

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2018

ISSUE 177

VILLAGE DIARY

- Mon 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
Tue 2 **A1307 meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Wed 3 **Black wheeled (late) collection**
Sun 7 **Joint parishes Eucharist celebrating both Epiphany & Plough Sunday. 10.45 at Balsham Church**
Mon 8 **Local History Club. *Middle Saxon Village Formation and the -ham/-ton Divide*. Talk by Richard Mortimer. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
Tue 9 **Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collection**
Sat 13 **Balsham Community Market. 2 - 4pm, Balsham Church Institute**
Sun 14 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**
Mon 15 **Black wheeled bin collection**
Gardening Club. *Hyacinths*. Talk by Alan Shipp. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tue 16 **Deadline for items for inclusion in the February edition of the Village Voice**
Sun 21 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**
Mon 22 **Blue wheeled bin only collection**
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend
Sat 27 **Neighbourhood Plan - Character Assessment drop in meeting. 3 - 6pm, Village Hall**
Sun 28 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**
Mon 29 **Black wheeled bin collection**

The Carpet Bowls Club meets on Wednesdays at 7pm, in the 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.

PROPOSED NEW DUAL CARRIAGEWAY WOULD CUT VILLAGE IN TWO

Many of you might have heard about the A1307 Strategy Board's proposal to build a new dual carriageway that would cut between Streetly End and West Wickham and destroy the Parish as we know it.

There will be a Village meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday 2 January in the Village Hall. The purpose is to share what information we currently have and to organise and prepare ourselves to counter this proposal. This will need as many people to participate as possible, so please do come to the meeting if you can. It is proposed that an Action Group be set up, formed of parishioners with differing areas of expertise, to coordinate our efforts. However, everyone's participation will be vital to ensure our voices are heard.

What we know so far

The proposal has been developed by the A1307 Strategy Board, an influential group that represents Haverhill's interest in improving access to the A11. It is chaired by Matt Hancock MP; Haverhill Chamber of Commerce & Haverhill Town Council are heavily involved and various local authorities are represented. The road has been costed at approximately £190 million and currently represents low value for money, although documents suggest that the value for money rating could potentially be improved. Part of the proposed route runs along the Roman Road, an historically important track way and long distance walking route.

The A1307 Strategy Board is a completely separate initiative to the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), which is simultaneously, through a public consultation process, developing proposals for improvements to the A1307 along its current route and more sustainable options for travelling into Cambridge. However, the GCP is fully aware of the Strategy Board's work and their proposal for a new road, saying in a recent report:

"There is a proposal by the A1307 Strategy Board, led by Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, for dualling the A1307 between Haverhill and the A11. Current suggested routes bypass Linton, either to the north or the south, but connect to the A11 south of the A505. This project targets a different demographic to the GCP scheme, and the dualling, as currently conceived, would not conflict with the GCP proposals west of the A11. There would remain a need for measures to promote use of sustainable transport to reach Cambridge."

The report can be found on the Village website on the following link: <http://westwickham.org/a1307/>.

Our District and County Councillors would appear to be against this proposal. I have written twice to our MP, Lucy Frazer, whose views are not yet clear. For those of you with e-mail access, I would recommend that you subscribe to the Residents e-mail group so that you can be kept up to date. It is easy to do - just follow the link on the website to <http://westwickham.org/community/residents/>. Updates will also be published in the Village Voice.

In summary, this proposal is a very real threat to us and many other local Parishes, I would ask that you make time to attend the meeting on 2 January to learn more and see how you might help.

Patrick Charlton, Chairman West Wickham Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Please protect village character and rural nature

Any development should be sympathetic to the general nature of our small village

These are comments made by residents during Neighbourhood Plan consultations but what exactly do people mean by 'character' and 'rural nature'? Particularly as understanding the local character is crucial to the conservation or enhancement of the specific qualities of the village and can ensure that any development proposals are appropriate and of a design which respects and compliments its nature. With this in mind the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has produced a Character Assessment of the village to be used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan (and subsequently the Parish Council and planning authorities during any planning process).

Several of you took part in our walks earlier in the year as we tried to identify and assess different Character Areas through, for example, building types, ages and materials, open spaces, trees and hedges and views from outside and within. We have accordingly divided the village into four Character Assessment Areas – High Street West, High Street East, Burton End and Streetly End – each we consider with its own characteristics. We now need to know if YOU think we've got this right and captured what you think is the character of the village and the Area within you live. You can find the draft Character Assessment on the Neighbourhood Plan pages of www.westwickham.org

Please do come along to:

A DROP IN SESSION

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY

VILLAGE HALL 3-6pm

There will be displays of each Character Assessment Area illustrated with maps and photographs.

PLEASE COME ALONG TO LOOK, CHAT WITH MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND HAVE YOUR SAY.

Further details from Trevor Hall Tel: 290559

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

At our next meeting on Monday 8 January we welcome Richard Mortimer for a place names talk on *Middle Saxon Village Formation and the -ham/-ton Divide*. Richard is a Senior Project Manager for Oxford Archaeology East with a particular research interest in the Middle Saxon period and he's a great speaker.

Everyone is welcome at our meeting although there is a small charge of £2 for non-members (it does include tea/coffee & biscuits afterwards).

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

GRANTA AND SHELFORD MEDICAL PRACTICES

PROPOSED MERGER

The NHS is changing rapidly. General Practice remains the bedrock of the NHS but needs to adapt to be able to meet both current and future needs of our populations.

Nationally there is already a significant shortfall in GP numbers and this is going to get worse. With an aging population health care needs are more complex and patients are attending the surgery much more frequently than in the past.

Put simply, the traditional general practice which has worked so well for so long is no longer able to service patient needs. Government policy is that only large general practices will get access to new funding streams. Without this additional resource patient care will suffer.

The GPs of both Granta Medical Practices (Barley, Royston, Linton and Sawston) and Shelford Health Centre believe that the best option for maintaining and improving services for our patients is through coming together to form a single practice. At present the practices are consulting on this proposed merger. We are keen to seek views of all those who might be affected.

The practice teams already work very closely together. We believe that by coming together the existing services provided to our patients will not just be more sustainable but that we will be able to add new services, enabling improved care in our practices. A merger also facilitates the hoped-for integration of community nursing and support teams with the practices as part of the nationally recognised "Primary Care Home" model of integrated care.

There is no suggestion of, or intention to, shut any of the surgeries down nor to stop providing core general practice consultations from each site. Some administrative and specialist services may be delivered from a single location.

Already the Granta merged practices are better placed to retain and recruit clinical staff than many surrounding practices, ensuring high levels of continued service despite the national shortage of doctors and nurses in primary care.

Shelford and Granta Medical Practices are committed to providing the best possible care for our patients within the NHS system.

We are keen to evolve to remain as relevant for our community in the next half century as we have been since the foundation of the NHS. Together, with some 44,000 patients, we will be big enough to deliver modern healthcare while remaining small enough to care and be responsive to our patient needs.

If you have any queries please contact:

Gerard Newnham, Practice Business Manager, Granta Medical Practices
T. 01223 727555, gerard.newnham@nhs.net

Sandra East, Administration & Communications Manager, Shelford Medical Practice
T. 01223 843661, sandra.east@nhs.net

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

First of all I would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year and I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas.

The following are some of the items discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on 27 November. The draft minutes will be displayed on the notice board.

Matters arising:

1. Regarding the overhanging branches at the junction of Dean Road and the A1307, the Estate Manager of Horseheath Lodge has agreed to cut down the offending trees when the road is re-surfaced shortly.
2. Hedge/tree cuttings opposite Village Hall: The County Council has written to the landowner requesting that the debris be removed. If nothing is done they will remove it and the costs recouped from the landowner.

Planning: Please see the draft minutes showing a list of planning applications.

Finance: Please see the draft minutes listing the authorised payments and monies received.

A1307: Cllr. Hall outlined to the meeting the Greater Cambridge Partnership's progress in developing proposals for improvements to the A1307 route, particularly the section between 4 Wentways and Addenbrookes Hospital but also proposals to improve the section heading east towards Haverhill. At the same time a study into alternative routes for the A1307 from Haverhill put forward by a group called the A1307 Strategy Board has caused considerable concern as the suggested 'northern route' would have a severe impact on West Wickham. All present were against this proposal. **(Ed. See separate article).**

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall reported that the character Assessment of the village prepared by the working group had been approved by members of the Parish Council subject to minor amendments. **(Ed. See separate article).**

Maintenance:

1. **Speed indicators** – All parishes apart from two had paid their share of the costs for the purchase of these.
2. **Footpaths** – Repairs have been carried out as requested. A number of footpaths have been ploughed but not reinstated. It is a legal requirement to reinstate paths no less than 14 days after ploughing.

Mobile Phone coverage: Cllr. Schuilenburg reported that mobile phone reception in Streetly End was now poor. **(Ed. See also separate article)**

Reports by District & County Cllrs.: Please see the draft minutes for their reports.

Any other business:

1. **Hub Night drinks licence:** The Parish Council gave its approval, as freeholder, to the proposal that an annual licence to sell alcohol from the Village Hall is obtained rather than applying for ten separate licences. The Village Hall Management Committee will be considering this proposal at their next meeting.
2. **Speedwatch:** A speedwatch session held on the Balsham Road near the church indicated that 10% of vehicles had been travelling at over 30mph, many of these over 35mph. Details of these had been referred to the police.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22 January at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Council Clerk. T: 01223 665260;
Email: j.richards597@btinternet.com

STILL CANNOT GET SUPERFAST? SUPERFAST SPEEDS FALLING SHORT?

While most residents now have access to Superfast Broadband, I am aware that some of you in Streetly End and on the outskirts of the villages don't receive Superfast Speeds, or simply are still too far from the new cabinets to qualify.

While the current phase of Broadband Delivery (to reach 95% of premises) is nearing completion, the next phase is aiming at 99% and is aiming to reach those who missed out in this current phase. The planning phase is currently underway, and part of it is to identify premises who still are unable to get Superfast speeds. If this is you, please can you complete the short online Broadband Demand Survey at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/QINRM/> (ignore the statement "Please complete this survey if the postcode checker says 'In scope for future coverage options' - the postcode checker is inaccurate) , or please just drop me an email at alex@schuilenburg.org with your name, address and phone number and a little detail on what you currently are getting or using (e.g. only 15Mbps or not at all and are using 3G MiFi, satellite or directional WiFi).

Alex Schuilenburg

SMALL VILLAGES COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICES

The Community Warden Service assists older people, aged 60 or over, in the villages of Balsham, Weston Colville, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, West Wickham and West Wrating by supporting people to live independently in their own homes.

The Warden makes daily contact with older people using the service either by telephone or in person to establish their well-being and what assistance is required. The service is provided Monday to Friday and can be provided on a permanent basis or temporary periods (e.g. following hospital discharge)

The Warden can assist with, for example:

- Watering plants/ feeding pets.
- Small amounts of shopping/posting letters.
- Collecting prescriptions/ help with paperwork.
- Above all, to be a regular source of reassurance and information to support independent living.

The Warden Service is funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Parish Councils and Cambridgeshire County Council. It is managed by Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and is open to local people for a small charge each week payable to the Warden.

We are pleased to welcome on board the new Warden, Karen Williams, following the retirement of Sue Buckingham who has delivered an amazing service for many years. We thank Sue for all her hard work and commitment over the years and wish Karen all the best in her new role.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Small Villages Warden Service please contact Karen Williams, Community Warden on 07436102865 or by contacting Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on 0300 666 9860

Sarah Jaffe, AgeUK

FROM THE VICARAGE

Happy New Year from our Ministry Team! By the time you are reading this, I hope you will have heard that we have appointed a new rector to replace Dr. Julie Norris to lead our group of seven churches.

As I am writing this at the end of November, the interviews for the post of Rector have not yet taken place. The Church of England has a complex system of appointing priests to new posts. At the very end of the process is the final decision of our Diocesan Bishop, who appoints and licenses the new priest.

But before that, all our churchwardens, who are all 'Bishop's Officers' appointed by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Revd Stephen Conway, have the responsibility of selecting the new Rector. In addition to that, every parish in the Church of England has a Patron who is also responsible for appointing the parish clergy. Our seven churches all have patrons (Ed. The Patron of St Mary's, West Wickham is the Bishop of Ely) who take their part in the appointment process, and they will be coming to the Installation Service to formally present the new Rector to the Bishop. As you can see, it is a complicated procedure.

Back to celebrating the New Year! Whatever has been decided, on behalf of all the members of our ministry team, may God bless you and your loved ones in the year to come.

Keith Johnson

Date for your diary: Sunday 7th January - joint parishes Eucharist celebrating both Epiphany and Plough Sunday at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham at 10.45am. This will be a lovely family orientated service to bring your children to, as the Balsham Plough will be blessed in the church during the service and the Balsham Ploughmen will be there in their traditional costumes.

NATURE NOTES

When I go down to the bottom of the garden to close up the chickens for the night, and again in the morning when I let them out, I'm aware of a small figure hopping around hoping for some crumbs left over from the feast. Robins have featured in Nature Notes for the last couple of months and after the really cold spell we are having in mid – December it's not surprising this one is making an appearance. One evening he hopped right between my feet. A really cold prolonged period can be very dangerous for all small birds like robins, wrens and dunnocks. Their populations have been badly hit in the past, but in recent decades life has been a bit easier. The tit family, being small and light are similarly vulnerable to the cold and Brian & Linda's televised bird box is again being used for overnight winter accommodation by a great tit. A couple of years ago we christened him Rod, but I would have thought it unlikely that this is the same one, given their normal life spans. Whatever his identity, he is always in there by 4.0'clock every afternoon and spends the night in relative warmth. The box is actually attached to our wall and as we currently have a young puppy to keep warm we have been leaving the heating on all night so the bird is getting a double benefit. It's just surprising that no-one else seems to want to take advantage.

Putting out food for the birds is important from now right up to the spring / summer when food starts to become a bit more plentiful. Andrew tells me that three coal tits were on his feeder the other day – something I was pleased to hear as we haven't seen coal tits in our garden much this year. Coal tits are quite often associated with coniferous woodland and there are no trees of that type in our garden so maybe that is the reason.

Insectivorous birds either migrate or have to make do with other food in a British winter, but insects are not entirely absent. Before the temperatures dropped, in early December I was walking along the footpath at the back of Maypole Croft and a cloud of tiny flies lifted up. Other than calling them winter flies I'm not entirely sure what they were but they were living creatures and probably a food source for someone else.

While I have been writing these notes, Sue has been upstairs ironing and at the same time watching a heron beside next door's pond, patiently waiting to detect movement and do what herons do.

Finally I'd just like to put a 'Nature Notes' slant on the discussions about the A1307 suggestion which is the subject of a meeting in the new year. The serious damage that it would cause to the Roman Road would be environmental vandalism of the first degree. The Roman Road is a highly valuable resource for all sorts of species of plants, insects and birds. It provides a safe corridor between intensely cultivated land and hosts many creatures whose decline we are trying to arrest such as the marbled white butterfly and the corn bunting. I am sure the Friends of the Roman Road will be making their views known to the people putting forward this crazy idea but be assured that everyone associated with wildlife will be strongly opposed.

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

* Eat Well * Live Well * Celebrate Community



EAT LOCAL
get closer to your food

Balsham Community Market

Bringing Food & Friends Together
Saturday 13th January 2018
2pm to 4pm
Balsham Church Institute

Featuring:
Radwinter Wild Game Company; Parkins Farm Butchers;
The Lamb Charcuterie Company; Jigsaw Bakery; Chocs-Away/
CB21 Cheesecake Company; Jane's Cupcakes; Borakis Greek
Foods; Award Winning Nikki's Homemade and The Wild Flour
Kitchen; Plumbs Dairy and the 1617 Map Project.

Café serving homemade cakes & cream teas.

2018 Dates:
20th January, 10th March, 12th May, 8th September and 10th November
** no market in July **

The perfect opportunity to pick up seasonal, local fresh produce on your door step!
Profits will be passed on to the Balsham Feast.

