

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2017

ISSUE 176

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 3 Morning prayers. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 4 Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 6 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 11 Blue & green wheeled bin collection. **Do not use paper caddies from now on**
Local History Club. Christmas social. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 12 **Deadline for items for the January edition of the Village Voice**
Sat 16 **Balsham Singers Christmas Concert. 7.30pm, Balsham Church**
Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 18 Black wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. Members questions & answers. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sat 23 **HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall**
Sun 24 **Carol Service. 6pm, St Mary's Church**
Mon 25 **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**
Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wed 27 Blue wheeled bin only collection
Sun 31 United Parishes service. 10.00, Balsham Church
January 2018
Wed 3 Black wheeled bin 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 £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

WEST WICKHAM HUB WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU.

Both Di Licence and I are really enjoying coordinating the Hub. It is really great that it is supported in so many different ways, from setting up tables, cooking a variety of tasty bar snacks, serving at the bar and enjoying a drink with friends.

So far we have raised approximately a thousand pounds for eight different topical charities, both local and international, as well as providing a relaxed and regular social gathering for the village. Thank you again to everyone.

We hope to see you all at the Christmas Hub 23 December for a festive evening with live music.

Due to licensing rules that only allow us to have 10 licences a year the Hub will return 24 March 2018

Nicci Trudgeon

BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER. 7.30 IN 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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

By the time you read this Christmas preparations will be well and truly under way. The shops heaving with Christmas gifts and baubles; I have made my Christmas puddings and hope to do the cake soon. A small job done ahead of the frantic round of expectations we put on ourselves at this time of year. In the midst of all this perhaps we could imagine a small child looking up at the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and see the wonder in her eyes at this magnificent sight, using it as a moment to stop and stare. Hang on to those precious moments and treasure them ready to remember next year.

As the temperature drops there are predictions of -13 degrees; that will also add to the memories in years to come of this particular winter and Christmas season.

There are many joys that we can share together in our communities; concerts in church, carol services and nativity plays that always bring a tear to the eye. All households will have a Christmas card to let you know what services are scheduled. It would be good to share those moments with you, and a chance to be in the moment when heaven meets earth. For many Christmas is a family time to gather together and spend time enjoying each other's company. As we relive shared memories spare a thought for those who are alone this Christmas, maybe a neighbour who feels isolated and would appreciate a cheery word.

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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 continued

During the vacancy we have managed to cover the Christmas services as we did last year and I know we are very grateful to the many who offer their time to keep us going. Next year we hope to have a new Rector to work with us. Interviews will take place soon and so we look forward to welcoming our new Rector in our six parishes. Please pray for the right appointment.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Revd Kathy Bishop

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

For those of you spending Christmas at home, why not take a tour round some Cambridgeshire villages? Here are cryptic clues to ten:

1. Special agent Dick... (6)
2. ...has lamb stew (7)
3. Six balls (4)
4. The man's weight (6)
5. Small wall fitting or top drawer (6,8)
6. Cut end off rock (7)
7. Get there (5)
8. Requiring value (12)
9. Patriarch has second rate start (8)
10. Feature hit randomly (6)

For the more adventurous types, how about some visits to southern hemisphere capitals in South America, Africa and Australasia? You should be able to navigate these ten by Christmas.

1. Support more idiotic by the sound of it (8)
2. Put inside little red book author (6)
3. Mail sort (4)
4. Drunken toper has disturbed air (8)
5. Boot Duke (10)
6. Detailed nasty disturbance with Shakespearian villain (8)
7. Circuit the beginning and the end (2,3)
8. Laugh underdone (6)
9. Leave nothing (5)
10. I moved note unharmoniously (10)

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Working Group met recently and discussed the Character Assessment document which is nearing completion. As part of the process for putting the document forward for approval by the District Council we need to present it to the residents for their comments.

The draft document will be given to the Parish Council at the Parish Council Meeting on 22 January and the Village Hall has been booked for a Drop-in Meeting to be held on Saturday 27 January between 3pm and 6pm when you can view it and comment. Once the Character Assessment has been adopted it will form a reference on which the Neighbourhood Plan will be based.

Trevor Hall

END OF YEAR UPDATE FROM LUCY FRAZER MP

I wanted to take the opportunity to wish all my constituents a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to come. 2017 has flown by with so much to do and an unexpected election on top! I have been pursuing with vigour the roll out of superfast broadband across the constituency, regularly meeting and speaking with all involved and pressing for more, quicker! I am extremely grateful for the support of local residents and, in particular, the broadband champions in our constituency and it was in recognition of this support and the progress we are making that Digital Minister, Matt Hancock MP, came to West Wickham in April to speak to local residents and officially open the West Wickham broadband cabinet. I am also pursuing a campaign to get South East Cambridgeshire selected as a testbed for the trialling of the next generation of digital infrastructure through industrial 5G pilots.

As most of you will know by now, education is a passion of mine and I am relentless in my efforts to pursue fairer funding for our schools. I take every opportunity to engage with both schools and the Secretary of State for Education to ensure our requirements are front of mind. I welcome the recent announcement of £3.1 million more for our constituency and I will continue on this mission to pursue funding wherever it is available.

Other projects I am involved with around education include encouraging businesses to work hand in hand with schools with specific reference to STEM subjects and building pathways to future careers in local businesses. I am also driving a project to reduce the costs of teacher recruitment through an online government website.

Infrastructure projects occupy a lot of my time, fighting for necessary funding and maintaining a presence where projects are underway to ensure where possible they remain on schedule and on budget. The start of works on the Ely Southern Bypass in March was the culmination of a great deal of work and lobbying by a great many people including myself and I'm delighted work is now underway. I am very much behind the Greenways initiative to introduce more cycle and multi-purpose routes into Cambridge.

I enjoy every opportunity I have to meet with constituents from all walks of life, whether welcoming groups and individuals to Westminster, attending a Rotary club meeting, joining a Women's Institute gathering, opening a summer fete, chatting at an Open meeting, or meeting constituents in my surgeries - I never like to pass up the chance to exchange views and hear any issues constituents may have.

All across the constituency, over recent weeks, our senior school pupils have been busy debating. This year marks the 4th inter schools debating competition since I became a Parliamentary Candidate and first initiated the idea. The final sees 14 students debating in the House of Commons. I am so grateful for all the support I receive from constituents young and old and I look forward to working as hard as I can on your behalf in the coming year.

Lucy Fraser

To keep up with what Lucy is doing on a more regular basis sign up for her newsletter at www.lucyfrazer.org.uk and / or follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FrazerLucy

NATURE NOTES

Birds of a feather flock together – particularly as the weather gets colder, seeking company, security, food availability and warmth. Di reports that her neighbour's feeder is a magnet for a flock of chaffinches and goldfinches that visit each morning. Goldfinches are known collectively as a charm – lovely brown birds with a red face and gold edges to their wings; when disturbed they fly to a high perch with a delightful twitter. I was told that they are known in the south west by the unflattering name of 'monkey-faces'. Whatever we call them it must be good news that we are now five times more likely to see them in our gardens than in the 1990s. The flocking phenomenon is also apparent in the fields with yellowhammers, chaffinches and a few greenfinches (although the last of these have sadly declined) flying from field to hedge. Occasionally skylarks will be disturbed from their foraging on the plough and fly into the sky with their chirruping song, giving us a slightly less upbeat version of their spring exultation.

At Halloween I heard a cackling sound overhead, and briefly thought it might be a coven of witches flying over on their broomsticks, but was relieved to see fieldfares, which have now arrived from northern Europe along with more blackbirds and redwings. They will be stripping our hedgerows of their berries and getting stuck in to the decaying fallen apples that we have disdained. Corvids seem even more plentiful in the fields this year. Alongside Yen Hall a large quantity of rooks have been occupying one of the fields regularly and there are plenty of jackdaws, magpies and jays about. Di describes seeing these large gatherings as a 'Hitchcock moment'. If they knew I'm sure many of these intelligent birds would be taking legal action against the master of suspense for sullyng their reputation.

Possibly of a more threatening disposition are birds of prey – thrilling but chilling. Connie has had several sightings of a sparrowhawk in her garden, on one occasion capturing a wood pigeon under her apple tree and taking it behind the shed to pluck and eat it, leaving a pile of feathers behind. I had a different experience as a female flew down from the fence in pursuit of a dunnock hiding in a small shrub. The chase turned into a foot race around the shrub until the hawk jumped up to the top of it and the dunnock took its chance to fly away to denser cover.

On the mammal front, Janet told me that she had seen a good-sized hedgehog walking up their path. It's great to hear of hedgehog sightings as we know how much they have been struggling. This is another reason to keep your speed down when driving through the village. Meanwhile I've seen two foxes – one hurrying into Leys Wood beside Hill Farm at dusk, and another strolling into Horseheath Lodge at noon. We are coming up to the time of year when foxes mate, so if you hear any blood-curdling noises, this may be vulpine love-making.

As Christmas is coming, we must mention the robin. Connie's cheese-lover has brought along a friend to share the spoils, while Mick mentioned to me that he was sure the robin that frequents his garden would soon be tempted onto his hand.

It's been a glorious autumn but as the leaves fall, there are still some spectacular colours, particularly the beeches. If you catch them on a sunny day, the leaves look gold.

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who supported our coffee morning on 26 October. Although turn out was a little disappointing we managed to raise £87.50 for Club funds and subsequent generous donations have more than doubled that. We are extremely grateful for these because it all helps to support the Club's activities.

We re also grateful to the Hub Night organisers who have given us a donation of £50 towards the eventual analysis of pottery finds from our ongoing community archaeology project to find out more about the medieval settlement of the village.

For further details of the Club, our forthcoming programme of talks or information on the history of the village, your house or family please contact:

Janet Morris, 21 High Street, T: 290863
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

At our meeting on November 20 we were delighted to welcome Dr. Ian Bedford who is Head of the Research Entomology Facility at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. His talk entitled "Garden Bugs, cohabit, conserve or control" was received with great enthusiasm by a large audience. Ian was a mine of information and his powerpoint presentation included a comprehensive round-up of all those bugs, good, bad and ugly that one has to deal with in the garden. The pictures of his lawn covered one dewy morning with 350 large, brown, Spanish slugs was amazing; the only way of getting rid of them is to gather them all up and drown them in a bucket of soapy water. Ian's message to us was that it is our decision whether or not to use pesticides and he did not try to persuade us one way or another - but he did ask us to really think about the environmental effect of neonicotinoid pesticide sprays on bees.

Our meeting on Monday 18 December will be an informal get together with wine and nibbles and a raffle for Beeches Nursery garden tokens. You are all welcome to join us, 7:30 in the Village Hall.

Rosemary Yallop, T:01799 584262

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Cinema Club. On Wednesday 6 December, it'll be a Judy Garland film with a Christmas scene. For details look on the Reading Room website www.thereadingroom.org.uk. Alternatively, email as below to subscribe to our mailing list. 7.30pm, donations, pre-screening talk.

History Exhibition. The exhibition will be on for a week: Saturday 30 December – Friday 5 January 2-5pm at the Reading Room. Donations, under 18s and over 60s free. All ages welcome and there will be a trail for children enjoy the exhibition

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

NEXT
DATE:

23.12.17 7PM-11PM



1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have been very creative this term as we are working on our Toymaker badge. We started off with making jigsaws, then sock puppets and dressing Katie, Laurené and I in recyclable materials. We still have one item to make which will be connected to Christmas and will probably go on the Christmas tree at the URC Church in Castle Camps where we have, again, been invited to decorate a tree.

Also this term we went for a night walk in Balsham with the Rainbows which was followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows. We made harvest pictures to decorate All Saints Church, Horseheath, for the service and then the village hall when the Harvest Lunch was held. We are now making Christmas cards and calendars.

If you have a daughter who would be interested in joining us please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or 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; E: brownies@horseheath.info

THE PETER & RUTH LLOYD TRUST

We are pleased to advise that this year the Trust presented two awards. The successful applicants were Isabelle Passmore and Simon Beale, both from West Wrating. They received their cheques for £800 in front of the war memorial stone at RAF Wrating Common, from trustees Colin McCall, Simon Keen & Jonathan Drury.

Ten young people from our villages have now been helped by the Trust. Many have now achieved their degrees and have embarked on successful careers. It is always very pleasing to hear how they are progressing and how they value the help the Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust provided.

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2018. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following:-Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrating Common airfield, including West Wickham. The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and University offer are known.

For further information about the Trust and award please contact: Jonathan Drury 01223 290968. For an application form please apply via email to:

peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com.

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31 March 2018.

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

I am proposing to produce a new edition of the Village Directory in early 2018. 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 16 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

SAWSTON ADULT EDUCATION

BUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE, MEET NEW PEOPLE. EXERCISE YOUR MIND AND BODY

At Sawston Village College we are very proud of the variety of courses that we have available here for the local community.

Our Saturday Workshops start again on 20 January 2018, we are excited to be able to offer the local community:

- Creative Writing – Write snappy dialogue
- A playful approach to drawing
- Dichoric Glass Jewellery
- First Aid – Basics
- How to apply make-up
- Indian Stuffed Breads
- Mindfulness Day
- Patchwork and quilting – Intro to English Paper Piecing

We would very much like to hear from you if there's something you can teach which you think might enthuse others. Also please get in touch if there is something you would like to learn which is not currently being provided.

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.sawstonadulded.org.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. The Adult Education Department

SAVE THE CHILDREN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you so much for the great support you continually give the Save the Children Linton & District group. The fund raising coffee morning held recently at Mulberry Cottage, by kind invitation of Cassie & Martin Walshe, was once again a happy occasion and well attended and raised £547.31, which I think is an amazing amount collected in such a short time. Well done everyone and again our thanks.

Jenny Richards

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 12 December

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