Cup for Domestic classes: Sue Kiddy

The Ralph Westwood-Bate Photography Cup: Rosemary Yallop

The Bill Pearson Cup for the most points won in show was won by Rosemary Yallop with Andrew Morris and Sue Kiddy runners up.

The RHS Banksian Medal was won by Andrew Morris.

I enjoyed it, I know those who attended were impressed by what they saw, those of you who were not able to come missed a great display, so don't miss out on next year's show which will probably be held on Saturday 13 August..

Andrew Morris, Show Organiser

### AUTUMN PROGRAMME

We now look forward to the interesting programme of talks taking place on the 3rd Monday of each month. The AG.M. will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by.

Monday 18 October	<i>Fascinating Fungi</i> Talk by Peter Walker
Monday 15 November	<i>Trees of the Botanic Garden</i> Talk by Prof. John Parker
Monday 20 December	<i>The floral &amp; botanical art collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum</i> Talk by Andrew Morris

Meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.

If you would like to join us you will be more than welcome. For more information you can phone me on 01799584262. Hope to see you there.

Rosemary Yallop (Speakers Secretary)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July the following items were discussed:-

**Road Maintenance:** The work required on the pavement and kerbs up to 25 High St. and the paths and kerbs in Streetly End have been reinstated on the Capital Bid list. A pothole in Burton End has been reported to Highways. Damaged road signs at the cross roads to Wratting Common and at the Dean Road crossroad have also been reported.

**Dog Litter Bin:** Streetly End residents are in agreement that a dog litter bin is purchased and placed on the island at the road junction, subject to approval by the County Council Highways Dept and guarantee of its being emptied by South Cambs DC on a regular basis.

**Streetly End Speed Limit:** The County Council has agreed to Streetly End having a 30mph speed limit at an estimated cost to the Parish of £3000, not £6500 as originally estimated.

**Additional Councillors:** The amount of work carried out by the Parish Council has increased over the years and it is felt there was a need for two further councillors. The District Council will be asked what procedures should be taken to get approval for this, bearing in mind that 2011 is election year for the Parish Council.

**Children's Play area:** The Ecobark had been delivered. Before spreading it weed-repressing membrane has to be put down and much of the wood edging replacing. Tom Licence has replaced the broken post and fencing knocked down by CGM grass cutting contractors.

### **Finance:**

**Internal auditors report** – This was looked at in detail and suggestions made by the internal auditor will be put into action. Satisfaction was expressed on the way it had been carried out.

**Tree Warden Scheme allowance:** It was agreed that £50 should be donated to this scheme to cover certain costs throughout the year.

**Planning:** A meeting had been held between David Bevan

of the SCDC Conservation Dept. and Cllrs. Cornish and Morris. It was agreed that Mr Bevan write an article for the Village Voice to inform the parish about Conservation Areas. (Ed. Planned for next month)

**Linton Neighbourhood Panel:** Cllr. Grieve agreed to attend future meetings.

**Football pitch:** It was agreed that Withersfield Youth Football Club under 14's run by Paul Harrow would be allowed to play football on the recreation field. Practice games will take place once a week to 31st August and the team will play approx. 15 home matches on it during the winter. It is hoped there will be an article in Village Voice on their activities. It was also agreed that a young cricketer in the village be allowed to cut a practice wicket on the playing field, after consultation with either the Chairman or Cllr. Morris.

**Dist. Cllrs. Jarvis & Barrett** reported on belt tightening all round: Local Strategic Partnership funding has been stopped; more power is going to be given to local government; 36 Defra units are to be amalgamated; 8 regional offices are to be closed.

### **Report from County Cllr. Batchelor:**

Severe cuts to Youth Services are being made and any money available will be focussed on those areas where there is a greater need. Parish Councils may well be asked to contribute towards supporting Youth Groups in their area.

The Police Authorities will be losing 70-80 office staff this year and next year a further 350 positions, 250 of which would be constabulary.

**Any Other Business:** It had been noted that grain lorries seemed to be using West Wickham High Street again. The Parish Clerk will write to both Thurlow and Bartlow Estates about this.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, all are welcome.**

**Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076**

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## NATURAL WOMAN MENOPAUSE WORKSHOPS

Based in West Wickham, the autumn programme starts this month. Addressing the menopausal concerns of all women, these informative workshops provide simple techniques and practical ideas on natural emotional and physical symptom management.

Anna Ludlow, who has been in the natural health business for over 20 years, runs these informal mornings. She says "Most women have no idea what's in store for them, nor how to handle the menopause without the help of HRT, and there are increasing numbers of women who don't wish to, or cannot, take HRT". For information and dates call 07776-300408 or visit [www.naturalwoman.org.uk](http://www.naturalwoman.org.uk)

## BABY SITTER AVAILABLE

Stefan Norris is 17, nearly 18, & is in fulltime employment as a Nursery Nurse at Rainbow Nursery in Trumpington, Cambridge. He is 'CRB' checked & has a Level 2 NVQ in Childcare. He is newly driving & looking to earn some extra petrol money & is available for babysitting duties. He lives in Maypole Croft & can be contacted on 01223 290456 or his mobile Number is 07860559437.

## BALSHAM SINGERS AUTUMN TERM

Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday September 16th at 7.30pm in the Meadow School, Balsham. We shall be rehearsing music by Brahms, Parry, Carl Jenkins and much more for a concert on Saturday December 18th.

In a choir of 50 we have 13 Tenors and Basses, for a better balance we would particularly like to increase this number, however all voices are welcome. Come and join us in September. Phone Marion Bryant on 290420 for more information.

## LINTON WEA

### RESTORATION, REVOLUTION & RESURGENCE

The later Stuarts from King Charles to Queen Anne, changes in Government, disasters in London, the march of science and the arts and the triumph over Loius XIV of France.

A ten week course (fee £44) starts on **Tuesday 5th October at 10am - 11.45 am** in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton.

We are a flourishing friendly group. Come and join us on 5th October or phone Marion Bryant on 290420.

## NATURE NOTES

I hate to start these notes as a prophet of doom, but my paper today tells me that 150 - 200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal are becoming extinct every 24 hours. That is a startling statistic, which does not even mention reptiles, fish, amphibians or fungi. All the more reason to appreciate our local treasures while we still have them.

“Treasure” would probably have been the last word on your mind if you had been kept awake by a monotonous barking in recent weeks. It would have been the less than popular muntjac letting everyone know he is around. I’m not sure why he wants to do this in August. Is it sexual or territorial? Anyway, muntjac, as well as other species of deer seem to be doing well in West Wickham and in Britain generally. Di Licence has certainly been appreciating what is around her – although her first item was many miles away in the earth’s atmosphere. She writes:

*Did anyone else stay up last night to witness the night sky? (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>/Friday 13<sup>th</sup>). Sitting in my garden watching the night sky, listening to the night noises, waiting for the “shower” of shooting stars promised. I was rewarded for my vigil. I saw seven in an hour, then gave up and went to bed.*

*I spent two hours in the garden on Sunday, weeding mainly and disturbed two big ground-nesting bumble bees, they are longer than the normal ones, with an orange tip to their abdomen. one in the compost heap, which flew out very aggressively straight at me and made me jump, and the other while I was weeding in a very dry spot under a pine tree. I left them to it, and on returning half and hour later, could hear their buzzing, so knew that they were OK. I also encountered a large green frog in the flowerbed and a tiny common newt in the compost. But my favourite encounter that afternoon, was hearing the familiar sound of longtailed tits “squeaking” in the trees. I counted about a dozen small birds which turned out to be a small flock of youngsters consisting of blue tits, one goldcrest and several longtails, all looking very spiky, with ruffled feathers, nothing like as elegant as their parents!!*

*A footnote to Pete’s piece about the dearth of hedgehogs. I have heard on the radio and read in the news that the hedgehog problem is due to the very dry summer we have experienced. The reasons given were that being ground dwellers they have to rely on water at their level and it has been in short supply, so they have been dying of dehydration. Also, their main diet is worms/slugs etc. which live in damp places, and they too have become scarce in this dry period. Both pieces were encouraging people to put water out at ground level, as well as in the bird bath.*

Gardens, as we know, can be a really good place for wildlife, a sanctuary from the needs of intensive farming. I have been watching with mixed feelings the activities of a mini-eco system on my brassicas. Every time I watered them large clouds of aphids flew off. I have been carefully picking off white butterfly caterpillars but at the same time ladybirds have been enjoying a plentiful supply of nutrition as have hoverflies and wasps. The latter have two nests in our garden – ready to take advantages of the apples as they ripen. I hope they leave a few for us. It would be good to hear any news of what you are seeing in the garden, so keep the information coming.

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

## BINGO NIGHT

In aid of Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham  
Cash prizes and many more great prizes  
Friday 24 September at 8pm  
West Wickham Village Hall  
Raffle & Bar  
Tickets £2 from Balsham or Weston Colville Post  
Offices  
For more info contact Caroline Newey, T: 290490 or  
Jane Jackson, T: 290854

## NEWS FROM LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Term starts shortly, so let me introduce you to some new members of our staff at the Village College:

The person that you are most likely to meet, if you are a user of the College, is our new Community Business Manager, Steve Austin. His role is an extremely important one because he will take responsibility for all of the lettings and activities that we do. This includes adult education classes at Linton, the Community Sports Centre and its activities, lettings of the College hall and other rooms and holiday courses. Having a Community Business Manager is a great bonus for me because all of these business dimensions have been managed and marketed as separate entities before and putting them under one arm of management is a way to streamline what we do and improve the quality of the spaces and activities that we offer to our community. It will also be much easier for our community users to have a single point of contact. We were always acutely aware that Linton area residents missed a point of contact within our own school and a friendly face to welcome them to the College when they came to their classes. We are anxious to put this right once more. We extend a warm welcome to Steve and look forward to the work he will do.

We are also welcoming two new faces to the Senior Leadership Team. Tim Darby, our Head of Maths and Science Faculty has been promoted to the role of Assistant Principal from September and we are joined by Angela Cassidy who has been Head of Expressive Arts at Birchwood High School in Bishops Stortford who will also take on the role of Assistant Principal. This takes the team back up to full strength and allows us the capacity to work in partnership with other schools who face difficulties. In recent weeks the College has been awarded the title of ‘Consultant School’ and we have very much enjoyed the coaching aspect that this consultancy work has involved.

You may be wondering whether the College will be affected by the cut in government spending on building schools. As yet our project is not compromised: Phase 2 building begins very shortly and we fully expect to open our new reception doors in October 2011.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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