

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2015

ISSUE 143

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 3 Blue & green wheeled bin collections
Thur 5 **Monthly walk. Meet 10.30 at Maypole Croft for a walk to Linton or join the walkers 12ish at the Dog & Duck and walk back with them.**
Sat 7 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00
Linton Village College
Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 9 **Local History Club AGM. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 10 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 16 **Gardening Club. *Being creative with sempervivums*. Talk by Angela Whiting of D'arcy & Everest Alpine Nursery. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 17 Blue & green wheeled bin collections
Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 22 Family Service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Mon 23 **Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend**
Tue 24 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Fri 27 **Meadow School PTA Quiz Night. See page 3**
Sun 29 Joint parishes service. See church notice board for details
Village clean up. 11.00, Village Hall
Tue 31 Blue & green wheeled bin collections

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

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.

THANK YOU

I would like to say a big thank you for the many cards, flowers and get well wishes following my recent stay in hospital. Peter and I feel so lucky to have such wonderful friends and neighbours, not forgetting our family of course. Again many many thanks.
Marlene Mizon

VILLAGE CLEAN UP - SUNDAY 29 MARCH

I'm sure everyone has noticed that people passing through haven't given up the habit of throwing rubbish out of the car window. A **village clean-up has been arranged for Sunday 29 March at 11.00 a.m. Meet at the Village Hall car park. Gloves, bags and grabbers will be provided.** Everyone will be most welcome. As usual the most productive areas will be the roadsides on the fringes of the village and the section between the High Street and Streetly End. Will it be Fosters or Stella this year?

Peter Grieve

THE PETER & RUTH LLOYD TRUST AWARD

We are pleased to report that a good number of entrants, of very high standard, were received for the 2014 Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust award. It was a difficult decision, but the award was presented to Anya Heath from West Wrating. Anya is studying Architecture at Nottingham University.

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2015. A scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following:- Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. The applicant must be living in one of seven parishes including West Wickham. The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and University offer are known. For further information about the trust and award please contact: Jonathan Drury 01223 290968. For an application form please apply via email to: peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk

The application form and supporting documents have to be received at the latest by 31 March 2015.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - 7 MAY

Please think of standing for election, the Village needs a good representation of people from all parts (including Burton End & Streetly End) who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions.

Notice of the election will be posted on the Parish Council notice board by 30 March. This will give full details on how to make a nomination. Nomination papers will be available from the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards (11 Fox Road, Balsham, T: 01223 665260) from the first week in March. Nomination forms have to be with the Electoral Registration Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EA by 4pm on 9 April.

We intend publishing an election supplement in the May issue of the Village Voice and invite all candidates to provide us with a photograph and a maximum of 200 words about yourself by 16 April.

FROM THE VICARAGE

On a recent trip to Siena, I visited the crypt of the Cathedral and saw the frescos on the wall thought to have been painted in 1285, possibly by the influential Sienese artist, Duccio di Buoninsegna. These paintings were discovered a few years ago after having lain forgotten underground for 700 years. The frescos were buried within 30 years after being completed when the crypt was filled with rubble to form the foundations of a planned new cathedral which was intended to be the largest in the world. The Black Death which swept through Siena in the early 14th century, killing a third of the residents, put paid to the building of the larger cathedral. The crypt and the frescos were protected from damp and light and so are beautifully preserved.

We will be using some reproductions of Duccio's paintings as the Stations of the Cross at a joint service on Good Friday at Balsham Church at 11am as we meditate on the Passion of Christ.

Occasionally we find some hidden treasure in one of our churches, such as the old white and gold altar frontal which has just been restored at West Wickham. It will be used on Easter Day. Maybe there are treasures that we have overlooked because they are always there and we have not recognized their age or significance.

Lent is traditionally a time to reconnect with hidden depths in our lives through prayer, fasting (self denial) and almsgiving (generous sharing). There are lots of events in the churches to help us towards this. The Lent Course this year is exploring Prayer. It is fascinating to reflect on why people pray, and what we are doing in our brains when we pray. Is prayer all in the mind? Is silence prayer? Are there ways of praying that we haven't tried but might enjoy? And are there tips for what we can do when prayer seems impossible? Around the churches there are Lent lunches when we will eat a simple lunch together and give to charity. Rather than giving up something for the whole 6 weeks, these lunches (or an equivalent simple lunch in another context and a donation to your own charity) could be an achievable goal for us that makes a difference to someone else.

Rev Julie Norris

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB DIG2

A big thank you to all who supported our coffee morning on 19 February, either with a donation, by helping or just coming along. We raised £137 for Dig2 which will enable us to buy some equipment and 'consumables' like finds bags. We will also be able to make a donation to the voluntary group Rheesearch who came along on the 15 February to do a geophysical survey of, what we have now decided to call, Field 2. Thanks to their member, Ian, all those who came along to watch should now know the difference between magnetometry and resistivity surveys! I am also pleased to report that we've also been given a grant to buy some mattocks and trowels from Cambridge Antiquarian Society for which we are very grateful.

Janet Morris

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

Lent Talks

Thursday 5 March, 7.30pm, in Balsham Black Bull: Rev Prof Alasdair Coles, neuroscientist at Addenbrooke's will give a fascinating insight into what is going on in our brains when we pray as he asks whether prayer is all in the mind?

Thursday 12 March, 7.30pm, in Hildersham Church: Madeleine O'Callaghan, spiritual guide, retreat/workshop facilitator and trainer, will explore the value of silent meditation which could help us to unlock an inner freedom. She addresses the question Can silence be prayer?

Thursday 26 March, 7.30pm, in Balsham Black Bull: Revd Jane Keiller, Diocesan Officer for Spirituality, who has for many years been a Spiritual Director helping people to overcome problems with prayer will be giving insights into how we might approach difficulties in praying.

Lent Lunches

Monday 16 March, 12.30pm, at 9 Chimney's Lane, Balsham, (893063).

Wednesday 18 March, 12.15pm, at Great Abington Village Institute.

Reflective Services of in Holy Week

Monday 30 March, 7.30pm Compline, West Wickham

Tuesday 31 March, 7.30pm Compline, Weston Colville

Wednesday 1 April, 7.30pm Compline, West Wrattling

Maundy Thursday 2 April, 7.30pm Holy Communion, Great Abington



Granta Deanery

Spring Fair



Saturday 14 March 10.00–12.00 noon
Great Shelford Memorial Hall

Cakes Produce White Elephant Toys Raffle China Glass
Cards Gifts Tombola Refreshments Wide Range of Books

Entrance: Adults 30p Children Free

Supporting the churches' work for
village communities in South Cambridgeshire

Registered Charity No: 245456

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker on Monday 16 February was Nigel Start who gave us much needed advice on "Pruning". His talk took us through the correct procedures for pruning shrubs, trees, hedges, fruit, including different types of clematis. Nigel's talk was both entertaining and instructive and now we can put his advice to good use in the coming weeks. The talks for our Club meetings are often chosen to give our members new ideas and to demonstrate how to carry these out.

With this in mind our next talk will be "Being Creative with Sempervivums" by Angela Whiting from D'Arcy and Everest Alpine Nursery at 7:30 West Wickham Village hall on Monday 16 March. Why not join us and learn how to plant up a trough or crevice garden.

Rosemary Yallop T:01799584262.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following is a precis of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26 January. The full draft Minutes have been placed on the Notice board outside the Post Office.

Matters arising:

1. Flooding on Dean Road – one gully has been cut into a ditch. All the ditches need clearing. Council was told that this work is down on the Highways schedule.
2. A1307 junction with Dean Road – The overhanging branches have not been cut back and County Cllr. Hickford said he would look into it and see that the job goes on the work schedule.
3. Possible move of Post Office to Village Hall – BT had done a survey to see what changes needed to be made. All work carried out would be paid for by BT and Claire Butfield intends to open it once a week on Monday afternoons. The Parish Council was agreeable in principle but needs to make sure exactly what changes are proposed.
4. 92 High St. contravention of planning application - the wood cladding on the house was not requested on the planning application. Cllr. Hall will bring this up at the next Neighbourhood Planning meeting.

Planning:

1. S/2521/14/LB – Vicarage Cottage – application approved by SCDC.
2. Tree work at Birch House, Streetly End approved by Parish Council.
3. S106 payments – this levy will no longer be collected on new developments of under 11 houses. The government wished to encourage builders to provide more houses.

Finance:

Budget & Precept: Cllr. Morris went through the draft budget report notes for the benefit of the members of the public. After discussion it was agreed, following a proposal by Cllr. Morris, seconded by Cllr. Charlton, to request an increase of 1.9% from £10,500 to £10,700. Fuller details are in the Minutes.

Parish Council Election:

It is hoped that there will be an election for the Parish Council even if the present Councillors intend to stand for re-election. It is therefore important to publicise details of the election and what being a parish councillor entails and for the present Parish Council to talk to people to encourage them to take an interest and possibly stand. The election is on 7 May and it was agreed to have a Parish Council meeting on 18 May when the newly elected Council would sign the necessary acceptance forms.

Maintenance:

1. Silver Street closure – the question was asked whether any re-routing arrangements had been made for HGV traffic. Cllr. Hickford did not know.
2. Gully cleaning in the village scheduled for Sept/Oct has not been done. Cllr. Hickford will check.
3. Hedge cutting - carried out by Thurlow Estate free of charge, had left a great deal of debris behind, filling ditches, covering pavements and road. There had been many complaints. A list of the landowners is being drawn up so they can be called upon to cut their hedges etc. when necessary and it was suggested that a letter is sent out asking them to clear their ditches. A village working party could be organised but where would one put the cuttings etc.

Neighbourhood/Village Plan: Cllr. Hall is now collating all the data received on the survey forms and he thanked Liane Moncur for helping with this job. Any grant money left over will be returned to Acre.

Telephone Kiosk: The adoption of the two kiosks is in progress.

Traffic issues:

1. Wrattling Common crossroad project – agreement has been reached with the necessary land owners and work to improve the crossroad will start in April.
2. Gritting has not been carried out on the road between Skippers Lane junction and the Suffolk boundary towards Withersfield causing problems for vehicles visiting the warehouse. Cllr. Hickford will look into this as it had been agreed that this stretch of road would be gritted.
3. Cllr. Hall told Cllr. Hickford that signage both sides of the A1307 Dene Road junction needed to be re-established. Also signage at the Dene Road/Balsham to West Wickham cross roads needed repair.
4. 30mph stickers on bin - it was agreed that the impact of these stickers on 138 bins once a week at a cost of £505 would be too little and so would not be followed up.

Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

1. He will be checking how satisfactory the bin collection was over the Christmas period and would like to know of any complaints.
2. A1307 is now a priority following the City Deal.

Any other business:

1. Cllr. Licence asked if the concrete plinth on which the Clothes Bin had stood could be covered with earth and grassed over. This was agreed.
2. Cllr. Grieve wishes to organise a Litter Pick Up Day in March. It was suggested that the Balsham Scouts group be contacted to see if they would help.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 on Monday 23 March in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260

Raising funds for the
★ MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL ★

MEADOW SCHOOL
PTA
**Quiz
NIGHT**

FRIDAY 27TH
MARCH
★ ★ ★
DOORS: 7:00 PM
START: 7:30 PM

BAR
RAFFLE
TICKETS £10

FISH &
CHIP
SUPPER
FIRST DRINK INCLUDED

Tickets available from:
★ Meadow School office: 01223 894 400
★ Sarah Green: 07932 667 895
★ Kate Hiles: 07710 745 090
Meadow School PTA Registered Charity: 114829

NATURE NOTES

Last month I was bemoaning the fact that all the barn owl sightings had been at the other side of the village. No sooner had I done that, than Andy Champ reported seeing one near the warehouses, and yesterday Sue saw a barn owl fly across the road as she approached the crossroads on the way home. She also saw a red kite fly quite low over the top of our house the other day. I was inside at the time and missed the experience, so I am still feeling a bit deprived.

Di comments that *“One of the pleasures of approaching spring is the return of the dawn chorus. The blackbird waking us at dawn singing his head off, and the song thrush high in the tree with his melodious song. The dunnock and the robin join in too, and soon the garden seems full of birdsong.”* Different species seem to start singing at different times of year. Certainly thrushes have been at it for a while, and robins sing all the year round. I look forward to the first chaffinch song in the next few weeks, and of course the first chiffchaff, which always seems to get a mention in this column. Di contrasts the pleasant sound of songbirds with the raucous noise of the rookery outside a Norfolk pub where they stay. I love rooks, but have never experienced a wake-up call from them. There was a big group of them, with jackdaws, in one of the fields opposite the Village Hall the other day – from a distance it looked like an oil spill, then they all flew off to the telegraph wires.

Di also reports seeing five reed buntings in the hedgerow, a woodpecker digging in the grass on the Croft, and great spotted woodpeckers making more regular visits to the peanuts and drumming locally. Her most unusual sighting was a cormorant flying across the fields. They are more likely to be seen on the coast or sometimes at reservoirs, but I do remember coming across one sitting by the pond at Yen Hall a few years ago. Di asks whether anyone has seen or heard a skylark singing. I can say that as of today, definitely yes. There were several over at Weston Green and one on our side of the crossroads.

Enough of birds for the moment and on to the mammals. I'm sure that many of you will have noticed the amazing number of molehills that have appeared in the last few weeks. We rarely see a mole and yet I feel they must be flourishing in their secret underground kingdom. Gardeners may view them as an enemy, disturbing lawns and undermining plants, but they appear to be resisting our attempts to deter, poison and trap them and one even has a place in history, being allegedly responsible for the death of William III in 1702. May they continue to live in peace.

Di had an interesting experience in the churchyard. She was locking the church at about 8.00 p.m. and was startled by two foxes behind a gravestone, no doubt courting. They were alarmed just as much as Di. Foxes do tend to get together around this time. A couple of weeks ago I was letting the dog out last thing and there was a blood curdling screech from the field behind us, which was almost certainly foxes mating. It didn't sound like a very pleasant experience.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503; Email: mail@petergrive.co.uk

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone from the local community who attended the Meadow School jumble sale. We raised a whopping £1485. Nicola Connor, Headteacher

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Blink and you will have missed this half term, although judging by the amount of Calpol being given, and the number of boxes of tissues that the classes are getting through, half term could not have come soon enough!

As usual we seem to have packed a huge amount into a relatively short space of time. The whole school topic of Africa is continuing to engage, inspire and amaze the children. We have welcomed a number of visitors into school to share their own stories, experiences and of course many photographs and artefacts.

Both Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 are studying African books or topics that make reference to apartheid, to the vast majority of our pupils this is something completely alien to them and to see the disgust and hear the cries of 'that is so not fair, you can't treat people in that way', show what wonderful morals and values our children have. The infants have had slightly lighter reading material. They have been reading Tinga Tinga Tales which are all stories related to how animals became, such as how giraffe got his long neck. Listening to some of the younger children talk about how they think certain animals evolved in that way, has been very amusing!

At the end of half term we hosted a 2 day African Dance workshop. Oumar Sagna, originally from Senegal, taught the children authentic African dances. The children did not stop talking about their sessions, and we even had our very own flash mob on the KS2 playground at lunchtime, with children from different classes coming together to strut their stuff! At the end of day 2, the whole school came together in the hall to put on a final performance. The smiles on the children's faces were bright enough to light the whole of Balsham up. When the teachers were called up to perform on their own, the encouragement (and then the laughter) was fantastic. It was definitely one of the best workshops we have ever hosted and I don't think there is one family who is not talking about it!

Peer massage is now fully embedded into our daily routine. At the beginning there was a real mix of positivity and scepticism, although the latter did not last too long. The children have taken to it like ducks to water. Kindness, understanding, tolerance, respect and calmness are just some of the values that the project is enabling children to show on a daily basis. Visitors who have been in school during the sessions have commented on the calmness of the children, the positive attitudes they have and the relationships and conversations happening between children they otherwise would not normally choose to work together. A recent parent and child coffee morning to showcase peer massage, was a huge success. The penguin, seal and peacock moves remain the children's favourites!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 March

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