

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2020

ISSUE 200

VILLAGE DIARY

- Wed 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
Sun 5 United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
Tue 7 Blue & green wheeled bin (day late) collection
Wed 8 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 12 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 13 Black wheeled bin collection
Local History Club. Tudor Cambridge. Talk by Honor Ridout. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed 15 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 19 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Mon 20 Blue only wheeled bin collection
Gardening Club. Scented plants. Talk by Peter Jackson. 7.30pm, Village Hall
Wed 22 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Sun 26 Holy Communion, joint service. 10.45, West Wrattling Church. See page 2
Mon 27 Black wheeled bin collection
Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm, Village Hall. All are invited to attend this important meeting
Wed 29 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
Daisy Chains Pre-School meets Monday & Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 Tuesday & Thursday 9.30–2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall

HUB NIGHTS WILL START AGAIN IN MARCH

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.

THE VILLAGE VOICE HAS REACHED A MILESTONE

Sue and I started the Village Voice in March 2003 and this is the 200th edition. This has been quite a journey for us and the many people who have helped over the nearly 17 years. There have been too many contributors to mention individually but thank them all because without their contributions there would not be a Village Voice. However, there is a small group of people to whom we would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU; the people who deliver it each month. Linda Adams and Sue & Pete have done this from the start. Diana & John Harrison, Janet Morris & Jane Scheuer also delivered in the early days and were later joined by Vic Terry from 2006, myself when I retired in 2009, Jon & Anita Debnan from 2009, Malcolm Mizon from 2017 and Jean & Kit Martin from 2018. Moira Ripsher has helped when Linda was away

We would also like to thank Janet Morris who has proof read it every month and the Parish Council for sponsoring the Voice. This has meant we haven't had to find commercial advertising to fund the printing and means there is more space for articles and for advertising local events, unusual in a parish magazine but printing commercial ads requires more volunteer manpower and additional pages which then costs more etc, etc. A "catch 22"!

For the first 6 years the Voice was photocopied where I worked but since 2009 has been printed by E & E Plumridge in Linton. We would like to thank Oliver Plumridge and his team for the excellent service they have given us.

Until 2003 we shared a joint magazine with Horseheath but The Venture was and still is published bi-monthly. The Parish Council had been considering producing a monthly magazine so people could be kept more "in touch", with a monthly diary to promote events. Sue, who had been the village's collator for the Venture, and I presented ideas to the Parish Council, these were agreed and the Village Voice was born. Why the name? We hoped it would be a "voice", a means of communicating news and information to you the residents and somewhere you could have a say in return. We hope you continue to enjoy what is being published and find the information useful. We would welcome regular contributions from village and local organisations which we don't hear from very often. We are still disappointed that there have been few "letters to the Editors", usually these have been about overgrown hedges or dog poo but maybe there are few other issues you want to express your views on. We would welcome suggestions on how to improve the Voice. Is there anything you would like to see included, or left out? **Please remember, the Voice is your voice. Please don't be reluctant to use it as just that.**

Lastly, if you want to look at back copies there is an archive going back to 2010 which can be found on the village website <https://westwickham.org/village-voice/village-voice-archives/>. I have pdf files of all the editions if you want to go back even further.

Andrew Morris

LIGHTS OUT PLEASE

On clear nights over the next few months the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will be measuring the 'quality' of our dark sky. It would

Continued on page 2

Lights out please continued.....

be appreciated if outdoor lights could be switched off after 10pm where possible to help us get an accurate measurement. The results of our Green Space Consultation are now available on the village website. If you would like further information feel free to get in touch with Dave Sargeant T: 209048 or at davidjsargeant@googlemail.com.

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2020-21

This proposed budget will be discussed and agreed at the January Parish Council meeting. As always we would very much welcome attendance at any PC meeting. As you know we are happy for parishioners to take part and have input and this would go along with any ideas or projects you might like to put forward.

We have put in an application for a Local Highways Initiative grant to put a speed buffer zone in Burton End, along with some traffic calming schemes (white gates, red roundels, crocodile teeth road markings) in Streetly End.

- £3000, 25% of our precept, is spent on employee costs, salary NI etc.
- £2000 is budgeted for our Local Highways Initiative speed reduction scheme is accepted.
- £1500 is allocated to the cutting of the playing field and Village Hall surrounds.
- £650 for the Village Voice.
- £250 is allocated this year for a bi-annual hedge cut.
- £650 is put aside each year for playground repairs, inspection and replacement fund.
- £600 is allocated to St Mary's Church maintenance/grass cutting of the churchyard.
- £600 is spent support the Age Concern Warden and the Parish Nurse.
- £350 for various subscriptions.
- £650 for general administration and insurance costs.

Patrick Charlton, Chairman West Wickham Parish Council

ST MARY'S CHURCH

At a recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council, we decided that in order to best serve our communities and make better use of our valued clergy West Wickham, Weston Colville and West Wratting would have a joint service of Holy Communion at West Wratting Church, on the 4th Sunday of the month at 10.45am, taken by the Rev. Iain McColl. The collection will be divided between the three churches. We will do this for January, February and March as a trial run before talking to parishioners to get their views. West Wratting has been chosen as it has better parking and a great heating system!

Di Licence & Marcus Cornish, Church Wardens.

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wednesday 1 January | closed |
| Thursday 2 January | open as normal |
| Friday 3 January | open as normal |
| Saturday 4 January | closed |
| Sunday 5 January | closed |

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

First of all a very Happy New Year from your Parish Council. The following is a brief report on the meeting held on Monday 25 November. The draft minutes are displayed on the notice boards.

Matters arising:

1. It is hoped that the hedges along Footpath 8 will be dealt with by the County Council Footpath Officer.
2. It was agreed that obtaining solar panels to power the existing street lights was too expensive.

Planning:

The full list of ongoing planning applications is given in the minutes.

Regarding S/3831/19/PA (conversion of a barn to two dwellings in Streetly End) The PC did not support this because it was not changing from agricultural use but from equestrian use, which is dealt with differently.

Finance: Full details are shown in the Minutes.

Traffic & Parking issues:

1. The Local Highways Improvement Scheme application has been submitted. The Police said the 200m buffer zone for Streetly End/Horseheath was unacceptable as it leaves only 600m of unrestricted speed limit and this contravenes regulations. Other options are: gates either side of the road, "dragons teeth" road markings and 30mph roundels. The Burton End buffer zone was acceptable. It was agreed that changes to the proposal would be made to make it acceptable to the Police.
2. The 30mph red strip going into Streetly End is in a very poor state and will be reported to the County Council Highways Dept.

Neighbourhood Plan: The results of the Green Spaces consultation were reported. All the sites were supported. However one in Streetly End, owned by SCDC, would not be put forward as it is marked for possible housing. It was agreed that the underspent grant money of £1660 could be used to fund further help from Cambridgeshire ACRE.

A1307 update: Cllr. Hazelhurst explained that Georgina Magin would no longer attend the Parish Council meetings as the proposal to build a new dual carriageway was no longer an issue.

Reports by Dist.Cllr Harvey & County Cllr. Batchelor: These are available on the website and in the minutes.

Any other business:

1. A blocked drain near 73 High Street needs reporting again as it still had not been dealt with.
2. The Union Jack on the Village Hall pole is in a very poor condition and will be replaced.
3. The cost of dog poo bins will be looked into, as two are needed.
4. Trevor Hall, the newly elected Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, said that an electrical survey was recently carried out and 10 items needed attention. The fire alarms are also being tested and he is looking into alternative heating and power supplies. There will be a formalised system for maintenance. There is a need for a general clean up in and around the Hall. He was pleased to report that the finances of the Hall are sound.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 27 January. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260, Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

UPDATE FROM LUCY FRAZER MP

I want to take the opportunity to update you on a number of projects I have been working on throughout last year. They include increasing our school funding and tackling crime. Of course, I have worked on a number of other projects too but it is impossible to mention them all!

We all know that education can be the key to social mobility so I have continued to campaign for fairer school funding and regularly meet with Ministers to press the case. Since I was first elected our constituency has received £9 million more for our schools. Following this, I arranged for head teachers from across Cambridgeshire to meet with Schools Minister Nick Gibb to discuss the need for further funding. As a result of this campaign and other work which I and others have done with teachers and parents, the Government recently announced a further £14 billion nationally. For example Meadow Primary School will receive a 6.76% increase in per pupil funding for next year.

And it is fantastic news that Addenbrooke's will receive a share of £100 million seed funding to develop its plans for a state of the art rebuild, enabling the hospital to present a business case as the first step towards complete redevelopment which could begin as early as 2025.

