

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2019

ISSUE 194

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon 1	Black wheeled bin collection
Sun 7	United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
Mon 8	Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 10	Carpet bowls club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 14	Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 15	Black wheeled bin collection
Tue 16	Deadline for items to be included in the August edition of the Village Voice
Wed 17	Carpet bowls club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 21	Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 22	Blue & green wheeled bin collection Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend HIGH STREET road closure to 26 July
Wed 24	Carpet bowls club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 27	HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall
Sun 28	Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 29	Black wheeled bin collection
Wed 31	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

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 31 August

CHURCH FETE

Manor Farm

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

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.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

High Street, West Wickham

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)

ORDER 2019/498

NOTICE is given that Cambridgeshire County Council has made an Order pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, the effect of which is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along High Street, West Wickham as lies between numbers 39 and 59.

Access will be maintained to properties affected by this order.

The alternative route for vehicles is via High Street Southern Spur - Balsham Road - Mill Road - Mill Road, West Wrattling - The Common - Burton End - Burton End, West Wickham and vice versa.

The Order is made to facilitate sewer connection and vehicle access construction works which are being carried out on or near this highway. It is anticipated that these works will be carried out 08:00hrs to 17:00hrs daily between 22 July and 26 July 2019.

The Order shall not apply to any persons lawfully engaged in connection with any works for which it is made, any member of the Police Force, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, a vehicle being used by Special Forces during the execution of their duties or to any person acting with the permission or upon the direction of a Police Officer in uniform.

Steven Cox, Executive Director, Place and Economy, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP.
27 June 2019

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

The Club will be holding its Annual Show on Saturday 24 August. We will be distributing the schedule to all households with the August Village Voice but if you want an early copy please contact me.

This year the photography classes will be judged in advance of the show and entries must be submitted **by 5pm on Wednesday 14 August**. You can either send or deliver your images (digital or printed) and enter up to two photos per class. The details of how to do this are given in the Show schedule, including information on how to pay.

We hope children and budding creatives will enjoy the 'taken with your phone' class. Hopefully, the sunny weather we are promised will inspire some creative animal compositions as we all get out and about.

This year's photography classes are:

- Community Life.
- My Favourite Animal – (taken with your phone).
- A plant portrait, grown or arranged.

You may also wish to start thinking about the children's classes. These will be:

- 3 decorated fairy cakes.
- A bird made from natural materials. (wild flowers may not be used in this class).

Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham. T: 290863;
E: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

FROM THE VICAR

At the time of writing the June Revels has just taken place at The Meadow primary school. It's a wonderful fundraising event with bouncy castles and other fun activities and stalls. My children had a great time but it's also a time for parents to catch up with each other and support the school. It is one of many community events in our villages held over the summer months, as we hope to enjoy the sunnier weather outdoors. These kind of events remind us how strengthening our relationships and community life may enhance our sense of purpose and wellbeing.

Part of the church's mission is to pray for and help communities to flourish. We employ a parish nurse and engage two community workers with the vision of helping to sustain: 'compassionate, connected communities'. Our community workers, Steve Jordan and Jacqueline Douglas, work alongside our parish nurse, Claire Gillett, as they seek to support people's health and wellbeing and empower others. We also run a 'Community Hub' on the first Thursday afternoon of each month at the Church Institute in Balsham. This provides a community space with free cake and coffee, and is regularly attended as well by our parish nurse and community workers. We will shortly be starting a similar 'Community Hub' at the Institute in Great Abington and all are welcome at both of these.

This vision also draws upon the words of Jesus in the gospels calling people to love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Jesus said that no other commandments were greater than these. This way of seeing the world is at the heart of his gospel. It informs an understanding of human beings as interdependent and sees our humanity shaped by our relationship with God and each other. When we experience fragmentation and conflict in our lives, it can be transformative to remind ourselves of these gospel words, and to pray for and seek the wellbeing of people and places around us.

Revd Iain McColl

GRANTA VALE COMMUNITY HUB THURSDAY 4 JULY, 1:30 – 3:30

All are welcome for a cream tea and chat at our monthly Community Hub in the Church Institute in Balsham. We also offer help and advice from the Parish Nurse Project, Reach Community Project and other local organisations.

CHURCH FETE RAFFLE 31 AUGUST

We are co-ordinating the Raffle again this year. Yes, it's early days but with the intervening school holidays and attendant summer hubbub, necessary planning is already in train!

Please can you make a donation to the Raffle in support of the worthy cause of our beautiful church. We can come and collect it from you if you prefer - no problem.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Godfrey and Jenny Dutton
Walnut Tree Cottage, Streetly End
Tel: 01223 890536; E-mail: duttonmail@sky.com

NATURE NOTES

Until the jet stream delivered this spell of cool, wet and dark weather, 2019 seemed to have been a butterfly friendly year. I recorded eight species visiting our garden by the end of May, including the beautiful small copper - a first timer for our garden, sunbathing on a tile, wings spread for easy identification. The grey and pink colours of the cinnabar moth have also been regularly spotted up this end of the village. July and August are the main months for butterflies when the likes of the skippers, the gatekeepers and the ringlets emerge, so let's hope the sun returns by then. The Big Butterfly Count takes place between 19 July and 11 August. Anyone can take part so if you can spare fifteen minutes to watch for butterflies either in your garden or when out walking you can send in your sightings. (www.bigbutterflycount.org)

The sunny conditions favoured by butterflies don't suit everyone. Slugs and snails are virtually inactive during long dry spells but they have come to life again in the last few days, perhaps to the consternation of gardeners, but to the delight of thrushes, for whom slugs and snails are a good source of food. Mistle thrushes are known as stormcocks because of their habit of singing while the rain is falling, and when we hear song thrushes and blackbirds singing loudly after rain, I often think it is in celebration of the delivery of ready meals and earthworms coming up to the surface for easier pickings.

For Di it is the contribution made by these birds to the dawn chorus which makes early summer so magical. They are joined by robins and wrens and the cooing of woodpigeons and collared doves as well as the occasional raucous magpie or, recently the loud calls of a young greater spotted woodpecker demanding adult attention. She contrasts this with her recent visit to Spain where the dawn chorus consisted of chattering spotless starlings and screeching swifts as they swept past the hotel. Swifts have declined markedly in this country and there also seem to be very few swallows locally this year although Jenny Dutton reported seeing a 'gulp' of swallows in Horseheath earlier this month.


Wild flower meadows, have declined dramatically, but luckily for us there is one to the left of the footpath just past the Old Vicarage at Burton End for us to enjoy. It has very long grass, but in the mass of swaying greenery are many wild flowers - oxeye daisies, orchids, hogweed and three members of the vetch family: common vetch, a beautiful purple colour, and hairy tare and smooth tare, both with tiny flowers in the palest pink barely visible unless you look closely. With buttercups to add to the colour scheme it is a beautiful habitat. I reported last month on the pleasant sight of a patch of farmland planted up with insect friendly flowers and I am pleased to say that this is much more extensive than I first thought, a most encouraging trend, supplemented by areas of uncultivated land intended to improve conditions for ground nesting birds, which we try to ensure remain undisturbed by dogs.

Walking along the footpath behind the playing field recently (with dogs), a hare came lloping towards us. With eyes on the side of their head, hares can sometimes be unaware of what is directly in front of them, so the hare continued to within a few yards of us before doing swift u-turn, switching on the afterburners and veering off into the trees.

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

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

NEXT DATE: **27.07.19** 7PM-11PM



WHAT IS THE HUB NIGHT?

You may be new to the village or even a long-time resident, seen the adverts for the Hub Night and wondered what it is all about?

The Hub Night is in essence a ‘pop-up’ pub organized by village members so that people can meet up with their friends and have the opportunity to get to know their neighbours. It takes place in the Village Hall on the 4th Saturday of the month from March until December and you can drop in at any time between 7pm and 11pm. There is a ‘beer of the month’ as well as wine (and maybe Pimms in the summer). Non alcoholic drinks are also available and children are welcome. There are cards and dominoes and, space permitting, table tennis. The evening is non profit making and a donation is made to a local charity each time (suggestions appreciated).

The Hub Night is a community event which relies on volunteers. Help is always needed to run the bar, provide nibbles and help set up and put away tables and chairs so offers are more than welcome Our Hub is run by the community for the community.

But I don’t know anyone you say? That’s the point. You will be made very welcome and someone will always introduce you to people.

