VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2019 ISSUE 190

VILLAGE DIARY

Sat 2 Daisy Chains Pre-School QUIZ NIGHT. 7.30pm, Village Hall. See page 3

Sun 3 United Parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church Snowdrop festival - garden open. 2 -4pm, Clover Cottage, Streetly End. See page 4

Mon 4 Blue & green wheeled bin collections

Wed 6 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

Sat 9 Balsham Spring Market. 2 - 4pm,
Balsham Church Institute. See page 5

Sun 10 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church Village clean-up. Meet at 11.00 in the Village Hall Car Park.

Mon 11 Black wheeled bin collection
Local History Club. AGM. 7.30pm,
Village Hall

Wed 13 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

Sat 16 Deadline for items for inclusion in the April edition of the Village Voice

Sun 17 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church

Mon 18 Blue & green wheeled bin collections
Gardening Club. *Unusual plants*. Talk
by Colin Ward. 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 20 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall

Sat 23 HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall

Sun 24 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church

Mon 25 Black wheeled bin collection
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village
Hall. All are welcome to attend

Sun 31 Mothering Sunday. Joint service with West Wratting & Weston Colville. 10.45, West Wratting Church

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 $(9.00 - 19.00) \pm 12.00$ /hour

evening £18.00/hour

£43.00 evening

To book the Village Hall contact Georgina Magin Email: bookings@westwickham.org visit www.westwickham.org or T: 01223 290972

ROAD CLOSURE

The previously announced utility works for 4 - 6 March and 11 - 15 March have now been merged into one week with both Cambridge Water and UK Power Networks overlapping their work to reduce the time the High Street will be closed. This will now be 4 - 7 March only. Diversions will be signposted via West Wratting & Mill Road for all traffic including buses.

The road closure is to provide both a fresh water supply and a foul water drain for the building plot between nos 39 - 47. Work will continue on 8 March on the verge to provide electricity for the development.

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR ALZHEIMERS RESEARCH

My grand daughter, Amy, who is currently employed at Alzheimers Research, has been chosen to run the London Marathon. She hopes to raise lots of money for this great cause. To help her I have lots of hand knitted toys for sale. All sizes and prices. Please phone me on 01223 892660 and leave a message and I will get back to you, or to view call at 27 Streetly End.

June Brazier







VILLAGE CLEAN – UP

Sunday 10 March 11.00 a.m. Meet at the Village Hall Car Park

All welcome

Bags, grabbers and gloves provided High visibility garments recommended











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

Spring time is often associated with a renewal of energy and fresh vision. This month there will be a new minster joining our team, Jeanine Kennedy, who will be living in Little Abington and working throughout our parishes. One of the many advantages of someone new joining a team is they may bring with them a fresh perspective. This can lead to a renewal of vision and energy, a different way of seeing the world

As we approach Lent this month, the period of around 40 days prior to Easter, we may also experience this as a time of renewal. Lent has traditionally been a time of stepping back from regular patterns to reflect on life. Some aim to give something up; others to take something on. In either case it may encourage us to see the world differently and perhaps appreciate things we have been taking for granted. It may also help us, as St Paul said in his letter to the Romans, to "be transformed by the renewing of your minds".

In the Christian faith during Lent we often reflect on the story of Jesus being led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days. Just prior to this, Jesus had been baptized in the River Jordan and experienced a revelation affirming his identity as the Son of God. He was then led into the wilderness to discover more about what it meant to be the Son of God and maybe see the world anew.

Lent can also be a time when we renew our vision. Do we need to take a step back from our regular pattern of doing things to see with a different perspective? Do we need to review our priorities and be transformed by the renewing of our minds? Perhaps in doing so, we may become more aware of the sheer wonder of being human and of the pearl of great price, which is the presence of God in our lives.

Revd Iain McColl



JEANINE KENNEDY

I am hugely excited about moving to the Abingtons and joining the Granta Vale Benefice as Pioneer Minister. The countryside is where my roots are and I am delighted that my children Wilber (aged 12) and Millie (aged 9) will be able to experience all that rural life has to offer. We will be having an open house at the vicarage in Little Abington on

Saturday 16 March between 2 and 4pm, all are welcome to pop in for tea and cake. We would love to see you. I am really looking forward to building connections with everyone in the community and in particular with people who are interested in faith, but perhaps don't feel that church is for them.

PINK MITTENS

I have found a fine pair of pink, probably children's, mittens which had been dropped on Footpath 30 (north of the High Street). If you have lost them please contact me.

Peter Grieve 290503



ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE COMMUNITY HUB

for our monthly gathering with tea, coffee and refreshments.

We also offer help and advice from
The Parish Nurse project
Community workers working with the Parish Nurse
Members of the seven churches ministry team
and other local organisations

Granta Vale Community Hub, Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS

Thursdays on the following dates
7 March - 4 April - 2 May - 6 June - 4 July - 1 August
5 September - 3 October —7 November - 5 December
1.30pm - 3.30pm



BECOME A ROLE MODEL and inspire the next generation of girls.

To find out more go to

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest/.

Girlguiding in Balsham needs new leaders Local Contact for Linton District is Louisa on 01223 833776, louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR Allen Hazlehurst

I started my career in 1972 as a trainee working for a Chemical Company called ICI in Manchester. This was a start to a long career in Pharmaceuticals working for at first Astra Zeneca and then Novartis which lasted 25 years. In the late 90s during a flurry



of mergers my part of Novartis was closed and the work moved to the USA. At this time, I felt that I could not move with it. After a few weeks of contemplation, I decided to spend my redundancy money and travel, after 2 years of discovery in Europe and the USA I returned to the UK.

I contacted an old friend and took a 3-day contract working for Imperial College London at South Kensington. I must have impressed as I was offered a full time position and spent many happy years working for the University in many different capacities. I also met my wife Diane at work and we married in 2000.

After 5 years running the Biological Services Unit in Charing Cross during which my daughter was born I again decided to take a new challenge. This was to take a role working for CRUK in Cambridge. My daughter was enrolled in the Meadow school in Balsham then on to LVC and now attends Long Road 6th form college.

I have a two main interests astronomy and gardening at which I am truly an amateur. I am about to retire on 29 March so hopefully I will have more time to enjoy the beautiful Cambridgeshire country side.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 January the following are some of the items discussed. The full draft Minutes are posted on the notice boards.

Matter arising.

- 1. Allen Hazlehurst was formally proposed and accepted to fill the vacancy on the Council.
- 2. Kelly Austin (Granta Medical Practice Social Navigator) spoke about her job to keep in touch with patients referred by Doctors, District Nurses or the Parish Nurse and guide them to find the right sources to help them. Her email address is k.austin1@nhs.net.
- 3. Age UK are asking those who donate to the warden scheme for an increase in the annual grant. After discussion it was agreed to make an increase of £100, making the total £350 per year.

Planning: Cllr. Cornish updated the Council regarding the 4 affordable homes to be built at Burton End. SCDC Housing will be funding these and plans should be available by the end of February.

Finance:

- 1. Authorised payments were agreed and can be seen in the draft minutes on the notice boards.
- 2. The Precept for 2019/2020 was discussed and it was agreed to request an increase of £1000 making a total of £12,000 for the year.

Maintenance:

- 1. Speed Indication Signs & Speed Watch: Faults which were occurring in the equipment have now been resolved after contacting the manufacturer. (Ed. see separate article) No Speed Watching has been carried out recently.
- 2. Road sign repairs: Most have now been repaired or replaced. It is hoped the missing 30mph signs in Streetly End will shortly be replaced.
- 3. Water on road at Streetly End: The Parish Clerk will write to the landowner in order to get this problem resolved.
- 4. *Litter:* Cllr. Grieve hopes for a good turn out on "Village clean-up day" on Sunday 10 March. He reported on the high amount of litter on the road to the West Wratting/Withersfield junction. (Ed. see separate article)
- 5. *Gritting pavements:* Cllr. Schuilenburg who organises this winter job would like more volunteers. (Ed. See separate article)

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Sargeant has taken over as Chairman following the resignation of Trevor Hall. He was thanked for the enormous amount of work he has put in over the last 4 years. (Ed. See separate article)

Reports from Dist. Cllr. Harvey and County Cllr. Batchelor are available on the website.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 25 March, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

* HUB NIGHT! * WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL NEXT 23.03.19 7PM-11PM

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Trevor Hall has stepped down from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. The Parish Council and Working Group would like to express their sincere thanks to Trevor for all his hard work in developing our plan. Dave Sargeant has taken over as chairman for the Working Group. The full list of Working Group members is available on the village website www.westwickham.org under Parish/Neighbourhood Plan/Working Group Members.

The Village Character Assessment is complete and will be used as evidence for our plan and by planning officers. It is available on the village website and printed copies can be borrowed from Dave Sargeant (17 Burton End), Janet & Andrew Morris (21 High Street) or Anita Stone (3 Streetly End).

The Working Group is now developing our plan and starting to draft polices with help from planning experts. A Neighbourhood Plan is developed by the community so if you think you could help; we would love to hear from you.

Comments and feedback are welcomed, please get in touch with Dave Sargeant (davidjsargeant@googlemail.com) or any of the Working Group members – we value your input.

Dave Sargeant

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PAVEMENT GRITTING

While not much of winter is left, we are still looking for a volunteer to help with gritting of the pavements in West Wickham, and another for Streetly End. Why not combine your evening constitutional with a little extra activity to help warm you on the remaining few cold evenings? Drop me an email at alex@schuilenburg.org or text at 07811 364531 if you can help.

Thanks, Alex Schuilenburg



NATURE NOTES

If you have watched Alex's video on the web site, you'll have an idea about some of the activities of our fellow mammals who live alongside us. We have some more evidence this month as hares have been seen chasing each other around and boxing. Di counted ten in one field while I saw two in another. After the worrying news of a virus that has spread to both rabbits and hares these sights were a boost. Let us hope that the hare coursers keep well away. The first hare sightings happened when there was snow on the ground, which stuck around for several days allowing us to turn detective and see what had been around during the night. Di saw a criss-cross of footprints - mainly rabbits and hares, but also a fox and many birds. The mammal we rarely see, but one who leaves evidence of his movements, is the mole. There has been a lot of underground activity in the churchyard recently and I'm not talking about zombies. We have chickens but have had no fox trouble since 2007. A possible reason for this is that the foxes receive adequate nourishment elsewhere thanks to the generosity of people in the village. They have at least three places where regular food is provided for them and I'm sure they appreciate it. In the bird world, the news of the month locally was the sighting of a great crested grebe on the pond at Court Barn, next to the church. As far as we know this is a first for West Wickham, unless someone out there knows different. There continue to be many sightings of owls both at the Dean Road and West Wratting common crossroads. Today in the small hours I listened to a lonely tawny calling nearby for some time, but there was no terwit to answer his woo hoo. Further afield, Di had a trip to Wicken Fen and was fortunate to see a common crane flying over the marshes. The reintroduction of cranes, just like kites, has been a great conservation triumph. Di was also treated to a pair of marsh harriers displaying their courting behaviour, in which the male passes food to the female in mid-air and she saw several fly pasts of geese as they went to their feeding grounds on the surrounding meadows - always a sight to lift the spirits.

The first signs of spring are a good fillip, and the spring plants like dogs mercury and cuckoo pint are beginning to show, male catkins and female red stars are to be seen on the hazel trees and some of our resident birds are beginning to tune up. We've been having some splendid music from a song thrush for a few days now and this morning I heard my first chaffinch singing.

On the down side, there is the disturbing news about the decline of insect populations throughout the world. Insects are absolutely vital to life on earth in that they pollinate plants and are themselves part of the food chain. Two of the main causes of this decline are loss of habitat and use of pesticides. So every one of us can do something about it, farmers and gardeners alike, by encouraging more insect-friendly plants in field margins and gardens and working to end the use of pesticides. Let's make the phrase 'environmental stewardship' really mean something. I know West Wickham is only a small village, but in the words of Edmund Burke: 'no-one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.'

Please send us your nature sightings.

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

COMMUNITY BUSES A USER'S PERSPECTIVE

For the past 12 months I have been unable to drive for medical reasons. This was a frustrating situation and I was not able to go anywhere unless taken by my husband or many kind friends who offered me lifts. Then I discovered the little community buses. To my surprise they brought a whole new source of independence and entertainment into my life.

Because the buses are small they only carry a few passengers. These are mainly elderly ladies and teenagers who transfer to the Cambridge bus in Linton in order to get to school. The regulars know each other by name and chat away all the time. The driver often joins in. They make you welcome and include you in their chatter if you wish. It is often more amusing to simply listen. Old ladies can be very funny without intending to be. If someone who is a regular doesn't appear, the others are quite concerned.

The drivers are helpful, cheerful, lending a hand with bags and trolley and know where people live. They will stop right in front of your house to let you off or take you exactly where you want to go. I remember a morning as we drove down Linton High Street when a voice called from the back "Steve, don't forget that Lily's going to the dentist." Steve duly pulled in right in front of the Linton dentist, just a few yards short of the A1307 junction.

In the car I can be in Haverhill in 12 minutes. On the bus it takes 45 minutes: the route goes from West Wickham via West Wratting, Balsham, Linton, Bartlow, Shudy Camps, Castle Camps, Nosterfield End and into Haverhill, passing Sainsbury's and finishing at the bus station.

I was taken through villages I had long known by name but never visited. I could sit back and really look at them properly. The houses, gardens, pubs, views - without having to watch the road. The names fascinated me and I began to think that this would make an interesting research project to trace the origins of the names. For instance, could The Camps have Roman origins? Nosterfield End - a person maybe? Even our own Wickham and Wratting? You have a lot of thinking time on a bus.

These little buses provide a really important service to our villages. There are many people who don't have any other means of transport. But if we don't support them it is possible that we won't have them any more. I have my driving licence back now but I still use the bus sometimes because it is convenient (no parking problems) and, if you have a bus pass, it is free.

If there is anyone who may like to give it a try and would like more information then just give me a ring and have a chat. Things like where the bus picks you up, what is the timetable like and so on. I would be very happy to talk to them. Call me on 01223 290243 or email: viviennehenderson17@gmail.com

Vivienne Henderson

SNOWDROP FESTIVAL

2 - 4 pm, Sunday 3 March Clover Cottage, 50 Streetly End Adults £2.50, children free Plants for sale & light refreshments available

Garden open for charity through the National Garden Scheme



SPEED SIGN RESULTS

The mobile vehicle activated sign was used in Streetly End and West Wickham High Street for the two weeks between 6 and 21 January. A summary of the data recorded by the sign at the two locations is given below.

The speed sign suffered a problem with recording data during both periods of use so equipment was not giving results throughout the whole period. The fault on the sign has been rectified and the average number of vehicles per day has been calculated from the periods when the data was being collected which did not include periods of high traffic volumes. Speeding through Streetly End seems to have decreased on a daily basis, possibly due to the presence of the building work presently underway.

Trevor Hall

Period	Location	Total number of vehicles	Number exceed- ing 35 mph	Maximum Speed recorded	Number of vehicles per day
6/1to 13/1	White Gables facing West	1394	80	44(2)	348 approx
13/1 to 20/1	Streetly End facing West	1865	79	43 (4)	400 approx



Join us for our first market of 2019. We have a full house with some new stall holders including Little Linton Red Polls, Neals Yard Remedies and Tansy Country Crafts. We will have our popular Tombola and Camps International Cambodia fundraisier. If you are our 55th person to walk through our door, you will win a hamper filled with goodies for Mother's Day. The cafe will be open serving up cake and cream teas. Hope to see you there!



WANTED - BALLS OF KNITTING WOOL

I have just started knitting 6in squares for a Church in Cambridge to be made into blankets for new mothers in Ethiopia who then take the blankets home – this may be their only possession - but I am short of wool to do this. If you have any wool I could collect. Please contact

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

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 27 April
2—4pm
West Wickham Village Hall
Clothes, books, 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 Monday - Friday.

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

We're holding an afternoon celebration of spring on the Sunday before the equinox, 17 March, at 4pm. You're invited to come and read a poem – it could be one about spring you like, one chosen from some I can provide, or something you've written? You could show an image on the screen behind you or we can broaden it out to include a Mother's Day theme, which will also be coming up. Join us for a little ramble at 11am on the same day to gather some greenery to decorate the Reading Room. If you'd like to, meet us there, maybe with secateurs.

All ages welcome! Refreshments available. Enquiries jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 291475

15th ANNUAL LENT LUNCH in aid of TARIRO

a small charity helping to educate orphan in Zimbabwe

Nine Chimney House, Balsham 12.30 pm Friday 22 March

All welcome so please come and join us for soup, cheese and fruit

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

This past month has been a busy one at The Meadow School, where we have experienced snow, rain, sunshine and everything in between! As I sit and write this though, the sun is shining through the window and it does feel like Spring might be around the corner. Spring term always feels like a quick one, and as teachers met to discuss children's progress at Parents Evenings this week, it suddenly dawned on them that we are already half way through another academic year.

Along with the sunshine outside, the school environment suddenly appears much brighter. Teachers have worked hard to put their displays up around school, each display purposefully planned to match the learning of each year group. As you walk around school, it is clear to see the progression across the school, with photographs of the very youngest children learning in their environment, to pages of beautifully neat writing or art work from our older children.

This term, Year 5 and 6 have been immersing themselves in World War Two. Following on from their fantastic trip, it is clear to see the children grappling with very adult themes of appeasement and the rights and wrongs of war. Although we might dismiss talking to our children about these topics in current affairs, the maturity of the discussions which have taken place in class have made it very clear that given the right skills, our children are not only able to understand these themes but that they also have very strong opinions themselves!

One of the defining elements of each topic this term, has been the access to quality children's literature linked to each topic. Year 5 and 6 have been reading Good Night Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian. The children have absolutely loved exploring the themes of evacuation through the book and have written some amazing emotive diaries. In Year 3 and 4, the children have continued their interest in the Polar regions through the fantastic book Ice Palace by Robert Swindells. This book is excellent for teaching new vocabulary and the children have used the book to write their own endings to the story, using the new language they have learnt. In Year 1 and 2, the teachers have used a beautifully illustrated wordless picture book called Journey by Aaron Becker. The children have absolutely loved studying the illustrations and inferring the story through the pictures, eventually painting their own settings and writing their own adventure stories. It has been so lovely using high quality books, which inspire children's imagination and their writing. We are really looking forward to World Book Day, when we are planning on using Lost Words by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris as a whole school art and literacy topic.

As always, we are always keen to gather a network of volunteers to hear our children read in school. If you have a spare hour to spare, then please do contact the office to speak to someone about how you might be help.

Helen Loe, Assistant 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

There are a number of international and national days, some of which we observe and celebrate at Linton Village College.

20 March will mark French Language Day and International Day of Happiness. Fortuitously this day will be spent in France enjoying a week of immersive language speaking by a large group of our Year 10 GCSE students.

The Chateau trip has become an important experience for our students, allowing them to sample the culture and language of a foreign country to give a real life context for their academic studies. It also provides a rich programme of activities that promote team work and encourage students to venture out of their comfort zones.

Our International Schools Award recognises our commitment to international learning activities. It is important that young people have a window into different cultures and countries developing as responsible global citizens.

We are also proud of our achievements in the arts. We have been hugely successful in both ABRSM exams and Arts Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold. These are an important recognition of the College's success in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum experience. This year's school production, *Annie* will showcase the great talents and hard work of a large number of our students and the skills and hard work of our arts team at LVC. It is brilliant to see so many young people taking pride in creative ventures and performances.

The development of arts leaders amongst College staff and students has helped to extend this experience to younger students at local schools. Pupils at our Trust primary schools have benefited from enriching arts opportunities including African clay mask-making at The Meadow Primary School, the delivering of singing tuition at Howard Community Primary School, resulting in a performance in the Young Voices concert at the O2, and a growing arts partnership provision at Linton Heights Junior School.

Our team of CALSAs (cultural arts leaders in schools and academies) and Arts Cluster is currently preparing for an arts festival to take place in the summer term involving a range of students from CHET schools and across the locality.

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 March

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