

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2019

ISSUE 192

## VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 5 United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church  
Tue 7 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection  
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 13 Blue & green wheeled bin collections  
Thur 16 **Deadline for items for inclusion in the June edition of the Village Voice**  
Sat 18 **Gardening Club PLANT SALE. 10.30 - 12.00, Village Hall**  
**Balsham Singers Summer Concert. 7.30pm, Balsham Church. See page 3**  
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
Mon 20 Black wheeled bin collection  
Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall  
Sat 25 **HUB NIGHT. 7 - 11pm, Village Hall**  
Sun 26 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church  
**RAF Wrattling Common May Memorial service. 12.00, Wrattling Common Memorial. See page 1.**  
Tue 28 Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collections  
Wed 29 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**

## 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.

## RAF WRATTING COMMON

### May Memorial Service Sunday 26 May

A short open air service will be held at **12 noon on Sunday 26 May** at the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial stone. The last Sunday in May was chosen as it was the same day in 1943 (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>) that the airfield was commissioned. The Memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing 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 be on parade. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville and all are very welcome to attend the service.

**Please note** - To mark this anniversary Richard Adams has kindly arranged for a fly-past and some aerobatics by an ex RAF Bulldog training aircraft. We expect the fly-past at around 12.30 but it will be dependent on flying conditions. It is intended that tea and cake will be available while we await the fly-past.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

For further information please email: [rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com](mailto:rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com)

Dan Heath

## 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

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## FROM THE VICARAGE

What a joy to be going to evening meetings in the daylight now the clocks have come forward. Spring has never felt so good in the way of colour and blossoming trees. We are in the merry month of May with Maypole dancing and outdoor pursuits.

All this indicates change and in our parishes we are experiencing different ways of drawing closer together. One of them is the Granta Vale Community Hub at Balsham Institute that meets every month on the first Thursday at 1.30 - 3.30pm where people are invited to drop in for tea and cake. It is a good way to meet new people and to see the parish nurse if there are any health concerns. Come and meet us, everyone is welcome. We also now have more cafe church services throughout the seven churches as we try to reach out to families.

All this sounds very busy but it does not have to be that way. I had a conversation with a retired vicar the other day and somehow, we got onto the subject of the busy lives. We live like hamsters on a wheel that is ever turning. In an aeroplane we are advised to look after ourselves first with the oxygen and then look after others later. Love our neighbours as ourselves; both are equally important.

In our society so many people rely on carers to help keep people in their own homes. It is a dedicated job that is so valuable that it is easy for the carers to be worn out with the daily grind of just keeping on top of things Carers Week begins on the 10 June and to recognise this there will be an afternoon event on Thursday 13 June at the Institute in Abington for those who care and those who are being cared for. It is a recognition of the work that goes on unseen to the wider world. There will be tea and cake and the afternoon will run from 2.00pm until 4.30pm. Come along if you can.

How can we help ourselves to change the habits we pick up so easily? Rushing here and there is not good for our mental wellbeing so how about trying this. Sit still and just be for a few moments it does not have to be a long time. Listen to the sounds around you. Sit with a cuppa and hear the birds or walk up the garden and allow yourself to look and listen to nature. Pacing the chores is better than burning out.

*What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.  
No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.*

A reminder to catch those moments when we see life through different eyes.

I am involved in a retreat movement that encourages people to come away from their daily lives to spend time listening to talks and slowing down the pace of life to deepen their faith. Some are hungry spiritually and do not know where to receive feeding. This retreat is one way of discovering the beauty of a rule of life that keeps us connected to each other and to ourselves. Ring any bells? Why not have a word with me and find out more?

May the month of May provide opportunities to experience God's good creation to share with others.

Rev. Kathy Bishop

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25 March the following were discussed. The full draft Minutes are available on the two notice boards.

*Recreation ground upkeep:* Two quotes received for cutting the grass were discussed and it was agreed CGM would be asked to do this and a quote for a 3 year contract would be requested.

*Planning:* S/0619/19/FL – next to 13 Burton End. Approval of matters re access, appearance etc. The Council were concerned about the colour of the roofing tiles, which were thought not to be in keeping with surrounding properties and the possible use of Maypole Croft to park cars by the construction staff. However, this is all covered in the Conditions of the application dealt with by the Planning Officer. A vote was taken and support was given.

*Finance:*

1. Full list of authorised payments in draft Minutes.
2. Allotment fees – These were last increased from £8 to £10 per allotment in 2012 and it was agreed to make an increase of £5 from £10 to £15 per allotment if this was acceptable to the allotment holders, who would be asked by letter.

*Traffic & Parking issues:* It has been noted that the car from 2 High St. is now parking further up the street following a letter being sent.

*Maintenance:*

1. Road sign repairs – the 30mph signs have not been fully replaced in Streetly End. The matter will again be raised at the next Combined Parishes Meeting.
2. Dead beech tree in triangle at Streetly End – Cllr Cornish reported that this was in bud.
3. Water on road at Streetly End – this problem has not been resolved as yet but is ongoing.
4. Post Office – The person interested in re-starting the Post Office appears to be no longer available.
5. Litter – Cllr. Grieve and his team of 6 volunteers collected 20 bags of litter on a very windy Sunday morning. The Chairman thanked them for doing this.

*Neighbourhood Plan:* There will be a display at the Parish Meeting on Monday 3 June. The Working Group have just completed the second training session with ACRE, which covered how to write policies and the structure of the Plan.

*A1307 update:* Georgina Magin reported that Dist.Cllr. Harvey had been selected to go on to the Strategy Board as a representative of SCDC. The A1307 has now been included on the National major road network which means further access to funding.

*Reports by Dist.Cllr Harvey & County Cllr. Batchelor:* Full reports are available on the website.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 3 June at 7.15pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15pm.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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

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

NEXT DATE: **25.05.19** 7PM-11PM



**COME ALONG TO THE  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Monday 3 June at 8.15pm in the Village Hall**

**Your chance to find out what is happening in  
our village.**

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's Report
4. Correspondence related to the last Annual Parish Meeting
5. Reports on Village Hall
6. Reports of Societies, Groups and Associations available to view.
7. Finances
8. Any Other Business

**There will also be a display of the Neighbourhood Plan**

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

**GRANTA VALE COMMUNITY HUB**

Come for tea, coffee, cake and chat. The Parish Nurse will be there as well as a representative from REACH Community Projects.

Thursday 2 May 1:30-3:30. Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham.

**AGE UK SMALL VILLAGES WARDEN**

We have a new Warden, Shannon Cook. Her telephone number is 07436102865. She has spaces so if there is anyone in the village who would like her to visit she can be contacted on the above number

Nicky Cornish

**WEST WRATTING TENNIS CLUB**

**New Members Always Welcome!**

Great value local tennis club membership for all the family!

This year's Supper Party Friday 17 May 2019, 7.30pm.

Annual Wimbledon Ballot for affiliated BTM members.

Online Court Booking – Never make a wasted journey

For more information about the club, and to join

visit [www.WestWrattinTennis.co.uk](http://www.WestWrattinTennis.co.uk)

**WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE**

**Circular Walk, c5 miles.** The next walks will be on Saturday 11 May meeting in the Reading Room at 10am and Saturday 20 July, meeting in West Wickham as a one-off, see July's Village Voice. For both walks BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards.

**Cinema Club.** For our last film before the summer break, we're showing an Irish film. The characters in Sanctuary are a group living with intellectual disability and they are played by actors living with intellectual disability. It subverts received ideas about disability in its very approach to filmmaking. Come and see it – 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. Wednesday 1 May 7.30pm.

All welcome, donations, refreshments available, enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com\\_291475](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com_291475)

**WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB**

The speaker for the last talk in our 2018-2019 programme was Matthew Long from Riverside Bulbs at Monks Eleigh who gave us an illustrated talk on all those late flowering bulbs and corms that need to be planted in spring. Some of these were only suitable for heated greenhouses and were more exotic but others such as cannas, eucomis and dahlias can be grown in our gardens with winter protection. He had brought a large number for sale which our members took advantage of.

We are now in the process of potting up and on many plants for our PLANT SALE, :10.00 - 12:00 on 18 May at the Village Hall. This annual event is our main money raiser and is great fun for all who come for the bargains and to sit with friends for coffee and cake.

We have a coach trip to West Acre Nursery and then to Mannington Hall, near Fakenham, on Sunday 23 June. There are spare seats, so if you would like to join us at £20 a head please ring me on 01799584262. After that cold wind during these last 2 weeks we should

Rosemary Yallop

**ANNUAL SHOW &  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

The Club will be holding its Annual Show on Saturday 24 August. We will distribute the schedule to all households in the village nearer the date. A preview for anyone who would like to plan ahead is available from me now and copies will also be available at the Plant Sale on Saturday 18 May.

Following the number of entries in the photography classes last year we are keen to build on this success. We would particularly like to encourage children and budding creative talent with our new 'taken on my phone' class. To make entering as simple as possible, photographs can be emailed, printed-out or delivered as a digital image. Details of where to send or deliver pictures will be included in the show schedule.

This year's photography classes are...

- Community Life
- My Favourite Animal – *taken on my phone*
- A plant portrait – growing or arranged.

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863; E: [morrisandrew203@gmail.com](mailto:morrisandrew203@gmail.com)

**BALSHAM SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT**

The programme for this year's concert is rich and varied including Mozart, Finzi, Balfour, Gardiner, Chilcott, a medley from Les Miserables and more. We try hard to sing music that everyone can enjoy.

Our concert will take place at 7.30 in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham on Saturday 18 May. Tickets costing £10 can be purchased from the Post Offices in Balsham and Abington.

Lesley Crisp. T: 01223 891141

## NATURE NOTES

The corvid family is not viewed with universal approval by us humans, but I can't help loving them despite some of their slightly anti-social habits. Currently a collection of jackdaws are busy dropping twigs down various Burton End chimneys, including ours. As I write this, I am listening to frequent squawking and the occasional 'ping' as another twig hits the fire. Jackdaws (and magpies) are also enjoying sharing breakfast with our chickens, who don't seem to object to the uninvited company. I do sometimes rise up from my bowl of porridge to shoo the jackdaws away, but they soon come back. Crows and rooks have as usual been very noticeable in the fields and there have also been plenty of sightings of a fourth member of the corvid family, the jay, in recent weeks. Trevor reports having seen four of these attractively coloured birds in his garden at one time. We haven't had any jays in our garden, but a couple of recent highlights have been a yellowhammer on the hedge and a female sparrowhawk sitting on top of the pear tree, frustrated at being unable to penetrate the dense tangle of branches where the smaller birds like to take cover. The next day we saw her swooping low into the hedge opposite. In his pond, Trevor also reports a coot paying a visit. Here we are more accustomed to seeing the coot's cousin, the moorhen, who is more at home in smaller ponds than the lakes where coots are more frequently seen. It would be good to hear about life in any of your garden ponds. Ours has been relatively quiet this spring. We had some frogspawn but it seems to have disappeared - possibly eaten by mallards, who have produced a duckling next door, or maybe by moorhens or newts. Alex's pond has attracted a great crested newt - a name to strike fear into the heart of any property developer. The presence of these protected amphibians in West Wickham has been often referred to, and I would welcome a good picture of a male, complete with crest.

Many of the members of the animal kingdom that I have mentioned here are predatory to some extent. None is more so than the stoat - another visitor to Trevor and Carol's garden, possibly in vain pursuit of their chickens. I'm hoping the stoat doesn't decide to try its luck a bit further down the road. As for the herbivores, we have been lucky enough to have a couple of sightings of fallow deer recently - one moving at top speed out of Leys Wood, and there still seem to be plenty of hares about.

Many people will have noticed that the hedge alongside Blacklands Lane has been severely cut down. This was done rather late in the day, well into March, and the Parish Council expressed its concerns that this work had been done when the nesting season was under way and the hedges by no means dormant. However Thurlow Estate has assured us that as part of a higher stewardship agreement funded by Natural England this coppicing work will result in a thicker hedge growing in the long term and they have also said that next year the hedges in West Wickham which remain to be coppiced will be cut at the beginning of their programme (i.e. much earlier than this year). This year spring was particularly early, and I expect that with global warming increasing all the time, this will become a growing trend to which people and nature will have to adapt.

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)

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett, T:07498994205  
Mobile: 0749 899 4205  
email:[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com)  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday unless otherwise stated on her mobile phone. This is NOT a 24hr monitored service.  
**Community Warden:** Shannon Cook, T: 07436102865  
**Helping Hands:** 07399 263222

## MORE CAR KEYING IN STREETLY END

On Friday 12 April around lunch time my sister's car was deliberately severely scratched with a sharp implement across all 4 panels. There have been several incidents of cars being damaged with sharp implements in the last few years. All have been parked by their owners half on the road and half on the pavement, juggling respect for pedestrians and tractors. All the criminal damage has been on the pavement side of the car. I write this to warn people of the risk of criminal damage being done to vehicles by someone who is either unwell or unable to communicate appropriately with the owners of the vehicles. I will be contacting the local PCSO, so if anyone has any information that is relevant I would appreciate it if they could get in touch.

Laura Hawksley. Email: [Laurahawksley@hotmail.com](mailto:Laurahawksley@hotmail.com)

(Ed. This seems to be a recurring problem in Streetly End. No matter how annoying vehicles parked on a pavement may be to someone, there is no excuse in causing expensive and criminal damage to a vehicle. The following was taken from [www.askthe.police.uk](http://www.askthe.police.uk). Parking on a pavement is not illegal, although driving on a pavement is and you have to drive on the pavement to park on it! However, parking a vehicle on the pavement could lead to an offence of obstruction being committed. This could result in a fixed penalty notice being issued to offending vehicles. This is because parking on the pavement can obstruct pedestrians and wheelchair users, forcing them to use the road to pass a parked vehicle. The local police will usually deal with vehicles driving on the pavement or causing an obstruction. You can contact them by phoning 101.

**Whoever is causing the damage, don't** - point out the problem to the driver, leave a message under the windscreen wiper or report it to the police.

**Drivers** - the RAC advise that if your parking will cause wheelchair users or people with prams to have to walk into the road, then you should find somewhere else to park. The pavements in Streetly End are very narrow so you should not be parking on them!)

## DON'T FORGET HUB NIGHT

25 May, 7 - 11pm, Village Hall

## PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May

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