

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2020

ISSUE 207

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday 3 August Blue & green
Monday 10 August Black
Monday 17 August Blue & green
Monday 24 August Black
Tuesday 1 September Blue & green

The green bin collection has been reinstated

For further information please visit

www.scambs.gov.uk or

www.westwickham.org

Household Recycling Centres have
reopened visit the South Cambs website
www.scambs.gov.uk

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 August

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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.

PLAYGROUND & OUTDOOR GYM

The playground and outdoor gym area was re-opened on 4 July as a valuable asset which provides children with important development opportunities and gives everyone the opportunity to exercise and improve their physical and mental health. However, the use of the playground and gym equipment is subject to the following restrictions and guidance to minimise the transmission risk of COVID-19: Please adhere to the following instructions and notices in the playground area

- All children must be accompanied by at least one adult who is also responsible for communicating the rules and guidance of the equipment to their child/children as much as reasonably practical; and ensure their child adheres to the rules and guidance.
- Keep a safe distance of 2m between other users outside your social bubble, and help others maintain the safe distance.
- Wash or sanitise your hands often, especially when moving between the equipment.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Bring hand sanitiser and hand wipes to the playground, and use them.
- Bring a towel and alcohol based antibacterial wipes to wipe down the gym equipment before and after use.
- Children under the age of 11 using the gym equipment must be supervised by an adult who is also responsible for ensuring the equipment is wiped down by alcohol based antibacterial wipes before and after use.
- Bring tissues for sneezes and coughs.
- Dispose of hand, antibacterial wipes and tissues in the bin provided.
- Consumption of food or drink whilst on play equipment is not allowed.
- Be courteous to other users, allow fair use of equipment and wait until equipment is free.

Please maintain the rules and follow the guidance for everyone's safety and enjoyment. All the equipment is available, although some items may be closed off at a later stage if deemed necessary.

Alex Schuilenburg, West Wickham Parish Council

ROADWORKS

Pavement repairs. Many of you will have received a letter from the County Council about the resurfacing of the pavement in the High Street. Subject to the weather, this will start on Sunday 2 August and continue for possibly 4 days. Work will take place from the T junction near the Church to Maypole Croft.

West Wickham – Balsham Road Closure. This road is being resurfaced in August. The expected start date is 8 August and the road will be closed 7.30am – 6pm, for approximately 4 days. The work is weather dependent so the dates could change. There will be a diversion in place via West Wrattling so people living in the High Street and Burton End can expect an increase in traffic.

Andrew

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Churchwardens are taking a short service of Morning Prayer at 10 am on a Sunday morning. Please come and join us.

Di Licence

**WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
****OPEN TO ALL******

The Photography Classes are all that remains of this year's cancelled Annual Show. So what better way to show your support than by entering your photos on the following subjects:

1. Off the beaten track.
2. Portrait of a single vegetable, growing or arranged.
3. Life in the garden.

There is no entry fee to take part and you could be in with a chance to win the Ralph Westwood-Bate Cup, which will be awarded to the entrant with the highest number of points together with a small prize for the first prize entrants in each category. There are points for coming first, second, third and for being Highly Commended. Each exhibitor can enter up to two entries per category so if you enter six photos you will have the greatest possible chance of winning. Photos must have been taken during or since August last year. We are hoping that the winners' photos will appear in a future edition(s) of the Village Voice and on the Village website.

Entries can be submitted either by email to sally@sallymoonpublishing.com or in person - by prior arrangement - on a memory stick to Sally Moon at Half Moon House, 30 Streetly End or me at 41 Streetly End. If you do not have a digital image Sally will scan your photo if you let her or me have your prints (no larger than A5 (21 x 14.8cm) please). Please name and number each photo so that we know who you are and which Class you are entering.

The deadline for entries is **Saturday, 15 August** and judging will take place a week later on 22 August. So what are you waiting for? Get your camera or mobile phone out and get snapping.

