

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2013

ISSUE 121

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 4 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00**
Linton Village College
- Sun 5 Joint Benefices service . 10.45, Balsham Church. See page 2 (From the Vicarage) for details
- Wed 8 Blue & Green wheeled bin (day late) Collection
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 11 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Jumble Sale. 2 - 4pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 14 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Thur 16 Deadline for articles for the June issue of the Village Voice**
- Sat 18 **GARDENING CLUB PLANT SALE 10.30- 12.00, Village Hall**
- Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 20 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.30pm, Village Hall**
ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 8.30pm, Village Hall
All are welcome to attend. Come and support or question YOUR Parish Council
- Tue 21 Blue & Green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 25 **Memorial service for Frances Wooley. 3pm, Balsham Church**
- Sun 26 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
RAF Wrattling Common Memorial Service 12.00, Weston Woods Farm
- Wed 29 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
- Thur 30 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Daisy Chains 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.
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.

RAF WRATTING COMMON – MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 26 MAY

A short open air service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 26 May at RAF Wrattling Common Memorial to commemorate the opening of the airfield in 1943 and to remember all those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville and all are very welcome to attend the service.

FRANCIS WOOLLEY

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life and ministry of Canon Francis Woolley at Holy Trinity Balsham at 3.00 pm on Saturday 25 May. The preacher will be Revd Dr Michael Banner, Dean and Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge. Everyone from the four parishes of Balsham, West Wickham, West Wrattling and Weston Colville is invited to come and join with members of Canon Woolley's family to give thanks for the years of service given to us by Canon Woolley. There will be refreshments after the service in Balsham Church Institute.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Keith Johnson

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

A village clean up hasn't been organised this year. I know some of you pick up litter on a regular basis when you go out but if any of you want to reach into those hard-to-get-to places in the ditches and hedges around you, we still have a grabber you are welcome to borrow.

Sue Thurston. T: 290503

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

something for everyone

FLOWERS, SHRUBS, VEGETABLES & HERBS

friendly people and expert advice

SATURDAY 18 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

FROM WEST WRATTING VICARAGE

Rev Prof Sir Diarmaid Ninian John MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church in the University of Oxford (crazy name, crazy guy as Private Eye's Glenda Slagg might have put it) is in fact far from the pillar of Establishment orthodoxy that his name suggests. He has just produced a book called *Silence: A Christian History*. What makes it especially interesting is that, like football, it is a game of two halves.

On the one hand there is the honourable history of Christian silence, taking its cue from Jesus's own seeking of silence many times in the gospels, when as the hymn puts it *Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity*. Silent prayer, meditation and contemplation have a long and cherished place in the story of Christian spirituality

There is also what we call the apophatic (a word my spell checker can't cope with) tradition: that God is in fact unknowable, and the only language we can use about him is saying nothing or saying what he is not. And sometimes Christianity can seem to deserve E.M. Forster's dismissive "poor little talkative Christianity", especially when celebrating the Word made flesh we manage to turn Him back into word again. Sometimes our liturgies can seem very wordy, using a lot of words to say not very much.

That is why I was so pleased to learn when I came here of the existence of the Julian Group, a small monthly meeting, lasting about an hour, looking at the writings of the Lady Julian of Norwich, and having at least half an hour of silent prayer. I do commend this group to you. Julian's day is 8 May, and we shall be meeting at the Vicarage at 7.00pm that night. Silent prayer is not for everyone, but it might be for you. Think about it and certainly ask Stephen Wheeler or Kathy Bishop or even me about it.

But the second half of the book deals by contrast with the dishonourable silence of the Church. How for example it has quite clearly covered over the role of women in the Early Church. How it turned a blind eye to so much that was wrong in society and indeed the church itself. The child abuse scandal still engulfing the Roman church, though the Church of England is not immune, is a very topical example. One of the tasks of the Church is to give a voice to the voiceless and you cannot read the Gospels without being aware that Jesus had a special regard for the poor. They had a special place in his sympathies and a regard for the poor remains a mark of his disciples. The poor have no voice. It is up to Christians to give them one

So I was a little disappointed when I came here to discover that Christian Aid Week (This year 12-18 May) didn't loom as large in church life as it certainly had in my last parish. Of course Christian Aid is not perfect, but on balance I really believe it to be a major force for Christian good in the world. Also I am bound to say that in my experience people who have money will always come up with reasons why they shouldn't give it away. But that's not the gospel.

So come on, everyone. Be generous and let's make it a bumper year for Christian Aid in our 7 churches!

John Fellows

OIL SYNDICATE

The next order of oil will be 13th June and I will remind you again next month. Hopefully oil prices will continue to drop.
Sue Thurston

FROM THE VICARAGE

Come and hear about the work of a Parish Nurse. Sue Evans is a Parish Nurse in Burwell. She will be talking about her work at the service on 5 May at Holy Trinity Balsham at 10.45am. There will also be an opportunity during the service to light candles and think and pray for healing. Everyone is welcome.

Rev Julie Norris

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club met on Monday 18 April to hear a talk by Rob Parker from Butterfly Conservation entitled "Butterflies in Your Garden". From Rob's amazing photos we learned which habitats and plants were most suited to certain butterflies. He took us through the differing life-cycles of some common and some rare butterflies. We all learned something new and from now on will be more aware of what we can do to encourage these beautiful insects into our gardens.

This was the last talk of our gardening year and from now on we will be visiting local gardens in the evening during June and July; Horringer Manor on 17 June and Barrie Stevenson's ferns at Cowlinge on 8 July. Our main outing is to the Open Gardens in Chelsworth near Stowmarket on 30 June, see below

**Don't forget to come to the PLANT SALE on 18 May
Details on page 1.**

Rosemary Yallop (01799584262).

ENJOY A DAY OUT

By coach from the village

Sunday 30 June

Chelsworth (nr Stowmarket) Open Gardens Day

25 open gardens, plant, craft & produce stalls, music, classic cars and refreshments

Gardening Club members £13.50, non-members £18

Details from Janet Morris, 21 High Street

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

GARDENING CLUB 30th ANNUAL SHOW

The Club is celebrating its 30th show this year. It will be held on Saturday 10 August. We will be distributing the schedule to all households nearer the date but a preview will shortly be available from me for anyone keen to plan ahead. The photography classes are always very popular so we are publishing these well ahead of the show. They are:

Children in the garden.

A plant portrait.

A photograph on the theme "30".

A landscape.

You may also wish to start thinking about the Children's classes. These will be:

Make your own model playground in a seed tray (or similar)

3 decorated biscuits.

A decorated egg.

The "novelty" vegetable class will be the weirdest vegetable

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the parish council meeting held on Monday 25 March 2013 the following items were discussed.

Village sign: An outline design has been made and after discussion with a number of residents it was thought the best siting of it would be in front of the village hall. The clothes bank and yellow grit box would need to be moved. The sign will be made of black etched metal with silhouettes of the Church, the Windmill and a Lancaster aeroplane. A model will be made for everyone to have a look at.

Old Filtration Plant: The transfer of this land from SCDC to West Wickham Parish has now gone through.

Woodland Trust & Wildlife Area: A grant of £4.00 per tree has been awarded from DEFRA and South Cambs. Wildlife will donate 50% of costs after assessment. A further grant has been applied for birdboxes, stakes and ties for trees. A picnic table has also been donated.

Burton End street sign: This sign will be replaced by SCDC and the Parish Clerk was asked to write the District & County Councils concerning the state of all the signs in the parish, particularly the West Wickham sign on the Balsham road and one of the Streetly End street signs, which has disappeared.

Planning: A further letter is being drafted to be sent to Sir James Paice, MP, about the dissatisfaction over the Inspector's decision not to award community support money from the development at 10 Burton End.

Correspondence: A letter asking for funding had been received from the Meadow Primary School and Mrs Jan Ellam came as their representative and spoke briefly to clarify their need, which was mainly due to the financial provision for ICT being reduced to nil. The IT equipment is old and needs replacing. The Parish Council agreed to consider this but felt no decision could be made until the after the end of the financial year when the year end figures and available reserves were known. (Ed. See article on page 4)

Finance: The Parish Clerk told Council that Running Total (Jackie Dockerill) would be able to carry out the internal audit and monitor the PAYE.

Playground refurbishment: The money raised so far through fund raising and grant awards was £46,752.00, so still £6000 short. More fund raising e.g. coffee mornings, quizzes was being carried out. Work has not yet started due to the bad weather.

West Wrattling Crossroads: It had been agreed with the Highways Dept that two rather than four rumble strips will be put on the two minor roads. There will be no cost for this.

Maintenance: Road gritting – a yellow grit box was requested for the entrance to Maypole Croft and the Parish Clerk will enquire as to cost etc. The Parish Clerk was also asked to write to the Highways Dept requesting that the roadside gulleys throughout the village be cleared out.

The next Parish Council meeting (AGM) will be on Monday 20 May at 8.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the same day at 7.30pm. If anyone would like any issue discussed please contact me.

PLEASE SHOW AN INTEREST IN YOUR PARISH AND COME ALONG.

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

NATURE NOTES

We were down in Devon for a week looking for spring, but when we returned we found it had crept in at the back door while we were away. Mind you we did see a couple of swallows and the primroses were spectacular. Back home the stars of the show as I write are the windflowers (wood anemones) up Blacklands Lane, ably supported as usual by the oxlips. The bluebells will be coming soon but the windflowers really are at their best now.

Since the last Nature Notes I've had one or two messages from people who have seen interesting things. These include reed buntings from Vic Terry and Lucy Cameron, and a dipper spotted by Jean and Kit Martin. Lucy also commented on the woodpeckers in Hare Wood, the hares on the Roman Road and a lone lapwing on a field at Burton End. Just too late to be included last time was a goldcrest from Valda Shaw. That one did well to get through the long winter. Andrew Morris saw a group of golden plovers near Hill Farm looking at their smartest, so presumably on the way north and 2 swallows near Yen Hall on Sunday 21 April.

Di says "*What a difference a few weeks make....I walked one morning from the A1307 along Deane Road towards home, on a grey, snowy day. Once the drone of traffic had gone, I was left in a silent world, that still eerie silence that only a fall of snow brings. As I walked, I become aware of the loudness of the woodland bird song, and wondered at the resilience of these tiny birds in these harsh conditions. The blue, great and long-tailed tits were all there, looking resplendent in their mating plumage, foraging along the bare branches between the emerging leaf buds, a jay shrieks and flies across my path, two male pheasants are sparring in the field to my left, and the rooks nesting in the high trees are squabbling about something, all flying into the air squawking loudly.....silence.....what silence? I scan the field, and there crouching in a scrape in the ground called a 'form' are two hares, with that characteristic round hape, with slightly flattened ears. I watch, but they remain motionless.*

On two consecutive mornings, I spotted a fox walking as bold as brass across the road onto the green at the old White Hart, none too bothered about the car, and a badger was seen one evening down at Horseheath Park, foraging in the leaves at the base of the wall.

Fast forward three weeks....the sun is shining, and the air temperature is warm. There are bumble bees flying about, a beautiful brimstone butterfly has emerged from his winter hiding and there are honey bees in the crocus flowers, their pollen bags laden. Our neighbour tells us she had a tree creeper in her garden, our summer visitors, blackcaps and chiffchaffs are singing in the trees, and the celandines by the church are fully out....spring is here at last."

Those of us in the Gardening Club had a very interesting talk from a butterfly expert. The message for gardeners is: leave some long grass if you can, and don't be too harsh on the ivy. Many butterfly species lay their eggs in long grass, and ivy provides a valuable nectar source at the end of the year when everything else has finished flowering. The brimstone that Di mentioned is particularly keen on buckthorn, so if anyone is thinking of putting in some hedging that is a butterfly friendly option.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL ICT PROJECT UPDATE

The last four remaining whiteboards with interactive projectors were installed over the Easter holidays with thanks to the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund and the PTA. Already the teachers have noticed a difference and the Key Stage 1 children are delighted these boards are now in place allowing them to take part in their lessons interactively with more confidence.

We have also gratefully received generous donations from the Balsham Parish Council, the Ploughmen and the Parochial Society in Balsham which have enabled us to purchase four digital cameras, a new printer and partially fund the installation of WiFi into school.

We still need to raise around £20k and are in the process of applying for grants to replace the computers in the ICT suite, our next priority.

If you or know of anyone or maybe a company who may be prepared to sponsor any equipment, please contact the ICT Project team via the School Office (01223 894400) or visit our website page for regular updates: www.themeadowbalsham.co.uk/pta_detail.asp and select ICT Funding Group.

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

1st April 2013 – an important date for the NHS: reorganisation on a huge scale with many challenges ahead. Yet, at a local level, be assured that we are still here to provide the best possible medical care for our practice population.

GP Commissioning is at the forefront of the NHS changes. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have been formed to manage the NHS budget and, as a practice, we fall within the large Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CCG. The CCG is split in to 8 Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs) in order to provide a local perspective to the decision making process.

The challenges for CCGs in managing the budgets are huge, especially in Cambridgeshire where we are seen as a 'healthy and wealthy' population and therefore the funding has been lower than elsewhere in the country. This filters down to practice level and in the reorganisation a practice like ours is set to lose over £200,000 in annual funding in the coming years. All practices will have to really engage in the commissioning process in order to make best use of the funds available and to maintain the level of service to patients.

See the CATCH video at www.catchcambs.nhs.uk for more information on commissioning.

RAINFALL FIGURES

Spring has come at last but only in the last few days. These are the rainfall figures for March, another cold wet month!

	2013	2012
High Street	44 mm	22 mm
Streetly End	44.5 mm	26.5 mm
Streetly Hall Farm	37 mm	28 mm

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

We have had a really exciting early spring at LVC: the production of 'Guys and Dolls' brought the community together in a wonderful celebration of the talent of our young people: a large number of the staff volunteered their time to help with the front of house, behind the stage with the set, by playing in the band, by selling refreshments or by directing and the audience was packed on both Friday and Saturday nights. The show was also previewed by children from Granta School and some of the senior citizens in the community. This kind of event reveals a Village College at its very best. Our director, Laura Cassidy, deserves a special mention. She broke her leg a few weeks before the performance but remained completely committed to the notion that the 'show must go on' and hobbled her way through rehearsals and ignored her own discomfort.

This month we also received the news that Linton Village College has been awarded Teaching School Status. This means that we will be leading an alliance of schools in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk with a view to training teachers to teach: both new entrants to the profession and those progressing in their careers to leadership roles. It is a great honour to be one of the 350 primary and secondary schools nationally that are recognised as strong enough to take this responsibility on. We are looking forward to it. We have built an alliance of many first class education providers: Suffolk and Cambs Local Authorities, the Faculty of Education at Cambridge University, Sawston Village College, Thurston Community College, Castle Manor Partnership, the Granta School and Linton Infants School.

There has been much to celebrate: I just wish that the warmth of feeling that we have about our Village College was matched by some warmer weather!

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

JUMBLE SALE
West Wickham Village Hall
Sat 11th May
2 - 4pm
Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric-a-Brac,
Refreshments, Cake Stall
BBQ & Tombola

Please drop in any jumble you'd like to donate between 10am and 12 noon on 11th.
If you would like items collected please call Karen on 290906.

All Proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School
West Wickham For more information call 01223 290512
Registered Charity No: 1035276

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May

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