

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2020

ISSUE 204

## WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday 4 May	Black
Tuesday 12 May	Blue
Monday 18 May	Black
Tuesday 26 May	Blue & green

The green bin collection is being reinstated in May but with a phased return and only one collection guaranteed. For further information please visit [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk) or [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

The bulky waste collection service is also suspended and all Household Recycling Centres and recycling points are closed but ways to reopen them are being explored.

## FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO

[www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

If you aren't online the Editors are more than happy to help.

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett.  
T: 07498994205, Mobile: 0749 899 4205.  
Email: [7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Granta Medical Practice / Linton Health Centre:**  
T: 0300 234 5555 option 3, followed by option 1 for appointments, option 2 for the Pharmacy.

## PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 May

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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.

## CORONA VIRUS VILLAGE UPDATE

We have had a wonderful response to our appeal for volunteer Buddys. The Buddys haven't yet had much to do, however this can change as more cases emerge and the lock down continues. We would also ask the Buddys/volunteers to make contact with their neighbours if they haven't done so already. If you need help please call the contact numbers below and a Buddy will happily assist you.

### Prescriptions

All prescriptions from Linton Health Centre can be ordered over the phone; there is no need to take your paper prescription to the Health Centre. If you can pick them up, you can instruct the pharmacist and your medication can be sent to Balsham PO where it can be delivered to you if you wish. To contact the Pharmacy phone 0300 234 5555, option 3 followed by option 2.

Granta patients can now register for online access by telephone. Please ring 0300 234 5555 and select option 3 for Linton Health Centre. You will be asked a number of security questions as proof of identity.

### Deliveries of convenience store foods

Balsham PO T: 893064.  
The Butcher in Fulbourn T: 880955.  
Sweet Talk News Linton T: 893480, [www.sweettalkonline.com](http://www.sweettalkonline.com)  
Red Lion PH, Horseheath. Meat and veg/fruit boxes. T: 892909, [www.theoldredlion.co.uk](http://www.theoldredlion.co.uk)

We also have a supply of protective clothing if the need arises.

Many neighbours are getting shopping and picking up prescriptions already. However, if those circumstances change please don't hesitate to get in touch. For updates and the latest information visit [www.westwickham.org](http://www.westwickham.org)

Di Licence T: 290434 / Nicky Cornish T: 290203

## WEST WICKHAM PLAYGROUND

Unfortunately, the playground / exercise area is closed in accordance with the Government's COVID 19 guidance announced at the beginning of the lockdown. The playing field and rear car park remain open at present for exercise purposes but this can only continue if everyone adheres to the guidance on social distancing.

- You should only go outside alone or with members of your own household.
- Keep at least 2 metres apart from anyone outside your household at all times.
- Gatherings of more than two in parks or other public spaces have been banned and the police will enforce this.

There have sadly been a number of people, not in the same household, meeting up in groups of more than two and using the back car park and playing field and not following social distancing rules. Please can I ask that everyone observe the short-term rules that are in force to protect our community. Those who are not are being extremely irresponsible and selfish. If it continues to happen, the Parish Council will sadly have no choice than to close these areas.

On a more positive note I would like to thank the huge number of parishioners in West Wickham & Streetly End who have volunteered to help should there be a need, also Di Licence and Nicky Cornish for coordinating the Buddy Scheme.

Patrick Charlton, Chair of West Wickham Parish Council

## FROM THE VICAR

Over the last month many images of rainbows have appeared. This trend was reportedly started online and then adopted by a nurse in this country who wanted to create a sign of hope for patients and staff in hospitals. Now you can see them on windows, doors and walls; signs of hope for all of us as well as signs of support for our NHS and key workers. This sense of solidarity and hope may also be experienced during the Thursday evening 'clap for our carers'. It feels very moving to hear this tribute for all those caring for others as the applause ripples through our villages, and to know this is being replicated throughout the country.

These rainbows remind us that hope and a deeper connection with one another are things we always long for. They also resonate with the hope proclaimed by the Christian faith. As we celebrated an Easter time like no other last month, it gave us an opportunity to reflect deeply on the good news affirmed at Easter and throughout the year; that in the risen Christ God is with us and through him we are offered new life. This good news tells us that faith, hope and love may be tangible realities in our lives, whatever the challenges which lie ahead.

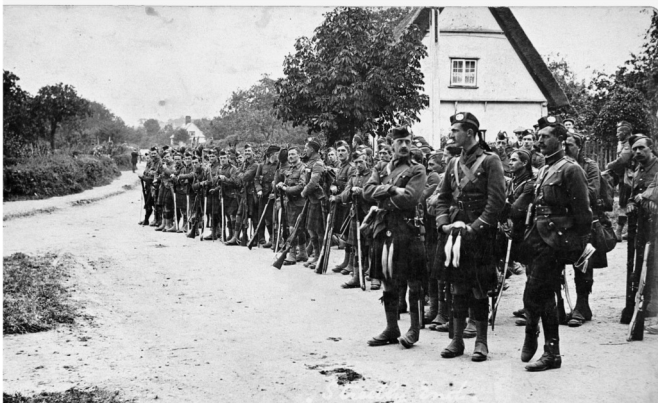
During this lockdown we may feel that life will never be the same again. Yet in this, despite all of our difficulties, there may be things to welcome. For we are seeing a flourishing of community in each of our villages; a steadfast determination to support and care for each other; to see the best in one another. So much which we hope will continue the other side of the lockdown, whenever that may be. Let us therefore continue to support networks offering help in our villages; to phone people who may feel isolated; to keep in touch with family and neighbours; to pray for one another. If we do this, the signs of hope and solidarity will continue to flourish and point us towards new life.

Revd Iain McColl

## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

We are currently streaming two services a week online; Evening Prayer (Compline) on Thursdays at 9.00pm, and a service at 10.00am each Sunday, Time for Prayer. Details of how to access these services are sent out in the twice weekly church newsletter. If you would like to start receiving the newsletter, please contact Cazzy Walshe, Parish Administrator at [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com) or phone 01223 891443.

## GUESS WHERE AND WHEN?



**Answer on page 4.**

From West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive.

## NATURE NOTES

What better time has there been than the present lockdown to recall 'Leisure' by W H Davies.

What is this life, if full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.  
No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.  
No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

*From Songs of Joy and Others (1911)*

We have all probably done some standing and staring recently and there are rewards. Chris responded to last month's comment about the lack of hares by saying that he had seen 27 one evening in the fields around Yen Hall and then alerted me to a group of marsh tits he had seen on the edge of Hare Wood. These little birds have been on the decline in recent years. Despite their name they are more likely to frequent woodland than marsh and have been seen in Lower Wood, Weston Colville as well as Rands Wood on occasion.

Ronnie sent me a wonderful photograph of a dark-edged bee fly hovering in his front garden. Apparently the female bee fly (which is a fly, not a bee), inserts her eggs into the nests of solitary bees which then hatch out and feed on the bee's larvae. Since Ronnie sent me the photo I have seen a couple of bee flies in our garden so this must be the time of year when the adults are most active.

Di was prompted by the shut down to think of Ian Drury's song 'Reasons to be Cheerful' and apply it to the natural world. Her top ten for the month of March were: waking up to a sunny day; hearing a skylark singing as it soars high in the sky; watching the male blackbird singing on the fence, while...; the female gathers moss to build a nest in the honeysuckle; seeing her first butterfly of the year; hearing the song thrush singing high in the trees; watching pigeons endlessly canoodling on the roof; coming upon a ditch full of yellow celandine; hearing the melodic sound of the blackcap; and finding a clump of cowslips, which Essex folk call 'peggles'.

The bluebells are out now in both Leys Wood and Hare Wood. People from Dorset apparently call them 'greggles', so we have peggles and greggles. Wildflowers throughout Britain are given lots of different names. Di tells me that the wood anemone, or windflower is also known as 'smell fox', seemingly a less attractive name for such a lovely flower. Has anyone heard of this one? Putting two and two together, perhaps it was named windflower because it gives foxes the wind and the smell is the result.

Arthur had an unusual find in his garden: a dead stoat. It was definitely a stoat, not a weasel as it had a black tip to its tail. What it had been doing in the vicinity we don't know. There are rabbits around, and also chickens. The cause of death was not apparent as there were no marks on the body.

The comings and goings of migrant birds continue. Fieldfares that have been rarely seen all winter must have been here all the time because they have been congregating on the paddocks behind Maypole Croft, probably feeding up for the journey north. The warblers are coming. Chiffchaffs and blackcaps are already here and willow warblers and whitethroats should arrive any day.

Please let us know when you see your first swallow as well as telling us your reasons to be cheerful.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 23 March the following were some of the issues discussed.

*Covid-19 Community Help Plan:* Cllr. Licence and Nicky Cornish outlined plans for helping those who will need to self-isolate. Every household would receive a Community Help Card and volunteers will be available to give person to person help with shopping etc. There will be an official guidance group advising volunteer schemes on safety,. Details will be shown on the website. The Chairman was most grateful for the speed and thought which had been shown and gave his thanks.

*Three free trees:* These had been selected with an extra cost of £10 and had been planted on the playing field. Cllr. Licence was thanked for organising this.

### *Planning:*

1. *S/1639/FL. Two new dwellings in Burton End.* No decision had been made on this planning application. Cllr Sargeant explained why the application did not meet comply with the South Cambridgeshire DC Local Plan or the emerging the Neighbourhood Plan. He would put this in writing to help the Council make a decision.
2. *Complaints about lighting at new build in Streetly End:* Following feedback received from Streetly End parishioners, collected by Cllr. Grieve it was agreed that the Parish Council would request that the South Cambridgeshire DC enforce the original plans.

*Traffic & Parking issues:* The application to the Local Highways Initiative for speed calming measures were successful with a £9,377.14 grant secured with a £2000 contribution from the Parish Council.

### *Maintenance:*

1. A RoSPA safety inspection is due to take place in April but the use of the play area has been closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Cllr Grieve reported a successful Litter Picking Day with 23 bags filled with rubbish. He thanked all those who had helped.
3. ABC Tree Surgery will be pruning trees in front of the Village Hall and the hedge will be cut back.
4. The blocked drain in the High Street had been cleared.

*Neighbourhood Plan:* Cllr Sargeant reported that the editing of the initial draft had been concluded but some additional sections about Housing policy written by Rachel Hogger of ACRE are awaited.

*Any other business.* There had been complaints about loud bird scarers at Yen Hall Farm. However the NFU have said they are correctly sited under current guidelines

**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there will be no further Parish Council meetings until further notice.** It is hoped that the Council will be able to hold "online" meetings using Zoom to make any important decisions.

**The Parish Council and I send best wishes to the residents of West Wickham and Streetly End in these difficult times – keep safe.**

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

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

In these uncertain times we don't know at this stage whether the Annual Show, due to take place this year on Saturday 22 August will be able to go ahead, will have to be postponed or cancelled but in an optimistic frame of mind I am writing this article assuming all will be well.

Last month I was encouraging you to think about entering the Photography classes. This month, with more time on our hands, what about some cooking in preparation for entering the Domestic Classes in the Show? I am aware that some of the basic ingredients are very hard to find at the moment (I am still hunting for plain flour) but hopefully this is only a temporary setback.

The Classes this year are:

- A jar of home-made jam.
- A jar of home-made jelly.
- A jar of home-made marmalade.
- A jar of home-made chutney or relish.
- A non-alcoholic beverage.
- 4 savoury biscuits.
- 3 seeded white rolls.
- A Bakewell tart.
- A filled Victoria Sponge baked according to the recipe below, which has been pared down to the basics but is one from Mary Berry.

### **Ingredients**

4 free-range eggs.  
225g/8oz caster sugar, plus a little extra for dusting the finished cake.  
225g/8oz self-raising flour.  
2 tsp baking powder.  
225g/8oz butter at room temperature, plus a little extra to grease the tins.  
Good-quality strawberry or raspberry jam

### **Method**

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease and line two 20cm/8in sandwich tins.
2. Break the eggs into a large mixing bowl, then add the sugar, flour, baking powder and butter. Mix together until well combined.
3. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins and bake the cakes on the middle shelf of the oven for 25 minutes until golden brown.
4. Cool in the tins for 5 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack.
5. To assemble the cake, place one cake upside down onto a plate and spread it with plenty of jam. Top with the second cake, top-side up. Sprinkle over the caster sugar.

A draft of the Show Schedule is available on Gardening Club page on the village website: <https://westwickham.org/>

Sue Thurston

## **ONE REASON TO BE CHEERFUL**

On the allotment in a state of fine fettle  
Claps of thunder started testing the mettle  
With the wind mildly blowing  
For two minutes, it was snowing  
Gorgeous showers of blackthorn white petal  
Anon

## PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS AND DISEASE HOW DID THEY AFFECT WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST?

What do we know about pandemics, epidemics and disease in the village in the past? To be honest, not too much, as this information was rarely recorded. Those of you who have taken an interest in our community archaeology project, which has been looking for dating evidence of our medieval history, will recall that there was a definite drop in the number of pottery sherds in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This coincides with a pandemic, known as the Black Death or plague, which decimated the population of the country as a whole and it now seems likely that it hit here too. This may have led to a shrinking of the village for a while until the population began to rise slowly again as recurring outbreaks petered out by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The church burial registers survive from 1599 (although there is a gap between 1642 and 1660, the Commonwealth period under Oliver Cromwell) but only have the barest details such as name and age, not reason for death. We get a little more information from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1818, three burials of deaths from smallpox were recorded – a 47 year old man and two infants aged 10 months and seven weeks. Smallpox, now eradicated, was a virus spread by close contact and where there were poor sanitary conditions. Overcrowding and poor sanitation are a continual theme in reasons for other epidemics and diseases in the village in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Cottages were small and large families (sometimes as many as 9, 10 or 11) could be living in three or four rooms only and this includes bedrooms. There was no piped water in the village until the building of the Linton water tower in 1936 (and then it was only to a limited number of standpipes) and no piped sewage disposal until the 1970s. Drinking water came from wells, private or communal, or even ponds. These wells were quite shallow and often fed by ground water, as were ponds. Sanitary arrangements were a simple privy whose contents were emptied on gardens, allotments and fields. The conditions were right for disease to spread.

In 1825, the Reverend Wollaston noted in the burial register that 'the typhus fever prevalent' that year. He did not indicate how many people had actually died of this but there were 29 burials and only 10 in each of the years either side. Typhus is a bacterial infection spread by body lice and occurs where there are poor sanitary conditions. Further details about diseases are found in the annual reports of the Linton Sanitary District established in 1875 with responsibility for public health matters like the provision of clean drinking water, sewers and the condemnation of unfit housing. In 1887 there were 10 cases of diphtheria, including one death, among 5 families in Burton End. Five of the cases were in one family, the Plucks, and 4 year old William died of the disease. His father, Walter, was a horse trainer and dealer and his horses, other animals and chickens were inspected for any signs of throat infections, a symptom of diphtheria. In 1894 there were ten more cases again in Burton End, 6 in one family, the Rowlingsons, with 14 year old Charles a fatality. The Plucks and Rowlingsons lived very near to one another and it was noted that the water supply in this part of the village was from 'foul ponds liable to pollution'. Diphtheria is spread by direct contact but these were large families and a contaminated water supply did not allow for good hygiene practices.

School closures are not new. The school log book records that in 1887 the school was closed for a fortnight following the diphtheria outbreak mentioned above. At the end of that time the school remained closed for a further 2 weeks because 18 children went down with mumps. The school

was again closed for a fortnight because of diphtheria in 1894. In 1892 it was closed for 4 weeks because children and teachers had the flu and was again closed when the teachers (there were only two and no such thing as supply teachers) had flu in 1895. In 1898 it was closed for 3 weeks because of measles. Thankfully, advances in medicine, vaccination, water supply and sanitation have largely eliminated these diseases and they no longer disrupt schooling.

The last really deadly pandemic was the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918 – estimates say that between 50 and 100 million people may have died worldwide. In West Wickham there were no more burials than normal so it is hard to assess any effect, although, of course, people may have lost family members who were living elsewhere. It looks like we may have been lucky then. Let's hope we are this time.

Janet Morris. West Wickham & District Local History Club

### THE LOCAL HISTORY CLUB AND THE GARDENING CLUB ARE HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Being at home and looking out of your window or walking about the village more doing your daily exercise you might be looking around you and beginning to have questions like:

How old is my house? Who lived here in the past? Why are there farmhouses in the middle of the fields? Have the fields always been there? Which is the oldest building in the village? How long have people lived here?

Or perhaps you're thinking this is a good time to start researching your family history.

Or perhaps you are struggling with a school history project. If you would like answers or help on any aspect of history please do get in touch and I will do my best to answer them. If I don't know the answer I have lots of contacts in the worlds of local history and archaeology who should be able to help or I can point you in the direction of appropriate websites.

Similarly, you may be out in your garden for more of the time and need some advice or suggestions – for example on plants, vegetables, shrubs, trees, pests and diseases. Do get in touch and I will pick the very knowledgeable brains of Gardening Club members.

Janet Morris. Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com) or phone 290863 if you want a chat.

### GUESS WHERE & WHEN? ANSWER

Streetly End, September 1912. These soldiers (possibly Cameroon Highlanders) were taking part in Army Manoeuvres, the largest such exercise prior to the First World War. The Blue forces, based in the Cambridge area, were tasked with defending London from the Red forces 'invading' from North Norfolk. Each army consisted of infantry and cavalry regiments plus 7 aeroplanes and an airship (just used for reconnaissance at this time). The Roman Road was in effect the front line and much of the final action took place in Horseheath with King George V watching from a vantage point near Streetly Hall (then under construction). Although it seems the Blue defenders won, the official Umpire declared it a draw and everyone went home a day early. It's sobering to think that many of the men here would not have survived the actual horrors of the First World War.