

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2014

ISSUE 135

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 1 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 2 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 5 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
Horseheath Country Fair. See page 2
Sun 6 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 8 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 9 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 13 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 15 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 16 Deadline for items for inclusion in the August Village Voice
Wed 16 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 17 ROAD RESURFACING
Sun 20 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 22 Black wheeled bin
Wed 23 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 26 Balsham Singers concert. 7.30pm,
Balsham Church. See page 4
Sun 27 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 28 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents of West Wickham & Streetly End are welcome to attend.
Tue 29 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 30 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday to Friday
9.30 – 12.30 in the Village Hall

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 16 August

Gardening Club Annual Show

Details from:

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street. T: 290863.

Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

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

BIG JOHN R.I.P.

Cheerio Big John.

When we came to The White Horse Pub back in 1986 the first customers were Bill Jolly and The Three 'Mustgettheirs' John (Cotterell), Roy & Tim who arrived to give Beryl and I the once over. We were accepted and from that day on there were plenty of 'Happy Days' to remember with John.

There were BBQs, Tug of Wars, Fund Raising Events, Late Nights and oh so many things with John at the centre of most of them!

John also had the 'Cooking Bug' and besides working with Len at the BBQ. John helped me out in the kitchen and our curries and chillies became famous all around. Always happy to help in the kitchen, behind the bar and as a 'persuader' on the odd occasion when someone needed to go home early! John & Roy were always there. These were GREAT times but as many people know the 'not so good' things' started to happen in John's life.

I prefer to remember the good times such as using the white line in the middle of the road as a guide to get home after a 'GOOD' night, like celebrating the birth of my Grandson by emptying the bar shelves of odd drinks before helping cook and serving 20 Haverhill Firemen and their partners.

THANK YOU JOHN for all our good memories and if anyone deserves to **REST IN PEACE** after all bad times then I think it is you.

Vic & Beryl Terry

ROAD REPAIRS & SURFACE DRESSING

The High Street, and we believe, Burton End are scheduled to be surface dressed on Thursday 17 July. There are likely to be road closures to enable this to happen. The process is weather dependent and we understand there is a possibility that the dates could change at short notice. For further information regarding this please go to the Cambridgeshire County Council website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

We understand signs will be put out 7 days in advance of the works, and a County Council letter drop will take place around the same time notifying if there are to be road closures. The contractor will leaflet drop the road a few days in advance of the commencement of works.

To make this operation successful you will have to find somewhere for cars normally parked on the road. Please talk to neighbours who have driveways you could share. Both Village Hall car parks will be available on the day with the rear car park open the night before.

Andrew Morris

A PLEA

I wonder if those property owners who have hedges encroaching on the pavement could give them a haircut so that those of us who walk prams and dogs have a bit more space!

Thank you for your cooperation

Nicky Cornish

FROM WEST WRATTING VICARAGE

*: Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
..... Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages*

Or, for those of you not familiar with Medieval English,
*When April with his showers sweet with fruit
The drought of March has pierced unto the root
.....Then do folk long to go on pilgrimage*
- the opening lines of Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales"

Well. I went on a pilgrimage of my own, not in April but in May, though the weather was as wet and windy as April, and not as sweet. I went with my sister and her husband to visit the grave of the uncle we never knew. Uncle Wilfrid, the second of my mother's two elder brothers, was hardly ever mentioned at home. He had been killed in Northern France in September 1918, when my mother was only 10 and he was 20. She barely remembered him, so he was little more than a name. But my sister was keen that we should visit his grave and with the wonders of the Internet it was easy to discover its exact location. So off we went to the little town of Hazebrook, about 40 minutes south of the Dunkirk ferry port and not far from the Belgian border.

The cemetery of La Creule (or La Kreule in the Flemish version which was prevalent until quite recently) lies just outside Hazebrook, at a junction on the bypass. Heavy lorries thundered past as we arrived in the driving rain and wind, carrying two roses, one white and one red, as he had been in the York and Lancaster Regiment, with a card that recorded the love and admiration of the niece and nephew he never knew. It is a small cemetery, only (!) 500 graves, including about 12 German ones, and impeccably maintained like all the War Grave Commission sites. It was unbearably moving standing there by this grave identical to all the others, yet totally unlike the others because my uncle was buried there. We were almost certainly the first members of our family to have visited it, and probably the first people ever to have visited this specific grave deliberately, as it were. You could not but weep - and I did.

Remembrance Sunday for me, as for any Church of England priest, has always been an important day in the year's ministry. But now it will never be quite the same. My perspective has altered. And this it seems to me is a good illustration of Edmund Burke's famous remarks about what he called the Little Platoons. He said "*To love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ as it were) of public affections. It is the first link in the series by which we proceed toward a love to our country and to mankind.*" So one, in the greater sweep of history, extremely minor death has brought to me a greater understanding and a greater intensity of feeling to the national scene.

And I couldn't help reflecting on the significance of visiting the grave. The final paragraph of George Eliot's towering novel, Middlemarch, says "*that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been is half owing to to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs.*" Well, Uncle Wilfrid's tomb has been visited and in some obscure way I feel a debt has, at least in part, been repaid.

John Fellows

SPONSORED SKYDIVE

I am doing the skydive at March on 11 July to raise funds for Arthur Rank Hospice in memory of my Mother in Law, Janice Newton. The reason I am doing the skydive is to raise funds to help with the care and visitors kitchen. When my Mother in Law was near her final days the staff realised that moving her to a side room was not an option as she has such a big family, what with four adult children who are all married, her husband, her brother and sister in law as well as friends and other family members that wanted to say their goodbyes. The staff decided to section off a whole ward to accommodate us all so we could all be in the room at once. The care and compassion the family received was excellent and I wanted to do something so that other families could experience the same level of care and compassion. I have already been sponsored by some parishioners but if anyone would like to sponsor me then please contact me at 14 High Street, 01223 291948 or via Justgiving.com and search for Josephine Newton, Jo's Jump For Janice

Many thanks

Josephine Newton

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION 2014

The collection this year amounted to £1,601.76 - the best ever! Over £330 came from donations in West Wickham, West Wrattling and Weston Colville, so we wish to thank all donors in these villages for their generosity, especially those who took the trouble to fill in the Gift Aid flap on the red envelopes. Your gifts will benefit folk who have suffered grievously through war or turmoil and who need practical help to rebuild their lives.

Many thanks also to those who organised your collections, and delivered the proceeds safely back to Balsham! Your efforts and enthusiasm are much appreciated.

Sheelagh Savage, with Joanna Sanders. Christian Aid reps



**HORSEHEATH
COUNTRY FAIR**
Horseheath Racecourse
4 miles west of Haverhill on A1307

6th July 2014
10.00AM TO 4.00PM

Entry - £6 per person, £3 for under 16 year olds and under 5s get in free

**HEAVY HORSE, FERRET & FALCONRY DISPLAYS . HOUND PARADE
CYRIL THE SQUIRREL & HIS TERRIER RACING TEAM
GUN DOG DEMONSTRATION
DOG SHOW . EQUESTRIAN EVENTS . EAST ANGLIAN HOUND SHOW
'HAVE A GO' FLY CASTING & CLAY SHOOTING
MODERN & VINTAGE FARM MACHINERY
REFRESHMENTS . TRADE STANDS . CHILDREN'S ATTRACTIONS**

www.thurlowhunt.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This was held on the 2 June followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. This is a shortened version of the Minutes which will be posted on the Parish Council notice board.

Chairman and Vice Chairman: Marcus Cornish was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year, with Patrick Charlton elected as Vice Chairman.

Finance: The End of Year Accounts. These were agreed and signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk. The Statement of Accounts was also agreed and signed followed by the Chairman signing the Statement of Governance. Allocated reserves of £5620.96 were agreed, leaving unallocated reserves of £587.23 at the end of the financial year.

Village Sign: It was agreed that applications for grants should be made.

Daisy Chain Preschool: It had been agreed that there would be an update on the financial situation of the Daisy Chain Preschool at each meeting. There was a hopeful report that through much fund raising and the waiving of the letting fee by the Village Hall Management Committee there would be a small profit at the end of the year.

Planning:

S/2492/13 – Proposed caravan site at Burton End – no decision yet but it was understood that the applicant has been invited to withdraw his application.

S/2427/2433/13 – The gallop had been approved by SCDC but no decision yet on a dwelling and stables.

S/0553/14 - 1st floor extension to 92 High Street had been approved by SCDC.

S/0321/14 - New garage at Blaybourne House, Burton End - no decision yet.

Maintenance:

1. Drains & flooding at Church End T-junction. County Cllr. Hickford said he, Marcus Cornish and a Highways Officer would be visiting on 4 June to look at the situation.
2. CGM has unfortunately not followed the request made to leave a 4m margin round the recreation field to allow the wild flowers to seed and protect the newly planted trees.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall has successfully applied for a grant to help with the costs in setting this up.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on

Monday 28 July at 7.30pm

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 894076

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting was attended by 35 parishioners. Displays had been set up for the Local History Club and its "Big Dig" and the Gardening Club. The Carpet Bowls Club had a mat and bowls available for "have a go" after the meeting. The following is a short report of the meeting. The Minutes which will be posted on the Parish Council notice board

The only matter arising from the 2013 Parish Meeting was the crumbling pavements. Work had been carried out along part of the High Street but one section had been done later to a lower standard.

The Chairman, Marcus Cornish, gave a short report on Parish Council activities for the year. He thanked Justin

Plumb for organising the refurbishment of the playground and Jennifer Richards for all her hard work as the Parish Clerk. His report which will be posted on the notice board.

Reports from Clubs & Societies

Janet Morris spoke with enthusiasm about the two main projects of the Local History Club, namely the "Big Village Dig" which was carried out last year but regrettably the final report from the archaeologists supporting the dig was still eagerly awaited. The second project is finding out more about the people named on the Village War Memorial for the 1st World War. There is one man named on the memorial that nothing is known about!

Janet Morris also spoke about the Carpet Bowls Club which meets every week on a Wednesday evening and invited people to come and see what a good sport and social evening it was.

Nick Salter gave a report for the Village Hall, commenting on the maintenance projects that had been completed during the year and the plans to refurbish the floor in August. This was followed by Arthur Mawby on the Gardening Club and Sue Harrow on the Daisy Chain Preschool. All these reports will be posted on the Parish Council notice board.

Wrattling Common crossroad.

County Cllr. Roger Hickford spoke about the proposed staggered crossroads at this junction. £369,000 has been made available to carry out this work which will probably start next year. There was discussion about the implications of a staggered junction for those driving on the more minor roads, and concern was raised that it will take longer for cyclists to get across the more major road. It was suggested that rumble strips would have been a good way of slowing the main road traffic down between West Wrattling and Withersfield but it was understood that West Wrattling Parish Council had declined to contribute financially towards these although West Wickham and Weston Colville had been willing to do so.

A1307 improvements

Roger Hickford then went on to speak about plans for development in Haverhill and the impact on the A1307. He wished to apologise for any "blue sky" thinking that had got into the press about a possible new road along the line of the Roman Road and the building of a new town to help finance it. These were ideas not proposals but he said there was a need to reduce backup of traffic caused by the bottlenecks, especially at Linton. A detailed traffic survey will start on 8 June, using number plate recognition, to show where traffic is coming from and going to. This will also identify whether the villages on either side of the A1307 are increasingly being used as "rat runs" with several hundred cars going through them at peak hours. The results of the traffic survey will be made widely available and decisions based on the results. It was recognised that any improvement would be long term and dependent on finance being available but the meeting felt that there was still a need for improved and safer access from nearby villages to the A1307.

The formal meeting closed at 9pm but people enjoyed a glass of wine or beer and tried out a game of Carpet Bowls. The money for the drinks went to the Daisy Chain Preschool to help with their funds.

NATURE NOTES

So far 2014 has been a good year for wildlife. Living things are growing, breeding, flying, crawling, creeping and buzzing in very healthy numbers. I will begin with the flora, and pride of place in recent weeks goes to the orchids. Di draws attention to *“the orchids on the local footpaths and around the village, common spotted, bee and early purple, and to Fulbourn Fen where there are large numbers of southern marsh and twayblade orchids, the latter producing strange yellowish green flowers.”* If you walk round the lake opposite Sainsburys in Haverhill you would be rewarded with a lovely sprinkling of pyramidal orchids, as well as meadow vetchling. Sandra particularly mentioned the many bee orchids at White Gables and Trevor has a plentiful and varied supply in his back garden, while some splendid common spotted have been defiantly flowering in the field opposite us, contrasting with the diseased ash saplings. It's not all orchids though, and honourable mention must go to the oxeye daisies, vetches, dog roses and the fabulous crop of creamy elderflower in the hedgerows. Already we are seeing meadowsweet and scabious in the ditches, and agrimony on the verge.

Moving on to the insects, it appears to have been a good year for butterflies although we await their high season in July and August. I am told that there are numbers of large skippers to be seen on the Roman Road, and the speckled wood (a favourite of both Di and mine) is never far away from the shadier footpaths where there are overhanging trees. I was surprised to see a green shield bug the other day because I normally associate them with autumn, while Di reports *“blue lacewings, not rare, but uncommon, as beautiful and fragile as the common green ones, but a stunning pale blue in colour. They seem to have emerged on the grasses around the Gallop. Has anyone seen them elsewhere?”* I'm sure everyone agrees that ants are doing well this year. Inadvertently disturbing ants' nests is an occupational hazard, and there are a couple of big colonies in our compost bins up here. Some people do not like ants, but they feed on garden pests such as aphids, and are a cleaning agent for starlings who allow them to crawl over and squirt formic acid, although I have never actually witnessed this. It would be nice to know how bees are doing locally; we all know how important they are. Di *“was amazed to witness a large swarm of bees as they flew over, making a very loud drone as they passed.”*

There have been quite a few highlights on the bird front. One was seeing a cuckoo fly from a tree near the Roman Road all the way across to Balsham Wood, cuckooing as he went, and another was watching two curlews fly up next to the Rowley Mile racecourse at Newmarket. The village was visited by a large group of starlings a couple of weeks ago, and they have been in many of our gardens, as Di describes *“flying around in gangs, shrieking and chattering as they ‘duck and dive’ between the roofs and trees, just like a group of teenagers”*. Young birds are about everywhere as they fledge, including blue and great tits from various nest boxes, and a family of long tailed tits that Di has seen in the trees. We have swallows nesting in our garage. The young are yet to emerge, and our cat has taken to sitting on top of the car watching the adults whizzing over her head. They are not deterred.

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

SPEEDING THROUGH VILLAGES

This is regularly raised as a concern at Police panel meetings and they encourage local residents to speak to their Parish Council if they feel there is a particular problem in their village, and to consider setting up a Speedwatch made up of volunteers who are trained to carry out speed checks. West Wickham has had a group of Speedwatch volunteers in the past but it is currently inactive because there are now not enough volunteers to set up speed monitoring sessions on a regular basis. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Trevor Hall on T: 290559, Email: trevor.hall@btinternet.com

To support these schemes and address community concerns about speeding the police have set up a system whereby anyone can ask for a police speed check by using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/SCSpeedTeam>

You will be asked to give the location, any particular times when vehicles are regularly speeding and what the speed limit of the road is. Once the speed check is carried out the police will feed back the results to the Parish Council and if appropriate speedwatch to help identify whether further road safety options should be considered.

ADULT EDUCATION AT SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Our adult education classes are now coming to an end for the 2013/2014 academic year. Once again, we have had a very successful year with learner numbers up on last year. We would like to thank all our learners and tutors for making this happen. Look out for our new 2014/2015 Adult Learning programme which will be delivered to Sawston and the surrounding villages in July. We are delighted to be offering a wide range of courses which will suit all interests and tastes, for learners of all ages and abilities. An example of some of the new classes on offer are Flower Arranging, Photographing the world around you, Cooking for One, Chair based exercise, Fitness Yoga, Holiday Languages such as French, Spanish, German and Italian. Please also check the website for Saturday Workshops.

Please visit our website www.sawstonadulted.org for more information or contact us on 01223 712424 or community@sawstonvc.org. Why not follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/sawstonadulted>.

If there are any particular subjects you would like us to offer, or indeed anything you would like to offer to teach, please contact us. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our courses in September 2014.

VIVA LA MUSICA – THE SEQUEL!

**Saturday 26 July, 7.30 pm
Holy Trinity Church Balsham**

Thanks to those who attended our May concert and for your positive comments. If you can't wait till Christmas then why not come to Balsham Singers' choral music extravaganza with three other local choirs, directed by John Clenaghan?

It will feature music from the Bond films, “Sister Act”, “The Lion King”, “Titanic” and much more.

Tickets are available from john.clenaghan@sky.com for £5 with under 18s free. Profits are to be shared between Holy Trinity Church and Tom's Trust.

Be warned! We think we are going to raise that roof again!

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

Change at the Health Centre – Some insights and reflections from Dr Arbide

You might have seen the 'Putting Patients First' poster and petition promoted by the Royal College of General Practitioners. I thought it may be useful to express how recent change is affecting The Health Centre.

The change is relentless: often driven from outside forces influencing our policies and day to day work. However, we the partners who have ownership and responsibility for The Health Centre are increasingly having to take difficult decisions about the future, which can influence services offered, staff employment, appointments available. As you may suspect many of these decisions are designed to 'make efficiencies'.

We recently sadly decided that we could not afford the counselling service, paid by the surgery profits for many years.

We are reviewing the skill mix, and recently started providing nurse practitioner appointments by two highly trained and skilled members of our team. This allows GPs to spend more time on specialised or more complex aspects of care.

We feel that we should reduce our cosmetic minor surgery for minor skin tags and benign blemishes as there is no NHS funding for this work and for years we have funded this ourselves at a loss (we can refer patients to an experienced GP in Sawston to do these for a reasonable fee). The minor surgery will concentrate more on diagnosing and treating skin lesions to ensure we treat sun damage and skin cancers to a high standard, and treat painful or infected lesions.

We have cancelled the flower delivery to brighten up the waiting room (£700 a year), choosing instead to bring flowers and pots from home.

Much of our management time is spent reviewing how to make savings constantly pressurised by the commissioning bodies: how to prescribe more efficiently, avoid waste, prevent expensive hospital referrals and admissions.

We have an appointment system largely driven by demand. That means that traditionally patients decide when and why they need to be seen. This does not work for everybody as many people feel their problem is urgent and will request / demand appointments on the day. Many of these (but certainly not all) will be justified, which means that often people need to wait longer for routine appointments.

We are increasingly thinking about triaging appointment requests, to make sure patients are seen when they need to by the most appropriate person, facilitating telephone consultations (we have usually called patients back the same day on request, pretty much about anything) and ensuring that the very time consuming home visits are for the truly housebound or acutely ill immobile patient, and not for those that could make it to the surgery even if they have some difficulty with transport. We need to make sure that the limited resources we have are well used.

We have constant demands to demonstrate our quality from many individuals and organisations, also to develop new services every year. These are often mandatory and require high levels of managerial and at times clinical skill. They

often require using extensive resources including our precious time. I am thinking about the Care Quality Commission, Quality and Outcome Frameworks, Enhanced Services, Multidisciplinary Team Work, Medihome work, Any Qualified Provider service applications, Training commitments, Palliative care work, Nursing Home patient care, professional development and appraisals, commissioning audit. The resources to fund this work are sometimes limited or simply not available.

As a surgery we all take pride and satisfaction in providing a great service to our community, from receptionist to manager, from health care assistant to nurse practitioner, from secretary to doctor. We have always aimed to put the patient first, to provide personal care, holistic, honest and to a high professional standard.

We are extremely fortunate and privileged to serve a group of patients who are in their overwhelmingly majority supportive, appreciative, kind and intelligent.

As partners, myself and my colleagues find ourselves increasingly managing the change to ensure we maintain high quality care, prioritising shrinking resources against increasing demands. We need to ensure that we have a sustainable, successful primary care service in an increasingly challenging climate, to be able to continue putting you, the patient, first.

A named GP for those aged 75 and over

One of our new contractual requirements is to allocate a 'named GP' for everyone aged 75 and over and to inform patients by the end of July. The named GP will have responsibility for co-ordinating the care of that patient. With over 1150 patients in that age group, we have shared the patients between all the GPs at the practice. **(Please be assured that you can still make your appointment with any of the doctors at the health centre, just as you have always been able to do.)**

Many patients in that age group have regular repeat medication and so we have added the named doctor information to the repeat request slip. Those that are not on any repeat medication will have received a letter from us. Going forward, patients must be informed of their 'named GP' within 21 days of reaching their 75th birthday, so we will be sending monthly letters to patients just before they reach their 75th birthday.

Our Patient Reference Group (PRG)

Would you like to be a part of a group of patients who help set priorities for the Health Centre? Our PRG operates mainly by e-mail and one of the members, Nicky Cornish from West Wickham, represents the practice on the CATCH patient group. (CATCH = Cambridge Association to Commission Health the Local Commissioning Group).

Our PRG helps us set the questions for our annual patient survey and contributes to prioritising actions for the future. They will review a summary of our complaints and feedback suggestions to us. If you would like to get involved, pick up a registration form from reception or download a form from our web-site.

For those with no internet access, we will use good old paper and post!

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

At a Village College it is sometimes difficult to draw the line between what is the business of the school and what is a community matter because school and community are so inter-related. This is particularly true now that people have access to each other during all waking hours via the internet. It is easy for people to assume that what a child does in the street is the responsibility of the school, rather than a matter for their parents and equally easy for people to think that what children write about each other on social network sites in their homes is something that schools should sort out. The lines can become blurred. Let me explain.

One of the drawbacks of the internet is that it gives people something to hide behind: they will write things in emails or on a social network site that they would not say to your face. If a child or a member of the public is offensive to an employee of a school (in an out of school context like on Facebook or in the street) BECAUSE they are an employee of the school then this is indeed the business of the school to address. The offensive remarks could be defamation of character or be libellous if published in this way and could damage careers or reputations.

If a child is offensive to another child on the internet this could be part of a pattern of bullying. Although the behaviour has occurred out of school, our own bullying policy makes it clear that we would investigate the matter if it is brought to our attention because, firstly the bully's parents should be told about what is occurring and secondly because we would need to be absolutely sure that no such unpleasantness was also occurring at school. Where we would draw the line is that we would leave parents to decide how to deal with disciplining their own children for any unacceptable behaviour that originated on their own computer.

What of course we all do as educators is ensure that children have been taught about the way to present themselves and behave on the internet. This is the curriculum of assemblies, PSHE days, ICT lessons and tutorials. That is not to say that young people will take any notice of their education.....schools also educate about the dangers of alcohol, smoking, healthy eating, of unprotected sex, of abuses of power, of the importance of voting.....any number of things that people may choose to ignore now or later in life, but it is part of a responsibility that we take very seriously indeed in the hope that it is taken to heart. You have to be an optimist to work in schools.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

RAINFALL FIGURES - APRIL & MAY

Two very contrasting months! Met Office statistics show the average rainfall in Cambridgeshire for April as 41.2mm and May as 46mm.

	April	May
High Street	19.25mm	100mm
Streetly End	21mm	89mm
Streetly Hall Farm	14mm	86mm
Total to end of May	2014	2013
High Street	332.5mm	216.5mm
Streetly End	306mm	199.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	335mm	199.5mm

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

At the end of last half term I had the pleasure of accompanying the Year 6 children on their residential trip to Finborough. Sleep was limited but exercise and fresh air were in abundance. The children excelled in everything they did and they made the staff at the Meadow very proud. We abseiled, climbed crates, kayaked, built rafts, rode quad bikes and much more. The children were well behaved and despite being exhausted at the end of the trip, they had a great time.

We have been off to a very busy start to the last half term of this academic year! Key Stage One had a great trip to Hatfield Forest; the children thoroughly enjoyed the den building and bug hunting there.

Our netball team took part in the Comberton Hi 5 Netball Tournament and the girls were placed a very respectable 6th out of 14 teams – well done to all of you, what a great result.

The children in Year 5 took part in the Maths Challenge for Cambridgeshire and they beat 9 other schools to claim first place! Well done! The team will be going forward to the final at Duxford Air Museum next month.

We had a fantastic time at June Revels this year. Despite a bit of a gloomy morning when the volunteers were setting up in the drizzle, the sun came out and so did the children! There were fantastic activities for the children and adults, a dance performance, candy floss, pop corn, a BBQ and refreshments, face painting and lots of stalls with fabulous games and prizes. There was a great atmosphere and the children and adults all had a lovely time. The PTA worked so hard to ensure the success of the event. I would like to make a special thank you to Debbie Paton who almost lived at the school in the run up! Thank you to all who attended and to all of those that volunteered their time to make it such a success.

We now have our plans for our next project which is the development of the Key Stage One outside area and we are planning on starting work soon. If there are any keen gardeners, carpenters, or anyone that would just like to help out – please contact the office and leave your details, we would love your help.

School improvements are still ongoing, we are having our final Local Authority Inspection in July and we are aiming high for this final one. We are also expecting the SATs results in at this time and the Key Stage One results which are currently being externally moderated. Everyone has worked incredibly hard across the whole school and we are feeling nervous and excited about the outcome.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 July

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contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.

e-mail: editor_wwillagevoice@yahoo.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.