

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2019

ISSUE 195

VILLAGE DIARY

Sun 4	United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
Mon 5	Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 7	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 11	Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 12	Black wheeled bin collection
Fri 16	Deadline for items to go in the September Village Voice
Sun 18	Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 19	Blue & green wheeled bin collection
Wed 21	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 24	GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW. 2.30pm, Village Hall HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall
Sun 25	Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Tue 27	Black wheeled bin (day late) collection
Wed 28	Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sat 31	CHURCH FETE & DOG SHOW. 1pm, Manor Farm

THE VILLAGE HALL

Bored, with nothing to do during the summer holidays? Why not play badminton, short tennis or table tennis in the Village Hall? All the equipment is provided for you to enjoy using it!

The Hall is available to hire at the rates below and this would be a great way to spend a morning or afternoon!

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.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Last year I wrote a piece for the Village Voice encouraging you to get involved in the Annual Show which takes place this year on **Saturday 24 August**. I was able to report afterwards that although the total number of entries was down on the last show in 2016, I saw some glimmers of hope in the fact that there were some first-time exhibitors, which was encouraging, and despite the difficult growing conditions - remember how hot and dry it was - the vegetable and flower classes were quite well supported. As there were no entries at all in the flower arranging class it has been abandoned for this year but the domestic classes and children's classes remain.

CHILDREN – there is **MONEY** to be won and a **CUP** to be awarded if you enter, so why not give it a go? The school holidays will be well underway and it might relieve the boredom – there are just two entries this year: try your baking skills by decorating three fairy cakes or let your imagination take hold by creating a bird made from natural materials (but no wild flowers). You don't even have to live in the village; last year's winner's granny lives here but she doesn't. And there's nothing to stop you entering any of the other classes if you are a keen gardener, baker or photographer.

Somewhat surprisingly the **DOMESTIC** classes were less well supported last year so why not think about entering something? You may already have a stash of marmalade or chutney and could enter a jar or have a go at making a simple fruit curd or jam now – it's not too late. What about baking a wholemeal loaf, a savoury pasty, flapjack or try making and decorating a chocolate sponge cake? You will probably find that all of the family appreciates your efforts as you can take home your entries at the end of the Show (or donate them to the auction). Or, like me and Pete there will be some failed first attempts that taste great even though they look awful and don't make it to the Show.

You will have already read about the new procedure for entering your **PHOTOS** this year and I hope, by doing away with the need to print out your photos if you don't want to, this will encourage those of you with mobile phones and digital cameras to email your photos directly (but don't forget to pay for your entries). It couldn't be simpler.

The Annual Show is a rare opportunity to get together to celebrate village life, admire what your fellow villagers have been creating, catch up with your neighbours and maybe meet new ones, enjoy tea and cake and perhaps even win a prize. Do have a go, see schedule enclosed.

Sue Thurston, Show Committee Member

WEST WICKHAM CHURCH FETE & DOG SHOW

Manor Farm, 1pm on Saturday 31 August

Raffle, Tombola, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac
Produce, Teas, Lucky Dip, Bowling for the Pig
Children's Races and Games, BBQ and Bar

See over

CHURCH FETE

Please turn out your cupboards for good bric a brac, books, bottles for the tombola stall and raffle prizes. All items can be delivered to Manor Farm and left at the gate or in the post box.

Nicky Cornish, T: 290203, Email: nicky.cornish@live.com

CAKE STALL

We are appealing to all of you generous people to give your time and talents in supporting our village cake stall. We are asking for donations of any type of cake, buns, biscuits, scones or tarts, all will be greatly appreciated. If you are not into baking you may wish to consider donating an alternative that we could sell such as sweets, fudge or maybe toffee apples? If you are prepared to help in any way, please could you contact us on the numbers below or email? This will enable us to plan ahead and not bother those who have already volunteered.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Vivienne Henderson, T: 290243.

Email: viviennehenderson17@gmail.com

Linda Upton, T: 290914.

Email havbishwick@btinternet.com

PLANTS, PRODUCE & PRESERVES NEEDED

If you have any of the above that you can spare for our stall at the Fete we would be very grateful. It would be helpful if you could drop them in to us in advance but, of course, on the day will be fine.

Janet & Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, T: 290863.

RAFFLE

Just a reminder folks! If you would like to make a donation to the Raffle, whether financial or actual, please contact us. We can come and collect - no problem.

Many thanks

Godfrey and Jenny Dutton

Walnut Tree Cottage, Streetly End, T: 890536;

Email: duttonmail@sky.com

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE GRANTA VALE 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 alongside the Parish Nurse,

Members of the seven churches ministry team,

Reach Community Projects and other local organizations.

Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham.

1.30pm – 3.30pm, Thursday 1 August.

FROM THE VICARAGE

I am so thankful to be settled now into the vicarage in Little Abington and so appreciative of the warm welcome we have received. We are enjoying the daily rhythm of village life and are loving the increasing familiarity of friendly faces to pass the time of day with as we walk our dog Freddie around the village.

I am keen to learn about our villages and have thoroughly enjoyed supporting the team serving the Abington Lunches as well as volunteering at the Great Abington School Fete. I am also really thrilled that we will be hosting a Community Hub in the Great Abington Institute on Tuesday 24 September between 2 - 4pm. This will be a chance to share free tea, coffee and cake together as well as meet with our Parish Nurse and other representatives from community organisations. It's also an opportunity to take a break if you wish from the hectic nature of life either side of the school run. We will be serving refreshments from both the terrace and the main hall, so please do stop by and say hello if you can.

Part of my focus as a Lay Pioneer Minister has been to support our churches in providing more spaces for people to enquire about and connect with Jesus. I am really enjoying our diverse Café Church services which we hold in Hildersham, Balsham and West Wrating at 4pm on Sundays. This, like the Community Hub, also involves delicious cakes and coffee as well as a chance to meet with others and consider questions about life and faith. In the autumn, inspired by the 'Space to be' reflection group run on Wednesday evenings by Rosemary Mead, we will have a new mid-week lunchtime group providing a space for meditation in Great Abington Church. To find out more about any of these services or groups please do get in touch.

Jeanine Kennedy, Pioneer Minister, T: 01223 893838,

Email: jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Trust is to be held on **Friday 7 October at 7.30 p.m.** Everyone who lives in the village is invited to attend.

The Hall is managed by a committee, which includes representatives of the Parish Council and user groups, and other individuals who can be elected at the AGM. The current Chairman of the Management Committee, Simon Keen, has said that he will be stepping down at the AGM this year so we are looking for someone else to take on this role which is important for the continued smooth running of the Hall. There are usually four meetings of the Committee each year.

If you would be interested in being on the Village Hall Committee (particularly if you would consider chairing it) please let Simon or one of the other Committee members know on the email address below and we can outline what is involved. Our Village Hall is a great local asset so we must ensure that it continues to be well run and maintained. The other members of the committee are currently Peter Grieve, Sue Harrow, Di Licence, Georgina Magin, Brian Marshall, Jane Scheuer, Alex Schuilenburg and Brian Upton.

Email: hall_committee@westwickham.org

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

NEXT
DATE: **24.08.19**
7PM-11PM



NATURE NOTES

The best news I had this month was of the sighting of spotted flycatchers in our churchyard. Di saw them first, an adult perched on a gravestone feeding a fledgling and characteristically flying into the air, catching an insect and returning to the same perch. The spotted flycatcher is an elegant bird, robin-sized with a sharp thin bill, upright stance and spotted chest. One was sitting on the war memorial as I walked up the path towards the church. They are birds that once were commonly seen in churchyards, which provide abundant perches but have declined significantly in recent decades. The lime trees in our churchyard have been sporting fragrant flowers and have attracted bees, hover flies and other insects as a result, which in turn attract insect eating birds like the flycatcher and the pied wagtail I sometimes see strutting around or standing on the church roof, flicking its tail. Pied wagtails are known in birding circles as 'Chiswick flyovers' because of the call they give in flight.

Although the churchyard may be a source of insects, the lack of them may be a reason we have seen so few swallows in the village this summer. There are notable exceptions: Ted and Anna reported counting 16 swallows on the wires at Hill Farm - possibly representing two broods, and Louise had a nest in her stable. It seems quite a few years since we had swallows nesting in our garage so they clearly prefer agricultural or equine locations.

In folklore we have tended to attach all sorts of meanings and omens to the sights and sounds of different birds and I recently had occasion to check up on how to interpret four herons flying over our garden. The heron is a symbol of rebirth apparently so this should be a good sign, although I didn't actually see them - Sue did. More interestingly, I know that herons nest in colonies, a bit like rooks, but to see a group flying together seems very unusual. Has anyone else seen this, or know of a nearby heronry? There is a lot of heron activity in the village, I know, presumably because there are so many ponds, but normally I only see one at a time.

In the wild flower meadow mentioned in last month's notes, there is a patch of white clover across the path. When you walk through it, clouds of brown and orange meadow brown butterflies fly up, like confetti. They should still be around for the Big Butterfly Count which is going on as this is published. The darker brown ringlets have started to appear and I have seen a couple of gatekeepers, although these were in Herefordshire. Earlier in July there were a number of painted ladies in various gardens and at the Village Hall. They do have a somewhat faded look, as someone commented, and towards the end of their sojourn they can also look rather ragged. They favour purple flowers, including thistles and their large wings are vulnerable to being caught on thorns and brambles.

We have been asked by several people why the banks at the Village Hall have not been cut at this time of year. The Parish Council leave three of the banks uncut between May and September for the wild flowers and this year we have been rewarded by over 40 bee orchids flowering. Di has pointed them out to people who have never seen them before. It is good to be able to share the pleasure of seeing these beautiful and very clever little flowers who have adapted themselves to attract and deceive the pollinators into a mutually beneficial relationship.

While on the subject of cutting, some of you may have noted the quite radical cut given to the grass alongside the Roman Road. Plenty of wildflowers which were in full bloom were taken out in this operation, just as the butterfly season is reaching its height, which is most unfortunate. The cutting of grass and other vegetation alongside footpaths and on roadside verges is a perennially contentious issue because of the competing interests of walkers, motorists and different forms of wildlife added to the budgetary constraints of local authorities, all of which make the timing and frequency of cuts a matter of fine judgement. And even for those of us who like to garden with the interests of wildflowers, insects and birds in mind this is no easy matter. For instance, some butterflies prefer the short, tussocky grass while others go for the very long stuff. If you let grass and other tall plants grow too big, some of the smaller wildflowers get crowded out. This has certainly happened in our garden and although we have managed to attract quite a few different species of butterfly I feel a sense of remorse when mowing our lawn when it is full of clover and self heal, both of which are appreciated by bees and other insects. All in all, many of the dilemmas we face in trying to preserve the conditions which are most favourable for wildlife result from the fact that we live in an environment almost wholly created by and for humans.

Please send us your nature sightings.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

Di Licence. T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

WEST WICKAM & BALSAM GARDENING CLUBS OUTING

On a sunny Sunday 23 June, a coach took members from both clubs to enjoy two interesting gardens. Our first stop was the smaller West Acre gardens, a D shaped walled old manor garden, which is situated about 5 miles from Swaffham. The specialist nursery selection was like a magnet to the members and many plants were purchased, as were the delicious cakes & coffee!

Next stop was Mannington Hall, the family home of Lord & Lady Walpole. The beautiful gardens surround the medieval moated manor house. It was bought by the first Lord Walpole in the 18th Century & is still a Walpole family home. The house is open by invitation to view through historic houses tours. It has a tearoom, visitor centre, plant sales and a small shop.

Our group visited the gardens only. After a delicious ploughman's enjoyed by some of us in the Greedy Goose café, we wandered the large grounds. The formal gardens surround the house which is a wonderful centre piece to the whole garden. The rose gardens were at their best and were awash with colourful blooms, they have over a thousand varieties! The gardens include traditional herbaceous borders, a modern garden, a meadow with boardwalk, two large lakes, a wood and a dell, which provide homes for much wildlife. A path crosses the road to the 'folly' which was a former Saxon chapel, which in spring is surrounded by rhododendron bushes in flower. We thank Rosemary Yallop from the West Wickham & District Gardening Club for organising this splendid trip and to Annie Marks for co-ordinating the Balsam group.

Hazel Leeson.

A CARER'S STORY

Barbara was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in early summer 2012, although her memory had been deteriorating for months before then. Initial shock gave way to anger that this had happened to us, and I still allowed my irritation to show when Barbara asked a particularly strange question, or did something especially daft, but I quickly reminded myself that she was not in control, and I shouldn't become frustrated. Instead, the advice from everyone was to 'go with the flow'. If you don't, you risk your own health being affected.

My vision of life post-retirement was for us to continue to explore Europe and enjoy our music and gardening in a more leisurely sort of way, but I thought Alzheimer's had put paid to that. I initially suffered from waves of self-pity, but quickly realized that this was simply being selfish. One trick is to see the funny side of things, which is not often possible, but when it is it provides real relief.

My day is filled with jobs – mainly repetitive ones, but luckily I enjoy doing practical things, even if they are unpleasant, and get great satisfaction out of seeing something well done, even if it's relatively trivial, like doing the cooking. Walking the dog is very therapeutic. The main thing was to try to be positive and get on with life as much as we could, and this is where organisations such as Carers Trust can be a great help.

At the outset, shortly after the diagnosis, we had the good fortune to seek the help of the Alzheimer's Society, and a very helpful lady kick-started various schemes and gave advice on how to obtain help in the form of a reduction in Council Tax, applying for a Blue Badge, Attendance Allowance, etc. This advice and assistance is also available from other organisations, including Carers Trust, Age UK, etc. but it just so happened that we went to the Alzheimer's Society first.

Our CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse) had also been of great help, not only from the medical angle, but also by arranging the provision of funding from Social Services to help with respite care, regular personal care for Barbara, (provided by Carers Trust), and to give me occasional breaks. She also organized visits to care centres, as possible future respite care providers, and access to services such as Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

After the new Care Act came into force, and the Carer's Grant was no longer available I was re-assessed as a carer and received a direct payment from the County Council, which I put to good use to pay for Barbara's personal care. Carers Trust operate the 'What if?' scheme whereby 24 hours of free emergency care is provided should I be indisposed and unable to look after Barbara. Another organisation in the NHS which has been tremendously helpful is the DCSS (Dementia Carers Support Services) which not only organizes various very enjoyable events and groups, but also provides a 'befriender' in the form of someone who has been, or is, a carer themselves and volunteers to give advice and a shoulder to cry on as and when needed – a vital lifeline when things get tough.

In summary, therefore, there is a wealth of financial, practical, and emotional support available, and without it life as a carer would be very difficult indeed.

In June 2016, Barbara suffered falls, cystitis attacks, was unable to swallow medication, had frequent vomiting and

was immobile. She also developed double incontinence. Barbara is epileptic, and the situation was worsened by occasional seizures and frequent falls. I was getting to the stage where I couldn't cope, and a GP arranged for her to be admitted to hospital for her problems to be 'sorted out', and a month later she was moved to a nursing home in Chesterton. From there, in November 2016, a place was found for Barbara in Home Close Care Home, Fulbourn, and she is still in residence there.

However, circumstances have changed considerably for the better in the past few years. Two-and-a-half years on, and Barbara's condition has improved dramatically – she now can walk unaided, her memory has returned almost completely, she is lucid, sensible, chatty and reads a lot, besides keeping up to date with news and other programs on TV. She comes home most weekends and we have had short holidays locally on three occasions. We enjoy listening to music and we frequently go to concerts, and the garden and its wildlife are a great source of pleasure, but the rules prevent Barbara being absent from the care home for more than three nights, so longer breaks are not possible.

When Alzheimer's was first diagnosed, over seven years ago, I thought that there would be a steady decline in Barbara's condition, but this has not happened - in fact quite the reverse - and I am both surprised and delighted at the unexpected and very welcome improvement in Barbara's condition over the past two to three years.

The message clearly is to stay optimistic and make the most of the situation by living life to the full as far as circumstances allow.

Frank Breslin, June 2019

(Ed. Frank lives in Balsham and is a member of our Carpet Bowls Club. His story is so inspiring we felt it should be published in full in the Village Voice)

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

What a busy term we have had this summer. It started with welcoming Ruby and Violet and ended with Ruby, Violet and Freya making their Brownie Promise, but we also said 'goodbye' to Ilana and Sophie who have moved up to 1st Linton Guides. Also this term we have attended the District campfire in Newmarket, the Strawberry Evening in Linton, had fun with water games and played Twister too.

We will have something to celebrate at the start of next term too; four Brownies have achieved their "Take Action" theme award. This means that they have completed at least one interested badge in the theme, completed a skills builder in the theme (we all did Make Change) and have completed four hours in unit meeting activities in the theme. Hopefully, we can get another two or three to complete it as well so we have a meeting with lots of cake!

Horseheath Brownies is 50 years old in October so we will be planning a party combined with a recruitment drive to see if we can get more Brownies, we will be down to eight in September. So if you would like to come along and give Brownies a try please do get in touch all you need to be is over 7 years old and free on a Wednesday.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené,

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENGLISH GARDENS

Next September the Great Bradley WEA group will begin a series of talks about English Gardens, led by Andrew Sankey, a well-known local speaker. The course will explore the design and plants as the garden in Britain developed from the Roman villa garden through to the modern garden of today. The course aims to cover the following periods: medieval, Tudor, Dutch, English Landscape, Victorian, Dig for Victory and the modern outdoor garden. Along the way the students will assess design, period plants and famous garden designers. All are welcome to join the 10 week course at Great Bradley Village Hall, CB8 9LH. The cost of £59 includes refreshments.

The WEA system of joining a group has changed and now they want people to sign up early so that they can be sure the course is viable. You can either enrol on line, paying in advance, or by phone and pay the branch treasurer when the course begins. Details below:

Course ID: C2226804. Title: A brief history of English Gardens,. Tutor: Andrew Sankey. Start date: 18/09/2019.

WEA Support Team free-phone number for phone enrolment: 0300 303 3464, Website for online enrolment: wea.org.uk

If you have any problems regarding enrolment please contact Peter Smith 01440 783278 or Gill Parry Brown 01223 893012.

ADULT EDUCATION AT LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEW COURSE PROGRAMME

Our new brochure is now available, detailing the Adult Education courses and workshops which will be on offer at Linton Village College from September.

We have an exciting range of craft, language and vocational courses for you to explore including silver jewellery making, woodwork, Tai Chi, aromatherapy and an introduction to basic maths to name just a few.

Our extensive programme of Saturday workshops has something for everyone, from sketchbook workshops, CV writing & employability skills, Indian cookery and floristry to hands-on family workshops which can be enjoyed with your children / grandchildren.

Look out for the new brochure or browse the website at www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk

For more information please call 891233 ext 303 / 317

HMRC FRAUD ALERT

There has been a significant rise in fraudsters claiming to be from HM Revenue and Customs demanding payment for "outstanding tax", often accompanied with threats of arrest or bailiffs. In genuine cases HMRC will first make direct contact with you via post and potentially follow up a phone call at a later date, quoting the reference number provided, and will NEVER demand immediate payment. HMRC will also not discuss something you are not already aware of, like a tax investigation.

If you receive a call like this, simply hang up and, even if you have not lost money, report this to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing

Alex Schuilenburg

DEAR EDITOR

I should like your readers to know of the hugely beneficial work that CRUSE Bereavement Care carries out voluntarily for those who have been bereaved whatever their age and this includes children. They hold weekly coffee mornings at Westley Church, Cambridge every Wednesday from 10 am to 12 noon when about 50 people attend and there is also someone who will talk to you on a one to one basis.

A voluntary Counsellor will also visit you in your home for up to six weekly visits. Having suffered for the last four months with delayed grief for my husband William (who died in August 2017) and also trying to process my own illness and a week in Intensive Care in 2017 the young volunteer (she is a saddler working at Gibsons in Newmarket) has been the key to my recovery. She suggested I wrote a letter to William which was surprising therapeutic. If you have been bereaved do consider ringing the Helpline 01223 302662 or contact them at cambridge@cruse.org.uk. I know of several people in Balsham who have benefitted from CRUSE.

My GP in Linton suggested that I contact CRUSE – I have yet to find out what CRUSE actually stands for!

Joanna Sanders. sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

PUBLIC URGED TO STAY FIRE SAFE THIS SUMMER

Cambridgeshire Fire Service is urging residents to stay fire safe when outdoors over the summer. With high temperatures there is the risk of fires in open areas of land easily spreading and becoming out of control.

In June and July 2018 crews attended 551 fires in the open across the county, an increase of more than 50 per cent on the previous year. Last July alone saw crews attend 376 fires in the open in various places around the county. This year we believe the high temperatures will continue into August.

The Service's Combined Fire Control has also seen a sharp increase in the amount of emergency calls they have received reporting incidents in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Almost 4,000 calls were answered by emergency call handlers in June and July, an increase of 13 per cent from the previous year.

There are seven simple steps they 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 more information log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow them on social media or call 01480 444500.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

This summer term has been jam packed full of achievements and memorable events. The children and teachers have certainly earned their summer holidays!

This time of year is always a time for reflection as the children prepare for transition to new schools, new classes or new key stages. The Year 6 ended the year brilliantly, with lots to celebrate. Year 5 and 6 put on a fantastic production of *Pirates of the Curry Bean* at the end of term. The script was hilarious and the children perfected the comic timing so well! We were so proud of everyone who sang the songs with enthusiasm, learnt their lines without needing prompting and performed so clearly. A special thanks to all the adults from inside and outside school that made this possible; it really was a community effort.

The Year 6 children also had reason to celebrate at the end of term with excellent SATS results. They have once again managed to prove that it is possible to succeed without needing to abandon a broad and balanced curriculum. Results are above the Cambridgeshire and National standard across the board in reading, writing and maths, with particular success in maths, where 93% scored at or above expected standard. This success was also replicated at Early Years, Year 1 phonics screening and at Key Stage 1 SATs. We are so proud of each and every child who works so tirelessly to achieve their potential.

An end of term whole school trip has become a tradition over the past few years. The sun shone on us all day at Hunstanton beach, as the children built sandcastles, splashed in the sea, ate ice-creams and Year 5 and 6 even screamed at the funfair. A huge amount of preparation goes into organising a day such as this but is so worth it when we see children of all ages playing together, building on strong friendships, problem solving over their sandcastles and facing their fears in the sea for the first time.

As this is being written, our Year 6 are also on their week long residential trip to Norfolk Lakes, testing their resilience to the limits on a number of outdoor activities. It is so encouraging to see the children who have grown up through the school, move out of their comfort zone during this week and increase their perseverance in so many ways. We are sure that many happy memories will be made in their final week of primary school.

We welcomed some special visitors to our school this month, all the way from China. The Year 5 children worked alongside some Chinese students who have visited England as part of a cultural education programme. The children took part in cooking, music, art and PE to get to know each other and provide opportunities for the Chinese children to practice their English. Our pupils made them feel so welcome, despite occasional language barriers, and hopefully this will be just start of a long-standing pen friend relationship.

Anne Westland also came into school to judge her annual writing competition. She is always so complimentary about the standard of writing of our Key Stage 2 children and this year was no different. After a tricky judging process, she made Tom Wilson the overall winner of the trophy for a fantastic, emotive poem about Nelson Mandela. There were a number of runners up from across the key stages. A huge congratulation to everyone who received a prize from Anne.

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 service.
Community Warden: Shannon Cook, T: 07436102865
Helping Hands: 07399 263222

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Learning to become more responsible and independent is a key part of adolescence. We welcomed our new cohort of 180 Year 6 students to Linton Village College at the start of July for their induction programme. It was great to see how much confidence they developed over the two days with us. Initial anxieties about navigating a larger school, managing new catering arrangements and acclimatising to different learning environments and lessons were soon allayed.

In my introductory assembly to parents/carers I spoke about how similar the emotions of fear and excitement are. The adrenaline rush that comes from experiencing a thrilling challenge can be very close to the daunting sensation of being out of your comfort zone.

Our older students also have the opportunity to broaden their horizons and engage in new adventures. A group of our outgoing Year 11 students have ventured on a trip of a lifetime through a Camps International expedition to Kenya. Their month in Africa will involve community volunteering as well and immersing themselves in the local culture and landscape. Meanwhile other LVC students have performed on the Symphonic Wind Orchestra tour in Lake Garda, Italy, and many have benefited from an enriching Geography excursion to Snowdon.

The risk assessments that I read and sign off for various extra-curricular opportunities highlight the dangers inherent in adventurous activities. However, managing risk in a safe and controlled manner is an integral part of growing up. The many enrichment events that we offer at LVC provide students with the ability to learn how to do this with the support of responsible adults.

Our recent PSHE day at Linton Village College focused on many aspects of healthy lifestyles including topics such as developing relationships, managing conflict, careers planning and team building. Students were fortunate to benefit from the expertise of external speakers, including local specialist charitable organisations and the community Police. Sergeant Priestley also led a drugs education information evening for parents/carers which was well attended, providing an overview of the County Lines phenomenon and equipping attendees with an understanding of the risks associated with this drug distribution model and how to report information to www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 August

Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris
Correspondence & News to:
21 High Street, West Wickham, Cambridge CB21 4RY
T: 01223 290863
e-mail: editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk
or contact Sue on:
T: 01223 290503. e-mail: mail@suethurston.co.uk