

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2019

ISSUE 189

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 3 United Parishes service. 10.45, Balsham Church
- Mon 4 Blue & green wheeled bin collection  
**Local History Club. Note change of date. Tracing traditions: Museum of Cambridge oral history project. 7.30pm, Village Hall.**
- Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 11 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 16 **Deadline for items for inclusion in the March edition of the Village Voice**
- Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 18 Blue wheeled bin only collection  
**Groundcover. Talk by Tim Fuller of Plantsman's Preference Nursery, Diss**
- Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 24 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 25 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 27 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

### Daisy Chains Pre-School meets

Monday & Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30

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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Daisy Chains Pre-School  
Saturday 2 March. QUIZ NIGHT  
Saturday 27 April. JUMBLE SALE  
See page 4

## 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 Georgina Magin

Email: [bookings@westwickham.org](mailto:bookings@westwickham.org)

visit [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

or T: 01223 290972

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.

## ROAD CLOSURES

The High Street will be closed to traffic 4 - 6 March to enable a water supply to be installed to a building site between nos 39 - 47. It will be closed again 11 - 15 March for the installation of an electricity supply to the same site.

A pedestrian route will be maintained at all times but there will be a diversion signposted via West Wrattling & Mill Road for all traffic including buses. The Parish Council has asked what arrangements are being made for the school buses but at the time the Village Voice went to press this was not known. Please go to [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org) for more up to date information.

## CAROL SINGING THANKS

Very many thanks to those who came out carol singing before Christmas and to those who gave so generously to our collection. Particular thanks to Marcus and Nicky Cornish, Katie and Simon Keen and Dave and Amy Sargeant for delicious and much-needed refreshments en route. We raised £230.79 for Age UK, to support the Small Villages Community Warden Scheme.

The following is taken from the thank-you letter received from Age UK: *"The money raised will benefit existing and future older people of West Wickham and the surrounding villages who use the Small Villages Community Warden Scheme. There are currently 16 older people who received support from Karen Williams, our Community Warden, in this way, which enables them to remain independent in their own homes. Please pass on our gratitude to all those involved and be assured that the money will be used to support local older people."*

Georgina Magin

(Ed. To contact the Community Warden see useful phone numbers on back page).

## HUB NIGHTS.

Another year gone and another 10 HUB nights. We have enjoyed doing these with help from George and have welcomed the two bar staff, Ben and Mick who have helped out. Thank you, are there are more out there? Karen has continued to feed us with homemade breads, always fantastic and thank you to Bryn and Teresa for our local sausage rolls, always so popular. Ian is our amazing dreyman, delivering and taking away the barrels, thank you.

It is a community social event, so it would be nice if we had even more offers to help with the bar/setting up etc. Our Midsummer session with live music / BBQ was a great success. Any more ideas for next Midsummer?

We have given money to many charities including our Parish nurse, Children in Need, Kidney Research, Alzheimer's Research UK, Poppy Appeal and Macmillan nurses, mostly suggested by you.

We start again in March. Do come along, 4th Saturday of the month throughout 2019.

Di (T: 290434) & Nicci (T: 290886)

## FROM THE VICARAGE

By now I feel I have Brexit indigestion. In the morning, I turn on the radio to hear it's a 'Brexit Breakfast'. There is even a 'Brexit Barometer' gauging fluctuations in public opinion. For the time being, however, we seem trapped in a peculiarly British groundhog day, with a succession of momentous events seemingly leaving us exactly where we were before. The one thing commentators do seem to agree on, however, is that it's a time of uncertainty and upheaval.

For most of us, however, uncertainty and upheaval are woven into the fabric of our lives. The Christian faith has often reflected on this. The bible speaks frequently of the uncertainties and upheavals encountered by the people of Israel and the early Christians. It shows how this formed them into a pilgrim people, who in these crucible moments realised their reliance upon God's guidance, like a light shining in the darkness.

This powerful image is given special prominence in the Christian festival of Candlemas, celebrated in early February. It's one of the most ancient of Christian festivals, dating back at least to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Its focus is the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple as a six week old baby and the prophetic words given by two people in that temple, Simeon and Anna. In this baby they see a 'light for revelation'. Candlemas also often uses candles as a symbol of Jesus as the 'light of the world'.

The light of Christ can show us things about ourselves: the good, the bad and everything in between. It's also a light which does not overwhelm us, but may guide us in our lives through all the uncertainties and upheavals we may face. This is summed up in the poetic and prophetic words from Luke's gospel, sometimes known as the *Benedictus*: 'in the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace'.

Revd Iain McColl

### WEST WICKHAM WAR MEMORIAL THE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918

West Wickham & District Local History Club are very grateful for the financial support of the Parish Council that has enabled us to produce a booklet with details of the men on the war memorial in the churchyard who gave their lives in the First World War.

A copy of the booklet is available to look at in the church. **Please do not take it away.** A copy can be borrowed from me or the booklet can be downloaded via the Local History pages on the village website, go to <http://westwickham.org/clubs/west-wickham-district-local-history-club/west-wickham-war-memorial/> and click on the link.

As you will see we have no photographs of any of the men. If you can help over this or have any additional information (or corrections) please get in touch.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

### LOST & FOUND

I have found a dog whistle on the playing field. If you think it is yours please get in touch.

Andrew Morris. 21 High Street, T: 290863

## YULETIDE QUIZ

For those of you who had a go at this, and I don't know of many, it obviously wasn't as easy as I thought. But here are the answers. All are associated with **Christmas**.

1. We consume punch (5) **White**
2. Now (7) **Present**
3. Snigger wildly about alien. (9) **Greetings**
4. Green, perhaps (5) **Party**
5. Joker? (4) **Card**
6. MBE, VC, etc (11) **Decorations**
7. Moving forward on one leg after slow start (8) **Shopping**
8. My mistake hidden inside (5) **Merry**
9. Nation (6) **Turkey**
10. Frail head and broken heart (6) **Father**
11. Peg right in the middle (4) **Tree**
12. Not night (3) **Day**

Explanations available on 290503

Peter Grieve

### CAN YOU HELP OUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM?

I am forming a new youth football club that will represent your village in the Cambridge District Colts U18 League. The name of the club will be West Wickham Wanderers. I am doing this project for my Extended Project at Hills Road Sixth Form College. Already, young people from West Wickham and surrounding villages have agreed to play for the team. I am making you aware of this as I am trying to find a local sponsor for the team in order to help fund the expenses of my project. In turn, the company logo will be happily put onto our kit and be worn all over Cambridgeshire on match days. It will also be advertised on social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube.

If you are interested in this proposition, please contact me either by texting/calling me or by e-mailing me regarding your interest.

Ben Drury. T: 07821740161, E: [bendrury135@gmail.com](mailto:bendrury135@gmail.com)

### OUR COMMUNITY BUS

If you see a plain white minibus with orange destination at the front, that's our number 19 community service that comes along four times a day Monday to Friday, about every two hours, and you pay the driver/use your pass as you would with any bus. If you want to know when and where it goes you can get the timetable from:

<https://bustimes.org/services/19-haverhill-linton-burrough-green>

### THANK YOU

To all those of you who delivered stamps and post cards to me and I now have outlets for trimmed (approx half an inch round each stamp) used stamps and old or new postcards – PLEASE leave the stamps on the postcards. So any cards or stamps you have I can either collect from you (893063 [sanderschimneys@uwclub.net](mailto:sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)) or deliver them to me at Nine Chimney House – thank you very much and they do raise vital funds for charity.

Joanna Sanders

## NATURE NOTES

At the darkest time of the year we could all do with something to lift the spirits. Di and I agree that the sights and sounds of nature are the best tonic. For me it was the sight of a genuinely local barn owl (name and address supplied) who caught my eye as I was taking the dogs for their evening walk. He must have just emerged from his shelter and was setting off for a night's hunting. I was so startled that I turned quickly, slipped and sat down in the mud. But it was worth it. Mud is also therapeutic I am told. Some days later Di saw the same bird checking out the field



opposite Maypole Croft but I believe she was in a more stable position, watching from her window. Staying with owls, a tawny was seen sunbathing in the silver birch outside the old Chapel and stayed there for several hours, enabling some great photographs to be taken.

Photograph:  
Ali Formstone

Around Christmas we both had those moments when you hear birdsong and you realise that spring is not really that far away. For Di it was a song thrush singing from the top of a tree in her garden with its beautiful tuneful song, while for me it was a blackbird on Boxing Day. I don't think I've ever heard a blackbird singing in midwinter like that. It was very moving.

Flowers can have the same effect on our mood as animals, especially when they are unexpectedly blooming. Di was with her sister visiting a graveyard in Essex, where they saw buttercups (summer flowers, surely) sharing a small patch

of sunshine with the true bloomers of early spring, snowdrops and aconites. The sight lifted their sadness in that moment. I also was walking through a wood between Great and Little Thurlow when I noticed some aconites shining out of the leaf mould. It was 7 January, which seemed very early even for aconites, although they were well sheltered by the trees. The rest of the walk just felt better after that.

At the end of January we have the Big Garden Birdwatch so I hope a few people will have spent an hour checking the birdlife in their garden. I always seem to time my watching session badly. The most interesting birds appear a couple of days later. The bird feeders play an important part in attracting birds (Di saw a dozen goldfinches on her neighbour's feeder) but they don't just attract birds. If I forget to take ours down after sunset, I'm likely to find a rat up there trying to eat the bird food. It's also worth leaving a few apples around for the thrush family - particularly the fieldfares who are with us for the winter. Di has a single fieldfare that frequents her garden and treats the ornamental apple as his sole property, creating a fuss if even a small robin or dunnock comes near. One bird unlikely to be spotted during the BGB is the little owl, although one was seen sitting in the middle of the road by bowlers returning home one evening. I have seen this phenomenon with little owls in the past but am unsure of the explanation.

The mating season for birds will be soon upon us and Di has noticed that the robin in her garden has acquired a friend that he doesn't chase away and the blue tits' feathers are getting brighter - all signs of romance ahead. Staying with romance, she has also seen two muntjac deer disappear into the copse on the village green. They walk down the steps from the footpath, stop at the road edge and dash across into the thicket. Di put her own interpretation on that.

Stop press. Alex has set up a camera in his back garden and has filmed badgers, deer and rabbits. To view the film go to <http://westwickham.org/2019/01/badgers-caught-on-camera/>

Please send us your nature sightings.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, E: [mail@petergrieve.co.uk](mailto:mail@petergrieve.co.uk)

Di Licence. T: 290434, E: [dianarubylicence@gmail.com](mailto:dianarubylicence@gmail.com)

## SAWSTON ADULT EDUCATION

January, and we arrived back with renewed energy and ready to receive our existing and new learners to our exciting 2019 Adult Education Programme.

Looking at our course bookings over the festive period, it looks like the local community are ready to try something new in 2019. If you would also like to dabble in a new hobby or just learn something different, why not look at our new website for inspiration. There is so much to offer!

Are you free on a Saturday and looking to chill, relax and unwind? Why not try our popular Saturday workshops; these are planned for 16 March and 22 June. We have many topics to tease you out of your homes. How about flamenco or Bollywood dancing? Both courses have been very popular and the feedback from our learners has been excellent. We also have some amazing craft workshops, for example, fused glass jewellery, head pieces for occasions,

willow weaving and sugar flowers. Alternatively, are you feeling musical? Drums for beginners was very popular in January, surprisingly there are still places available on both workshop dates, so book early to avoid disappointment. Finally, our wonderful Indian cooking tutor, Rama Ram, is back on 16 March for Indian fast food, an absolute must if you enjoy Indian cuisine.

All courses can be viewed and booked on our newly designed website: [www.sawstonadulterd.org](http://www.sawstonadulterd.org)

If you have any enquiries, please feel free to pop in to the Adult Education reception, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, during term time. Alternatively telephone us on 01223 712424 or email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org).

## THE BENEFITS OF MERGING GP PRACTICES

Following on from last month's article about why GP practices are merging, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the benefits that are starting to come through for our patients.

You may not have seen any benefits yet; in fact you may have only seen difficulties – particularly in obtaining routine appointments. Appointment waiting times is a national problem. Two surgeries in Cambridgeshire have stopped offering routine appointments altogether as their waiting times are longer than 6 weeks. We know there is a problem, and we are continually looking for solutions.

Some of the benefits we can already offer Granta practice members include:-

1. Unlimited on-the-day access for all members. It may not be at your preferred site but if you need to be seen we will see you. Granta currently deals with approximately 19,000 practice members per month, compared to Addenbrookes Accident & Emergency department, who deal with roughly 12,000 per month.
2. Improved opening hours and access to appointments. Various Granta sites offer appointments from 8am to 8pm Monday to Thursday, 6.30am to 7pm Fridays and every Saturday morning.
3. Access to your medical records at any one of 5 sites, by any clinician you are booked in to see.
4. Access to a physiotherapy service that is offered on the day and on site for new problems. We are one of only 40 surgeries in the country offering this service.
5. The use of Emergency Care Practitioners (very advanced paramedics) for visits. This allows practice members to be seen quickly and if required, admission arranged, increasing chances of discharge on the same day, rather than waiting for the historical GP visit at lunch time, which almost guaranteed admission. The ECP's have unlimited access to the duty medical team if required for advice and due to availability actually can give increased continuity.

6. Diagnostic imaging - ultrasound scans are done on site at Granta Sawston.
7. Ear microsuction clinics are run on site at Granta Sawston.
8. Increased specialist input. By increasing our size we have increased our expertise. It is now possible to refer patients to another clinical member of staff who specialises in that area. They in turn may be able to see you much more timely, with your complete medical notes, and may reduce the possibility of having to attend a hospital appointment.
9. Access to a Social Navigator. This is a member of the Granta team who specifically looks at support from the community and ways of managing isolation and engaging patients from a holistic point of view.
10. Involvement in group consultations - a national initiative, which looks at providing information in groups to increase access and exposure and help people take ownership of their illness.
11. Fewer recruitment problems. We are in a relatively unique position of not having a recruitment crisis. In fact we have a number of clinicians approaching us asking if they can work for us because of what we are doing and ideas for the future.
12. An active Patient Participation Group (PPG). We are starting to really develop this and work together for the best of the practice.

These are but a few. We of course acknowledge there is a long way to go but with the merges we have given ourselves every opportunity possible to succeed and be able to provide continuing outstanding care to our practice members long into the future.

Sandra East, Communications Manager, Granta Medical Practicess.

T: 0300 234 5555, E: [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net)

**QUIZ NIGHT**

In support of Daisy Chains Pre-School  
Registered Charity No: 1035276

**Saturday**  
**2nd March 2019**  
West Wickham Village Hall  
Bar 7.30pm – Quiz 8pm  
£3.50 per person – Team of up to 6  
Pizza available

**Raffle Bar**

**JUMBLE SALE**

West Wickham  
Village Hall  
Saturday 27th April  
**2 - 4pm**  
Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric-a-Brac,  
Refreshments, Cake Stall,  
Tombola

Please drop off any jumble you would like to donate between 9.00-12.00 on the day. To drop off sooner, or for larger items, please call Daisy Chains on 07943 866294 Mon-Fri

All Proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School,  
West Wickham  
Registered Charity No: 1035276

## PETER AND RUTH LLOYD TRUST

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2019. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800, which is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

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

[peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com)

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

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

This term marks the start of the Brownies getting to grips with the new Girlguiding programme. This is based around six themes: 'Know Myself', which is about getting to know who you are, your role in Girlguiding and the wider world; 'Express Myself', showing off and exploring your creative side; 'Be Well', discovering how to take care of yourself and others; 'Have Adventures', getting out and about to explore the outdoors and nature; 'Take Action', empowering yourself to make a difference, and use your voice to help your community and the wider world; and 'Skills for My Future' looking at the future and building your skills to become independent and successful in life. The girls looked through all the activities and decided we will start on the 'Take Action' theme. We will let you know how we progress in the coming months.

During this term we will also be getting ready for our annual Brownie holiday at The Jarman Centre in Newmarket. This year we will be unicorns. So if you thought they were a mystical creature you may be proved wrong as there will be at least 10 Brownie sized ones living near you in March.

We didn't have any new girls start with us this term but it is hoped that two will start in February so we do have space for more girls who would like to join. The only thing you need to be is free on a Wednesday and be 7 years old or older. If you are interested please register your daughter at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/) 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. [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

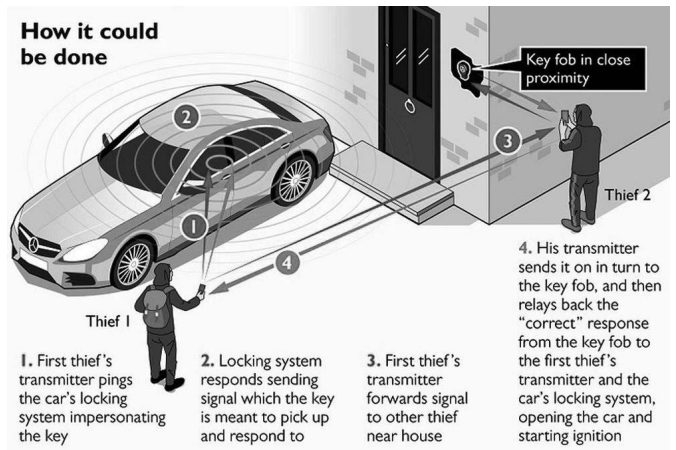
## REGISTER YOUR APPLIANCES

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service is encouraging residents to register their appliances for a safer 2019. All you have to do is visit [registermyappliance.org.uk](http://registermyappliance.org.uk), and register large appliances bought in the last 12 years. Registering appliances can instantly improve safety in the home as it ensures that householders can be contacted swiftly if a safety repair is ever needed or if an item is recalled by the manufacturer. With many households relying on appliances to handle every day chores, chill food and cook for their families, this can give you peace of mind. As an incentive to encourage owners to register their appliances, many of the leading brands on [registermyappliance.org.uk](http://registermyappliance.org.uk) are offering to enter registrants into free draws for a range of desirable prizes. Appliances being registered don't have to be in warranty, or brand new to be applicable.

## IS YOUR CAR SAFE FROM THIEVES?

Cambridgeshire Constabulary are warning us that the signal boost key fob crime has come to our region. Thieves are using a signal booster device which triggers the vehicles keys into unlocking the vehicle. "Please remember to keep car keys as far away as possible from your parked vehicle. Alternatively, put the keys inside a metal container which will hopefully reduce the signal getting to the keys". The image below identifies how this could be done.

Fuller information can be found in an article in the Cambridge News at <https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/keyless-car-thefts-police-warning-14499122>



## ADVICE ON THE USE OF MOTORISED VEHICLES

Cambridgeshire Police have been asked to clarify whether the following vehicles are legally allowed to be ridden on the public highway (including the road and pavements).

**Electric scooters, go-peds, mini motos, hoverboards or Segways.** These are all subject to the usual legal requirements that apply to cars or motorcycles e.g. tax, insurance, registration and licensing and driver licensing. **They cannot therefore be used on a road** unless they conform to the law and many such vehicles will never be 'road legal' as their design fails to meet UK standards. The only place they can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission. If such vehicles are used on the road/pavement by young people, not only may the rider be committing a number of offences but their parents may also face prosecution for aiding and abetting or permitting the offences.

**Electrically assisted pedal cycles** Those that meet the requirements of the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations 1983 can be driven on the road and don't need to be taxed, registered, insured and the rider won't need a driving licence but they must be at least 14 years of age.

The bike must have a plate showing the manufacturer, the nominal voltage of the battery, and the motor's power output. Vehicles that don't meet these requirements will therefore need to be taxed, registered, insured and the rider will require a licence. If you are considering buying such a vehicle we would suggest you only buy from a reputable dealer who is able to provide you with the relevant assurances that the vehicle is a proper electrically assisted pedal cycle.

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The New Year is always a good time to help children stop and reflect on the past year and engage them in looking forward to new beginnings. The start of 2019 has been no different and it has been fascinating listening to our children talk confidently and hopefully about their future

This year we spoke to the children about what the term 'resolution' meant. We discussed how 're' in resolution means repeat, or replay. This is really important for children to understand, as so many of children just give up once they have been unsuccessful a first time. We constantly refer to resilience and perseverance at school, and we know that a resilient child will be more successful in the long term. We do a number of activities within school to help foster these capabilities, including Forest School, child-initiated learning, project work and open ended topics. Knowledge is key to a child's progress, but they also need to know what to do when faced with uncertainty or disappointment, to reflect on the challenges and make a new plan for success. Further to our discussion on the term 'resolution' we enjoyed looking at how to separate salt from water in a salt 'solution'. It was a great image to help children understand how we can keep starting again when things have gone wrong. We hope that this representation of a New Year resolution will stick with children as they go through the year and help them to remember that every day is the opportunity for a new beginning.

The start of a year always means the start of new topics and learning within school. January was full of exciting entry points for topics, with every year group going out of school on a trip. When we talk with the children about what they enjoy most about their learning, trips which enrich their learning is always top of the list. The trips taking place this term have been no different. Year 5 and 6 spent the day at Stibbington as evacuees to start their World War Two topic. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time spent at school, enjoying a typical 1940's playtime, playing games such as skipping and hoops. Some of the children even enjoyed their World War Two lunch of spam sandwiches! The surprise air raid drill was a particular highlight as the children had to head out to the Morrison shelter and experience what it was like to 'keep calm and carry on'. Hearing the buzz of conversations as the children arrived back in school, with teachers and children commenting on the best trip 'ever' made it evident how important these 'Living History' days are.

Year 3 and 4 spent the day learning how to be polar explorers with a trip to the Scott Polar Museum in Cambridge, as part of their topic 'Into the Freezer'. The children were so fortunate to have such experts working there, teaching the children about the history of polar expeditions, dressing up in readiness for an expedition, and exploring the artefacts from many famous expeditions, including Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The Infants also enjoyed a wonderful day at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, in readiness for their flight topic 'Up, Up and Away.' They loved looking at the aeroplanes up close, walking on Concord and listening to the volunteers talk so knowledgeably about the aircraft. I think that even the adults accompanying the children learnt new information!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett, T:07498994205  
Mobile: 0749 899 4205  
email:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday unless otherwise stated on her mobile phone. This is NOT a 24hr monitored service.  
**Community Warden:** Karen Williams, T: 07717871832  
**Helping Hands:** 07399 263222

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The start of the New Year has provided us with the opportunity to refresh behaviour expectations and set ambitious educational goals with our students. As part of this we have re-emphasised the importance of being responsible members of the College community.

We know that the teenage years are important ones for young adults to develop their own sense of personal identity and independence. As with other key childhood developmental stages, adolescence is characterised by testing boundaries, experimenting with risk-taking and forging connections with others.

Significant advances in technology have dramatically changed our students' means of being able to communicate and has transformed the experience of being a teenager. While this has created many benefits that were not afforded to previous generations, it has also made the teenage years more challenging to navigate. The fear of missing out is more acute when you can view others' social lives in real time. The pressure to be connected and seek others' approval is much enhanced. As is the opportunity to behave in a way that causes others upset or harm.

Internet Safety Day, which is held on 5 February, has the theme 'Together for a better internet'. The day seeks to raise awareness of online safeguarding issues but also more widely to spark a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Our student Digital Leaders play a key role in this.

One of our key expectations at LVC is to behave in a caring way to contribute to a safe community. This includes students and staff taking responsibility for their own safety as well as noticing and reporting changes or concerns in others, including bullying behaviours.

This duty of care extends beyond the College. The dedicated safeguarding email account (thinkpink@lvc.org) provides an opportunity for community members to contact the College with concerns about children's welfare and to share safeguarding information that poses a risk to children. We are also working in partnership with the local police to safeguard the College community. Their involvement in drugs education for our January PSHE day is one example of this.

Helena Marsh, Principal

## PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 February

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