

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2019

ISSUE 199

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
- Mon 2 Black wheeled bin collection
- Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 8 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 9 Blue & green wheeled bin collection
- Local History Club. Christmas social & quiz. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Thur 12 Deadline for items to be included in the January Village Voice**
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 Black wheeled bin collection
- Gardening Club. Christmas social & quiz. 7.30pm, Village Hall**
- Fri 20 **Carol singing through the village. Meet at 5.30pm at Manor Farm**
- Sat 21 **HUB NIGHT. 7 – 11pm, Village Hall**
- Sun 22 Candle lit service of 9 lessons & carols. 3pm, Hildersham Church
- Mon 23 Blue only wheeled bin collection
- Tue 24 **Carol service. 6pm, St Mary's Church**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

- Wed 25 **Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church**
- Sun 29 Holy Communion. 10.30, Balsham Church
- Tue 31 Black wheeled bin (day late) collection

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

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.

CAROL SINGING



Once again, we will be door-to-door carol singing, this year, on Friday 20 December, meeting at 5.30 pm at Manor Farm. We were a bit thin on the ground last year, so please do come and join us - no singing ability is required, all are very welcome! We will be collecting for Age Concern, which provide the Community Warden who visits several elderly people in our village.

We would also be very grateful if anyone is prepared to offer us refreshments as we progress up the High Street - please contact me on Email: georginamagin@btinternet.com, T: 290972 if you might be able to do this. Hope to see you on Friday 20th!

Georgina Magin

NEXT MONTH'S VILLAGE VOICE

Please note; to help us get the January edition printed before our printers close for the Christmas/New Year break we need to have any item you wish to include a few days earlier than usual

THE DEADLINE IS THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER.

Sue & Andrew

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!

Opened in 2000, West Wickham Village Hall is in need of some TLC and maintenance. It's our Village Hall and a great asset to the local community. To keep it in excellent shape we need your help. The West Wickham Village Hall Management Committee are asking for volunteers to help undertake some maintenance tasks in and around the Hall. The idea would be to carry out the work over a number of weekends and possibly Fridays. The following is a list of jobs to be done and if you feel you could help to carry out any of them could you please let me know when you would be available so we can fix some dates and organise the supply of materials and refreshments.

Trevor Hall, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee
T: Cambridge 290559, Email: trevor.hall@btinternet.com.

Jobs to be done

- Minor plumbing jobs
- Check & clean internally all electric heater units.
- Repair damage to small areas of plaster in the main hall.
- Clean and paint walls below dado rail.
- Paint ladies & gents toilets.
- Fully clean Hall internally.
- Clean/clear rear car park drains.
- Clear gutters.
- Replace 3 broken brackets on gutter down pipes.

Continued on page 2

Village Hall jobs to be done continued

- Remove old paint tins from the roof space and put insulation back in place in the roof space where it has been disturbed.
- Replace missing rubber feet on chairs.
- Remark & clean smokers' bins.

All Offers of Help Welcome

FROM THE VICARAGE

Advent is here, a time when we unpack our traditions and wait with anticipation for Christmas. The sense of excitement can become palpable; it's as though there is a deep instinct in us that Christmas is a time for seeing good in each other and the world, and for celebrating before God with joy and thanksgiving.

Each of us has our own particular traditions we cherish during Advent. As a child I looked forward to my parents playing an old record of Christmas songs by Andy Williams; the smell of pine needles in the lounge as we set up the Christmas tree, laden with familiar decorations; readings of *'The Night Before Christmas'* and Charles Dickens' *'A Christmas Carol'*.

A Christmas Carol is known for its memorable characters and vivid depiction of a Victorian Christmas. The streets of London carpeted in snow; the Christmas pudding like a speckled cannon-ball; crisp leaves of holly, ivy and mistletoe. It's a tale of fear and longing, hope and redemption, where cold-hearted Scrooge, once so isolated in his self-centredness, has his life disrupted through a series of ghostly revelations and begins to experience renewal through friendship, joy and kindness.

A mixture of fear, longing, hope and redemption also lies at the heart of the Christmas story. "Do not be afraid" says the angel to Joseph, to Mary, to the shepherds. A reminder that the good news of Jesus' coming as Saviour, the promise of the Word which "became flesh and lived among us" is both all that humans most deeply long for but also a powerful disruption in our lives and the world.

Yet the gospel tells us we need not fear this interruption and renewal. In Christ, God is fulfilling the deepest hopes for freedom and human dignity; we only have to let the Word be born in us and speak in us. As we then approach Christmas and enact once more our own traditions, we are also invited to approach Jesus and take our part in this greater story. To look with wonder upon the one who was born as *Emmanuel*, "God is with us" and kindle on earth the fire of his love.

Revd Iain McColl



* Eat Well * Live Well * Celebrate Community

BALSHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 14th December

2pm to 4pm Balsham Church Institute

14 stalls of excellent quality, locally produced food and gifts
Cafe serving Christmas Themed High Teas (booking essential)
Tombola

BUY LOCAL
SHOP SMALL

Instagram icon Facebook icon

LOCAL BUS SERVICES - HAVE YOUR SAY

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough combined authority are conducting a survey on bus local services to allow you to provide feedback on the current bus network and provide suggestions on improvements for more frequent services and new routes.

By completing the survey you will also have the opportunity to win a £100 shopping voucher. The survey is available at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FutureBus or by calling 07377001512. It closes on 13 December.

Alex Schuilenburg

MACMILLAN OCTOBER HUB NIGHT

We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the amazing Amandine White, the Caverners duo and Rinaldi Express for donating their time so we could dance the night away. Kitsch Hens, the Old Butchers, Karen, Jan, Linda and the Mulley-Richards family for donating the delicious food. Nicci, Di and the rest of the bar staff for a well stocked bar to keep us all hydrated. and everyone that attended the event and generously donated to help us raise a MASSIVE £400 for Macmillan Cancer support.

Thank you.

Caroline

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

Saturday 21 December	closed
Sunday 22 December	closed
Monday 23 December	open as normal
Tuesday 24 December	open as normal
Wednesday 25 December	closed
Thursday 26 December	closed
Friday 27 December	open as normal
Saturday 28 December	closed
Sunday 29 December	closed
Monday 30 December	open as normal
Tuesday 31 December	open as normal
2020	
Wednesday 1 January	closed
Thursday 2 January	open as normal
Friday 3 January	open as normal
Saturday 4 January	closed
Sunday 5 January	closed

Your local pharmacist can advise you on many minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats and upset stomachs.

If you need urgent medical assistance when we are closed please ring NHS111.

If your condition poses an immediate threat to life please ring 999.



★ HUB NIGHT! ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **21.12.19** 7PM-11PM





A CHAMPION IN WEST WICKHAM

Adam Harnett from Streetly End has recently been heard putting West Wickham on the map on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. The Kev Lawrence Breakfast Show has been running a competition every morning

since July, asking 10 questions, against the clock, to callers, each representing a village in the county. Adam, representing West Wickham, answered his in only 39 seconds and was crowned the first Champion of Kev's Cambridgeshire Showdown. To celebrate, the radio station had on Glen Edwards from Chippy's who supply the fish and chips at the village hub nights and Peter Grieve from the village to congratulate Adam and learn a bit more about what goes on in the village. Well done, Adam!

Sue Thurston

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GREEN SPACE CONSULTATION REPORT

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Green Space consultation questionnaire, especially those who took the time to write comments to give additional context to their answers.

All the areas and frontages proposed had a majority strongly supporting protection from development. The Village Green, land in front of Maypole Croft and the land around the Village Hall all had over 90% of responses expressing strong support or support for protection from development. Protection for the frontage south of the High Street was strongly supported or supported by 72% of respondents but a few comments suggested a portion of it should be used for housing.

In Streetly End the existing protected areas had strong support. However since the start of the consultation we have learned that South Cambs District Council, as the owners of the area in front of the bungalows, are unlikely to support the proposed restrictions on the use of that area as they consider it as a potential new build site. Responses relating to the grassed area had a clear majority believing it was important for the character of the Parish and as a wildlife habit. Around a third of responses offered no opinion or did not support the protection of the grassed area and 10% commented that it was a good place to build additional bungalows or houses.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will attempt to represent the community's views in the final plan. It is important that we have landowner support where applicable and that our plan is legally permissible. This means meeting the basic conditions that it must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and conform with national and local planning policies.

A complete set of results will be published on the village website. If you would like further information feel free to get in touch on 01223 209048 or at davidjsargeant@googlemail.com.

NATURE NOTES

Adapting to a new environment is hard enough when you move from one end of West Wickham to another, so we can appreciate the challenge to wildlife when confronted by climate change or habitat loss, leading to the imperative of either finding a new home or somehow coping with the new conditions. No such challenge, however, seems to have troubled the spider who travelled with us, her web neatly spun across the top of a pitcher plant, itself designed to attract and digest small insects. It appears to the untutored eye that the spider has realised that she can intercept insects on their way to a certain death, thus depriving the pitcher plant of its nutrition but providing herself with a few ready meals. To date though, both seem to be thriving in our new environment here in Streetly End.

Wild plants and trees don't have the luxury of being transported in pots to a new habitat, so they have to stay where they are and make the best of things, and many trees have been making a spectacular impression. On the few recent sunny days, the leaves on the beech and oak trees glow in the winter sunshine, yellow and gold. They seem to have stayed on for longer this year, probably due to few frosts and little wind, or maybe because it's so wet. Di has noticed that there are very few acorns this year. The Forestry Commission say this is because last year was so productive, called a 'mast year', and the trees are having a lean one this time.

We have been slow to hang up bird feeders in our new garden, but nevertheless we had a visit from a female sparrowhawk in search of prey. She sat on the hedge for a few moments, but had to leave without reward. Several other people have seen sparrowhawks in their gardens, often swooping through and grabbing a small bird from the feeder. John regularly sees one passing through his neighbours' garden, targeting the sparrows in the hedge. Barn owl sightings have been good too. Di was lucky enough to see one quartering at Bottle Hall one evening and sat and watched it for several minutes, flying back and forth and suddenly dropping into the long grass on the verge after an unfortunate rodent.

The wet autumn has produced a good crop of fungi this year. The fungi along Burton End footpaths have been particularly impressive. Di and I know very little about fungi, but there are certainly some lovely ones around. The white puffball, which as it matures, gets bigger and bigger, turns brown and then 'puffs' its spores out. There was a large patch of 40 shaggy ink caps in the field corner in all stages of growth. Both of these are edible when young, but neither of us have ever been brave enough to try them. In past years I have managed to harvest a few edible field mushrooms from alongside Rands Wood, and they were delicious.

Early one morning, Di was driving towards Streetly End. The sun was shining very brightly and there were many wispy clouds in the sky. She saw what looked like a fragment of rainbow in the sky. This is called a sun dog, and is from the Greek parelion, meaning 'beside the sun'. It is formed by the ice crystals in the clouds acting as a prism, separating the sunlight into different colours. It is usually seen when the sun is low in the sky, at sunrise or sunset.

Please send your nature sightings to:

Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

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

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Stuck for ideas for something different to buy for your loved ones this Christmas! Why not treat them to a Saturday workshop where they will learn new skills or start the New Year joining one of our evening classes yourself. We have a wide selection of workshops and classes available in the Spring term. All workshops cost £45.00 and run from 10.00am until 4.00pm, some have an additional materials cost

Saturday 8 February: vegetarian Indian delights, skincare & facials, CV writing and employability skills

Saturday 14 March: upholstery, writing life stories, Mother's Day vase & flowers in handmade felt, functional maths & excel.

Family workshop: hand tied posy for Mum 9.30-12.30 cost £10 per adult and £3 for children.

New courses. We have two new five week courses starting **Monday 13 January** 7pm-9pm fee £65.00

These are: Sewing for beginners, cookery course - sweet and savoury dishes (please note there will be additional costs for ingredients).

The following classes have places available for the Spring term: watercolours, handmade felt, applique baby quilts/wall hanging, Indian cookery, upholstery, silver jewellery, pottery, beginners sketchbook, art & drawing, floristry, aromatherapy, introduction to functional maths, ESOL and woodwork.

To book a place on a workshop or evening class please email adult.education@lvc.org or telephone 01223 891223 Ext 303 or 317 or take a look at our website www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk where you will find further information about our courses.

OPEN ARMS – MAKING CONNECTIONS

There is thought to be 50,000 people at risk of loneliness in Cambridgeshire, so chances are some of them live near you. With winter approaching, life may get lonelier; we all tend to stay indoors for longer. For some people, ill health and bad weather may confine a greater number to their homes or the fear of falling in icy weather and darker nights mean they're too nervous to go out. Working neighbours may be out all day, so they will see few people during the week.

Villages are great at keeping the community connected, though it's easy to overlook the impact of seasons. In winter, timing events or meetings in daytime, or providing door to door transport, can help to prevent isolation. Helping with shopping, especially bulkier items, gives an opportunity for a chat, or sharing a treat.

So, making connections, however small, can mean so much, whether it's smiling, chatting at the checkout, catching up with friends by picking up the phone or contacting them through social media. Keeping connected by knowing what is happening in your community gives a sense of belonging which improves wellbeing. The Open Arms project supports action against loneliness so if you have an idea that could help build connections in your community we can help you to make it happen. Please contact us on:
T: 01954 211919, Email: sarah.b@care-network.org.uk

WEA & LALA COURSES

Italian history and culture. Great Bradley WEA's course beginning in January is aimed at people with an interest in 'Everything Italian'. There is so much history, so this is an overview of the middle ages, the Renaissance period, the historical 'Risorgimento' (unification) and will include modern day politics, some geography and modern culture.

The course will run from Wednesday 15 January to 26 February: seven weeks of two hours: 10am to 12noon. Cost: £55. It will take place in Great Bradley Village Hall, CB8 1LH. The course reference is C2226805. To enrol please either book on line: enrolonline.wea.org.uk or telephone 0300 303 3464 (phoning is easier!). Fees can be paid at the first meeting, but WEA HQ would appreciate knowing numbers before the course begins, so please do enrol before you come. Further information from Peter Smith: 01440 783278

Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners. The newly formed Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) has enjoyed a well-attended course this term entitled Working Lives. In January we start a new topic of Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners. We will welcome Andrew Sankey who has delivered courses to the WEA group in the past. The 10 session course will explore eight influential gardens and their creators and will include Hidcote, Chatsworth, Blenheim, Stourhead, Levens Hall and Biddulph Grange.

The LALA course starts on Tuesday 14 January at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton from 10.00 – 11.45 and ends on 24 March. There will be no meeting on 18 February to coincide with school half term. Fees will be £50 for the ten weeks. Come along and be inspired! Further information from Sue Mudge, 01223 892737.

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Cinema Club. On 4 December, we have the wonderful Love Actually, perfect for the run up to Christmas. Then in January we'll show The Last Emperor - on 8 January to avoid New Year's Day. Both films are at 7.30pm. All welcome, donations, introduction, refreshments available.

Folk Evening. On Saturday 7 December the Reading Room will host 'Camus' (pronounced 'car-mus') featuring our very own David Somerville. Fresh from Cambridge Folk Festival and en route to the festival in St Neots next June.

David Somerville - Northumbrian small pipes, keyboard
Greg Smith - fiddle, viola

Andrew Burn - melodeon, Northumbrian small pipes

The three friends have been playing together in various folk bands for over 40 years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, USA, Spain. David says: 'if we like the tune we'll play it'. The music begins at 7.30pm, donations on the door, refreshments available, all welcome.

All enquiries: Email: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com
T: 291475.

Jacqueline Douglas

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

Hans Christian Anderson's

THE SNOW QUEEN

2pm at Weston Colville Church

Tickets from www.thisismytheatre.com/the-snow-queen

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe how fast the autumn term is whizzing by. School has been a hive of activity and there is lots to celebrate already.

It has been a pleasure to show the new intake of children for September 2020 around school. There have been so many positive comments about how lovely the learning environment is and how polite and well-mannered the children are. We are always proud to show parents around our school and we hope that the prospective parents have left feeling encouraged about their child joining.

In November, our Parent and Staff consultation began for the transition to a new Academic Trust. To those who are not aware, CHET (Chilford Hundred Education Trust) has been looking for a larger Trust to join with, as part of their work on ensuring access to the best resources and support for our local young people. After a very rigorous selection process, Anglian Learning was chosen. It was essential that the Trust we joined remained true to our beliefs of being local and small enough to build good relationships, as well as allowing schools to remain autonomous. We believe that the future relationship with Anglian Learning will be perfect to continue to allow schools in our Trust to flourish. The staff and parents who attended the meetings were extremely encouraged and we are looking forward to this change.

In school, we are always looking for extra ways to help enhance our own teaching and the provision we offer children. This term we have been fortunate enough to have a number of organisations support the delivery of our Science Curriculum. Astra Zeneca Science, in conjunction with Cambridge United, have been making weekly visits to Heron Class to help deliver the Science Curriculum and Sixth Form Students from The Perse have kindly come in to help teach Year 5 and 6 Science too. It has been fantastic to observe the level of engagement of the children in some difficult scientific concepts. Miss Totterdale has also been working with The Ogden Trust to continue to enhance Science provision in school. Part of this work is to provide a box of science equipment for the children to use outside during playtimes. This has been very well received by the children and great to watch how they use it independently.

If you know of anyone who can offer help in any way to support our curriculum delivery, then please do get in touch with the school office.

Do keep in touch with events at school through our twitter account @Meadow_Balsham

Helen Loe, Assistant Head Teacher

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

I now have a new outlet for used postage stamps and the profits from selling them go to Embracing the Middle East. I should, therefore, be very grateful if you could save stamps from your Christmas post – just cut or tear them off the envelopes – any denomination or country welcome. If possible please deliver them to Nine Chimney House, Balsham or I can collect them if you get in touch with me.

Thank you

Joanna Sanders

T: 01223 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

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

Granta Medical Practice/Linton Health Centre:
0300 234 5555 option 3

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The last month has included lots of events for LVC students to raise awareness of important issues and funds for those in need.

On 1 November we marked the end of 'GloWeek' with members of the College community wearing bright items of clothing as part of a national autumn road safety campaign 'Be Seen Not Hurt'. Assemblies focused on important aspects of road safety given that nights are drawing in during the winter months. The initiative also raised money for the Childhood Brain Injury Trust.

This charitable event was particularly poignant as it coincided with the return of one of our Year 11 students, Sam Norris, after a serious motorbike accident in a British Youth Championships race in Glasgow in June that caused him to be on life support and resulted in an acquired brain injury. We are proud of the progress that Sam has made through his intensive rehabilitation and are thrilled to have him back within the LVC community.

We marked Remembrance Day with the wearing of poppies, two minutes' silence across the school and one of our students playing the last post. This has become an important and moving tradition at LVC to remember and pay our respects to those that have given their lives in war and conflicts.

Children in Need day was celebrated with a variety of fundraising activities including a non-uniform day and pennies for Pudsey collection. It is easy to make assumptions that children in Linton and surrounding villages are not touched by the hardship and deprivation in the same way as students attending city schools. However, LVC's community serves a range of diverse families in very different personal circumstances and a large proportion of our students benefit from accessing specialist support services provided by childhood charities.

I begin my maternity leave at the start of December. My colleague, Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal at the College, will take over the writing of the LVC news column for community newsletters in my absence. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Helena Marsh, Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 12 December

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