

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

SEPTEMBER 2019

ISSUE 196

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
- Mon 2 Blue & green wheeled bin collections
- Sun 8 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 9 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 14 Deadline for items for inclusion in the October edition of the Village Voice**
- Sat 14 Balsham Community Autumn Market. 2 – 4pm, Balsham Church Institute
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 Blue & green wheeled bin collections
Gardening Club Annual General Meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed 18 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 21 **Daisy Chains Pre-School BINGO NIGHT. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 22 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 23 Black wheeled bin collection
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are welcome to attend
- Wed 25 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sat 28 **HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 29 Church service - see Church noticeboard
- Mon 30 Blue & green wheeled bin collections

Daisy Chains Pre-School meets

Monday & Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening £8.00/hour
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £5.00/hour. evening £7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00) £7.00/hour evening £10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00) £12.00/hour evening £18.00/hour
Children's party	£30.00 daytime £43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco	£60.00
Wedding reception	£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Georgina Magin

Email: bookings@westwickham.org

visit www.westwickham.org

or T: 01223 290972

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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GREEN SPACE CONSULTATION

As part of writing our Neighbourhood Plan, we have the opportunity to designate green spaces in the Parish for additional protection from development. It is important that any proposals meet strict criteria and have the support of the community.

The enclosed survey asks for your household's opinions on some green spaces in the Parish which are already included in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan or may be suitable for designation in our Neighbourhood Plan. To register your views, please complete the questionnaire enclosed with this edition of the Village Voice and return it to 17 Burton End or the Neighbourhood Plan post box in either of the red telephone boxes. Please contact Andrew Morris on 290863 if you need to have the form collected. Your support is appreciated.

Dave Sargeant, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

PUBLIC URGED TO HELP TACKLE HARE COURISING

We are encouraging the public to do their part for rural communities and help tackle hare coursing. The hare coursing season typically starts in September when fields have been harvested, however the weather this year has meant many have already been cut and are now prime surfaces for the blood sport.

Over the past year (April 2018 – March 2019) police were called to 1,265 incidents. In the past month (July) the force control room have received 34 calls to coursers operating throughout east and south Cambridgeshire as well as Fenland. The figure is expected to rise over the coming months. Hare coursing, illegal under the Hunting Act 2004, causes damage to crops, harms animals and threatens the rural community, often resulting in intimidation and in some cases violence. In October last year four hare coursers were handed the Cambridgeshire's first county court injunction, banning them from entering any farm land from July until March. Hare coursing continues to be one of the biggest issues our rural communities face. Tackling it remains a priority for the Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) and we will continue to do what we can to bring those responsible to justice but we need your help.

The most obvious sign of hare coursing is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area with dogs, perhaps by a gateway to farmland or on a grass verge, and I would urge people to report any suspicions, no matter how insignificant it may seem. Those caught could face a criminal behaviour order, seizure of vehicles and other property, a fine and a driving ban. Landowners are urged to consider blocking entrances to their fields with ditches, fencing or trees or even barriers like barrels filled with concrete.

Anyone who sees hare coursing taking place is asked to contact police immediately on 999 and provide officers with a description of the people involved, any registration numbers and vehicle descriptions and the location and direction of travel. It's important people don't confront hare coursers or put themselves at risk. If you have information about hare coursing and it's not currently happening, or have been a victim of the crime, please call 101 or report online at www.cambs.police.uk/report.

If you see hare coursing in progress call 999.

NEXT MONTH'S VILLAGE VOICE DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for the October edition has been brought forward to 14 September. Regretfully any articles received after this date are unlikely to be published!

CORRECTION

Regretfully the date given in last month's Village Voice for the Village Hall AGM is incorrect. It will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7 October at the Village Hall.

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL

There are places available for children from their second birthday. The Pre-School is Ofsted rated outstanding, has large bright facilities and a fantastic outdoor play area including access to nature reserve. The staff are very experienced, caring and nurturing and there is a high staff to child ratio. Please contact 07943866294 to arrange a visit. Short term places are available if you are on the Buttercups waiting list.

Our annual **Bingo Night** will be on Saturday 21 September, 7.30pm for eyes down at 8pm. Bar, raffle and food available at half time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jess Ashbridge, Chair, Daisy Chains Pre-school
T: 07779277647.

UPDATE ON THE PARISH NURSE AND PARISH NURSE PLUS

Many of you are aware of the very successful Parish Nurse Project that was successfully established in our villages in 2015, and of course some of you will have come into contact with Claire Gillett, our current Parish Nurse. (Ed. Her contact details are on the back page each month)

During that time the project has evolved to the point where we now have two Community Workers, Steve Jordan and Jacqueline Douglas, who complement and support the work that Claire does, as well as facilitating the Community Hub which has been running for the past few months in Balsham and the Abington Community Hub which will start in September. These community hubs aim to serve all the villages communities and are supported by many people living in our villages.

Claire currently works three days a week, but as from September will be reducing her days to two, (Tuesday and Thursday). This change does not represent a reduction in the Parish Nurse Plus service in total but rather reflects and accords with the stated intention of the project to enable the community and other bodies to become self-sufficient and assume the non-clinical aspects of Claire's work which currently occupy a significant proportion of her time.

Keith Day, Chairman, Parish Nurse Management Ctte.

HAVE YOU GOT THAT BEGINNING OF TERM FEELING?

It's amazing how the desire for something new in September remains imprinted in our brains from our schooldays isn't it? If you're looking to join something in the village, learn a new skill and/or meet new people then why not come along to **WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB**. We're a friendly bunch made up of members from this village and surrounding ones. We're not particularly competitive (except when it comes to winning the chocolate at the end of the evening) but do take part in occasional friendly matches against other clubs at home and away – always lovely social evenings as much as anything else. All ages and abilities can play carpet bowls and equipment is provided. We meet every Wednesday at 7pm in the Village Hall and you can come along and try us out for **FREE**. If you would like more details or someone to come along with please contact Janet Morris T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following information is a précis of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 July. The full minutes are on the two notice boards in the Parish.

Matters arising:

1. Playing field: The existing contract has now been cancelled and ABC Tree Surgery of Streetly End will now carry out the necessary grass cutting work.
2. Lights at Jelly Warehouse: A letter has been received from Jelly Warehouse following the complaint made by the Parish Council and the lights will be changed.

Correspondence:

1. The annual audit has been carried out satisfactorily and the report circulated.
2. A letter from MAGPAS requesting a donation was discussed and it was noted that profit from the next Hub Evening would be donated.

Planning: S/1597/19 – new dwelling at 3 High Street. The application has been withdrawn.

Local Highways Improvement Scheme: An application for an award to help pay for 40mph buffer zones before the 30mph speed limits has been completed and sent to the County Council. The scheme has been approved by the Police.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Working Group is now drafting policies. Costs for hiring the Village Hall and setting up the post boxes for the return of questionnaires will come out of the existing grant.

Any other business:

1. A request for football nets on the recreation field has been made but more information on what is required was suggested before considering this.
2. An assessment is being carried out regarding having wifi in the Village Hall. This would be free for 3 years and then a payment would be required.
3. Cllr. Cornish has a set of noticeboard keys, the others being held by Cllr. Licence and the Parish Clerk.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 September and all are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260

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

NEXT
DATE: **28.09.19** 7PM-11PM



GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES

Flu Clinics

Granta Medical Practices are pleased to announce that they will be offering a complete flu vaccination service this year, with clinics being scheduled for October 2019. The Department of Health has assured us that there will be no delivery problems, and this year we will be using a highly effective quadrivalent influenza vaccine

Patients eligible for flu vaccinations include:-

- Anyone 6 months of age up to and including 64 years of age if they are in an "at risk" group, e.g. asthma, COPD, chronic heart problems, diabetes. If you are unsure if you fit into an "at risk" group don't hesitate to ask.
- All patients 65 years and above, or who will be by 31/01/20.
- All children from the ages of 2 to 10 years of age. Those children who are in primary school education will receive their vaccination at school.
- All pregnant women.
- Those in long stay residential care homes.
- Those who are carers.
- Those who are in close contact with immunocompromised individuals.
- Those with a learning disability.

Flu vaccination clinics 2019

Saturday 5 October (morning)

Linton Health Centre (CB21 4JS)
Barley Surgery (SG8 8HY)

Saturday 12 October (morning)

Sawston Health Centre (CB22 3HU)
Shelford Medical Practice (CB22 5FY)

Saturday 19 October (morning)

Linton Health Centre (CB21 4JS)
Sawston Health Centre (CB22 3HU)

Saturday 26 October (morning)

Shelford Medical Practice (CB22 5FY)
Barley Surgery (SG8 8HY)

In addition, this year we will also be offering weekday clinics at all of our surgeries – please speak to our reception team for more details. Granta patients can go to any of our surgeries to have their vaccination.

Private flu vaccinations. If you would like a flu vaccination but are not eligible for the free vaccination we also offer a private service via Granta Pharmacy for Granta patients. This is by far the easiest way of getting your private vaccination as we already have your medical records and there are no forms to fill in. Simply ring and book an appointment at any Granta surgery and pay on the day (£12.99).

If you have any queries, or if you are unsure if you are eligible for a free vaccination, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our reception team.

Sandra East, Granta Communications,
Email:sandra.east@nhs.net, T: 0300 234 5555

FOUND

A "fitness" watch. If you think it might be yours apply to 21 High Street.

NATURE NOTES

At this time of year the daylight hours start to diminish at an accelerating rate, so naturally our thoughts turn to creatures of the night. Owls are being seen and heard, with family groups still together but adult birds also ensuring that territories remain intact. Di reports that the tawny owl family resident behind Maypole Croft has returned, with a few scratchy attempts at hooting encouraged by the adult real thing, reminding her of *Mr Magnolia*, written and illustrated by Quentin Blake, who described 'some very fat owls who are learning to hoot,' just like this family seems to be doing. Sandra witnessed an adult barn owl with two young on Dean Road while both Di and I have heard little owls calling in Streetly End and Burton End respectively. Owls become more vocal at this time of year, in contrast to most of the songbirds that become silent, with one notable exception being the yellowhammer, who continues into the late summer asking for a little bit of bread (but no cheese). Other songsters who persist through the winter are the robin and wren, who continue to proclaim territories.

Those other night flyers, the moths, are creatures that we rarely see unless they are lured in through open windows by the attraction of electric light. Moth species greatly outnumber butterflies and yet because most of them are nocturnal we give them much less attention. This is a shame as many are beautifully marked, as people who possess moth traps soon discover. Not having such a device myself, I make do with the delights of the day-flyers. We previously referred to the lovely cinnabar, which does sometimes fly in daylight, and through the year have been lucky enough to see most of its breeding cycle. Not long after seeing the moth flying in our gardens, Brian and I noticed that the ragwort growing out of the wall between us had been colonised by its yellow and black striped caterpillar. This month a chrysalis was hanging from the wall beside his back door with a telltale pink stripe just visible. One day recently I caught a glimpse of pink and grey in our garden and sure enough the chrysalis had disappeared. I hope that the new adult will find a mate soon enough to begin another breeding cycle and permit the emergence of more cinnabars next year. Di has seen more stripy caterpillars on roadside ragwort, so it does seem as though these moths can produce two broods each year.

Both of us did the big butterfly count. Apart from one large skipper, the 15 minute session in my garden in July was slightly disappointing but Di saw quite a few different species as well as two dragonflies - the broad bodied and scarce chasers, both near the pond in Burton End. These are quite difficult to distinguish unless they oblige you by settling within viewing distance. I sent in a second return for the butterfly count from my holiday on the Isle of Mull where there were numerous painted ladies, together with the scotch argus - a lovely dark brown insect with orange markings.

From September onwards the hedgerows and nut-bearing trees will come into their own, producing nuts and berries but as usual the squirrels are one step ahead of us. Di reports that they are in her walnut tree, eating the green walnuts. I was mowing the lawn today and it was covered with the empty shells of hazelnuts, undoubtedly the work of squirrels who are taking advantage of this year's especially bountiful harvest.

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

BERYL & VIC'S DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On 18 July Beryl & Vic Terry (ex White Horse, when it was a pub) held a "do" at their new home, Nichols Court, Linton, to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to those friends and ex-customers from the village who attended and helped make the occasion such a huge, never to be forgotten, success. Their generosity of gifts and that of the other 60+ guests meant that we could almost go back to our old trade and set up a Wine Bar, Chocolate Shop or Florist along with a Card Shop.

There were friends from Coventry, Northampton, Rugby, Abington [Bowls Club], Nichols Court residents & staff and as mentioned above West Wickham. This brings us to a very, very embarrassing point in that you will notice no mention of Streety End! This is because as we were making a list of attendees to write this thank you we came across a list that had been missed in all the fuss of contacting people, the list was our friends of Streety End namely :-

Kit & Jean, Anita, Glen, & Mary, Juliet & Jake, Maureen & Neville, Elaine & Cliff, Val & Peter, Lucy & Malcolm, Edward & Anna and my two taxi lift ladies to communion. If anyone would like to come and see us for a "cuppa" or a "tot" then we are sure Cynthia or Andrew would tell you how to get to No 1, Nichols Court, Linton.

Once again thank you all.

Beryl & Vic Terry

JULIAN GROUP

This is a meditative group that meets once a month either on the second or third Wednesday. It is held at Nine Chimney House, Balsham and starts at 7.00 pm and is over by 8.00 pm. This group is led by lay people as the Revd Kathy Bishop is on sabbatical. There are usually around five of us and we begin with relaxation exercises, listen to a piece of music and then one of Julian of Norwich's readings. This is followed by half an hour of silence and we end with the Grace. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join us.

Joanna Sanders, Co-ordinator of the meetings. T: 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwcub.net

INTRODUCING LALA

A new group for Linton and surrounding villages.

LALA stands for Linton Area Learning Alliance and offers a 10 week course on Tuesday mornings in Linton Village Hall from 10.00 – 11.45. This session Honor Ridout will talk about 'Working Lives', looking at how the toil of our ancestors in farms and factories, in homes, mines, shops and at sea, throughout the country, has shaped our physical and social environment. We will examine their struggles and achievements through contemporary sources, their own accounts, legislation, etc. and also using paintings and photographs. The Autumn course starts on 1 October and costs just £50 including refreshments.

LALA aims to provide an interesting topic from a high-quality tutor to exercise our minds as well as being a social occasion to meet friends old and new. This course is instead of the usual WEA course on Tuesday mornings.

For more information contact Sue Mudge. T: 892737.

BALSHAM MOTHERS' UNION

Having been founded over 120 years ago I am glad to say that the Balsham Mothers' Union is still in good shape. We meet in members' houses on the third Tuesday afternoon of the month at 2.30 pm. We meet around 9 times a year and have speakers at the some of the meetings, a party with games and a bring and buy and a service in Church in September followed by tea. Members and non members responded enthusiastically to Christian Hope International Charity's request for blankets made up of 25 8 inch squares to commemorate 25 years since the genocide in Rwanda. Balsham Branch has already sent six blankets with another one a 'work in progress'. Anyone is welcome to join us at our meetings. Please do get in touch with

Joanna Sanders, Branch Leader. T: 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING RIGHT

Most of us recycle right but there still some items that cause issues when taken to a Materials Recycling Facility to be segregated for further recycling. It costs Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service £10,000 every month to remove and dispose incorrect items collected from the blue bins. When the wrong items are put in the bins, the recycling quality is reduced and if there are a lot of incorrect items this can cause large quantities of materials to be rejected and not recycled. This means your Council Tax money is wasted, instead of being spent on improving local services.

These items do not belong in your blue recycling bin:

- nappies, wet wipes, sanitary towels – place in black bin
- tissues and kitchen roll – can be put in green bin for composting
- black bags – place in black bin
- clothes, textiles, shoes – donate, swap, place in a textile / shoe bank, or take to a Household Recycling Centre
- food and liquid remains - remove any food and rinse containers, and empty all liquids from bottles. Squash and replace caps before recycling.

More information on what can and can't be recycled can be found in the South Cambs magazine or on the website at: www.scambs.gov.uk/bins

* Eat Well Live Well * Celebrate Community

BALSHAM AUTUMN MARKET

Bringing Friends and Food Together

Saturday 14th September

2pm to 4pm
Balsham Church Institute

BUY LOCAL SAVE THE DATE

LET'S S.C.R.A.P. FLY-TIPPING

Fly-tipping is the illegal disposal of waste. It can be anything from a bag of waste to a truckload. We all have seen abandoned items in the countryside, villages and towns. But leaving items by Household Recycling Centres, charity shops or by bins are all fly-tipping too. Around two thirds of fly-tips come from households, so it is crucially important that you understand your Duty of Care to avoid a £400 fixed penalty notice or an unlimited fine.

Together with other partners in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) we have launched the S.C.R.A.P Fly-tipping campaign to help residents to understand their responsibilities. Follow the S.C.R.A.P. code below to make the right choices when asking someone to remove your waste.

- Suspect ALL waste carriers.
- Check with the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 that the provider taking away your waste is registered.
- Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away.
- Ask what will happen to your waste.
- Paperwork should be obtained - get a full receipt.

To help us deal with fly-tipping incidents efficiently, please report them to us. Here is how:

Online: www.scams.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/envirocrime/fly-tipping/

By phone: 03450 450 063

When reporting fly-tipping, please note as many details as possible

- the exact location.
- the size of the fly-tip.
- the type of waste dumped.
- the date and time you spotted or witnessed the fly-tip.
- photos of the fly-tip and fly-tippers if you have witnessed it.
- the vehicle registration number and details.
- the description of people involved.
- the direction they were travelling.

If you witness fly-tipping, call 999 to report a crime in action. Please do not put yourself in harm way.

HEAR HERE: PATIENTS WANT TO BE LISTENED TO

Patients in Cambridgeshire want to be listened to by health professionals – especially those patients with long-term conditions who are often experts in their own health. A new report from Healthwatch into people's views on improving local NHS services shows that good communication is really important to people. They want doctors to be honest about what the options are and not to use clinical expressions when talking to them. Most want face-to-face meetings and they also want emails and letters about their health in simple, plain English. The report *What would you do?* can be found on their website www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

Need information about health or care services? Healthwatch can help you find: health or care services near to you; what to do if you have a concern or complaint; organisations that can give you help or advice

Get in touch via their website, by phone on 0330 355 1285 or Email them at: enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk



Small Villages

Community Warden Event

You are warmly invited to attend the
Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Small Villages Community Warden Event
At West Wrattling Village Hall

On
Wednesday 23rd October 2019
12pm until 3pm

Come and join us for a light lunch and some entertainment.
This is a **FREE** event

To book your place and transport (if needed)
Please call
Carol on **07436102866**

Age UK Cambridgeshire, 2 Victoria Street, Chatteris
Cambridgeshire PE16 6AP



LINTON GUIDES

Wow! What a difference a year makes. Our District's Guides went on a county water and activity weekend in September and an international jamboree in July. Our Rainbows and Brownies had revels and pack holidays. To finish off we had our District campfire and our fantastic strawberry evening courtesy of Dr and Mrs Bertram.

Our new programme has seen our girls making plant environments, creating windmills, made dens built to sleep in and bivouacking and cooking outdoors. There have also been trips abroad, D of E, 11 BP challenges awarded and a Chief Guide award too, quite an amazing feat.

We are also incredibly proud to have been able to award a 50yr long service award.

We are still looking for new leaders in the district. The smiles and recognition years later when a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger is an adult and remembers you is worth millions. We really are an inspirational Girl led organisation.

Thank you so much to all our incredible volunteers and girls for everything they do for Girl Guiding in Linton District. We could not do it without you all.

Come and join in the fun and be part of our next generation of Guides.

For more information visit www.girlguiding.org.uk
Local Contact is Louisa Powell-Owens Linton District
Commissioner: T: 01223 833776

FROM THE VICARAGE

The beginning of the new academic year and the associated return of routines always causes me to reflect on the passing of the summer. During August I travelled to Kenya and Ethiopia in my role with Compassion, an international Christian development organisation. I visited Kibera, the largest slum in Africa. It is crammed with tiny homes surrounded by stinking open sewers, with no access to running water or legal electricity. It occurred to me that we could fit 50 such homes into the expanse of the beautiful vicarage garden. The contrast of Kibera with the beautiful, peaceful surroundings of Abington is immense and caused me to reflect on the striking injustice in this world. I feel so privileged to be able to support the most vulnerable families who are impacted by poverty in the developing world through my work with Compassion UK.

I am thankful that my children and I can support families in two developing countries through Compassion's one to one child sponsorship programme. We exchange letters, emails and photographs. It is even possible to visit the children that we sponsor and share messages of hope and prayers. This has been a huge blessing, especially in providing a valuable lens through which to view our own lives and see the plenty that surrounds us at home. One of the most amazing things for me about being a Christian is the call to reach out our hand to those in need both near and far. When I was in the slums of Kibera, I met such joy and gratitude from each family. They were so pleased that through the sponsorship programme, their children were receiving healthcare and education. All the children follow vocational training or go to university. If you would like to find out more about the work of Compassion, please do get in touch with me. I have already spoken to the café church at West Wrattling and I would be delighted to speak to any of the groups who meet in the other villages.

Jeanine Kennedy, Pioneer Minister, T: 01223 893838,
Email: jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com



GRANTA VALE COMMUNITY HUBS

Following the success of the Community Hub in Balsham, a new one will begin in Abington on Tuesday 24 September from 2-4pm in the Abington Institute. Anyone

from any of the local villages is welcome to come along for free coffee, tea and cakes, and an opportunity to meet and chat with others.

The Community Hub in Balsham will be on Thursday 5 September from 2-4pm in the Church Institute. You are very welcome to come to both events if you would like to. Our parish nurse, Claire Gillett, should also be available at most of our upcoming Community Hubs and would be happy to chat with you.

Dates of Community Hubs (all from 2pm to 4pm):
Abington: Tuesdays 24 September; 22 October;
19 November; 17 December
Balsham: Thursdays 5 September; 3 October;
7 November; 5 December

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone and a new academic year is about to start. The end of term is always about finishing well and this year was no exception. Our Year 6 leavers finished off their time at the Meadow in style, with an emotional leavers assembly on the final day of term. A showcase of their talent, from dancing, singing, magic tricks and poetry was a reminder of how much they had grown in the 7 years of primary education, ready for the challenges of their secondary school. It is always with mixed emotions that we say goodbye, sad to see them leave, but immensely proud of their achievements during their time with us. We wish them all the very best as they start their new adventure.

We also said a sad goodbye to Mrs Weir, a much loved class-teacher who had been with us for 9 years. Mrs Weir had seen the school through many different seasons, each year working tirelessly and faithfully in helping the school improve. She leaves to be Deputy Head at Howard Primary School, in Bury St Edmunds, the school the Trust has been supporting recently. This is a well-deserved promotion for her and we know she is well-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

Despite Mrs Weir leaving, we are not replacing her. The school has had to take the tricky decision to reduce its class numbers down to 8 due to budget cuts. We could not justify running a 9 class school, with budgets being squeezed so much, so this year there will only be one early years class, run by Mrs Facer, who is returning to a full time position. Sadly, this is a situation reflected across the country with all schools trying to run the same quality of education on ever reducing budgets. We are very grateful to the PTA and parent community who continue to support us, enabling us to fund extra enriching aspects of the curriculum.

So as another year starts, with fresh new faces in our reception class and old faces refreshed for another year, we look forward to the challenges ahead and continue to offer the best possible education of all our children. As ever, we are very eager for community support, so please do get in touch if you feel able to help in anyway. We are particularly looking for people to hear readers or who can offer help on the playground at lunchtimes.

Nichola Connor, Head Teacher

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 14 September

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