

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

December 2016

ISSUE 164

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 4 All ages praise. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue6Blue & green wheeled bin collectionWed7Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Wed7Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village HallSun11Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 12 Local History Club. Christmas social.
- 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Tue 13 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 14 Deadline for items for the January issue of the Village Voice

Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall 17 Balsham Singers Christmas Concert.

- Sat 17 Balsham Singers Christmas Concert See page 1 for details
- Sun 18 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 19 Gardening Club. Christmas Garlands. Talk & demonstration by David
- Holmes. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Tue 20 Blue wheeled bin collection
- Sat 24 Carol service. 6pm, St Mary's Church
- Sun 25 HAPPY CHRISTMAS Family Communion. 9.15, St Mary's
- Church Wed 28 Black wheeled bin day late collection
- January 2017
- Sun 1 United Parishes Service. 10.00, Balsham Church
- Wed 4 Blue & green 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):

day or evening £8.00/hour
day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour.
evening £7.00/hour.
day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour
evening £10.00/hour.
day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour
evening £18.00/hour
£30.00 daytime
£43.00 evening
£60.00
£150.00

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

HARE COURSING

Cambridgeshire Police report that they recently had an extremely busy weekend for hare coursing offences, with 19 reported incidents on Saturday 12 November and 10 incidents on Sunday 13 November. As a result 8 people have been reported for coursing offences and 3 vehicles were seized. There are a lot of hares in and around West Wickham so please report anything suspicious you see to the Cambridgeshire Police Rural Crime Team (RCAT), Police Force Headquarters, Huntingdon. Email: RCAT@cambs.pnn.police.uk or phone 101 or 999 in an emergency.

BROADBAND UPDATE

I was sadly informed by Connecting Cambridgeshire on 16 November that the West Wickham cabinets will not be open to ISPs for Superfast (FTTC) orders until "early in the New Year".

Work is progressing on the connection of fibre to both cabinets and the delivery of power by UK Power Network (UKPN) to one of the cabinets remains outstanding. Whilst this work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year, there is normally a stabilisation, or "burning-in" period, for the cabinets which can last up to two weeks. Once stabilised, the cabinets are confirmed as live and ISPs will be permitted to place orders for FTTC connections with BT OpenReach, which can also take two or more weeks to be completed.

Connecting Cambridgeshire have committed to informing us as soon as the cabinets are open for order, and I will do so through the broadband@westwickham.org mailing list. To subscribe, send an empty message to <broadband-request@westwickham.org> with the subject "subscribe".

We will get there in the end!

Alex Schuilenburg

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 17 December 7.30pm in Balsham Church

There will be excerpts from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Mozart's *Regina Coeli* and Holst's *Te Deum*. Plus of course a melody of traditional carols for all to join in. Tickets from Balsham Post Office or on the door.

VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Balsham Helping Hands is a voluntary organisation that helps people with transport for medical appointments. It is based in Balsham but is now expanding into more of the surrounding villages. We are in dire need of extra co-ordinators to match the clients need for transport with the volunteer drivers. Is there anyone in West Wickham who might be able to help out with their time? Please contact Di Licence for more details on T: 290434

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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

By the time you read this, preparations for Christmas will be well on the way. Many of you will have made Christmas puddings, the Christmas cake and prepared numerous mince pies. I have every intention of doing all of this but haven't done it yet! The lead up to Christmas can be hard, but let me share an experience with you that might incorporate a sense of expectation. We had a power cut in Linton on Sunday that lasted three and a half hours. The roast potatoes weren't cooked and so to begin with it was a case of waiting. There was nothing to be done because the phone did not work and so stillness. After a while the candles were lit and the sense of expectancy grew as to when the power would return. By the time I was nice and relaxed the lights appeared and life began again.

How many times can we say that we are forced to slow down, in order to prepare for Christmas? Try it; it is an opportunity to think about what Christmas really means.

Parish news - Our parish nurse Teresa Letimier has sadly left, but the good news is that Claire Gillet is settling in as a temporary replacement. We are working together as a team and good things are happening.

The meeting on 5 September at West Wickham regarding the role of a parish nurse operating in the village was a very positive one with a contribution from a villager who had experienced this type of care for his elderly parents in South Africa. It was agreed that several people wanted to contribute financially to the fund in order that this village would be able to have access if and when they needed it. This is great news for the Parish Nurse.

The schools are preparing to come into Balsham Church for their Christmas concerts. Helen Juckes (from LVC), Keith Johnson and I met the other evening to organise the arrangements for the Carol concert for Linton Village College on 12 December, with the Meadow School having their concert on Wednesday 14 December. It is a delight to welcome them all.

May I and the rest of the Ministry team wish you a blessed and happy Christmas. We hope to see many of you at one of the numerous Christmas services that are taking place across the seven churches.

Rev. Kathy Bishop

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PARISH CLERK

Jenny Richards is moving. Her new address from 28 November will be West Lodge, 88 High Street, Balsham CB21 4EP. Her new email address is: j.richards597@btinternet.com. Her telephone number remains 01223 665260.

SAVE THE CHILDREN COFFEE MORNING

This was a very happy occasion and our thanks go to Martin & Cassie Walshe for allowing the event on 11 November to be held in their home, Mulberry Cottage. It was very well attended and £435.00 was raised. So on behalf of the Linton & District SCF group thank you to all those who helped to make it such a success by either coming or donating money and goods.

Jenny Richards

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

In view of the otter's current star status (see Nature Notes), I thought a Christmas menu with some of his favourite dishes would be appropriate. Consequently the answers to these twelve clues are all **freshwater fish**.

Butterfly, Transport Secretary. (8) Cut the grass outside the pub. (6) Referred to in Psalm One hundred and two. (6) Complain. (4) One who insists on perfection endlessly has support. (11) Civil war weapon. Don't tell him! (4) Sound of annoyance or back inside. (5) Remove skin, remove head. (3) Roosting place for rod. (5) Seen in buildings, often churches. (5) Plump person. (4) Top diving expert. (4) Answers to me either at 29 Burton End or by email to

Answers to me either at 29 Burton End or by email to mail@petergrieve.co.uk by 31 December.

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

This term we have been concentrating on the Road Safety interest badge. With the darker nights and foggy weather we decided the girls needed to be more road aware so that they are safe when out with their friends.

We are also getting ready for Christmas. The salt dough decorations are baked, painted and varnished ready for the tree at the United Reformed Church in Castle Camps. The cards have been decorated and calendars made for the Over 60's Luncheon in December.

Our joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides went really well, the girls all mixed together and made some really pretty cards. There was also some nightlight snowmen and peg reindeers.

We will be ending the term by enrolling Matilda and decorating mini Christmas cakes, which is being organised by Laurené.

We will return to Brownies on Wednesday 11 January so if you have a daughter who would 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.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happiest of New Years.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené, Email: brownies@horseheath.info

CARERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Are you a caring person? Would you like to earn a bit extra? We are looking for someone to join our current carer in the mornings at 7.30 am and/or evenings around 8.00 pm Monday to Friday, also Saturday mornings around 7.45 am and Saturday evenings at 7.00 pm. The support is to cover all aspects of personal care for a placid and interesting young man with complex care/health needs living in West Wratting. Good rate of pay.

Any interested person please call James or Sarah Warren on 01223 291236 or email *sarah@millendcam.co.uk* for more information.

NATURE NOTES

There's no doubt about the most exciting news of the month. It's West Wickham's first otter. (Unless **you** know different.) We only know this because Trevor has installed an infra-red camera in his back garden, and in the early hours one morning in late October, the camera picked up several images of the otter's visit.



Inspection of the edge of the pond the following day revealed a patch of flattened grass and the otter's spraint, which is black and slimy and apparently can smell either of newly mown hay or putrid fish. I'm not sure whether Trevor put this to the test, but in order to settle any doubts, the otter returned on 7 November when more images were captured. For many reasons, otters had been on the decline in Britain during the second half of the 20th Century, and by 1992 were on the point of extinction in Cambridgeshire. In the last 20 years, however, they have made a great comeback, being seen on the Cam, the Ouse and the Nene. More relevant to us is that they have been seen on the upper reaches of the Stour, whose source is close to us. River levels have been low following an incredibly dry October, and it is known that otters can travel quite long distances away from their territory at such times. Trevor's pond has (or had) fish in it. We wait to see whether the otter feels the need to penetrate further into West Wickham. Is anybody



else tempted to acquire an infra-red camera to reveal all the interesting goings-on while you are safely tucked up in bed? The otter wasn't the only creature that was active during the night in Trevor and Carol's garden. They have had several visits from a fox, which on one occasion was seen as a blur across the screen in one picture and then calmly trotting across the garden with a moorhen in its mouth in the next. Nature in the raw!

Di has been away in South America seeing spectacular scenery and wildlife, but 'returned to good old Blighty to admire the colours of one of our most glorious autumns in recent years. The colours are a bi-product of trees shutting down for the winter by withdrawing their green pigment chlorophyll, and displaying instead the yellows, oranges and reds that adorn our trees and hedgerows at this time.

The wintering birds have been returning, with flocks of fieldfares flying overhead, making that lovely laughing cackle and the smaller but less numerous redwings in our hawthorn bushes. There has also been a noisy mistle thrush on the Croft, fiercely protecting 'his' whitebeam tree laden with berries. Golden plovers have also been seen and heard, with their swirling flight and piping calls.'

I mentioned in last month's notes that this autumn was particularly bountiful, but the birds are still making full use of the bird feeders as Jo Newton pointed out to me, with numerous visits from a great spotted woodpecker, coal tits, blue tits and a robin.

The red kite is a bird we are unlikely to see on our feeders but is a more and more common sight in West Wickham. Di and Steve have recorded sightings for several successive months, and Sue saw one flying over the garden recently. I was out in the garden at the time but was blissfully unaware of her calls. Never mind, because a few days later Brian and I were enjoying a quiet pint in the Chestnut Tree at West Wratting when a kite flew past the window.

Stop press. The otter paid another visit on 14 November. The camera caught it emerging from the pond.

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

****************** 1 IUSIC IN LINTON R 8.4 () Linton Music Society invites you to their next two concerts. On Saturday 10 December, the Lucy Cavendish singers perform 'Songs for a Winter's (N Night' in St Mary's Church, Linton, at 7.30. The ŝ programme includes well known favourites as well as Ñ a selection of medieval, classical and traditional Ñ pieces accompanied by guitar, harp and lute. The next concert on Saturday 28 January is at Linton (Å Village College. Patrick Hemmerle, a prize winning French pianist based in Cambridge, will play music Ñ by Brahms, Novak and Schumann. Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions) on the door or why Ñ not consider becoming a member for £42 (£38 1 concession) which would include the next five (N concerts. 1 Young people under 21 are only £2 per concert or a Â family ticket is £25. More information from 01223 1 893480. 1

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

I am proposing to produce a new edition of the Village Directory in early 2017. If your details appear in it and need updating or deleting please let me know, otherwise they will appear again in the new edition. If you wish to include useful information for the Village then please phone or email me. The deadline is 16th January. I would also appreciate feedback on whether readers find the Directory useful or not.

Sue Thurston T: 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk

MUM AND DAUGHTER GOING FOR THE 'CUT'

Local teenager, Frayr Bridgeman from Balsham, is cutting over 16 inches of her hair for Maggie's Wallace Centre in Cambridge. Her mum Angela is having 7 inches cut off too along with her daughter on Tuesday 20 December at her school, Linton Village College.



Fray says: 'My mum is my inspiration for this. This incredible woman is a two times cancer survivor. Maggie's Wallace Centre really helped getting her through this tough time and I couldn't be more grateful. I want everyone to be offered the support she was given. I would like to raise sponsorship money for the Centre so more people like my mum can receive support. I have also

decided to donate my hair to the Little Princess Trust so a young child with cancer can have long hair again'. You can sponsor Frayr on her justgiving page www.Justgiving.com/ fundraising/Frayr-Bridgeman

Maggie's Wallace Centre offers free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends. Built in the grounds of specialist NHS cancer hospitals, Maggie's Centres are warm and welcoming places, with qualified professionals on hand to offer a programme of support that has been shown to improve physical and emotional wellbeing. Maggie's relies on voluntary donations to support and grow its network of Centres and to develop its unique, high quality programme of support. The charity's aim is to make the biggest difference possible to people living with cancer and their family and friends. To fund the free programme and support, Maggie's Wallace needs to raise £2,400 a day or £590,000 a year to keep its door open to support people with cancer, their families and friends.

For further information about Maggie's Centre in Cambridge please go to www.maggiescentres.org/our-centres/maggies-wallacecambridge

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 19 December. *Christmas Garlands*. Talk & demonstration by David Holmes. 7.30pm, Village Hall. Further details from Rosemary Yallop, T: 01799 584262

BALSHAM COMMUNITY MARKET

Oh wow! What a fabulous afternoon! It was great to see so many happy, smiley faces. Even though the weather may have given you some second thoughts about venturing out, I would like to thank all of you who made the cold and wet journey to come along and support the first ever Balsham Community Market on 12 November.

It certainly seems our first market was hugely successful with lots and lots of happy visitors and many of the food producers sold out very quickly. We had 12 farmers and food producers who gave up their Saturday afternoon to bring us their produce and homemade goodies. We had a range of meats, ice creams, savoury foods, sourdough bread, Greek food, homemade preserves, chocolates, fudge, cakes, fruit juices, crackers, bird food and feeders and plenty of orders being taken for Christmas deliveries.

Susan Wright ran the Café and it proved to be very popular. Su served up yummy scones for cream teas, gingerbread men, all-butter shortbread, toffee apple cake, gluten free lemon curd cake and triple chocolate tiffin, as well as tea and coffee. New cakes are on the menu for January!

I am also excited to announce that we have two new comers in January: The Cambridge Cheese Company and Jane's Cupcakes. Sadly, for now, we say goodbye to Spoonstruck and Big Sky Cakes.

I do hope you enjoyed the first community market and will come as a regular visitor to support these bi-monthly markets. We need to have a regular flow of visitors to secure the market's future. Hopefully the buzz will entice you out to January's market.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our helpers who did a fantastic job manning the tables or helping Su in the café. Thank you for giving up your Saturday afternoon, it is very much appreciated. Thank you also to The Black Bull and Plumbs Diary for sponsoring the larger advertising boards.

The Balsham Community Market will run every second Saturday of every second month. The next market is on Saturday 14 January 2017, 2pm to 4.30pm. Please note the earlier closing time for January. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email us: balshammarket@gmail.com

Debbie Paton

WHATS ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Weston Colville Cinema Club. On Wednesday 7 December in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. We will show *Miracle on* 34^{th} *Street*, a classic feel good, seasonal comedy, starring Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood and Edmund Gwenn. Made in 1947, multi-Oscar-winning and hailed by many as the best Christmas movie ever, it tells the story of a department store Santa Claus who claims to be the real Santa. Refreshments available, all welcome.

Enquiries: Jacqueline Douglas T: 291475, Email: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com and Jeremy Newton Email: newtonjed@gmail.com

Weston Colville Circular Walk. Our next circular walk will be on New Year's Day Sunday 1 January: 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. Details from Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas, see above.

West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter December 2016

Housing Needs Survey

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, a Housing Needs Survey will be carried out to assess if there is a need for affordable housing, as part of the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan. The survey will be conducted in collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), an organisation that supports rural communities.

The survey forms will be hand delivered to each household in early January and completed forms will be collected for forwarding to ACRE by members of the Working Group in late January. The survey forms will be accompanied by letters from ACRE and the Parish Council and will also include a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to provide help in completing the form. If anyone has questions about the survey they can get guidance at the open meeting on Saturday 14 January (see below).

Some of the information you provide on the completed forms may be of a confidential nature and for this reason they should be returned in a sealed envelope, which will be provided.

The October Newsletter included a "Request for Information" form to enable the Working Group to deliver the Housing Needs Survey forms to those people who may not presently be residents in the Parish but who may wish to return to the Parish or have a connection to the Parish. We have received two completed forms following the circulation of the Newsletter. If you know of anyone else who has an interest in returning, could you please drop their contact details into the post box inside the old telephone box in West Wickham. We will be leaving this post box in place for the foreseeable future.

Working Group process

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for 6th December and will be attended by representatives of Cambridgeshire ACRE. This meeting will assist us in developing the formal process for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cambridgeshire ACRE will be our consultants for this process and the costs associated with this consultancy will be met by a government grant administered by an organisation called Locality.

Residents' Meeting

The Working Group has now set a date for an open meeting with residents for Saturday 14th January 2017 in the Village Hall. The intention is to hold it as a "drop-in" meeting where you can visit at any time between 3pm and 6pm to find out information and offer comments. There will be representatives of ACRE and a housing association present to answer questions.

The Working Group's Terms of Reference are based on the results of the 2015 Survey and these will be on display in the Hall.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

December is finally here, and we are now allowing the children and staff to say the 'c' word – Christmas! It has been tough, there have been many occasions in October and November where we have almost slipped up, and recording Heart FM's 'sleeps til Santa' jingle to be played on 12 December during the breakfast show made it impossible for 45 minutes. I think I counted we said or sang Christmas at least 50 times!

The run up to Christmas is always slightly frantic in a Primary School. Not only are we normally fighting an array of illnesses and tired 4 and 5 year olds who are coming to the end of their first term in school, we also have to constantly hoover up glitter and sequins and organise over 90 Infant children into angels, shepherds and a medley of other nativity costumes. There will be halos that slip, children that get star struck on the stage forgetting their dance moves and just stand and wave and there is always one child who falls asleep mid performance, but this is Christmas and we all absolutely love it! This year the Infant production is Hey Ewe and I am assured there will be no real livestock in attendance in either this or the carol service this year! I look forward to sharing the photos with you in the New Year.

Although December is here and our focus has changed to celebrating Christmas, sparkles, presents and spending time with our family and friends, we took time in November to think of others, be charitable and reflect on how lucky we are in our lives. On 11 November we stood together shoulder to shoulder on the Key Stage 2 playground remembering all of those who have served in the armed forces, lost their lives, or whose lives have been affected by war. We learnt about the meaning of the poppy, when it was first created and how it is made today. When the church bells rang at 11am we stood in silence, reflecting on how fortunate we were compared to others. After our period of reflection the children then placed the pennies they had brought onto a giant poppy. All of the money we collected through the sale of poppies and the collection on the day will go to the Royal British Legion.

We also supported another very worthy charity – Children in Need by wearing spots to school and holding a cake sale. The children again had time to reflect upon their own lives and what their donations for wearing spots and eating cakes would help with.

We have been able to appreciate charity ourselves (Cambridge Community Foundation/Wadlow Wind Farm). Through their generous funding we have got our Forest School area up and running. The staff all had an evening experience of making fires, building dens and creating mud faces and learning about the ethos of a Forest School session. Our Reception classes have had several sessions and we can see huge benefits and impact already. We have therefore decided to alter our timetable and enable every single class across the whole school to have a block of Forest School sessions led by our Forest School leader across the academic year.

So as we move towards Christmas, our message to everyone is make time for family and friends, enjoy the festivities but also take a moment to remember just how lucky we all are.

From everyone at The Meadow, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Schools are a microcosm for society as a whole; they encapsulate and reflect, in miniature form, the elements of wider society.

While schooling is often viewed as an individualistic pursuit to obtain knowledge, skills and qualifications, it has a broader purpose: to socialise children into citizens of their communities and of the world. In addition to the formal, academic curriculum, education influences and shapes students' beliefs, moral codes and attitudes.

In recent years there has been a much greater emphasis on schools' responsibility for teaching and promoting what the government has termed as 'British Values'. While there has been much conjecture about the title and its potential for misinterpretation or misappropriation, at LVC the essence of the fundamental British Values, as listed below, is valued and taught and promoted throughout the curriculum, explicitly and implicitly.

Democracy

The rule of law Individual liberty

Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

Recent global events and topical issues provide us with opportunities to explore how these values affect lives and behaviours, at school and in wider society.

One of our core values at Linton Village College is to be caring. The month of December is a time when students have plentiful opportunities to engage in community activities that demonstrate care, empathy and respect for others. Students are involved in fundraising for national charities, such as Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, and support other chosen beneficiaries through our annual Charities Morning Fayre. Other causes closer to home include Jimmy's Night Shelter and our Coffee and Carols morning for elderly local residents.

Regardless of religious beliefs, the seasonal sentiment of 'peace on Earth and goodwill to all men' resonates in the acts of kindness that our students demonstrate towards others at this time of year. While we are awash with commercial pressures and schmaltzy marketing, the genuine generosity and compassion of our children gives hope for the kind of people they will grow into and the positive impact that they will have on their communities.

Helena Marsh, Principal

INR CLINICS AT LINTON HEALTH CENTRE.

As from week commencing 9 January it will no longer be necessary to pre-book your appointment for an INR / Warfarin blood test. We will be holding a walk-in clinic every Tuesday morning between 8.15am and 12 noon with a phlebotomist. You will need to book in with reception when you arrive. We hope our new system will make this easier for everyone.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 14 December Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris Correspondence & News to: 21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB21 4RY T: 01223 290863 e-mail: editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk or contact Sue on: T: 01223 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk