

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2012

ISSUE 111

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Tue 3 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 7 **Farmers Market. 9.00 – 12.00**  
**Linton Village College**  
Sun 8 Evensong followed by wine and nibbles.  
6pm, St Mary's Church. Please come and  
join us  
Tue 10 Black wheeled bin collection  
Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Tue 17 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 22 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church  
Mon 23 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**  
**7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of**  
**West Wickham are welcome to attend**  
Tue 24 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 29 Joint Parishes Service. 10.45, Balsham  
Church  
Tue 31 Blue & green wheeled bin collection

**The Pre-School meets Monday to Friday**  
**9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall**

**School Summer Holidays 23 July – 4 September**

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Saturday 18 August**

### Gardening Club Annual Show

Details from:

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

## 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  
or visit [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

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.

## THANK YOU

Having had nothing to do with the organisation of the Jubilee celebrations I would like to say how much I enjoyed the whole event and to say Thank



You to all those involved. There was a tremendous variety of activities going on in the village and I apologise for not mentioning them all. Although the weather was disappointing a lot of the time I hear that it didn't dampen the spirits of the plucky teddies who hurled themselves off the Church

tower and all the spectators. The weather miraculously improved for Monday evening, there was a terrific turnout at the Village Hall and I thought the high quality barbeque and live music were great and the lighting of the beacon spectacular.

Marcus and Nicky were very welcoming hosts in their beer garden and I hope they might be persuaded in the future (or other community spirited villagers with suitable gardens) to repeat the event. I could see that the exhibition at the Village Hall brought back a lot of memories of the 50's and I was so impressed by some of the local art and craft exhibited; I had not appreciated how many talented people there are in the village, not only exhibiting but in the decoration of the church too. I hope photos of all the activities will appear on our website soon (though not I hope of any of me on the dance floor).



Photographs: Sandra Bebbington

Sue Thurston

## DIAMOND JUBILEE WEEKEND.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the people who gave so generously of their time, ideas, money and possessions to make the weekend a true community effort. You are too many to name, but you know who you are and are much appreciated!!

Di Licence

### Answers for Diamond Jubilee walk quiz....

- |   |                    |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Lamp post.   | 2. A milk churn    | 3. A spider |
| 4. Wood View  | 5. 290443          | 6. 1799     |
| 7. 35.5   | 8. 18              |             |
| 9. 2 x windmills, 2 x water towers, West Wrattling Park, and 3 x (maybe more when this goes to press!!) wind turbines |                    |             |
| 10. Kingfisher  | 11. A coal scuttle | 12. 891191  |
| 13. Queen Victoria  | 14. A peacock      | 15. Red     |
| 16. An owl  | 17. An oak         | 18. A dog   |

## 1950s EXHIBITION

Many thanks to all those people who lent items for the exhibition or who shared their memories of the 1950s with me. There was a steady stream of visitors all day and I hope you enjoyed it. The display boards are still intact for the moment so if anyone has an event where they could be displayed please let me know. I am also happy to provide a display about the village for any event (given some notice).

Janet Morris. West Wickham & District Local History Club  
21 High Street Tel: 290863  
Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## JUBILEE ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

The Arts and Crafts Catalogue will shortly be available on line, visit [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

## JUBILEE PHOTOGRAPHS

Marcus Cornish would very much like a photograph of the Jubilee Beacon alight, he was too busy lighting it to take any himself! If you have one please send it to his email address: [wmcorn@hotmail](mailto:wmcorn@hotmail)

## LINTON HEALTH CENTRE The challenge of new technology

Our new computer system has certainly proved to be challenging for both our clinicians and the administrative teams. Getting to grips with a new appointment system, a new document management system and a new clinical record system has challenged us all.

We knew that, initially, we would be somewhat slower with all tasks but our dispensary team in particular has had a very difficult period following the change of system. One of our dispensers had an emergency hospital admission followed by several weeks off work and another member of staff was away on compassionate leave. Neither of these events could be planned for and then a failure of one part of the dispensing software and a 4 day bank holiday weekend, all contrived to put the dispensers under enormous pressure.

We are aware that the delay in dispensing repeat medication caused a great deal of frustration and difficulty for our patients and apologise for this. Some patients certainly expressed their frustrations to our dispensers, others were less vocal in expressing their dissatisfaction but we do realise it has been a very difficult time for all our dispensing patients. It must be said that the frustration of our patients was equalled by that of our dispensers who always aim to provide a safe, efficient and timely service to our patients. They were very much aware that they just could not provide the level of service that they themselves would wish to provide. They have all worked additional hours and worked on Saturdays for the past month to help clear the backlog and we can now see light at the end of the tunnel.

We would like to apologise again to our patients and wish to say a big thank you to all our staff for their hard work and commitment over these very difficult weeks.

Dr Wheeler & Partners

Reminder: to access the on-line service for repeat prescriptions or appointments please go to our website where you will find instructions [www.linton.gpsurgery.net](http://www.linton.gpsurgery.net)

## BUSES - AN UPDATE

In my article published last month I said there were no buses on Saturday. I was wrong; the 16A will continue to operate on Saturdays but if usage drops this is under threat! The times for the Saturday bus are different from the Monday to Friday service. It leaves the village at 7.30 and arrives in Cambridge at 8.12 and returns from Cambridge at 17.40, arriving in West Wickham at 18.20.

I have continued to lobby the County Council for a better service for the village on the new 19 shuttle bus, stating that the minimum should be a scheduled outward and return service in the morning and afternoon as well as the early evening return from Linton. I have suggested they could cut West Wrattling from some of the journeys and route these through West Wickham instead. They have agreed to look at this. Please let me know if you have used this bus and any good or bad experiences of it.

On Thursday 14 June the County Council held another meeting to discuss the current situation and "alternative transport" options. They gave reassurances that the 16A & 19 buses will run until there is a permanent solution and have recognised that the September deadline to find this is not practical. They also suggested that the County Council may have an obligation to get 16+ students to their colleges when the school leaving age raises to 18 and running a bus to do this is no more expensive than running a regular service. Consequently the 16A bus looks safe(ish).

The meeting was very well attended and those there firmly stated their preference for the reintroduction of a regular bus from Haverhill to Cambridge via the villages, instead of the 19 shuttle to Linton & Haverhill. The County Council has agreed to consider this but before they do so want to organise a transport questionnaire to find out current and possible future usage and also to find out what would encourage people to use buses more. This hopefully will be inserted in next month's Village Voice.

Andrew Morris. T: 290863  
Email: [ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM](mailto:ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM)

## USING THE NEW 19 WEEKDAY BUS SERVICE

The new bus timetable is not the most convenient but it is only intended as an interim measure. The 19 is a minibus service which goes to Haverhill via Linton or it connects with the 13/13A at Linton for Cambridge. When catching the bus at 9.14am look out for a white minibus with Cambs County Council on the side and 19 on a paper sign in the back and front windows. There is a few minutes wait at the central bus stop (by the bus shelter) in Linton if you are changing for Cambridge (stay on the bus for Haverhill, it returns at 11.56am). Unfortunately, you only get just over an hour in Cambridge before catching the 11.30am 13A back to Linton. BEWARE – the timetable says Bay 8 in Drummer Street but buses come in at other bays and the drivers don't let you know. There is about a 20 minute wait in Linton for the 19 (on the opposite side from the bus shelter) and you need to tell the driver you want West Wickham. The only alternatives from Cambridge are the 4.15pm 16A or the 5.30pm 13A to Linton changing to the 6.24pm 19 for West Wickham.

**Timetables are available in the PO, Village Hall & from Andrew Morris, 21 High Street. It is displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard & on the wall of 1 High Street.**  
Janet Morris

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 28TH MAY

The Chairman welcomed just 3 parishioners, County Cllr. Batchelor and Dist.Cllr. Barrett, the Parish Council and Parish Clerk.

His report is printed with the other reports received in this issue of Village Voice.

Mr Lawrence Green who should have been at the meeting to talk about Emergency Plans for the village in case of an incident will be coming to the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 23 July at 7.30pm.

*Neighbourhood Watch:* It was considered to be a good idea to investigate the setting up of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which would need the support of the Parish Council and the Police and would require a co-ordinator to get feed-back from the Police and a small team. Cllr. Grieve agreed to write something for the Village Voice (see next month) and Mr Nick Salter said he would put something on the village website. Cllr. Grieve will also contact the Police to find out what is involved in setting this scheme up.

### *Any Other Business:*

Mr Salter raised the question of the impact on West Wickham of the Windfarm, three of the turbines having been erected. Cllr. Plumb had written to RES requesting information about funding for community projects but had heard nothing back. The question as to West Wickham's eligibility to receive funds from the £37,000 annual pot will be looked into.

Mr Paul Donnert spoke about the recent serious 3-car road accident at the Wratting Common cross roads despite all the new posts recently erected. A "Stop" sign rather than a "Give Way" sign could have more effect, but Highways Dept. do not agree. It was agreed that West Wickham and West Wratting should tackle this problem out together. Firstly the accident statistics need to be looked at and various ways of slowing traffic considered.

Parish Council meetings will be held on: Mondays 23 July, 24 September & 26 November.

Jennifer Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council

## REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Regretfully no reports were received from the Pre-School or the Governors of the Meadow School & Linton Village College!

### PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"Six formal meetings have been held by the Parish Council during the year, with one extra brief planning meeting. We have completed our first full year as a team of seven councillors; I hope the Parish appreciate the time and effort that the parish councillors put into representing you in a multitude of areas. Not least of which is taking time out from training to keep up with new directives from Westminster. The Council has taken time and effort to prepare for our Queens Diamond Jubilee, this is a once in a lifetime occasion and I hope the Parish events prove to live up to a wonderful few days. My thanks go to Cllr. Di Licence for taking charge of this. Cllr. Andrew Morris has kept our accounts on track, many thanks to him, particularly for guiding them through the legal requirements – thank you. Our clerk, Jenny Richards, has completed yet another year of managing the council, despite the extra load of the larger Council – thank you. My thanks also go to the District and County Councillors who attend our meetings and take further our questions to them."

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**Guided Bus.** It has been an eventful year at the County Council. The Guided Bus Route opened at last, two years late and £90 million over budget. It has been a great success in terms of numbers travelling, just a pity it benefits such a small part of Cambridgeshire and that we have to await a High Court decision to see if we will get any of our £90 million back.

**Bus Cuts.** The decision to withdraw all bus subsidies was met with consternation. Many petitions against the cuts have been presented, including one from the Balsham area. Balsham will be hard hit with the 16 & 19 going in June leaving just one bus per day. We are being told that no service will be withdrawn without putting something as

good or better in its place. Lets hope that is true. We have not had much evidence of it as yet. At the public meeting we held in West Wratting all that was talked about was Dial-a-Ride and care sharing schemes. They have their place but they are no good for getting to work or getting students to college. For that we need regular, reliable services. That sounds like a bus to me.

**A1307.** The A1307 continues to be a concern. The good news is that injury accidents are down more than 40% over the last three years. We still need to do more. Recently a large lorry ploughed into the garden of house near the Village College at Linton. Fortunately there was no injuries but that was just good luck. There is now a A1307 Advisory Group been set-up by the County, which I chair, this is a forum for parish councils and other interested parties to feed their safety ideas for the A1307 into the County Council. Do take advantage of this and feed in your thoughts, we need to keep the pressure up and to keep the A1307 a priority for action.

**Broadband Upgrade.** High speed broadband on the way? The County are proposing to invest up to £20 million to encourage the spread of high-speed broadband into the rural areas. By 2015 they are planning to provide 90% of homes and businesses with at least 25 mbps. To do this we have to demonstrate to the suppliers that there is a real demand. We need everyone, parish councils, local businesses and individuals to sign-up and show their interest. Do register at [www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk)

This will influence which areas get the improved service first or at all. This is about those that shout loudest getting the attention. Not as it should be but that is the reality. So get shouting.

**Wadlow Wind Farm.** The turbine parts are being delivered and it is expected that the first turbine will be erected around 22 May. Work will then continue to complete the 13 units. It is anticipated that production of electricity should start in September.

One month after the site is fully operational the first monies will be paid to the Community Fund. The fund is being managed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

The Fund Panel met last month to discuss eligibility criteria and measures for advertising the fund within local communities. They should be in a position to distribute grants towards the end of the year.

John Batchelor

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

**Finance:** This has been another difficult year with no Council tax increase and another poor financial settlement from central government. Redundancies have been made from senior management and other posts through leavers and retirement have as far as possible.

**Planning:** So far we have had two meetings looking at future planning for the next few years up to 2031 details are still coming in from central government. It appears that little development will take place in our smaller villages unless a majority of the local community wants it, generally development will take place in our rural centres (larger villages) and Northstowe.

**Housing:** Major changes in council housing, as from April this year South Cambs has taken on Government debt of 204 million pounds to be paid back over 30 years. Up until April Council were paying back to Government 53p in every pound of rental income amounting to 12 million pounds each year. This will now be used to pay back the debt.

Richard Barrett

## REV DR JULIE NORRIS PRIEST IN CHARGE

(Ed. This was a very long report and has had to be edited down to items relevant to West Wickham)

This has been a year in which the collaboration between the Seven Churches has begun to bear fruit in some lively services and activities to enrich the parishes. The Secretary of the Diocese, Graham Shorter, in a recent Report made the following general comment, 'signs of flourishing are not just increasing numbers attending on Sundays and midweek, but also generous giving, outward looking, mission minded, good liturgy, faithful teaching and mature discipleship.'

This has been a year when the signs of our flourishing have been visible in services, study and new projects.

**Ministry Personnel:** Very Rev Keith Johnson has worked diligently over the year, conducting at least two and often three services each Sunday and stepping in to take funerals and a wedding when I have been away. In addition he has contributed to the theological and spiritual life of the Seven Churches. He initiated the study of Canon Andrew White's book, 'Faith Under Fire', and the invitation to Andrew to preach to us in September.

Sharon Clark began the year hampered by illness. Even in the midst of this, she carried on sharing services and exercising her pastoral ministry. It was great to see her run the Sunday Evening Meditation, 'Christmas by Candlelight' in December.

Ven Alan Clarkson, Canon Alan Cole and Canon Pam Reed have also conducted services for us.

Rev John Fellows was appointed as the House-For-Duty Priest to work across the Seven Churches and live at West Wrating. He will be licensed in April 2012.

Thank you to all the clergy and ministers who have conducted worship. I count myself as privileged to work with you.

**Services:** West Wickham. Evensong was reintroduced.

Work with children and schools:

The Meadows School, Balsham I have taken assemblies three out of four Thursdays during school term and have also held Christmas, Easter and Harvest services in Church. There have been other occasions when I have been invited to take groups of children around the church and to talk about the Christian Faith

West Wickham Family services continue to thrive under Jane Scheuer's care.

**Occasional offices:** Between us we have carried out the following offices

8 weddings and 1 thanksgiving services (1 in West Wickham)

21 Baptisms (non in West Wickham)

34 Funerals either in the Parish Church or at the Crematoriums in the 6 Parishes. (2 in West Wickham)

**Prayer:** Quiet Days for the Seven Churches took place on three occasions at Mill Green House. We looked at some writings of Julian of Norwich, the Magnificat and Bishop David lead a session on different methods of praying.

**Talks and study groups:** The Question of Life Lent Course took place to address questions asked by people in conversations outside church. The invited speakers were Rev Professor Michael Reiss who tackled the question, 'Should we use medical technologies to enable people to live for hundreds of years?' Wayne Talbot, Ely Diocesan Environment Officer, spoke about 'Fasting for the future.' Keith Johnson explored interfaith issues asked, 'Can there be genuine tolerance and understanding between faiths?' Professor Robert McCorquodale led an interactive session on Human Rights and Christian Responsibilities and Jonathan Borough, Chaplain at the Arthur Rank Hospice addressed the question, 'Where is God when it hurts'. These proved to be popular topics with 40-50 people attending each talk.

A study group began to explore Andrew White's book. The venue for this book group moved between churches with one memorable meeting at West Wickham with cakes.

**Music:** We are indebted to our organists for their contribution to our worship.

West Wickham: Jackie Romanis plays for the Family Service

The Balsham Benefice Choir: The choir at Balsham meets each Monday under the tutelage of Richard Skinner and has not only taken a part in special and united services, but has also sung for some of the weddings, and at concerts.

Thank you to our organists and choirs.

**Fund Raising Events:** West Wickham held its fair in the grounds of Marcus and Nicki Cornish Manor Farm. This event drew people from a distance to the car boot sale, the traditional village games and stalls and the Barbeque.

In the future, the Diocese wants to resource parishes that make an effort to be self-supporting. The impact of what has been accomplished over the last year will, we hope, make new things possible for the future.

**Building Projects:** In addition to the normal attention to the church fabric several PCC's began specific church building projects.

West Wickham, had its Quinquennial Inspection. Much to the relief of everyone, the urgent tasks are neither numerous nor as expensive as they might have been.

The upkeep of these ancient buildings is a huge undertaking and I am thankful to all who are involved in this.

Thank you also to all who have cleaned, set up for services and been sidesmen over the year and also to the flower arrangers who sensitively give us floral arrangements in season and some spectacular displays for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

**Churchyard:** The Churchyards are largely maintained by volunteers who tidy up, prune trees and often look after neglected graves. There have been some enjoyable and effective community and church clear-up days. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make these peaceful places for the community and all who grieve.

**Rural Dean;** I was asked in September to be Rural Dean. I only agreed when I was convinced I was being called for a reason, and because I have such a great team of people, both amongst the ministry group and in the local parishes here. Thank you for your support.

## VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Usage.** The Hall continues to be regularly used by a number of different groups from within and outside the village and there has been an increase in the number of bookings from the previous year.

Daisy Chains Preschool continues to be the biggest user of the Hall and although their numbers had been low in September, they have now increased to twenty seven. The preschool has relied on fundraising events held at the Hall including the Christmas Fayre, Quiz Night and Jumble Sale. The KenYuKan club have extended their sessions and are the second biggest user, and a Karate club has also started. The Carpet Bowls, History and Gardening Clubs continue solidly and are all represented on the committee.

**Village Hall Committee.** Patrick Charlton has joined the Committee as Parish Council representative and has also taken the lead on health and safety issues. Brian Upton has joined as representative for the carpet bowls club. Simon Keen has kindly taken on the role of Invoicing Secretary. Other positions remain unchanged and the Committee continues to effectively manage the Hall providing a benefit to the local community.

**Maintenance.** Richard Grenville has addressed several maintenance jobs during the past year and Nadine Warner, our caretaker, continues to keep the hall in fantastic condition.

There has been a problem with the Elvaco heating system over the winter which has caused some inconvenience to users. The Committee would like to apologise for this. Unfortunately, Elvaco are no longer trading and it has been difficult to find a company willing to service the system. To date, two of the three heating fans have been replaced and the system is running effectively, but more work is needed to get the system back to full efficiency.

**Finances.** The Hall income is covering costs and the increase in rates last year has helped to offset spiralling energy prices. The Committee investigated the option of solar panels to reduce electricity consumption and to generate an income from the Feed In Tariff (FIT). However,

given the considerable investment required and the continuing uncertainty around FITs, the Committee decided against installation at this point. The Committee wishes to thank Martin Kerslake for his considerable efforts investigating the options and for obtaining quotes.

Some of the equipment in the Hall is showing signs of wear and tear and we are looking to fundraising and donations to help bolster finances. The Village Hall Committee will be running the BBQ and bar at the forthcoming jubilee event and it is hoped this will make a profit for the Hall. There is currently a vacant Fundraising Secretary post on the Committee and we would be delighted if someone steps forward to take this on.

**Website.** The website at <http://westwickham.org> continues to provide a professional web presence for the Hall and the online enquiry and booking feature has attracted several new users, mainly from outside of the village.

The content on the site has been building slowly during the year; Committee meeting minutes and Village Voice back issues are now online along with some basic information on the clubs using the Hall. Clubs and other users are encouraged to make full use of this facility and to contact the Committee to get their content added.

The AGM for the Village Hall is expected to be in September. 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

## WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Club has 19 members from West Wickham and the surrounding area. With the occasional illness numbers at our weekly meetings have been a little down sometimes and we would really like to attract some new members. Carpet bowls is a fun game suited to all ages and abilities – so why not come along and give it a go. It's also a great social evening in itself and there are opportunities to meet people from other villages as we play regular friendly matches, both home and away, against other clubs (from Kirtling to Helions Bumpstead and from Vion at Gt Wrattling to Linton). Recently we have been rather successful in these but it is the enjoyment of meeting the people that really counts rather than results.

As well as our weekly meetings we run 2 club tournaments in the year. The singles tournament was won by Janet Morris and the doubles, for the Founders Cup, was won by Brian Upton & Bert Watts. Several members have also taken part in tournaments, usually in aid of charity, organised by neighbouring clubs.

We have made a major capital investment this year in 2 sets of yellow bowls as replacements for the brown sets. This has solved the problem players were having distinguishing between brown and black bowls in the Hall lighting and has attracted much favourable comment from visiting clubs.

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](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB.

The membership of the Club remains healthily in the mid forties, drawn from West Wickham and the surrounding villages; in February the Club had 43 paid up members. All the Club's regular meetings and most of its special events take place in the West Wickham Village Hall.

The core of the Club's activities is its monthly meetings, at which garden topics are introduced and discussed. Topics during the past year include bees in the garden, fruit trees, garden mazes, irises, ferns, and fences, and also a well received talk by the Club's treasurer, Andrew Morris, on the floral art in the Fitzwilliam Museum. These meetings are consistently well attended by members.

Arguably the high points of the Club's year are the two special events which it organises in the Village Hall. The first of these is the Annual Show in August, which in 2011 saw an increase in the number of entries and the maintenance of a high standard. The second has just occurred, and is the Annual Plant Sale, which has developed a considerable reputation for offering a good range of modestly priced plants (supplied by Club members), and which subsidises the Club's other activities; the takings at this year's sale set a new record.

The Club also organises a number of outdoor events when the days are longer and the weather more clement. Thus last June, Club members in Streetly End, Shirley Shadford and Jean and Kit Martin, opened their gardens to members, and in July four Club members in Castle Camps did likewise. In addition the Club organises an Annual Trip or outing, which during the past year was to Myddelton House and Capel Manor College in Enfield – two most interesting gardens, though members' support for the trip this year was disappointing.

Two other Club activities, at opposite ends of the scale of practicality, are the administration of a scheme whereby members can buy seed at a large discount, and the conducting of a Christmas raffle through which two members win subsidised tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show. Both have been well supported.

The affairs of the Club are administered by a committee, which deputes the running of the Annual Show to a sub-committee, and which is itself answerable to the A.G.M. of members. At the September 2011 A.G.M., the Treasurer, Andrew Morris, produced a financial statement which showed that, despite the increasing cost of speakers and of hiring the Village Hall, the Club had a small surplus balance. Hilary Thomas was re-elected to the chair of the Club. The Club has an entry on Camnet, and its programme is included on the Village Hall website.

Arthur Mawby (Hon. Secretary)

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The Club remains small in numbers (about 13) but has had a full programme of talks during the year on a range of subjects including the history of Abington through maps, the archaeology of the roads & dykes of SE Cambridgeshire (to which members of the Friends of the Roman Road & Fleam Dyke were invited), customs and folklore, dating family photographs and the history of the long-demolished

Horsheath Hall. We have had an evening walk around the site of the Hall and have one planned in Linton for June. 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. It is a puzzle, when there is seemingly so much interest in history, to know why more people don't come along. 'We keep meaning to' they say but don't make the effort! 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. Recently, this has concentrated on the 1950s for the Jubilee exhibition '60 years ago – the way we were'. This year there have not been quite so many enquiries from people investigating their own family links to the village but they are beginning to increase again. The project to identify the men who died in the First World War and are listed on the war memorial in the churchyard is still ongoing

We have made a tentative application to take part in Cambridge Community Heritage Project, a new initiative to bring together Cambridge University researchers and communities in investigating their local heritage. This attracts grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is linked in to the new BBC series by Michael Wood 'The Great British Story'. The idea is to look for the archaeological evidence for medieval settlement by making as many test pits as possible around the village. Everyone will be able to get involved in this so it should be really exciting.

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 represent the Cambridge Antiquarian Society on the County Advisory Group on Archives & Local Studies. The Club also supports the Friends of the Roman Road & Fleam Dyke for whose newsletter I occasionally contribute articles and I have given a number of talks this year to various organisations on Horseheath Hall (for many centuries until the 1790s, West Wickham was part of the Horseheath estate).

Janet Morris, Secretary. 21 High Street. T: 290863  
Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## GOODBYE & THANK YOU

After 10 years in West Wickham, we are sad to be leaving our beautiful house and village to move to the other side of Saffron Walden. We have made many friends here but, in particular, we would like to mention Denny, Bryn and all the family for welcoming us to their farm and helping us out at times of need (including Bryn climbing in through an upstairs window when I locked myself out with Saffron just waking up from a nap!); Bill and Linda for being such super neighbours; Sue, Nadine, Clare and team for a superb pre-school which George always loved, Kathy and Sue for doing such an excellent and sometimes thankless job with the oil syndicate; Peter for the very many papers; Clare for the Post Office and Emma for all the cat and baby sitting. We will very much miss the place but are also looking forward to moving to our new house.

With best wishes from us all,  
Ian, Phillippa, George and Saffron Lawson

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012 the following items were discussed:

Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Appt. of two Councillors to represent the Parish Council on the VHMC: Marcus Cornish was re-elected as Chairman, Andrew Morris was re-elected as Vice Chairman, Cllrs. Cornish and Charlton were prepared to remain as the representatives on the VHMC.

*Land Registration:* The Playing Field, Playground & Allotments have now been registered with the Land Registry.

*Old Filtration Plant:* South Cambs. District Council has agreed to transfer this piece of land at no cost to the Parish Council and it was agreed that this should be accepted.

*Allotment:* A quarter allotment is still available, if interested please contact either the Parish Clerk or Cllr. Morris.

*Playing Field:* This is now registered as a Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field.

*Streetly End Speed Limit:* It is hoped the 30mph signs on the tarmac will soon be in place.

*Finances:*

a) *End of year accounts:* The figures were agreed and accepted by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

b) *Statement of Accounts (for the external audit):* This was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk.

c) *Statement of Governance:* This was read and signed.

d) *Financial Reserves:* Allocated reserves £8065.58; Jubilee Celebrations £500; Flag pole £400; Streetly End Speed Limit charge £3500; Playground £2623.78. Unallocated reserves £1770.86.

*Planning:*

S/0220/12/FL – 10 Burton End. Refused by SCDC.

S/0752/12/FL – Yen Hall. Recommended for approval by WWPC.

*Village Questionnaire:* 159 letters had been delivered and so far 119 had been completed and returned with 35 still outstanding.

*Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:* These were all in place and the Chairman thanked Cllr. Licence and her team for all the work involved in putting the events together.

*Bus Service Review:* On 10 June the No.16 bus will be cut and West Wickham will receive a single scheduled outward and return journey from the No.19 shuttle service to Linton. Cllr. Morris continues his campaign to get County Council to provide the same number of buses each day as West Wrattling, Weston Colville and Balsham receive. County Cllr. Batchelor is also concerned about the situation.

*Reports by District Cllr. Barrett and County Cllr. Batchelor:* Both reported budgeting difficulties and redundancies. The main issue with County Council was the bus service review.

*Any Other business:*

It appears the Telephone Box has now been reconnected by the Electricity Board, who also removed the pair of trainers which have been hanging from the electric wire on the Playing Field

**The next meeting will be on Monday 23 July at 7.30pm, all are welcome. The draft minutes for 28 May meeting are on the Parish Council notice board.**

Jennifer Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> BALSHAM SCOUTS & CUBS

My report had to be omitted from the Village Voice last month due to lack of space. Therefore this thank you is a little late but still heart felt. Thank you to every one who supported the Cubs and Scouts annual fundraiser and donated coins for the mile of pennies and were brave enough to let the Scouts loose on their cars for washing. I don't have a figure as yet for how much was raised (I think the treasurer is still probably wading his way through the mountain of coins). The money will go towards the up keep of the Scout hut and towards the cost of replacing it in the near future.

This half term the Scouts have been busy building Go Karts. They have had to work in teams for the construction and I think they are nearly finished, so you may see them racing the finished vehicle very soon! This weekend (16<sup>th</sup> June) 8 of the Scouts were planning on spending the day at Cardington taking part in a regional white water kayaking session. Unfortunately due to high water levels the Environment agency forced the organisers to cancel for safety reasons. Later this month though the Scouts will be undertaking their cyclist badge which will keep them busy.

The Cubs (along with the Scouts) took part in the St George's day parade in Abington back in April. The church service was followed by activities at the camp site and a bar-b-que and everyone was relieved that the rain held off. This half term if the weather is kind will find them outdoors completing various challenges. The Cubs are still looking for a helper. If you are interested please contact Debbie Mower who will be happy for you to visit the group prior to making a commitment or if you just want information about what it will involve. The Cub group will have to seriously consider its future if another leader is not forthcoming.

Contacts: Debbie Mower C .894498 for Cubs and Paul Carter C.890129 for Scouts.

Juliet Bevan, on behalf of the Committee

## OIL SYNDICATE UPDATE

The oil syndicate delivered to 17 households this time round, with the successful company being CPS Fuels at 52.25p per litre. The highest quote was 55p. I will be placing another order in August if there are enough of us interested.

Sue Thurston. Email: oil@suethurston.co.uk

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

### FANCY A DAY OUT?

Why not join us on our annual outing?

Saturday 15 September

### BRESSINGHAM GARDENS

Guided tour and then plenty of time to enjoy the gardens

Leave from Village Hall at 10pm, leave Bressingham at 4pm

Members £20 Non-members £25

For further details and to book please contact:

Janet Morris, 21 High Street

Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

## NATURE NOTES

I've been reading a book about an attempt to see all 59 species of Britain's butterfly population in one summer. The author did it in 2009 but this year, I don't think he would have succeeded. Butterflies in general don't like it cold, wet and windy. The creatures that do appreciate the wet weather are the slugs and snails, armies of whom have been waging war on our juiciest garden plants and salad crops. Gardeners may not like this, but song thrushes, badgers and (if there are any) hedgehogs do appreciate a plentiful supply of slugs and snails as part of their diet. Song thrushes have been in good voice all through the spring and early summer.

Flags and bunting have adorned the village since the Jubilee weekend, and nature has been doing her bit too. The yellow flag irises have been looking bright and cheerful on the margins of various ponds, while the bunting family have been very much in evidence. Vic and Beryl tell me that they have been regularly visited by reed buntings feeding from their bird table, while only this morning I was down on the Roman Road watching corn buntings producing their "jingling keys" song from the telegraph wires above the hedgeline. The other most familiar member of the bunting family, the yellowhammer, has been even more plentiful than usual this year.

In case anyone is feeling gloomy about the summer of 2012, Di has some thoughts which should cheer you up:

"Despite the weather telling us otherwise, summer is here. It is all around us, in the hedgerows the May blossom has been and gone and is replaced with the delicately fragranced dog rose, the heady elder flowers, and the beautiful guelder-rose. The grasses are in full flower on the verges, and the birds are very vocal in the trees. Every morning the blackbird sings his joyous song in our garden, and in the evening a song thrush trills beautifully from the ash tree. All the summer warblers are singing in the hedgerows, and the garden trees are full of squeaking unidentifiable youngsters. We haven't seen many butterflies, probably due to the lack of sunshine, and even fewer bats in the evenings, but the bees seem as active as ever. Jan and I witnessed a hare recently staring at two partridge in the field, not three feet away from him, he was raising and lowering his ears, (not sure what that was all about!) In the field behind the church last week a red kite was being mobbed by 3 crows and I spotted a little owl sitting on top of a pole early one morning. Of course the summer visitors - swifts, swallows and martins are busy singing and nesting too. Yes, summer is definitely here!"

Well, she is right so I should stop dwelling on the problems of butterflies, the lack of cuckoos and turtle doves and the difficulties the smaller plants will have competing for light amongst all the lush growth brought on by the rain. Actually a walk round West Town Park in Haverhill (opposite Sainsbury's) is good for the soul - the wildflowers are spectacular at the moment, especially the ox-eye daisies but also various vetches and orchids (pyramidal and bee). Of course you don't have to go to Haverhill to see bee orchids. Some lucky people have them growing in their lawns, including Ann Denley, and they can be seen by roadside and along footpaths in the village.

Final happy note: I saw a nuthatch in Rands Wood last week.

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

## FROM THE VICARAGE

I had a phone call the other day to take the funeral of a woman who lived rough near to the village of Abington. She died in her sleeping bag under a tarpaulin, make-shift tent. I had never seen her and had no idea she was living like this. She had become invisible. No one knows her name.

In the same week, I was told of a conversation that took place when someone from Hildersham went into town and passed the time of day with a man selling The Big Issue. At the end of the conversation the man said, 'Thank you, you stopped me from feeling invisible.'

Perhaps it is easier than we sometimes realise to become invisible.

There are some initiatives taking place to try to make sure that people in our own villages do not become invisible. One of these is the conversation taking place about the Parish Nurse and Older Person's co-ordinator. In the churches we are wanting to find ways of working with other people in each community to make sure that those who become vulnerable through illness or a crisis, do not become isolated or invisible. We are following up the talk last month with another meeting of anyone interested at 7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> August at West Wrating Village Hall.

There are also small things that we can do within the communities to mitigate against isolation. We can look out for people, take time for conversations over the wall. And those who drive can offer transport to the hospital or surgery for those who can't.

There are confirmation classes taking place and there are places for more candidates.

Rev Julie Norris

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE LINTON ACTIVE KIDS

Linton Out Of School Club and Linton Community Sports Centre have joined forces and are proud to present 'Linton Active Kids'! This is not just another play scheme but has been developed to offer parents an affordable means of child care during the holiday periods. Activities will include multi sports, football, tennis, drama, dance, cookery and team building activities.

For further information or to download registration and booking forms please visit [www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk](http://www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk) or [www.losc.co.uk](http://www.losc.co.uk). Alternatively you can give the Linton Out Of School Club manager, Denise Bennett, a call to register your interest or to ask any questions you may have. Denise can be reached on 07814 724 468 or you can email her on [loscmail@googlemail.com](mailto:loscmail@googlemail.com). We hope to see your child there.

Steven Austin.

Community Business Manager. Linton Village College

### PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 July

Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris  
Correspondence & News to:  
21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB1 6RY  
or contact Sue on:  
T: 01223 290503. e-mail: [mail@suethurston.co.uk](mailto:mail@suethurston.co.uk)  
contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.  
e-mail: [editor\\_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk)