

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2019

ISSUE 191

VILLAGE DIARY

- Mon 1 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 3 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 7 United Parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
Mon 8 Black wheeled bin collection
Local History Club. 'One of the finest orators of his age'? John de Fraigne (1838 - 1910). Talk by Janet Morris. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed 10 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 14 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 15 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. *Bulbs galore. Spring planting for summer colour.* Talk by Matthew Long of Riverside Bulbs. 7.30pm, Village Hall.
Tue 16 **Deadline for items for inclusion in the May edition of the Village Voice**
Wed 17 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 21 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Wed 24 **Black wheeled bin (late) collection**
Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 27 **Daisy Chains Pre-School JUMBLE SALE. 2 - 4pm, Village Hall**
HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall
Sun 28 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 30 **Blue & green wheeled bin (late) collection**
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 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
visit www.westwickham.org
or T: 01223 290972

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

Picking up rubbish and putting it into a plastic bag in a gale may not seem like a good idea. But six of us tried and so big thanks to Sue, Brian, Andy, Dave and Katie. I lost count of the number of bags (probably around 20) which were piled up in the Village Hall car park. The usual analysis of drinks cans resulted in an overwhelming victory for Fosters (probably more than 100 cans) over its old rival Stella Artois (single figures). Clearly another effect of austerity. A few vodka bottles, Red Bull, cider and Jack Daniels cans added to the mix together with the usual sandwich boxes, crisp packets etc. Larger items included bits of a Peugeot car, two hub caps, two wing mirrors and a bag of builders sand. It all beggars belief! The most productive areas were the verges and ditches just outside the village where people fling their detritus.

Thanks also to those people who more frequently pick up litter in and beyond the village. The effects of our once a year session only last until the next lot of Fosters cans are thrown. Also thanks to South Cambs District Council for providing the grabbers, gloves and bags, and for collecting everything on the Monday morning after.

Peter Grieve

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S NEWS

At last the plans for the repairs and redecoration of the Chancel are in place with a ten week schedule of repairs starting at the beginning of August. This will include rebuilding of the east end buttresses and removal of the concrete guttering on the north and south sides, with a new French drain to be put around the entire exterior of the chancel. Also the east gable end stone capping will be re-laid. These works will hopefully cure the damp walls and allow them to dry out in preparation for redecoration in the summer of 2020. The work is to be carried out by Cambridge Stonecraft under the supervision of our architect Helen Axworthy. Theirs was the best quote by some margin at £60,000 + VAT.

As you can imagine, help is required and Nicky and I propose to hold our annual "Friends of St Mary's Garden Party" on Friday 5 July. Invites will be sent nearer the time to those who have generously donated in the past. Anyone else who may wish to donate, please make yourselves known to me, my email address is wmcorn@hotmail.com It is also proposed to hold a "Garden Fete" at Manor Farm on Saturday 31 August.

Marcus Cornish, Church Warden/Treasurer.

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE

If you are having a clear out, please can you save your jumble and donate it to Daisy Chains Preschool. Please drop it off on the morning of the 27 April from 10am. Come along from 2-4pm to grab yourselves some bargains while raising some much needed funds for the Preschool. Use the spirit of Marie Kondo and declutter your home and wardrobe!

Daisy Chains Preschool takes children from their 2nd birthday and is Ofsted rated Outstanding. It has large open facilities and a playground, exceptional experienced, caring staff, and low child to staff ratios. Spaces are available for immediate starts. Full funding is accepted. My own children have thrived at Daisy Chains, ready to start their primary education with confidence. (Ed. See also page 4).

Jess Ashbridge, Daisy Chains Preschool Chairman

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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

Lent has traditionally been a time when people try to give things up. Recently, however, there has been a trend towards a commitment to do something during Lent. A UK Christian charity called Stewardship, for example, has created a movement called *40acts*, which challenges people to see Lent in a different light and commit to acts of kindness during this time. For eight years, *40acts* has asked a question: what if Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up? What if it could be a time of radical generosity as well as spiritual discipline?

This question, which could be addressed to any one of us, echoes what lies at the heart of Christian worship at Easter time. Here we discern the radical generosity and grace of God, reflected in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Greek word used by St Paul to describe the love of God for us in Christ is *agape* – which means the unconditional loving kindness of God towards humans. This is the love, as St Paul says in one of his letters, which ‘never ends’; the love which opens the door into a new creation.

At Easter, we are also invited to trust in the power of Christ to re-create our lives today. To see the whole landscape of our lives enlightened by Jesus. In this light we see who we are, how we so often fail but also how we are valued and loved by God. We see each other as people valued by God, and our perspectives are changed. We see the world around us charged with God’s glory, inviting our care and reverence.

When we start to see other people and the world around us in this light, we recognise that discerning God’s presence and seeking to do acts of loving-kindness are not just marks of Lent, but a way of being and doing which can help us walk through an open door into a world transfigured by grace.

Revd Iain McColl

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

On 18 March the Club welcomed Colin Ward from Swines Meadow Farm Nursery in Market Deeping. Colin and his wife Karen decided to concentrate on their ever increasing plant collection rather than trying to farm at the same time. They specialise in unusual plants and the tables were filled with so many goodies I think our members imagined all their birthdays had come at once. Colin described each of these plants, many of which were coming into early bloom and leaf. As a Gardening Club we try to offer a variety of talks and some are, if not educational, perhaps instructive. We all learned a lot about these gorgeous plants and many were bought and happily carried off at the end of the evening.

Next month we have another timely talk. Matthew Long from Riverside Bulbs at Monks Eleigh will tell us about planting bulbs for summer colour. This is on Monday 15 April, 7:30 at the Village hall.

Our FABULOUS PLANT SALE is on Saturday 18 May, 10:30-12:00 at the Village Hall so DO NOT miss it.

Happy Gardening!

Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799584262

THANK YOU

to those of you who responded to my request for wool. I received enough for Balsham Mothers’ Union members to knit 25 8 inch squares. These will be made into a blanket to commemorate the founding of the Charity Christian Hope International as a result of the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. All knitting done by members in the Ely Diocesan Mothers’ Union also goes to this charity.

Joanna Sanders

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have just returned from our annual Brownie holiday to the Jarman Centre where eight Brownies were unicorns for the weekend. They made masks, a unicorn inspired pudding, sparkly snow globes, decorated CD’s as unicorns and had unicorn hobbyhorse races. They also completed their Wildlife Explorer badge. For this they had to make bird feeders and identify three different butterflies, birds and mammals, as well as looking and listening for different wildlife.

As mentioned last time, we have started on new Brownie programme with the ‘Take Action’ theme. So far we have made monsters out of recycled materials, designed the greatest place on earth and discussed our opinions on different subjects. We still have two more topics to cover which we hope to finish by the end of term as well as making Mothering Sunday cards and something for Easter. It’s never a dull moment when you’re a Brownie.

We had Freya Baker start with us after half-term and have two more girls lined up to start with us after Easter but 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/ 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

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs	WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB	FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs
	PLANT SALE	
	<i>Something for everyone Friendly people & expert advice</i>	
	SATURDAY 18 MAY	
	10.30 - 12.00	
	at WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL	
VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs		

NATURE NOTES

The old proverb 'February fill-dyke, be it black or be it white' couldn't have been less appropriate this year as we basked in warm sunshine. We are now being battered by the raging winds of March, and somehow that feels more normal, but plants are responding to the warmed earth and increased light, none more so than the willow. Teresa has told us of a folklore tale that the willow tree responded to a mother cat's cries by dangling its branches into the stream to save her kittens, and now each year they have furry buds that we call pussy willow. Pussy willow really stands out at this time of year when the tree branches have no leaves. Caught in sunlight it makes a striking picture. Up to this time last year it was something I was able to appreciate at home but our willow tree suffered sudden death due, I think, to honey fungus.

The combination of the March winds and the flowering of daffodils in the village has reminded Di of Wordsworth's description of daffodils 'dancing in the breeze' but she particularly draws attention to the daffs that have been planted on the Croft, which are for all to enjoy, so **please don't pick them**. This applies to wildflowers too, although I have an ambivalent attitude to this message. We don't want to make wildflowers no-go areas for people, otherwise our appreciation and knowledge of them will continue decreasing. Among the first spring flowers that are currently making a show are the violets, white and purple, which bring colour to the base of hedgerows and the ditches. During the litter-pick up by the warehouse, a clump of violets were peeping out from underneath the beer cans and crisp packets. Celandine is in flower in many places, giving colour to the ditches. Another plant that I always look for at this time of year is coltsfoot, and I found a couple of patches near Leys Wood. Meanwhile the blackthorn is flowering - the flowers precede the leaves, unlike hawthorn which is also starting to shoot.

Continuing the owl theme from the last two months, Tom Licence saw an owl sitting on a hedge, so unperturbed that it didn't move as he reversed the van and sat watching it. He said it was a tawny but also claimed that he 'could even see its ears'. This meant that perhaps the owl was actually a long-eared owl, which is very like the tawny (apart from the 'ears'). Long eared owls are not often seen as they are truly nocturnal, but are known to be in the area. The local bird experts were very concerned when Amazon were proposing to test drones locally a couple of years ago mentioning they were concerned for the welfare of long-eared owls.

At this time of year I usually ask for people to let me know when they hear the first chiffchaff but Di has beaten me to it. She heard one on 28 February, surmising that it may have been a bird that overwintered. I heard one in Haverhill on 14 March. Di has also been cleaning out the birdboxes in the wildlife area. Unfortunately one of them was being occupied by an overwintering bumble bee, who apparently displayed some irritation at the disturbance.

Brief mammal news is that badger activity is ever more evident, Andrew saw a small party of roe deer near Lawn wood and Sue and I were pleased to see a fox trotting across the road just up from our house. Hares have been seen out and about and caught on camera just outside our back garden.

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

★ HUB NIGHT! ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **27.04.19** 7PM-11PM



GRANTA "GROUP CONSULTATIONS"

Granta Medical Practices have pleasure in announcing they will shortly be holding "Group Consultations", also known as "Shared Medical Appointments". These are organised meetings comprising of 10 to 15 patients with the same condition or set of clinical problems, coming together in a supportive group setting. This is a more personalised way of supporting patients with long term medical conditions, and allows patients to learn from each other as well as from clinicians. The sessions will last from 1 to 2 hours, including a one to one with a health care professional for each group member.

Group consultations can be used for a wide variety of long-term health conditions such as diabetes, respiratory conditions, skin conditions, weight issues and many more. The first long term medical condition to be focussed on is diabetes. If you would like to register your interest please contact Kelly Austin, Granta Social Navigator.

For more information about Group Consultations go to www.groupconsultations.com

Jennifer Aston, Advanced Nurse Practitioner

DID YOU KNOW ...

In January Granta Medical Practice's clinicians saw / spoke to 20,256 patients. This number includes urgent, routine and telephone appointments. Unfortunately, there were an extra 1,026 appointments that patients did not attend (DNA). February's appointments totalled 17,876, but again there were additional DNA's - 1,043!

Sometimes it can be difficult keeping to an appointment date and time. However, if you ring and cancel even half an hour beforehand we would be able to reuse your slot for another patient.

Please say instead of DNA!

Sandra East, Granta Communications. T. 0300 234 5555

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

'Pub' Quiz. We're holding a quiz at the Reading Room on Wednesday, 10 April at 8pm. Up to 4 per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

Cinema Club. On Wednesday 1 May our last film before the summer break, in a Cinema Club first, will be an Irish film. The characters in *Sanctuary* are a group living with disability, played by actors who are disabled. It subverts received ideas in its very approach to filmmaking, as the Guardian reviewer has it 'care, chaos and comedy in the community'. It'll make you think, it'll make you laugh inside and I hope you'll leave the Reading Room feeling glad you watched it.

7.30pm. All welcome, donations, refreshments available.

Enquiries: Jaqueline Douglas. T: 291475
E: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com,

SPEED SIGN RESULTS

The mobile vehicle activated sign was used in Streetly End and Church End West Wickham for the two weeks between 25 February and 10 March. A summary of the data recorded by the sign at the two locations is given below.

The High Street was closed for the time the speed sign was in use outside the church which may account for a rise in the number of vehicles passing the sign going towards Balsham. However, the number of speeding vehicles was quite low. The number of vehicles entering Streetly End from Horseheath which were exceeding 35mph was quite high at 26.8% of the total with 233 exceeding 40mph.

The brightness of the sign was increased so that vehicles could clearly see their speed when passing the 30 mph sign. There is a definite peak of speeding on weekday mornings between 05:30 and 07:00 for traffic going toward West Wickham/Balsham. Looking at data for the other end of Streetly End the speeding traffic occurs mainly between 15:30 and 18:30 for traffic returning from the West Wickham/Balsham direction.

Trevor Hall

Period	Location	Total number of vehicles	Number exceeding 35 mph	Maximum Speed recorded	Number of vehicles per day
3/3 to 10/3	West Wickham Church facing south	5263	26	39(2)	780 approx
25/2 to 3/3	Streetly End facing West	4139	1110	53(2)	690 approx

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

is proud to present 'The Grand Duke' by Gilbert & Sullivan. As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW. Dates are:

Wednesday 12 June 2019 at 7.30pm £9
 Thursday 13 June 2019 at 7.30pm £9
 Friday 14 June 2019 at 7.30pm £10
 Saturday 15 June 2019 at 2.30pm £7
 and 7.30pm - £10.

Tickets will be available after 1 April via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by e-mailing sbst.tickets@gmail.com or telephoning 07708 577570. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

HAVERHILL DIAL A RIDE SERVICE

This service, run by the Voluntary Network, is affordable and accessible door to door transport, available for anyone who finds it difficult to use public transport. They cover Haverhill and the surrounding villages. Dial a Ride enables passengers to access local services, attend medical appointments and enjoy social activities.

The service operates Monday to Friday 8.00am until 4pm. The booking line (01440 712028) is open 8am until 4pm.

All requests are noted and they try to accommodate everyone but appreciate your flexibility with both day and time of travel.

There is a £15 annual membership fee and fares currently range from £4.00 to £9.00. All their vehicles are wheelchair accessible and the drivers will assist you on and off the bus. There is room for walking aids, wheelchairs and shopping. Please advise them what you will be taking when you make your booking.

A community car service is also available to assist with journeys that fall beyond the dial a ride service, often to appointments a little further afield. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, transport passengers to medical appointments or to visit friends or relatives. Passengers are currently charged 54p per mile for every mile the volunteer does on your behalf. Please call the number given above for further information.

Should you wish to become a member of the dial a ride service or for further information visit www.thevoluntarynetwork.org or contact

The Voluntary Network, The Old Courts, 147 All Saints Road, Newmarket CB8 8HH, or phone 01440 712028 option 2.

Daisy Chains
Pre-School West Wickham

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

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE:

27.04.19

7PM-11PM



LOST AND FOUND POLICE ROLE CHANGES

Cambridgeshire Police has joined police forces nationwide by ceasing to take reports of lost property and accepting only certain types of found item. The changes took effect nationally from 1 February after the Chief Constables' Council agreed it as a way of reducing non-essential demand and the associated costs and bureaucracy generated for call centres and front counters.

The police service has traditionally accepted the responsibility of recording lost and found property, despite there being no statutory duty to maintain a system of recording non-evidential property. This will help reduce call volumes and remove an unnecessary burden on policing. If you have lost or found an item, visit the force website www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Property-and-animals/Lost-and-found for guidance on what to do. Further detail on their lost and found policy is below.

Lost items. Any loss can be reported online at sites including:

www.lostbox.co.uk

www.immobilise.com

www.reportmyloss.com (for an insurance report)

For bicycles, register and report at www.bikeregister.com

Report UK Passports at www.gov.uk/report-a-lost-or-stolen-passport

Details of losses reported via these methods are made available to police forces across the UK.

If you have lost property in a public place/premises or on public transport, contact the location or service provider directly.

Found items. The following categories have been created for found items:

Accepted

Items capable of containing data e.g. mobile phones and computers.

Cash and wallets that are identifiable

Unidentifiable cash, identity and personal documents

Not accepted

Bicycles Clothing Keys Jewellery

Personal but unidentifiable items

For non-accepted items, with some exceptions, the finder can retain the property. They are under no legal obligation to hand in the property providing they have made a reasonable attempt to return it to the owner.

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE Adult Community Learning

We are running a section of Adult & Family workshops on Saturday 11 May.

Adult workshops run from 10am until 4pm and cost £40. Topics are upholstery, blues harmonica, Indian stuffed breads and silk painted cushions.

Family workshops: two creative, fun, practical and innovative workshops for the whole family to enjoy. Each of the workshops will look at how to draw and then develop your drawings and observations.

Each session is accompanied by a handout which is full of ideas that you and your family can take away with you.

Workshop 1 (9.30—12.30). Reflections : Getting to Grips with Thinking Backwards. This course explores drawing and printing projects related to mirror reflections. (Please note this workshop does not include a ceramics project).

Workshop 2 (1—4pm). Sculpture: Cakes! Drawing and modelling from life, exploring cakes and afternoon tea.

There are also three new evening classes

Woodwork 10 weeks 7pm -9pm and 5 week beginners, sketch book 4pm -6pm, both starting Thursday 2 May and positive mind set awareness & meditation course, 5 weeks starting on Wednesday 1 May

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

Margaret Kiddy & Jenny Logan, Adult Education Department

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE?

The NHS is developing a local plan and needs your help. How would you make it easier for people to look after their own health and wellbeing? Fill in a survey from Healthwatch and have your say on local services. In particular, Healthwatch wants to hear your ideas about:

Making it easier for people to access support closer to home and via technology.

Doing more to help people stay well.

Providing better support for people with cancer, mental health conditions, heart and lung diseases, and other long-term conditions.

Providing better support for people as they get older and experience conditions such as dementia.

You will find the survey at www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do

Share your ideas

Your local NHS needs to hear from you about what it should do to make care better for your community.

Call your local Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285, text 0752 0635 176 or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

Something for everyone

Friendly people & expert advice

SATURDAY 18 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

WEST WICKHAM

VILLAGE HALL

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs FLOWERS shrubs

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Although the Spring Term is short, it always surprises us how much we squeeze into the time. It has felt particularly busy during March, with a combination of sports tournaments, class assemblies, school productions and visitors to school, as well as all the learning still continuing to take place. We are very committed to ensuring that children receive a wide range of experiences to make school a memorable and exciting place for them.

The Spring term is often a time when sports tournaments happen across the county and Year 5 and 6 teams have been to various ones this month. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to be involved in playing sports they might not often get the chance to play. The QuickSticks Hockey Tournament took place in Comberton, where the children were playing against other schools from across Cambridgeshire. Each team played enthusiastically and demonstrated great teamwork and sportsmanship to ensure success. The teams finished fifth and second in their rounds, with the A team only 1 point away from the finals. We are always very proud of how well the children represent The Meadow School, with a fantastic 'have-a-go' attitude and politeness towards other players. We are looking forward to seeing how the school gets on in the forthcoming Tag Rugby Tournament and Cross-Country competition.

This term, we have also spent time celebrating both reading and writing. On 7 March it was World Book Day, where we spent the whole day immersed in *The Lost Words* by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris; a celebration of nature words and the natural world they evoke, in the form of acrostic poems. It is beautifully illustrated and written, providing a perfect opportunity to combine both art and literacy for the day. The children also enjoyed spending time outside looking for inspiration for their own poetry. Shortly after this, the children were offered the chance to submit a story for the Radio 2 '500 Word' Competition. This is a hugely successful national competition, but as a school we choose to hold our own smaller competition. We were inundated with fantastic stories and had the very difficult job of judging the stories to find three winners from different age groups. A huge congratulations to Anoushka Trivedi, Esther Morris and Daisy Nott for their winning entries.

We continue to be committed to develop Arts across the school and Miss Copare is always on the look out for an interesting range of music and art groups to perform to the children. This term we had Song Speil, who base their performance on a poetry book called *Moon Juice*; a wonderful creation of shadow puppetry, opera singing and imaginative drama, accompanied by a piano. It was certainly unlike any performance we have ever seen, but was a real treat to see how different artistic styles can come together. The performers offered a Q&A session afterwards, where the children got to ask their burning questions. We are now looking forward to our own Year 3 and 4 Production of *King of all Polar Bears* taking place at the end of the month.

As Easter nears us, we are once again reminded of how fortunate we are to teach enthusiastic children, with a love of learning. We are very grateful to all our fabulous volunteers from within and outside our school community who enable these experiences to take place.

Nichola Connor, Head Teacher

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 national press has been dominated by very sad news of teenagers whose lives have been tragically cut short as a result of knife crime. Sometimes it is tempting to believe such issues happen elsewhere; that extreme anti-social behaviours are restricted to other parts of the country and are not relevant to our own communities. While less rural areas may be more prone to criminal behaviours, this does not make villages such as Linton immune to them.

Young people have always been susceptible to risk-taking behaviours. The adolescent brain is in the process of regulating thrill-seeking impulses. Meanwhile, the transition to adulthood creates greater independence and opportunities that may compromise children's safety and wellbeing.

At Linton Village College, our PSHE (personal, social, health and education) curriculum helps students to develop an appreciation of how their bodies and minds work. We encourage our learners to be reflective and self-aware as well as educating them about potential harmful influences in order that they can keep themselves and others safe and healthy.

In recent months we have developed stronger educational links with Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Our students have benefited from police sessions entitled 'What's the Point?' including an appreciation of the facts and consequences of carrying weapons. The police have also contributed to input about County Lines (gangs that target young people to take and sell drugs across county borders). It is important that our children are aware of practices that seek to exploit them and entice them into being involved in criminal behaviours.

Peer pressure has become more sophisticated and significant with the development of technological communication and mobility. Research into the rise in online grooming, facilitated by social media platforms, has coincided with a spike in adolescent mental health issues.

The African proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' is particularly relevant at the moment. More than ever, our young people need responsible adults in their communities to keep them safe and prevent them from seeking acceptance by more dangerous means. Reporting concerns to the College (thinkpink@lvc.org, the police www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-concern and students' families is integral to this.

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 April

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