VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MARCH 2020

ISSUE 202

VILLAGE DIARY

- Sun 1 United parishes service. 10.30, Balsham Church
- Mon 2 Blue & green wheeled bin collection Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hal
- Wed 4 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall Sat 7 Pre-School QUIZ NIGHT. 7.30pm,
- Village Hall. See page 3
- Sun 8 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Marys Church
- Mon 9 Black wheeled bin collection Local History Club AGM. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed 11 Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall
- Sun 15 Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 16 Deadline for items to be included in the April edition of the Village Voice Blue & green wheeled bin collection Gardening Club. Flames & feathers. The story of tulip appreciation & obsession. Talk by Andrew Morris. 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sun 22 Holy Communion. Joint service with West Wratting & Weston Colville. 10.45, West Wratting 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 Morning worship. 9.15, St Mary's Church
- Mon 30 Blue & green wheeled bin 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.

MISSING LOG PILE

Whoever is removing the logs from the wildlife area, will they please STOP IT! The logs were sawn and given to the area as habitats for wildlife. The area is NOT a free for all for people to help themselves. The latest pile to disappear was given to the children of the Pre-School to assemble and revisit during the year to see who had 'moved in'. What a disappointment for them! I hope whoever is responsible feels ashamed of themselves.

Diana Licence, Parish Councillor.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP 2020 Sunday 15 March

Sadly our roadside verges continue to be used as dumping grounds for cans, bottles, bags and other detritus so I have arranged for South Cambs District Council to provide the necessary equipment for a clean-up day on **Sunday 15 March**. Anyone who would like to help with our annual litter clearance please come to the **Village Hall car park at 11.00 am** where grabbers, gloves and bags will be provided. Last year was very productive but unfortunately the habits of passing motorists do not get any better.

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

FAST RUNNER



Photograph: Haverhill Echo

Congratulations to Tom Keen who recently broke the British under 20 indoor record for the 1500m. That makes him faster than Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett at the same age! It looks like Tom, now in his first year at Birmingham University, will be on his way to the Under 20 World Championships in Kenya this summer. Definitely 'one to watch'.



FROM THE VICARAGE

One of the joys for me of living in Little Abington and being a minister within the Granta Vale Churches is the abundant nature that surrounds our homes. In Abington, I love the footbridge over the river Granta leading from Church Lane to the park. Every day I have the delight of crossing the bridge with my daughter and Freddie our little dog. I smile thinking about how, on one occasion, we were all startled as the familiar egret swooped so close to our heads as we trip trapped across the bridge followed within seconds by a deer speeding across our path, probably equally startled by our clomping feet and chitter chatter.

The smells, sights, sounds and changing seasons that surround us remind me of my childhood. I grew up making dens in hay fields, getting muddy and loving the fresh air of the country. Returning to the UK from Kenya with young children, my hope was that we would find ourselves in a rural location. Life in the city or suburbia can make it far more challenging to notice the wonderful creation that surrounds us. Changing seasons may otherwise be reduced to the thermostat in the car dictating the need for heat or air conditioning.

Every day in our villages we have the joy of the unexpected beauty of creation. The anticipation of wondering how high the river might be today, or if we might see the heron waiting patiently by the river. I feel so thankful for the talented Deborah at Abington Woods providing opportunities for our children to learn about the life of the river and the woodland habitat on its banks. We have such wonderful primary schools in Balsham and Abington that value days out getting muddy in nature alongside iPads, text books and tests.

We are now in the midst of the season of Lent which is a wonderful time of reflection. Excitingly, this year, the Church of England has set an audacious ground-breaking target for all Church's to become 'Carbon net zero' by 2030 and the Lent Challenge is focused on how we look after the world that God has made. It's not too late to sign up for #livelent daily challenge at https:// the www.churchofengland.org/livelent where, through daily we are being urged to reflect on our own emails, relationship with the environment and to share in God's joy and creativity by making a difference for good through the way we live our lives.

We will also have the opportunity to reflect together during our Lent meetings at the Black Bull in Balsham on Wednesday evenings on 11, 18 and 25 March. We will be looking at our relationship with time and place, and how this affects our sense of being human and our faith.

Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister

16th ANNUAL LENT LUNCH in aid of TARIRO in Zimbabwe

at NINE CHIMNEYS

12.30 pm Friday13 MARCH

Please come and join us for soup, cheese and fruit

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 27 January the following were some of the issues discussed. The full draft minutes are on the two village notice boards.

CAPALC: After a presentation from Henry Clerk, Chairman of Cambridge & Peterborough Association for Local Councils, on the benefits of being a member, it was agreed to continue the PC's membership but review it again next year.

Maintenance:

- 1. Cllr. Shuilenburg had walked round the village with Nicola Burdon from the County Council's Highways Dept listing all the problems e.g. blocked drains, pot holes, road signs and flooding at Streetly End. She promised these would all be dealt with. The pot hole in the middle of the red 30mph sign at the entrance to Streetly End has been filled in but has to dry out before the red covering can be put on. (ED. Too late, it has already opened up again!)
- 2. Footpath 8, behind April Cottage (111 High Street) has been cleared by the County Council.

Planning: A full list is given in the draft minutes on the noticeboards.

- 1. S/4429/19/FL, 33 Burton End 2 story extension. This was supported but there was concern about access for site traffic as it is near a dangerous bend.
- 2. It was understood that a fresh application had been made for the lighting scheme at 30 Streetly End, about which concerns had previously been expressed.

Finance: The Chairman discussed the budget and Precept for 2020-21. He felt that the budget should remain the same as last year's and the Precept remain at £12,000. This was agreed. The authorised payments are listed in the Minutes.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Sargeant said the initial draft has been reviewed by Rachel Hogger of Cambridge ACRE. Before the Plan is accepted it has to go through a minute and rigorous examination and so it will be at least 18 months before could be in place.

Reports by District Cllr. Harvey and County Cllr. Batchelor: See separate report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 23 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260, Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org



DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

A1307. As everyone will have seen, the upgrades to the road are moving forward. The eastbound bus lane and speed limit changes outside of Linton have now been implemented, along with the upgraded foot/cycle path next to the road. The next date to note - the work on the traffic lights and altered pedestrian crossing at the junction at the top of Linton High Street began on 11 February and will run for up to 6 weeks but is likely to be completed sooner, so expect some disruption to journey times.

Council Tax Bill. South Cambridgeshire District Council is trying to encourage people to sign up to receive their council tax bill digitally, rather than receive a paper copy. As an incentive, there is an iPad up for grabs to those who do sign up - https://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax/sign-up-for-council-tax-e-billing-to-win-an-apple-ipad/

Bus Passes. Unfortunately, the County Council no longer offers a .paper form of bus pass application To apply for concessionary pass you need to call 0345 045 1367 or go to https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/buses/free-bus-pass/

Zero Carbon Community Grant. This is a new grant offered by the District Council to encourage community groups and parish councils to engage in green projects that will reduce their carbon footprint. The pot for this fund will be topped up again soon as the number of bids in its debut year was staggering.

Geoff Harvey & Henry Batchellor



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE Saturday 2 May, 2 - 4pm, Village Hall

GUESS WHERE & WHEN?



Answer on p6 From West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES

It is with regret that we inform our patients that Dr Mig Arbide will be leaving us on 23 March. He has dedicated over 20 years to the Linton practice will be greatly missed. His patients have been assigned new registered GPs, and we would like to take this opportunity to reassure our patients that they can access care from any of our clinical team within Granta, irrespective of their registered GP.

A message from Dr Mig Arbide.

"I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my patients for the best part of twenty years. I have enjoyed the privilege of their trust, built through respect, dedication, and stability.

I am fortunate to continue offering my time, experience and knowledge to patients in the prison service. I will also continue to practice in my areas of clinical specialist skill and interest: enhanced minor surgery, vasectomy services, sports medicals and dermatology."

Sandra East, Granta Communications Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club was very fortunate that former Chair, Hilary Thomas was able to step at the last minute and talk at its February meeting. Hilary is an expert horticulturalist and taught for many years at Capel Manor College. She talked on planting design and explained how to create structure with evergreens and the importance of shapes, texture and colour. Being familiar with our area, her talk was both richly informed and attuned to local conditions.

The Club's March talk will be *Flames and feathers, the story of tulip appreciation and obsession* by Andrew Morris. 7.30pm on Monday 16 March at the Village Hall.

UNUSUAL BUT WELCOME HELP!

We understand that the librarian at the Mobile Library has ferrules (3 sizes and free) for walking sticks and walking frames. If people take sticks or frames to their mobile library they will be fitted out with the right size.

NATURE NOTES

With March comes the madness of hares but February brings them out in the open. Two crossed the path in front of me in Lower Wood in Weston Colville. The first was pursued by Lenny. The second followed the pair of them through the trees in a sort of hare-dog-hare conga although I can safely say that no physical contact was made and no blood was spilt. There have been several sightings of hares crossing roads, notably near Bottle Hall but also towards Bartlow. Let's hope we see more of them cavorting around in the fields as they gradually lose their sanity in the breeding season.

Crossing the road is hazardous for many mammals. The body of a fallow deer doe was lying on the verge between Mark's Grave and Webb's Road - very sad as only a few days earlier I had seen a group of half a dozen making their way across the field towards Borley Wood. Here in Streetly End a dead badger is lying beside the road so these are reminders to motorists to restrain ourselves when driving on rural roads or through villages and be alert for unwary animals.

The bird of the month is the treecreeper, a pair having been observed by Sue Harrow from her car in the Village Hall car park and another photographed by Trevor on his patio, where it remained for some time - unusual behaviour for this attractive little bird. It has a mottled brown back and snow white underparts and a downward curving beak which allows it to probe into cracks in tree bark for insects and spiders. Normally they fly to the base of trees and gradually work their way upwards and around the trunk. We don't see them often but when we do, they seem to pay little attention to humans.

Although we have been buffeted by storms Ciara and Dennis, spring is coming and several people have reported thrushes singing high in the trees. Some birds seem to be pairing up and looking for nest sites. Di reports a pair of yellowhammers behind the old Vicarage and two pairs of bullfinches at the allotments. It's always a treat to see bullfinches with their black heads, white rumps and the male's striking pink chest. Occasionally you may catch sight of one flying off along the hedge line in front of you, but not going far before landing again. It is the white rump that is most eye catching as they fly away. Their call is a low whistle - quite unlike other finches, but easy to overlook.

At this time of year I'm watching for skylarks up in the air and singing. Di saw a flock of them on a ploughed field near Hildersham and suddenly one flew into the air and started to sing. There were two or three in the sky as I walked on the footpath between the church and Streetly Hall. A perfect remedy if your spirits are low.

Teresa has had two encounters with a sparrowhawk in her garden, once taking a blackbird, plucking it, hiding it under a hedge and returning to eat it, and once snatching a robin from the bird table.

Let's finish with some beautiful things that Di has seen - the lovely sunsets, sunrises and full moon we have had in the last few weeks, dew drops lit up by the morning sun and her first butterfly of 2020, a red admiral basking in the sunshine.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

CAN COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY GIVE YOU A LIFT?

February and March can be gloomy damp months with glimpses of spring ahead. This time of year can be especially hard for people suffering from pain, stress, and ill health and one thing that can help is complementary therapy. Based on traditions developed thousands of years ago, their value is shown in their longevity. Modern day neuroscience is also starting to offer explanations of how they may work. Whether it be massage, reflexology or a hug from a loved one, therapeutic touch reduces pain, increases relaxation, enhances balance in mind and body, and promotes health. Touch remains important throughout our lives and sadly often decreases as we get older. Both physical and psychological conditions respond well so if you are experiencing discomfort such as stress, insomnia, anxiety, trauma (illness or life), chronic pain, tension, headaches, digestive issues, or fibromyalgia complementary therapy is something to consider.

In West Wickham we are lucky because there are at least 3 practitioners that we can visit or can visit us. Each of us offers something different, whether it is technique, personality or modality, however the one thing we all have in common is the power of touch. Insured and registered with the appropriate governing body, any of us would be happy to talk more about what we offer.

I (Laura Hawksley) am a biodynamic massage therapist, offering sessions that are tailored to you, ranging from whole body to feet, hands or head. I also pay attention to your relationship with your body as they are intertwined and influence each other. I do not use oil and you can remain clothed if that is more comfortable. As a NHS complementary therapist I have experience of working with people with poor health or in recovery. With this in mind I can come to you if need be.

Anna Ludlow (Fairhead) is a reflexologist with over 30 years experience working with a wide range of clients. Her specialism is women's health. Gentle, non-invasive foot massage provides a whole body treatment through stimulating or relaxing specific points on each foot. These correspond with all areas of our body as mapped thousands of years ago in eastern tradition.

Nicci Trudgeon is a massage therapist, reiki practitioner and beauty specialist. With 20 years of experience she offers 4 types of massage: Aromatherapy uses essential oils derived from plants. Through aroma and absorption the oils interact with our bodies to promote the response our body needs. Indian head massage stimulates the points on our scalp in a similar way to reflexology. Swedish massage moves deep tissue and muscle to release tension and hot bamboo massage which uses heat to enhance the depth of the massage. She also offers a range of traditional beauty treatments and makes InnerLather soaps.

Laura Hawksley: T: 07594754332, Email: laura@biodynamicmassage.co.uk

Anna Ludlow (Fairhead): T: 07776300408, Email: aludlowreflex1@aol.com

Nicci Trudgeon: T: 01223 290886, Email: nicci@innerlather.co.uk

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

This month, Ann Denley from Burton End. Ann, 83 this month, lived in Balsham as a child and went to school there and at Linton College.



Ann started training to be a hairdresser in London after she left school but came back to Balsham after her mother died. She met her husband, Bill, whose parents were running The Chequers in Streetly End at the time, at the Balsham fair when she was 17. It was love at first sight for both of them and they married in 1955. They had two children, Sylvia and Gary and she is now a grandmother to four. Bill died in 1990.

Bill was a hard worker; he could turn his hand to anything. Over the years he was a chimney sweep, did groundwork and building work. There must be people still in the village who remember him. Ann worked as a cook for many years, including at Balsham School and her last job was as a cleaner for Mrs Harrison at Randswood farm.

How long have you lived in the village? 50 years this year! We came here in 1970.

What brought you here?

We were already living in Balsham with our two children and bought the house from Bill's sister and her husband when they decided to move to Peterborough. Bill thought it would be suitable for us because at the time there were lots of outbuildings to the back and side which were useful for storing all his equipment.

Do you know anything of the history of your house? Bill's sister and her husband built the bungalow and lived here for 9 years before us.

How has the village changed since you've lived here? We've lost a lot of things - the two pubs, the shop and post office, the village school and the Salvation Army. I remember their band playing in the village.

What do you like best about living in West Wickham? Being in the countryside and I enjoy my walks, which I still do when I can. We have the most beautiful sunsets and I've taken some lovely photos of them over the years. I enjoy watching the birds. In my front garden I have a lot of feeders hanging from the tree and my nest box is used every year by blue tits. I have some good friends in the village and some lovely neighbours. I like to take part in village life; I go to church and always go to the fete and annual show if I can and have done well in some of the classes in the past.

..... and like least?

I can't really think of anything. There is more traffic of course and many of the cars drive too fast. I don't see so many people passing by the house to talk to.

Is there anything missing from the village that you'd like to see?

I like going to the shop at Balsham as it is sociable and we don't have a similar place in this village where people bump into each other and can have a chat.

Years ago, if there was heavy snow, the Council would employ Bill to help clear the road with one of his vehicles. I don't think that wouldn't happen now.

Do you have any special plans for 2020?

No. My son and daughter often come to see me here but this year I hope to go and stay with my daughter who has moved to Framlingham. I will carry on seeing my friends, I love reading, cooking, listening to music, gardening and I do a lot of counted cross-stitch embroidery.

Thank you.

As told to Sue Thurston. If you would like to take part or would like to suggest someone for us to ask, please get in touch. Details on back page.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This will take place at Balsham Church on Friday 6 March at 10.30am. The country leading the worship is Zimbabwe and the theme is "Rise! Take up your mat and walk". We will learn about the lives of the women of Zimbabwe and offer our prayers for them. It is a lively service with lovely hymns and a meditation. If you would like to be a reader in the service please let me know. I do hope that you will be able to join us on this special day; there will be refreshments after the service if you are able to stay. For further information please ring me on 01223 892288

Rev. Kathy Bishop

WHAT'S ON IN WESTON COLVILLE

Circular Walk c5 miles. Our next walk will be on Saturday 28 March, meeting in the Reading Room at 10am. As the River Stour rises in our parish and the Stour Festival are including the walk on their website, the route will take in part of it. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. Come and join us - all welcome, refreshments available.

Cinema Club. On 4 March, we'll show the iconic and acclaimed film *Bladerunner*, regarded as one of the best sci fi movies ever. 7.30pm at the Reading Room. All welcome, refreshments available.

Jacqueline Douglas. Enquiries T: 291475, Email: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

This year is the 75th anniversary of the last year of World War 2. Some dates, such as VE Day on 8 May, will be celebrations; other dates have been, and will be, commemorated in a very different spirit.

Monday 27 January was Holocaust Memorial Day and marks the date of the liberation of Auschwitz by the *Soviet Army*. Throughout the week the College held assemblies and Year 7 Religious Studies lessons focussed on the 'Shoah' or calamity of the Nazi's attempted genocide. The Holocaust is a grim reminder of what humans are capable of doing to each other and that is exactly the reason why we are required to teach it. Understanding the Holocaust is essential in helping students realise why we must treat others as equals and protect the vulnerable. Students never forget learning about the Holocaust and I hope that continues to be the case. If we succeed in that, perhaps the Jewish prayer of 'Never Again' will be fulfilled.

February was also LGBT History Month. In the 25 years I have been teaching, the shift in attitudes around LGBT issues has been nothing less than monumental. Legislation such as the 2010 Equality Act and new media attitudes have been significant in influencing change. Students who identify themselves as LGBT do so in an environment that is unrecognisable to the one that existed a quarter of a century ago. On the whole, schools and communities are much more at ease with themselves as a result. In fact the shift has been so great, that part of the point of LGBT History Month is to remind and educate students that some of our great historical figures, such as Alan Turing, had to contend with levels of prejudice that meant their contributions and identities were hidden.

LVC places huge value on enriching the students' curriculum and we are fortunate to have staff that supports that ethos. During the February half term over 120 students went on the LVC ski trip. It is a major organisational feat led by Mr Kerley, the Head of PE, and 15 other staff who gave up their break. Even before everyone gets on the coaches the LVC administration and finance teams spend hundreds of hours sorting out everything from protocols to finance. To see the students' faces when they return is wonderful and the trip is always amongst the students' top memories.

By the time you may be reading this, 40 of our Year 10 students will be on their GCSE 'Chateau' trip in France for a week. There is, quite simply, no substitute for being immersed in another culture to accelerate students' language acquisition. Having said that, as with the ski trip, it doesn't just happen., once again the support staff at LVC have been putting in the hours with Mrs Fenn in the Finance Team bearing the brunt of the work. Schools at their best are genuinely extraordinary places where dedicated staff make special things happen for our young people – we are fortunate to have such staff working at LVC.

Mr Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal



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: Carol Poll, T: 07436102865 Helping Hands: 07399 263222

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

MY LIFE OF MUSIC

Former resident, Graham Hopwood has just had a book published called "*My life of music*". The first part of the book covers his musical life when he lived in West Wickham. The second part covers his musical life in the RAF and the third part covers his musical life after demob.

He started singing when he was 6 years old and is still singing at the age of 72. In between he has played with Salvation Army bands and also been a Salvation Army Bandmaster at Shipley, a musician in the RAF for 12 years and sang with three male voice choirs.

The book has 126 pages, over 30 black and white photographs and over 30 colour photographs. Only 50 books have been printed. price $\pounds 12+\pounds 2$ p&p. If you would like a copy send him a cheque made out to Graham Hopwood, 4a McConnel Street, Kelloholm, Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway, DG4 6QS.

GRANTA VALE COMMUNITY HUBS

Friendship, Community and Care

Balsham, Church Institute Thursday 5 March, 2.00pm - 4.00pm Abington Institute Tuesday 24 March, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

The Parish Nurse will be there as well as a representative from REACH. Free tea, coffee and cake and the opportunity to meet others.

Guess Where & When? Answer

Maltings House, 1 Burton End (with the boxing kangaroos on the roof) with April Cottage in the background. C1921 when the house was divided into three cottages. The boy standing next to the pram is possibly Cyril Potter who died in North Africa in the Second World War and who is commemorated on the war memorial.

For further details of these buildings (or information/ memories of them) or of the Photo Archive contact Janet Morris: T: 290863, Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

