

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2016

ISSUE 158

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 **Black wheeled bin (day late) collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 4 Farmers Market. 9.00—12.00. Linton
Village College
- Sun 5 All ages service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
STREETLY END GARDENS OPEN
for the National Gardens, gardens open
for Charity, scheme. Chequer Cottage
& Clover Cottage. 12 - 5pm. Combined
admission £3.50, children free. Plants for
sale.
- Tue 7 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Fri 10 Meadow School, June Revels.
3.30 - 7pm. See page 2 for details.
- Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St. Mary's Church
- Mon 13 **Local History Club. Walk around**
Hildersham. Meet at 7pm opposite the
old Pear Tree PH
- Tue 14 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St. Mary's Church
- Mon 20 **Gardening Club. Visit to Spencers, Little**
Yeldham. For details contact Rosemary
Yallop, T: 01799 584262
- Tue 21 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Thur 23 **EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM**
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE.
7am - 10pm, Village Hall
- Sun 26 Holy Communion. 9.15, St. Mary's Church
- Wed 29 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

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

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

Email: bookings@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.

West Wickham Fete & WICKHAM FEST 2016

Traditional Village Fete followed by
BBQ, Bar, Music & Family Camping,
In aid of the Village Hall and St Mary's Church

Saturday July 2nd

SAVE THE DAY

Starting at 2pm. at the Village Hall & Playing Field
All your favourites

Day: BBQ /bar/ teas /cakes/ books/ plants/ games/
bottle stall / table tennis/sports.

Evening : live music/ BBQ/ bar/camping (open call
for local musicians/artistes)

Camping costs £10 per tent including breakfast

To guarantee your pitch email

wickhamfest@westwickham.org or call

07823348132

Proceeds to Village Hall and Church

Support your community and have fun.

SEEKING NEW CHAIRMAN FOR VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

After five years at the helm, I recently decided to step down as
Chairman of the West Wickham Village Hall Committee, with an aim of
handing over in time for the AGM in October. The reason for this
decision is partly one of increasing work commitments, but also, its time
for someone else to bring new ideas and energy to the Committee.

Over the last few years the Committee has undertaken a programme of
repair and maintenance on the Hall, including resurfacing the car park,
refurbishing the floor, installing new strip lights, replacing heating fans
and repainting the inside. We have also eliminated much of the
paperwork, having introduced a website with online booking, and using
online banking for invoicing and bill paying. A structural survey of the
Hall was recently performed, to give us an idea of future maintenance
requirements, and the findings were very positive; the Hall was built
well and is lasting well.

In a nutshell, the Hall is in great shape, and solvent, with a reasonable
cash buffer for future maintenance and replacement of equipment. The
Hall is widely used and appreciated by many in West Wickham and the
surrounding villages, and is a real village asset.

Cont on page 2

Seeking new Chairman for Village Hall Committee cont

The main responsibilities of the Chairman are to ensure the Committee meets regularly, to write an annual report, and to hold an AGM. The Hall administrative work is well distributed amongst the Committee so it's truly a team effort.

If you think you might be interested in taking over, please do contact me and I would be happy to explain in a little more detail what's involved. It's important that someone will now come forward to offer their help, to ensure the Hall continues to prosper. This is also a great opportunity to get more involved with village life, so why not give it a try?

Nick Salter, Chairman Village Hall Committee.
T: 291226; Email: nick@thesalterfamily.org

VILLAGE FETE CAKE STALL

As we warned you last month, we are now seriously asking for contributions to the cake stall. Big cakes, cup cakes, buns, biscuits, tarts, pies; anything that you feel like baking will be gratefully received. If you are not into baking, bought cakes are equally acceptable. How about bread...or sweets...??

In order to make plans, it would be really helpful to have some idea as to what stock will be coming in. If you can contribute, a quick call to either Vivienne or Shirley would be appreciated, or you can email Vivienne on viviennehenderson17@gmail.com

On the day, cakes can be either left at April Cottage, 111, High Street or 13 Maypole Croft. Alternatively, bring them to the Village Hall by 1 o'clock on the day.

Vivienne Henderson. T:290243
Shirley Hulyer. T: 290720

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

DIG 3 – STREETLY END 16 & 17 July

The story of our community archaeology project so far. In 2013 our 18 test pits revealed that village development started around the church, followed not long after by Burton End and Streetly End. The village declined from the 14th century (a time of plague and famine). In 2015 we confirmed this early settlement around the church and that this was probably built over by the re-building or extension of the church itself in the 14thc. This year we are trying to find out more about Streetly End. With your help we will be excavating 4 or 5 test pits as part of the Festival of Archaeology. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer (minimum of half a day) – there is a variety of tasks to suit everyone – digging, sieving, record keeping, finds washing.

Further details from: Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

HAVE YOU LOST A DOG LEAD RECENTLY ?
Contact Di licence C. 290434

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Thank you to everyone who has either popped the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers through my letterbox or put them in the box at Horseheath Post Office. It is now time to drop off the last of the vouchers as we need to place our order soon. If you could get your vouchers in by 10 June it would be appreciated.

This term we have been working on two badges – Mission Spectacular and Queen's 90th Birthday Challenge. For the Queen's Birthday badge we made and sent Her Majesty a birthday card, we have learned how the Union Flag is made up and completed a Commonwealth wordsearch. After half-term we will be making our own crowns and decorating horseshoes. For Mission Spectacular we have challenged ourselves to stack plastic cups into a pyramid without using our hands but using string and elastic bands, we have recreated the challenge badge with our bodies and have been visited by Cambs East Archivist, Ann Mitchell. The Brownies were able to dress up in uniforms through the ages and also tried semaphore, which was interesting.

At the end of June we will be visited by some US Girl Scouts from California for an afternoon of fun and games followed by a campfire, you know how we like to have a good sing.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us please register her at 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 and Hera. Email: brownies@horseheath.info



THE MEADOW SCHOOL PTA

JUNE REVELS
Friday 10th June
3.30pm – 7pm

Meadow School, Balsham

FREE ENTRY

Join us for our all new Friday evening
June Revels
All your favourites, plus a few
surprises!



BBQ meat supplied by Beaumonts Butchers of Fulbourn
The Meadow School PTA is a Registered Charity: 1148295

**REVELS
RELAY
TICKET
RETURNS
£8 per person**

ASSAULT COURSE
BOUNCY CASTLE
CACTUS LASSOO
BUNGEE RUN
RODEO SHEEP
TARGET RANGE

PAY AS YOU GO OPTIONS
AVAILABLE ON ALL ACTIVITIES

TODDLER TICKET £3

PLUS
Beat the Goalie
Splat the Rat &
Greasy Pole
Bottle Tombola
Class Stalls
Plant Stall
Candy Floss
Raffle

BBQ
Refreshments
Pimms Tent
And much more....

CONNECTING CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND BT OPENREACH VILLAGE MEETING

Thank you to all those who attended and supported the meeting on 16 May, as well as those who emailed me apologies, thoughts, questions and support. Your support was very much appreciated and noticed - I counted over 40 attendees. I would also like to thank Noelle Godfrey from Connecting Cambridgeshire and Martin & Carolyn from BT for their talks and for answering questions. Carolyn will be the BT manager responsible for overseeing the installation of the new broadband cabinet in the village.

I presented a brief history of broadband in the village, the delays and occasions we have been let down and the little faith residents have that the December 2016 date for Superfast Broadband will be met. The latter was tellingly illustrated during the Q&A session at the end when an attendee asked all residents who thought the December date would be met to raise their hand and the only hand raised was that of Martin.

Noelle Godfrey spoke about Connecting Cambridgeshire, how it is funded (local and national government) and its goal of bringing Superfast Broadband to areas of Cambridgeshire not considered commercially viable for providers such as BT OpenReach. The reasons for the delays to West Wickham were put down to the dates being estimates that were progressively revised as the difficulties in providing a solution to West Wickham became apparent. She assured attendees that the new single cabinet solution, known as a Onesie, is the solution for West Wickham and it is planned to be in place by the end of December 2016. The incorrect broadband upgrade status for residents on BT OpenReach's website, as well as that reported by other major ISPs, is because the website is a national website and only can reflect the status of existing cabinets.

Martin followed up by providing the designation of the new Onesie cabinet (West Wratting R1), whose status we should be able to track online. He also gave the current schedule for the upgrade: the cabinet is currently in the planning stage which is expected to be completed by the end of June. Following this, a survey will be done during July and August to establish the optimum location for the cabinet that will permit the maximum number of residents to receive Superfast broadband. Following the survey's completion, physical installation is expected to commence in September with the cabinet being open for orders before Christmas. On average, orders can take up to two weeks to complete so I would expect the cabinet to be open for orders at the start of December for us to have decent broadband through BT OpenReach infrastructure this Christmas.

While dates cannot be guaranteed due to the possibility of unforeseen circumstances (skeletons, historic finds, tree roots and collapsed ducting have been known issues to cause delays in the past), Martin remained confident that the new Onesie will be in place and accepting orders by December 2016. Speeds residents would be able to attain would vary according to their distance from the new cabinet, although all residents should be able to receive speeds above 10Mbps with the majority capable of receiving speeds in excess of 23Mbps and those closest to the cabinet up to 76Mbps. Exact speeds would depend on your ISP and selected package. However, since the exact location of the new cabinet location is unknown estimates cannot currently be provided.

Through modelling, Burton End has currently been identified as the best location although this was also speculated to be because Burton End is the primary distribution point for the copper lines to the village to enable re-use of existing copper cables despite their known poor condition. A location further down the village would require BT OpenReach to lay new copper cables back up the village towards Burton End.

Residents not upgrading to Superfast broadband will not see any improvement to their existing broadband speed, although Martin was unsure whether their reliability would be improved. Martin did say that part of their installation mandate is to ensure that existing services were not to be disturbed.

The remainder and majority of the meeting was spent answering the many questions raised by residents. The dominant question was why Connecting Cambridgeshire could not fund the additional fibre charges imposed by BT OpenReach on Air Broadband. These unprecedented charges to Air Broadband are a result of the Horseheath cabinet having insufficient capacity requiring fibre to be brought from another cabinet towards Haverhill and substantially further away. Unfortunately, under existing rules Connecting Cambridgeshire are unable to fund projects to bring broadband to areas which are already covered through an existing government funded broadband project. BT OpenReach were awarded the contract in March 2013 to provide superfast broadband to the region. However, this does mean that properties still too far away to receive broadband from the new cabinet will be able to obtain their own individual voucher to fund the installation of alternative broadband, such as satellite broadband, at the property.

There is no penalty associated with failure of BT OpenReach to deliver on time, nor does BT OpenReach have to account for how the awarded funding is spent to fulfil their obligations. However, I was encouraged by the fact that Noelle Godfrey offered to return to a meeting in September regardless of the status of the project and promised to have her team provide monthly updates regarding the project's status. These will be emailed to the broadband@westwickham.org mailing list for those interested in immediate updates. To subscribe, fill in the "Subscribing to Broadband" form at http://mail.westwickham.org/mailman/listinfo/broadband_westwickham.org or email me at alex@schuilenburg.org. I will also continue to provide broadband updates through the Village Voice when appropriate. If you have any questions, please email either the list or myself.

Air Broadband: The Air Broadband scheme is still on hold, although BT OpenReach have informed Lucy Fraser they will not reduce their charges and Connecting Cambridgeshire's position on providing the additional funding has been clarified as above. Air Broadband's shortfall will be made up of either a loan or gift, and there is the possibility of an increase to their monthly charges. Further information is expected at the Parish Council meeting on 23 May.

Alex Schuilenburg

FROM THE VICARAGE

It has been interesting in recent weeks to discover just how many people are confused about who is involved in their village church. Many people do not realise that, because of the lack of full-time working priests, your village church has been part of a cluster of seven churches since 2010. We are fortunate that we have a number of part-time or retired priests who offer their services to support us. This is why we have been able to deliver a service in each of the parishes every week, except on any fifth Sundays of the month, when all meet together in a Joint Service. In addition, there are a number of lay people who are also very dedicated to supporting the life, worship and witness of the churches. Here are some photographs to help you to identify who we all are.

In order to give you a flavour of the pattern of worship across all the parishes we are setting out the schedule of services for June, those for St Mary's West Wickham are in the Village diary. People are beginning to come to neighbouring churches when the types or times of service fits in with them.

Rev Julie Norris

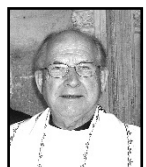
Week of Guided Prayer. Have you ever felt stuck in knowing how to pray? Or wondered if there are other ways of praying that you have not yet tried? Meeting with someone else to talk about this can be a hugely exciting experience. We are going to be setting up an opportunity for people to be accompanied in prayer for a week in October (9-14). If you might be interested in this, please would you contact Rev Kathy Bishop on 01223 892288.

The Seven Churches Ministry Team



Rev Dr Julie Norris. Priest in Charge. Serving West Wickham since 2010. She has been Rural Dean since 2011.

Rev Kathy Bishop, Assistant Parish Priest serving our parishes since 2011. She is organising a Week of Guided Prayer, 9-14 October 2016.



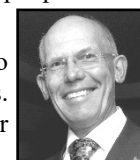
Very Rev Keith Johnson, Associate Priest, celebrated 50 years as a Priest last year. He is retired, and yet preaches and helps us in so many ways.

Steve Wheeler is a Licenced Lay Minister. He leads services of morning prayer and evensong across the churches.



Rosemary Mead is an Authorised Lay Minister who specialises in work with children and families and in pastoral care. She runs a monthly prayer group called, 'Space to Be' which includes people from across all the churches.

Keith Day is an Authorised Lay Minister who specialises in music across all the churches. He is an organist and conducts the joint choir who sing at Joint Services



	<i>Great and Little Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>	<i>Balsham</i>	<i>West Wratting</i>	<i>Weston Colville</i>
5 June	10.45am Family Communion (Gt)	6pm Evensong	10.45am Communion	10.45am Communion	9.15am Communion
12 June	8am Communion (Lt) 6pm Evensong (Lt)	9.15am Communion	10.45am Family Service	4pm Songs of Praise	9.15am Communion
19 June	9.15am Communion (Lt)	4.00pm Café Church	10.45am Communion	10.45am Communion	9.15am Communion
26 June	10.45am Communion (Gt)	9.15am Communion BCP	8am Communion 3pm Messy Church	10.45am Communion	9.15am Communion

**ROOF REPAIR FUND RAISING CONCERT
FOR ST ANDREW'S WEST WRATTING
THE BALSHAM SINGERS CONCERT
7pm on 18 June
St Andrew's Church
For information about Tickets
Rev Julie Norris 01223 891350, or
Linda Gorman 01223 290653**

LENT APPEAL 2016 FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

There was an amazing response from the seven Churches in the Benefice for this appeal and £653.77 has been raised which has been sent to the Diocese of London who had launched this appeal. Thank you all very much for your generosity and to Ian Creek for counting quantities of change for 5 of the Churches although there were also many high denomination notes.

Joanna Sanders

HELPING HANDS

Balsham Helping Hands will have a new telephone no from the 29 May. The new number is 07399263222 We hope this will make life easier for our Co-ordinators but may be a bigger adjustment for our passengers! We are printing laminated cards with the number large and broken up into three 07399 263 222 which we hope they will find easier to dial!

Sara Himsworth

POWER UP!

All those who supported the Power Up! campaign to help Natasha & Michael Power build a downstairs bedroom and bathroom for 7 year old Jack will be pleased to know they finally reached the target. Work has now started, just in time to welcome baby Faye, a sister for Jack and Harry.

NATURE NOTES

Insects outnumber all other members of the animal kingdom added together but in our part of the world many are only just emerging into active life at this time of year.

The butterflies that overwinter as adults have been around for a while, but the first butterfly I look for to emerge from chrysalis form in the spring is the orange tip. This year my impression is that they are abundant. In the last two weeks I have rarely been for a walk and not seen them flying alongside hedgerows and woodland edges. Only the males have orange tips to their wings, but the females are also out now so if you see an orange tip pursuing another white butterfly we all know what that means. They lay their eggs on lady's smock (cuckoo flower) for choice or alternatively garlic mustard (Jack by the hedge), both of which are available at present. On a recent walk at Fulbourn Fen nature reserve I saw scores of orange tips, brimstones and a single holly blue which obligingly came to rest and folded its wings just enough to reveal its pale blue underside. Another butterfly which can be seen at this time of year is the green hairstreak. I have looked for them on the Devil's Dyke without success but they have been seen on Fleam Dyke.

Although we are not yet in the wasp season, the queens have hibernated and are now looking for nest sites. Our largest wasp species is the hornet, recognised by its tawny brown and dull yellow colours. Two queens have been seen by Andrew and Janet recently, so look out for a hornet's nest in a dead tree near you.

One insect I like to see at this time of year is the humble St Mark's fly with his laboured flight and dangling undercarriage. Walking alongside Rands Wood recently the air was full of these harmless creatures who had missed their traditional Saint's Day emergence (25 April) by a couple of weeks. They seemed unconcerned by this.

Insects are vital pollinators but also a key part of the food chain, particularly at this time of year when nesting is in full swing and soon birds will be feeding their young. We currently have a robin's nest inside our shed. It means our shed is virtually out of bounds. Gardening tools and mower have had to be removed to ensure minimum disturbance. Incubation seems to have been proceeding for a while now so hatching is anticipated within the next few days. At the front of the house starlings hatched out some time ago and are noisily making short and messy work of the food in our feeders. We had a brief visit to our garage from a couple of swallows (possibly from the same family that nested two years ago) but after a bit of twittering they decided not to stay on.

I had an interesting message from Linton resident Rob McEwen who noted Di's redstart from last month and informed me that he had seen a black redstart on the Linton Water Tower. Black redstarts are common in mountainous areas but have been known to nest in tall buildings in cities. However it seems this one decided to move on. Rob said that he was particularly hoping to see Spotted Flycatchers in the area. This is a declining species and is the subject of a survey locally, see separate article.

Mammals have the last word. Trevor and Carol had a hare in their garden last week. Let's hope it wasn't nibbling too many of their orchids.

STOP PRESS 09.00, 19 May. Ann Denley heard a cuckoo behind her house. 1st in West Wickham this year.

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

SPOTTED FLYCATCHERS

Do you have this increasingly rare bird breeding in your garden?

Spotted flycatchers are attractive little migrant birds which are summer visitors to UK village gardens and churchyards. Although they breed with us, they spend ten months of the year travelling between here and their wintering grounds in Southern Africa. This is an increasingly dangerous journey for them, and sadly they are in deep decline.



Widespread losses amounted to a 50% decline during 1995-2010, continuing an 88% decline since 1970.

Only some fifty pairs remain breeding in Cambridgeshire, so it's now quite a rare bird, but most rural villages still have a pair or two. The Cambridge Bird Club is running a survey this year to find and monitor nesting pairs, and it's almost certain that there will be additional pairs in our villages of which they are not aware.

Do you have flycatchers in your garden? Please let the Bird Club know. Please email spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk with any information you have, including records of single birds between now and September.

See also www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/spofl2016.html for details of the project and how to send in your records.

Michael Holdsworth

(Please contact the editors if you don't have internet access)

SAVE OUR POOL

We need a BIG POOL of people to help us raise

£10,000

*for extensive repair and maintenance of the
Meadow School Swimming Pool.*

***Dive in and
make a splash!***

***Every £ counts so if
you are able to help
please donate at:***

**With your help we can
save this valuable facility
and give local children a
chance to learn life-saving
& fun swimming skills.**

**[www.gofundme.com/
Meadowpool](http://www.gofundme.com/Meadowpool)**

ooo

**Join us online for our new
fundraising in the
fast lane.**

**Or Cheques to
"Meadow School PTA"
note swimming on reverse**

THANK YOU

**projects@meadow.cambs.sch.uk
Julia 07734155131**

**very much for all your
support!**



MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The summer months are upon us and by now you can usually hear shrieks of laughter and joy, amongst the noise of splashing and 'kick' being shouted by the swimming teachers. This year our swimming season has been delayed by severe structural problems! As a school, we have managed to find a grant to fund some of the work, but not enough to fund all that's needed. In the past schools with a swimming pool were given money from the Government to help maintain them. This central funding ceased some years ago and since then, it has been left to schools to find the money needed from their very tight school budgets.

Why not just close the pool down? The answer is simple, teaching swimming saves lives and teaching children to swim 25m is a requirement of the National Curriculum. We looked into the option of closing our pool and paying to bus one year group of children for 6 weeks to a local pool but not only does this not ensure everyone has access to this necessary skill, it is not cost effective. The Meadow has taught swimming for years. In fact, Chris Walker-Hebborn who swims for our country and is soon off to the Rio Olympics, was a pupil and swam in our very pool! Imagine if we can inspire more children to follow their dreams, or even just learn such an important life saving skill.

We have an amazing community and group of parents behind us. They have started a campaign to save our pool and already have raised £4000 of the £10,000 needed. They recently to join me in repainting the pool. By the time you read this we will hopefully be just starting swimming; due to the delay, we have decided to continue teaching into the autumn term and are also planning to open the pool over the summer holidays and some weekends to ensure we make the most of it. If you know anyone who would like to help our campaign, please contact the school office or visit www.gofundme.com/meadowpool.

Lots of other things have also been going on! Our Y6 children have taken their SATs, which were considerably harder than in previous years. The children took it all in their stride, and with the help of the Teaching Assistants who came in early to cook breakfast to set them up for the day we were able to keep the stress levels down and disruption to a minimum. We find out in July how the children have done. Whatever the results, we will be very proud of our children and the effort and perseverance they have shown!

We recently took a team of Y5 children to the Cambridge maths challenge. George, Kristen, Aisha and Ted worked incredibly well together as a team. Through 14 rounds they tackled a wide range of problems and challenges. Out of 18 teams, we finished 3rd, only one point off 2nd place!

We also took 4 teams to St. Neots for a cross country relay race. Our girls teams finished 53rd and 63rd out of 103 teams and our boys finished 15th and 76th out of 130 teams. The children really did perform well. The team spirit, encouragement and shouting was second to none. We were even more proud when we discovered our Boys B team had been the first in that category to cross the line and Archie, Edward, Jacob and Eddie all won a medal.

We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Henry Morris, Secretary of Education for Cambridge (from 1922 to 1954), was the pioneer for village colleges. His ideals were based on schools being at the heart of their local communities to support lifelong learning. An extract from his 1925 paper proposes: *'There would be no 'leaving school'! – the child would enter at three and leave the college only in extreme old age... The village college could lie athwart the daily lives of the community it served; and in it the conditions would be realised under which education would not be an escape from reality, but an enrichment and transformation of it.'*

I have been fortunate to work at four village colleges in Cambridgeshire. I am proud that the 'cradle to grave' learning philosophy of schooling still rings true at LVC 79 years after its opening, with two-year-olds on site at the Linton Granta Playgroup and older local residents benefiting from the school's facilities at evenings and weekends. However, while there has been a historical reputation for a thriving and varied programme of adult education at Linton Village College, its profile and participation numbers have dwindled in recent years.

With a wealth of other learning opportunities locally and online, it is perhaps unsurprising that we have seen the volume of adult learners decline. And yet, while some village colleges have ceased adult education provision due to lack of viability, other schools' programmes, such as Sawston Village College's, remain buoyant. We are keen to rejuvenate LVC's adult learning provision to make it sustainable and to ensure that it meets the needs and interests of the local community. Central to this is having the support and commitment of local residents and someone with expertise to drive it.

We are looking to appoint someone on a part-time basis to lead adult education at LVC and to provide the necessary energy, enthusiasm and skills to make it a vibrant aspect of village life once again. If you are interested in finding out more about the role of Community Education Manager, please contact Ian Simmons, the school's Head of Business and Enterprise Faculty, at ian.simmons@lvc.org.

Helena Marsh, Principal

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CRAFTS?

We would like to set up a craft group in Balsham, so if you have a craft you would like to share and enjoy a natter at the same time, come along to the Black Bull on Monday 13 June 9.45 to 11.30am. If you have always wanted to learn a craft why not come along as well, I'm sure you will find someone to help you get started.

Tea and coffee will be supplied for a small charge of £2. If you would like further information please contact Chris Fraser 01223 893646 or Melissa Tabecki 01223 893235

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 June

Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris

Correspondence & News to:

21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB1 6RY
or contact Sue on:

T: 01223 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk
contact Andrew on T: 01223 290863.

e-mail: editor_wvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk