

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

OCTOBER 2017

ISSUE 174

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 Morning prayers. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 2 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Sat 7 **Meadow School Craft Fair. See page 2**
Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Meadow School Craft Fair. See page 2
Mon 9 Black wheeled bin collection
Local History Club. Dig 4 - a round up and what next. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 16 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. Aquatics, marginals and bog plants. Talk by Ian Seager. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Deadline for items for the November edition of the Village Voice
Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 22 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 23 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Thur 26 **Local History Club coffee morning. 10.30 - 12.00, Village Hall**
Sat 28 **HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall**
Sun 29 Combined parishes service. 10.00, West Wrattling Church
Mon 30 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Village Hall AGM. 8pm, 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
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

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

Email: bookings@westwickham.org
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.

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER COFFEE MORNING

10.30am-12 noon

In aid of West Wickham & District
Local History Club
Coffee/tea & cake, Raffle, Preserves &
Produce
Local History Displays
All welcome
Please come along and support us

DID CURIOSITY REALLY KILL THE CAT? Fact or Fiction – a discussion surrounding health, well being and social media

Friday 6 October, 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Abington Village Institute
High St, Great Abington

As part of our programme of Parish Nurse events please join us to hear Helen Howe and Annie Greenwood leading a discussion on the issue of web based health information and self-diagnosis.

Professor Helen Howe was until her recent retirement, the Chief Pharmacist to Cambridge University Hospitals and a member of the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Annie Greenwood is an advanced nurse practitioner with a special interest in women's health.

There will be an opportunity to continue the discussion in smaller groups and meet other members of the Parish Nurse Management group, including your Parish Nurse, Claire Gillett.

Please note that this is a free event - No booking required. Refreshments will be available

For more information contact
Cazzy Walshe, 7churches.seven@gmail.com or
Keith Day keithdday@btinternet.com 01223 891527

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT
DATE:

28.10.17 7PM-11PM



BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

We have received notification that the Stagecoach 13/13A/13X Sunday service between Haverhill and Cambridge will operate 5 minutes later from 24 September. It is unclear whether this is also the case for the Cambridge to Haverhill service!

FROM THE VICARAGE

This is a season of new beginnings and change and we are now perhaps in the most beautiful of them all. I am reminded of the four seasons by Vivaldi; of the trees changing colour and the reflection of them in the water. We know the nights are drawing in and that feeling of impending hibernation. How lucky we are to see these changes in this part of the world.

The farmers have brought the harvest in and are sowing seed for another crop later in the year. The tractors we see on the road remind us of our rural environment. With the season of harvest and its abundance we have services in church to celebrate God's goodness to us in the fruits of the land and the plentiful crop. Each church has a harvest celebration to which all are welcome. We sing traditional harvest hymns and enjoy refreshments in harvest gatherings that call villagers together. Balsham has a harvest service on 8 October that includes a baptism, celebrating with the family of Nigel Clark, a gift from God, Eric, his new grandson. We will have a harvest lunch immediately afterwards with the ploughmen, their families, and villagers. A reminder of how we live in a truly rural environment.

We travel in time from harvest to Remembrance, reminding us of difficult times of change, especially 100 years ago. Before we know it there will be the magic of Christmas and the crib services for all the family.

Change happens for the children as they move to new classes ready for another academic year and get used to new teachers and routines. Young people have left to go to university on a new adventure, to discover more about themselves as well as learning a specialist subject, with new challenges, thinking of careers and all that goes with it.

We know that the end is the beginning for those who are retired or whose children have left home, as opportunities present themselves to do something different. There is a welcome for those who want to be part of the community of the church in many different ways. We'd love to see you.

The parishes are in good heart as we still wait for a new appointment of a Rector for our villages. Blessings to you all

Revd Kathy Bishop



PARISH NURSE
Clare Gillett RGN

The Seven Church Parishes of Gt and Lt Abington, Hildersham, Balsham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and West Wickham.

Mobile Phone 07498 994 205
Email 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com

Her working days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

We start our programme of talks on Monday 9 October with *Dig 4 – a roundup and what next* where we shall be reviewing what we've found this year and how it adds to the knowledge gained about medieval settlement from our three previous digs.

Other talks over the next months (all in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm) include the history and trade of the River Cam, Anglo Saxon settlement and what can be learnt from place names, the Abingtons in the early 20th century and Victorian and Edwardian buildings – so something for everybody. We would very much welcome new members or indeed visitors to individual talks (for which we make a small charge of £2). Do think about coming along and supporting us.

For further details please contact Janet Morris:
21 High Street, Tel: 290863,
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

BALSHAM, A VILLAGE STORY 1617-2017

Way back in 2013, as part of our HLF Big Village Dig, I organised a talk about early settlement by Dr Sue Oosthuizen of Cambridge University in which she used a map of Balsham from 1617 as illustration.

Several people from Balsham were at the talk (a similar project to ours was being planned but never happened). They went away inspired and The Balsham Map Project was born. The 1617 map was owned by and created for Charterhouse. Thomas Sutton, the founder of this institution - a home for elderly men as well as a school - lived in Balsham and left his property to endow it, so Charterhouse became the major landowner in the village. It kept meticulous records about tenants of property and houses and had several maps created over the years.

The Map Project has used these along with more modern information to bring things up to date in time for the 400th anniversary of the 1617 map. The resulting book is now about to be published (the launch is 16 November) and a free copy will be given to every house in Balsham. There will be some left over and to recover costs the Map Project are selling these for £15. I am happy to take orders and money – contact details above – or you can go to their website www.balshammap.net for further information.

Janet Morris

MEADOW SCHOOL BALSHAM CRAFT, GIFT & FOOD FAIR

7 & 8 OCTOBER
10.30am—4pm

This very popular craft fair, now in its 28th year, has over 40 stalls of locally handmade exquisite crafts and foods

Refreshments & cream teas available, along with children's activities

£2 per adult (includes cup tea/coffee), 50p per child

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club's AGM was held on 18 September. Our Chairman reported that our gardening year had been a very good one with excellent outings to Moat House in Little Saxham, Ashdon Hall and Wisley. The Plant Sale had been very successful and there had been 6 talks on a wide variety of topics taking place on the 3rd Monday of the month Oct-April. The membership is stable and finances healthy. The officers were re-elected, Arthur Mawby Chairman, Andrew Morris Treasurer, Sue Boase Committee Secretary and Rosemary Yallop Programme Secretary.

The talks for 16 October and 20 November are "Aquatics, marginals and bog plants" by Ian Seager and "Daylilies" by Dr. Paula Dyson of Strictly Daylilies Nursery at Histon. These talks begin at 7:30 in West Wickham Village Hall and visitors are most welcome.

Rosemary Yallop, T:01799584262

LINTON DISTRICT GUIDING

We have had a fantastic year at Linton District, culminating in our annual strawberry evening in Linton and a District Camp at Gillwell Activity Centre. We have had all our 13 units and Trefoil Guild away during the year and many days out. We are also lucky enough to have had 3 leaders taking our Guides abroad, Julie Collins to Canada, Lynsey Bacon to Romania and Sacha Davies to Fiji. 4 Guides went on an International residential to Switzerland with other Guides from the Region.

We have also had 4 Girls, Caitlin Turner and Maya Hide from 2nd Linton Guides and Morgan Finch and Morven Osborn from 1st Brinkley Guides, passing their BP Award, the highest award a girl can get in Guides.

Christmas saw us having parties and performing shows. In the spring, each unit held their own Thinking Day with activities and food from around the world and learned about our 5 World Centres. Balsham Brownies had an International Adventure day at Pax Lodge, Our British World Centre in London. There are Guides in 146 countries and 10 Million girls around the world,, including 245 girls locally. We are passionate about our girl led environment and excited about the programme changes happening next summer.

Sadly, we will be losing 2nd Linton Brownies, as they close at Christmas, they are merging with 1st Linton, resulting in a more effective Leadership team.

If you would like to know more about Volunteering with us in any capacity, leader, unit helper, occasional pair of hands, or maybe you have a skill you could teach us or you have a hobby we might enjoy for a night, please do get in touch with me on louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk 01223 833776 or to find out more Girlguiding.org.uk/interested

I would like to thank everyone involved in the District, for their friendship, fun and sense of adventure. Our units range from Rainbows to Senior Sections and from Burrough Green to Horseheath and for those not wanting to join a weekly unit and are 18+ we have a fabulous Trefoil Guild as well. What an incredible bunch they all are.

Louisa Powell-Owens, Linton District Commissioner Designate.

NATURE NOTES

Last year in September we were walking around in shorts basking in the late summer sunshine. Not so this year, but our wildlife has to make the best of it. There has been plenty of evidence of badger activity. Len tells me that they have been doing a lot of scratching up of the soil near the allotments again, and Di has seen badger 'latrines' at the rear of April Cottage and in the valley between White Gables and Hill Farm. Walking down Mill Road, West Wrating the other day I noticed extensive earthworks in the roadside bank – undoubtedly a badger set.

Birds of prey are again in the spotlight – Di reports on two incidents. As she was walking with the dog, swallows which had been feeding on the disturbed flies were suddenly surprised by the appearance of a kestrel, which they proceeded to mob, an unusual sight. The second incident occurred in her garden when a loud plop disturbed her reading. She looked up to see a female sparrowhawk backing out of the leaves. The bird then dived into the foliage again, about a metre away, probably in pursuit of the blue tits feeding on the fatballs, but came away empty handed. Many people have mentioned to us the presence of red kites in the village. They seem to be coming ever closer to our houses and often cruising quite low over our heads. I saw one being mobbed by three buzzards over the field behind us recently.

In other bird news, Connie reports that a robin in her garden has shown a liking for grated cheese, and visits regularly for his treat. Her garden is also host to tawny owls, who call to each other in the evenings. Our swallows have still not migrated. They have used the garage for shelter during the recent wet weather. I keep telling them that South Africa is much nicer as we are having some rewiring work done in the garage next week. Di and Steve have seen a flock of golden plovers who normally visit West Wickham in spring and autumn. They have a lovely piping call and when the flock flies off they swirl about, showing off their golden plumage in the sunlight.

This September has so far been unfavourable for most butterfly species. However I do have a grudging admiration for the whites, even though they lay their eggs on our brassicas. When out for walks, I've noticed them flying around in the rain recently, whereas other butterflies stay under cover. Back in August Di did her butterfly count on five successive days and was pleasantly surprised with her 'haul', although over the summer as a whole, the perception is that numbers have been down. In contrast dragonflies appear to have done rather better. Andrew and Janet brought the corpse of one that had expired in their garden to the Bowls Club the other evening. Its colours had faded somewhat but the general conclusion was that it may have been a southern hawk. It's also the time of year for spotting shield bugs. One landed on my head when I was pruning the hedge, while Di saw a batch of hatchling shield bugs on the leaves of alder trees on the Croft, with two adults on guard.

It's been a great growing year and the hedges are full of fruit – particularly rose hips, haws and blackberries, which have appeared earlier than normal this year. Di wonders whether we should therefore stop picking them earlier in order to avoid the curse of the witches spit. The cut-off date is normally 11 October.

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

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all the people who went out of their way to offer help and support during a recent period recovering at home after hip surgery.

Everything from kind words and cards to establishing a phone and broadband connection, fetching shopping and leaving produce from their gardens to simply taking trouble to check and see how I was. So many people gave of their time and showed much kindness.

Usually happily independent, and not at all used to relying on support from others, I came to appreciate that it's very much easier to accept help if it's offered in abundance. In the fortunate situation when there are many offers, it feels much easier to take a little from many and think that you are not overburdening anyone in particular.

For this reason, I would urge anyone who knows someone housebound or in need of a little extra help, to offer it even if they think someone else may be 'dealing with' that. And if they say no the first time you ask, don't let that put you off asking again on another occasion - it may just have been a matter of timing. It's a lovely thing to feel safe and cared for.

Ali Formstone

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to the new academic year. The start to the term has not been without a few challenges to keep us on our toes. Just 3 days before we broke up for the summer we were flooded again. This was the 4th time in just over a year and this flood was by far the worse we have suffered, with the ICT Suite, 2 Early Years classrooms, 2 Y1/2 classrooms, corridors and the staffroom all affected. Carpets and toys we had replaced not even 5 months previously were once again ruined. Ironically, this flood happened the day after we heard our appeal for funding to fix the drainage issue was turned down by the Government. We have now written to Lucy Frazer MP in the hope that she can secure us some help from the Government.

This term the learning for every year group is focussed on 'Space' with our topic – Out of this World. This was launched with the whole of Key Stage 2 going to the National Space Centre in Leicester for as many of the children described, 'the best day ever!' They got to be astronauts, complete scientific tests, try out space equipment and they were even there on the day the Cassini satellite was crashed and were part of the live broadcast. While KS2 were out the Infants were not to be outdone, they had a planetarium visit where the children were literally in awe of the planets and astronauts flying overhead and around the dome. They also had visitors from the STEM group who helped them learn more about the planets, make space food (which tasted yucky), complete activities whilst wearing space gloves and they also got to make space slime!

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

This term we mark the 80th anniversary of Linton Village College. The school first opened its doors in 1937 with a much more modest building and staff. While the Art Deco architecture remains intact, a great deal has changed. It was lovely to meet with ex-students and staff to appreciate their memories of the College.

As part of the preparations for LVC@80, we have explored archive material including historic photographs and documents. We have discovered fascinating items including strongly-worded parental letters of complaint penned over 60 years ago, reports of supernatural activity and some outrageous bus incident reports.

One of the most poignant pieces was a war-time letter capturing a teacher's commitment to the profession, despite offers of employment to support the war effort because of his staunch belief that: 'there is a job of work of equal importance to be done right here on the spot; to plan for a better world when once the struggle is over'.

Written in February 1942, the author urges the then Warden of the College to focus on 'the inner nature of the child'. Amongst the teacher's 27 proposals includes bringing up a generation that will be free from hate and fear and to focus on developing children's character and initiative.

75 years on, we still strive to encourage this kind of holistic education at LVC. Children are encouraged to be curious, reflective and independent, to take responsibility and be ambitious in their learning and lives. Another of the school's values, caring, is symbolised not only in the Linton Learner logo but by the sculpture outside of the school's original entrance.

In addition to the tea, cake and music, the anniversary celebrations included the official unveiling of a commemorative mosaic which captures the Linton Learner attributes that we value and grow in the school community. This piece of collaborative art work, created by every student in a year group, serves as a lasting contribution to the school's heritage.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the anniversary celebrations and reinforced what is so special about our Village College.

Helena Marsh, Principal

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB

We're back for the season on Wednesday 4 October, when our film will be a comedy. For details, see the Reading Room website www.thereadingroom.org.uk. Alternatively, email as below to subscribe to our mailing list. 7.30pm, pre-screening talk, refreshments available, all welcome. Enquiries for all events:

Email: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, T: 291475

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 October

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