

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2020

ISSUE 205

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday 1 June	Black
Monday 8 June	Blue
Monday 15 June	Black
Monday 22 June	Blue & green
Monday 29 June	Black

The green bin collection has been reinstated but with only one collection per month guaranteed, shown above. They may collect green waste on other blue bin collection days, but might not!. For further information please visit www.scams.gov.uk or www.westwickham.org Household Recycling Centres have reopened visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents for details.

FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO

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

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 June

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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.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As you are aware restrictions are being lifted gradually. However, this does not mean the virus has gone away. We still need to be careful regarding all social contact. The buddy scheme still continues so please use it if necessary.

The GPs at Linton surgery want patients to still feel they can contact them regarding all health issues, this can be done on the phone or via the internet otherwise there are designated safe areas if you need to see a GP in person. The Parish Nurse can be contacted on her number to help with appointments if you are having problems booking a consultation by phone. See the useful numbers box.

Nicky Cornish

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

It is with much regret that we are unable to host the annual garden party that we have had here at Manor Farm for several years. We will try to do something hopefully later in the year.

Meanwhile I can report that the chancel repairs have now been carried out very successfully by Cambridge Stonework, they have done a wonderful job and topped it off with a beautiful new stone cross on the east end of the church. Hopefully, we can now redecorate a much drier building. It is worth having a look at the east end wall as it does demonstrate the care that the stone workers and architect have taken.

I propose to deliver a Gift Aid form during June to all those who have helped us so generously in the past.

Marcus Cornish, Church Warden & Treasurer.

OLD LAPTOPS WANTED

We are attempting to source enough devices for all those students who are struggling to complete work due to a shortage of technology in their household. The fantastic Cambs Youth Panel initiative (<https://cambsyouthpanel.co.uk>) is struggling to meet the demand within the County and we are appealing for donations to enable us to provide more.

If you have an old working device that you no longer need we will happily take it off your hands and rebuild it to allow students to make use of it. So long as it switches on and has a genuine Windows sticker on it, we can make use of it.

Please contact me if you have a device you are willing to donate to the College for this purpose.

Tim Darby, Linton Village College, Email: Tim.darby@lvc.org

A NOTICE FROM OUR CHURCHES

As with many churches around the country, we are engaging with people in many different ways during the lockdown, with Zoom services, online home groups and supporting local community networks. We are also encouraging people to transition to online giving as well, as the need to support Christian ministry and mission in our parishes and around the world continues, as does the need to maintain our beautiful places of worship.

If you would like to commit to giving to the church online - either regularly or as a one-off - or would like to discover more about how you might financially support the work of the local church and our places of worship, please do contact our parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on 01223 891443 or email 7churches.seven@gmail.com

Revd Iain McColl

NEW FOUND WAYS

It is now more than two months since lockdown and social distancing was announced. Since then we have come face to face with many concerns for our health and social well being. For the most part we have managed to avoid the worst of the outbreak. We may know family and friends who have struggled with the illness and we care for them as best we can.

As well as those of us who are directly affected by the illness, there are those concerned about loss of income and what the workplace will look like in future. There are those who are concerned with mental health issues and the fear of domestic violence in the home. These are very real concerns and we need to reach out to those in need and refer them to specialist helplines. (See below)

The challenges we face have to do with both loss and life. We see much loss on our news programmes, but there is new life in our villages with many friendly gestures being exchanged. Our imagination has come into blossom with innovative ways to reach out to others. That long distance smile by the road side, set to brighten the day. Those homemade cakes or flowers on the doorstep come to frame our love. Staying in may have become the new going out, home cooking the new restaurant standard, but we are certainly rising to the challenge.

I don't know about you, but everything seems to have played out in slow motion. Easter seems like ages ago, Mothers Day, that first Thursday clap for the NHS. We have certainly had a lot of time to ourselves. Time perhaps to enjoy the sunniest April springtime on record, time in the garden to soak up the rays, a long drink perhaps, a drift off in the sloping chair. Apart from the trauma of Covid 19, these may turn out to be our halcyon days, a precious time to reflect on the true meaning of our existence. Just when we thought it was normal to run around in ever decreasing circles, we have come to a time of relative calm, a time to take stock and realise that half of the things we were chasing after don't matter and the other half were here all along. I sense that we are set to become a different people, ready to come out of this stronger with a greater love for ourselves and each other. As we come to realise our new perspective on life, we will be like Jacob, who when he awoke from his sleep shouted to God, "You were here all the time, and I never knew it!"

Steven Wheeler LLM

Helpline numbers:

Mental health – Mind 0300 123 3393

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: Freephone 24-hour
0808 2000 247

GUESS WHERE AND WHEN?



Answer on page 4. From West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

Greetings, from my home to yours. This is indeed a very challenging time for many, I am writing to you to assure you of my love and support for all the villages I serve, The Abingtons, Hildersham, Balsham, Weston Colville, West Wickham and West Wrattling.

I am so pleased that I am able to offer support to the villages, as they set up the amazing community response and how so many of you are getting involved with caring for each other so admirably and in so many different ways during this Covid-19 crisis.

We are super blessed to have such a wonderful array of gifted, kind and compassionate people in our villages.

Please be assured, I am at your service and although working from home, I am able to have direct contact with many NHS services and ways of support. Therefore please don't hesitate to contact me if you need some guidance/advice. I am available Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-4.30 on 0749 899 4205. I will ring you back if you wish.

May I also remind you, that although many services and support agencies are facing challenging times, the teams at Granta Medical practice are available to you and have safe systems in place to see you & speak to you about any medical issue you may have. Also Addenbrookes are functioning and if you need to attend A&E there are safe 'green' areas in which to treat you. Of course if you have Covid 19 symptoms you must follow the government advice. Ring 111 and get the safest and most appropriate help.

There are challenges ahead, but I am sure as a team, working together we can come through with stronger communities and love for each other. I look forward to meeting many more of you face to face in the coming months, but do ring if you need to.

Claire Gillett, Parish Nurse

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Sadly, meeting the neighbours face to face is still not permitted though I know there have been cheerful exchanges – from a safe distance – around the village and clapping in support of our carers is bringing neighbours onto the streets together on Thursday evenings. But if any of you would like to complete my Questionnaire and submit a photograph (or allow me to take one) to let readers know a little more about you and where you live in West Wickham, please get in touch. The feedback I have had following the Neighbours we have already met in past editions of the Voice has been very positive. Go on ... we would love to hear more about you.

Sue

FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL AT WEST WRATTING TENNIS CLUB

The d'Abo Tennis Club in West Wrattling is offering free membership for the new season which started on 1 May. In these difficult times, we are keen to support the local community by providing easily accessible, quality leisure space once restrictions on gatherings are lifted. Family, Individual and Junior memberships all available. Members this year will have the chance to enter the club's Wimbledon ticket ballot next year. For more information and to register your membership details, visit the club's website

www.WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk

or email Admin@WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk

(Ed. We didn't have room for this last month. The tennis courts reopened on 13 May. Please visit their website for details.)

LOOKING FOR A LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE?

Then why not get creative with your camera?

While the fate of this year's West Wickham and District Gardening Club Annual Show remains uncertain, we continue to gear up for the photography classes and, working on the basis that some aspects of the show will go ahead, the entries will be published online.

So, if you are in need of a push to get started, the judge of the photography classes, Ronnie Temple, has kindly given us some points to consider this month:

It may be difficult to get *off the beaten track* right now, or even a little too early to choose a suitable specimen for your *portrait of a single vegetable*, but now is the ideal time to think about the third photography class: *Life in the garden* and, since this final class is aimed at not-so-serious photographers, it might even inspire you to enter the other two!

You don't need an expensive camera to take a good image. Mobile phones and point-and-shoot cameras can do a lot of the work for you. These devices set the exposure and focus automatically and can give you a point of view that would be impossible with traditional cameras.

What you choose to put into your photo - and where you choose to put it - are probably the most important decisions you will need to make. Often the composition can make far more of an impact than the subject itself so experiment with different images to find out what you feel works best.



- Experiment with different angles to add interest.
- Placing the subject in the middle of the frame can emphasise symmetry and pattern.
- Adjusting the angle so that the subject is off to one side can help to draw the viewer's eye into the entire image.

Then, before you submit your photo to be judged, ask yourself whether or not you would want to look at it again for more than a few seconds. If the answer is no, the likelihood is that nobody else will understand what made you to press the shutter release in the first place. So now it's time for you to **get motivated, get creative and get involved**. Good luck!

The Show is due to be held on Saturday 22 August. The Photography Classes are:

- Off the beaten track
- Portrait of a single vegetable, growing or arranged
- Life in the garden

Photos must have been taken since August 2019. You can enter up to two entries for each class and they need to be emailed, printed or delivered as a digital image beforehand. Full details will be given in the Schedule which will be distributed with the Village Voice before the Show.

Sally Moon, organiser of photography classes, Show Committee. Email: sally@sallymoonpublishing.com

LAUNCHING ON 5 JUNE Summer Reading Challenge SILLY SQUAD is coming to a computer near you!!

Many of you will have done the reading challenge at your local library in previous summers as you can see there is still lots of fun to be had but with a slight difference this year.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2020 will be a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter. Children will join the Silly Squad, a crew of fun-loving animals who enjoy exploring lots of different types of funny books. Step inside their colourful fun house for a side-splitting adventure celebrating the joy of reading - just watch out for a mysterious baddy who is up to no good!

Silly Squad will arrive via libraries online across the UK this summer and will feature bespoke art. The digital challenge platform will include a safe sign-up process, a personal profile area where children can set reading goals, review books, view book recommendations and access guides to e-lending. There will also be a forum to chat to friends, play games, download and print activities, as well as family activities with rewards and unlockable content to keep children and families engaged throughout the summer months. The platform will be FREE for children and families to use. Work from award-winning author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson. Sign up at: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk> and have fun.

Caroline. (one of your local librarians.)

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

While the College's building has remained largely empty, its staff and students have been busy engaging in remote learning. Teachers have adapted to setting work online and our students have responded well to this challenge.

As I write this, we are in the throes of making plans to consider how we might be able to safely accommodate small groups of our Year 10 students in school. This is in response to the government's announcement regarding the intention for schools to begin to re-open in a phased way to specified year groups from 1st June. We are also making transition plans to consider how best to support Year 6s with their move up to LVC.

This means that the vast majority of our students will continue to be educated virtually until at least the start of the new academic year. While this is disappointing for us all, we recognise that ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and families is of paramount importance. It will clearly be quite some time before we return to experience the bustle of a thriving and busy school environment.

We also miss being able to open our doors to the College community. The Sports Centre remains closed for the time being and adult education classes and lettings are also on hold. We hope to be able to re-start aspects of our community provision when it is safe to do so. You may have noticed some exercise challenges being posted on the Sports Centre social media accounts.

You may also be interested in following the Linton Learner twitter feed @LearningatLVC to see some of the amazing learning outcomes being achieved by our students at home. While we aren't able to teach and interact with the vast majority of our students in person, we continue to be very proud of them. Their resilience, motivation and engagement with their learning at this challenging time is to be celebrated.

Helena Marsh, Principal

NATURE NOTES

Continuing our poetic theme from last month here are the first few lines of John Clare's *'The Pettichap's Nest'*:

*Well, in my many walks I rarely found
A place less likely for a bird to form
Its nest close by the rut-gulled waggon road
And on the almost bare foot-trodden ground*

I think I had the same experience as Clare when walking to Horseheath the other day. Kip was snuffling in the long grass next to the path and there was a sudden blur of greeny brown swiftly followed by 'chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff' from the hedge above our heads. Until I became familiar with the poem I had never imagined that these little birds nested on the ground but now I am convinced. I only hope the disturbance was not permanent.

Many different birds have attracted attention this spring. Di and I had numerous claims from people who thought they may have seen the first swallow. Anna and Ted at Hill Farm were the earliest to report to us (12 April) and Andrew also reported house martins near the church. Both these birds could do with some rain as they use mud to build their nests. This is why farmyards with a nearby pond and accessible barns are ideal for them. Quite a few of us have heard a cuckoo, Sue being the first (from Leys Wood) but most seem to have been one-offs so I expect they were on their way elsewhere. The preferred host for cuckoo eggs is the reed warbler, which is not a West Wickham bird but cuckoos are also known to use the nests of whitethroat, dunnock, wagtails and other residents, who would probably have been grateful if the cuckoo had decided to move on.

Up at Burton End, Trevor has been visited by a moorhen bringing a single chick from the pond across the road. We don't know what happened to the others but the moorhen was being very aggressive towards a magpie. Meanwhile a pair has only recently returned to Deborah's pond where they have nested in past years. In our old house at No. 29 jackdaws have managed to move away a couple of roof tiles which will not be replaced until the four chicks in their nest have fledged. Apart from the moorhens, the interaction between different bird species is interesting to watch, whether it be a corvid mobbing a buzzard high in the sky or rivalry around the bird feeders. Di's fledgling blackbirds defending their patch against woodpigeons are an entertaining spectacle.

Di has been down at the Roman Road walking from Mark's Grave and had the pleasure of seeing corn buntings. They are rare in many parts of the country but still resident here and frequently sit on the top of hedges or on the telegraph wires above and produce a sound like a jangling of keys. They are quite plain, chunky birds but hearing their song is always a good feeling.

The dry sunny conditions of recent weeks have favoured the early butterflies, chief among which has been the orange tip which has been more numerous this year than I can remember, but others that have been on the wing include holly blue, small tortoiseshell and speckled wood. The web-covered privet bushes alongside the Roman Road showed that moths have also been active. There were caterpillars within the webbing, probably belonging to the lackey moth, although there are other species which create such webs.

Another insect, which was featured in this column a couple of years ago but has been particularly evident this year is the St Mark's fly which traditionally emerges on St Mark's Day (25 April) and hangs about in small groups in the air with legs dangling. Not the most attractive spectacle but entirely harmless.

Last month we reported a dead stoat found by Arthur in his garden and now Rob has had the same experience in Streetly End. Cause of death is not known, but it is an

unusual coincidence to find two bodies in the village within such a short period. Let us hope that the pattern does not develop. On a brighter note we were visited by a large hedgehog the other evening. Both dogs and cat were quite alarmed by its presence, it was so unfamiliar to them, and there are more.....**reasons to be cheerful.**

Di continues her series, to which everyone is invited to contribute, by picking ten features of the natural world each month. In her May selection almost the full range of the senses are employed.

Waking up to a sunny morning retains its number one spot. The others are newcomers into the charts. They are: the dawn chorus; the scent of lilac; the sight of the first swallow; hearing a cuckoo; standing under blossom while bees buzz; standing in a bluebell wood; being 'snowed on' by a blackthorn bush; the sight of swathes of Queen Anne's lace*; the brightness of buttercups.

*cow parsley, shepherds parsley or keck.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

GUESS WHERE & WHEN? ANSWER

Nos 49 (Trinity House) & 51 (Old Farm Cottage) High Street, 1920s. When this photograph was taken these were divided into six cottages known familiarly as 'The Barracks'. Before 1812 this was the farmhouse for a farm which also included Maltings House (see *March Village Voice*). Re-arrangement of the land and creation of a new farmhouse at Skippers Hall meant both buildings became multiple housing for agricultural workers.

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

HAS ANYONE FOUND ANY CAR KEYS ON THE LOCAL FOOTPATHS?

Di Licence. 01223 290434

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Girlguiding has suspended all unit meetings until further notice but this hasn't stop us. Girlguiding are putting weekly programme ideas on their website suitable for each of the four sections – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

There is also the wide range of interest badges available for the girls to do. So far I have had a virtual Simnel cake, a chocolate cake plus some buns, jam tarts and mini-quiches and even a cheesecake on email. We've had two girls complete their collecting badge during lockdown. One of my newest Brownies, Amelia, wants to do her mindfulness badge next followed by her performance badge.

I email the Brownies regularly with ideas of what they could do. It isn't the same as meeting each week but hopefully it won't be long until we can meet again and the badges completed can be handed over for all the hard work they have done over the last few months.

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. Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just bring themselves.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené