

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2018

ISSUE 186

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 4 United Parishes service. 10.45, Balsham Church
- Mon 5 Black wheeled bin collection
- Sun 11 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wratting Common Memorial Remembrance Day service. 12.00,
Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Local History Club. *Heraldry with a twist*. Talk by Chloe Cockerill. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Mon 12
- Fri 16 Deadline for items to be included in the December Village Voice.
- Sun 18 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 19 Black wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. *The gardens of National Trust Ickworth*. Talk by Sean Read. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 24 **Daisy Chains Pre-School Christmas Fair. 2 - 4pm, Village Hall**
HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall. See page 3
- Sun 25 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 26 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend

Daisy Chains Pre-School meets

Monday & Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall

The Carpet Bowls Club meets on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £8.00/hour
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter

T: 01223 291226

**Email: bookings@westwickham.org
or visit www.westwickham.org**

The Village Voice is sponsored by West Wickham Parish Council and delivered free to all households in West Wickham and Streetly End. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

WEST WICKHAM POST OFFICE

The PO in the Village Hall has closed. Many thanks to Clare Butfield for running it for so long. We hope the Parish Council are making representations to the Royal Mail for a replacement service. The nearest Post Offices are in Balsham and Horseheath.

Balsham PO. Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 5.30, Saturday 9.00 - 12.30.

Horseheath PO. Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9.00 - 12.00.

Thursday: 9.00 - 12.00 & 3.30 - 6.30

RAF WRATTING COMMON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on Sunday 11 November at 12 noon. This year is particularly special as it marks both 100 years since the end of the First World War and also 100 years of the RAF. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville. We hope to be joined by 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 also be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath, Friends of Wratting Common

Email: rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com; T: 01440 730 192

Daisy Chains
Pre School West Wickham

**Come & meet
Santa at our
Christmas Fair
West Wickham Village Hall
Saturday
24th November
2pm - 4pm**

face painting handmade refreshments Santa's grotto
raffle childrens craft activities tombola
cake stall chocolate fountain lucky dip

exciting gift ideas
from our selection
of craft stalls

All funds raised go to Daisy Chains Pre School

FROM THE VICARAGE

It's the time of year when leaves are turning russet brown and falling, conkers appear on paths and playgrounds and there is a medley of fireworks and early Christmas craft fairs! Amidst all of these activities and before we look ahead to Christmas, there is also the opportunity to engage with another ancient festival.

All Hallows' or All Saints' day is celebrated in many places at the beginning of November and is a tradition with a rich history. Paul the apostle referred to all communities of Christians as 'saints' - people called to love God and their neighbour and to seek fullness of life by following Christ. Gradually, a feast day emerged on which the Church gave thanks for the lives and deaths of the 'saints' including those famous and obscure.

All Saints' day is like a family reunion day for the church, when the old family photograph albums are pulled out and we remember where we came from. Stories are swapped of relatives in the faith, saints old and new, and we pray for God's continued guidance.

It's also a time when we can reflect on an unsung saint in our neighbourhood, whose faithful acts of kindness and generosity inspire us and perhaps portray a richer, deeper experience of life with all its sorrows and joys.

Most people can think of their own example of an unsung saint. Perhaps someone who acted as a mentor in our childhood or inspired us later in life. By remembering and being grateful for such people, we also recall our own responsibility to support and inspire others in similar ways. In doing so, we may point towards a life of faith, hope and love, the fullness of life which All Saints' day reminds us of.

Rev'd Iain McColl

DISSECTING DEMENTIA

A discussion with

Heidi Allen, *MP for South Cambridgeshire*
Dr Lelane Van de Poel, *Consultant Geriatrician*
and

Lucy Frost, *Dementia Lead Nurse Consultant*

Thursday 8 November, 6.30pm-8.00pm
(Talk will start at 7.00pm)

at St Mary's Church, High St, Great Abington

Engaging in a conversation about one of the biggest health and care challenges facing our community.

How can we better care for those living with dementia? What can we do to help reduce our risks?

This is a health awareness event, as part of our Parish Nurse Project.

Please note that this is a free event - No booking required

Refreshments will be available

For more information contact

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

October saw the first of our monthly talks and we were pleased to welcome David Hack. He gave us a talk entitled "Make your garden count with BTO garden birdwatch". David is British Trust for Ornithology ambassador for Suffolk and as well as explaining the work of the Trust we were shown photographs of many garden birds taken in his own garden along with their songs. We had advice on feeding birds and also how to make our gardens more welcoming to wildlife. We were delighted to see so many members and guests who turned out on a wet and windy night, which only goes to show that it is not just plants that we gardeners enjoy but all aspects of the countryside.

On Monday 19 November Sean Reid the head gardener at Ickworth will come to talk on its gardens. So, if you would like to find out more about the stumpery, the walled garden and the Italianate garden please come along. Our series of monthly talks run from October to April on the 3rd Monday in the month at the Village Hall starting at 7:30. The Club subscriptions are very reasonable at £7 single or £12 family. If you would like to know more about the Club and its activities you can ring me on 01799584262.

Rosemary Yallop

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

There are still places still available for the following Autumn Term workshops:

Saturday 10 November.

Autumn flower arranging designs; Indian cookery for friends (new menu). 10am-4pm, £40.

Taster course for Flower Power Yoga 10am -11.45, £15.00

New this year, spent a fun morning/afternoon with your child/children learning a creative skills at a family workshop.

Wet felt bunting. 9.30-12.30 or 1.00-4pm, £12.50 per adult plus £3 per child for materials

Saturday 8 December.

Fresh Christmas door wreath

Introduction to mosaics

10am -4pm, £40 (additional cost of £20 for materials),

Christmas decorations from recycled materials. 9.30-12.30 or 1pm-3pm, £40.

For more details or an enrolment form please email adult.education@lvc.org or tel 01223 891233 Ext 303 or 317 or look on our new website

www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk

Margaret Kiddy & Jenny Logan,
Adult Education Department

I BEFORE E?

Do you have problems with the English language and the i before e except after c rule? This was sent to me by a Canadian friend!

i before e

Except when your foreign
neighbour Keith receives
eight counterfeit sleighs from
feisty caffeinated weightlifters

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following items were discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24 September. The draft Minutes will be posted on the two new notice boards in front of the Village Hall and in Streetly End.

Recreation ground upkeep: Three companies were asked to quote for grass cutting but they all declined as they did not have the right equipment. It was decided to ask for a quote from our existing contractors and having met the new grass cutting team manager Cllrs. Charlton, Grieve and Licence felt he would see that the requirements regarding the wildflower areas were met.

Streetly End Telephone box: Lucy Cameron has agreed to refurbish the Streetly End telephone box but would like some assistance so please do contact her on lucycameron68@gmail.com

Planning: S/2868/18/LB (51 High Street) was supported but there were concerns about the additional application S/2695/18/FL for an annexe. It was agreed to request a restrictive covenant that the annexe cannot be split from the property as a separate dwelling.

Vacancy on Parish Council: The Village Voice and website had advertised the position but as yet no response.

Finance: Please see the draft Minutes on the noticeboards and website.

Age UK and Parish Nurse Mobile Warden Scheme: Nicky Cornish spoke about both schemes and how the wish was to work together to provide care for those who needed it, with the Parish Nurse visiting and assessing those needs and the Mobile Warden visiting regularly. A fuller report is given in the Minutes.

Transport update: Cllr. Sargeant reported that the Cambs. & Peterborough Combined Authority now supports the Greater Cambridge Partnership's proposals for improvements along the A1307 corridor. 17 schemes for improvement are now progressing to survey and detailed design. Changes are proposed to alter the Dean Road crossroads and speed cameras will be placed between Linton and Horseheath. Georgina Magin reported on the Strategy Board and the Chamber of Commerce Haverhill's next stage of proposals. They are looking at other options for a new road.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Sargeant distributed up-to-date information about progress. The Character Assessment has now been completed. A grant application is being made to cover the costs of setting up the Plan.

Speed Watch: The team had been out in Streetly End and the High St. 90 cars were recorded at both sites, mostly doing less than 30mph.

Lay-by opposite Bottle Hall: It has been established that this is CCC Highways responsibility and they will be filling in the holes shortly.

Footpaths: A parishioner was concerned about the footpath bordering their land which was in need of some clearing and cutting back. The Chairman said that he would speak to all those involved. Cllr. Licence was unable to do anything about footpath 13/14 as the land had been sublet but will continue looking into it. The broken step at the end of footpath 8 has been repaired.

Beech tree in triangle at Streetly End: This is the

responsibility of CCC Highways and the Parish Clerk was informed that someone would be going out to inspect it and if diseased or dying it would be dealt with.

Joint Report from Dist.Cllr. Harvey & County Cllr. Batchelor: This is available on the website.

1. The South Cambridgeshire DC and Cambridge City Local Plan has been adopted and will run until 2031.
2. Cambridge County Council Mineral Waste Incinerator Plan at Waterbeach: This was turned down.

Any Other Business: There have been complaints made about the service now being received from Linton Health Centre since the merger with Sawston, Shelford & Royston. The Chairman had checked that the flu jabs for over 65's would be taking place from 27 October.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 26 November at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260, E: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLE, FRUIT & FLOWERS?

A half-allotment is now vacant, if anyone would like to rent it at £5.00 per year please contact the Parish Clerk at 88, High Street, Balsham, CB21 4EP. T:01223 665260, email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org or contact one of your Parish Councillors. Water is available subject to a separate fee to the Village Hall.

POSTCARDS NEW OR USED AND STAMPS

I am still collecting postcards (every card is worth money) to raise funds for the Sudan Church Association. PLEASE leave stamps on the cards. I have also found an outlet via Little St Mary's Church in Cambridge for any sort of stamp so with Christmas approaching please could you save your stamps along with those on postcards. Profits go to Embracing the Middle East (formerly Biblelands). I can collect cards or stamps

Please contact Joanna Sanders, Nine Chimney House, Balsham T: 01223 893063, E: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

If anyone wishes to buy mint stamps in aid of the Sudan Church Association please contact scastamps@gmail.com or contact me for more information.

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

NEXT DATE: **24.11.18** 7PM-11PM



NOVEMBER IS FISH & CHIPS NIGHT

Fish, scampi, chicken, veg burger & chips
£6.00 per head

Please pre-order by 20 November to Nicci
T: 290886 or email to nicci@innerlather.co.uk

NATURE NOTES

Autumn (known in some parts as 'the back-end') is a good time of year for seeing how things stand, so in this bumper edition of Nature Notes, we're touching on global, regional and local issues as well as our normal comments on recent sightings, developments and activity in the natural world in West Wickham.

IPPC Report: The recent special report on global warming should leave no one in any doubt that if we carry on as we are, the results for people and wildlife will be catastrophic. Scientists are agreed that we need to take action now if we are to limit the rise in global temperatures to a level that will not result in damaging sea level rise, engulfing many coastal cities and low-lying areas, extreme weather and mass extinction of many species. Governments obviously need to respond to this situation but we as individuals can also play our part by restricting our carbon footprint, conserving energy and eating less meat. Let's try.

Hares: We are fortunate in this area to see hares out and about in the fields. In fact, East Anglia is a stronghold of the brown hare which has declined nationally by 80% in the last 100 years. However, Norfolk and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts have expressed great concern at the number of dead and dying hares seen in the region recently. They are joining forces with the University of East Anglia to find out why these hares are dying and they are asking anyone who sees a sick or dead hare to photograph it (especially its head and bottom) and send the photo to Dr Diana Bell at the University of East Anglia by emailing dbell@uae.ac.uk, giving the precise location of the hare. I am sure that Dr Bell would appreciate information about this problem, even from across the border in Cambridgeshire. Hares are always in danger of being shot, as there is no close season, and they are also the subject of illegal hare coursing, which still goes on in this region. Let us hope that local hares will continue to thrive here. I saw a couple of healthy ones recently.

Local raptors: Both kites and buzzards feed on carrion, so they will be attracted by any dead rabbits or hares. Nigel Stevens emailed me to comment on an aerial display of three red kites while a field was being ploughed. I saw a couple gliding low the other day and they had been feeding on a carcass, of which the bones were nearly picked clean. A buzzard was also trying to get involved in this feeding opportunity, but I think was disappointed. Di has expressed sympathy for another young buzzard sitting alone in a field waiting to be fed by its parents. Buzzards do seem to take quite a while to become independent.

The British Trust for Ornithology are asking for people to take part in the tawny owl calling survey. Is anyone in the village doing this? You just set aside 20 minutes during the hours of darkness and report what you hear or do not hear to the BTO on line. It is possible to do this exercise lying in bed with the window open, so no great effort is required.

Dragonflies and other insects: Rosemarie Parks, from Cardinal's Green looks back over the summer: "The first of the overwintering butterflies, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Brimstone, emerged later than in previous years in our part of the country, as did the damsel and dragonflies. I have been recording the numbers and species of the latter for the British Dragonfly Society for seven seasons now, and during that time their fortunes have fluctuated a great

deal.

The Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 210 shows a good number of ponds in West Wickham and Streetly End. Unfortunately most are not on public land and the owners of some of them have not given me permission to survey the odonata on their ponds. Only approx. four visits are required to record the spring/early summer species, such as the large red damselfly, the azure, common blue and blue-tailed damselfly, and later the darters, the hawkers, the skimmers and the chasers, and several others beside. Up to twenty species have been recorded in this corner of South-East Cambridgeshire, 19 of them on our own pond in Cardinal's Green over 15 years or so".

"The pond behind the church, which for a long time I believed to be part of the church grounds, initially showed great promise. Although access was not always easy among the brambles and nettles I recorded nine species in reasonable numbers over the years (blue-tailed, azure and common blue damsels, common and ruddy darters, four-spot and broad-bodied chasers, black-tailed skimmer and the majestic emperor dragonfly)".



Male broad-bodied chaser (photograph Rosemarie Parks)



Four-spot chaser (photograph Rosemarie Parks)

"I was concerned when small fish were released whose numbers increased rapidly, but they did not appear to have harmed the numbers of odonata. However, the sedge grass, which has been allowed to spread and cover large parts of the pond now, has had a detrimental effect. The total number of species I recorded this year on several visits was just five (azure and blue-tailed damselflies, broad-bodied and four-spotted chasers and common darter). I saw only two common darters at the beginning of August and nothing more since then".

"If the pond in question were allowed to dry up and overgrow altogether, it would also have a negative impact on other wildlife which depends on habitats with or near

NATURE NOTES CONTINUED

water. I have observed here the delightful *Poecilobothrus nobilitatus*, a fly of the family Dolichopodidae. The male has a lime green thorax and conspicuous white wing tips. He flicks his wings at females signalling his desire to mate. Hence the fly is also called the semaphore fly”.

“Finally, on 21 August this year, in the grass close to the pond, I photographed a lesser marsh grasshopper (*Chorthippus albomarginatus*) which is relatively rare and only found in the southern part of England”.

Horseheath’s pollinator action morning: Horseheath Parish Council is embarking on a pollinator action project in an attempt to help our wild bees and other pollinators which are declining fast. There is to be a **Pollinator Action Morning on Saturday 3 November at 10.00am, in Horseheath Village Hall.** During the morning there will be children’s competitions, talks, plants for bees and instruction on how to make your own bee hotel. Cakes and refreshments will be provided and children attending can apply for green Blue Peter badges. You don’t have to be a Horseheath resident to go along and take part.

Local wildlife activity: Badgers and wasps have featured in nature notes in the last few months and all do so again. I received a video of a badger visiting the back garden of Cobwebs, while I myself had to do an emergency stop when



a badger trotted across Dean Road in front of my car. Meanwhile, an unusual type of ichneumon wasp (*eremotylus marginatus*) was seen in Arthur’s driveway. It can sting but fortunately didn’t on this occasion.

Grey squirrels are particularly active (and noisy - they shriek at each other) at the moment. Di comments on the number of small holes in her lawn where squirrels have dug and buried a nut. Her neighbour, who has a putting course on his lawn has found several holes containing a walnut or an acorn. Walnuts from the tree in Di’s garden have in fact been distributed among the gardens in Maypole Croft and those that are forgotten will sprout in the spring. There will probably never be a shortage of walnut trees in West Wickham. As grey squirrels have thrived, so our native red squirrel has declined. However, Di has just returned from a Scottish island with no greys - only reds - one of the few havens for this smaller and daintier squirrel.

At this time of year the leaves of the horse chestnut trees are among the first to turn brown, while at the same time producing conkers. Di suggests that conkers are a good alternative to a stress ball, with their shiny copper surface which rolls around easily in your hand. She does ask however why many of the conker cases this year have no protective spikes. Could it be that they have fallen before ripening, because of the dry summer?

Peter Grieve, T: 290503, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Di Licence, T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

Priority: 5 4 3 2 1



CRIME PREVENTION

BE BRIGHT AND LIGHT

Home security tips for autumn

As the weather starts to change it is important to re-assess your home security, and take some simple steps to deter opportunist intruders.

One of the key areas to consider as the clocks change and it gets dark earlier is to use lights on timer switches and leave lights on to make your home look occupied.

- Secure entry and exit points, don’t leave windows or doors unlocked or ajar. If you are away from your property for any length of time, make it look occupied using light timer switches, fake TV devices, and/or leaving a radio on (do not draw all the curtains).
- Arrange for friends/neighbours to periodically check your property.
- Avoid leaving keys and valuables within view/ reach of a window or door. Vehicle keys have been the target of a number of recent burglaries across South Cambs.
- If you have an alarm, make sure you use it (dummy systems are not recommended).
- Consider the security of sheds and outbuildings as these may be attractive to thieves looking for equipment such as chainsaws, hedge-trimmers or lawn-mowers. Other hand tools may be used to break into a door or window.
- Register your property for free at www.immobilise.com where you can register anything with a serial no. or upload photographs of more unique items.

Visit our website for more detailed advice www.cambs.police.uk

South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Team

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB

On Wednesday 7 November our film will be ‘L’Atalante’, a 1930s French classic, hailed as one of the greatest films of all time. It will be shown at the Reading Room at 7.30 pm; donations; refreshments available; all welcome.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com; 291475.

STRONGER FOR LONGER

A major new strength and balance campaign was launched on International Older People’s Day, 1 October, to help people in Cambridgeshire stay stronger for longer. The ‘Stronger for Longer’ campaign has been designed by Cambridgeshire County Council, working with local NHS health partners, to encourage older people (particularly women 70 - 79 years old) to take up strength and balance exercises twice a week to reduce their risk of falling and keep them doing the things they enjoy. Jill Smith, who lives in Cambridge, started going to strength and balance classes about two years ago as part of her rehabilitation after a heart transplant. The 66-year-old is now reaping the rewards of regular exercise and can do the things she enjoys again. Simple strength and balance exercises twice a week are proven to keep you stronger for longer so you can keep independent and enjoying the great things in life, whether it’s playing with grandchildren, shopping, socialising with friends or gardening. For success stories and more information on classes and activities in your area visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CREATIVE WRITING?

Writing is a passion for me. I've been writing for eighteen years and have loved writing every single word. I read creative writing at university for both an M.A. and B.A.

So what can I do for you? If you have a passion for fiction, be it novels, short stories, films, plays, radio dramas, TV dramas or any other type, and you've always wanted to write, then attending my creative writing course will help you improve the quality and structure of your stories.

The course consists of several aspects:

Peer editing - You will submit your stories to the rest of the class and have them edit your work and provide critical feedback. This is by far the most valuable part of any course. Having someone read your work will help you fix errors within your text, such as typos, punctuation, all the way to character development and story structure.

Editing - You will also edit your peers' stories. We are precious of our own stories, and often we're too close to them to see the improvement areas. By editing other people's stories you will become aware of these improvement areas in your own writing, making your stories stronger and of greater quality.

Analysis - We will look at different types of fiction from the greatest writers and perform close reading of their work to see how they write stories and what techniques they use.

Discipline - The biggest problem I hear from people wanting to write is they don't have time and don't have goals set. By having to produce a story every week this forms good habits, which continue after the course has finished.

Tutoring - My teaching focus is all about story structure: beginning, middle and end. I've had students who are good writers of individual scenes become great writers of stories by the end of the course. Story is the backbone of all fiction. Until you learn how to write story, your writing will not be as entertaining and alive as the fiction you love from published authors.

The above may sound like exactly what you want, or it may sound a little daunting, either way my classes are structured so that everyone's work is respected. Writing is a personal thing and it needs a pleasant environment to flourish in. The best thing about creative writing is no one is right or wrong. Writing is subjective, what you might love, I might hate and vice versa. If you'd like to come along to a one day course or attend a ten week course then we have the below available:

Saturday 8 December 2018 - 09:30 to 12:30.
Constructing a Story - 1 day course.
Wednesday 16 January 2019 - 19:00 to 21:00.
Creative Writing: Beginners - 10 week course.
Saturday 19 January 2019 - 09:30 to 12:30.
Writing Snappy Dialogue - 1 day course.
Saturday 16 March 2019 - 09:30 to 12:30.
Constructing a Story - 1 day course.
Wednesday 1 May 2019 - 19:00 to 21:00.
Creative Writing: Beginners - 10 week course.
Saturday 22 June 2019 - 09:30 to 12:30.
Writing Snappy Dialogue - 1 day course.

You can find more information and book at
<http://sawstonadulted.org/>

Garry Pope. Creative writing tutor at Sawston Adult College. T: 01223 712424,

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett, T:07498994205
email:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com
Community Warden: Karen Williams, T: 07717871832
Helping Hands: 07399 263222

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

LVC students have achieved phenomenal sporting successes over the past month with significant wins at county-level football and hockey fixtures. Students are fortunate to benefit from brilliant facilities on which to practise. Having a sports centre available to the school community which invests into LVC's amenities is a real, tangible benefit of the Village College model.

In recent years, students have profited greatly from the state of the art 4G AstroTurf pitch, access to a high specification fitness studio and are soon to be able to use the resurfaced tennis courts. We are appreciative of the growing numbers of Sports Centre users who directly support LVC's students through their membership. More information about how to join and details about new clubs on offer, including Shimmy Fit, Clubbercise and walking football, are available on the website: www.lintoncommunitysportscentre.co.uk.

Students also benefit from the support of the many volunteers that give their time and expertise freely to enhance education at LVC.

Our annual sponsored walk and its significant amount of fundraising for school facilities is only possible with the work of volunteer stewards and its organisation by the Friends of LVC. We are grateful for the large number of parents/carers that commit to running events.

I've had the privilege of observing our community language mentors in action this month helping our students to learn through the Languages Futures programme. Our Year 9 students are fortunate to be able to engage in authentic conversation in Turkish, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Greek, amongst other languages, because of community volunteers.

Another significant task force of volunteers is our Governing Body. We currently have vacancies for community governors. Appointments are on a skills basis to ensure that the team has the requisite spread of knowledge. We are particularly interested to hear from potential governors who have expertise in law, estates and procurement but are essentially keen to recruit committed individuals that are keen to contribute to the strategic leadership of the College. If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a governor please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body, Tracy Coston (tracy.coston@lvc.org).

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 November

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