VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2016

ISSUE 157

VILLAGE DIARY

Sun	1	All ages service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
Wed	4	Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
		Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur	5	Police Commissioner Election. 7am -
		10pm, Village Hall
Sun	8	Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue	10	Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed	11	Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat	14	Daisy Chains Pre-School JUMBLE
		SALE. 2 - 4pm, Village Hall
Sun	15	Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon	16	Broadband meeting. 7pm, Village Hall.
		See page 3 for details
		Local History Club. Hedgerow survey.
		Meet at Village Hall car park at 7pm
		(weather permitting)
Tue	17	Black wheeled bin collection
Wed	18	Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat	21	Gardening Club PLANT SALE
		10.30 - 12.00, Village Hall
Sun	22	Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon	23	Parish Council meeting. 7pm, Village
		Hall
		Annual Parish meeting. 8.15pm, Village
		Hall
Tue		Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed		Carpet Bowls. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun	29	Joint parishes' service. 10.00, Hildershan
		Church
T		

- June
- Wed 1 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection 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 f7 00/hour

	evening 27.00/nour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour
	evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	$dav (9.00 - 19.00) \pm 12.00/hour$

complete Hall day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hou evening £18.00/hour

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter T: 01223 291226 Email: bookings@westwickham.org 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.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you all so much for your help during the past year. We will be holding a Garden Party at Manor Farm for you on Friday 17 June in the evening with wine and nibbles. Invitations will be sent in due course to all those who have become regular Friends and also to those who have given so generously to the replacement clock face. St Mary's is always wanting to encourage and welcome new Friends. Contact details are below.

The new face is now resplendent in the spring sun (when we get it). The electric mechanism and strike managed to correct itself automatically through to summertime on Easter Morning. It struck 10 during the Easter Service, much to my surprise, as the hands were not yet corrected as time had gone forward. Sadly the Wadlow Windfarm Fund found itself unable to contribute the £1500 grant that we had applied for towards the clock face replacement.

We look forward to seeing you all in June.

Marcus Cornish. Church Warden, T: 290203, Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com



FROM CANON JOHN FELLOWS

I can honestly say that 17 April 2016 was one of the best days of my life. A packed church with people from all seven churches and beyond, nearly 150 communicants, wonderful music, a great atmosphere, a beautifully bound copy of some of my sermons, a jaw-droppingly generous cheque and so many kind words: these all went to make my farewell a day I shall always remember. Thank you so much for that and thank you for the last four years we have shared together. I have enjoyed nowhere more.

John Fellows

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

DIG 3 – STREETLY END

Following on from last year's Dig2 and our 2013 Big Village Dig, we are aiming to excavate some test pits in Streetly End this year in a continuation of our attempt to learn more about the medieval settlement of the village.

If you would like to do a test pit in your garden in Streetly End or would like to be involved in anyway please get in touch. It doesn't matter if you haven't taken part before – newcomers are very welcome and training will be given.

Dig 3 will take place over the weekend of 16/17 July and will again be supervised by archaeologist, Mathew Morris.

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

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.

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. Email: nick@thesalterfamily.org

ADVANCE WARNING

The Cake Ladies, Vivienne and Shirley, are on the scrounge again. We have been asked to do a Cake Stall for the Village Fete on 2 July and we can't do it without your help. It seems a long way ahead right now but please do start to think about it. There will be an appeal to you all in the June issue of the Village Voice by way of a reminder. This is just an Advance Warning that we will be relying on your skill and generosity to make this the best cake stall ever. Please support us again as you have done so often in the past.

Vivienne Henderson.	T: 01223 290243
Shirley Hulyer	T: 01223 290720

EVENTS IN WESTON COLVILLE

Circular Walk Saturday, 7 May: meet at the Reading Room at 10 o'clock, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. You can put your lunch in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21 March the following items were some of the issues discussed. The full draft Minutes will be posted on the Notice Board.

Broadband: James Denning from Air Broadband spoke about the extra price of £4800 quoted by BT for the installation to take place due to the Horseheath cabinet, only recently put in, had already reached capacity and they would have to use one further away. He urged people to write complaining about this high cost to BT, Connecting Cambridge or Lucy Fraser (MP). He said his company was trying to negotiate a better deal with BT and would keep the Parish Council informed of any developments.

Planning:

S/3019/15/FL -Single dwelling on land between 39-47 High St. Withdrawn.

S/0443/16/FL – Erection of single timber garage. Parish Council approved provided the height is reduced. Ms Abbie Betley was present and said that they would be resubmitting their application with a reduction in the height.

S/2108/15/FL - Change of use of stables to a single dwelling, W.Stone. SCDC refused.

Matters arising:

- 1. Quote from T Potter for hedge cutting on A1307 was discussed and it was felt that the work he proposed doing was insufficient. It was suggested that a councillor walk with Mr Potter to see what needs doing.
- 2. Signage repairs: The Parish Clerk will give the County Council a list of the signs which are in need of repair or replacement.

Finance: Internal auditor: It was agreed that "Running Total Bookkeeping" should again be asked to do this. Neighbourhood Plan:

- 1. Following the meeting of 20 February 9 people had offered their services on the Working Group and another meeting would be arranged for after Easter. The approx. cost of getting the Local Plan set up using professionals to draw up plans, do graphics etc. would be £4800 but there are grants available.
- 2. The Working Group Terms of Reference, which had been circulated, were agreed by the Parish Council.

Maintenance:

Hedging: The rec hedges have now been cut, leaving a considerable mess which was cleared up by villagers and councillors and the Chairman gave his thanks.

Village Clean Up: 27 bags of rubbish were collected from a larger area than usual as there were more helpers.

Land down to old sewage farm: The hedge has now been cut and cleared.

Traffic issues: Cllr. Licence had been successful in finding someone to help with ideas for traffic calming but they would need support from the Parish Council e.g stickers for bins.

Any other business: Cllr. Fraser is considering having a Parish Council surgery once a month to share information with reps from each Parish Council.

The next meeting will be the AGM of the Parish Council on Monday 23 May at 7.00pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15pm. The bar will be open for the Parish Meeting.

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk). T: 01223 665260 Email: parishclerk@westwickham.org

BROADBAND UPDATE

Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT OpenReach village meeting, Monday 7pm, 16th May 2016, Village Hall:

The director of Connecting Cambridgeshire and the BT OpenReach programme manager responsible for the new cabinet installation at Burton End will be explaining to residents why, this time, Superfast Broadband will really be delivered to West Wickham by December 2016.

All residents are invited and encouraged to attend, ask questions, raise their concerns, express their displeasure, and so on, directly with the people responsible. The presentation should take 15-30 minutes with questions and answers afterwards.

Air Broadband:

BT OpenReach have responded to the request by our MP, Lucy Fraser, to have the additional fee reduced or waived. Unfortunately the response was negative which leaves Air Broadband's plan stalled at the moment while alternative options are explored. Lucy Fraser will also follow up with BT OpenReach and the government's broadband minister, Ed Vaizey, to determine if there is anything which can be done to persuade BT OpenReach to change their position.

An additional issue which also needs to be raised is why there are no spare fibres from the Horseheath cabinet less than a year after it was upgraded through Connecting Cambridgeshire and BDUK funding. This restriction means no Horseheath residents or businesses are able to obtain a leased-line service, and already places restrictions and capacity limits on Horseheath resident's Superfast Broadband connectivity.

Air Broadband may also attend the next Parish Council meeting but this is still to be confirmed.

Alex Schuilenburg



NATURE NOTES

Last month the highlight was the redpolls, this month it's a redstart. Di saw one of these unusual (for West Wickham) visitors in Blacklands Lane. When they fly off they are unmistakeable, showing their rusty red tail and rump. As ever the male is more eye-catching with his grey back and black bib, but both are lovely. Di in fact has a number of observations this month: "Watching a pair of blackbirds building a nest in our honeysuckle, you would think that male blackbirds are very sexist, doing no work, just sitting in the tree singing loudly, while the female flies back and forth with moss, twigs and leaves. But now, several days later he is arriving with a beak full of worms. Obviously she is laying/incubating eggs and he is feeding her; all is not always what it seems!

The mating season is hotting-up, and the many buzzards that live around here have been displaying in the sky, soaring, diving and mewing. Many of you have witnessed this and told us.

Teresa has had a goldcrest in her garden at the far end of the High Street. A little owl was heard in the early evening and seen at the old White Hart, making its melancholy call for a mate. It has been calling for several days now. Several of you have heard the chiffchaff and the willow warbler singing. The warm weather has encouraged the emergence of butterflies from winter hibernation. brimstones, peacock, comma and small tortoiseshell have all been seen. The celandines on the roadside are lovely and two people have seen coltsfoot, another yellow flower which comes out early, but is becoming increasingly uncommon. Who will see the first swallow? They are already on the South coast. Last year it was Louise, on the wire at her stables. (Anna Fairhead tells me that four arrived at Hill Farm on Wednesday 13 April) We have a handsome male great spotted woodpecker that comes to our garden to feed on the fat hanging up for the blue tits. The shell is suspended about six inches from the trunk, but he manages to cling on with his feet, hang out and peck at the fat, dropping quite a lot on the ground, which is soon consumed by the chaffinches and dunnocks that cannot reach it.

Leys Wood is now full of bluebells, and many other flowers, wood anemones, dog violets, wild strawberry, wood sorrel, dog's mercury and cowslips are out too. Primrose yellow oxlips are also in flower, very uncommon apart from on this Essex/Cambridge border. We are lucky to have them and cowslips together in West Wickham. The wild garlic is in bud ready to burst. The hedgerows are also greening up with the hawthorn slowly unfurling its green leaves but the may blossom is still tightly in bud. The horse chestnuts' "sticky buds" have already produced their green leaves and spikes of flowers. My favourite, however, is the beautiful pussy willow, making the tree appear yellow in the hedgerows, as the furry buds are laden with pollen. Spring is well and truly sprung!"

Two other birds to mention: Andrew and Janet were visited by a couple of bramblings last week, presumably on the journey north, while Sue had the pleasure of driving down the hill into Dalham behind a cruising barn owl who kept to the line of this narrow enclosed stretch of road for several hundred yards.

Meanwhile, Arthur informed me that he was doing some gardening the other morning when he looked up and found himself accompanied by a muntjac. I think they are becoming braver.

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

EUROQUIZ

With the referendum fast approaching, here's some cryptic clues to get you in the Euromood.

All answers are cities from mainland Europe – not all of them are capitals, nor are all in the EU.

- 1. Top of bin liner crumpled (6)
- 2. Stanley Baldwin initially eaten by lion (6)
- 3. Conflict was turned on its head (6)
- 4. Sounds like the cows are in (8)
- 5. I sit in comfy chair (5)
- 6. Spin pain (6)
- 7. Compete first, then Ann returns (6)
- 8. Morning dreams turn head around (9)
- 9. Mother leaves cinema in ruins (4)
- 10. Devil's place is dark, by the sound of it (8)
- 11. Potential flower a nuisance (8)
- 12. Young lover with nothing removed (4)

Answers to mail@petergrieve.co.uk or 29 Burton End by 31 May

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!



RETURNS £8 per person Assault course bouncy castle cactus lassoo bungee run rodeo sheep target range

REVELS

RELAY TICKET

Beat the Goalie Splat the Rat & Greasy Pole Bottle Tombola Class Stalls Plant Stall Candy Floss Raffle BBQ Refreshments Pimms Tent

n PAY AS YOU GO OPTIONS AVAILABLE ON ALL ACTIVITIES Sham TODDLER TICKET £3 PLUS

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

My daughter recently turned six. She has quickly developed a fervent love of reading and story writing and frequently pleads to read 'just one more page' before bedtime. Her current favourite is Roald Dahl; she is in the process of devouring a box set of his novels.

As a Literature graduate, I am especially proud of her love of literacy; I particularly enjoy witnessing the scope of her imagination and enjoyment when reading stories aloud or crafting narratives of her own. Having experience of teaching teenagers who are often less motivated to read makes her enthusiasm even more poignant.