Sue Thurston. Show Committee Co-ordinator.
mail@suethurston.co.uk

A1307 UPDATE

Work which started in July includes a new crossing and upgrade of the roundabout at Babraham as well as alteration to the exit from Babraham High Street on to the A1307. This will include the closing of the right turn facility. This is a big job and is likely to continue through to the autumn. Also starting will be alterations to the dual carriageway in preparation for installing average speed cameras and improvements to the Dean Road crossing. There is an ongoing review looking at new options for the Hildersham crossing. There should be consultations on the new proposals in the next few weeks but there is no date yet. For more up to date detail go to GCP website

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>

They are also currently consulting on the access to the City from the east. This does not directly affect users of the A1307, but many people access Cambridge from this direction, so do engage with the consultation

<https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/cambridge-eastern-access>

County Councillor Henry Batchelor

ST MARY'S CHURCH, LINTON

is now holding 'live' services at 8.00am on Sunday mornings - Book of Common Prayer. Chairs are well spaced apart and the Celebrant puts on a visor to distribute the bread. There is no wine. The lessons are printed out but no booklets (or kneelers) available. Joanna Saunders

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICE

Coronavirus Update. We continue to work hard to keep our patients as safe as possible, along with our staff and the community by managing the majority of medical care remotely. This way of working has proved very successful and is reflected in the very low number of Covid-related illnesses recorded in our area.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel unwell - we are here to help. You can contact us by telephone on 0300 234 5555, or via our non-urgent email address, capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net. These services are available 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. When emailing please remember to include your full name and date of birth.

Access to any Granta site continues to be by invitation only, following a prior telephone assessment and only when the clinician feels that it is essential to see you in person. You will be asked to wear, and will be provided with, a mask when entering any of our buildings.

Flu Vaccinations. We are currently planning our 2020 flu clinics. In the face of coronavirus it is more important than ever to have your flu vaccination if you are eligible.

Having your flu jab done at your GP surgery is quick and convenient - you will be given a time slot so you can arrange your day, and your medical records are available to the nurses / doctors which means no form filling for you.

We will publicise the flu clinic dates as soon as they have been confirmed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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

GUESS WHERE AND WHEN



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

OFFER

Do you like social media? Looking for something to do at home? Then read on. I have the answer, a ready to go opportunity is for sale.

Fabric letters & numbers to make banners for children's names, new baby, birthday parties, weddings etc. There are hundreds & hundreds of ready made letters & numbers 10cm tall, hearts, stars all in various colours, templates for making more, 17 rolls of different coloured ribbons, a huge pile of fabrics and all the bits and pieces for making the banners. Can be viewed and have a demonstration. Asking price £750 ONO.

If interested ring Shirley Shadford on 07538 569191 or email shirleyshadford@live.co.uk

NATURE NOTES

Di has had some very exciting chance encounters with nature in the last few weeks without leaving her house, proving that old dictum that if you stay still, nature will come to you.

It started while she was on the phone and suddenly spotted a lovely little bird with slate grey back and apricot undercarriage on her neighbour's feeder. She interjected the word 'nuthatch' into the otherwise comprehensible telephone conversation to the surprise of her friend at the other end.

A visit to her bathroom provided an even more exciting sight. A beautiful black and white butterfly was on the wall, which she recognised immediately as a female purple emperor. These are rarely seen as they live high in the oak canopy from where enthusiasts try to tempt them down with such delights as rotting fish and decaying bananas. Di thinks this empress had come down to lay her eggs which will hopefully hatch out next year.



Retiring to the bedroom brought no end to the excitement. She awoke in the night with the sense that there was something odd in the bedroom. She switched on the light to find a bat flying round the room, probably a small pipistrelle but in those first few moments with adrenalin pumping, it seemed like the size of a fruit bat. Drawing back the curtain and opening the window, all went quiet so the bat must have departed into the early dawn and the pouring rain.

Ironically July is often known as 'the silent month' among birders because many species stop singing without the need to attract mates or defend territory. There are a few exceptions to this rule - notably the yellowhammer who can often be seen and heard from the top of hedges, the robin and the wren whose powerfully rapid song still bursts from the undergrowth. Andrew tells me that wren and blackcap families have fledged in their garden and have been darting around delightfully. Many people have commented on the swifts they have seen this year. They can often break the silence as they scream when flying over. I have found the best place to see them (and swallows) has been near the various muck heaps left in fields ready for spreading.

Of course birds make other noises apart from singing and Di was woken at 5.00 a.m one morning by 'a dawn riot' of crows, magpies, and even a squirrel screaming while a blackbird's alarm call was added to the mix. On top of the honeysuckle was a fledgling blackbird with speckled breast and mouth agape. Briefly the menacing magpie threatened but then flew off and peace returned for an hour before the real dawn chorus began in earnest.

Besides the purple empress, the butterfly year continues apace, with many people commenting on the number of butterflies they are seeing. The marbled white, a butterfly formerly restricted to areas of chalk grassland in the south, has been spreading in recent years and there have been many sightings in West Wickham, including beside Hare Wood, on the playing field margin and at Burton End. The female marbled whites simply drop their eggs into the long grass so perhaps there will be plenty next year as well. Trevor reports a veritable invasion of many species of butterfly in his garden, including a late flying orange tip, a

new brood brimstone and a red admiral which settled on Carol's hand. I have always thought of red admirals as resident British, but in fact the majority are summer migrants. Last year we were invaded by a large number of painted ladies, another migrant, but no reports so far this year. Please let us know if you see one. Meadow browns have been more abundant than I can remember and in recent days gatekeepers have begun to emerge. Ringlets and various skippers, sometimes difficult to differentiate have also been fairly plentiful.

It is good to hear that Annabel's hedgehog in Maypole Croft has continued to visit. I have also received messages from surrounding villages about our spiny friends, which is very uplifting when we are often told about the drastic decline in hedgehog populations. These include footage from Balsham of a hedgehog feeding, news from the editor of the West Wratting Challenge that a hedgehog has been sharing her cat's meat and biscuits, leaving footprints all over the empty dishes, while a friend in Weston Colville is feeding three. So things are looking up for local hedgehogs in lockdown. While on the mammal theme, Michele had an encounter with two fallow deer stags (fully antlered) - a lovely experience.

Wild flowers are really spectacular at this time of year. The roadside verges are full of knapweed, scabious, agrimony and willow herb. There is also plenty of lady's bedstraw (yellow) and hedge bedstraw (white). The former was so named because they were dried and used to stuff pillows years ago. There is also pink mallow and creamy meadowsweet, and round the field margins the tall, pale blue chicory. We have a lot of thistles in our garden, which can be annoying but when in flower attract all sorts of insects. Another 'weed', the ragwort is the specialist food for cinnabar moth caterpillars which are striped black and gold - very different to the beautiful pink and grey moth that it becomes. Andrew tells me there have been many of these flying on the allotments.

Currently there is great excitement in the bird world because a rare vulture, the lammergeier, has been seen in the Peak District. The bird is thought to be young and from the recently reintroduced alpine population. It would be nice if it were to fly over West Wickham but in the meantime we are grateful for our resident raptors. Andrew had a great moment when three buzzards erupted from the hedge behind Cobwebs when he was walking back from the allotment and I enjoyed watching two being 'mobbed' by a single crow. People are seeing kites with such regularity we become blasé. A lammergeier now, that would be different. If it were to land on Di's rooftop I would personally make an application for the house to be registered as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

I hope as many people as possible will take part in this nationwide survey which continues until 9 August. All the details are on the web site. Just spend 15 minutes in your garden or when out for a walk and note down all the butterflies you see.

A guide and all the necessary details for reporting your observations are on

www.bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org

Peter Grieve

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

It has been an exceptional period of time for all of us. The College community has responded brilliantly to the challenges of remote learning and reinventing schooling overnight. It was great to have around 200 of our students on site for our various provision in the summer term including critical worker childcare, supervised study, Year 10 face to face subject seminars and mentoring/counselling sessions.

Later this month we are planning to welcome back our Year 11 students to collect their GCSE results. This year has proved particularly challenging for this cohort as their examinations and leavers' celebrations were cancelled.

The Centre Assessment Grades that will be awarded to our Year 11s on 20 August have been generated through teachers submitting a rank order of predicted grades, based on their best professional judgements. These grades have then been subjected to centralised exam board moderation, involving benchmarking against historical performance of LVC students in different subjects. It is a very uncertain time for our young people as they await the outcomes of this process and the impact that this may have on their next steps. We wish them all the best and commend them on their maturity at this time.

Meanwhile, the College's staff are busy preparing to fully re-open the school in September to all students. The adjustments to school routines and practices will be significant in order to accommodate government guidance and ensure everyone's health and safety. It will be great to have all of our students benefiting from being back in school. We are implementing year group zoning and staggered break and lunchtime, amongst many other measures, to achieve a safe learning environment.

Re-opening the Community Sports Centre has also required lots of modifications to provide our customers with safe access to the fitness suite and other facilities. The Sports Centre team is delighted to welcome members of the community back. Thanks to all of you that support the College through membership and use of this Village College community resource. Further details about current arrangements and booking details are available on the Sports Centre website: <https://lintonsc.schoolhire.co.uk/>.

Helena Marsh

LIBRARY NEWS

You may know that Linton Library was part of the EngAge program. This is a programme of talks and demonstrations with a guest speaker, followed by a Q&A session and a cup of tea. With the Covid restrictions still in place the Volunteer Development Team have created an 'EngAge Online' offer (you will have to make your own tea). This will run every Tuesday afternoon from 2-3pm throughout July, August and September.

Zoom will be the digital platform used for the events and they will be advertised via the Library website - join in with our online events diary, library e-newsletter and the libraries social media.

Unfortunately, there will still be NO mobile library service for the foreseeable future, but preparations are under way to re open Linton Library. We will be working in a very different way to what we have all been used to, for instance only 1 morning and 1 afternoon session per week, no browsing, pick up and drop off books (supermarket Click & Collect springs to mind) .

Caroline

GUESS WHERE AND WHEN? ANSWER

The Chequers PH, early 20thc judging by the clothes of the people in the photograph. The Chequers had ceased trading when it was destroyed by a fire in 1985. Greene King sold the site and it was then rebuilt as the house you see today.

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

POPPY APPEAL 2020

I have now received some information about this year's Poppy Appeal, which is unlikely to take place as normal due to the pandemic. However, plans will remain fluid owing to changing restrictions as lockdown is lifted and in some places reinstated.

From the information I have been given I understand that if we are under lockdown at Remembrancetide, the appeal will only be conducted through corporate sponsors. If we are observing social distancing of any kind, which is the least we expect, it will only go ahead locally with wreathes and school boxes of a variety of poppy goods and I believe the popular enamel pins may be available in supermarkets. The Poppy Village will only be beginning any kind of operation from this coming week in order to be able to accept orders for wreathes, but it is considered too risky to have any house-to-house type collections.

I had already informed my area co-ordinator that I was not prepared to put any of my collectors, or myself at any sort of risk and that I would not be organising a house-to-house collection this year in any of the villages. I also saw this as a way to look at collections in future years, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people willing to take over from collectors wishing to retire, some of whom have been doing the collection for many years, some for more than 30 even 40 years.

However, the Royal British Legion Shop is open online, for orders of a variety of Poppy Pins and other products at www.poppysshop.org.uk/ and 100% of profits from sales will go to the Royal British Legion.

I will investigate other ways of making the more usual local donations to the Poppy Appeal, albeit without receiving a poppy in exchange for the donation, which can be accepted by contactless means and/or via internet donation sites and will let you know in due course. The Poppy Appeal is still looking at other ways of raising funds because our servicemen and women and their families, from past and present conflicts, desperately need the continued support of the Royal British Legion.

Margaret Johnson

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

There is still no news from Girlguiding about when we can restart our face to face meetings. We are hopeful that it will be soon but I guess it will be September at the earliest now. As it is now four months since we have seen each other we decided to start holding weekly online Zoom meetings. We currently have six of our nine Brownies meeting on Zoom. We are managing to complete some of our programme elements as well as catching up on what we have done since the last meeting. It is getting easier the more we do.

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 horseheathbrownies@gmail.com.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurène