

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2012

ISSUE 112

## VILLAGE DIARY

Wed	1	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat	4	Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00 Linton Village College
Sun	5	Holy Communion. 9.15, St. Mary's Church
Tue	7	Black wheeled bin collection
Wed	8	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat	11	<b>Playground Redevelopment meeting. 10.00 - 12.00, Village Hall</b>
Sun	12	Holy Communion. 9.15, St. Mary's Church
Tue	14	Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed	15	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat	18	<b>GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW. See page 1 for details</b>
Sun	19	Holy Communion. 9.15, St. Mary's Church
Tue	21	Black wheeled bin collection
Wed	22	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun	26	Family Service. 9.30, St. Mary's Church
Wed	29	<b>Blue &amp; green wheeled bin (day late) Collection</b>

### Date for your Diary

**Saturday 15 September. Gardening Club trip to  
Bressingham Gardens. Details on page 3.**

## 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)

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

West Wickham & District Gardening Club will be holding its Annual Show in August. We hope you can be challenged into entering some exhibits or by coming and seeing how well your friends and neighbours have done. Inserted into this month's Village Voice is the show schedule, for additional copies of this or the entry form please contact me. There are a wide variety of classes we hope will interest you – vegetables & fruit, cut flowers & pot plants, flower arrangements, classes just for children, cooking & jam making and photography. There are prize money and cups to be won. Anyone can enter from West Wickham & Streetly End. Residents from adjoining villages without a show of their own can also enter so why not encourage a friend to take part too?

### SATURDAY 18TH AUGUST WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL OPENING AT 2.00pm

Exhibits can be brought to the hall between 9.30 and 11.30. The prize giving will be at 3.00pm, followed by an auction of produce.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham, T: 290863  
Email: [ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM](mailto:ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM)

## BUS SURVEY

Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT) have devised a short questionnaire in partnership with your local parish council, which is inserted in this issue of your village magazine. The survey will help us to more fully understand the accessibility needs of your community.

Originally Cambridgeshire County Council had proposed to withdraw bus subsidies from a number of services in your area in the autumn and are committed to investing money in alternative solutions to ensure that you could still access health services, work, education, shopping and for social trips. Stagecoach made the decision to change some services in June. The County Council has put in place an interim service run by the Voluntary Network, which runs along similar lines to the Service 19.

We will use the results from this survey to work with your County & District Councillors, your community and Parish Council to develop options for a long term solution. The County will continue to run the interim service until a long term solution is in place.

We welcome your views and by completing the questionnaire you have the opportunity to help shape your local bus service in the future. Alternatively, you can complete the questionnaire online at:

<http://www.snapsurveys.com/sw/h/surveylogin.asp?k=134156693187>

CFT also have a dedicated Facebook page where we post information about upcoming community engagement events and encourage people to ask questions and leave their comments.

## WEST WICKHAM PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT

Please come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 11 August between 10.00 & 12.00 to view, comment on and select the favourite design for the proposed redevelopment of the playground. Please bring your children along as they are key to the success of the project.

Justin Plumb

**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.**

## FROM THE VICARAGE

On 27 June we had three speakers who came to talk to people from the seven churches. Melanie Murdoch works for Age UK and organises the Warden Scheme where older people can be visited in their homes and practical help given to sort out medication amongst other things. This costs £5 per person per week. Jean Newman is an Older Persons' Co-ordinator. She talked about her work to set up programmes of activities and support for older people. We heard from Sue Evans who is a Parish Nurse, working with vulnerable people of all ages including the vulnerable elderly, young families and people with mental health problems.

We may think that we live in tight-knit communities where there is something going on to meet everybody's needs. However, when things go wrong it is not always the case that everyone rallies to someone's aid. Finding carers for people coming home from hospital is proving increasingly challenging. Sometimes, this means that people stay in hospital longer. Sometimes, it means that people come home and struggle.

There are two initiatives underway to build stronger links in our villages between people and provide support.

Firstly, we will be holding a meeting on 13 August at 7.30pm in West Wrattling Village Hall to explore further the possibility of the churches employing a Parish Nurse or Co-ordinator for all seven villages. Everyone who is interested is encouraged to come.

A Parish Nurse, for example, would complement the existing Warden Scheme by having a wider remit of supporting vulnerable parents and children, those who are physically sick or disabled or with mental health problems as well as the vulnerable elderly. Where there have been both Parish Nurse/Co-ordinators and Wardens, the Parish Nurse/Co-ordinator has been a point of referral for the Warden Scheme. The evidence reported is that this is mutually beneficial.

Secondly, subsequent to the meeting in June, Melanie has begun to plan to organise an event which includes school children and older people, to highlight Celebrating Age at 1pm on 16 October at West Wrattling.

Rev Julie Norris

### Dates for your diaries

Evensong on Sunday September 9th at 6.0pm will be a Songs of Praise with the congregation choosing the hymns. Please come and join us.

Following on from Canon Alan Hargrave's Lent Talk on Prayer he will lead an Atmospheric Private Pilgrimage around Ely Cathedral on Saturday 15 September starting at 7.00 pm - anyone will be welcome to join us.

Further info from Joanna Saunders. T:893063  
Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net).

## RAF WRATTING COMMON WEBSITE

A website detailing the history of RAF Wrattling Common is now online: see [www.wcnhistory.org.uk](http://www.wcnhistory.org.uk)

If anyone has any photographs or other information about the airfield that could be added, please contact me.

Colin Manning. T:290216

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

### BIG VILLAGE DIG

We have a wonderful opportunity to find out about the origins of our village, when it started being settled and how it developed. Do Streetly End, the church end and Burton End date from the same time for instance? Very little is known about this. Documentary evidence is scarce and doesn't tell us where people were living, where their houses were. By the time you read this we will have put in an application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund - All Our Stories. This takes its inspiration from Michael Wood's recent BBC TV series *The Great British Story - A People's History*. The BBC, the Heritage Lottery Fund and universities across the UK have teamed up to help people like us find out more about our history. In our case, the university is Cambridge and through Cambridge Community Heritage we are able to call upon the expertise of archaeological staff to support us in carrying out between 20 and 30 1metre square archaeological test pits throughout the village.

### FOR THIS WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP.

### EVERYONE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER AND TAKE PART.

There are numerous ways you will be able to do this:

Volunteer to do this in your own garden with your family (great fun for children)/friends/neighbours.

Offer your garden and we will find someone to do the work.

Lend equipment like shovels, sieves, plastic sheeting.

Take photographs for us or report on Facebook or Twitter.

And there are probably other ways we haven't thought of yet!

Throughout the project, which won't take place until next year, we will be instructed and supported by archaeologists and experts in identifying finds. Our assigned University researcher is Britt Baillie-Warren, who by happy coincidence has just moved into the village so has an added personal interest!

We will not know if our application is successful until the end of October but I'd love to hear from anyone who might be interested now. Do get in touch.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street

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

### TABLE TENNIS - WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY REGULARLY?

On the Saturday of the Diamond Jubilee weekend we had the table tennis tables out and they were in almost constant use - everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. We had the idea that most of the people playing that day would like to play a bit more regularly. One suggestion is for a regular session to be held on (say) a Saturday afternoon, subject to Village Hall availability. This would be mainly for younger people but adults would need to be there too. The more the merrier. If you would be interested in doing something like this, please get in touch and we'll try and set something up after the summer holidays. In the meantime I'll do some research on the scoring system which has changed since I last played I think.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503. Email: [mail@petergrieve.co.uk](mailto:mail@petergrieve.co.uk)  
and Paul Coulson. T: 290272.

## HAROLD THE PLATYPUS

You may or may not know that there is an author of children's books in the village. With a summer of sport ahead of us we thought you might like to know that the latest book to come out of West Wickham is Harold wins Gold.

This is the fifth book in the series of adventures of Harold the platypus. It's probably safe to say that Harold is the most famous platypus in West Wickham. The books tell of Harold, a slightly naughty or mischievous platypus, and his best friend Charlie, a teddy bear. The previous adventures have seen the two friends: meet lots of animals on safari, help Santa save Christmas, be rescued by a mermaid and even launched into space.

In the new book World Sports Day has finally arrived and Harold has been chosen to light the opening flame. But when a dragon appears next to Harold it's just the start of a very strange day and another exciting adventure for Harold and Charlie.

The books have been beautifully illustrated by children and are suitable for ages up to eight.

The books are available from us at 9a High Street but you can also check us out on [www.haroldtheplatypus.co.uk](http://www.haroldtheplatypus.co.uk), where you will find Harold and Charlie's blog and the gallery page: where we encourage readers to do their own drawings of the characters (you can email them or pop them through the letter box)

Please come and say hello when you see us at a local event or school!

Steve & Mandy Humphrys.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

The Maypole Dancing was a great success. The Brownies did me proud, they didn't put a foot wrong and they even were asked for an encore. You can see the video of them dancing on the village website – [www.horseheath.info](http://www.horseheath.info) – look at the All Saints Church pages, recent events.

The District Campfire back at the end of May was great fun, we learned new songs and I was even presented with a badge for spending 100 nights away with guiding. It has taken me 6 years (the scheme started on 1 January 2006) to do and I have enjoyed everyone one of them, honestly!

The District Brownie Revels on Saturday 7 July was a fun day out. We had 50 girls attend from the local area which wasn't bad, especially as we were competing with the Olympic Flame that was visiting Haverhill, Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket. It even went past the village on it's way to Haverhill.

Despite the rain the Brownies invented new sports, whanged their wellies, learned about healthy eating, made chariots and learned some amazing facts from Olympic history. Did you know that the last gold medal, made of sold gold, was awarded in 1912. I didn't but I do now.

By the time you read this we will have finished for this school year and said a sad farewell to Portia, Hannah, Autumn and Maisie who are hopefully moving up to Guides and Alannah who is moving away, we wish them well. Don't worry we will be back again on 12 September with some new faces and more fun.

Pauline AKA Barney. Email: [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the Annual Parish Meeting, the question of neighbourhood watch was raised as a way of combating local crime.

Now, a new neighbourhood watch email list for West Wickham, <[neighbourhoodwatch@westwickham.org](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westwickham.org)>, has been established. This mailing list is open to all residents of West Wickham and its surrounding area and allows its subscribers to distribute, share and discuss relevant news, alerts and general information relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and security by simply sending an email to <[neighbourhoodwatch@westwickham.org](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westwickham.org)>. The list is subscriber only - you must be a list subscriber to receive and send email to the list and access its archives which are available at [http://westwickham.org/mailman/private/neighbourhoodwatch\\_westwickham.org/](http://westwickham.org/mailman/private/neighbourhoodwatch_westwickham.org/)

To subscribe to the mailing list simply send an email to <[neighbourhoodwatch-request@westwickham.org](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch-request@westwickham.org)> with "subscribe" as the Subject and body of the message, or fill in the form at [http://www.westwickham.org/mailman/listinfo/neighbourhoodwatch\\_westwickham.org/](http://www.westwickham.org/mailman/listinfo/neighbourhoodwatch_westwickham.org/). When you have sent your request, you will receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription - simply follow the instruction in the email to complete your subscription.

The list also receives regular updates about crime and anti-social behaviour from e-cops (<http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops/>), our local neighbourhood policing team, as well as feedback from the team about what they're doing to tackle it.

Alex Schuilenburg

## OIL SYNDICATE

I will be placing an group order for oil on 13th August if enough of us are interested. Looking at the Boilerjuice website, prices continued to fall but have then risen since the last order in June when the lowest quote was 52.25p per litre. The deadline for letting me know if you want to be included is 11 August please.

Sue Thurston. Email: [oil@suethurston.co.uk](mailto:oil@suethurston.co.uk)290503

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

## NATURE NOTES

I saw a squashed hedgehog in the road outside the Post Office in Horseheath. Not nice, I know, but it is a relatively rare sight now, because they have declined so rapidly for other reasons. I would love to hear from anyone who sees a live one – such a shame that a hedgehog should perish in this location where cars should be travelling slowly. I'm not sure if hedgehogs like it wet, but their diet includes slugs, which are plentiful in this weather so let's hope it has given them a slight boost.

Despite the incessant rain, Di is focussing on the positive:

“Most mornings for the past few weeks, a buzzard has been sitting on one of the dead trees up Balsham hill, maybe keeping an eye on the replica owl perched on the hay bales? Pete is right, there are very few butterflies in the garden, we have seen a couple of speckled woods and meadow browns braving the weather, but on the warm dry days that we have had, the smell of the roses and honeysuckle have attracted many types of bees and hoverflies, but no big moths as yet.

The wet brings out the slugs and snails, we have had a beautiful brown slug with a black head on the patio, and many snails with brightly coloured shells, and of course the predators also come out...we have 'rescued' two toads on tarmac outside the house, and there are lots of frogs around the pond.

Walking up the Roman Rd one dry but windy evening we were amazed how many flowers were out and how forward they are...the knapweeds and field scabious nearly a month early. There were ringlet and skipper butterflies and small iridescent green beetles on the purple flowers, and lots of swallows catching insects over the fields, but the most dramatic thing was the effect the wind had on the barley...it was like standing on the seashore, with waves coming towards you. The tips are already turning yellow, and the wind produced waves of ripples across the entire field, like a 'Mexican wave'. The best display of wild flowers that I have seen recently is along the back road from Linton to Hildersham, a mass of red poppies, purple scabious and knapweeds and yellow and white bedstraws.”

Having just driven along that very road, I had the same reaction to the wildflowers – they are a picture, even through a rain-spattered windscreen.

Finally, back to the butterflies and moths. Just in the last few days when we have had an occasional glimpse of the sun there have been plenty of ringlets and some meadow browns about and a small colony of (I think) large skippers feeding from the tufted vetch up Blacklands Lane. There was also a seven-spot burnet moth there alongside the skippers. Our garden has been visited by just one large white, showing interest in the cabbages, which I have made a feeble attempt to protect, and a lovely cinnabar, whose caterpillars should soon be evident on the ragwort.

Oh, and one last thing. Sue saw a barn owl on the way to Withersfield the other day. Maybe they have returned after being displaced by the short-eared owls in January. It's a theory anyway.

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

## LINTON ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

By the time this article goes to press we will have finalised our Community Adult Education brochure for 2012/13, they will now be whizzing off to the printers in time to be delivered to you in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August.

We have been working hard to ensure that we continue to grow our Adult Community Learning programme with the addition of several new courses planned for September.

These will include the following:

- English and Maths GCSE accredited
- Drama Workshop
- Homeopathy
- Beginners German
- Mosaics
- Drawing Workshop
- Indian/Pakistani Cooking

There will be an enrolment day on Saturday 1 September at LVC and general enrolments will commence from Monday 3 September with courses taking place from week beginning the 24 September.

Later on this month we will also be launching our new ACL website, the site will allow you to not only check what is available but will also allow you to enrol and make payment. The website address will be published with our ACL brochure.

Steven Austin. Community Business Manager, Linton Village College

## LANGUAGE MENTORS WANTED

Students at Linton Village College (LVC) are learning a range of modern foreign languages thanks to an innovative Language Futures programme.

Instead of the traditional approach where everyone learns the same language, Language Futures offers students the opportunity to learn whichever language is most relevant to them. Using modern technology such as I-Pads, students learn skills which they apply to a specific language of their choice with the support of community mentors who are fluent in the chosen language.

The college is currently recruiting voluntary community mentors to support students in French, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin and Russian.

Mentors are asked to keep in touch with students by email, attend some lessons, help with assessments and run lunchtime clubs depending on their availability.

Anyone who is interested should email Tina Rice at Tina.Rice@lvc.org.

### PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 August

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