

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2017

ISSUE 175

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 5 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 6 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 11 **Balsham Community Market. 2 - 4pm,
Balsham Church Institute**
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
**Remembrance Day Service. 12.00,
Wratting Common Memorial**
Mon 13 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
**Local History Club. *The River Cam: Its
history & commerce.* Talk by Mike
Petty. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 16 **Deadline for items for the December
edition of the Village Voice**
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 20 Black wheeled bin collection
**Gardening Club. *Garden bugs - cohabit,
conserve or control?* Talk by Ian
Bedford. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 25 **Daisy Chains Pre School Christmas
Fair. 2 - 4pm, Village Hall
HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall**
Sun 26 Morning prayers. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 27 Blue wheeled bin only collection
**Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village
Hall. All are welcome to attend**
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
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.

BIN COLLECTION CHANGES

South Cambridgeshire District Council is changing the way used paper is collected from residents for recycling. From 11 December, residents won't need to use their caddies to recycle paper anymore. From that date, residents should place their used paper directly into their blue wheelie bins instead. This used paper will still be recycled after being sorted from other materials at our facility near Waterbeach.

The decision to withdraw the paper caddy service was taken at South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet meeting in September. The decision will save taxpayers money and simplify the recycling process for residents.

Because of this forthcoming change, the District Council will not be delivering any new paper caddies. If they are lost or stolen before 11 December, residents can begin putting paper in their blue bin.

After 11 December, residents can keep their caddies and use them however they wish. Alternatively, they can be taken to a household waste recycling centre for recycling. They should not be placed into wheelie bins.

More information can be found at <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling>

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS


The Parish Council has received complaints about people parking on the pavement, and about the state of some of our pavements in the village. The County Council Highways Dept. has repaired some of the pavements, but will not do so where people drive across it to access their property. The Law states that is an offence to DRIVE on the footway even for a few seconds (Section 34 of Road Traffic Act 1988) and that private driveways that cross a footway need a 'dropped kerb' (Section 184 of Highway Act 1980). Property owners should apply to the County Council to install a dropped kerb. The work will be carried out by the Highways Dept and the property owners will be responsible for the cost involved. We hope this clarifies the situation.

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES APPOINTMENTS

We continue to have a very high demand for appointments but continue to offer unlimited on-the-day access for urgent problems. Our routine ability to book ahead depends on the clinician and the current wait for the next available routine appointment is 3 weeks. However for doctors with specialist areas of expertise the wait may be longer but, as a service, is far shorter than waiting for a hospital specialist. Following discussion at the patient group, we have implemented a change to our system to generate an extra 64 routine appointments a week. Unfortunately we also have to deal with some staff sickness at the moment (down 6 sessions a week). Fundamentally, we have extremely high demand levels, we never turn away on the day urgent cases and are the only surgery doing this.

★ HUB NIGHT! ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **25.11.17** 7PM-11PM



FROM THE VICARAGE

In our lounge, on a bookshelf, is a Russian 'Babuschka' wooden doll of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. We bought it as a reminder of a family camping trip we made to Russia in the 1970s. Inside Yeltsin is a nest of six more dolls, Gorbachev, Bresnev, Kruschev, Stalin and Lenin, each one smaller than the last. Finally, inside Lenin is another one. It is a tiny doll of Tsar Nicholas II, who was assassinated following the Russian Revolution of 1917. Someone in the Babuschka doll trade of Russia obviously has a sense of humour!

When we hold our Remembrance Sunday services on 12 November, will be are be reminded of all that happened a century ago. Our services will be at 10.45 am in churches at Balsham, Weston Colville and Little Abington, and at noon at the War Memorial on Wratting Common.

Next year, on Sunday 11 November we will be marking the centenary of the Armistice, the end of the First World War. I imagine there will be a series of really special and moving national events held then to remind us of the horrors which Europe endured in the time of my grandparents.

As we wear our poppies this month and hear of family tales from our parents and from our friends parents, and as we stand silently through the two minutes silence, please remember all those men who went to France and to Belgium from these Cambridgeshire villages between 1914 and 1918 to give their lives in the battlefields of the Great War.

Keith Johnson



NATURE NOTES

There was some controversy arising from last month's column. Who exactly was responsible for spitting on the blackberries, and when did they do it? Some say the Devil, others say witches. Some say 30 September, others 11 October. A possible reason for the date disagreement is whether we go by the Julian or Gregorian calendars. I know sometimes we are accused of being behind the times in West Wickham, but going back to 1752 may be a bit extreme. Mind you, it was introduced in Europe in 1582 and we took 170 years to accept it in Britain. Perhaps West Wickham had an opt-out clause.

Nature pays little regard to such details but continues to respond to the normal seasonal rhythms with adaptations where necessary owing to the fluctuations of the weather. It was 21 degrees as we drove back home recently and we spotted a bat flying near our house, stirred into activity by the warm evening air. Di has also commented on the number of red admiral butterflies that have been around this autumn, at a time of year when they are normally beginning to hibernate. She recently spotted a dozen on a small patch of ivy flowers, basking in the sunshine, either feeding or just sunbathing. The results from the summer's Big Butterfly Count show that this sighting is not surprising – red admirals have had a very successful year, increasing their numbers by 75% on last year. Ivy is a great source of nectar for many insects late in the year – bees are also very appreciative.

Another available food source are the red berries in the trees and hedgerows – particularly for the thrush family. Resident birds get first picking, and Di's mountain ash tree is being attacked by blackbirds. However, she tells me that the first small flock of redwings of the autumn have been seen in Blacklands Lane, with their distinctive eye stripe and patch of red under the wing. Di wants to know whether anyone has seen a song thrush recently. It has been quite a good year for slugs and snails (which thrushes like), but the last couple of months seem to have been thrush free in contrast with the spring and early summer.

Some species of birds tend to form flocks in autumn, sometimes mixing together, so you may well see yellowhammers and chaffinches feeding in the stubble. I had to cut down some blackthorn scrub by my hedge the other day and at the bottom was a yellowhammer's nest from earlier in the year – they tend to nest in the bottom of hedges, which seems a rather strange and vulnerable location. Two branches of the plover family tend to associate in flocks. We have often mentioned our golden plovers, who visit us for a few days in autumn and spring, but Di also reports that a large flock of lapwing were seen recently on the field at the bottom crossroads – a rare sight as these are not common in this area any more.

It's a time of year when owls become more vocal, and we have been hearing a particularly loud female tawny owl 'tutting' but without any audible response from a male 'twooing'. A barn owl has been seen flying by the Withersfield Road and there has been plenty of activity from daytime birds of prey, including the rare sighting of a merlin in the field behind Ann's house. Red kites are continuing their takeover bid – I saw five over at Weston Colville the other day and three near Yen Hall, one of which was on the ground beside a flock of lesser black-backed gulls who were feeding on the newly ploughed field.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on Monday 25 September. This is a summary of what was discussed. The draft Minutes can be seen on the notice board.

Maintenance:

1. Dean Road hedging and junctions – still no action taken by Highways regarding cutting back overhanging branches. Another serious accident occurred at the crossroads.
2. Gritting Bins -2 new bins are now in place in Streetly End and at the T junction near the Church.
3. Signage – road signs etc. have been repaired and a new one in place by Maypole Croft.
4. Footpaths: Work has now been carried out on the footpath bridge behind the church.

Planning:

1. S/1803/17/F. 3 High Street, S Jordan. 4 garden sheds & a shepherd's hut. This had been approved by South Cambs DC.
2. S/2865/17/OL. Land at Burton End, M Cornish. Outline planning for 2 market houses and 2 affordable houses. The Parish Council had decided to object to this application at a special planning meeting because the land was outside the development framework. This was in line with previous decisions, although it was noted that until South Cambs' new development plan was finalised, the development framework carried little weight.
3. S/2628/17/F. 45 Streetly End, G McNeillie. Demolition and replacement with single garage. This had been approved by South Cambs DC.
4. S/2483 and S/1415/17. New dwelling, Streetly End, Anita Stone: The Parish Clerk had received from SCDC Planning Dept a "Discharge of Conditions". Cllr. Cornish said he would check with Ms Stone if she was happy with the outcome.

Finance

1. Authorised payments: These are shown in the draft Minutes posted on the Noticeboard.
2. The annual audit was passed as satisfactory and details have been posted on the website.

Speed Indicator: All the participants have agreed to purchase the Swarco equipment. The size of sign and where they will be sited has still to be decided by each

village. Cost per village will be £1052.59. Cllr. Hall was thanked for the work he has put into this project.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall reported that a Character Assessment dividing the village into 4 sections, Streetly End, High Street (Church to Village Hall) & High Street (Village Hall to Burton End) and Burton End is near completion. Each section was assessed for its main characteristics in order provide guidance for any future development. The next phase will be looking at policies regarding transport, roads, schools etc.

Playground report: Playground repairs have been carried out and CGM have been asked to trim round the play area when next cutting the grass.

Report by County Cllr Batchelor: The full report is available on the website.

1. Library services – a further consultation is being carried out and the Mobile library service is being looked at with regard to need and the best time to visit villages.
2. HOOPS – Housing Options for Older People – a 6 month project offering advice and support for older people with a questionnaire being sent out to people over 65.
3. Children's Centres- Linton's Children Centre closed on 22 September.

Report by Dist.Cllr. Turner: The full report available on the website.

1. Review of recycling – the caddies for paper in the blue bins may be done away with as the cost of replacing broken or stolen blue caddies costs £20,000 a year.
2. The Community Chest has been increased to £85,000.
3. The Local Plan is still under consultation.

Any Other Business: Cllr. Licence had received complaints about cars parking on the pavements. There are several houses waiting for drop kerbs to be installed and the delay in the work being done was raised by Cllr. Schuilenburg at a combined Parishes meeting but it appeared that unless the resident was prepared to help with the cost there was no hurry to carry out the work.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 27 November at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260
Email: j.richards597@btinternet.com

SAVE THE CHILDREN Linton & District Branch

COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday 16 November
11am – 12.30pm**

at
Mulberry Cottage, 10 Fox Road, Balsham

**Produce Stall, Book Stall, Christmas cards
Raffle
£1.00 entry**

Look forward to seeing you

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Weston Colville Cinema Club will show a biopic of a musician on Wednesday 1 November at 7.30 in the Reading Room. Donations, pre-screening talk.

There is a talk on bee keeping by Andrew Durham on Wednesday 8 November at 7.30pm. No ticket required.

Refreshments are available

The next Weston Colville Circular Walk will be on Saturday 11 November, c.5 miles. Meet at the Reading Room 10am, BYO lunch and maybe something to share.

All welcome

Further details on our website
www.thereadingroom.org.uk

Enquiries:

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 01223 291475

WILLIAM SANDERS RIP

William, who suffered from Parkinsons for many years, died suddenly but peacefully at home on 25 August. I had seen him that day but was still convalescing at the Hilton Park Care Home. I am getting stronger and stronger each day. When William was more mobile he used to love to go to the 9.15 service which he found peaceful and he loved the traditional language. We were always welcomed at St Mary's West Wickham and a ramp arrived to help him up to the Chancel.

He lies in a lovely spot in Balsham Churchyard. We had a wonderful funeral for him on Wednesday 13 September with about 180 people present, of whom about 100 came to Nine Chimney House , a great tribute to him.

May he rest in peace

Joanna Sanders,Nine Chimney House, Balsham

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club had a very interesting first meeting of the season when Ian Seager gave an illustrated talk on "*Aquatics, Marginals and Bog Plants*". Many of our members have ponds and they were eager to know which plants would be suitable for their own garden, be it a boggy area or shallow or deep water. Ian has spent his whole life in all aspects of horticulture and was able to tell us which plants to avoid as well as which were rather special in his opinion.

On 20 November we have a change to our programme. Ian Bedford will be coming to give a talk on ,"*Garden Bugs - cohabit, conserve or control*" instead of Paula Dyason, whose talk on Daylilies now moves to March. This should be a most informative talk and one that is very relevant to today's concerns about our environment. Visitors are most welcome at the Village Hall, 7:30pm.

Rosemary Yallop T:01799584262

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We start the new 'year' by saying "goodbye" to Phoebe, Tally, Lizzie and Izzy who have all decided that it is time for them to leave Brownies. We wish them well at the start their new challenges.

This term we are getting ready for Christmas by making cards, calendars and gifts as well as decorating a tree in the URC Church, Castle Camps. We have been invited to join Balsham Rainbows on a night walk with cocoa afterwards and hopefully a campfire with 1st Linton Guides after half-term.

We are also working on our Toymaker badge this term so if you have any buttons you no longer need please think about donating them to the Brownies for their sock puppets.

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.

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

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL

Daisy Chains Pre-School has availability for immediate starters or for those wishing to enrol in 2018. Daisy Chains is a small preschool which accepts children from two to five years.

It is very well established (will be celebrating it's 40th birthday next year) with exceptional, experienced staff, and a very low child to staff ratio. It has fantastic facilities, a large playground, and access to a nature reserve.

If you feel your child would benefit from being with smaller groups of children then Daisy Chains will give their education a great start along with preparation for attending primary school.

We are open Monday-Friday 9.30-12.30 with additional lunch clubs on Tuesday and Thursday until 2.30.

The 6 leavers from July 2017 have all settled in very well at their primary schools (5 at The Meadow School). Their grounding at Daisy Chains has created great confidence and a willingness to learn and engage with their new surroundings.

On Saturday 25 November between 2-4pm, we will be holding our Christmas Fair, with craft stalls, Christmas crafts for children, raffle, cake stall, refreshments, and Father Christmas grotto. It is a fun afternoon with entertainment for all ages, and an important fundraiser for us. We look forward to getting you in the Christmas spirit!

Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham Village Hall, High Street, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4SB.

T: 290512, 07943866294 (9.30-12.30)

Email: daisychains.westwickham@gmail.com

Ofsted number 221766.



* Eat Well * Live Well * Celebrate Community



Balsham Community Market

Bringing Food & Friends Together

Saturday 11th November 2017

2pm to 4.30pm Balsham Church Institute

Featuring:

- The Radwinter Wild Game Company; Parkins Farm Butchers;
- The Lamb Charcuterie Company; Jigsaw Bakery; Chocs-Away/
- CB21 Cheesecake Co; Jane's Cupcakes; Borakis Greek Foods;
- The Wild Flour Kitchen savoury foods; iBalans Nutrition;
- Nikki's Homemade preserves; Spoonstruck ice cream;
- The Old Butchers/Plumbs Dairy; allotment produce;
- Weston Colville Honey; Ethnic in the Village silver jewellery;
- NV Candles; Helen Wiseman Illustration; LVC Fundraiser;
- Michael Moore Wood Turner; Lord Conrad's Brewery,
- Raffle and Treasure Hunt for under 10's at 2.15pm.

Café serving homemade cakes and cream teas.

The perfect opportunity to pick up seasonal, local fresh produce on your door step!
Profits are passed on to the Balsham Parochial Charity.

Follow us on:

- [balshammarket](https://twitter.com/balshammarket)
- [balshammarket](https://www.facebook.com/balshammarket)
- balshammarket@gmail.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

We are very pleased to welcome back **Mike Petty** to our next meeting on Monday 13 November (7.30pm in the Village Hall) who will be talking about *The River Cam: its history and commerce*. Mike was for many years the senior librarian for the Cambridgeshire Collection in the Central Library and a columnist for the *Cambridge News*. He is a very popular speaker. All are welcome to come along. There is a small charge (£2) for non-members.

Further details from Janet Morris
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

RAF WRATTING COMMON Remembrance Sunday 12 November

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on Sunday 12 November at 12 noon. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember and anyone is welcome to attend. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath for Friends of Wrattling Common
Email rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com
T: Mob: 07736 737 174, Home: 01440 730 192

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Winter weather can be seriously bad for our health. Being cold can aggravate existing conditions and raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. However, there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter.

Get expert advice from your pharmacist. If you start to feel unwell, even if it's a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets more serious. Seek advice on the best treatment from your local pharmacist.

Make sure you get your free flu jab. Flu is a highly contagious and can cause serious complications for at risk groups. Adults over 65; those with long-term health conditions; children aged two to eight; carers and pregnant women may all be eligible for a free flu vaccination – ask your GP practice today.

Stock up your medicine cabinet. A well-stocked medicine cabinet can help you treat common winter ailments such as coughs, colds, sore throats and sickness bugs at home and will save you going out if you feel unwell. Ask your pharmacist about essential medicines to keep at home.

Keep warm. Keeping warm, both inside and outdoors, over the winter months and can help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression.

Get the right help. Make sure you're receiving all the help you are entitled to. Learn how to make your home more energy efficient and take advantage of financial schemes to keep up with energy bills. Visit www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell for details.



FIREWORK SAFETY

Fireworks and bonfire night can be plenty of fun for all of the family to enjoy and going to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home can be a great way of supporting your local community. If you plan on using fireworks or lighting a bonfire at your own home however, please ensure you consider our safety advice below:

Fireworks:

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper, stand well back and never go back to a lit firework
- Never throw fireworks or put them in your pockets or clothing
- Light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves, and place used sparklers in a bucket of water
- Never give sparklers to children under five
- It is illegal to sell fireworks to someone under the age of 18 or to light fireworks in a public place
- Always consider animals and wildlife nearby when holding a firework display
- Always consider the location of a bonfire or firework display, smoke drifting near or on to surrounding roads can have devastating consequences.
- Always advise your neighbours if you are having a firework display.

For more information on Firework Safety, visit: www.hse.gov.uk

Bonfires:

- Do not light bonfires in unsuitable weather conditions, particularly when windy. Be conscious of the wind direction, especially if there are thatched roofs nearby. This also applies to fireworks such as rockets.
- Do not leave bonfires unattended
- Keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe handy just in case
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges
- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres, batteries, etc
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7.30 on Saturday 16 December Balsham Church

This year the Balsham Singers concert is full of exciting, fun and very beautiful music and should be the perfect start to Christmas. Please come and join in the celebrations. Tickets can be bought from the Post Offices in Balsham and Abington and cost £10 in advance and £12 on the door.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Life in our school is always full of community spirit and this half term has been no exception with so much generosity being shown to help others. We were thrilled to have some of our Y6 children stand so confidently in the church and lead our Harvest service to the delight of their family members and the whole school. It really was a community event with our families all donating food produce to Jimmy's Night Shelter who provide an amazing service to people who find themselves for many reasons without a home or the knowledge of where their next meal may come from. It is always humbling for us to hear how much impact a few tins and packets of dried goods will have. Harvest Festival was quickly followed by another event that relied on good will and community spirit – the annual craft and gift fair. Our families and staff once again rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in setting up, baking cakes, running stalls, washing dishes and clearing up. It is no mean feat to put on an event like this and this year Bernadette Batom took on this with such enthusiasm. A huge thank you to Bernadette, her team and everyone who paid us a visit over the weekend.

They say things come in threes, well community events have for us! The week after craft fair we held our annual Meadow Mile sponsored walk. This year our dressing up theme followed our whole school topic of 'Out of this World'. We were amazed at the ingenuity of the costumes and the perseverance of our children who walked their mile in them! We are hoping to have raised enough money to buy some permanent, giant outdoor musical instruments and a willow structure for the playground and field to enable our children to be creative in a different way.

If you have a child due to start school in September 2018 and would like to come and look around our school please contact the school office to book a tour.

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

SAWSTON ADULT EDUCATION

At Sawston Village College we are very proud of the variety of courses that we have available here for the local community. If you are looking for some chill out time before the Christmas festivities, then perhaps one of our Saturday Workshops on the 9 December will appeal. Below are the exciting courses we have on offer:

Patchwork & Quilting - Christmas Table Runner 10 am - 4pm £30

Christmas Day Flowers 10.30 am - 12.30pm £10

Indian Dance 10.30am - 12.30pm £10

Evening Make-up/Smokey eye workshop 10 am - 4pm £30

All courses need to be booked in advance either by telephone or downloading a booking form from our website below. If you have any enquiries or wish to make a booking please feel free to pop in at the Adult Education reception Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm during term. Alternatively telephone us on 01223 712424 or email community@sawstonvc.org, or check out our website at www.sawstonadulthood.org.

Amanda Hoskins, The Adult Education Department

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

There are two half-allotments (approx 60 x 36ft) vacant, one with a shed. If anyone would like to rent one of these at £5.00 per year please contact Jennifer Richards, the Parish Clerk at 88, High Street, Balsham, CB21 4EP, T: 01223 665260, Email j.richards597@btinternet.com or one of the Parish Councillors. Water is available subject to a separate fee to the Village Hall.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Education news has been awash with challenges faced by schools. There have been a number of high profile campaigns, including www.schoolsjustwannahavefunds.org to address endemic funding issues that are affecting our ability to deliver the excellent education that all children deserve.

After months of consultation, the National Funding Formula was published in September. Despite a commitment to tackle inherent inequalities that saw schools in Cambridgeshire being grossly underfunded on the basis of historic formulae, the indicative figures demonstrate little real improvement.

Linton Village College stands to gain a nominal amount over the coming years. Unfortunately much of this is wiped out by real-term cost increases. Meanwhile caps to protect the funding of better-off counties maintain existing inequities. If we were positioned over the Essex border we would see around £105,000 more in our annual budget; if we were in Greater Manchester we'd be over a million pounds better off; in Hackney we would receive an extra £2.5 million.

Making the books balance is becoming increasingly more difficult. We are keen to maintain a holistic and enriching learning experience at LVC, avoiding a narrowing of the curriculum that other schools in the area have resorted to or having to cut back on much-needed pastoral and learning support, especially as access to other services are under significant pressure.

We are really grateful to the school community for supporting us with fundraising. The Chestnut Tree at West Wrattling raised over £1,300 from donations from their beer festival at the start of term which has been committed to improving IT resources. We are awaiting a final total of the monies raised from our annual sponsored walk which will help to update school facilities.

The Friends of LVC have recruited a new Chair and Secretary to the committee and we are thrilled that this important source of support will continue. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact friends@lvc.org.

I know that many LVC past and present families and the wider community already contribute to LVC's Trust Fund. If you would like to contribute on a monthly, annual or one-off basis, please contact Jackie.Bailey@lvc.org.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 November

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