When speaking with older students or their parents, I am saddened to hear about how a once avid reader no longer has any interest in reading. While some students retain reading habits from primary school, for others, the transition appears to signal a change in their attitude. It is a shame that some students are unable to sustain this hobby alongside new interests and distractions.

Reading is a truly enriching activity for people of all ages. As an English teacher, I am not particularly picky about genre or form; reading is reading whether it be a tome of classical fiction or a niche interest magazine via an electronic device. The act of expanding horizons and knowledge, growing thinking, and stepping out of daily lived experience is beneficial whether it is achieved through paperback or screen and regardless of topic.

This will be my first year at LVC during the Linton Children's Book Festival (14 - 18 May). I am looking forward to taking my family along to appreciate the amazing array of authors that the event has to offer and to spotting a number of our secondary students there, benefiting from such an inspiring literary experience.

I hope that my little girl continues to cherish the written word, long after technology, hormones and homework have made an appearance in her life. Reading for pleasure is such a precious activity - I hope that it stays that way for her and others attending the book festival this month.

Helena Marsh, Principal

VOLUNTEERING FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Would you like to help your community stay safe and learn more about fire safety? We're looking for volunteers in your area to join our successful Community Champion scheme. Community Champions encourage local residents to carry out fire safety checks in their homes, visit community groups and educate about fire safety and escape plans. We will train you, give you a uniform and provide you with a wide range of activities to choose from, all of which will help to keep our communities safe from the risk of fire.

Local charity Groundwork coordinates the Community Champion Scheme on behalf of CFRS. Anyone interested in becoming a Community Champion should call Katie Dean on 01480 587140 / 07736 132870 or email katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk.

CALLING MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

You may be aware that I will be stepping down as Director of Music at Linton Village College at the end of this term. On Wednesday 22 June I will be conducting my last concert at the College in my current role and would very much like to lead a "Last Night at the Proms" style second half.

If you play a musical instrument or sing and would like to be a part of this event, I would very much like to hear from you! Singers will be performing favourites such as "Land of Hope and Glory", "Jerusalem", "Rule Britannia" and "I was Glad". There is no need to rehearse the singers but I can send you a copy of the music by email.

Instrumentalists will be accompanying the singers and additionally performing Coates' "The Dambusters March". If you are interested in playing I would very much like to hold a pre-concert rehearsal at 6.30 for half an hour in the Main Hall.

Please let me know if you'd like to perform at this event by emailing me at Christopher.charlesworth@lvc.org informing me which voice type you sing (SATB), or which musical instrument you would like to play. (Instrumentalists may be limited in number!)

Christopher Charlesworth, Director of Music, Linton Village College

BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

From 1 May the timetables for the Stagecoach 13, 13A, 13B, 13C & X 13 are changing. The off-peak Monday to Sunday times remain the same but the peak departure times are changing, especially when schools are open. The journey time is also increasing to improve reliability! Full details and copies of the timetable can be obtained by contacting Stagecoach directly on 01223 433250 or at www.stagecoachbus.com

NATIONAL FRAUD WARNING

Police forces have become aware of a fraud targeting elderly and vulnerable members of the community. Some older people have received telephone calls from a caller who purports to be from their GP surgery and asks for an appointment to discuss the persons' mobility needs. During the appointment, the older person is persuaded to buy mobility aids which are either unnecessary or inappropriate and always expensive. If you receive a call like this, please check with your GP. surgery first before agreeing to a visit. This has already been circulated to all G.P surgeries and the Clinical Commissioning Groups by the N.H.S.

In South Cambs. a report has been received of a similar incident in the Fen Ditton area, where a resident received a fraudulent call from a company trying to sell them medical/ vitamin equipment. The caller kept demanding bank details, they appeared to know the individual's medical history and claimed to be from their local GP surgery. The caller threatened that they would continue calling until they got the response they wanted. If you have concerns that you or a relative may have received a similar call, please do report the details via 101.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

SHOOTING SONGBIRDS

Lots of exciting things have happened since our last update.

Over Easter we had our new Clevertouch interactive screens installed. Gone are our whiteboards and projectors and in the children's words, 'We now have super duper, new fangled huge TV screens.' Contrary to the children's initial ideas, these are not to watch lots of films on. Listening to the children excitedly tell me that they can now read or watch what is on the board without having to turn the lights out and close the blinds makes you realise just how bad our old ones were. With the help of our amazing PTA, we just now have to finish paying for them!

As the summer term begins, we have started our final topics of the year. The Infants have taken off with, 'Up, Up and Away', which was launched with a trip to Duxford War Museum to participate in an aeroplane building workshop, along with looking at the amazing planes they have on display. When they return they will study Japan, the USA and end with Brazil. Years 3/4/5 started 'Carnival' which is a celebration of South America and the celebrations of the continent, along with a study of the Amazon Rainforest before finishing in Rio. Year 5/6 have launched 'Going for Gold' which will see them studying Ancient Greece and the history of the Olympics, before they travel to the modern day and Brazil. You may have spotted the common theme being we all end up at the end of the term in Brazil, just in time for the Olympics!

We are hoping that as May draws to a close we will have started swimming. We are still desperately fundraising to pay for the refurbishment to solve the structural problems we encountered last year. Teaching children to swim is vitally important, not only does it keep people fit, it can also save lives. We are hoping that if we can get the money to fix the immediate problems; we can then continue to raise money over the coming months to complete the project and then hopefully offer our children the chance to come and swim in the holidays too.

We also had some good news over the Easter break. We found out we had been successful in another bid to the Condition Improvement Fund, which is a government funding scheme for Academies that tops up the £6,500 we receive each year to maintain our school building. Last year we had all of our windows and doors replaced and this year we will have our fire system overhauled, with new internal fire doors and alarm system work. As you can imagine, you cannot do very much with £6,500, which is why being successful in applying for these grants is so important.

Finally, we are already looking forward and getting excited about the next academic year. We have just offered 35 places for children due to start Reception in September 2016. With Infant class sizes fixed at 30 per class, this means we will be having 2 very small Reception classes next year. We do still have a few spaces left, so if you know anyone moving to the area, do point them in our direction!

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

We have received a lot of responses to last month's article from local residents, from two of the farms and from one of the shooters himself who has been coming to the village for the last 15 years. All agree that the shooting of songbirds is wrong. A couple of people have expressed concern, accusing the authors of xenophobia because of the reference to practices in some Mediterranean countries and suggesting that the article pointed a finger at a number of groups of shooters that are of Greek or Greek Cypriot origin. This was not intended; the authors are aware that quite a number of different groups are welcomed onto farms in the village to shoot but do not know their cultural origin.. The authors maintain that the reference to shooting songbirds around the Mediterranean was entirely valid. This is a practice the RSPB has been campaigning against for many years.

Edward and Anna Fairhead of Hill Farm are confident that the people who shoot over their land are not involved in shooting anything but pigeons, nor have they seen any evidence of illegal shooting on Hill Farm. Denny Pearson is confident that the people allowed to shoot at Platts Farm are not the cause of songbird death and have clear guidelines on what they can and more importantly, what they must not shoot. She asks that if a shot songbird should be found on Platts Farm land she be told about it and if possible be shown it. However, she also requests that people keep to public footpaths and keep dogs on leads as there are a lot of ground nesting birds, especially skylarks, around at this time of year.

Shooting protected birds is a crime and should be reported. Regretfully Cambridgeshire Police no longer have a wildlife crime unit but they and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, recommend reporting shot songbirds to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. You can contact them on 0300 1234 999.

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

A half allotment has become available. It is approx 12 x 20 yards, has been recently cultivated, is in good order and has a shed. The rent is £5.00pa. Water is available, charged separately by the Village Hall. If you are interested in renting the allotment please contact Jennifer Richards, Clerk to the Parish Council. T: 01223 665260, email: jrichards007@talktalk.net

If you would like to have a look at the allotment please contact Di Licence who will be happy to show you around. You can contact her on T: 290434,

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May 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_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk