

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

OCTOBER 2012

ISSUE 114

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 6 **10th anniversary Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00. Linton Village College. See page 3**
Music from around the world. Autumn concert, 7.30pm at Balsham Church. See page 3
Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 8 **Local History Club. The King visits the village - the 1912 army manoeuvres. Talk by Janet Morris. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 9 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Sat 13 **Craft Fair, 10.30—4.00, Meadow School, Balsham**
Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Craft Fair, 10.30—4.00, Meadow School, Balsham
Mon 15 **Gardening Club. Self-sufficiency in the garden. Talk by Nigel Start. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 16 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 17 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 23 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 28 **Harvest Festival plus installation of the West Wickham Salvation Army Corps flag. 9.30, St Mary's Church**
Tue 30 Black wheeled bin collection

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

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

We start our autumn programme of talks on Monday 8 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with **The King visits the village – the 1912 army manoeuvres**. Come along and find out about when the Red Army fought the Blue Army, the Roman Road became the front line and, of course, the visit of George V. Everyone welcome – there is a small charge of £1.50 for non-members.

Further details from the Secretary, Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Regretfully this years show was disappointing, with the number of exhibits down in all categories except cut flowers. Most disappointing of all, there were no entries in the children's classes. However, the quality of the exhibits was excellent and we had some first time exhibitors.

The cup & trophy winners were:

The West Wratting Cup for Vegetables & Fruit: Rosemary Yallop
The White Horse Trophy for Flowers: Rosemary Yallop
The West Wickham Rose Bowl for Flower Arranging: Sue Thurston
The Stan & Hilda Cox Cup for Domestic classes: Janet Morris
The Ralph Westwood-Bate Photography Cup: Simon Blackwell
The Bill Pearson Cup for the most points won in show was won by Rosemary Yallop with Simon Blackwell & Janet Morris runners up.
The RHS Banksian Medal was won by Rosemary Yallop.

We are not downcast by this years show. The weather has made it very difficult for gardeners. Next year the Club will be celebrating its 30th Show and would welcome ideas to make this a very special show.

Andrew Morris, Show Organiser

MARKING THE HOMING OF THE SALVATION ARMY FLAG

Please join us on Sunday October 28th at 9.30 am in St Mary's Church to celebrate the installation of the West Wickham Corps Salvation Flag. This service will be a family service & Harvest Festival, conducted by Reverend Dr Julie Norris

Nicky Cornish

OIL SYNDICATE

I will be placing an order for oil if enough of you are interested on 10th October. Prices have risen in the past few months but you will still be guaranteed a cheaper price per litre if you order via the syndicate than placing an individual order yourself. If you would like any oil or would like more information about the syndicate, please contact me.

Sue Thurston. T: 290503. Email: oil@suethurston.co.uk

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

In April the Bishop of Ely presented all the churches in the Diocese with a consultative document in which he invited us all to 'Imagine the Future'. It came from his observations after visiting churches during his first year in post. He has asked us all to seek ways to be

Self-supporting
Contributing
Investing

This has given us much to think about. How can the churches here in these six parishes make sure that we are sustainable into the future? For each church there are questions about how we can make our ancient historic buildings open, accessible and functional not just for our own needs but for the communities we serve. In some cases this begins with repairing what is already there, sorting out drainpipes, putting in suitable heating, getting rid of damp and making sure that the organ can be played. For others, this is raising questions about whether running water, toilets, and a simple servery can be put into the building to enable us to offer hospitality and activities that will serve our communities better and ensure the future of the church.

We must not forget that living amongst us are people in real need. Two recent incidents have reminded us not to be complacent. The burial took place of Sally, a woman who lived, unknown to most of us, in a tent on the edge of the village at Abington. We also had a talk from Ann Merrigan, the manager of the Foodbank at Haverhill, who told us that she took food boxes to people in these villages. Over past months we have already been thinking about how the churches might better care for local vulnerable people. In each village there are local people willing to visit, and we are now also trying to plan for and employ a Parish Nurse. We continue to support the work of Janet our Age UK Village Warden. There will be an event for Cambridge Celebrating Age taking place on **16th October** by Age UK in the village Hall at West Wratting starting at 1pm.

It is not just the adults that have something to contribute! I recently went to one of the Children's Church Councils at Hildersham. I will talk more about this on another occasion. I just wanted to say now how impressive it was to hear the ideas and energy for making things happen that the children mustered. The children in West Wickham also have good ideas.

The churches are also being invited to think about how we can be good stewards of our financial resources. In the current climate we are all finding it hard to pay for what we have.

On 6th October all Six Parochial Church Councils are meeting together at Weston Colville to share ideas, good practice and ways of working together to support each other. If you have ideas that you want us to consider please let me know.

Please come along and support your own **Harvest Festival at St Mary's at 9.30am on 28th October**. Dried produce will be going to the Haverhill Foodbank. We will also be marking the presence of the Salvation Army Flag now hanging in Church.

Please also come along to Keith Johnson's **Study Day on the Lord's Prayer**, taking place at **Balsham Church Institute on 27th October 10-3pm**. He has spent the last six months studying this and come up with some very interesting ideas. Lifts will be available.

Rev Julie Norris

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

One half allotment is available (approx 60ft x 36ft) including a shed. This area could be divided into 2 quarter allotments (approx 30ft x 36ft).

The annual rent for the half allotment is £5.00 and for the quarter allotment £2.50 for 12 months. Water is available on site, subject to a separate fee to the Village Hall.

If anyone would like to rent one please contact either:

Jenny Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council,
52 Fox Road, Balsham, CB21 4EZ

T: 01223 894076. Email: jrichards007@talktalk.net
or

Parish Councillor Andrew Morris,
21 High Street, West Wickham CB21 4RY.

T: 290863. Email: ANDREW.L.MORRIS@TALK21.COM

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Saturday 15 September West Wickham and District Gardening Club enjoyed a beautiful sunny late-summer's day at Bressingham Gardens in Diss. The owner Adrian Bloom took us round explaining the changes made since his father set out the garden 30 years ago. Now they are filled with the colour of Crocosmias, Heleniums, Eupatoriums Asters and Autumn grasses - quite spectacular. Our next talk on October 15th will be Nigel Start, entitled "Self Sufficiency in the Garden".

The AGM was held on Monday 17 September. It has been a reasonably good year with membership slightly up and success at our Plant Sale in May has helped to keep a healthy bank balance. The Annual Show in August was affected by a post Olympic get-away and we hope to encourage more entries next year at what is a real "village event". The Officers elected are Arthur Mawby, Chairman; Andrew Morris, Treasurer; Ann Broscob, Secretary; Rosemary Yallop, Speaker's Secretary.

If you would like to join us in West Wickham Village Hall at 7-30 on the 3rd Monday of every month to listen to our varied and informative talks you will receive a warm welcome - or if you would like more information, ring Rosemary Yallop on 01799584262.

BALSHAM SINGERS – A NEW ARRIVAL!

The Balsham Singers are pleased to announce that they have a new Musical Director – John Clenaghan.

John comes from Sutton Coldfield and studied piano and conducting in Colchester and London. He has conducted choirs in various parts of the UK, performing works by Mozart, Britten, Faure, Handel and Rutter. He has also accompanied right across the country, including for various musical theatre shows. He spent 20 years teaching music but is now a freelance accompanist, pianist, and teacher of piano, singing and theory. He is currently Director of Music at St James Church, Cambridge, and conducts various choirs in Cambridge. John loves conducting all types of music and his aim is to make singing in a group a very enjoyable experience.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact Jean Mannion on 01223 893595.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We returned to Brownies on 12th September and learned that Trinity had decided to move up to Guides in Balsham but we welcomed Rosie from Haverhill, Lily from Castle Camps, Sophia from Linton and Amy from Balsham. We also welcomed Rhianna, who will be completing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award service with us, and Alice, who has joined us as a Guide Helper. I've also heard that there might be another two girls starting soon plus one of my helpers might be starting her Leadership Qualification too. What exciting times are ahead.

We have spent our September meetings trying out Olympic sports, well our versions of Olympic sports – standing long jump, standing high jump. We have also had a try at Goalball, not as easy as it sounds but very entertaining.

During October we will be joining up with 2nd Linton Brownies and 1st Linton Guides to complete the *On Your Marks* challenges, this time we will be doing activities from the 'cultures' section which will hopefully include some Brazilian type crafts.

After half-term we will be concentrating on Christmas themed evenings and sorting out our performances for the Over 60's luncheon in early December. We also hope that Becca Harrison will be able to come in and teach us some relaxing Yoga techniques to combat the stress of being 7, 8, 9.....

If your daughter would like to try Brownies please drop me an email for more details.

PAULINE AKA BARNEY

Email: brownies@horseheath.info

LINTON FARMERS MARKET

We celebrate our 10th anniversary at Linton Village College with a special 10% off on the majority of stalls. We open at 9am to 12 noon on 6th October and there is now very good parking available.

Jan Lupton

AUTUMN CONCERT

MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

IN AID OF

ST. ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH, WEST WRATTING

Saturday, 6th October 2012, 7:30 pm

at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

AN EXCITING PROGRAMME

CHORAL & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,

FEATURING VOCAL WORKS BY TWO CHOIRS

AND INSTRUMENTAL WORKS FOR

FLUTE, VIOLIN, AND ORGAN

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BALSHAM & WESTON COLVILLE

POST OFFICES or

Michael Gorman 01223-290653

PRICE £10, CHILDREN FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Michael Gorman 01223-290653

Linda Gorman 01223-290653

Jeanette Job 01223-290706

NATURE NOTES – NO STING IN THE TAIL

The holidays are over, the swallows and house martins have virtually all returned to Africa, and normally during September we should be out picking blackberries. Unfortunately it's not been a vintage year for blackberries, which seem to have been slow to ripen, although as I write it is now possible to find a few juicy specimens. We have picked a few but nothing like the normal amounts. Apparently apples have not done well either – the commercial producers in the west have been complaining. I don't know whether there is any connection between these two things, but has anybody seen a wasp? We actually do have an apple tree which has produced well, and whereas last year the crop was devoured by wasps, this year the apples are virtually untouched. I would love to hear an explanation for the sudden downturn in wasp numbers, especially as there seem to have been plenty of bees around.

There is general acceptance that butterflies have had a bad summer, because of all the rain in June and July, but in the last couple of weeks there has been a bit of a late flourish. We had five Red Admirals and a Comma on our Michaelmas daisies the other day and walking down the road I noticed Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells in other gardens too. Speckled Woods have been regularly seen on tree and hedge-lined sections of walk and Whites are omnipresent.

Last month I asked if anyone shared my perception that there were more dragonflies around than usual. Well, I haven't heard from anyone but the dragonflies do seem to be plentiful this year. Their names – hawkers, chasers, skimmers and darters – hint at their predatory nature, but I prefer to concentrate on the more aesthetic aspects – the colourful bodies, the beautiful transparent wings and the hovering flight, and try and forget for a moment that they are ruthless killers.

Still on the insect theme, I'd like to give an honourable mention to my friends the shield bugs. The adults usually appear in the Autumn. Two that I have seen recently are the Hawthorn Shield Bug (bright green) and the Sloe Bug (reddy brown), both of which are common in hedges and are always likely to drop onto you when doing some cutting or pruning.

Finally, a word for the mammals. I had a good sighting of two roe deer as I walked between Horseheath and Streetly End; a fox came dangerously close to the end of our garden causing considerable alarm to the chickens; and a mole has thrown up a molehill in our lawn. The chickens were immediately attracted to it, scratched it flat only to find that it had been re-erected the following day.

Remember I would love to hear from anyone with news and views on wildlife so please let me know.

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

PLEA FOR PICTURE POSTCARDS

New or used but please leave the stamps on. Money raised (£12,000 per annum) for the Anglican Church in Sudan and South Sudan - prayers and money much needed for these countries.

Please contact Joanna Sanders for more information or collection.

