

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2018

ISSUE 181

VILLAGE DIARY

- Thur 3 Election to South Cambs District Council.
7.00 – 10.00pm, Village Hall
- Sun 6 All ages service. 9.30, St Mary's Church
- Tue 8 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
- Sat 12 **Daisy Chains Pre-School JUMBLE SALE, 2 – 4pm, Village Hall**
Balsham Community Market. 2 – 4pm, Balsham Band Stand
- Sun 13 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 14 Green & blue wheeled bin collection
- Sat 19 **Gardening Club PLANT SALE. 10.30 – 12.00, Village Hall**
- Sun 20 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 21 Black wheeled bin collection
Annual Parish Meeting. 7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting. 8.15pm, Both at the Village Hall
Local History Club. Walk around the Abingtons with Jennifer Hirsh. Meet 6.45 at the Abington Institute car park
HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall
- Sat 26 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Sun 27 **RAF Wrattling Common May Memorial service. 1pm, Wrattling Common memorial. See page 2**
- Tue 29 Green & blue wheeled bin (day late) collection
- Daisy Chains Pre-School meets
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 – 2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall
- The Carpet Bowls Club meets on Wednesdays, 7pm at 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.

NEXT MONTH'S VILLAGE VOICE

Regretfully we are not going to be able to produce a July issue so next months issue will be a combined one for June & July. Please let us have items for the diary column for both months by 16 May.

Sue & Andrew

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

With just 6 people standing for 7 places there will not be an election to the Parish Council on 3 May. Regretfully, once again, no one from Streetly End was nominated. The vacancy will be filled by co-option. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards. T: 01223 665260; email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org. The new Parish Council is:

Patrick Charlton T: 290027. Email: patrickbcharlton@gmail.com

Marcus Cornish T: 290203. Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com

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

Di Licence T: 290434. Email: di.licence@googlemail.com

David Sargeant T: 290048. Email: davidjsargeant@googlemail.com

Alex Shuilenburg T: 290084. Email: alex@shuilenburg.org

We invited all the candidates to write a short profile about themselves and provide a photograph. You can "meet your parish council" on page 5.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

Something for everyone

Friendly people & expert advice

SATURDAY 19 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

WEST WICKHAM

VILLAGE HALL

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

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FROM THE VICARAGE

Arriving in a new place lends itself to discovery. Having just moved with my family into our new home in Balsham, we are discovering so much about the village, from its history, which is so well presented in the book: *'Balsham: a village story'*, to its pathways, local businesses and social life.

We are discovering as well the vibrant nature of community life in our neighbouring villages. There are so many things going on: film nights, lectures, plays, quiz nights, and the many clubs and societies which are flourishing. We feel blessed to be part of such a thriving place and look forward to being part of community life.

It is people, however, who are the heartbeat of any village or community and it's been inspiring to meet so many people over the last week from the surrounding area. There were around three hundred people at Balsham church last Thursday when the Bishop of Ely led the licensing service and a great warmth and welcome which made it such an enjoyable and moving occasion.

As we continue to journey through the Easter season we are also reminded of the discoveries the followers of Jesus made after encountering the risen Christ. They gradually moved from feeling dejected, demoralised and fearful, to discovering a confidence that God was with them. They discovered that the resurrection says: 'God can be trusted'. God can turn our crucifixions into life.

For all of us, life involves a continual process of discovery, but we know this happens best as part of a community, with our friends, neighbours and those whose lives are intertwined with ours. We can also have confidence in an Easter message which resonates across the centuries: that God's love for us can help us discover more about life in all its fullness and help us be a blessing to those we share our lives with.

Rev'd Iain McColl

DATE FOR THE DIARY THE ANNUAL CHURCH FETE

Saturday 1 September at 1pm at Manor Farm. Please save all your unwanted gifts for the bric a brac, bottles for the tombola, a raffle prize would be greatly appreciated and also any offers of help. We desperately need helpers to run a stall or do you have an idea for a stall or a game? This historic building which we have in our village needs money just to stay open so please support this event, and put the date in your diary.

Any offers of help please contact Nicky Cornish.
T: 290203; E: nicolacornish@hotmail.co.uk

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

There is a half-allotment now vacant. If you would like to rent it at £5.00 per year please contact the Parish Clerk:

Jenny Richards, West Lodge, 88 High St, Balsham, CB21 4EP.
T: 01223 665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org.

Water is available subject to a separate fee to the Village Hall.

RAF WRATTING COMMON May Memorial Service Sunday 27 May

A short open air service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday 27 May at the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the airfield on the last Sunday in May (Sunday 28th) 1943 and to remember all those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service.

This year's service is particularly special as, to mark both our 75th anniversary and the RAF 100 we are scheduled to receive a fly-past by an RAF Dakota at 2 p.m., hence the slightly later start time of 1 p.m.

The Douglas C-47 Dakota is without doubt one of the most successful aircraft designs in history. It became one of the world's most famous military transport aircraft and saw widespread use by the Allies during World War Two and subsequently by Air Forces and civilian operators worldwide.

It is intended that tea and cake will be available while we await the fly-past. For further information please email: rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this key community asset will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath

THE BIG VILLAGE DIG AND AFTER WHAT NEXT?

In 2013 we received a Heritage Lottery grant to help us discover more about the medieval settlement of the village and when and where it changed from a community of scattered farmsteads to become the village we see today. More than 100 people dug 18 test pits at various sites throughout the village. Although this did tell us much we didn't know, we realised that 18 was not a big enough sample and dating evidence from more test pits was required. Digs 2, 3 & 4 followed and 15 more test pits were excavated between 2015 and 2017. We now think we have sufficient evidence to answer our original research questions so we are now in the process of getting a quote for the professional analysis of the pottery (and finding the money to pay for this) before producing a final report.

This is not the end of our community archaeology project – just the end of phase 1. We will be looking for new research questions which need answering and new sites to excavate for our band of willing volunteers. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or have some land which you would allow us to look at.

Janet Morris. West Wickham & District Local History Club
T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on Monday 26 March. The draft Minutes are on the notice board in the High Street.

Matters arising:

Dean Road hedging & junction: The proposed closure of the central island at the Dean Road junction has met with much opposition and the proposal is being reconsidered.

Allotment vacancy: As the letting of the allotment has fallen through it is now up for re-letting again. Please see separate notice.

Planning: S/0507/18/OL – *outline planning permission for five dwellings, four being affordable on land west of 13 Burton End.* It had been agreed to support this application at the planning meeting held at 6.30pm on 26 March because it would provide the village with four affordable properties which otherwise would not have been available.

Finance: The list of authorised payments are contained in the draft Minutes. A VAT reclaim of £1742.89 had been received.

Transport – A1307 proposed duelling “Northern Option”
Action group update: Georgina Magin updated the Council telling them that at the meeting on 17 February they were told that no further money would be put into the studying of the options. There was general dissatisfaction at the lack of transparency by the Strategy Board and the false report made by Suffolk County Council that the Cambridge City Council were in favour of the duelling proposal when what they are in favour of is the improvement of the A1307.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall had no completion date yet. He hopes to have aerial pictures taken of the village to illustrate what it looks like, particularly Streetly End and Burton End. These will be taken by a drone.

Data Protection Act: This was discussed and Cllr. Schuilenburg, who is going on a course shortly, will keep the Council informed of their new duties regarding data protection.

Maintenance:

Speed Indicators: These are now up and running and their use has confirmed speeding problems in Streetly End and the High Street (see page 4).

Footpaths: The Parish Clerk was asked to write to Thurlow Estates to point out that one section of footpath 17 which belongs to Thurlow Estates had not been reinstated.

Village Hall Meeting Room: The Chairman said the first question to be asked is does the village want or need it? The answer would be necessary before seeking funding. Cllr Cornish suggested he ask his son-in-law to have a look and give an estimate for an extension and its possible cost and if plans were drawn up these would then be referred to the village for their input. This was agreed.

Playground & Wild Area: There has been a problem in the wildlife area with children throwing logs into the pond and then jumping on them. The safety aspect and possible damage caused has been pointed out to those involved.

Meetings attended by Councillors:

The Chairman had attended a meeting on 9 March with MP Lucy Fraser and other local Parish Chairs to discuss the A1307 and the A1307 Strategy Board proposals.

Cllr. Licence had attended a VHMC meeting and it was agreed not to have a tennis court on the back car park.

Reports by County and District Cllrs. Batchelor and Turner: These reports are detailed fully on the website and also in the draft Minutes on the notice board.

Any other business: Concern was raised that the SCDC magazine is wrapped in plastic? Cllr. Turner said he would investigate.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on
Monday 21 May at 8.15pm after the Annual Parish
Meeting which will start at 7.30pm.
All welcome to attend.**

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260; E: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

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DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL

JUMBLE SALE

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL
2 - 4pm Saturday 12 May

Please drop in any items you would like to donate
between 9.00 & 12 noon on the day

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL

We are celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year, and will be holding a tea party on 16 June for anyone that has been involved with Daisy Chains, either as a parent or child that who attended, and would like to appeal for photographs, particularly pre 2000. Please contact Sue Harrow or Jess Ashbridge on 07779277647 jess@agrarian.biz if you do.

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB.

Our choice for Wednesday 2 May is a wonderful film from rural France following the warm reception that Jean de Florette received in January. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or 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 291475

UK POWER NETWORKS UPDATE

With the monitoring period complete, the "tap setting" of the transformer to the church end of West Wickham has been adjusted to lower the voltage to the village. The problem may also have been wider in the village than we were led to believe as at least one resident in Burton End has reported that the over-voltage alarm on their Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) has recently stopped. Hopefully this adjustment by UK Power Networks will reduce the occurrences of over-voltage experienced by residents and the problems associated with it.

Alex Schuilenburg

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS

You will have noticed that some Vehicle Activated Speed signs have been in use in various locations within the Parish. The signs have been purchased by the eight parishes in the old Balsham Ward of the District Council.

The two signs will be shared between the parishes on a rotation, allowing each parish to have use of the signs for periods of 2 weeks starting on 7 May. The signs have been under test in West Wickham, Streetly End, Horseheath and Weston Colville and have performed satisfactorily. The signs record the number of vehicles passing the signs and the vehicle speeds. This information can be downloaded from the signs and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.

A summary of results from the collected data is shown below. This information will also be found by searching online for: [westwickham.org/2018/04/mobile-vehicle-activated-sign results](http://westwickham.org/2018/04/mobile-vehicle-activated-sign-results)

We would be grateful if you could ensure that vehicles do not park in front of these signs when they are in use as it will spoil the quality of data we can capture.

Trevor Hall

Location	Date from	Date to	Number of vehicles	Number exceeding 35 mph	Maximum recorded Speed
Streetly End East end Facing West	08/01/2018	08/01/2018	180	39	48
West Wickham Church facing SE	13/01/2018	13/01/2018	315	2	38
West Wickham Church facing NW	14/01/2018	14/01/2018	301	0	33
West Wickham Church facing SE	06/02/2018	07/02/2018	670	0	30
White Gables facing West	25/02/2018	01/03/2018	1808	157	48
White Gables facing East	19/03/2018	28/03/2018	1689	65	43
White Gables facing West	29/03/2018	03/04/2018	893	29	43
Streetly End East end Facing East	08/04/2018	13/04/2018	2954	88	53

BEWARE; THE SPEEDWATCH TEAM IS OUT AND ABOUT AGAIN!

We wouldn't like you to be caught!



HELPING HANDS

It seems that many of you are not aware of a voluntary taxi service in Balsham called HELPING HANDS which will take people to hospital /doctors appointments or other travel needs for those who don't drive themselves and have no other means of transport. (There is a charge for this service). Contact them on 07399 263222. Local volunteer drivers are Pete Grieve, Sue Thurston and Di Licence.

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

NEXT DATE: **26.05.2018** 7PM-11PM



WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club welcomed Mike Warren, a photographer and horticulturist from Ipswich, on Monday 16 April who gave a talk on Climbers Crawlers and Creepers. The message we were given is that you can cover your garden, fences and walls with plants that will give you a riot of colour right through the seasons. His talk was, as we would expect beautifully illustrated and I'm sure we all found something new to add to our gardens.

Can I now remind you that our FANTASTIC, BUMPER PLANT SALE IS ON SATURDAY 19 MAY AT 10:30 THE VILLAGE HALL. Don't be late since we find many of the choice plants are snapped up in the first half hour. There will be coffee/tea and cake on offer so make it an opportunity to meet up and chat with our knowledgeable and friendly members. Hope to see you there.

Rosemary Yallop

BALSHAM SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

This is on Saturday 19 May in Holy Trinity Church Balsham and is a celebration of the centenary of Hubert Parry, one of Britain's most famous choral composers. Also included are songs by Franz Schubert, a selection of Abba favourites from Mamma Mia and more.

The concert starts at 7.30 and tickets can be bought from the Post Offices in Balsham and Abington - £10 in advance and £12 on the door.

PARISH NURSE

If you would like the parish nurse to call please ring Claire Gillett on 07498 994205

MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Patrick Charlton

My family & I have lived in West Wickham for 20 years. Since arriving, we have always tried to be active members of the West Wickham community and we have made many friendships along the way.



I worked for many years in retail sales management, and now I work for myself as a management consultant. Outside work I enjoy golf and other outdoor pursuits.

I have been fortunate to serve on the Parish Council since May 2011 and the last few years as it's Chair. As a Council member I believe we should represent the interests of the whole Parish in a fair and reasonable manner in an ever-changing and sometimes challenging environment.



Marcus Cornish

I have lived in the Parish since 1975 and brought my family up here at Manor Farm. My business is arable farming and over the years have had several outside interests. Nicky and I have taken an active part in village life now for what is a very long time!

Peter Grieve

Sue and I have lived in West Wickham for nearly 27 years and have always been very happy here. I've been a member of the Parish Council for 12 years. I'm on the Village Hall Management Committee, and in various clubs that use the Hall. I regularly walk local footpaths, accompanied by our dogs.



Di Licence

I have lived in the village for 38 years and have always been involved in the community, which is important to me, serving on the PCC, PC and Village Hall committee. I am passionate about nature and the environment and love to walk the local footpaths. West Wickham is a lovely part of

rural Cambridgeshire and we should try to keep it that way.

Most people know that I am very keen on wildlife and the natural environment. Other human needs can sometimes clash with the interests of the natural world. We all need somewhere to live and I'm aware that there is an identified need for some affordable housing in West Wickham. I am hopeful that this need can be met while preserving what is good about West Wickham and protecting the needs of other living things.

David Sargeant

Amy and I moved to West Wickham from Sawston in 2012. We both wanted to live in and contribute to a small rural community. Having grown up in Balsham, I attended the Meadow School and Linton Village College and know the area well. I work as a software engineer and Amy is a primary school teacher.



For the past two years, I have served on the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and will continue to report on progress in my new role as a parish councillor. Once completed, I believe that the Neighbourhood Plan will play an important part in protecting the rural character of the village.

I am looking forward contributing to the Parish Council over the next 4 years.



Alex Schuilenburg

I moved to West Wickham in 1999 from Somerset with my wife, Helen, and our daughter Michelle joined us 5 years later. I joined the Parish Council 3 years ago on the hope I could contribute back to the West Wickham community, and have found the experience becoming the "Broadband Guy" very rewarding and

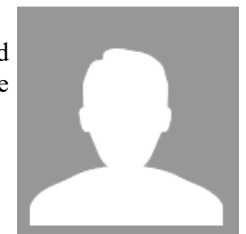
enjoyable - and still do. I appreciate and enjoy the countryside which is important to me. I also enjoy the rural nature and friendly communal atmosphere of West Wickham, and hopefully have represented the views of its residents on the Parish Council, something I will continue to do. The rural nature of the village does make the provision of some essential services difficult so I will continue to help ensure these services are provided, built-upon and protected for current and future generations to enjoy using my experience as a both a "techie" and a managing director.

A N O T H E R

There is a vacancy. Anyone interested in being co-opted please contact the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards

T: 01223 665260

E: parish.clerk@westwickham.org



NATURE NOTES

We've had a slow start to spring but now everything is on the move. Di has spotted that the ash buds are nearly bursting, well before the oak, which bodes ill for a barbecue summer if you believe the old saying 'ash before oak, you're in for a soak.' As if we haven't already had one. Horse chestnut buds are changing daily, revealing green leaves and flower spikes. They are always among the first trees to come in to leaf, and the first to lose them in the autumn. Most spectacular have been the spring flowers which seem to have been ready and waiting to come into bloom as soon as the snow disappeared. The violets surprised me most. The very day after the snow had gone I saw a clump in flower. Seeing something like that gives you such a boost. The cowslips, windflowers (wood anemones) and oxlips are also all flowering along with the reliable old celandine. I was particularly pleased to find two clumps of coltsfoot in the ditch alongside the footpath which goes nowhere. (You have to stop and turn round at the Suffolk boundary, which was a good thing because I saw the coltsfoot twice.)

Insects are active whenever they can be. Di saw bees feeding on the new flowers on two recent sunny days and she disturbed 'a very angry hornet' from its hibernation when emptying last year's hanging basket. Some people can be very inconsiderate. She also saw her favourite bee fly, with its long proboscis feeding on purple violets in a patch of sunshine. Ann told me she had a brimstone and a beautiful peacock butterfly flying in her garden. Having survived the winter, these insects react to a rise in temperature, but when the weather takes a turn for the worse they need to find shelter again.

Last month I was asking for the first person to hear a chiffchaff. Nobody contacted me perhaps because the chiffchaffs were much later to arrive than in recent years, but they're here now and have been swiftly followed by their fellow warblers, the blackcap and willow warbler. All three have been heard by various people. The best news however is that the swallows are back. Trevor reported a group sitting on a wire in Withersfield, Di tells me that two have been seen in the churchyard and Louise sent me a photograph of a new arrival perching on a roof. Other bird sightings include a nuthatch visiting the feeder in Trevor's garden. For some reason nuthatches are unusual in West Wickham although they can be seen in Lower Wood in Weston Colville or East Town Park in Haverhill. Ann has seen barn owls quartering in the evenings in the field behind her house. My preoccupation is with the jackdaws who visit our garden. They are developing a sense of entitlement for sharing the chickens' food, not to mention dropping twigs down the chimney. But you have to love them. Next month, let us know when you hear the first cuckoo, who as Di says 'comes in April, sings its song in May, changes its tune in the month of June, and in July it flies away.'

Finally a word for the mammals. There is plenty of evidence of badger activity, which is possibly one reason why there are so few hedgehogs in rural areas. They are much more common in suburban gardens apparently. There have been plenty of deer sightings – particularly muntjac, but Sue (and Kip, who was on the lead at the time fortunately) saw a group of roe deer near Skippers Hall

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

The Club will be holding its Annual Show on Saturday 18 August. We will be distributing the schedule to all households nearer the date but a preview for anyone keen to plan ahead is available from me now and will be available at the Plant Sale on 19 May. The theme will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the RAF. We are reintroducing photography classes and felt you would want to know the classes well in advance, they are:

- A local village scene.
- Colour in the garden.
- Flight.

You may also wish to start thinking about the children's classes. These will be:

- A plane made from vegetables and other natural materials.
- A container of garden flowers in red, white and blue.
- A hard boiled egg decorated as a pilot.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863;
E: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

BALSHAM FEAST - 7 JULY "A FEAST FOR EVERYONE"

The biennial Balsham Feast takes place on Saturday 7 July. Along with various food, craft, club and society stalls on the recreation grounds there will be lots of fun activities and entertainment for the whole family during the afternoon, and live entertainment on into the evening with a BBQ. One of the major attractions during the afternoon will be our popular Fun Dog Show. There will be 10 classes and your dog can be entered into one or more. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each class will be awarded a rosette, and the 1st place winner from each class will be entered into a 'Best in Show'.

To enter, pick up a registration form from either The Old Butchers in Balsham, or Balsham Post office. It is recommended that you enter your pooch in advance to beat the queues on the day. Registration in advance (before 16 June): £2 per class or £5 for 3 entries; on the day: £2.50 per class or £6 for 3 entries. For more information about what the Feast has in store, please see our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/balshamfeast

D'ABO TENNIS CLUB

The new tennis season begins on 1 May. The Club at the Recreation Ground in West Wrattling is a great place to play! Members also benefit from being able to enter the Club's Wimbledon ballot. For more information on membership visit www.WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk or phone the club treasurer Mark Holme on 07768 443223.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May

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