

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2015

ISSUE 144

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Thur 2 **Monthly Walk. A walk around Linton. Meet at Maypole Croft at 10.30 for a lift. Details from Di Licence, T: 290434**  
Sat 4 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00  
Linton Village College  
Sun 5 Easter Sunday Holy Communion.  
9.15, St Mary's Church  
Wed 8 **Black wheeled bin (day late) collection**  
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Tue 14 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Wed 15 **Parochial Church Council AGM.**  
**7.30pm, St Mary's Church**  
Thur 16 **Deadline for items for the May issue of the Village Voice**  
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 20 **Gardening Club. Ancient ancestors and distant cousins. Plants and their origins. Talk by Peter Walker. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 21 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 26 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church  
Mon 27 **Local History Club. Ports, Rivers & Railways of East Anglia. Talk by Tony Kirby. 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
Tue 28 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
**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	November - March £10.00/hour. April - September £5.00/hour.
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/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](http://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.

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A reminder that there will be elections to the Parish Council on 7 May. Please think of standing for election as one of our 7 councillors. The village needs a good representation of people from all parts (including Burton End & especially Streetly End where no-one stood for the Parish Council at the last election) who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions. Nominations must be with South Cambridgeshire District Council by 4pm on 9 April. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards, 11 Fox Road, Balsham. T: 665260.

We invite all candidates to provide us with a photograph and an election statement of no more than 200 words by 16 April, for publishing in an election supplement in the May issue of the Village Voice.

## CHURCH YEW TREE

The whole Parish will have seen the tragic demise of the oldest living thing that we had, the churchyard yew tree. It happened in a violent gust of wind and snow on the morning of 28 January.

Initially, I thought it might be possible to radically trim the stump and re-erect it. This is what I successfully did with a yew tree in the garden at Manor Farm after the October 1987 storm. Sadly this has not been possible as the tree base was largely rotted away and had been invaded by ivy over the centuries. I know when I first got involved with the church yard with Alf Mayes in 1975, most years we tried to cut the ivy stems within the base. I think Brian Mayes eventually got to it a couple of summers ago within the trunk about eight foot off the ground. It had been smothering the tree right to the very top.

We have now cleared the site and several villagers have asked if they could have a piece of yew for woodwork pieces. Can those who would like some please contact me to arrange choice and collection. The Church plans to have something made with it for display. The Local History Club are anxious to try and establish its actual age.

Marcus Cornish. Church Warden.  
T: 290203 Email: [wmcorn@hotmail.com](mailto:wmcorn@hotmail.com)

## ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

A "half" allotment has become available. It is approx 12 x 20 yards, has been cultivated recently and will be weed killed shortly. It can be rented as a whole or, if more than one person is interested, can be split into two smaller units. The rent is £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 up the track behind and to the left of the Village Hall.

If you are interested in renting the allotment, or part of it please contact Jenny Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council. T: 665260.  
email: [jrichards007@talktalk.net](mailto: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](mailto:morrisandrew203@gmail.com)

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AGM

You are welcome to come to the Annual Meeting. You can express your views on what the local churches are doing and give us ideas of what you would like to see us doing in the future. We meet on 15 April in St Mary's Church, West Wickham at 7.30pm

Julie Norris

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SUNDAY 10 MAY TO SATURDAY 16 MAY

Our four villages have a very good record of collecting well over £1,000 for this charity and last year was a record of **£1,601.71**. The organiser over the last 20 years has moved and it has fallen to me to mastermind this. Sheelagh, herself, did a huge amount of collecting. I am asking you to consider helping - perhaps even a few houses near to where you live. Please do think about this - most probably one to three hours of your time. A clergyman wrote in the Church Times 'I always dread house to house collections, but when I nerve myself for the fray, they're usually rather fun'. Perhaps this will inspire you too! **Please** help so I can give a good report to Sheelagh!

Joanna Sanders.

T: 893063; Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

## PLANTS FOR SALE

After the dreary winter the early spring saw me busy in the greenhouse and I found myself growing a lot of different plants from seed. One thing led to another and I have now many plugs in excess to those I require so if anyone is interested I have the following that will be available second week in April at 35p a plug.

Cosmos	Sweet Pea	Penstemon	Aster	Verbena
Tagetes	Lupin	Rudbecki	Echinacea	

I have printed out a sheet regarding planting and flowering times to help if needed, as a couple of the varieties are perennials.

There are also pots of variegated laurel around 8", ideal for hedging, for £2 a pot if anyone is interested. Please ring on 291291 or e mail jan@jlupton2.wanadoo.co.uk

## HELP US AND HAVE SOME FUN

Ill health has recently taken its toll on members of the Carpet Bowls Club and on some evenings we have not had enough people to cover the cost of the hire of the Village Hall. We would very much like some new members so we can keep the Club going.

No previous experience is necessary, it's a sport for all abilities and ages, all equipment is provided and it's fun to play. On top of that you will have a very sociable evening and meet people from other villages. Why not come along and give it a try? What's not to like?