T: 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

We returned to College in the kind of glorious sunshine we would have killed for in July or August. However, we were not bitter because we also returned to THE BEST RESULTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE. A staggering 92% of the class of 2012 achieved 5 A* - C grades or better and 71% of them achieved those 5 grades with Cs or above in both English and Maths. Nearly half of the students had 3 or more A / A* grades. All of this, of course, bucked the trend nationally and has left us wondering how stellar those results could have been if grade boundaries in English had not been moved upwards at a national level. We know that students who would have achieved the all-important 'C' grade in January 2012 with the same work did not do so in August and our teachers, parents and students feel that this is ridiculous and unfair.

So what do we now have to look forward to? Well, we are applying to become a Teaching School this year, so we are keeping our fingers crossed about that, we are going to renovate our main hall and we are excited about the prospect of a grand production of 'Guys And Dolls' in the spring term. It is going to be another great year.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

LINTON ADULT COMMUNITY NEWS

As part of our new Adult Community Learning programme we are introducing a new course entitled Treading the Boards – Making theatre. The course is for everyone and you need not have any experience of theatre to attend.

The course will explore various aspects of theatre through practical means and learners will explore how text can be developed into physical theatre; how ensemble casts can inspire exciting staging ideas; how soundscapes can enhance dialogue and how real voices can develop verbatim theatre. These techniques will be put into practice as students experiment, devise and rehearse their own theatre performance under the guidance of the Rachel Yates.

Rachel trained in theatre in Liverpool before moving to London where she gained her degree in Performing Arts. She went on to become Head of Dance Programming at the Islington Arts Factory, Head of Dance at Barnet College and then became a lecturer at Middlesex University teaching contemporary dance technique.

Rachel joined Chickenshed, the world renowned pioneering theatre company, in 1998 as Associate Director where she currently teaches, choreographs, performs and directs main-house performances.

Rachel's strong belief that everyone can access the performing arts makes her sessions lively, creative and vibrant and often focuses on the strength of the ensemble. Her creative style of blending the physical with the narrative makes strong, bold theatre full of imagery and depth.

For more information or to book a place email adult.education@lvc.org or call us on 01223 891233 and select adult education from the menu.

Steven Austin

FROM THE MEADOW SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Meadow Governors aim to promote continued school improvement by supporting and challenging the school, providing strategic direction and engaging with children, staff and parents openly and honestly.

The Meadow School is very much a community school, and as well as the regular up-dates on general school activities that appear in the village newsletters, the governors would like to outline some of the priorities with which the governing body has been involved over the past year.

One of our main areas of activity is assisting senior staff in monitoring the school's Raising Attainment Plan (RAP), a document that identifies priority areas within the school for particular attention. Governors this year have assisted with assessing data on achievements in maths, improving the system for management of TAs and assessing the impact of a new Behaviour Policy.

The school is due for a full OFSTED inspection, and governors have been helping the senior staff to fully understand the new inspection framework that came into force in January, and to ensure all the documentation that OFSTED may require is up-to-date.

Another major role of governors is to assist with setting and managing the school budget. This has become increasingly challenging in the past two years amidst the tighter funding provided to schools, especially a much smaller Capital Fund (for the fabric of the school and its ICT equipment). A programme of essential repairs to the school roof, scheduled to take place over the next five years, and replacing and updating the school's computer equipment will use a high proportion of the Capital Fund over the next few years. We are extremely grateful to the Parent Teacher's Association (PTA), which has assisted with some ICT purchases, and we have established a Working Group involving parents, staff and governors to explore other ways to support the renewal of the school's ICT equipment.

Governors also have a role in strategic planning and have been involved this year in the unavoidable decision to reduce the number of classes in the school from ten to nine in September. Historically, the school expanded in the mid-1990s following new housing in the catchment area, but families have stayed as their children have grown up and the number of primary-aged children has dropped again. Optimising communication between all elements of the school community has been another area of focus this year, along with the on-going work of ensuring all the school policies are in place and regularly reviewed.

We welcome feedback from the community on the topics outlined above or any other issues. Please contact us via the school office at office@meadow.cambs.sch.uk.

Dr Mary Watson, Chair Meadow School Governors

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 October

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
contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.
e-mail: editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk