

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

SEPTEMBER 2012

ISSUE 113

VILLAGE DIARY

Sat 1 Farmers Market. 9.00 – 12.00
Linton Village College
Sun 2 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 4 Black wheeled bin collection
Sun 9 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 11 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 12 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 16 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 17 **Gardening Club AGM. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 18 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 19 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 23 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 24 **Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of West Wickham are welcome to attend.**
Tue 25 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 26 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Fri 28 **Pre-School BINGO NIGHT. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See ad on page 3**
Sun 30 Joint parishes service. 10.45, Hildersham Church

THE SEVEN CHURCHES. From September the mid week service will be on Thursdays. 10.00 am at Balsham Church

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

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.

BUS SURVEY

The County Council Bus Survey inserted in last months Village Voice needs to be returned to me by 16 September. It is very important you make your views on public transport known to the County Council so please take a few minutes to fill in the survey and let me have it. I will then send them all to the Council.

Andrew Morris. 21 High Street, West Wickham

VILLAGE SIGN

I'm sure you have all looked at and admired the village signs in our neighbouring villages - the race horse in Horseheath, the colourful county scene in West Wrating or the man fleeing the burning building in Balsham. West Wickham doesn't have a village sign but the Parish Council wants to rectify this. However, they want your thoughts on several important factors:

- Where should it be placed? We have to remember that West Wickham is made up of 3 areas - West Wickham and the hamlets of Burton End & Streetly End.
- What should be depicted on it? It should show what the parish is best known for - what do you think would do this? History, farming, natural history or a combination of all?
- What type of sign would you like? A sculptural metal one? A painted scene? A carved & painted scene?

Please let the Chairman of the Parish Council (Marcus Cornish) or the Clerk to the Parish Council (Jenny Richards) know your views.

Marcus Cornish. Manor Farm, West Wickham T: 290203. Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com

Jenny Richards. 52 Fox Road, Balsham. T: 894076. Email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

HELP BRING BETTER BROADBAND TO YOUR AREA

Access to the internet is becoming part of everyday life. But many people are frustrated by low speeds and poor connections, particularly in more rural parts of the county.

You can help to bring better broadband access to your area by supporting the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign. Your local councils are working with partners in business, health and education to provide access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and better broadband connections for all other premises by 2015.

We need all our residents and businesses to show suppliers where there is demand for better broadband to attract substantial investment, which will help us to fill in the gaps. Register to get Cambridgeshire connected using the online form at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk, or fill in a Freepost reply form in the leaflet at your local library or council office.

It only takes a minute – all we need is your postcode and a landline phone number (these details will only be used to support the campaign). The more registrations we get, the more likely we are to succeed.

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to register, so that more people can benefit from better broadband access.
Could you be a Digital Champion for your area – helping to promote the campaign and encouraging more people to register? If so, please email your contact details to contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE

Twenty-four people came to a meeting on 13th August to explore the prospect of having a Parish Nurse. At the meeting it was noted that there are people who are struggling in our villages and whose needs are not met by statutory service providers. Good neighbours and priests and lay people from the churches work to try to help, but find that needs are increasing. There are communications links that are missing to support the work of caring agencies in the community. There is sometimes a need for an advocate to work with individuals when they need to access help. It is not just the elderly but across all ages. Young and old people who are ill or incapacitated can experience isolation. Mental health issues can affect all ages, sometimes made worse by economic stress. The GP's at the meeting talked about the potential benefit of having someone who could form a strategic link between the community and healthcare providers.

The vision for the Parish Nurse is that he or she would work with vulnerable people of all ages, including young families and those with mental health problems, often as the first point of contact, referring people on to other schemes and health professionals and providing an important link in the network between service providers and our communities.

West Wickham is fortunate to have both a Warden and a retired nurse who help in the parish. Other parishes do not have these resources. We will seek to navigate an appropriate way round the consequently differing needs.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed to develop this further by setting up a group to work out a more detailed job description, costings and to look at how to raise the funds needed.

It was also understood that the role of the Parish Nurse should be structured so that it meets new needs and does not replicate the valuable work of the Warden Scheme in West Wickham, West Wrating & Balsham. If you can make a contribution to this vision, or can offer advice as we begin this venture, please contact me, Julie Norris (891350).

On 15th September at 7pm we are invited to come and see what Ely Cathedral is like when everyone else has gone home. If you are interested sign up at the back of the churches.

Local musicians, both young and old are being sought to play for a 'Festival of Light Service on Sunday 4th November 2012 at 4pm. This service is being planned for (and by) children and young people across all Seven Churches. We need people of all abilities to be part of the music group. Keith Day of Hildersham and Steve Jordan of Balsham, will be coordinating the music, so if you are interested in participating, please contact: stevejordan.balshamvillage@hotmail.co.uk

Revd Julie Norris

MOVING ON

After 46/47 years in the Village, unfortunate circumstances due to nobody's fault, have forced me to seek accommodation elsewhere. I will be very, very sad and upset to move. I attended the village school here and have many, many happy memories. But do not fear. My Mother was born here and is still in residence so I will be visiting regularly. You're not getting away that easily, Ha, Ha!

Chris Porter

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE Accident and Emergency attendances

Nationally, practices are being asked to reduce A+E attendances by providing easier access to practice clinicians during normal working hours, particularly for minor injuries/illness. As always, finance lies behind this target for GP practices. An attendance at A+E starts with a minimum charge of £56, whether the patient waits to be seen or decides to leave the department without being seen. The charges increase considerably if x-rays or blood tests are taken or if a cut is glued or sutured. It is surprising how many attendances at A+E result in advice only, with no investigations or treatment whatsoever. These are the attendances that we are being targeted to reduce.

Here at Linton we have always been open from 8am-6:30pm on weekdays and we have always offered a minor injury service. Our local schools and local employers would generally think of us before embarking on a trip to A+E, but we wonder whether the wider practice population would think to call on us first?

There are certainly benefits to being seen at the practice: we have free parking for a start. Minor injuries are usually fitted in with a nurse in the first instance (as often happens at the hospital) but you will never have to wait up to four hours to be seen! Our nurses are highly trained and will be able to deal with many minor injuries themselves and the duty doctor can always be called if necessary.

www.linton.gpsurgery.net for more news

Friday afternoon baby clinics in September: there will be no immunisation drop-in service during September: booked appointments only for immunisations. The Health Visitors will be here for weighing and advice as usual.

FLU CLINICS: Summer is almost over and we are preparing for our annual flu clinics. We plan to run clinics on Saturdays 13th, 20th and 27th October and will be taking bookings from mid September onwards. All over 65's and those in clinical at-risk groups should be immunised. Check the website for details of the clinical at-risk groups or pick up a leaflet from reception.

OIL SYNDICATE

I placed an order for 20 households in August; the lowest price being 56.4p per litre from Butler Fuels (& the highest from Shelford Energy at 58.8p). I will be placing another order in October so please let me know if you'd like to be included by 10th October.

Sue Thurston. T: 290504. Email: oil@suethurston.co.uk

INSPIRED BY THE OLYMPICS?

Fancy a little gentle exercise and some friendly competition without having to travel too far?

Then why not come along and try carpet bowls which is suitable for all abilities and ages. The Carpet Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall every Wednesday at 7pm for a 7.15 start. Just come along or further details can be had from:

Secretary, Janet Morris, 21 High Street

T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com or Club Captain, Eric Ellam, 7 Old House Road, Balsham T: 290357

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following is a summary of matters discussed at the meeting held on 23 July 2012.

Old Filtration Plant: SCDC has agreed to pay the costs for passing the ownership to the Parish Council but before Council agrees to taking ownership it is necessary to know to whom the track leading to the piece of land belongs.

Woodland Trust: Cllr. Hall had looked at the proposed site for the new trees and is submitting the plan to the Woodland Trust. There are 60 trees available some of which could also be planted on Maypole Croft.

Church Insurance: It has been established through CAPALC that money can only be given by the Parish to the church for maintenance or a donation through S137 could be made to help cover the cost of an event. The Chairman is looking further into this.

Village Sign: All agreed this would be good to have but various points needed settling before a decision on who would make it, such as cost, design, its placing and what should be depicted on it. Please read the item in this issue of Village Voice.

Finance: The Internal Auditor's report: This was satisfactory and comments made by Jackie Dockerill under various sections were discussed, e.g. under Schedule of Assets it would be useful to show the last year's figures against the present year to show the differences.

Village Questionnaire: 75% of the forms had been returned and were being analysed and collated. The findings will go on a spread sheet and discussed fully at the next meeting.

RoSPA Report: Cllr. Plumb told Council that the A frame and multi-climbing frame had been condemned by RoSPA and should be removed. For the present he will check them each week to see that they are satisfactory rather than remove them as the summer holidays begin. On the 14th August Cllr. Plumb has organised a meeting to discuss the redevelopment of the playground with parents and children.

Diamond Jubilee: The Chairman thanked Cllr. Licence and all those involved with organising these celebrations which went very well.

Wrating Common Cross Roads (arising from the Parish Meeting) The Chairman is liaising with the Chairman of

West Wrating Parish Council as the cross-roads are in the West Wrating parish. The County Council is not keen to put up a "stop" sign but discussions are still ongoing.

Neighbourhood Watch: (arising from the Parish Meeting). For those who have email there will be an email available giving information concerning crime, anti-social behaviour, security etc. Cllr. Grieve is looking into finding a solution for those who do not have email.

Wildlife: Cllrs. Licence and Hall had a meeting with Laura Osborne of the Wild Life Trust and she suggested that a survey of the flora is carried out through the year on the two de-commissioned allotments to find out what grows there, to cut the grass in August/September and return to her for further advice.

Bus Service Review: It is hoped that everyone will complete the short questionnaire devised by Cambs. Future Transport to help them assess the transport needs of the village.

Report by District Cllr. Barrett:

Consultation concerning the Local Plan is at present being carried out, ending in September. There appears to be no plans for any development in smaller villages unless requested by the village itself.

Report by County Cllr. Batchelor:

- a) He is a member of the Liaison Committee for the Wind Farm and its next meeting will be in October. A representative from the village can attend. He will let Council know the date.
- b) He asks for everyone to sign up for the High Speed Broadband. The fibre optic cabling is being installed along the A1307.

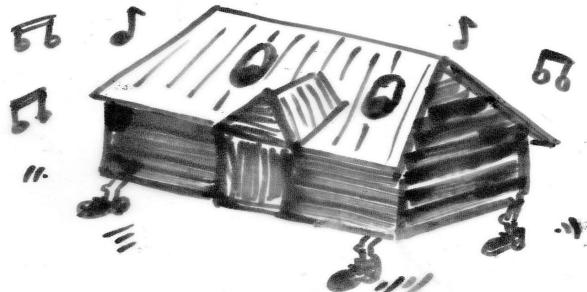
Any other Business: Cllr. Morris told the Council that the West Wickham & District Local History Club has applied for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to do a series of archaeological test pits around the parish and will know in October whether this has been allocated.

The draft Minutes are posted on the Noticeboard and the next meeting will be held on Monday 24 September 2012. All are welcome.

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

BINGO night
Lots of Great Prizes including cash prizes
West Wickham Village Hall
Friday 28th Sept
Bar & Raffle
Tickets £2 - includes one free game
Bar 7.30 **Daisy Chains Pre-School West Wickham** **Bingo 8pm**

All proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham
For more information please contact Tina Daniels 290545



HORSEHEATH BARN DANCE
Sat. 29 September
AT MANOR FARM, HORSEHEATH
Limited tickets available - call Adrienne 891691 or Nita 893250
£15 each, £28 for two, £5 for children, inc. buffet
BAR + RAFFLE All in aid of Horseheath Village Hall

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

How much can bad weather during the summer impact on the Village College? Well, the answer is, quite a bit. We 'got away with it' on some occasions: the June summer soirée remained a pleasant, dry night and we all enjoyed a very high quality concert. Director of Music, Chris Charlesworth, has put considerable effort into swelling the ranks of the College choir this year and the result is an impressive wall of harmony.

However, not all events have gone quite as well to plan: the Duke of Edinburgh expedition to Derbyshire was a disappointing wash-out, due to serious flooding. We had to cancel and reschedule for the autumn. The Year 11 ball carried on under quite challenging circumstances. The first arrivals made their dramatic entrances in a downpour which meant that the colourful umbrellas matched the number of colourful ball gowns. Linton Jazz, whose music accompanied the arrivals, had to pack away their instruments for fear of blowing up their amplifiers. Fortunately, the rain did not last long and had stopped altogether for the group photograph (it amazes me each year that no two dresses are ever the same) and the opening of the marquee. They still had a very enjoyable night. Enrichment week, deep learning days and sports day have all required a carefully constructed 'wet weather plan' this year. We just haven't been able to trust the weather reports.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

ADULT LEARNING AT SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Look out for our 2012-13 programme. Check out our website www.sawstonadult.org for an online copy. There are lots of new and exciting additions to our programme this year, including Cake Decorating, Bricklaying, Web Page Design, Spanish Dancing, The Victorian Household, Kick Start Fat Loss to name but a few. The office will be open from Tuesday 21 August (excl. 29th), 9.00am to 1.00pm to take enrolments. We will also be holding an enrolment morning and taster sessions on 8 September 9.00am to 12 noon. Booking is essential. Evening Classes commence week 24 September 2012. You can contact Sue or Wendy by email at community@sawstonvc.org or telephone 01223 712424 for more information. There is a 24 hour answerphone, or visit www.sawstonadult.org.

SINGING AND PIANO TUITION

Frances Howard is an established singing and piano teacher who has recently moved to the area, with vacancies for new students. Working from her studio in Cardinals Green she teaches all types of singing, from classical to music theatre and pop and rock. Frances has a strong track record of success with student exams and also in helping students to gain entry to performing arts courses. She started teaching singing some 15 years ago after gaining a BA at Keele. After gaining a performers Diploma on the piano she then completed the Certificate of Teaching from the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (CTABRSM). Although Frances performs as a soprano and pianist, her joy seeing young people develop and express themselves through music and performance. For information about lessons Frances can be contacted on 01223 892001 or franjh@btinternet.com

NATURE NOTES

Di and I seem to have been venturing beyond the Parish Boundaries in search of wildlife this month.

Di starts off coming down the Roman Road on her way home. "The recent warm sunshine has brought out the butterflies at last, but not in our garden. Walking home from work one afternoon, I counted 51 butterflies in the space of 20 minutes along the footpath from Wort's Causeway to the Babraham park and ride, along a sheltered path between two hedges, filled with white yarrow and clover and purple field scabious and knapweeds. There were only three species, green veined white, gatekeeper and meadow brown, but this small area of warm sunshine and flowers was very popular. Another glorious spectacle was walking along Devil's Dyke at Newmarket to see the rare lizard orchids, a quite amazing plant, smelling of goat. We were enchanted by hundreds of chalkhill blues mating and chasing each other on the chalk land flora. It was mainly field scabious and harebells, but many were on the path in front of us and flew up in a cloud as we walked along. We also saw stemless and carline thistles rock rose and yellow wort, which attracted numerous beautiful 6 spot burnet moths."

I have also just returned from a section of the Devil's Dyke near the railway line and similarly experienced the clouds of chalkhill blues – virtually all of them were males – I only spotted one female, who surprisingly was not being pestered. Maybe all the mating is over for the year now. Being possibly a couple of weeks later than Di's walk, the flora had moved on a bit in that the eyebright was in flower and the wild thyme just about starting to come out. Meanwhile the rock rose, scabious and harebells were still in flower, and on this section of the Dyke there was also plenty of bloody cranesbill, which must be having a second bloom after its first flowering in May. It was a very windy morning so on the way back I dropped down onto the racing gallops in the shelter of the Dyke and was rewarded by seeing a small heath butterfly as well as witnessing a magnificent fly-past of jackdaws and rooks, coming from the Dullingham side and landing on the gallops. There must have been at least 200 of them.

One other thing I wanted to mention is what seems to have been a larger number of dragonflies and damsel flies than normal. I have noticed them flying not only near ponds, but elsewhere in the fields when I have been out for a walk. Can it be something to do with the wet summer? Has anyone else noticed this phenomenon?

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

BALSHAM HELPING HANDS

If you require transport to go to hospital, GP, chiropodist or any health related appointment please contact Balsham Helping Hands on 01223291414. A driver will take you and pick you up at 30 pence per mile

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 September

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