

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2013

ISSUE 127

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sat 2 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
- Sun 3 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Tue 5 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Remembrance Day Service
12.00. Wratting Common Memorial
- Mon 11 **Local History Club. *The King Under the Car Park. The search for Richard III.***
Talk by Mathew Morris
7.30pm, Village Hall
- Tue 12 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 18 **Gardening Club. *Gardening women from the 1600s.*** Talk by Dr Catherine Horwood Barwise. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Tue 19 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Sun 24 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 26 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 30 **Pre-School Christmas Fair. 2.00 - 4.00, Village Hall**

December

- Mon 2 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of the parish are welcome to attend.

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.
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 Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226
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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on Sunday 10 November at 12 noon. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm. A few of the veterans will be attending and cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

All are welcome to attend.

Dan Heath, Friends of Wratting Common

T: 07736 737174. Email: guideofec1@msn.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Monday 11 November

***The King Under the Car Park:
the search for the last known resting place of Richard III***

Mathew Morris

University of Leicester Archaeological Service

7.30pm at the Village Hall

Non-members £2 – you can pay on the door (exact money appreciated) but you **MUST BOOK** in advance by phone or email.

Janet Morris, T: 290863

Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sixteen households have chosen to become "Friends of St Mary's". This has raised over £1200 and with Gift Aid a further 20%. The Church is very grateful and appreciates your generosity in helping to maintain our twelfth century building

Several of you have asked about setting up an annual direct debit. This unfortunately is not possible as, in order to qualify for Gift Aid, I need your signature each year. I propose to circulate the paperwork in August. We may even have a drinks and nibbles event in our garden!

Marcus Cornish, PCC Treasurer.

LOST PROPERTY!

Have you lost a jacket or a coat? Left at Manor Farm after the Fete: 1 pale blue size 12 Berghaus Gore-Tex jacket & 1 beige furry parka. Please telephone 290203 to arrange collection.

Nicky Cornish

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23 September the items below were some of the matters discussed. The full draft Minutes can be found on the notice board outside the Post Office.

Village Sign: Cllr. Licence is seeking information on whether or not planning permission is required. Cllr. Hickford asked if he could put the draft design up on his website and this was agreed.

Wildlife Area: This will be cut by Cllr. Hall in October.

Street Signs: The Streetly End sign has now been replaced and hopefully there will be a new Burton End sign at the entrance to the village.

Finance: The up-dated accounts had been distributed to the councillors and the budget was on track.

Play Area: The official opening was well attended by the Chairman from SCDC, which had donated £18,600, officials from the Community Fund Group and AmeyCespa, which had donated £18,000. SCDC had supplied a plaque acknowledging their grant but the Parish Council must supply a plaque acknowledging AmeyCespa's grant. It was also agreed that all those in the village who had so generously helped raise funds and made donations should be acknowledged on a plaque.

West Wrattin Cross-roads & Speeding: The proposed changes to the crossroads was now high on the priority list for 2014/15. The Chairman reported that Horseheath Council had suggested that the speed limit between Streetly End and Horseheath should be 40mph. Council suggested it would be better if the speed limit of 30mph was introduced from West Wickham to Horseheath.

Hedges: Most of the offending hedges have now been cut back and those that still obstruct have been noted and the Parish Clerk will write to the owners.

The White Horse: It is 5 years since "change of use" was refused. The former public house has now been restored inside as a house but the outside still needs work. Cllr. Barrett will look further into the matter.

Meetings: Cllr. Grieve had attended the Police Liaison meeting at Linton. A spate of burglaries of garden tools, bicycles and expensive garden equipment had taken place recently in the area and the Police are trying to raise awareness to prevent further incidents.

Report by Dist.Cllr. Barrett: A new Mobile Warden has been appointed and will shortly take up the post.

Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

1. He urged councillors to comment on the Transport Strategy consultation.
2. He answered a query about the development at Hanchet End, Haverhill saying that planning permission had already been granted but the work would be carried out in phases.
3. West Wickham is almost last on the list for updating broadband. 2015 is the earliest it will happen.
4. Cllr Morris asked if the very poorly repaired potholes would be re-done as the filling was already coming out.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 2 December
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076

Christmas Fair
West Wickham Village Hall

Saturday
30th November
2-4pm

Children s fancy dress competition 3pm
Santa s Grotto * Home made refreshments
Face painting * Children s Craft Activities
Tombola * Raffle * Cake Stall * Lucky Dip
Chocolate Fountain

**Exciting gift ideas from our
selection of craft stalls**

All proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School,
West Wickham

NEWS FROM THE MEADOW SCHOOL

It's been an extremely challenging start to the school year. The school had an OFSTED in July and at the end of September the results were published. The school has been classified as "Inadequate" and has been placed in "Special Measures".

Over the summer, I worked very closely with the Local Authority, Linton Village College and the Governing Body to ensure that improvement procedures were put in place for the beginning of term to enable us to make rapid impact in turning the school around. So far we have already seen significant changes to the school's leadership and daily routines and with the support that is in place, we anticipate that the school will move out of special measures within a very short space of time. I will be keeping you up to date with the challenges and successes of the Meadow school over the coming months and I look forward to sharing what is happening at the school and what the children are doing.

I would like to say a big thank you to Ms Campbell and Mr Gillibrand and their family who repainted the whole of Key Stage One during the summer holidays - we would not have been able to do this without them. I would also like to thank the PTA who raised over £2,000 for the school through a sponsored walk. The children had a wonderful time doing it and the money will be going towards our ICT project.

Finally I would like to thank the parents and the community for the support that they are showing for our school at this difficult time. This support is going to help us lead the Meadow School back to being the outstanding school it once was.

Nichola Connor, Interim Head

REVISED BUS SERVICE FOR WEST WICKHAM

From 28 October a revised timetable will commence on service 19. Following engagement work this year with the communities along the route, including a consultation on timetables for the 19 and 16A services, the revised timetable for the 19 service will include journeys via Sainsbury's in Haverhill, additional journeys via West Wickham to give a viable return service from Cambridge, two additional morning journeys, all return journeys stopping in West Wickham by request and an increase in vehicle size to a 16 seat vehicle.

The service will be operated by a new company, Go Ride (www.goridebus.co.uk) and concessionary travel will be available on all journeys after 08:52 from Burrough Green.

Tickets to enable transfer at Linton onto Stagecoach service 13 will be available as now at a cost of £6 for a daily ticket.

Paul Nelson, Public Transport Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council

Below is a simplified timetable showing the times to Linton and the times of the connecting Stagecoach 13/13A service. The full timetable can be collected from me or the Go Ride website. The times for West Wickham are for one of our 2 designated bus stops, The White Horse. The other is opposite 29 Burton End. I have made representations to the County Council for there to be a designated stop in the centre of the village, as in the past. You could ask to be dropped off here to see what happens, likewise you could try flagging down the bus in the hope it will stop, but it might not!

The fares to both Linton & Haverhill are: adult single £3.40, return £6.20; child single £2.25, return £4.10. I understand that improvements are being made to the bus stops in Linton, near the Swan, with wheelchair access to the bus. I haven't yet heard whether there will be a shelter on the side where you will catch return buses to West Wickham.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street. T: 290863

Bus Service 19: West Wickham - Linton - Haverhill						
MONDAY TO FRIDAY						
Notes :		A				
West Wickham, White Horse		08:07	09:11	11:11	13:11	15:11 17:11
Linton, High Street		08:24C	09:23C	11:23C	13:23C	15:23C 17:23C
Haverhill, Sainsbury's		--	RH	RH	RH	RH
Haverhill, Bus Station		--	09:51	11:51	13:51	15:51 17:51
Notes :		D		B		
Haverhill, Bus Station		07:50	09:56	11:56	13:56	15:56 17:56
Haverhill, Sainsbury's		--	10:04	12:04	14:04	16:04 18:04
Linton, High Street		08:24C	10:24C	12:24C	14:24C	16:24C 18:24C
West Wickham, White Horse		R	R	R	R	RP
Notes A = Starts at Haverhill Bus Station (07:50) B = Bus can also be booked for travel to Linton <u>from</u> all R marked stops, by telephoning 0330 330 8489 C = Change at Linton for Stagecoach service 13 to/from Cambridge (through fares available) D = Via West Wickham (08:07), West Wrating (08:12) and Balsham (08:18) R = Bus serves this point on request of passengers on board RP = On request of passengers on board the bus or by ringing 0330 330 8489 RH = Serves this point on request and also provides connections for Stagecoach Service 13 to Cambridge						
Bus Service 13/13A: Linton - Cambridge						
MONDAY TO FRIDAY						
Service 13						
Linton, High Street		08:31	09:31	11:31	13:31	15:31 17:31
Addenbrooke's bus station (Bay A)		08:53	09:53	11:53	13:53	15:53 17:53
Cambridge, Drummer Street		09:08	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:08 18:08
Service 13A						
Cambridge, Drummer Street (Bay 8)		07:25	09:25	11:25	13:25	15:25 17:25
Addenbrooke's Bus Station (Bay C)		07:40	09:40	11:40	13:40	15:40 17:45
Linton, High Street		08:04	10:04	12:04	14:04	16:04 18:09

MEADOW PTA CRAFT FAIR

The Meadow School would like to thank everyone who came along and supported our Craft Fair. We made £3,500 profit which will be set aside for the children's enrichment activities at school as well as the long term ICT project. Many thanks once again, we always appreciate your continuous support of our school.

SEPTEMBER RAINFALL FIGURES

	2012	2013	Total for 2013
High Street	27.5mm	55.75mm	370.75mm
Streetly End	25.5mm	48mm	348.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	26mm	53mm	333.5mm

SPOTLIGHT ON LINTON HEALTH CENTRE'S DISPENSARY

We have taken the decision to close the dispensary for one hour between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm and will also close at the end of the day at 6 pm instead of 6:30 pm. This change will take effect from 4 November and will allow the dispensers to manage the workload more effectively. We hope that this will not inconvenience patients too much but with an ever increasing workload the dispensers really do need that protected time.

Talking of increasing workload, Christmas is coming! We only close for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Do make sure you have sufficient medication for the Christmas period but remember we are working between Christmas and New Year and we only close for the Bank Holiday days themselves. The vast majority of patients should not need to change their ordering pattern at all unless perhaps going on holiday for a week or so over Christmas. Some facts about the dispensary. Did you know:

- We now have close to 11,500 patients registered at the practice
- We dispense the medication for around 6,500 of those patients
- We dispense between 9,000 and 10,000 items every month
- In addition to the repeat prescriptions we also dispense for those patients who have just been seen in the surgery, usually while they wait
- We are not allowed to dispense for Linton patients as they live within a mile of a chemist, but we do generate their repeat paper prescriptions for them
- We aim to process repeat prescription requests within 2 working days but it would help us enormously if our dispensing patients could order a week in advance
- When we run behind and your item is not ready for collection (we are not perfect!), we will offer to dispense your prescription while you wait, provided you have given us at least 2 working days notice
- If your medication is delivered to a local collection point you must allow additional time for the delivery
- We normally issue just one month's supply of medication at any one time in line with national and local guidance

AUTUMN CONCERT IN AID OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WEST WRATTING

On behalf of the WW PCC and all the organising committee, we would like to thank everyone who supported our concert either as members of the audience, by the giving of donations or raffle prizes, or helping in any way before or on the day.

Once more, it seems to have been a success both artistically and financially. We are delighted to say that we raised just over £1200 towards the St. Andrew's Restoration Fund.

We would personally like to thank our fellow organisers for all their help, support and useful suggestions, and for all the kind comments we have received from those who attended.

Linda and Michael Gorman

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

It is a difficult time for English teachers at LVC and every other school in the country. Everyone knows how important getting a grade 'C' or better in English GCSE is to students and their futures and pressure is mounting. In 2012 the exam boards put the grade boundaries up higher to make the 'C' harder to achieve. First of all they did this with coursework (or controlled assessments as they are called) and then last year they also did the same with the English exam.

In August, half way through the current Year 11 course, the exam boards threw in another bombshell: that the speaking and listening assignments that students had already worked on, as specified in the exam syllabus, would no longer count towards the final exam: effectively, children and teachers across the country had wasted weeks of work.

What sensible Heads of English quickly worked out was that there was one last chance for these assessments to count and this was in the November 2013 exam window, so, with relief from the students, schools entered children for English in November.

Unfortunately the story does not end there. In the first week of October, an announcement came from the Department for Education to say that it did not approve of early exam entry and in order to discourage schools from pursuing this practice it exclaimed that 'first entries' to an exam would be the ones counted in the performance tables in other words, that schools might risk Ofsted scrutiny for weaker results because retakes in Year 11 would not be counted in the tables.

This is all ridiculous. We are now left with no confidence at all in the fairness of the exam system. School exam results can no longer be compared in any reasonable way: a 'C' grade at GCSE isn't the same as a grade 'C' in iGCSE (grade boundaries for the iGCSE have not been touched), a Welsh grade 'C' isn't the same as an English one (the Welsh exams are easier), and you can't tell if a school has entered children at age 15 or 16 for exams and yet they are viewed the same in the tables.

I do understand that the government wishes to overhaul the exam system. But did they really need to make such a pig's breakfast of the qualifications that our children are currently taking?

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

BALSHAM BALL 23 NOVEMBER

The Balsham Ball is just under 3 weeks away, can you believe it? We can't! We only have a small number of tables left and they may have all gone by the time this goes to print. Call Debbie Paton 01223 291932 if you want to come and join in the frolics and festivities and haven't got your Ball tickets yet, you may still be in luck! Tickets are £55 per person. More information can be found on our website: www.balshamball.co.uk

The Balsham Ball Committee would like to take this final opportunity to remind you that there will be quite a bit of noise disruption coming from the marquee and guests as the noise may travel to neighbouring villages especially if the weather is still. If you have any questions relating to this please call Louise O'Carroll FitzPatrick on 01223 893889 or email her on: fitzpfamily@hotmail.co.uk

NATURE NOTES

Some of the smaller members of the animal kingdom are the gall wasps, which are between one and eight millimetres long. But although we may not often notice the gall wasps themselves, their larvae induce plant galls, within which they develop into adults. A favourite host plant for a number of species of gall wasp larvae in this country seems to be the oak tree, and Di has noticed that the underside of the leaves on the oak tree on the village green are covered with millions of tiny galls, which through a magnifying glass have the appearance of furry doughnuts. These are in fact called spangle galls. Other galls which appear on oak trees include the marble gall, knopper gall, cherry gall and oak apple. Also widespread this year seems to be the robin's pincushion, home to another variety of gall wasp larva and to be seen on dog roses in the hedge. It looks like a fluffy ball and it turns reddish in the autumn. Although the gall provides a defence for the wasp's larvae at the most vulnerable stage of their lives, other wasps have found a way to penetrate the gall and lay an egg on the gall maker. In some cases, other wasps (hyperparasitic) may in turn lay their eggs on the first parasite. So we never really know what is going to emerge from a gall.

It's autumn and many birds are on the move and changing their behaviour. Let's start with the crow family, who seem to be becoming bolder and more numerous this year. Andrew reports seeing a very large flock (more than 13) of magpies roosting on a dead tree near Yen Hall. I will award a special prize for anyone who can extend the rhyme "One for sorrow, two for joy etc." up to 13. Di, meanwhile has seen rooks picking nuts off the top of her walnut tree and flying off with them. She wondered how they break into the nuts. Do they rely on their very powerful bills, or do they drop the nuts from a great height? Or, bearing in mind their well-known intelligence, have they devised some other method of cracking nuts? Moving on to the plover family, Di reports large flocks of golden plover at the crossroads,

piping as they circle before landing on the ploughed field. In the same location I saw about 20 lapwings about to land, almost certainly for the same reason. Now on to thrushes and I sense that we are starting to get our normal winter incursion of blackbirds (there are more in our garden in recent days), and Steve heard the first flock of fieldfares arriving to take advantage of a big crop of berries – no wonder they were chuckling.

Di reports on two other interesting sightings – a "ringtail" or young hen harrier over towards West Wrating, and a cormorant at Hare Wood. Hen harriers do spend winters south of their normal breeding grounds, so this one may have been on its way. I remember seeing one at Fulbourn a couple of years ago at roughly the same time of year. Cormorants, mainly associated with coasts, do come inland to find food – I once saw one sitting on the drainage pipe at the pond at Yen Hall.

Owls are vocal at the moment – Di tells me the young tawny owls are practising, the little owls have been calling behind the White Hart and Sue saw a barn owl just the other side of Brinkley a few days ago.

I have to mention the Canada geese which have been flying over morning and evening for the last couple of weeks. Vic Terry has seen them feeding on the stubble at Streetly End and Hazel Cowan has also seen them in the field at the back of her house in the High Street. They make a sound to lift the spirits.

Finally, after the Village Hall AGM on Friday, there was an exciting and unusual moment when, as people were leaving, a bird (presumably a tit) flew out of the little metal box on the wall intended for fag ends. Yet more proof that the natural world adapts itself to the environment that humans create.

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

OIL ORDERS & NEWS OF RECENT THEFTS

A reminder for those looking to order oil and trying to find the cheapest price: after running the village syndicate for some time I concluded that ordering via Agricole would probably achieve the same, if not better savings than I had managed. If you look on their website <http://www.heating-oil-prices.co.uk/> you can read all about what they do and how to order. They give 4 options for ordering:

1 Individual price: Just ring when you need some oil. Just quote the best price you have received from your suppliers on that day and Agricole Oil will then see if it can better your quote from its suppliers. Delivery is then made 2-3 days later.

2 Daily 'Mini bulk' price: All orders on any day can be pooled together to achieve a volume discount for that day, a 'mini bulk'. This means you get a bigger saving by working together.

3 First of the Month bulk-buying day: Provisional orders are taken during the month and put together into a large monthly bulk order. A price is agreed on the first of the month. Delivery of these orders is normally the first week of the month. This means that with so many customers buying together, even bigger savings are made.

4 Village Buying Groups: As per the monthly scheme but tailored to your village, with quarterly or 6 monthly orders.

Agricole will also make a donation to the village of £5 per calendar year for each member who places orders totalling at least 1000 litres. Do tell them you are ordering following a recommendation from me if you use them.

I have suggested trying the monthly bulk-buying order and ordering yourselves via the website. (Their phone number is 01954 719452.) For those of you without e-mail I have offered to act as the point of contact (as confirmation of the order, who is delivering, the price and how and when to pay is communicated via e-mail), so if you phone me when you want oil I will pass your details on to Agricole and let you know who will be the supplier.

I still have the e-mail addresses of those who were in the syndicate and have recently let them know of at least seven oil thefts that I had been told of in Withersfield, including two from houses targeted again once they had refilled. Apparently the thieves normally use vans such as transit vans which have a tank fitted inside, so please keep a look out for any suspicious vans in the village. The advice from the police to someone in Withersfield is that there are alarms available which fit inside the lid of the tank, so if the lid is moved the alarm is activated.

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

FROM THE VICARAGE

This month the article is written by Rev Kathy Bishop, who is part of our clergy team. One of Kathy's strengths in the team is that she is keen to develop prayer and spiritual direction.

The Julian group

When I first arrived in the six parishes just over two years ago I wanted to set up a Julian group because I had been involved with a similar group in my previous six parishes as a Curate. I found several people who were interested and we began to meet at Hildersham Church. Now we meet at 4 Church Lane, Balsham at the home of Sharon Clark.

The evening starts at 7pm with a piece of music and then a reading from the writing of Julian of Norwich. After the reading we have half an hour of silence concluded with more Julian and then we can share what has happened or not as the case maybe. We conclude with a cup of tea and leave by eight o'clock. We try to meet on the second Wednesday of the month but sometimes that has to be slightly adjusted.

Julian lived around 1373. She was very ill and saw visions given to her by God. She was able to get this written down and this writing is thought to be the earliest surviving book written in English. Her writing cut through the theology of the day and makes the relationship with God much freer.

In the middle of her suffering Julian said, "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." She also had a vision of a hazelnut which represented everything that exists. She was aware of the fragility of things and realised nevertheless, that God loves and sustains all that has been made. And then looks at the question, 'so what?'

If you are interested in coming to a Julian Meeting, we will help you to settle into a quiet place and who knows what might happen in the stillness. Being prepared to be still is the first step.

Has this whetted your appetite for more? The next one is on 20 November. We would love to see you.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT: Letters from a Rectory Dog

The letters to the Balsham Review written by Canon Francis Woolley from 2001 till 2010 have been collected as a book. He wrote as 'Cholmondeley', his Labrador, with amusing references to church and village affairs over the nine years of his time as Rector. Cholmondeley was frequently outspoken about Francis, whom she referred to as HWTHSBO, 'He Who Thinks He Should Be Obeyed'. 'Her' beautifully written letters are a gentle commentary on the life and times of our villages and English country life in general, and would make a good Christmas present for anyone! The book will be available to order in our four churches, Balsham, West Wickham, Weston Colville and West Wrattling, and will also be sold at the Post Office in Balsham. It will be on sale for £5.00, and the proceeds will be equally shared between Sir Michael Sobell House Hospice in Oxford (where Canon Woolley was cared for during his last illness) and the new Parish Room to be constructed in Holy Trinity, Balsham.

Keith Johnson

KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBOUR

There has been much in the press recently about people not knowing their neighbours and about older people feeling increasingly isolated. Living in a small community, where everyone supposedly knows and cares for everyone else, is usually cited as one of the benefits of village life and one of the best ways to do this is to support and join one of our clubs which meet in the Village Hall.

The **Carpet Bowls Club** meets every Wednesday at 7pm. Carpet bowls doesn't have a great image but it is admirably suited to all abilities, equipment is provided, it involves not-too-strenuous exercise, it allows you to develop skills and above all it is very sociable and great fun.

The **Local History Club** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm. It organised the community archaeology Big Village Dig project in the summer in which many of you took part. In the winter months, there is a programme of talks on local, regional and even national history and plenty of opportunity to do a little research of your own if you wish (with lots of help and advice).

The **Gardening Club** meets on the 3rd Monday in the month for a programme of talks on all aspects of gardening along with evening visits to gardens in the summer. Big discounts are available on seed orders and the Club organises a very popular plant sale and the Annual Show.

All three Clubs have members from surrounding villages, as well as West Wickham, which provides great opportunities to socialise, get to know your neighbours and make new friends. All of them welcome new members with open arms - so why not give one or all of them a try?

As Secretary for two of the Clubs and on the committee of the third, I would be happy to provide more details. It's often difficult to go along to something on your own for the first time so do contact me if you would like someone to go with. Again, get in touch if you would like to come but don't like going out alone or drive in the dark - we can always find someone to give you a lift.

I look forward to seeing you.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street
T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 21 October the Club gave a warm welcome to the clematis expert Everett Leeds. His talk was on herbaceous clematis; integrifolia, heracleifolia and other species not normally found in local nurseries. His photos were superb and his advice eagerly sought by our members and numerous visitors from nearby Clubs.

Our next talk is Monday 18 November when Dr. Catherine Barwise will tell us about "Gardening from the 1600s"

Rosemary Yallop (Speaker's Secretary)

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 November

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