

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE / JULY 2018

ISSUE 182

VILLAGE DIARY

JUNE

- Sun 3 All ages praise.9.30, St Mary's Church
Gardens open. Clover Cottage, Streetly End & 25 High Street, West Wickham. 12noon - 5pm. Combined adm £4.50, children free. Light refreshments at Clover Cottage
- Mon 4 Black wheeled bin collection
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 11 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Local History Club. Rearranged date. Walk around the Abingtons with Jennifer Hirsh. Meet 6.45 at the Abington Institute car park
- Sat 16 **Daisy Chains Pre-School 40th anniversary tea party. 2.30 – 4.00pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 18 Black wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. Evening garden visit to Waverley, Cardinals Green. Details from Rosemary Yallop, T: 01799 584262
- Sat 23 **MIDSUMMER HUB NIGHT Live music, BBQ and bar. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 24 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 25 Blue & green wheeled bin collection

JULY

- Sun 1 All ages praise.9.30, St Mary's Church
- Mon 2 Black wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. Evening garden visit to a bonsai garden in Castle Camps. Details from Rosemary Yallop, T: 01799 584262
- Sun 8 No church service
- Mon 9 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 Black wheeled bin collection
Deadline for items to go in the August edition of the Village Voice
- Sun 22 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 23 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend
- Sat 28 **HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 29 United Benefice service. 10.00, St Mary's Church
- Mon 30 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 Carpet Bowls Club meets on Wednesdays 7pm, Village Hall**

THE VILLAGE HALL

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226
Email: bookings@westwickham.org
or visit www.westwickham.org

VANDALISM IN WEST WICKHAM

Dear Residents

We have received reports of anti-social behaviour issues and criminal damage being caused to property and sports equipment at West Wickham Village Hall and the recreation/sports play area. This is believed to be by a group of children/teenagers. We are trying to encourage local residents and other people frequenting the area to report any problems that they see, as we believe not everything is being reported to the Police.

There are a few ways in which you can report things to the Police.

Call **101** - the non-emergency telephone number for the Police.

Call **999** - the urgent telephone number for the Police - if a crime is happening there and then

You can also report things to us on-line by logging on to our website www.cambs.police When you have logged on you have the option to "report a crime" or "report a concern". If you click "report a crime" you will be given a few options as to what type of crime you wish to report i.e. criminal damage, theft, hate crime, etc. If you click "report a concern" you will be able to report anti social behaviour, drug usage/distribution, and other concerns.

We would like to try and tackle these issues and the more reports we get, the more we will be able to deal with this pro-actively.

PCSO 7239 Leanne Fisher, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

NEEDED – SOMEONE TO DELIVER THE VILLAGE VOICE IN STREETLY END

Malcolm Mizon is leaving the village shortly. We wish him all the best for his move and thank him for delivering the Village Voice in Streetly End over the last year and a half.

Consequently we need someone to take this vital job on from the August issue. If you think you can help and would like to know more please contact Andrew Morris on 290863.

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

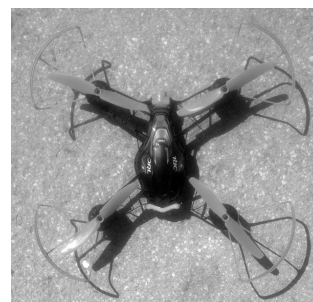
West Wickham Village Hall is looking for a new cleaner to come once a week and clean the Hall including cloakroom facilities and kitchens. 2 hours a week to start as soon as possible. If you are interested please email Keens@talktalk.net by 15 June.

Simon Keen

HAVE YOU LOST A DRONE?

I found this behind my garage. It is a black and red Nikko DRL drone, about 39cm in diameter. If the owner is out there somewhere and wants it back then he/she can contact me on 291341

Simon Miles



FROM THE VICARAGE

As I've been settling in I've been struck by the beauty of the landscapes which surround our villages, especially the waving yellow fields at this time of year and the wide horizons. Gazing into the sunlit distance as far as the eye can see, it can be quite captivating, almost numinous. It reminds me of the words of the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, as he gazed out one day and saw a world: 'charged with the grandeur of God'.

My horizons have also been broadened by the variety of people I've encountered. Recently, for example, I met with representatives of the charity: *Reach Community Projects*. Reach is based in Haverhill but also works in South Cambridgeshire. It began by founding a debt advice centre but has expanded to include running a food bank and assisting people with housing and benefit enquiries. I was so impressed with scope of their vision and the number of people they assist. This has opened my eyes to ways in which we can support one another in our villages and surrounding areas.

At this time of year in the Church we prepare to celebrate Pentecost. Here we remember that God's Spirit dramatically widened the horizons of the early disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection. Their powerful experience of God's Spirit shaped them into a community who supported one another in prayer, compassion and friendship. It took them out of the upper room where they were staying and into the wider world, bearing a message of God's love for us in Christ.

It can help us all, now and then, to pause and gaze into the distance as far as our eyes can see. When we broaden our horizons we can be captivated by the beauty of our environment as if noticing places for the first time. We can also see more of the different needs in our local community and to be inspired with concern and love for our wider world.

Revd Iain McColl

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

We have had to change the date of the Garden Party from Friday 22 June to Friday 6 July 6.30 at Manor Farm. We will be sending invites in due course.

Marcus Cornish

ST MARY'S WESTON COLVILLE FLOWER FESTIVAL

with a display of wedding dresses
Teas & Cakes

Saturday 23 June 11.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday 24 June 10.00am - 5.00pm

Contact: Phillippa Coates cheviotpfc@icloud.com

Enjoy beautiful summer flowers and wedding dresses from the village through the ages

There will be a special service to celebrate married life at

09.15am Sunday 24 June

Everyone is welcome, bring the family

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 with the August Village Voice but if you want an early copy please contact me. 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

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

At the start of this term we welcomed Ilana to our unit, due to changes in her gymnastics club she has transferred to us from Burrough Green Brownies. Ilana has fitted in really well and has even got used to my battiness.

This term we have been working on a Royal Wedding badge. So far we have made a card and it has been posted to the happy couple, we have made hobby-horses and created our own Coat of Arms for our Sixes. We still have to create our own family tree, play games inspired by the Invictus Games, design our own engagement ring and make cookies.

Just before half-term we attended our annual District Campfire at the Jarman Centre. We all enjoyed learning new songs as well as singing all the old familiar ones. We finished off the evening with a S'More, delicious.

Towards the end of term we have our annual Strawberry Evening in Linton to look forward to. Fingers crossed the weather will be kind and the sun will shine on us.

We are a small group of Brownies and would welcome any new girls joining our merry band so 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

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

NEXT DATE: **23.06.18** 7PM-11PM

MIDSUMMER HUB NIGHT
Live music, BBQ and bar as usual.



NATURE NOTES

It was a late spring, but we are now being treated to some lush growth, beautiful wildflowers and blossom in the fields, hedgerows and verges. Di gives a mention to the humble dandelion and buttercup, which, en masse, are a wonderful golden spectacle. Even after flowering, the dandelion seed heads make a nice picture, until you realise the wind is blowing in the direction of your garden. Other blooms to savour include the blousy may blossom from the hawthorn hedge, the less conspicuous wayfaring and guelder rose blossoms, the bluebells and early purple orchids in the shady woods and the swathes of shepherd's parsley or Queen Anne's Lace and stitchwort or shirt buttons. The different names of wildflowers are important to remember. Things that you can name you are more likely to value.

In our garden the cuckoo flower, or lady's smock has flowered in profusion this year, appreciating the wet ground. It is one of the plants on which the orange tip butterfly lays its eggs, another being garlic mustard or jack by the hedge. Orange tips seem to have been plentiful this spring – they are the first of our butterflies to emerge from chrysalis, having been in that form for ten to eleven months, their egg and caterpillar phases being relatively short. We have also seen a green-veined white in our garden – another butterfly that makes an early appearance. In other insect news, Di has had another hornet flying around the garden and showing interest in an old tree trunk, which she hopes will become a hornets' nest. She also reports the woolly aphids back on the alder trees on the Croft. Seen under a hand lens they look like white fluffy aliens.

Remember Patsy the partridge, who nested outside Dave and Amy's front door last year? Well this year it was the turn of Felicity the pheasant who chose an even more vulnerable spot right next to a footpath. There were a dozen or more eggs in it, but the nest became deserted and one by one the eggs were broken into, so it was not such a happy ending. Slightly more conventional nesting habits include blackbirds in Len's shed with five chicks and starlings under the eaves in Ann's house.

The first report of a cuckoo came from Juliet who heard it on the Bank Holiday morning. I heard what could have been the same bird on the evening of the same day, but nothing since so maybe it was just passing through. However an intrepid band of people had a dawn chorus walk in Lower Wood recently and a cuckoo was heard there. There has been a barn owl hunting all round our houses up here in Burton End and one morning Brian & Linda were having breakfast when it flew directly towards their window before adjusting its flight and flying over the house and over to the field opposite. The following day it was seen out at lunchtime disappearing into Arthur's trees. This was the day after a very wet night when hunting would have been impossible, so I guess it is feeding young. As far as we know, no swifts have arrived yet. Di says they often use the church as a nest site, which is ironic as they have been associated with the devil. Let us know if you see a swift in West Wickham, although by the time of the next Village Voice they will be thinking of departing. Swifts come late and go early.

Finally, find of the month came in Trevor's garden where he discovered a fallow deer antler which must have been shed that night.

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

BALSHAM GUIDES IS CLOSING CAN YOU HELP SAVE IT?

After many years generously giving up her time to lead us, our fantastic Guide leader is sadly leaving us on the 5 July to pursue other longstanding interests. Could you take her place?

We offer a full training programme, mentoring and leadership qualification in a fun, girl led environment full of engaging activities, laughter and challenges. We need 1 or ideally 2 people to come forward to run our unit in Balsham. They currently meet on a Wednesday from 7 to 8.30pm but this can be changed to suit as long as their meeting place is free. Come and join in the fun and create some incredible experiences and amazing memories for yourself and our girls.

If you think you could help or would like to know more, please contact Louisa on 01223 833776 or email louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively you can register you're interested on the Girlguiding website www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

COME AND PLAY!

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) has launched a new interactive online learning site to promote fire and road safety to young people across the county.

Developed by Matmi, Sparkton is an online town that children can explore, play games and learn safety tips. From quizzes to spot the hazards, to testing road safety knowledge, there's lots to see and do.

The new initiative has been developed through a collaboration with a number of other fire services in England and Wales, including Cheshire, Leicestershire and Nottingham, where it has already proved popular.

The educational game is targeted at children aged seven to 11 in Key Stage Two and can be accessed from home or at school, across all different devices and platforms. It has been designed to help the next generation learn about fire and road safety in safe environment.

You can start playing on Sparkton at: <http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/games/sparkton/>



"A Feast for Everyone"

Saturday 7th July is The Balsham Feast
1pm until late - Balsham Recreation Ground

Along with various food, craft, club and society stalls there will be lots of fun activities and entertainment for your whole family during the afternoon, with live entertainment on into the evening with a BBQ. Look at just some of the fun!

- Three bands
- The world famous Balsham "Dog Show"
- Daring teddy-bear drop – from the church steeple!
- Raptors
- Antiques Roadshow – bring your hidden treasures
- Belly dancing
- Donkey rides and sheep dog handling
- Human hamster balls and a bouncy castle
- Punch and Judy
- Gardening "Have-a-go" show

Get all the latest news @ [facebook.com/balshamfeast](https://www.facebook.com/balshamfeast)

WESTON COLVILLE CIRCULAR WALK

Our next walk will be on Saturday 16 June. Meet at the Reading Room 10am, BYO lunch, & maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

Enquiries to Jacqueline Douglas.
E: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com T: 291475

DON'T LET HAY FEVER SPOIL YOUR SUMMER

Did you know you don't need to see your GP for hay fever treatment? Hay fever and seasonal allergy treatments such as tablets, eye drops and nasal sprays are all easily available at low cost from your local pharmacy – no prescription from your GP required!

Antihistamines are usually the best treatment for hay fever and these can easily be bought from local pharmacies or supermarkets. Buying a packet of 30 tablets can cost as little as £2, but if a patient goes to their GP to get a prescription then it costs the NHS considerably more.

By going to the pharmacy you'll be saving yourself time and money, freeing up GP appointments for people with more urgent needs as well as doing your bit to help the NHS save money on unnecessary prescription costs.

For more information about treating allergies or to find your nearest pharmacy and opening times visit www.nhs.uk

Top tips to help ease hay fever symptoms:

- Keep house and car windows closed, especially when the pollen count is high (early morning between 7am to 9am and evenings between 5pm and 7pm).
- Avoid large grassy areas, woodland, cutting the grass and car fumes.
- Wear wrap-around sunglasses.
- Use petroleum jelly inside your nose to block inhalation of pollen.
- Don't dry washing outside to avoid pollen sticking to your clothes.
- When you get in from outside wash your hands, face, hair, rinse your eyes and change your clothes.

Spring and Summer health. Stock up for summer!

The warmer weather often means that we spend more time getting out and about. That's why it is even more important to make sure you stock up on some summer self-care essentials in case you need them.

Key first aid essentials include:

- Painkillers, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.
- Antihistamines for allergies/hay fever.
- Antiseptic cream for bites and stings.
- Sunscreen at least factor 15.
- Plasters and bandages.
- Diarrhoea/constipation relief medication.
- Travel sickness medication.

All of these are easily available to buy at local pharmacies or supermarkets. Further information on medicine cabinet essentials is available at www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Pharmacy/Pages/Yourmedicinescabinet.aspx

For advice on travel health including sun safety, vaccinations, DVT and how to apply for your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is available www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This was held on Monday 21 May. The following reports from the Parish Council, District & County Councillors, Village Hall and village organisations were presented.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for the time and effort that they give so generously to the West Wickham Parish. Many different meetings are attended by the Parish Councillors on your behalf, Balsham Ward Forum, A1307 Parishes Forum, Village Hall Committee, Neighbourhood Watch, Police liaison and various planning meetings to name but a few. Alex Schuilenburg was nominated for a community award earlier in the year and I'm delighted to report that he was recognised for all his hard work and dedication to the Parish and was the highest un-paid official to receive this.

The Haverhill Strategy Board's A1307 preferred Northern route has caused major concern amongst our Parishioners, with over 100 attending a meeting on 2nd January, all the information that we had was shared and a A1307 Working Group has been set up, ably chaired by Georgina Magin. The purpose of the Group is to ensure that all information available is scrutinised and challenged where necessary. Lucy Fraser our MP and all local elected officials have been written to highlight and share our concerns. I have also met with Lucy, along with other Parish Chairs, in March to discuss our concerns in greater detail.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has been progressing well under the Chair of Trevor Hall, but as yet not completed. The importance of having an adopted plan would appear to be essential with regards how much weight is given to the Parish's views on planning applications. A new Chair from the Parish Council will be needed with Trevor Hall having not stood for re-election this time around.

Excessive speeding within the Parish and the surrounding area, is quite rightly, a major concern to many Parishioners. As a council we have invested jointly with other Parishes to have use of two speed signs to help reduce the speed of cars within the local area. With the data being produced it helps us identify where we have real speed issues within the Parish and this can then assist our excellent speedwatch team where to focus their efforts.

South Cambridgeshire planning still continues to 'baffle' me with some of its decision making! The Parish Council has always been consistent in its approach with regards the development within the Parish. The exception being the latest Burton End application, where it was unanimously felt it was in the best interest of the Parish.

It saddens me greatly to hear that the Village Hall and play area have been damaged by some of our younger members of the Parish, along with some anti-social behaviour that has put off some families wanting their child to use the play area. All incidents have been reported, and I believe the Police will be visiting on a regular basis to provide a visible deterrent. I'd ask any parent of children who use these facilities to ensure that their child understands what are acceptable standards of behaviour. Any family member should feel confident in using these great facilities.

The West Wickham Pub Hub continues to be popular and

Continued.....

Annual Parish Meeting Reports continued

I'd like to thank all those involved, especially, Nicci Trudgeon, Di Licence and The Chestnut Tree pub. It's a great way to get to know the local community and support local charities.

The Village Voice is supported by your Parish Council and it is an excellent resource for all. Thank you to the editors Andrew Morris and Sue Thurston along with all the contributors.

Our Parish website is also great for information westwickham.org, as is signing up to the resident's email group.

As a Council, we continue to set the precept at around £65 per household, currently this should give us an annual surplus to allow for the unexpected and with the knowledge that more financial burdens will continue to be passed down towards Parish Councils. Your Parish Council meets six times during the year.

Jenny Richards our Parish Clerk has done another year's sterling work on behalf of West Wickham and we are truly grateful for her experience and professionalism.

Trevor Hall and Justin Plumb decided not to put themselves up for re-election earlier this month, so leave the Council. Our new Play Area would not have happened without Justin's dedication to raising the funds and implementing the new build. Trevor has been instrumental in the getting the Neighbourhood Plan started and where it is today, along with getting us up and running with our two speed sensors and being the Parish's Tree Warden. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to you both, thank you.

We welcome David Sargent to the Council and look forward to a fresh pair of eyes and hands.

Patrick Charlton, Chair, West Wickham Parish Council

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

All Change at South Cambs

The big story is undoubtedly the District Council election this month. There has been a completed change of leadership with the Liberal Democrats taking over all control for the first time in the history of South Cambs.

The new Council will be:

Liberal Democrats:	30
Conservatives;	11
Labour:	2
Independents:	2

The new Council takes control at the AGM to be held on 23 May. Our local result was:

Geoff Harvey:	659
Richard Turner:	551
Muhammad Shaheer:	144
Linda Richardson:	34

Rest of the Year

The big ongoing issue has been the Local Plan that has been under review by a government inspector for well over four years. Without the Plan in place the door has opened to developers to build housing in areas around our villages which would not normally be allowed. Over the whole District this has amounted to nearly 6,000 unplanned houses. Balsham has seen large developments approved within and just outside the village envelope as well as nearby villages such as Linton and Abington also receiving

planning approval for large schemes. We understand that the Inspector will finish her work on the Local Plan around June or July. Once it is back in place the villages will be protected again.

We have better news on the A1307 where the Greater Cambridge Partnership is proposing to invest at least £39 Million in safety and public transport improvements to the road. This will include a roundabout at the Bartlow crossroads at Linton as well as speed reductions, improved traffic lights systems, and bus priority measures. We are expecting to hear the results of the recent consultation process in the next few weeks, see a revised plan and hope to hear that work will start on the Haverhill to A11 section this summer.

Children's Centres

The County took the decision last year to 're-designate' some of Cambridgeshire's Children's Centres, which means that the County Council owned buildings that have Children's Centres in them will no longer be classed as such. We have one in Linton and this was one of the Centres that was earmarked for re-designation. They are having some issues with the Trust that run the building however, as the County Council have the Children's Centre on a long-term lease, which they are struggling to get out of but they are still working through and so will eventually not be there. The plan from the County Council is to offer the same services remotely via outreach programmes. Our concerns are that the transition won't be as smooth as planned and some people will be left in limbo without any support to which they are entitled.

Park & Ride Charges

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (City Deal) has agreed to take on the charge for parking at Cambridge's Park & Ride sites. This includes the annoying electronic system for actually parking the car as well as the charge. The charge for the actual bus remains but the charge and the system for the car park have now been removed.

District Councillor Geoff Harvey & County Councillor Henry Batchelor

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Bookings. The Hall continues to be used regularly by groups and clubs from within and outside the village and income from hire charges has been similar to previous years.

The Village Hub Nights have been occurring regularly and are welcome opportunities for residents and friends of the village to get together, with the Village Hall providing a good venue for this activity.

Daisy Chains Preschool is the most frequent user of the Hall. Their finances remain finely balanced and current occupancy rate well below capacity. The Committee applied a discretionary 25% discount for both the autumn and spring terms, to help alleviate the financial pressures on the Preschool.

Both KenYuKan and Karate Clubs have twice weekly bookings and the Carpet Bowls club also has a regular evening booking ensuring that the Hall is in use almost every day.

Local History and Gardening clubs within the Village continue solidly and are represented on the committee. As with previous years, there have been many ad hoc sports

Continued

Annual Parish Meeting Reports continued

hire bookings and functions held during the year. The Post Office continues to operate out of the hall, run by Clare Butfield.

Health and Safety. Health and Safety (H&S) continues to be a priority for the Committee and regular checks have been performed as part of Preschool's compliance with Ofsted regulations. In addition all regular users are asked to report any concerns, so that they can be investigated and assessed promptly. The regular fire extinguisher service was undertaken.

Committee. The Committee met four times during the calendar year and the meetings were all well attended and productive. Louise Salter has stated her intention to step down from the role of booking secretary and we are actively seeking a replacement.

Maintenance. No large maintenance work was carried out in the calendar year.

The fire alarm system has had an overhaul with some of the smoke and heat detectors being replaced. The moveable dividing wall has also been serviced.

The Hall remains in a state of good repair with work being performed as and when required, with sufficient funds in the bank accounts to cover any work required.

A quote has been sought to replace the heating system on a like-for-like basis. Although not an immediate issue we can now plan for the cost of this when it is required. Alternative heating solutions are also being explored that may be more environmentally friendly and have potential to reduce ongoing costs. No conclusions have been reached as to the preferred option at this stage.

Nadine Warner, our caretaker, has recently resigned her position and we are currently seeking a replacement. Ideally this would be somebody from the village but in the meantime we are looking at contractors to perform this task, hopefully as a short term measure.

Finances. The Hall has made a small profit this year, thanks to very consistent bookings and no large maintenance work required. On this basis the Hall operates slightly above break even. The Hall has a healthy cash balance in its bank accounts which should cover most foreseeable eventualities. However, as the Hall ages it is anticipated that more extensive maintenance will be required and it is important to consider this when taking a longer term view on the Hall's financial situation.

Fundraising. There have not been any significant fundraising efforts in the last year.

Website. The website (<http://westwickham.org>) content continues to grow steadily and is now the responsibility of the Parish Council. Not the Village Hall.

Miscellaneous. Di Licence has proposed that the Village Hall applies for an alcohol license so that hub nights are all legal and above board, without the need to apply for a single use license for each event. The Committee are working with Di on the application.

Simon Keen, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

PRESCHOOL LEADERS REPORT 2017 - 2018

We started Sept 2017 very quietly (due to a large primary school intake in the previous July) so we had to postpone Friday sessions with only 7 pupils on the register filling 22

sessions out of a possible 96 available. By May of this year we are up to 18 registered children but these still only take up 34 places out of a possible 120. (We restarted Friday sessions in January with just 4 children attending , and at a loss to the Preschool)

Due to the fact that we had so few children the Village Hall Committee thankfully granted us discount for the autumn term which was extended to the spring term. Our thanks go to the Committee for this generous offer as it really does help our accounts to remain on a more viable basis.

We have continued our normal fundraising events and although we have continued to make profits at all of them we have noted a considerable drop of about 50%.

Our events this year have been Bingo, Christmas Fair, Quiz Night, Easter Event and Jumble Sale.

This year being our 40th Anniversary, we have a celebration afternoon tea planned on 16 June. The VHC have allowed us a "no charge" fee for this event as we are hosting it as a village community get together for anybody who has attended or had any involvement in the playgroup over the last 40 years, We are not holding this as a profit making event.

Themes that we have covered this year include :-

- All About Me
- Machines
- On the Farm
- Emergency 999
- Under the Ground.

Our annual visit this year was taken on May 3rd (Polling Day) when we went to East Town Park in Haverhill. 6 families and 2 members of staff enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning going on a nature trail, having a picnic and then letting the children loose on the lovely playground there.

Staffing – we had one member of staff return from her maternity leave, only to lose another member who went off on her maternity leave and who is due to come back in June if she wishes to return. Sadly, at the end of this term we will be losing a valued member of our team who has been with us for 6 years. She has been integral in setting up our "cooking school" and garden area along with all the other tasks that come with being a preschool worker. I know for a fact that Nadine will be sorely missed by staff and children alike.

We continue to utilise our valuable outdoor space as a major learning area but are hoping that it is kept a little better by the contractors this year as last summer the whole area became unkempt, and sometimes unusable !

The outdoor area is most definitely a draw to potential users of Daisychains so it is important to us that it is kept tidy, but most importantly, safe.

I have no "Any Other Business" so it just leaves me to thank the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council for their continued support of our small, but nevertheless, important community asset.

Compiled for, and on behalf of Daisy Chains Committee by Sue Harrow

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Club continues to meet on nearly every Wednesday evening of the year. Carpet bowls is a fairly gentle sport,

Continued

Annual Parish Meeting Reports continued

easy to pick up with all equipment provided and suitable for all abilities. We do not play in a league but prefer to keep evenings sociable. Members come from Balsham, Horseheath, Haverhill and even Cherry Hinton as well as West Wickham so there is plenty of opportunity to meet others. We also play friendly matches against other clubs in the area and these are inevitably enjoyable occasions.

Like all clubs we would welcome more members so why not come along and give carpet bowls a try.

Janet Morris, Secretary

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Report for the twelve months to 30 April 2018.

The Club once again had a good year, with one particular success and one planned omission. The first major event of the Club's year was as usual the Annual Plant Sale – an important contributor both to the Club's finances and to the richness of local gardens. After three years of increased takings at the Sale, we rather held our breath as to how we would perform this time, and so were delighted to receive the news from our Treasurer, Andrew Morris, that the 2017 Sale had raised (in his words) an “astonishing” sum, well above previous records. The second major event of the Club's summer is usually the Annual Show in August, but this year the combination of health challenges to some members of the Show Committee and the loss through relocation of other members resulted in a carefully considered decision to rest the Show for 2017. A rejuvenated Show Committee has already announced its plans for a revitalised 2018 Show in August.

The other regular activities of the Club's summer months took place as usual. Two of them were the Monday evening visits to local gardens of interest, which this year were Ashdon Hall in Ashdon and the Moat House in Little Saxham. The third activity was our all day coach trip, which we once again successfully shared with our neighbouring garden club in Balsham and which was to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley. All three of these outings were master minded by our excellent Programme Secretary, Rosemary Yallop, and each one appeared to be enjoyed by our members.

The core activity of the Club nevertheless continues to be its Monday evening meetings during autumn, winter and spring, and once again our Programme Secretary arranged a diverse range of speakers and events which were well received. The topics of our speakers extended from the practical (such as an excellent talk on garden bugs) to the more decorative (talks on roses, hyacinths and hemerocallis), and these presentations sandwiched an interesting in-house Question & Answer meeting at Christmas. Meetings always end with discussion and then refreshments, and attendance at all of them was healthy.

Most members of the Club took advantage of the arrangement we have for the purchase of seed at a considerably reduced price, and we are indebted to our Trading Secretary, Marian Corbett, for handling this laborious operation. Members also benefit from the advice and information which is supplied in our occasional *Newsletter*, which is produced by Janet Morris. Janet has also taken over, on behalf of the Garden Club, the

maintenance of the strip of garden along the front of the Village Hall.

The income of the Club continues to come from a combination of members' subscriptions, the Christmas Raffle and the Plant Sale, and the main expenditure continues to be on paying the speakers and on hiring the Village Hall for Club events. We are fortunate that all these financial activities remain under the careful management of our excellent Treasurer, Andrew Morris. The membership of the Club has increased slightly to 35, which includes some new residents of the village. The promised planting of an ornamental crab apple tree in memory of Sylvia Norton, a most loyal and long standing member, took place during the year.

Arthur Mawby, Chairman

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The highlight of the past year was being able to stage the British premiere of *Wollaston; a Man and a Mission* – the dramatised diaries of John Ramsden Wollaston, perpetual curate in West Wickham from 1825-1840, who emigrated to Western Australia and there helped establish the Anglican church. Members of the Stark Raven Theatre Company from Bunbury, WA, gave their services freely which enabled us to raise over £400 for repairs to the church and we are very grateful to the actors, Tony Martin & Siguri Luckwell; cellist, Gideon Gray and playwright/acting director, Norm Flynn.

In July, we excavated 5 more test pits as part of our community archaeology project. With dating evidence now from 33 test pits, we feel we are able to answer the original questions we had about when and where medieval settlement took place in the village. We will be obtaining a quote for analysing the pottery from Digs 2-4, raising the money for this and completing our final report. We are now looking for a new archaeology project with new questions which need answering, especially as we have a core of enthusiastic 'diggers'.

The Club has organised a full programme of talks from October to April on such diverse subjects as the River Cam, the Abingtons in the 1930s and Victorian & Edwardian buildings in Cambridge.

Research on the men on the War Memorial who died in the First World War is virtually finished. The Secretary has had an article on the long demolished Horseheath Hall recently published in the *Proceedings of Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. Most of West Wickham was part of the Horseheath estate at this time (17th/18th centuries) – a copy is available to borrow.

We are only a small group and would welcome more interest in the Club and some new members.

Janet Morris, Secretary

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.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The School is in the middle of a rather quieter week as the Year 6 and Year 2 sit silently in the hall or classrooms completing their Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATS. Whilst there is much debate in the media as to the benefit of these assessments, they are statutory and schools are still bench marked against their outcomes. In the current climate of high accountability, it is very easy to become obsessed with their outcomes and allow them to drive our ethos and climate of the school. As a staff, we believe strongly in the delivery of a high quality, balanced curriculum, which will prepare our children adequately for these tests, whilst helping them grow into well rounded and responsible children. Any visitor to our school, will see happy and enthusiastic learners, engaged in a high quality curriculum. We continue to observe with pride the way in which our children have confidently approached their SATS, but we are reassured they have continued to receive a broad and balanced curriculum.



One group of children fortunate enough to enjoy the Spring sunshine was Years 3 and 4 who visited Kew Gardens for their entry point to 'Carnival'. Despite the horrible traffic on the M25, the children and staff have reported that it was the

best trip ever! We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic resource within our reach and the children have not stopped sharing their new snippets of knowledge with us since. The children were able to visit the huge greenhouses holding the 'rainforest' and learn about what a vital, life-giving resource the rainforest is. There was real awe and wonder at just how tall everything was, and the children couldn't get over how many of the everyday things we use come from the rainforest, including the orange colouring used on Doritos crisps! We are looking forward to seeing all the learning inspired by this trip over the coming weeks.

Our Sports teams have been very busy this half term too. At the end of April, lots of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in either Netball tournaments or cross-country competitions. The netball teams travelled to two tournaments where the teams played brilliantly against some stiff competition and returned to school very proud of their efforts. Our fabulous coaches, Mrs Bridgeman and Ms Stone were very proud of each and every player and their brilliant team spirit! Well done! Our PE subject leader, Mrs Tinsley, also accompanied four Year 5 and 6 teams to a Cambridgeshire cross-country competition in St Neots. Over 100 teams took part in this county wide event. The Meadow teams ran brilliantly and represented the school so well. Mrs Tinsley was particularly impressed with the encouragement the teams showed each other and children from other schools. Huge congratulations to the girls teams who finished 12th and 98th and the boys teams who finished 89th and 90th. One again, we are very grateful to the community support we receive from two parents who devote every Friday lunchtime to the running club in school.

Nicola Connor, Headteacher

★ HUB NIGHT! ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL



NEXT DATE: **28.07.18** 7PM-11PM

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Opening LVC for community use is one of the special hallmarks of our heritage. Henry Morris, the Chief Education Officer in Cambridgeshire who founded the Village College movement after the first world war, had a vision for schools being at the heart of their local communities and for 'raising the school leaving age to 90'. His legacy still lives on in the ethos and character of the schools that he established with the intention of making rural schools at the heart of their localities.

It was a great privilege to host Linton's seventh Book Festival at the College. It is always such an inspiring event and special celebration of reading. The buzz of children listening and meeting with authors and engaging with the array of activities is great witness, as is the multi-generational attendance of local families and visitors to the Festival.

Morris' commitment to life-long, enriching learning is borne out through a Memorial Trust which was set up in his memory in 1964, three years after his death. Students aged 13-19 can apply for funding from the Trust to fund projects with a purpose. This year LVC students have been successful in securing grants for trips to the Lake District and Berlin.

We are keen for the College to continue to play an important role in the life of the local community beyond formal schooling. It is great to see the school's buildings, grounds and facilities continue to benefit local residents as well as our students. Most weekends, even those not hosting exceptional events such as the Book Festival, see the school packed with fixtures and other activities, as is the case after school. Having Linton Granta Playgroup on site and other community users such as the Linton's Air Training Corps adds another dimension to our learning community.

Our adult education programme and sports centre facilities are two integral parts of our wider provision, as is making the College available for lettings. New websites have recently been launched to publicise our classes and facilities. I hope that this important aspect of the school's culture continues to flourish.

www.lintoncommunitysportscentre.co.uk
www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 July

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