

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

SEPTEMBER 2014

ISSUE 137

VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 6 **Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00**
Linton Village College
Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 9 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 10 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 15 **Gardening Club AGM. 7.30pm**
Village Hall
Tue 16 Black wheeled bin collection
- Deadline for items for the October issue of the Village Voice**
- Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 23 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 24 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Fri 26 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Bingo Night.**
7.30pm, Village Hall. See ad on page 5
Sun 28 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 29 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**
7.30pm, Village Hall.
All are welcome to attend
Tue 30 Black wheeled bin collection

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

Date for your diary

11-12 October
Meadow School, Balsham
Craft & Gift Fair
See back page for details

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Survey Questionnaire and associated maps were collected from the printers on 4 August and the Working Group met on 5 August. The Questionnaires were given out to the members of the Group who are going to deliver them to the parts of the villages they had volunteered to cover.

Unfortunately it is the holiday season and not all the Working Group were at the meeting and this means some Questionnaires will not be delivered immediately. We don't feel this is a problem as we are not expecting the collection of the Questionnaires to be completed before the end of September as we realise a lot of people will be going away on holiday.

We would be grateful if you would complete the survey as soon as possible and have them ready for collection. We have had the forms printed in blue so they will stand out from other circulars and whilst we have some spares it will be a big help if you don't lose the forms which were initially delivered.

If you have any queries please contact the person delivering the forms or give me a call on 290559.

Trevor Hall

HEATING OIL THEFT

Cambridgeshire Police have warned that heating oil thefts have started again locally. There was a theft of heating oil between 10:00 hrs 15/08/2014 and 13:40 hrs 18/08/2014 at The Green, Weston Colville. Intruders forced the padlock at top of the tank, and broke another cap, stealing approx. 300 litres of fuel.

If you see anything suspicious call the Police on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111. You can find more detailed information regarding heating oil security advice on the Cambridgeshire Police blog www.SouthCambsCops.org

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

An allotment will become available from the beginning of October. It is approx 12 x 40 yards, has been cultivated and will be left free of crops and in good order. It can be rented as a whole or if more than one person is interested can be split into smaller units - half or quarter allotments. The rent is £10.00pa for the whole or £5.00/£2.50pa respectively. Water is available, charged separately by the Village Hall. For those of you who do not know where the allotments are, they are behind and to the left of the Village Hall.

If you are interested in renting the allotment, or part of it please contact Jennifer Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council. T: 01223 894076
email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

If you would like to have a look at the allotment please contact Andrew Morris who will be happy to show you around. You can contact him on T: 290863, email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

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.

A BIG, BIG, BIG THANK YOU FROM DAISYCHAINS PRESCHOOL

This summer term has been an unsure, but nevertheless, a very busy term for us all at Daisychains. As many of you know, back in March we were on a very unstable financial footing with very little money to cover rent of the hall or staff wages, let alone to pay for the day to day running of the preschool. We had no option but to extend our normal fundraising efforts immediately in order to save the preschool from imminent closure. Our small committee of staff and parents set to this task with enthusiasm and with lots of wonderful support from many generous people we have managed to save the preschool's closure for the future.

We held extra fundraising events throughout the spring and summer which were well attended and appear to have been well received. The Easter Extravaganza went down a treat with everybody and the pudding nights were good fun. Another new venture that we undertook was to run some trial 'Stay and Play Sessions' in the school holidays. These proved to be popular so we have decided to continue these throughout the summer holidays (The last one is on 4/09). They only cost £2.50 plus 50p for each additional child and run from 10 – 12noon. Please feel free to come along and have tea and cake as well!

None of these events would have been successful without the support of members of the surrounding community so Daisychains would like to send out **A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to absolutely **EVERYBODY** who has helped us in any way whatsoever over the last few difficult months. By helping with or attending the events and supporting us in 'our hour of need' it is you that have prevented Daisychains from having to close. The outlook for the preschool is much brighter for the foreseeable future.

In September we will start our school year with 19 children on our register (a much better number than the 4 that we had in September last year !!), and with continued fundraising planned for the next school year we should be able to keep the preschool running for the next few years at least.

Our next major fund raiser will be Bingo Night on 26 September, 8pm in the Village Hall so get your bingo dabbers at the ready ! Our AGM is to be held on 6 October at 8pm. Anybody is welcome to attend – you do not have to be involved in the preschool to attend our meeting, and we would be glad to have community input and ideas. Next half term sees the children at Daisychains focussing on 'Fairy Tales' and then we will be in the run up to Christmas which is always a favourite time for the children (and Nadine!!) Please watch out for further information on future events,

Sue Harrow

COME WALKING

Carol Hall and I are going to start exploring our local footpaths . We plan to walk for about 1.5 hours, to a local pub, have lunch, then return using (hopefully) a different route. Anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome. We will be starting in September and thought the first Thursday of the month would be a good starting point. We will leave Maypole Croft at 10.30am. Please do join us.

Di Licence. T: 290434

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

It has been a difficult growing year, with the hot dry spring, cool summer and monsoon like rain in the days leading up to the show. Despite this exhibitors were not put off and by the time the judges arrived, an excellent display filled the Village Hall. The children's exhibits all deserved prizes and made the task of deciding the winners an extremely hard (and unenviable) one! The quality of the vegetables was very high and it was so encouraging to see so many beans, carrots, tomatoes etc and some magnificent bowls brim full of salad vegetables. The colourful display of flowers was especially pleasing. The exhibits of jams, chutneys and fruit liqueurs were excellent. This year we had our very own Star Baker competition and the tray bakes, wholemeal loaves and chocolate cakes made my mouth water and certainly impressed the Judge. Well done, everyone who entered should be proud of their effort. It was also great to find that there were several new trophy winners.

The cup & trophy winners were:

The Children's Trophy: Noah MacNamara

The West Wrattling Cup for Vegetables & Fruit: Andrew Morris

The White Horse Trophy for Flowers & Pot Plants: Jane Scheuer

The Stan & Hilda Cox Cup for Domestic classes: Sue Kiddy

The West Wickham Star Baker: Val Scott.

The Ralph Westwood-Bate Photography Cup: Rosemary Yallop

The Bill Pearson Cup for the most points won in show was won by Rosemary Yallop with Andrew Morris & Simon Blackwell runners up.

The RHS Banksian Medal was won by Andrew Morris.

I enjoyed it, I know those who attended were impressed by what they saw, those of you who were not able to come missed a great display, so don't miss out on next year's show.

Andrew Morris, Show Organiser

Autumn 2014 Programme

Monday 15 September. Annual General Meeting

Monday 20 October

The Humble Spud (and other related plants).

Talk by John Walker.

Monday 17 November

Waterlilies and Monet.

Talk by Caroline Holmes.

Monday 15 December. Christmas Quiz.

All meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Further details from: Rosemary Yallop.

T: 01799 584262

BADMINTON

Is anyone in West Wickham interested in making up a 4some for badminton one afternoon a week? If you are please contact me

Di Licence. T: 290434

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 July these were some of the items discussed.

Matters arising:

Village Sign: A model had been made by Martin Chamberlain of the proposed village sign in miniature. It was agreed that he would be asked to make the Village Sign at a cost of £300 and the plinth of brick and provision of the post at a cost of £1100 to be built by Tom Licence, making a considerable saving on the original proposed cost of £3400.

White Horse LDC application: Nothing further has been heard and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should write to the Legal Dept. of SCDC who are now looking at it to ask them about the current situation and suggesting that Mr Jordan submit a fresh planning application. An email had been received from CAMRA expressing an interest in the pub.

Dean Road: Cllr. Hickford told Council that the overhanging foliage and the flooding caused by blocked gulleys had been looked at and would be dealt with by the Highways Department.

Planning:

S/2492/13 – Caravan Site – The application has been passed to outside consultants so still no decision.

S/2433/13/FL – Proposed gallop on Balsham Hill. This has been approved following the change of access to Dean Road.

Finance:

The internal audit report carried out for 2013/14 was discussed and overall it was good. There was a query regarding the depreciation/appreciation of assets and the Parish Clerk will ask the Internal Auditor for her advice.

Maintenance:

There are still problems with the drains and manholes at 1 High St. The road will need digging up to replace pipe/pipes.

Resurfacing. It was not known when this would start. Cllr. Hickford was asked if the Parish Clerk could be notified by email when work is going to be done which she could then relay to the parish.

Children's Play area: Wicksteeds, who will be inspecting the new Play Area for the next 3 years, have also agreed to inspect the other items usually covered by RoSPA at a cost of £45.00 per inspection up to and including 2017. This was agreed.

Bus Service Review: Cllr. Morris attended a meeting of the County Council review committee and the No.46 bus

service was discussed. It is the most used service with 33 people using it regularly and therefore unlikely to be cut.

Neighbourhood Village Plan: Cllr. Hall will shortly be distributing the Questionnaire survey to everyone in the village for their input. A £450 grant has been received to cover costs.

Telephone Kiosk: Unfortunately the group of people who are interested in taking on the care of the kiosk were not able to attend. It was thought to be a good idea to adopt it but before contacting BT to take this further the PC needs to know what the groups intentions are and to reach an agreement on its use.

Traffic issues: There have been problems of speeding tractors having to drive in the middle of the road because of overhanging foliage. The Chairman will speak to Thurlow Estate with the suggestion of a 20mph speed limit when farm machinery is driven through villages. He had also checked and hedging opposite the Village Hall, the far end of Maypole Croft and from 89-91 High Street needs cutting back.

Report by Dist.Cllr. Barrett:

SCDC are proposing to share services with other local authorities with Building Control merging with Huntingdon District Council and IT services and the Legal Dept. to possibly join with Cambridge City Council in order to economise.

The trial run on recycling textiles last year was unsuccessful.

Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

8M is spent on land fill; negotiations are in hand to join recycling centres with other authorities to try and save money.

2M has been given to the Council for pot hole repairs extra to the 10M already given.

Any Other Business:

The Parish Clerk was asked to write to the Cambridgeshire Cottage Housing Society with regard to the need to cut back the brambles running down to the road at Home Close.

Allotment holders have had problems on occasions at gaining access to the allotments because cars were parked in front of the gates when functions were held in the Village Hall. functions. There was a need for some signage. The Chairman will discuss this at the VHMC meeting.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 29 September
All are welcome to attend.**

Jenny Richards. Parish Clerk . T: 01223 894076



CAMBRIDGESHIRE CELEBRATES AGE IN WEST WRATTING AND LOCAL VILLAGES

A free afternoon of entertainment has been arranged by Age UK Cambridgeshire as part of Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age.

The event for older people will be held at West Wrattling Village Hall, High Street, West Wrattling on Tuesday 7 October from 2.30 – 4pm. Easy listening musical entertainment will be followed by afternoon tea.

Please do come along to support this fun afternoon. Free transport to the event can be arranged.

For more information about the afternoon or to book a place at the event, please call Age UK Cambridgeshire on 01354 696650.

BALSHAM SCOUT AND CUB NEWS

The Scouts and Cubs held their AGM on 15 July where the activities of the year were reviewed. Looking back at the year in one go makes you realise what fantastic leaders the two groups have with the number of activities that are packed into the year. To give you a taster:

The Scouts completed a night hike followed by a 'sleepover' at the Scout Hut, their cooking badge (parents please take note – they CAN cook!) and had a weekend away at the Jarman Centre with a day hike including outdoor cooking and navigating. The weekend also involved camp-site service by helping to maintain the Jarman camp-site. They have been bowling, made boomerangs, hiked to West Wrattling from the Scout Hut, and completed Mastery at Arms badge involving archery. They have also been out on their bikes, practised tent pitching and spent a further weekend at the Jarman Centre on a Backwards camp (hammocks and tarps – and yes that was the weekend of a thunder storm!).

The Cubs have had an equally busy year: they hiked from West Wrattling to the Scout hut, completed their Home help badge, took part in the Bear in the Air weekend where Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) visited as many district activities as possible. They celebrated Bonfire Night, completed their entertainers badge, have made pancakes and played lots of wide games. To top the year off the Cubs held their weekend camp and it was SUNNY.

This year the groups have also had to increase fund-raising activities. We are fortunate enough to have our own Scout Hut but it is in need of replacement and to that end we need to raise around £10,000. Alongside our annual car wash, cake stall and mile of coins which raised around £600, we also held our first Bingo session which brought in just over £300 which is a fantastic start and we thank all of you who have contributed. In September we are organising a family Treasure Hunt around Balsham followed by a BBQ at the Scout Hut (see separate poster). Please support us if you can for this fun event it. It starts at 2pm at the Scout Hut on 14 September – entry is £5 for adults and £3 for children. We hope to see you there.

Juliet Bevan, Balsham Scout and Cub committee.

Family Treasure Hunt



BACK TO SCHOOL BLUES? WHY NOT JOIN US FOR A FUN SUNDAY AFTERNOON WALK AROUND BALSHAM SOLVING CLUES AND FINDING VARIOUS OBJECTS

PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM.

FOLLOWED BY A BARBEQUE AT THE SCOUT HUT, WOODHALL LANE.

SUITABLE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Adults: £5 Children £3 (includes barbeque)

14/09/14
TIME: 2PM



Please TEXT "YES and your name/how many" TO: 07824 353422
OR RING: 01223 894498



Raising funds for a new Scout Hut

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

We will remember them

As part of the continuing project to identify the men on the war memorial who died in the First World War, I have put a couple of display boards in the church. They will be there for a little while yet so do pop in and have a look – the church is usually open. We are also trying to compile a list of all who served in the First World War so if you have an ancestor, or know of someone, from the village who did please let me know.

By the time you read this, we will have had our celebration event for the BIG VILLAGE DIG. A leaflet with an account of the project and a brief summary will be included with the *Village Voice* in the near future.

For further details contact Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

Dr Susie Beattie – We must say a fond farewell to Dr Susie Beattie who is leaving general practice to join the Chaplaincy Team at Addenbrooke's. Dr Beattie has contributed greatly to the work of the practice in her seven years with us and she is going to be missed by us all. However, it is an exciting time for Susie and we all wish her well in her new caring role at Addenbrooke's.

New appointments system - In the autumn we plan to trial a new appointments system. Details can be found in a newsletter available from reception or on our web-site www.linton.gpsurgery.net under the News tab.

Text Messaging – We plan to introduce text messaging, starting with appointment reminders. If you use the on-line service to book appointments or order repeat prescriptions, click on 'change contact details' to check whether we have your mobile number AND tick the box 'allow SMS notifications'. Update forms will be available in reception for those who do not use the on-line service.

Flu vaccination – recommended annually for over 65's and children aged 2, 3 and 4 on 1 September plus patients of any age in at-risk groups

Pneumococcal vaccination – recommended as a one-off vaccination for over 65's and those in at-risk groups

Shingles vaccination – available only to those aged 70 on 1 September and those aged 78 and 79, i.e. dates of birth 2/9/1943 – 1/9/1944 and 2/9/1934 – 1/9/36. The vaccine is supplied to us by the DoH and we are unable to vaccinate patients outside those specific age groups.

We are taking bookings NOW for the four Saturday flu clinics in October.

Dr Wheeler & Partners

RAINFALL FIGURES - JULY

Met Office statistics show the July average rainfall in Cambridgeshire as 47.5mm.

	2014	2013
High Street	83.5mm	37mm
Streetly End	72.5mm	42.5mm
Streetly Hall Farm	71mm	32mm

Another wet year but if it is any consolation it is still not as wet as 2012!

NATURE NOTES

Di has quite a number of observations this month, both home and away, so here they are: "Autumn has arrived in August! Already the red berries on my mountain ash tree are being eaten by the blackbirds, and the grey squirrels have returned to crack open my walnuts and throw the shells onto the lawn. They are also tucking into my neighbours hazel nuts. The hedgerows are full of ripening berries, slowly turning red, and in some places blackberries are ready to eat. I noticed my first orb web spider spinning its web in the garden yesterday, and subsequently saw several fine webs on the blackberry bushes.

I had a brief encounter with a red deer stag at the bottom crossroads late one evening. He stood proudly on the verge, caught in the headlights, but didn't run. I slowed down and watched him, until he ambled away into the uncut corn, seemingly unconcerned.

On the allotment, moving some old sheets of corrugated iron, Steve discovered five beautiful toads hiding underneath. (Also seen on the allotment – good numbers of cinnabar moth caterpillars). While weeding, I have been startled by several small frogs around the garden, and we have also had a couple of dragonflies on the pond, and a four inch long leopard slug hiding in the pots, so our gardens are good places for wildlife. My favourite encounter this month has been a beautiful male banded demoiselle, resting on our fig tree. It has a large blue band on its wings which looks spectacular when it flies. We recently went to a reserve near Norwich which has two claims to fame, the dragonfly known as the Norfolk hawker, and the beautiful swallowtail butterfly. We were lucky to see both, and even found a large bright green striped swallowtail caterpillar eating its way through the milk parsley.

On a recent holiday in Scotland we did a coastal walk along the cliff, mainly for the scenery and birdlife, but the

wildflower meadows took our breath away. Pink and purple orchids, pale blue, delicate harebells, yellow buttercups, white grass of Parnassus and many more, but amongst this stunning array of flowers were several exquisite pink Scottish primroses, no more than three inches high, clinging onto the cliff - a hostile environment, but a truly magic place.

And who hasn't been watching the recent 'super moon'? I have been outside on many evenings just looking at this bright orb in the sky, with and without binoculars, but with wonder. Has anyone seen any meteor showers? An added bonus of moon watching is that you see the other creatures of the night, owls and bats."

In contrast to Di's wanderings in Norfolk, Scotland and the Moon, I am keeping very close to home. The caterpillars that have devoured the nasturtiums outside our back door have turned into chrysalises and a few of them have made it into the house – well camouflaged on our utility room wall. I am looking forward to the emergence of some large white butterflies in the house next year. A few yards further on we have a mollusc version of the White Horse. It is a slug pub that ran out of beer some time ago, and since then a quantity of snails have turned it into a desirable residence. No need for planning permission in this case. The garage is also being well used by wildlife too, as swallows have raised two broods and prevented us from closing the garage door since the end of May. We enjoy watching them swooping in and out, as does the cat who must be getting a crick in her neck by now.

Finally, the green woodpecker family that can often be seen at the back of White Gables and Maypole Croft crossed the road and paid us a rare visit last week, a youngster landing in turn on the lawns of 33, 31 and 29 looking for a quick snack after the rain.

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

WEA GREAT BRADLEY

Great Bradley WEA, meets each Wednesday morning in the autumn and winter. The aim of our group is to provide friendly, informal and enjoyable courses with expert tutors. There is no need to have prior knowledge of the course subject, nor do you need to have any academic qualifications. In fact most people come to explore new ideas and topics and to enjoy a sociable morning with friends old and new.

This autumn term we will be having a series of talks on 'Royal Gardens': Kew, Hampton Court, Sandringham, Windsor and Buckingham Palace, and Andrew Sankey will be the tutor

The term starts on Wednesday 17 September in Great Bradley Village Hall, where we gather at 10am for a 10.15 start, with the session finishing at about noon. Halfway through there is a break for tea or coffee and biscuits. The first week is available as a free taster to see if you like it, and from then the term's cost will be £49.

For more information you can contact Peter Smith (01440 783278 or Gill Parry Brown (01223 893012



BINGO
night
Lots of Great Prizes
West Wickham
Village Hall
Fri 26th September
Bar & Raffle
Tickets £3 - includes one free game

Daisy Chains
Pre-School West Wickham

All proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham
charity number 1035276

Bar opens at 7.30pm. At 8pm, "eyes down"

MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNUAL CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR

11 & 12 October

10.30am to 4pm. Entrance £1, Children/Concessions 50p
Ample free parking, all under cover.

Come and join us and help us celebrate 25 years of our Annual Craft & Gift Fair. To make this an extra special event this year, we have some new activities in the pipeline such as live music and singing by pupils.

We have over 50 stalls of locally handmade crafts and gifts such as greeting cards, knitted items, fabric crafts, wooden toys, games and puzzles, jewellery, ceramics, art, gemstones and fossils, soaps, scarves, bags and accessories as well as Phoenix cards.

For the first time this year we have a food hall selling delicious homemade foods, bespoke cakes and cupcakes, cheese, pies, preserves, Greek cheeses and olives and chocolate and wine.

The Meadow School is also launching its professionally-designed and printed cook book with some fantastic recipes submitted by families and teachers. Illustrations have also been drawn by the children. This cook book has been endorsed by Alex Rushmer, the 2010 Masterchef finalist and each book contains a special number so if you purchase one, you will put you into a rather extra special prize draw.

There are also the school stalls: face painting; sweet stall; adult and child tombola; lucky dip; children's' craft; a WW1 commemorative mural made by the children and refreshments selling lovely homemade cakes and biscuits.

Come along, have a browse, stay for lunch. You never know what you may find - a perfect gift for a loved one.

Further details from Debbie Paton, T:291932 or
pta@meadow.cambs.sch.uk or
www.facebook.com/balshamcraftfair

S IS FOR 'SPARE A THOUGHT'

(ED. People living near the Meadow School in Balsham are experiencing problems with thoughtlessly parked cars! This was sent to the Balsham Review and we have also been asked to print it as well.)

S is for 'Spare a thought' for others when parking your vehicle. As the school-run returns, so do the problems caused by bad parking around the Lanes, Closes and Ways near to the School.

Please leave room for pedestrians using the pavement. Pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters all need clear room to negotiate the pavements. With the introduction of postal delivery carts our post-people will need plenty of room to deliver the mail.

Please don't block driveways by parking too close, or on the opposite side of someone's drive in the narrower roads, and leave enough room for vehicles to manoeuvre safely. Increasingly cars are being parked in a long line around the corners, making it dangerous for anyone passing or trying to enter and exit their own road. People need space to get between cars, and visibility, especially for and of children, is obscured.

So 'spare a thought' when parking - yes I know "you'll only be a minute" but in that 10-15 minutes an incident could easily happen. Please be thoughtful!!

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

As the College year comes to a close we reflect on the events that have passed and I think the conclusion we must come to is that it has been a great one.

It was not without its sad moments, however. In December we took our time to mark the passing of Nelson Mandela in school assemblies and to take stock of what the great man had meant to us. LVC's link with South Africa began some 14 years ago when exchanges of teachers between the College and a school in Gauteng province began. The school was in the middle of Soshanguve Township, 20 miles from Pretoria and a poor area of corrugated metal shacks, a few brick buildings and dust roads. Children who attended the school were poor, some were infected with HIV and the facilities were underdeveloped. 14 years on and many changes have been witnessed: the Mandela and post-Mandela years brought more funding and initiatives to the township – shack owners became landowners, converting their temporary properties to brick homes, opportunities grew and some families in the district became prosperous. With our help and support the facilities at the school improved and Principal Sarah Seroka, inspired by what she had seen at LVC, introduced many changes to the school day. In the past 12 years, 5 groups of Linton young people have visited the school and gone to stay in the township. Our visit in 2008 was particularly special because it coincided with Mandela's 90th birthday and we were invited to a Government birthday party by the District Commissioner. The link remains important to the College: one of our student houses is named Mandela and we have a Mandela Wing in the listed building. This summer a group of teachers and students have travelled across to be hosted by Soshanguve families once more. We very much look forward to hearing about their travels when they return. Long may the link and the legacy of Nelson Mandela continue.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

JAZZ CONCERT IN BALSHAM

On Sunday, 21 September at 6pm Richard Michael, a jazz pianist, will give a concert entitled 'An Audience with Richard Michael' at which he will play and also react to some of the audience's suggestions for ideas. Richard is honorary professor of jazz music at St Andrew's University, and he can be found on youtube.

Tickets can be bought from Balsham Post Office or Millers in Sussex Street in Cambridge, £10, or £8 for concessions, bought in advance, or £12 and £10 at the door. This will include drinks and nibbles after the concert, when Richard will mingle with the audience. We hope to see you there. We are raising money to build our Community Room and loos in the church.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 September

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