As well as working hard on local issues I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to input into national policy on justice. In July, I was delighted to be appointed a Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice with responsibility for Prisons and Probation. While my primary focus will always be representing the people of South East Cambridgeshire in Parliament, I'm honoured to be entrusted with playing a leading role in this important area.

And having campaigned for superfast broadband access for four years I am pleased that 95.9% of premises in West Wickham can access this service.

I also hold regular surgeries in the constituency and am here to help with any issues you may have. Constituents who would like help with a problem or to meet with me at the next surgery should contact me by emailing lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk or calling 020 7219 5082.

To keep up with my work follow me on Facebook and Twitter or visit my website – www.lucyfrazer.org.uk.

Best wishes for 2020.

Lucy Frazer QC MP, South East Cambridgeshire
(Ed. This was received before the election which saw Lucy Frazer re-elected as our MP)

STAN COX

Older residents will be saddened to hear of the death of Stan Cox at the age of 97. Stan and his late wife Hilda were early residents of Maypole Croft but moved away sometime ago to be nearer their family. Stan took a keen interest in village affairs, often attending Parish Council meetings, and was a founder member of the Gardening Club. When he and Hilda left the village they donated a cup for the Annual Show (only the second cup to be donated). The Stan and Hilda Cup is still presented to the winner of the domestic classes (a subject dear to Hilda's heart). The first winner was Doreen Bazeley (also from Maypole Croft) in 1987 and the current holder is Sue Thurston.

Janet Morris

NATURE NOTES

Last month we mentioned the number of sparrowhawk sightings in the village but too late for publication I heard of a particularly grizzly episode from Richard Tofts, who witnessed a sparrowhawk subduing and eating a jackdaw. The struggle lasted for some twenty minutes apparently but the sparrowhawk prevailed. The realities of nature laid bare.

In November we were commenting on how long the leaves remained on the trees, some strong winds and a couple of frosty nights have laid them bare too, with a consequence that our gardens can look lifeless. Put out some fat balls, or fill up the birdseed, and suddenly things start to come to life with different species of bird showing their preferences for particular feeders, depending on the food on offer or the location of the feeder. Apparently in Di's garden the house sparrows seem to prefer the more sheltered positioning, whereas blue and great tits go for the feeder out in the open. Birds have to take what opportunities they have and as I type this I am watching a blackbird pecking at some of the decaying crab apples still on the tree outside our back door. Di has a male pheasant that struts up the lawn to peck at rotten apples. The berries in the hedgerows attract the winter thrushes. I have personally seen fewer than usual this year so far, and thought perhaps this could be attributed to mild conditions in northern Europe, but Di disturbed a flock of about 200 in Dean Road who flew up from the hawthorn hedge like leaves in a gale, giving off their lovely cackling noise. Other winter visitors are golden plover which we see occasionally and hear their piping calls, and Di also reports three lapwings flying up - an unmistakable but sadly rare sight these days.

Ronnie reports seeing a barn owl on more than one occasion, quartering the field on the way to Yen Hall while Di saw a particularly fine tawny owl perching in a tree by Mill Road. There have been plenty of buzzard and red kite sightings and I had an exciting visit from a bird I (probably mistakenly) concluded was a rough legged buzzard with pale head and chest. He was flying around very low into the field but kept returning to our fence to perch. If anyone else in Streetly End saw this bird, I would like to know because although I had a great view I couldn't be certain of the identification. He appeared to be holding something in his talons for some of the time while he was perching.

One would think it unusual for mammals to breed at this time of year when conditions are likely to be most challenging but one who seems to take no notice of the seasons is the muntjac, who breeds all the year round. Tom found a very small fawn, about the size of a cat, foxy brown with stripes and spots on its back. A nearby barking from a stressed mother certainly hinted that the fawn must be a muntjac so let us hope that the two were reunited. Meanwhile Steve spotted two female roe deer, our most attractive deer, in Blacklands Lane.

At the most desolate time of year there are signs of life - the tightly furled catkins of the hazel and alder trees, the sticky buds on the horse chestnuts and the snowdrops starting to push up through the soil. I actually saw snowdrops in flower along Kingfisher Walk in Linton the other day, could this be a sign of global warming I wonder?

Please send your nature sightings to:

Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Di Licence. T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

REMINISCENCIES ON VILLAGE FOOTBALL

The first West Wickham football match? After seeing the article about the football club in the November *Village Voice* I thought this might be of interest. The first West Wickham football match was in Dulce Taylor's meadow behind the church [where Anita and Keith now have their horses]. It would have been in the late 60s or early 70s. There were goal posts, nets, corner flags and the pitch was marked out.

My brother, John, was in the team and as I refereed in the RAF I was invited to be the West Wickham team's linesman – an invitation I accepted. This was the team's first match and the first match on the new pitch. I don't know who the visiting team was but they beat West Wickham 7 to 1. I don't know what happened to the team or pitch after that.

Graham Hopwood

Interestingly, a form of football may well have been played on this particular field for centuries. In the early 19th century, part of it was an ancient enclosure called Camping Close. Camping or camp-ball was a sort of cross between football and handball, rather like rugby or American football and popular all over East Anglia from the 14th century onwards. Rules seem to have been decided locally and it is usually described as a rough and dangerous game.

The first records of organized sport in West Wickham are of cricket rather than football. In 1906 a concert was organized to raise funds for the West Wickham Cricket Club and my researches on the men on our War Memorial turned up many newspaper references to cricket matches against villages like Balsham, West Wratting and Hildersham in the years before the First World War. Not surprisingly there are no mentions of matches during the war itself but they seem to have been resumed afterwards. At least one of the team mentioned in a match report of August 1914 did not come home.

The late Bert Watts, who was born in the village in 1926, remembered cricket matches being played when he was a boy in the same field behind the church. The publican of the White Horse set up tables there and served beer. An aerial photograph taken as part of an RAF survey in 1947/8 shows the wicket quite clearly so matches were obviously still taking place then.

As to what happened to the football pitch Graham asks? In the early 1970s the Parish Council turned a large amount of redundant allotments into the playing field we have today but there has been no 'home' team playing there since we came to the village in 1977.

If anyone has memories of any sports in West Wickham, I would love to hear from you. If you would like to know more about any aspect of the history of the village just get in touch or better still why come along to our meetings and join us.

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club
21 High Street T: 290863
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES RATED OUTSTANDING BY CARE QUALITY COMMISSION

The Care Quality Commission inspected our GP practice in October and has rated it as outstanding, a mark of quality that is shared with only 5 of the 88 GP practices in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough health system.

This is first and foremost an opportunity to remind ourselves how tirelessly all 165 Granta staff work day-in-day-out. Many of them are our neighbours in our communities. They all deserve a big Thank You Team Granta! Their jobs have never been easy and have become much harder and more stressful over the past decade. Funding for healthcare is not keeping up with growing demand and finding people who are prepared to serve their communities as doctors and nurses is becoming ever more difficult. Fewer GPs and nurses care for more patients. This trend makes small general practices very vulnerable. A couple of retirements or long-term illnesses can lead to the collapse and closure of a practice, as we have witnessed recently in our own vicinity.

Granta has been created over the past four years through a merger of four well-run independent practices at Linton, Sawston, Barley/Market Hill and Shelford for one reason only - to create a sustainable GP practice that is fit to weather the funding and workforce crises, is able to attract and retain excellent staff, and will continue to offer reliable services to our communities. Granta is now of the right size for a modern GP practice and will not grow further. The practice is big enough to survive and thrive but remains small enough to care for our communities and retain the team spirit that is critical for general practice. The CQC rating is an external validation that Granta has chosen the right path.

Granta's outstanding rating is not 'mission accomplished'. There is lots of work still to do. While the on-the-day access at Granta for urgent needs is excellent, access to bookable appointments at all sites needs to be improved. The merger has led to changes in the provision of local services and challenges local identity, which is a concern to both patients and clinicians. These issues have been raised by the Patient Participation Group, who are helping the Granta team to understand how to best respond to workforce pressures, maintain the local identities of our practice sites and continue to offer patients access to their preferred doctor as much as possible.

Granta is grateful to all patients who provide feedback on its service and offer suggestions for improvements, and particularly to the members of the Patient Participation Group, who act as critical friends. For us, Granta is more than a business, it is a community asset. Both patients and staff can be proud of the outstanding rating. This gives us the reassurance and motivation to continue the journey to making Granta one of the best GP practices in the country.

Dave Arnold & Anne Thompson, Co-chairs of the Granta Medical Practices Patient Participation Group

Stefan Scholtes, Independent Patient-Chair of Granta Medical Practices Board

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

SPRING PROGRAMME

Monday 20 January. *Scented plants.* Talk by Peter Jackson.

Monday 17 February. *Succulents of the Northern Cape of South Africa.* Talk by Alex Summers.

Monday 16 March. *Flames & Feathers: Tulip appreciation and OBSESSION.* Talk by Andrew Morris.

Monday 20 April. *Shade lovers.* Talk by Jay & Simon McWilliams, Hedgehog Plants, Risby.

7.30pm, Village Hall

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

In November we celebrated our 50th birthday. We had a lovely evening, with cake of course, where we celebrated our half-centenary with one of the first Brownies – Rose Barker nee Davies. Rose was accompanied by her sister Irene who was too old for Brownies but did help at the meetings. They were both interested in how the programme has changed over the years but were both glad that the unit was still going strong.

In our preparations for Christmas the Brownies all made a felt stocking for the tree we put up in All Saints Church, Horseheath. We also decorated baubles for the tree outside the church. By completing these two activities it has given us over 60 minutes of unit meeting activities for the 'new' programme.

At the beginning of December we gave an Christmas luncheon to 30 guests, who enjoyed the presentation of what the Brownies had been up to in 2019. It is amazing how much we fit in during the year.

Next term we will be getting ready for our annual holiday to the Jarman Centre. This year we will be joined by 1st Linton Brownies and we will be having a space theme to our holiday and will be using activities from the Royal Astronomical Society challenge badge whilst we are there.

You may have noticed posters going up around the villages advertising Girlguiding. Over time our numbers have dropped, we are now at seven Brownies. As mentioned previously we hope to have three Rainbows transfer up to us but we do have space for more. I know trying new things might be scary when you are seven but Girlguiding does give every girl a voice, a space to grow and develop into the leaders of the future.

If you would like to know more about Brownies please check out the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) or drop us a message on our new email address horseheathbrownies@gmail.com.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB

Our next film will be on Wednesday 8 January, to avoid New Year's day. We will be showing *The Last Emperor*, great for the big screen. 7.30pm at Weston Colville Reading Room. All welcome, donations, introduction, refreshments available.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, T: 291475

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed and we are entering not only a new term, but also a new decade! The autumn term was very long and everyone was pleased to see the Christmas holidays after such a busy period.

Christmas in a primary school is always great fun with high levels of excitement in the day leading up to the end of term. The Infant production takes centre stage and this year was no exception. This year, the production of the 'The Nativity' was traditional; our Year 2 children always take



on the main speaking parts and as usual we were so impressed at how each child rose to the challenge we had given them. All children learn a dance, as well as a lot of songs and trying to ensure that everyone is in the right place, at the right time, in the right costume, is always the greatest challenge! This year it was a mammoth effort to stage the production in under two weeks as the teachers juggled the teaching of the curriculum alongside rehearsals. Despite the last minute panic that the production will not come together in time, it always does! Thank you to everyone who was involved in helping it to be such a success.

The Key Stage 2 Carol Service is an annual highlight too and this year was no exception. As usual, the church was packed full of families and the Year 6 readers, aided by a tableau of Year 3 children, re-told the Nativity beautifully. A Meadow tradition in recent years has been a visit from Declan the Donkey, who adds to the authenticity so well! Our Christmas season would certainly not be the same without help from our school and local community. Mrs Sarah Bassett gives her time so willingly to accompany the production and carol service and we are so grateful for her help. This year the infants were treated to some fabulous scenery and a new stable, provided by the very skilled Mrs Carmichael and Mr Holman.

Now the New Year has begun we are excited to begin our new learning. Teachers have spent a long time re-planning topics ready to start. The Year 3/4/5 classes have started their 'Crime and Punishment' topic, with a trip to Norwich Castle to study how this has changed across the ages. Year 5/6 have started their 'Around the World' topic, focusing on Geography around the world and the Infants are learning about some real life super heroes throughout history in their topic 'Not all Superheroes wear capes'. If you feel like you have any skills or expertise you can add to these topics, please do get in contact with the school. We are so always grateful for any help in school, especially with readers and with our Forest School sessions. If you have a spare hour in your week, then please do get in touch.

Nichola Connor, Head Teacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Much of the magic of Christmas is the traditions that serve to remind us of the important things in life, family and community; Christmas lunches appear, Carol services take place, decorations festoon our homes and mulled wine keeps out the cold. It is no surprise then that Christmas is a key time in the College calendar in expressing those values.

The Music Department, led by Helen Juckes, is integral to Christmas at Linton Village College. Holy Trinity Church, Balsham was packed to the rafters, on 10 December, for the Christmas Service. Students from all years performed a wide range of favourites including Elgar's 'The Snow', 'Chanson de Nuit' as well as carols by Britten and Rutter. The Year 7 choir also put together a Christmas medley with a big band. It was a truly heart-warming sight to see proud parents, grandparents and excited students together in church celebrating and enjoying the festive spirit. It is a huge event to organise and our thanks go to Mrs Juckes for her leadership, and Holy Trinity Church for hosting, in making the service such a success.

As if that wasn't enough, the following week the Drama and Music Departments also hosted a 'Live Lounge for Cambodia' evening of music and drama to raise money for the Year 11 expedition to Cambodia. The set included performances from Mrs Clark's Music Theatre and a preview of The Caucasian Chalk Circle as well as some solo items. A busy Christmas indeed for the Arts Faculty.

It is sometimes easy to forget that Christmas traditions don't just happen. They require nurture, love and hard work to maintain them. This year, one LVC tradition lapsed which we will restore for Christmas 2020. 25 years ago, Jenny Pullin, Head of Food Technology and Lead Tutor hosted an afternoon tea for 20 members of the community as part of a Year 9 project. It grew! Since then, Mrs Pullin (now in her 36th year at the College) organised the 'Coffee and Carols' morning each December in the College Hall, complete with music, decorations and Year 9 students serving food and refreshments to over 120 members of our local community. To see three, sometimes four, generations from the villages sharing Christmas was a wonderful example of the Village College community ethos being lived out and has often brought out the odd sentimental tear in staff, guests and students alike. Charities including CLIC Sargent, Haverhill Food Bank and Anglia Air Ambulance have also benefitted from the event's raffles through the years.

Mrs Pullin continues to be Exams Officer at LVC but as part of her phased retirement has relinquished leadership of the event. In the words of Austria's most famous pensioner though: 'Coffee and Carols will be back' for 2020. Our thanks to Mrs Pullin for all her hard work and organisation of such an important event for so many people for the last quarter of a century.

LVC's annual Charities Fayre on the last day completed the autumn term. Students raised money for a number of local charities through an array of different stalls and activities. The students' entrepreneurial skills were very much on show in a celebratory atmosphere. It is a wonderful way to end the term in the Christmas spirit and to remind everyone of the values of giving, family and community.

Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal

HUB NIGHTS WILL START AGAIN IN MARCH

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett, T: 07498994205
Mobile: 0749 899 4205
email: 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com

Tuesday & 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

FROM THE VICARAGE

May I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. I can hardly believe we have reached 2020, when it seems like yesterday we celebrated the Millennium. Time is a strange concept because some events are over in a flash, especially if it is a special occasion like getting married, and yet on the other hand, we have a sense of our childhood going on forever.

My first service back is on 29 December at Balsham, and I am looking forward to being part of the church family of the Granta Vale parishes again. I have been out of the parishes to enable me to help with my new grandson, who is adorable and now almost six months old. What joy a new life brings.

My other big highlight was going to the Holy Land with a group in November. There were so many blessings on that trip. In Jerusalem we stayed opposite the wall which had been standing for centuries. The buzz and excitement was truly amazing. To visit sites I had only imagined took my breath away because on one level they were ordinary but these were the same sights that Jesus saw when he was on earth. Our second hotel was at Tiberias by Lake Galilee. To see the sun rise on a new day as the light danced on the water left me full of wonder. Jesus had seen this landscape just as I was seeing it. Amazing!

All in all I realise time passes quickly and we are encouraged to make the most of the time we are given. Being able to have those moments of time gives us memories we can share with others. Without it 2020 may vanish without trace. I wish you many happy moments and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Rev Kathy Bishop.

COMMUNITY HUBS

The January hubs will be on, both 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

- Thursday 2 at Balsham Church Institute
- Tuesday 28 at Abington Institute.

Further details from Cazzy Walshe, Parishes Administrator.
Email: 7churches.seven@gmail.com, T: 01223 891443
Working day: Monday and Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm;
Friday 9.00am-11.00am

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 January

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