

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2016

ISSUE 154

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Tue 2 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 6 Farmers Market. 9.00 - 12.00, Linton Village College  
Sun 7 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 8 **Local History Club. Solving the housing problem: one unusual idea in the inter war period. Talk by Janet Morris**  
Tue 9 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 10 Ash Wednesday service. 10.30, Balsham Church  
Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 15 **Gardening Club. Feeding, weeding and other useful gardening secrets. Talk by David Coop from Westland Composts.**  
Tue 16 Blue wheeled bin collection  
**Deadline for items to go in the March Village Voice**  
Wed 17 Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall  
Thur 18 **COFFEE MORNING. 10.30—12.00 Village Hall. See page 1**  
Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Tue 23 Black wheeled bin collection  
Sat 27 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Quiz. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See page 4**  
Sun 28 Family service. 9.30, St Mary's Church

### Daisy Chains Pre-School meets

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30  
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall**

## THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

### Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £8.00/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

Email: [bookings@westwickham.org](mailto:bookings@westwickham.org)  
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.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Marcus Cornish and I visited the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Plans recently to discuss the next stages in the development of the Plan for West Wickham. There were a number of possible options for the Parish to consider and these will be made at a forthcoming meeting for all residents in the Village Hall. By the time you read this, the Parish Council will have met on 25 January and discussed future activities and been provided with information by representatives from Cambridgeshire ACRE and a housing association. Advice on the date of a Village Hall Meeting will be delivered to each household and advertised on notices around the Parish.

Trevor Hall

## CAROL SINGING 2015

On 20 December a larger than usual group of carol singers met at Manor Farm. After enjoying Marcus and Nicky's wonderful hospitality, including some warm-up carols accompanied by Lynn Dicks on the piano, we set off up the High Street, singing and knocking on doors as we went. Reinforced by some further, very welcome refreshments at Lynn and Jo Dicks' house (*delicious* sausage rolls!), we managed to make it right to the top of the village, aided perhaps by the unseasonably mild weather. We collected £268.11 (our highest total yet), which has been sent to Age UK to support the Small Villages Community Warden, who visits West Wickham. Very many thanks to all those who came out to sing, to Marcus and Nicky, Lynn and Jo for their hospitality, and to everyone who contributed so generously to the collection.

Georgina Magin

## HELP US HELP JACK

Di and I are organising another half-term coffee morning. This time we are raising money in support of the Power Up! campaign (backed by the *Cambridge News*) to help the Power family, who have recently moved to the village, to build a downstairs bedroom and wet room for 7 year old Jack. Jack has tuberous sclerosis and is becoming too heavy to carry up and down stairs.

Offers of preserves (it's marmalade time), a raffle prize and cakes would be very welcome as would offers to help on the day. Just get in touch with me at 21 High Street (290863) or Di at 7 Maypole Croft (290434).

Janet Morris



**THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY**  
**Village Hall 10.30-12.00**  
**HALF-TERM COFFEE MORNING**  
**Coffee & cake, preserves & produce,**  
**books +**  
**FREE table tennis**

## SYLVIA NORTON A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION



I can't remember when I first met Sylvia, who died at the end of December, but it was sometime at the end of the 1970s/beginning of the 80s. At that time she was still teaching at the Cangle School in Haverhill but she then retired early to concentrate on her weaving. She made the most wonderful textiles and, ever prepared to share what she was doing, was one of the first artists to take part

in the Cambridge Open Studios. She also invited several children (including ours) to her house in the school holidays to have a go at some spinning and weaving.

Sylvia was always a keen gardener with a garden full of interesting and unusual plants but I'm not sure exactly when an interest in the genus *Lathyrus* ('cousins of the sweet pea', as the subtitle of her book describes them) became an abiding passion, to the extent that it completely took over from the weaving. She built up a collection of about 70 different species (**except** the sweet pea) which was recognised by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (now Plant Heritage) as a National Collection in 1991. Holding such a collection requires much research and the keeping of meticulous records, in both of which Sylvia excelled. She was determined to bring the various *Lathyrus* species to the attention of a wider gardening world. She distributed her plants widely to nurseries across the country; for several years she put on a display on the Plant Heritage stand at Hampton Court Flower Show; she gave talks, not only on *Lathyrus* themselves, but also about her travels to Turkey and Chile to see species in the wild; she wrote the first book devoted to the genus and for many years she regularly opened her garden under the National Garden Scheme. She also shared her research with staff at both Edinburgh and Cambridge Botanic Gardens (where she was a long-time volunteer).

Sylvia was ridiculously generous with her plants – you only had to admire something in her garden and she was digging you up a piece – and it is perhaps for these plants in our own gardens that we will continue to remember her. For Jane, it is the dark purple hellebores; for Pete it is the cyclamens and for me, it would have to be the various *Lathyrus* to which she introduced me. Sylvia was forthright and fiercely independent but always had the ability to laugh at herself. She took an active interest in the village – she had been a Parish Councillor, she was a member of both the Gardening Club and the Local History Club and, if her busy life allowed, was always the first (and usually the only) person to answer any calls for volunteers. She was a good villager and a lovely friend who will be very much missed by all who knew her.

Janet Morris

## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

This may have proved trickier than I thought, but I hope everyone who had a go enjoyed it. I received correct entries from Amy Sargent, Brian Upton (almost), Jo Newton, Caroline Newey and Jane Scheuer. Just for a change we decided the winner by racing wind-up penguins that came out of our Christmas crackers. The penguin with the pink scarf won it, and that was the one allocated to Jane, so congratulations to her.

The answers were: Wickhamfest, Big Dig, Plant Sale, Carol Service, Badminton, Table Tennis, Daisy Chains, Parish Council, Maypole Croft, St Mary's, Streetly Hall, Hill Farm and Phone Box.

Peter Grieve

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On 18 January Alex Summers, Glasshouse Supervisor at Cambridge Botanic Gardens gave us a comprehensive talk on South African "Fynbos". Alex is an excellent speaker and knows all there is to know about this unique area in South Africa that has more indigenous species than anywhere else apart from perhaps Borneo. Fynbos is native vegetation including Proteas, Ericas and Restios found right around the coast of the Cape and inland up to the escarpment and Karoo desert. These plants thrive on almost pure sand which holds no nutrients so they need the occasional fire to provide potash and the fires are also necessary for the seeds of some plants to germinate. It was a fascinating talk accompanied by beautiful photos.

Our next meeting on February 15 will be about "Feeding Weeding and other Gardening Secrets" by David Coop from Westlands Compost. At a time when we begin to think about the garden once again this will give us all a prod in the right direction.

If you are reading this and think perhaps you might come along to one of our meetings - please do. We will give you a warm welcome. For more information you can ring me on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop.

## WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

**Wednesday, 3 February Cinema Club**, Weston Colville Reading Room One Upon a Time in the West, earlier time of 7.00pm. Our film buff Laurence Staig says 'it's such a good western; it's no problem if you don't like westerns'. Donations, refreshments available, all welcome. Two people from West Wickham came to our January film having seen it in the Village Voice and said they very much enjoyed the evening.

**Wednesday, 24 February Wine Tasting and Talk**, Weston Colville Reading Room, 7.30pm, wines from Chilford Hall and light supper including locally-supplied cheeses. Tickets £12 (£10 earlybird by 12 February) from Weston Colville PO or via Paypal (quote 'Cinema' westonreadingroom@btinternet.com)

## NATURE NOTES

Last month's notes featured the climate change deal but during December we seemed to have seen climate change in action, or was it El Nino? Whatever the answer, temperatures were way above average and as a result there have been some unusual occurrences in the natural world. We were up in Norfolk before the New Year, and to our surprise, saw a swallow flying low over the beach. I reported this to the Visitor Centre at Cley and was told there had been a number of sightings of swallows and a red-rumped swallow during December. They can only have been late fledgling youngsters that had been able to survive because the insects which they eat were still around.

Di comments that *'the unseasonably mild weather has fooled some plants into flower early. Purple dog violets are flowering in the grass and wild primroses too. The hazel catkins at Charterhouse Bridge are superb and there are many to be seen in the local woods and hedgerows'*. The celandine in our garden are already beginning to show hints of yellow.

Di also reports seeing *'a tiny goldcrest flitting about in our neighbour's apple tree, busily hunting for insects. These tiny birds are usually heard and identified by their mouse-like squeaks, but rarely seen in full view.'* Her other main comments are about mammals, including *'watching a squirrel raid the seed holder as the birds looked on, hanging upside down by its back legs on the silver birch, while hugging the seed holder with its front legs, then hanging upside down while consuming the sunflower seeds. Our next encounter was with a rat. Love them or loathe them, one has to admire these very successful mammals. Watching a garden robin enjoy his morning treat of mealworms, we saw a large brown rat running along the thin branches of a nearby shrub, and onto the lid of the water butt to eat some of the mealworms and take more away.'* Rats do take advantage of food put out for birds and they like people who keep chickens so we see our fair share up here as well. Di continues *'my neighbour has seen hares in the fields, and most footpaths have fresh deer prints. With many sightings of a pale-brushed fox along Dean Road, and a local resident calling to say they had a badger regularly visiting their bird table at dusk, the number of species of mammal in the parish is looking good.'*

Reports of bird of prey sightings have come in to Di and I from various quarters. Buzzards are becoming commonplace, whether it be gliding on thermals or sitting on the fields. Sparrowhawks have been seen in various gardens (including ours), and perched in a tree. Kestrels can frequently be seen perching or hovering. Di reports regular sightings of the barn owl around Dean Road and Balsham Hill, and we saw one last night up near the top crossroads – the first I've seen at this end of the village for many a month. Andrew and Gavin saw a red kite flying low over the allotments on Christmas Eve.

In other bird news, Sue was walking across the 'camp site' the other evening and a snipe flew up, zig-zagging away in characteristic fashion. Snipe quite often visit us in the winter, and it would have enjoyed the boggy ground. Since we had our mini-freeze, a heron was seen standing on the ice covering Guy and Liane's pond, doing a bit of window-shopping. Ah well, no harm in looking.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, Email: [mail@petergrieve.co.uk](mailto:mail@petergrieve.co.uk)

## LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

Just a couple of months now until Linton and Sawston merge to form one large partnership to be known as Granta Medical Practices. It has been an incredibly busy year and there has certainly been no winding down in to retirement for me. I set my retirement date as March 2016 such a long time ago, back in January last year, and this last year has simply flown by. The merger work has certainly ensured that I have been kept busy right to the end.

Granta Medical Practices will move forward with a new management structure. Gerard Newnham, the current Business Practice Manager at Sawston, will be the senior manager across both sites providing strategic direction and overview for the newly formed partnership. Another senior role in the management structure is that of IT Manager and Haley Suttle is already in post, working across both sites. Haley has years of experience in general practice IT systems and her knowledge and skills will be invaluable as we merge our computer systems in mid April. Instead of a Practice Manager at Linton we would like to welcome Tracy Ho, who has been appointed as Practice Operations Manager with responsibility for HR and Finance across both sites. Tracy will join us on 1 March and will be based primarily at Linton. She will be ably supported by Carol Thexton, our Office Manager, and the rest of the practice team.

This is an exciting new chapter in the history of both Sawston and Linton Practices. As a merged practice, we feel that we will be well prepared to take on the challenges and the opportunities that the NHS environment will present us with over the next few years. More details next month on how we will manage the booking of appointments in April when we have to prepare for merging the two computer systems.

Sheila Griffiths, Practice Manager and Partner

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

A New Year and a new start for Eliska who has joined us from Castle Camps. At the end of last term we said Goodbye to Morgan, who has moved on to Balsham Guides, and Eowyn who were both 10.

We will be attending our District Thinking Day Celebrations at Linton Village College at the end of February, which this year has been organised by the group of new Leaders who are completing their Leadership Qualification. We are also getting ready for our annual holiday to the Jarman Centre. As we haven't had any snow this year I'm expecting it all to arrive when we are away, like it did a few years ago.

Finally, Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers will be out again soon. If you don't have anywhere to donate your vouchers then please place them in the box in Horseheath Post Office for the Brownies.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us 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 us an email.

Pauline, Katie & Hera. Email: [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

## BROADBAND UPDATE

**Burton End cabinet:** Connecting Cambridgeshire still give December 2016 as the latest date for the completion of installation, but have no date when they expect the installation work to commence. BT OpenReach have previously stated that this work takes an average of 9 months from when the first spade hits the ground. Based on this we should not expect any fibre-based Superfast broadband service before October 2016. According to Connecting Cambridgeshire, this cabinet will not provide any improvement to their existing ADSL-based speeds - residents who would like improved Broadband Speeds still need to subscribe to a Superfast Broadband service.

**Air Broadband progress:** Following the successful meeting in the Village Hall in December 2015, at the time of writing of this article 28 residents were signed up with Air Broadband. This left the scheme only 2 residents short of the 30 needed for launch. This solution sees Superfast fibre broadband being transmitted over high-speed Wifi from Horseheath to Hill Farm from where it is relayed to all subscribed properties with a line of sight of Hill Farm. Properties without line of sight will receive their Air Broadband signal from subscribed neighbouring properties. The availability of Air Broadband is now expected towards the middle/end of March once the number of subscriptions has reached the required minimum subscribers. If you are interested in receiving this service, please sign up at <http://www.airbroadband.co.uk/sign-up-for-superfast-broadband-now/>, give them a call on 01223 653400, or email them at [sales@airbroadband.co.uk](mailto:sales@airbroadband.co.uk). I also have spare sets of forms and can answer some questions, so do drop by 47 High Street or give me a call on 01223 290084.

**Alternative Providers:** Lucy Fraser MP arranged another meeting in Stetchworth on January 22 for Cambridgeshire residents who are experiencing lengthy delays in receiving BT OpenReach-based solutions to enable them to hear from alternative broadband providers. Air Broadband, Gigaclear and County Broadband each gave short presentations. However, the latter two require minimums of around 1000 people and 100-200 homes respectively to subscribe to achieve viability.

Alex Schuilenburg

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – JOIN US

THINK the fire service is all about putting out fires and rescuing people from road crashes? Think again. At Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the men and women on our frontline deliver important fire safety advice to dozens of different communities. From visiting schools to care homes, mother and toddler groups to community fetes, our fire fighters play an integral role in keeping YOUR community safe. And we'd like **you** to think about joining us. The role of a fire fighter is varied and exciting but most importantly, it can make a real different to people's lives.

The next recruitment process for full time fire fighters opens on February 6. To find out more, log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk) or phone 01480 444500

## THE VILLAGE DIRECTORY

This is included in this month's Village Voice and I hope you find it useful. If there is any information in it that is wrong or out of date, I apologise but have done my best to verify the information in it. Please let me know for future reference. It would be helpful to know what information in particular you find useful or what you think we could leave out. By including certain services in the Directory the Editors are not endorsing them and can accept no responsibility for the quality of the service they provide.

Sue Thurston

## CLEAN UP FOR THE QUEEN

This is a campaign launched to celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday this year. Let's get ahead of the game in West Wickham. If the wind blows your rubbish out of your bins or paper box or the dustman drops some - **please pick it up.**

**Let's make 2016 a litter free year in our village.**

Di Licence

**Daisy Chains**  
Pre-School West Wickham

# QUIZ NIGHT

In support of Daisy Chains Pre-School  
Registered Charity No: 1035276

**Saturday**  
**27<sup>th</sup> February**

**West Wickham Village Hall**  
**Bar 7.30pm - Quiz 8pm**  
**£3.00 per person - Team of up to 6**

**Raffle Bar**

## FROM THE VICARAGE

The Ely Diocese strategy is using what it calls 'appreciative inquiry'. This works on the basis that asking questions about what is good and true, telling stories about things that work well, working with others in a spirit of being cooperative and generous, these can be fertile soil for inspiring new ideas and bringing new meaning. This can enable us to re-fashion what we think is possible for the future and gives us a choice to focus attention and activity, with other people, to look for things that might make a difference for the common good.

Can Lent bring us an opportunity in our own lives and in the wider world to engage in appreciative inquiry? Can we think about things that work well rather than focus on all that is wrong, or setting ourselves up for failure. I have been inspired in thinking about this by the writing of the French saint Thérèse of Lisieux. She puts forward the idea that Lent could be about appreciative gratitude rather than gruelling and impossible-to-achieve self-sacrifice.

Giving things up, making a Lent fast was an integral part of Lent for our forbears. It began with Shrove Tuesday, better known as Pancake Day. Cupboards were cleared in preparation for the Lent fast and people began to think about what needed to be 'shriven', or 'absolved' in their own lives. However, this may be less embedded in our life and culture today. If we weigh up the possible benefits, consider the costs, the act of self-sacrifice often feels like a heavy load. We may begin by preparing ourselves for an inevitable failure because we know from experience we are likely to give way to temptation. We may decide not to bother.

Thérèse of Lisieux develops the idea that the purpose of the Lent sacrifice is to try to appreciate more fully the sacrifice made by Christ, so that the act of self-emptying when we give something up increases our sense of gratitude for what we have. The point is not the thing that we sacrifice, but the offering of ourselves, and the sense of gratitude that grows. In other words, instead of giving up one thing for the whole of Lent, instead of going 'cold turkey', or setting ourselves up for failure, we could think of giving up something different each day but doing it each time with an appreciative gratitude. This could be fun rather than something to dread.

I am reminded of the feeling of coming home after a camping holiday and appreciating the warmth and comfort but also being aware that the experience of giving these things up for a while brought the gift of hearing the sound of night through the canvass and the smell of early morning dew. Maybe giving up a variety of different things could give us more scope to appreciate what we have and make us more attentive to the needs of others.

Rev Julie Norris

Our **Lent study** this year will focus on the debate between science and religion, whilst exploring mystery and suffering. We will be using the book by Hilary Brand called, 'The Mystery of Everything.' It focuses on the film about Stephen Hawking called, 'The Theory of Everything,' which we will be showing at 3pm on Sunday 7 February at Hildersham Church. Discussions with clips from the film will take place on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, on 24 Feb at Hildersham Church, 2 March at the Black Bull in Balsham, 9 March at Hildersham Church and 14 March at the Black Bull in Balsham.

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

At the end of last academic year we asked the children what they wanted the teachers and staff to do in 2015/16 for the school. One of the most popular requests was to have exciting, new and interesting topics that let the children go on lots of trips! The teachers worked hard over the summer to plan 3 topics that would meet the children's tough requirements. In autumn term, Best of British was amazing and we wondered if they would be able to beat that in spring term, well they have!

Three new topics have been created, the Infants have launched 'Footsteps through Time', studying different periods of time from dinosaurs to the ice age. The children had an amazing day at the Natural History Museum to start their topic. I don't think I have ever heard the word 'Wow!' said so many times in such a short space of time. The children were in awe of everything they saw. The grandeur and size of the museum on its own inspired them to look carefully at everything they saw, noticing all of the little details. The dinosaur skeletons were a huge hit, as was the giant escalator that led to the volcanoes and earthquakes section. Being surrounded by fossils, skeletons, animals, birds, crystals, creepy crawlies ensured the children were kept busy.

Years 3/4/5 have started 'Eureka', examining inventions and studying famous inventors. The children spent a day at the Science Museum in London to inspire their learning. With the help of the museum staff, they explored how forces worked in building bridges and tested how strong eggs were! The workshop leaders even got Miss Copare to be the meat in the human sandwich to test how spreading force over a large area lessened the impact. After investigating the galleries to see how technology has developed over time, the children visited the Imax and watched a 3D film about the development in robotics technology and saw many different amazing robots. It really was an inspiring start to their new topic.

Year 5/6 have begun, 'Keen to be Green'. A topic with a focus on the world we live in, climate, pollution, recycling and other ecological issues. They launched their topic with a split trip. Despite the jokes in school that Year 5/6 were visiting the 'dump', they had an incredibly interesting and thought provoking day.

Half of the day was spent at Amey Waste Management Park and the other half at Denny Abbey. The day started with the children being kitted out in wellies, hard hats and hi visibility jackets. The visit involved sorting household rubbish according to the bin colour it should be disposed in and finding out some interesting, yet alarming, facts. Did you know that it only takes us eighteen months to fill a landfill site? In 20 years, we will run out of landfill sites unless we recycle more! Afterwards, the children went on a tour of the Recycling Park and visited the Material Recovery Facility, where all of the rubbish is sorted. After lunch they visited Denny Abbey to find out how people were less wasteful in the past. They made a rag rug, visited a village shop from 100 years ago and learnt how archaeologists found out about life in the past by looking at rubbish. The children certainly learnt lots about the importance of re-use and recycling and they even saw a rat!

We share photos and news on our twitter page, @Meadow\_Balsham. Take a peek!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Thursday 9 February marks Safer Internet Day 2016 to promote safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology by children and young people.

Highlighting and teaching e-safety practice is an important part of safeguarding at Linton Village College. We make use of assemblies and tutor time to discuss the opportunities and risks posed by greater access to digital technology. E-safety also features prominently in our Year 6 parent induction evening, school behaviour code and parent handbook.

On the whole, our students are internet savvy. They know about age restrictions and understand what steps they should take to maintain their privacy and safety online. Nevertheless, we continue to raise awareness with students and parents to tackle unsafe practices.

I also want to address the impact that access to digital technologies may have on students' lifestyle and wellbeing. A recent report claimed that children in the UK aged 5-16 are spending on average 6 ½ hours a day using a screen; this increases to 7-8 hours for teenagers. While the increase in the accessibility and functionality of digital technologies creates a greater number of opportunities for education and personal development, it also presents a number of challenges.

The NSPCC has warned of the creation of a nation of deeply unhappy children due to the pressure to keep up with friends and have the perfect life online. Studies have also made links between excessive screen time and gaming and underachievement in GCSE examinations. The charity Action for Children has claimed that one in four parents struggle to control their children's screen time. The Department for Education has commissioned an advisory group to create recommendations to prevent phone and mobile devices disrupting learning in schools.

From speaking to teenagers, it is clear that their consumption of digital technology can have an adverse effect on their lifestyle. Time spent exercising, reading books, being with family, completing homework, socialising and playing face-to-face and sleeping can be compromised by their digital habits.

At Linton Village College, we are one of only 30% of secondary schools nationally that permits students to bring their devices into school. We recognise the potential that they have but are also wary of the possible risks. We have clear expectations about the use of devices in school and a confiscation policy for those that do not follow our code. We want technology to enhance, not detract from, students' learning and wellbeing.

While the school plays a crucial role in educating students about safe and responsible use of digital technologies, it is parents, friends and the wider community that will shape their attitudes and habits. How long children spend plugged into devices, staring at screens, engaging in virtual conversations and investing in their online presence is only partly influenced by the rules and usage that we permit and promote at school.

As adults, our role is not to shun, ban or demonise digital technologies for the negative impact that they can facilitate; we need to help the next generations to be responsible and safe users to create moderate and healthy consumption and to help them to connect, virtually and physically, with the world around them.

Helena Marsh, Principal

## IN MEMORY OF GREG MACKENZIE 1976 - 2015, AGE 39 YEARS

It is with a heavy heart that I write this. Many have heard the tragic news, but not all, that our dear friend Greg Mackenzie died in the very late hours of 21 December, in Addenbrookes Hospital. Greg's mother, Rosemary, and his closest friends are so grateful for all the caring messages and the wonderful support that we have received.

It was Rosemary's wish for Greg to have a small, intimate funeral in his home town of Bangor and this took place on 4 January 2016: it was simple and very beautiful, and suited to the private side of the man that Greg was. However, Greg was also a performer and an incredibly talented musician.

Over the years, Greg has been involved in a number of musical pursuits, including a choral group in, and the Shelford Singers, but notably, he was the Musical Director and Conductor for the Balsham Singers from 2002 to 2012. Many local folk will recall his enthusiasm and vibrant conducting at the Balsham Singers' concerts, and one could not fail to notice his unique and eccentric dress "sense", and his messy hair.

To celebrate his life and to allow everyone to say goodbye, you are all invited to a Memorial Service for Greg in Balsham Church, on Saturday 6 February at 11 am. There will be refreshments in the Church Institute afterwards and we would love it if everyone could wear bright colours, as Greg used to.

Friend to many, adored by a few, and all richer for having known him. Rest in Peace, my very special friend, Greg X

Nina Holden



MEADOW SCHOOL  
PTA  
**Quiz**  
NIGHT

FRIDAY  
11.03.16  
DOORS: 7:00 PM  
START: 7:30 PM

BAR  
RAFFLE  
TICKETS £10

FISH & CHIP SUPPER\*  
FIRST DRINK INCLUDED

Tickets available from

Meadow School: **01223 894 400**

**PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 February**

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