So, why not come along. We look forward to seeing you at the next Hub Night on Saturday 27 July. If you can help or would like more details please contact Nicci, T: 01223 290886 or email her on nicci@innerlather.co.uk

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS EVENT **ROCK IN MIND**

On Saturday 27 July, a music festival raising money and awareness of mental health is being held at The Coach House Hotel, Flint Cross, Near Royston. EASTFest is being staged in memory of Richard East who tragically took his own life following illness and depression in 2018. A true rock aficionado and great musician, Rich was a devoted family man and well known throughout the rock scene. The East Anglian rock community are coming together to celebrate Rich’s life in style and at high volume with a fun day out for the family (under 16’s go free) and all music fans. This charity event brings together some of the best rock bands on a 5 acre site with full catering, parking and amenities. Gates open at noon and 7 bands will rock us through from 2pm to midnight.

All proceeds from EASTFest will be donated to The MindEd Trust, a registered charity created following the terrible suicide of Cambridgeshire teenager, Edward Mallen, in 2015. The charity funds mental health awareness and care programmes in the school system, the workplace and the community across East Anglia. It aims to destroy the stigma associated with mental illness, prevent suicide and alleviate the suffering of all those experiencing psychological trauma. MindEd have also co-founded the Zero Suicide Alliance, a national mental health reform and

suicide prevention programme. Please look at their free suicide prevention guide at www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training/ You could save a life. For further information on EASTFest and to buy tickets and tee-shirts please go to www.eastfest.live Further information about The MindEd Trust can be found at www.themindedtrust.org If you would like to help in some way on the day, please contact Sandra East on: 0771 424 7399 / sarnicast@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 3 June the following were some of the matters discussed. The draft Minutes are on the notice boards.

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman Patrick Charlton was re-elected Chairman and Marcus Cornish Vice Chairman. Di Licence and Alex Schuilenburg were happy to continue to represent the Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Jacqueline Douglas (Parish Nurse Plus project) spoke about her job as a Community Worker for Weston Colville, West Wickham and West Wrating. Full details in the Minutes.

Planning: S/1597/19/FL – Proposed detached building on land adjacent to 3 High St. It was agreed to object to the application on 3 issues: parking, design and privacy.

Finance: The accounts for the year had been distributed and were agreed by the Council and will be sent to the External Auditors. All outstanding payments were authorised. The 1st tranche of the Precept of £5500 had been received and the way leave payment of £78.62 from Eastern Power Networks.

Correspondence: A letter from Lucy Fraser (MP) regarding local transport needs will be replied to by the Parish Clerk. The Chairman has also emailed information received from a parishioner. A letter from the Salvation Army asking if they could site a clothes bank in the village was discussed and the offer was declined because of problems which arose in the past when a clothes bank was sited at the Village Hall.

Traffic:

1. Speed Indicator – these have been in use for 1 year now and are working well. Following a discussion about creating 40mph to 30mph buffer zones it was agreed to apply for funding through the Local Highways Improvement scheme if the Police approve the project.
2. 30mph speed signs are now complete in Streetly End.

County Cllr. & District Cllr. Reports can be read on the village website and their Annual reports are included in the Annual Parish Meeting reports on pages 4 - 7.

Any other business:

1. Complaints have been received about the security lights at the Jelly Warehouse and the Parish Clerk will write to them.
2. The very poor state of the pavements at the T junction end of the village has been reported to the County Council Highways Dept.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22 July at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This was held on Monday 3 June. The following reports from the Parish Council, District & County Councillors, Village Hall and village organisations were presented.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for the time and effort that they give so generously to the West Wickham Parish. Allen Hazelhurst generously agreed to be co-opted to serve on the Parish Council. Many different meetings are attended by the Parish Councillors on your behalf: Balsham Ward Forum, A1307 Parishes Forum, Village Hall Committee, Neighbourhood Watch, Police liaison and various planning meetings to name but a few.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has been progressing well under the new chair of the working group Dave Sargeant. The importance of having an adopted Plan would still appear to be essential with regards to how much weight is given to the Parish's views on planning applications. I would also like to thank Trevor Hall, the previous chair, and all those on the working group who have given their time so freely for the good of the Parish.

Speeding within the Parish and the surrounding area is still a major concern to many, The speed indicators we believe are having an impact and the data enables us to highlight to the relevant parties where the biggest issues occur, namely entering Streetly End from Horseheath. Our Speedwatch team have also been out and about helping to drive down the speed in the Parish. Please could I appeal to all those living within the Parish to set a personal example, as I have seen quite a few locals going through at pace!

South Cambridgeshire Planning Department still continues to perplex me on how they work and arrive at some of their decisions. It is important that if you have any strong feelings about any planning issue that you fill in the relevant form online as a neighbour's feedback holds more weight that the Parish Council feeding back the neighbour's concerns. District Councillor Geoff Harvey has been very helpful in liaising with the planning department on our behalf.

The A1307 Strategy Board's proposed new route is still a live 'threat' to the Parish, with an application submitted by the Board for more funding to look further at the feasibility of the new route. Georgina Magin chairs the working group that monitors all things A1307, and she and her team have done a sterling job of making sure that we are all up to date with everything that is going on. I'm pleased to say that after representation to our MP Lucy Frazer, Councillor Geoff Harvey has been invited to attend the Strategy Board meetings as an observer.

The West Wickham Pub Hub continues to be popular and I'd like to thank all those involved, especially, Nicci and Ian Trudgeon, Di Licence, Alex Schuilenburg and The Chestnut Tree pub. It's a great way to get to know the local community and support local charities (see page 3).

The Village Voice is supported by your Parish Council and it is an excellent resource for all. Thank you to the editors Andrew Morris and Sue Thurston along with all other contributors and the people who deliver it.

Our Parish website westwickham.org, is also great for information as is the resident's email group.

The Council has set the precept at £12,000 which is £65 per household. This should give us an annual surplus to allow for the unexpected and with the knowledge that more financial burdens will continue to be passed down towards Parish Councils. There is £15,000 in reserve.

Your Parish council meets six times during the year. Jenny Richards our Parish Clerk has done another year's sterling work on behalf of West Wickham and we are truly grateful for her experience and professionalism.

Patrick Charlton, Chair West Wickham Parish Council

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club's year began once again in May 2018 with the Annual Plant Sale, which was most successful. We knew that we could not hope to match the "astonishing" [the Treasurer's word] sum raised at the 2017 sale, but the takings were in line with the 2015 and 2016 years and once again made a most valuable contribution to the Club's finances – as well as to the richness of local gardens! An even more important aspect of the summer was the successful return in August of the Annual Show (which had been rested during 2017). Despite a horticulturally challenging year weather-wise, a revitalised Show sub-committee organised a very well supported Show, which included a rejuvenated Photography section.

Between the Sale and the Show, the Club's members as usual enjoyed a number of visits to gardens of interest, all arranged by our excellent Programme Secretary, Rosemary Yallop. Two of these visits were to local gardens of interest, on Monday evenings: the first to the classic English garden of Marian Corbett in Cardinal's Green, and the second to the fascinating bonsai garden of Sally Harris in Castle Camps. The third visit involved an all-day coach trip (shared with the Balsham garden club) first to Place for Plants and then to R.H.S. Hyde Hall – again two quite different gardens and a very successful event.

It is nevertheless during the autumn, winter and spring months that the Club is at its most active, with its monthly Monday evening talks and presentations, and this year was no exception. The presentations have ranged from the distinctly practical (a talk on composting by our local supplier, Field Compost), through introductions to a range of different plants and to particular gardens (Ickworth) and garden residents (birds), to the seasonally light-hearted (creating horticultural Christmas decorations). These meetings always included refreshments, and sometimes plants were available at them for purchase. Attendance has remained healthy, and once again our Programme Secretary is to be congratulated.

Members of the Club continue to benefit from our arrangement with a major seed supplier for the centralised purchase of seed at a considerably reduced price, and we remain grateful to our Trading Secretary, Marian Corbett, for handling this operation. Members continue to benefit from the advice and information which is circulated in our occasional *Newsletter*, which is produced by Janet Morris. Janet also continues, on behalf of the Gardening Club, to maintain the strip of garden along the front of the Village Hall, from which we all benefit.

The Club's income continues to come from members'

subscriptions, the Plant Sale, and the Christmas Raffle (for which the prize is gift tokens from Beeches Nursery in Ashdon), and the main expenditure is on the payment of speakers and for the hire of the Village Hall. We remain very fortunate that all our financial arrangements continue under the careful management of our excellent Treasurer, Andrew Morris – who also chairs the above-mentioned Show sub-committee. It is very satisfactory to report that the Club this year has 41 members, its largest membership for a number of years.

Arthur Mawby, Chairman.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The Club has had a full programme of lectures during the year on subjects ranging from photos of Haverhill in the past to the work of the Museum of Cambridge (formerly the Folk Museum) and the life of John de Fraine, temperance lecturer and first Chairman of West Wickham Parish Council. Money was raised to fund pottery analysis from our community archaeology project and the final report is in the process of being written. A booklet about the men on the war memorial who died in the First World War was produced with financial support from the Parish Council.

Like many village institutions, the Club (founded in 1984) is suffering from lack of support and may not continue for long. It is difficult to book (and pay for) speakers when numbers are low and without an interesting programme it is difficult to attract new members. A more transient village population is seemingly not interested in the village's past (although quite happy to draw on our work when putting in a planning application or selling their house). Various village surveys have shown that people value their environment and its rural nature but you can only protect and enhance this by understanding how it came about in the first place.

The Club would welcome the support of the Parish Council for the Club by promoting the value of knowing about the history of the village and the surrounding area and by encouraging interest in the Club's activities.

Janet Morris, Secretary

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Illness has depleted Club membership over the year and we are at an all time low in numbers. This means we are struggling to remain viable. Carpet bowls is a very sociable game which can be played by all, whatever the age or ability. Evenings consist of very friendly competition amongst ourselves with the opportunity to play other local Clubs in friendly matches both at home and away. We have had a full programme of these over the year playing clubs from Haverhill, Ashdon, Castle Camps and Helions Bumpstead with mixed success but always enjoyable.

Again the Club would welcome Parish Council support in the promotion of the Club as an ideal way to meet and make friends with your neighbours and those from other villages.

Janet Morris, Secretary

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

In May, it will have been a year since we were elected as members to South Cambridgeshire District Council and the control of the council shifted from Conservative to Liberal

Democrat. So, what has the Liberal Democrat-led South Cambs Council been up to in the last year?

Governance. The Liberal Democrats won control of the Council in May 2018 and is now a 30-strong group (previously 14). There are 11 Conservatives, 2 Independents, 2 Labour. In a spirit of co-operation, we appointed an Independent Councillor as Council Chairman, and for good governance, appointed a Conservative as Chairman of the important Scrutiny and Overview Committee. A 7-strong cabinet is made up of 4 women and 3 men.

New Business Plan. Following a public consultation, a new Business Plan covering the period 2019 to 2024 has been published, which changes the direction of the Council. We are committed to providing homes that are truly affordable for everyone to live in; to help local businesses to grow; to be green to our core and to put customers at the centre of everything we do as a modern and caring council. Check out the new Business Plan at: www.scambs.gov.uk/businessplan

Re-organising the Council. It became clear in putting together the new Business Plan that the departmental structure of the council would struggle to deliver on our priorities. Furthermore, studies of other district councils showed that South Cambridgeshire had fallen behind in the use of new technology and working practices essential to run a modern council. Management consultants were commissioned to carry out a review of the council and to recommend what would need to change to improve business delivery and it was made clear to the consultants that business improvement was their brief, not cost-cutting.

Medium Term Financial Strategy. For most of the first year in control of the council, we had to work with the budget set by the previous Conservative-led administration. The council has recently approved the budget for 2019-20, which sets the priorities for the Lib Dem administration. The council no longer receives central government grants and the amount by which the amount of Council Tax the council can raise is also capped by the government.

Our five-year financial plan has been altered to deliver more income from investments and commercialisation with the aim of having 25% of £20 million income coming from these sources by 2024. The previous administration's plans were to reduce general reserves to less than £3 million by 2023 while we are aiming for reserves of £4.5 million by then. An inherited budget shortfall of £0.5 million has already been turned into a £1 million surplus which has gone into the General Reserve to help prepare for future uncertainties

'Green to our core'. Our administration has pledged to become a zero-carbon district by 2050. A working group of members and officers is preparing a high-level business case for a set of energy conservation measures (such as EV charging points, solar panels over our car park and on our waste depot). We intend that our Cambourne offices will be a showcase for a Zero Carbon Council and an exemplar to our residents.

A council with a heart. Our administration is determined to find homes in our district for 5 refugee families fleeing warfare in the middle east. The Home Office previously asked the council to help with the re-homing of refugees

Continued on page 6

Annual Parish meeting reports continued

over two year ago. The then minority Lib Dem Group, put a motion to Council proposing this but it was voted down by the majority Conservative Group. The current Home Office scheme runs until December 2019, and we hope to be able to provide homes for these 5 families by then.

Council grants. The committee that administers council grants has been refocused to make it more responsive to a range of needs and interests across the district. We have put more money into the mobile warden scheme this year and another increase is promised next year. We have initiated a piece of work to look at extending the scheme across the whole district and commissioned a similar piece of work on community transport.

Geoff Harvey

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Shire Hall. In an attempt to save money and move out of the expensive Shire Hall, the County Council made the decision to begin the process of relocating their offices to Alconbury. This is still some years down the line, but is definitely happening, the design is being finalised and a contractor to carry out the construction has been selected. This isn't great news for people wanting to visit the offices, as it's a lot further away from us and not accessible by public transport. The cost of the new HQ ballooned when the council realised it had budgeted for a 2 acre site when it needed a 4 acre site.

Computer Charges. After a year of having a charge implemented for usage of computers in County Council run libraries, the Council only made 1/9 of their estimated profit, with usage dropping by 1/3. Given these stats, they have reneged on the idea, and computer usage in libraries is now free for all again.

A1307. We've finally seen some work this year, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), who are the body facilitating the major changes to the road, not the Highways department, are starting spending some money on alterations. We've seen the beginning of the bus lane going into Linton from Abington, we've also had minor changes to the traffic lights at LVC and more bicycle racks at the Babraham Road Park & Ride site. The local engagement process will begin again soon, with the GCP seeking local opinion on larger scale elements, such as a new roundabout at Bartlow Road, Linton, upgrading the Dean Road junction, a new Park and Ride site location, locations of new cycle routes and proposed changes to traffic light systems in Linton and Hildersham. Keep your eyes on our monthly reports as we will be updating on this as things happen.

Funding. The County Council's financial problems persist with warnings of 'stark and unpalatable' choices ahead. They have raised council tax by the maximum allowed, 4.99% to help with this. They have budgeted for £8.8million income from commercial services this year, but is predicted to only make a quarter of that.

More positive news is that central government decided not to levy over £7million of 'negative revenue support grant' on the council (instead of paying the council a grant to help deliver services, the government was planning to charge the council).

Henry Batchelor

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Bookings. The Village Hall is used regularly by groups and clubs from both within and outside West Wickham, for a range of activities including sport, pastimes, hobbies and socializing and village meetings.

Daisy Chains preschool (<http://www.daisychainspreschool.co.uk>) is the most frequent user of the Hall. The Pre-school celebrated their 40th Anniversary in 2018 but now finds their finances are precarious. To help in balancing the books the Committee has decided to continue to apply a discretionary 25% discount. However, despite this the current occupancy rate well below capacity and the Pre-school no longer finds it viable to open on a Friday. The Pre-school organising committee assure me they will continue to operate a Pre-school for as long as their finances hold out.

From within the village the History and Gardening clubs have monthly meetings and Carpet Bowls Club meet weekly and all continue solidly and are represented on the committee. Both KenYuKan and Karate clubs meet twice weekly ensuring that the hall is in use almost every day.

As with previous years, there have been many ad hoc sports hire bookings and functions held during the year.

The Post Office, run by Clare Butfield, no longer operates out of the hall. There have been enquiries from other postmasters about re-opening this service but to date there has been no commitment.

Health and Safety. The importance of Health and Safety is emphasized by its place as a standing agenda item for Committee meetings. Currently regular checks are performed as part of Pre-school's compliance with Ofsted regulations. In addition all regular users are asked to report any concerns, so that they can be investigated and assessed promptly. The regular fire extinguisher service was undertaken.

Committee. The Committee met four times during the calendar year and the meetings were all well attended and productive. Louise Salter has stepped down from the role of booking secretary and has been ably replaced by Georgina Magin.

Maintenance. No large maintenance work was carried out in the calendar year. The Hall remains in a state of good repair with work being performed as and when required, with sufficient funds in the bank accounts to cover foreseeable requirements.

A quote has been sought to replace the heating system on a like-for-like basis. Alternative heating solutions are also being explored that may be more environmentally friendly and have potential to reduce ongoing costs. No conclusions have been reached as to the preferred option at this stage.

Nadine Warner, our caretaker, resigned her position after many years of service. Theresa and Jimmy Irwin have taken over the roles of cleaning and maintenance with an agreed total number of hours between them.

Energy Costs. The fixed term contract for electricity supply has ended and a new contract has been put in place. Again a 3 year fixed term seemed to offer the best insulation against continually increasing energy costs. However, the price rises that have occurred across the electricity sector during the intervening time have now resulted in a huge increase in our electricity costs

(approximately 40%) and therefore this will have a significant impact on the running costs of the Village Hall.

Finances. The Hall has made a small profit this year, thanks to consistent bookings and no large maintenance work required. However, there was a decrease in takings due to the reduced number of days and reduced rate applied to Pre-school bookings. On this basis the Hall operates slightly above break even. With the continuing upward trend in energy prices the ability of the Village Hall to turn any kind of profit or even break-even is vulnerable. On this basis it is likely that booking rates will need to be raised in the immediate future although the Committee has not yet agreed on the scale of any increases.

The Hall does have a healthy cash balance in its bank accounts which should cover most foreseeable eventualities. The Committee are considering ways to invest some of this capital in order to reduce electricity bills for the future and therefore reduce the running costs of the premises.

The Committee will also consider that as the building ages, more extensive maintenance will be required and ensure sufficient reserves remain to cover ongoing repairs.

Fundraising. There have not been any significant fundraising efforts in the last year.

Miscellaneous. Di Licence has proposed that the Village Hall applies for an alcohol license so that Hub nights are all legal and above board, without the need to apply for a single use license for each event. The committee continue to work with Di on the application.

Simon Keen, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

COURIER FRAUD, BOGUS POLICE & BANK OFFICIAL ALERT

Individuals have been receiving phone calls from people claiming to be a police officer or banking official. The suspect will say either:

- There has been fraudulent activity at the victims' bank and the staff at the bank are involved. The victim is then asked to withdraw money to either keep it safe or assist the police with their investigation.
- A business such as a jewellers or currency exchange is fraudulent and they require the victims' assistance to help secure evidence by purchasing jewellery or exchange a large amount of currency to hand over to the police.
- The victims' card has been compromised and used to purchase goods by a suspect. The victim is requested to withdraw their money to keep it safe or hand over their bank card to the police.

Occasionally the victim will be told to dial a non-emergency extension of '161' to receive confirmation of the individual's bogus identity. The bogus official will advise the victim to lie about the reason for the withdrawal/purchase if challenged by staff, as the staff member is involved in the fraud. A courier attends the victim's home address to collect the goods the same day. Often the victim is given a code word for the courier as a way of authentication.

Your bank or the police will never:

- Phone and ask you for your PIN or full banking password.

- Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping.
- Ask you to transfer money out of your account.
- Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs, cards to cheque books.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it online at Action Fraud (<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/ive-been-a-victim-of-fraud>) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

To receive active alerts of crime in our area, subscribe to our Neighbourhood Watch mailing list at https://westwickham.org/mailman/listinfo/neighbourhoodwatch_westwickham.org or sending an empty email to neighbourhoodwatch-request@westwickham.org with subject "subscribe".

Alex Schuilenburg

YOU ARE URGED TO STAY FIRE SAFE IN HOT WEATHER

Cambridgeshire residents have been urged to stay fire safe when outdoors this summer. With temperatures forecast to be similarly high to last year, fires in open areas of land can easily spread and become out of control.

Group Commander Paul Clarke, head of community fire safety at Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We want to help ensure that people enjoy the sunny weather while it's here safely. High temperatures and dry areas of land can be perfect conditions for a fire to spread. Something as simple as not stubbing a cigarette out properly, or using a disposable barbecue on grass, can start a fire that can develop quickly."

There are seven simple steps we urge residents to take to help prevent an outdoor fire:

- Ensure cigarettes are completely out
- Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation
- Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground, the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire
- When camping, do not leave a campfire unattended and make sure it is completely out before you leave it
- Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing
- Talk to your children about the dangers of starting a fire

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. If you wish to get in contact, please email pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 31 August

CHURCH FETE

Manor Farm

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

NEXT
DATE:

27.07.19 7PM-11PM



MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Sport has featured heavily this past month, as children have taken part in a wide range of sporting activities. We are always so proud of the way our children interact with other children at these events and show great team spirit. The Year 2 children attended a Mini-Olympics event at Linton Heights. This was organised for all the Year 2 children in the cluster schools to attend. The children thoroughly enjoyed rotating around all their different sporting activities, interacting with the other Year 2 children from different schools. The team spirit was great, encouraging each other to take part. Year 5 and 6 also attended a football and netball tournament at Linton Village College. Sadly, some of the other schools canceled due to the rain, but they managed to play some matches against the teams who attended. Once again, The Meadow children really demonstrated their fantastic sportsmanship. Mrs Tinsley accompanied Year 5 and 6 children to a Quad Kids athletics event. For several hours the children sprinted and jumped themselves through a number of athletics activities and we were particularly proud of such a fantastic spirit. The teams final placing was 15th and 17th out of 19 teams and three of the children won a Spirit of the Games Awards for their sportsmanship.

May and June has also been full of success for our mathematicians too. Back in May, Mrs Loe took four Year 5 children to the Cambridgeshire Maths Challenge. There are heats held all around the county for Year 5 to participate in, with an opportunity for first place teams to proceed to a final. Our school attended the heat held in Sawston, along with 14 other teams from the area. The children worked together in a team to answer a range of questions. The rounds included an estimation round, a memory round, bonus questions, tricky arithmetic and extra 'thinks'. The children worked fantastically as a team, and barely a whisper could be heard in the hall, as children conferred and the adults tried to challenge themselves answering the questions too! Our four children did so well they have achieved a place in the final, to be held at Duxford Imperial War Museum. We are looking forward to a great event!

The Year 6 Maths Challenge has also taken place at St Faiths School in Cambridge. A small team of Year 6 children attended the event, in which the children participated in two teams, working together for over an hour consistently, working at pace through a number of challenges. It was so lovely to see the look of concentration and determination amongst the children. 51 teams took part, so the competition was fierce, but The Meadow finished a highly respectable 9th and 22nd. Well done to the children who represented us so well.

This month we have also celebrated our June Revels event, raising much needed funds for the school. Thankfully the sun shone for us, despite showers earlier that day. It was a fantastic event, with families, friends and children all enjoying the wide choice of children's stalls, inflatables, BBQ and café during the evening. We are so grateful for the PTA, who organise the event and to parents giving time to volunteer setting up, running stalls and tidying away. The school relies heavily on these fundraising events as budgets for next year look so tight. We are looking forward to inviting new parents to join our PTA in September, to continue this great work.

Nicola Connor, Headteacher

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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email: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

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The first week in June is when all students in Years 7-10 benefit from a programme of enrichment. The definition of enrichment 'the action of improving or enhancing the quality or value of something' makes it an apt title for the week's events; the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and have access to new experiences certainly develops students' character.

Year 7s were fortunate to benefit from two educational day trips that informed their knowledge and appreciation of important historical events and scientific discoveries. They spent a show day at Duxford Imperial War Museum commemorating the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings and another at the London Planetarium. Year 8s were immersed in different cultural experiences including an Indian day in which they made artwork and food to enjoy in a collective feast and learnt some Bhangra dance moves, a day working with professional musicians to find out about the music industry and a team-building day led by the Army.

The whole of Year 9 spent the week on a residential trip either in Paris exploring landmarks, the South West France engaging with water sports or the Peak District involved in adventurous activities. The opportunity to be away from home, experience new things and develop skills with their peers was immensely enriching. Feedback from parents and accompanying staff commented on students' enjoyment of the freedom and responsibility involved. Meanwhile Year 10 students were engaged in a week of work experience. The majority of students sourced their own placements to sample the world of work in a particular industry. The exposure to a professional working environment certainly developed students' maturity and confidence and gave them an insight into work ethic and work place skills.

I am grateful for the hard work and energies that LVC staff have invested to make these extra-curricular activities possible. The planning and supervision involved in organising trips and events and conducting the necessary risk assessments is significant. From the smiling and exhausted faces seen in the photographs and moments from the week, it was all worth it.

Helena Marsh, Principal

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