Follow us on:
 [balshammarket](#)  [balshammarket](#)  balshammarket@gmail.com

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES

Our Travel Clinic is expanding!

We have been providing a travel service here at Granta for over 30 years. To meet an ever increasing demand for travel advice, vaccinations and malaria tablets for travellers we will be expanding our service in the New Year.

Many GP surgeries no longer provide travel services at all, so we are very excited to be able to offer our patients an increased, dedicated, and streamlined travel clinic which can offer more appointments during the week.

We will be able to offer our travellers the opportunity to purchase mosquito nets, insect repellents and travel packs with all those essential remedies, along with medical first aid kits and needle packs.

If you are planning to travel abroad, please download a risk assessment form from the website or collect from reception. We will then provide advice on the recommended vaccinations and any advice you may need for your trip. We will contact you to book an appropriate appointment for you. This may be in our private clinic if you require yellow fever, rabies, Japanese encephalitis or malaria tablets, which you will need to pay for, or an NHS travel appointment will be offered if just needing hepatitis A, typhoid or a tetanus booster, which are free.

Please remember, some vaccines need 4 – 6 weeks to complete courses, so please contact your health centre in good time.

Sandra Johnson, Travel Lead.

(Who will be supported by appropriately qualified nurses).

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Cinema Club. On Wednesday 3 January we're showing a tale of farmers in Provence that will hopefully delight you. For details look on the Reading Room website: www.thereadingroom.org.uk. Alternatively, email to subscribe to our mailing list. 7.30pm, donations, pre-screening talk, refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com; T: 291475

Circular Walk. We're heading out on New Year's Day at the customary later time of 11am. c5 miles. If you're reading this on New Year's Day and you've missed us, then here's a diary note for our next walk: Saturday 3 March at 10am. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch, & maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com; T: 291475

Weston Colville History Exhibition. We've been sifting through records and photos on our village and will show a selection in the Reading Room this winter, with a trail for children. Saturday 30 December – Friday 5 January 2-5pm, with special extended opening on Wednesday 3 January until 7pm so if you wish, you can double up and see it before Cinema Club. Donations, under 18s and over 60s free, refreshments will be available. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com; T: 291475

SAWSTON ADULT EDUCATION

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

January has arrived and we think our fitness and wellbeing courses are going to be popular after all the Christmas indulgences and stress.

This January we have some excellent courses starting:

Fitness Yoga	Tuesdays 8 – 9pm
Indian Dance	Wednesdays 7 – 8.10pm
Pilates Improvers	Wednesdays 7 – 8pm
Pilates Mixed ability	Wednesdays 8 – 9pm
Tai Chi – Beginners	Mondays 8 – 9pm
Tai Chi - Improvers	Mondays 6.30 – 8pm
Tap Dance for Fun & Fitness	Mondays 7 – 8pm

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.sawstonadulted.org.

VACANCY

SHUDY CAMPS PARISH CLERK

Are you interested in a paid role developing your administration skills and helping your community? Shudy Camps Parish Council needs to recruit a new Parish Clerk. This is a part time role, 20 hours per calendar month. Salary to be negotiated in line with the pay scales published by The National Joint Council for Local Government Services. Responsibilities include:

- Providing the Parish Council with guidance prior to making any decisions relating to Shudy Camps and ensuring that the business of the Parish Council is conducted lawfully.
- Meetings: preparing the agenda, collating documents for discussion, attending and recording the meetings and preparing the minutes for approval.
- Administering the online bank account, setting up payments, maintaining a spreadsheet for income and expenditure. Monitoring and balancing the Council's accounts and preparing records for audit purposes and VAT.
- Preparing the Annual Audit within the legal framework and liaising with the internal and external auditors as necessary.
- Maintaining the Parish Council records, e.g. financial, correspondence etc.
- Liaising with public bodies as necessary, e.g. South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Being the contact point for residents of Shudy Camps for any areas of concern and bringing them to the Parish Council's attention if necessary.
- Receiving and dealing with correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council, bringing them to the attention of the Council as necessary.

For more details or if you are interested in applying, contact Elizabeth Gladman: 01799 584279 clerk@shudycamps.org.uk
John Haine: 01799 584773 chair@shudycamps.org.uk

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The New Year creates an opportunity to set resolutions. For many, the indulgence of the festive season prompts a focus on developing a healthier lifestyle. For others, the new calendar year encourages a commitment to try a new hobby or skill.

The College's Sports Centre characteristically sees a spike in membership and use in January. Having such a facility for the community is part of what makes our Village College a special one. Chris Baker, our Sports Centre Manager, is keen to continue to increase participation, as is Margaret Kiddy, our Adult Education Manager, who has introduced a number of new evening classes, taster sessions and weekend workshops to develop our adult education learning programme.

The philosophy of the Village College movement was to ensure that schools were at the heart of their villages and provided opportunities for life-long learning and community activity. Having the school buildings and outdoor facilities busy outside of the school day is an important aspect of our school character, as is welcoming visitors into the College to share special moments and activities.

At the end of the autumn term, we had lots of events of this nature. Our annual Coffee and Carols was a particular highlight, as was the Christmas Concert at Balsham Church and the Christmas Fayre with Granta School. Children benefit a great deal from performing to an audience beyond the school community and working in partnership with students and adults beyond LVC. Thank you to everyone that supported these activities.

Two of our students took part in a debating competition at the Houses of Parliament in December, competing against other schools. This was a great public speaking challenge and one that provided a great deal of access to cultural capital.

Students at Linton Village College are fortunate to have staff that are committed to making these enriching extra-curricular activities possible through planning trips and visits and providing opportunities to experience real-life learning. While many schools are stripping back non-academic provision due to financial and workload pressures, we remain committed to offering a rich, holistic education experience for all of our learners.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Spring programme

- Monday 15 January. Hyacinths. Talk by Alan Shipp
Monday 19 February. Who dares prune? Talk by Simon White of Beales Roses
Monday 19 March. Hemerocallis. Talk by Paula Dyason of Strictly Daylilies Nursery, Histon.
Monday 16 April. Climbers, creepers & crawlers (Vertical gardening). Talk by Mike Warren

Saturday 19 May. Plant Sale. 10.30 - 12.00, Village Hall

Evening meetings are held in the Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

Further details from: Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262



PARISH NURSE Clare Gillett RGN

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

Mobile Phone 07498 994 205

Email 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com

Her working days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone from all at The Meadow primary School. We hope 2018 is a fantastic year for all.

Back in November we talked about Unicef's World Children's Day which, this year had the theme of take over the world. We were so inspired by this I launched a competition for the Y6 children to apply for my job and take over for a day. I was overwhelmed with the number and calibre of applications, many of which were full of such wonderful ideas and thoughts – they made me quite teary. We eventually whittled the applicants down to 10 and in December they took over my job for 2 whole days. The rest of this Meadow news update has been written by Aarnavh and Luke who took on my role for one of those days!

The children were thrilled when school was covered in a blanket of snow creating a winter wonderland. There were lots of snowball fights and snowmen building competitions. We were really impressed with how sensible the children were while playing outside.

We also experienced the Infant production of 'Christmas with the Aliens'. Key Stage 2 got to watch the dress rehearsal to help them get ready for the real performances. It blew them away!

Another really lovely event was the Key Stage 2 Christmas Candlelit Carol Concert which we held in the church. It was a really enchanting evening. The children sang beautifully and the audience was engrossed.

All of the Y6 children who applied and were selected to be Headteacher for the day were thrilled and excited. We had to do playground duty, lunch duty, meetings at Linton Village College, learning walks, assemblies, paperwork, meetings with other staff and anything else that Miss Connor would normally have to do. We all think it has been the best experience ever of being at school. We got to come dressed in our smart clothes and had our very own staffroom for the day (with chocolate biscuits!). It was so interesting to do all of the things Miss Connor does. We thought she sat in the office writing a lot but she really does a whole lot more! We have been so lucky to have this amazing opportunity and we have learnt so much.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 January

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