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

## NATURE NOTES

My reference to moles last month sparked off a memory for Di of "a mole encounter which the children still talk about 30 years later. It was on the way to Streetly End, just past the turning to Hill Farm where the banks on the roadside are steep. We could see a small animal, running along the edge of the road, occasionally stopping and trying to get up the bank. He was a black velvet, well-stuffed beanbag with a pair of pink, spade-like feet at the front end. I naively thought I would pick him up and put him back in the field, but he wriggled and tried to bite me as I gripped him round the waist. So I took off my shoe, pushed him into it, and crawled up the bank to release him into the ploughed field."

More recently up this end of the village we had a splendid recent sighting of a weasel in action. He had been spotted on more than one occasion over the last few weeks, but last week Brian phoned to say the weasel was in his front garden. This efficient little predator had his eye on two mice, which he quickly dispatched and took under the cover of some plants. As far as we know he didn't then take a ride on a green woodpecker, like his cousin who achieved fame in the National Press, but the resourcefulness of a weasel should not be underestimated. Certainly when Kip came face to face with one the other day, it turned to face her and she decided on a discrete withdrawal.

The trees and hedgerows are still brown, but close inspection shows signs of new life, and on the warmer days, insects have emerged. Di particularly mentions the bumblebees, who have taken a liking to the nectar-rich hyacinths in her conservatory. Two or more buzzing at once make an alarming noise, particularly in a confined space. On a very warm Sunday in the sheltered Devil's Ditch, near Dullingham, I saw my first brimstone butterfly on 8 March. It may seem appropriate to see a butterfly named for one of the ingredients of Hell in the Devil's Ditch but on that day the surroundings seemed more heavenly. I also spotted a couple of small tortoiseshells having a quick flutter on the allotments at Balsham.

There is much bird activity, with the winter visitors (fieldfares and redwings) returning north and the summer arrivals expected daily. I understand that the chiffchaffs have landed, but have not yet been heard in West Wickham. Whoever hears the first one, please let me know. Meanwhile our resident birds have already started nest building. Di has been watching "a pair of long tailed tits collecting nesting material in her garden. They have been taking wisps of moss from logs and spiders' webs from between cracks in the brickwork. They then fly to a branch and rearrange the material in their beak, before flying off to a nest site which she has yet to discover."

I was delighted the other morning to find plenty of frogspawn in our pond and shall be keeping an eye on it over the next few days. We don't want a repeat of what happened a few years ago, when there was a heavy frost after the frogspawn had arrived, freezing the pond over.

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

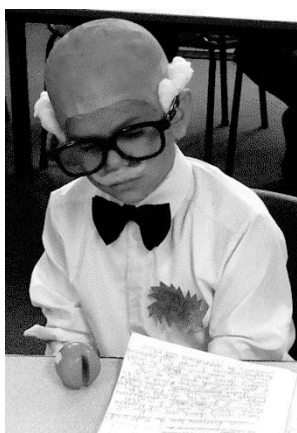
## WANTED

Someone who plays the piano or organ who is willing to play hymns for a Family Service One Sunday each month. We are willing to pay. For more information phone Marcus Cornish 290203

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The shops are full of Easter Eggs, snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses are popping up everywhere and the evenings are getting lighter, a few signs that spring has sprung and that we have passed the halfway point of the school year. This month has definitely been one of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, with lots of opportunities for learning and participating outside the classroom.

The whole school spring term topic of Africa has not only engaged but united our children and community, with personal experiences, artefacts, photos and even a personal message to Dragonfly Class from a Zulu Warrior being shared. The topic has allowed the children to learn about a fascinating continent, and all of the amazing things it has to offer, but also for our older children they have had the opportunity to learn about the darker side of Africa, with poverty, apartheid and the lack of education for all being studied.



With Africa and education being a huge focus, it was great to support this year's comic relief day by wearing red and making our faces funny for money. The children fully embraced the day, and with the whole school gathered to show off their outfits and faces in the hall, the view was literally a sea of red! Once again, children, parents and staff had been very ingenious with the costumes and face paints. We sold £120 of red noses and raised a further £229 of

donations on the day.

We recently took 32, Y5/6 children to Linton Village College to participate in the primary cluster Tag Rugby and Quicksticks Hockey tournament. The four teams played their hearts out and showed great sportsmanship, always shaking hands and cheering their opposition. Despite the chilly conditions the children had a fantastic time and once again were great ambassadors for our school.

We were delighted earlier in the term when we were approached by 'Outspoken' the company who in the Autumn term each year deliver the Bikeability programme to our Y6 children. They asked if we would be one of 6 schools in Cambridgeshire to be part of a pilot supported by the Department for Transport and Cambridgeshire County Council, launching Bikeability across the school.

We were treated to a Bikeability fun day to launch the programme, with every child and adult in school having the opportunity to try out a range of bikes including, 4 seat bikes, recumbent bikes, Dutch bikes and of course the age old favourite, the chopper! After school, parents joined in the fun, reliving their childhood, racing around on bikes that brought back many fond memories.

One of the highlights of the day was definitely the jukebox powered by



pedal power on the static bikes. With the music flowing, the children enjoyed dancing around, whilst cheering on their friends who were having great fun whizzing around the playground, trying out all of the bikes.

The Bikeability crew are also running different sessions over a six week course. Our youngest children have been having a weekly lesson on using a balance bike. Children in Years 1-3 are having lessons on how to ride without stabilisers, with several children already successfully progressing from wobbling to riding with confidence, a fantastic sight! Our oldest children in Years 5/6 are having bike maintenance lessons, learning skills such as checking brakes and mending punctures, essential lifeskills for anyone.

The project has been very successful already in raising the number of children and families connected to The Meadow riding bikes safely around our beautiful countryside. We shared photos and videos of the day on our twitter page, @Meadow\_Balsham. Have a look to see that and other news too.



**EYES DOWN FOR**

# BINGO

**NIGHT**

**Friday 24 April 2015**  
**8 PM**

**Balsham Church Institute**

**BAR AND RAFFLE**

**ENTRY: £3 (includes first game)\***



**Lots of great prizes**

**Raising funds for a new Scout Hut**

\*Over 18s only

### BALSHAM QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of Save the Children

*Will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 17 April  
in Balsham Church Institute*

**Tickets cost just £8.00**

*To register your team's table (8 max.) or offer yourself as a team member please contact Jenny Richards 665260, Nita Miller 893250 or Lynne Taylor 894237.*

*Bring your own drinks, we will provide the glasses and there will be light refreshments.*

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Now that my own office is housed in such a modern part of the school building it is far too easy to forget that LVC is nearly 80 years old. I was reminded of this fact last week by the arrival of a letter from the Manager of West Road Concert Hall at Cambridge University. The unexpected subject of the letter was a chamber organ, built by John



Snetzler, that once stood in our school hall on the left-hand side of the stage. Apparently the College still owns it because it was given to West Road on a permanent loan basis back in 1967. It is rather a beautiful thing, but now very fragile and because of its condition it has not been played for a decade. The organ has quite a history. It was once owned by Captain "Titus" Oates, of the "I might be some time" Antarctic exploration fame. There is a plaque to this effect on the side of the organ. It was bought

from the Oates family by friends of the Village College for Mr Edwin Swannell who was Head of Music and then Warden here between the late 1930s and mid-1960s. Now that it is so delicate the University would like us to take it back. This idea has got our imaginations racing ahead: what if we could get it restored and playable for one last concert? What if that could, in some way, be tied into our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations? I will keep you posted. Still, it has brought a whole new meaning to the phrase "organ donor" for us.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

This will be held on Saturday 15 August. We will be distributing the schedule to all households nearer the date but a preview is available from me for anyone keen to plan ahead.

This year we are celebrating the "Year of the sunflower" and there will be classes featuring this wonderful flower so start growing! In the children's section there will be a class for "a sunflower collage picture". In the cut flower section there will be a class for "a vase of 3 stems of sunflowers". In the domestic section there will be a class for "a sponge cake decorated with a sunflower theme". This will be the show stopper going towards the "Star Baker Award". The signature dish will be a fruit loaf and the technical challenge 4 chocolate éclairs.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863.  
Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

### PLANT SALE

something for everyone  
FLOWERS, SHRUBS, VEGETABLES & HERBS  
friendly people and expert advice

SATURDAY 16 MAY  
10.30 - 12.00

at  
West Wickham Village Hall

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have just returned from our annual Brownie Holiday to the Jarman Centre. The weather wasn't as warm as last year but we didn't have rain or even snow which was great as we could then have some activities outside.

The Brownies completed their Cooks, Brownie Holiday and Seasons interest badges as well as the Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East Arts 4 All Challenge badge. Some Brownies who were attending their third holiday completed their Advanced Brownie Holiday badge. The girls enjoyed a campfire on Friday night with Balsham Rainbows and a picnic trail for lunch on Saturday. The Brownies and Rainbows also made a Mothering Sunday card as a joint activity together.

On Sunday the girls decorated a sponge cake to give to their Mothers and even decorated the cake box too. They also made ribbon rosette badges, and popcorn bird-feeders for the garden.

If you would like to put your daughter on our waiting list, as we will still be very full in September, please register her at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested). If you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop Sophie and I an email.

Pauline and Sophie. E: [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

## BEWARE OF TELEPHONE COMPUTER SCAM

If you are contacted by someone on the phone saying they are from Microsoft and your computer has been sending out viruses over the internet, beware, it is a scam. They will ask if you can go to your computer so they can take a control of it and show you the problem but will instead steal your passwords and private information if you let them.

This has happened in West Wickham but fortunately our resident was aware the call was potentially a scam and called Microsoft Headquarters to verify and then reported it to Action Fraud. Police advice is not to talk to these callers as they can be very persuasive just put the phone down.

Action Fraud London Police, National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre T: 03001232040

Website - <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

Microsoft UK Headquarters - T: 0344 800 2400

## RAINFALL FIGURES

January & February have been much drier than in 2014! Met Office statistics for January & February show average rainfall in Cambridgeshire as 81.10mm.

	2015	2014
High Street	104mm	191.25mm
Streetly End	90mm	215mm

### PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 April

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