

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2021

ISSUE 212

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	6 January	Blue & green
Tuesday	12 January	Black
Monday	18 January	Blue only
Monday	25 January	Black

Household Recycling Centres are open on an appointment system. Visit the South Cambs website www.scambs.gov.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

For the latest information on church services in the benefice please go to: www.grantavale.org.uk

MOBILE POST OFFICE

A reminder that the mobile Post Office will be visiting West Wickham every Thursday, parking in the Village Hall car park from 14.00 to 15.00.

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: Vacancy.

AgeUK Community Warden: Faye Parker.

T: 07436102865,

Email: Faye.Parker@ageukcap.org.uk

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:

Thursday 16 January

Editors: Sue Thurston & Andrew Morris

Correspondence & News to:

21 High Street, West Wickham

Cambridge CB21 4RY

T: 01223 290863

Email: editor_wvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

or contact Sue on:

T: 01223 897811.

Email: mail@suethurston.co.uk

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.

THANK YOU

We would like to say thanks to everybody involved with the Village Voice, especially those hardy souls who distribute and deliver it throughout the year; the Parish Council whose support allows it to be distributed free of charge to every household; to Plumridges for continuing to print it and of course to everybody who sends articles, news, and reports.

Thank you all.

Sue & Andrew

PLEASE SUPPORT MATT & PROJECT TRUST

Hello, my name is Matt Magin, and I have lived in the village my whole life. In September I will be travelling to Ghana with a charity called Project Trust, to teach for 12 months. They have been doing fantastic work in communities all over the world since 1967. The main thing they do is place volunteers in poorer places around the world; often places with worse educational standards. The volunteers are trained to teach by the charity, and then can proceed to improve education within the community they are placed in. The areas and the volunteers both benefit hugely from this.

On 20 February, I will be running a marathon around the local area, in order to raise money for the charity. Sadly, I have not been able to enter any marathon events as all have been cancelled, (no prizes for guessing why), so I figured this was the next best thing.

Any donations would be massively appreciated and can be made by searching for 'Matt Magin' on the Virgin money giving website. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to email me at m.magin2003@gmail.com.

Many thanks, Matt

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The draft of our Neighbourhood Plan was well received by representatives of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will start our formal consultation period in the coming weeks. This will last a minimum of 6 weeks and is your opportunity to read the draft Plan and let us know what you think. It is important that as many people as possible are able to see the Plan and provide feedback. Whether you support the Plan or not, this is your final opportunity to influence a document that will be used to determine planning applications in the Parish for the next 10 years.

Look out for updates in the Village Voice, on the village website and posters explaining where to read the Plan and how to have your say.

Dave Sargeant

PLEASE DON'T BLOCK THE PAVEMENTS.

Please park considerately and not partially or wholly on the pavement. This also applies to any visiting tradesmen and contractors. Although not illegal it breaks the Highway Code and is particularly inconvenient for pedestrians with visual impairments, limited mobility or those with buggies or small children.

West Wickham Parish Council

DOES YOUR HEDGE STOP PEOPLE WALKING ON THE PAVEMENTS?

The Parish Council would like to remind those people who live in a property that fronts onto the pavement that they must keep their hedge cut back so it doesn't impede those people walking along that pavement. There are one or two hedges at the moment that need a trim please!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council wish everyone a happy, healthy and more normal 2021 after what has been an extraordinary year. The following were some of the items discussed at the zoom meeting held on 23 November. The draft minutes are on the noticeboards.

Affordable Housing: The new houses are nearly ready for occupation and the Parish Clerk was asked to write to the Senior Housing Officer at SCDC to remind them of the S106 agreement that priority be given first to those needing accommodation who live in the parish.

Planning: 20/2565/HFUL. New dwelling next to The White Horse: This was refused permission by SCDC.

Finance:

- The full details are in the draft Minutes which will be posted on the noticeboards.
- The Budget meeting will be held in January and therefore thought should be given to next year's budget requirements.
- The quote for repairing the climbing wall in the play area from Wicksteeds was £11,000 and Tom Licence said his figure would be about £6000. To leave it as it is would be dangerous and therefore a vote was taken to dismantle the equipment and reshape the mound. All were in favour.

Traffic & Parking issues: The Chairman spoke about the work on new speed markings that had not yet been completed. He had been told that the contractors were unable to complete it and that the Parish Council would have to pay an extra £2500 if the work was required to be done. It was agreed that having been awarded this to be done through the LHI scheme it should be completed and the Chairman said he would discuss it with Cllrs. Harvey or Batchelor and ask them to look into this on the Parish's behalf.

Maintenance: As there is a vacancy for the Head of the County Council's Highways Dept. Cllrs. Bachelor & Harvey will help to deal with any local issues.

Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- The visiting Post Office, despite is now visiting the village on Thursday afternoons.
- Trevor Hall (Chairman of the VHMC) spoke about the possibility of extending the Hall as he feels better use should be made of it as a social place. One idea was to create a social area for smaller meetings, or to have a consultation room for use as an office where Council and Village Hall records could be kept. The first thing is to get the advice of an architect on what could be done and he was looking into this.

Zero Carbon Funding: An application has been made by the Village Hall for funding of £15,000 to put solar panels on the roof.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Sargeant said a grant of £4149 had been secured to cover the cost of the final statutory consultation period and completion of final due diligence checks.

Reports from County Cllr Batchelor & Dist.Cllr. Harvey: These have been put on the website and are shown in the Minutes.

Any other Business: Cllr. Cornish expressed concern about the large amount of mud on the village's roads which is becoming dangerous. He would like more of the verges to be to be curbed. Cllr Batchelor will be asked about this.

The next meeting is on Monday 25 January.

Jennifer Richards. Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260

Email: clerk@westwickham.org

LIBRARY NEWS

Come and browse at Linton Library! Hours are Tuesday 10am - 2pm, Thursday 2 - 6pm. COVID safety measures are in place. Please wear a mask, sanitize hands and keep your distance from others during your visit.

The Library will be closed until 5 January.

Caroline Mulley

A REMINDER

PARISH NURSE VACANCY – PART TIME

We are looking to employ a Registered Nurse to work with our Ministry team in partnership both with the local NHS Medical Practice covering the area and with voluntary community groups. You will be providing a nursing service that integrates spiritual, physical, psychological, emotional and social health to the local community, regardless of their faith. 15 hours per week. (Job share considered) Based on NHS Band 5 pay scale. Applicants from any nursing background are welcomed but must be willing to undertake the Parish Nursing Ministries UK training, and there is a genuine occupational requirement for the applicant to be a practicing Christian.

For an application pack and full job description please contact: Mrs Caroline Walshe. T: 01223 891443,

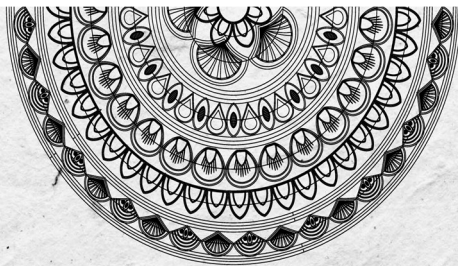
Email: 7churches.seven@gmail.com,

www.grantavale.org.uk

Closing date for applications 31 January

Interviews mid February

Parish Nurse Training 26-29 April



COMMUNITY YOGA CLASSES

Yoga every Thursday evening from 4-5pm
at the village hall in West Wickham.

Classes are inclusive of age, ability, fitness
levels & much more.

£8 per drop in or £30 for a 4 class pass.

**PLEASE CONTACT MYRIAM ON
07494130699 OR ON**

**M.EL-SOLH@HOTMAIL.CO.UK FOR MORE
INFORMATION & HOW TO BOOK IN.**

PICTURES OF THE PAST



A new series highlighting some of the photographs in the West Wickham & District Photo Archive.

This is an undated photo taken at Manor Farm. There is some confusion as to whether the man on the right is Alfred Missen or his son, David. If you can help with his identity or any of the other men and boys please do get in touch. They are apparently chaff cutting but again, if you can confirm this or are able to identify the traction engine, do let me know.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street
T: 290863, Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

FROM THE VICARAGE

May I start with wishing you all a Happy New Year with the hope that 2021 will be easier for us all and that we will be meeting up with each other again.

To have a big breakthrough with vaccine is a miracle in itself, and although it may take a while to be distributed, thankfully the most vulnerable are at the top of the list.

The parishes have changed in the last few months with a greater sense of community in the villages. People have had time to meet their neighbours. Help has been given to those who had to isolate, which has been much appreciated. For those who have been helping I am sure this has given them a sense of satisfaction and well being, perhaps even a sense of happiness. Martin Seligman, a psychologist, wrote a book called *Authentic Happiness*. In it he spoke of a group of students who came to his class to learn about happiness. He sent them out on an exercise to see who they could help as they went down the street. All the students reported back that this exercise had gone well, and in fact one of the students was quite put out with the result. When questioned why, his reply was that he had enjoyed it so much that he had made a decision not become a banker, but choose a different career path altogether. For 2021 there are new opportunities and horizons for us to explore as we patiently wait for the vaccine to arrive. We have much to be thankful for.

We are thankful especially to Claire our parish nurse who has just retired. She highlighted the need for a parish nurse with new initiatives to help give people support in the community and medical advice if needed, and over the years it became clear that this was not a luxury but a necessity.

So whatever situation this finds you in, be encouraged that there is support out there for all of you.

God bless . Rev Kathy Bishop

AGEUK SMALL VILLAGES COMMUNITY WARDEN

Hello to you all on behalf of Age UK – I hope you've been keeping well in what has been a very foggy and cold festive period. My first month as your Small Villages Community Warden has been thoroughly enjoyable. I have been busy linking up with our Parish Councils, Churches and COVID Support Groups. I have also enjoyed helping deliver 'Stay Well' packs around some villages and getting to meet some new faces in our communities.

Each village prepared for Christmas, and all your support teams (including me) aimed to make sure that those who were more vulnerable weren't left alone and isolated. I witnessed the effects of little kind gestures and it was truly heart warming – receiving an advent calendar or a picture drawn by a local child really lit up people's days.

Other areas I've been helping my service users with recently have included arranging visits to the audiologist and eye checks, lifts to appointments, doing shopping – you name it, we either help with it or find out who can help with it. And most importantly, Wardens provide a friendly daily phone call and regular visits to provide companionship – it has been great getting to know my service users over the past month. Our Age UK service users enjoy being able to stay at home in their own surroundings and having someone they can rely on to help them remain independent.

There is space on the Small Villages scheme for more people to join, so if you'd like to try a Community Warden out, please get in touch and we can arrange your two week free trial. You can call me on 07436 102865 or email me on faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk.

Faye Parker

THE PETER & RUTH LLOYD TRUST AWARD

With predicted GCSE & A level grades and lectures watched by 'Zoom', our young people faced a difficult start to sixth form and university life this year! Let us hope that by September things may be beginning to resemble normality again. For those from our villages looking to embark on this next chapter of their academic life do please apply to our local trust to get some financial help!

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year to the amount of £1000.

Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following:-Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrating Common airfield, including West Wickham.

Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and University offer are known.

For further information about the trust and award please contact: Jonathan Drury 01223 290968. For an application form please email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31 March.

NATURE NOTES

'If winter comes can spring be far behind?' Shelley's optimistic ending to his *Ode to the West Wind* couldn't be more relevant to the current state of things and as if to remind us that we have spring to look forward to, both Di and I have heard song thrushes singing recently, instantly recognisable with their melodious repeated phrases. Some of the other birds we have seen and heard are more typical of winter. A group of bramblings, finches who breed further north, visited Trevor and Carol's garden. They resemble chaffinches but are more colourful. Large flocks of fieldfares on the hedgerows along Dean Road have been seen but no-one has reported the usual visitation of golden plovers yet. Just like last winter there have been meadow pipits on the fields between the church and Streetly Hall and the quite similar looking skylarks in large flocks have been twittering in the fields.

The recent weather has given us a taste of winter - one night of snow and several frosty days providing some delightfully decorated trees and hedgerows. Spiders' webs, previously invisible, are outlined in silver, and dead flower heads transformed into things of beauty. On a couple of occasions these frosts coincided with mist. In such conditions moisture particles are suspended in the air and can remain liquid as low as -25 degrees but as soon as they encounter something solid like a tree they immediately freeze onto it. This is known as a rime frost, which is heavier than a hoar frost, weighing trees down. Lucy Cameron's photograph of



a rose hip covered in rime frost on the edge of Hare Wood shows how the ice crystals have grown in the direction of the prevailing wind. In contrast hoar frost is formed

under clear skies and is feather like. Sceptical voices say that the difference between hoar and rime frost is a myth but whereas hoar frost can be blown away, rime is more resistant. What do you think?

Rob Giles was treated to an interesting situation recently. A cat in pursuit of a stoat in pursuit of a rabbit. As the chase approached a patch of thorny brambles, the cat decided that discretion was the better part of valour but things didn't end well for the rabbit and it seems that the stoat had earned itself a meal.

While on the subject of prey-seeking creatures, I'm always hoping to see a barn owl. I think they must be trying to avoid me but one has been seen quartering behind the Old Vicarage in search of mice and voles. Red kites and buzzards probably prefer to find their food pre-killed and both have been spotted frequently, often being harassed by crows. Di has seen kites grouped together prior to roosting while we regularly have a buzzard come and sit on our fence, a rather handsome bird with a pale chest. He sits and turns his head from side to side before sometimes flying up into the trees and at other times jumping down into the field to look for worms, in company with the gulls.

Finally, two more reminders of spring - Sally Moon reported seeing a red admiral having a quick flutter on one fine day earlier in the month, before undoubtedly returning to shelter, and Di saw a cowslip in full flower - also led astray by the weather.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

At Linton Village College we have been working hard to keep school as safe as possible since reopening to all students in September. While it has been necessary to make curriculum adjustments to prioritise the health and wellbeing of the community, it has been really important to us that students benefit from a great quality of education.

An important part of students' curriculum experience is opportunities for enrichment. We have had to pause extra-curricular activities to focus on safe, core provision and ensure year group separation. We are looking forward to being able to relaunch a range of clubs and extend our curriculum offer when it is safe to do so.

Despite the restrictions, LVC staff and students are finding ways to bring learning to life in lots of imaginative ways. An example of this is in the Arts. GCSE Dance students are benefiting from virtual links via Teams with A Level students at Abbey Gate Sixth Form College in Bury St. Edmunds and GCSE Music students enjoyed being able to safely perform in a mini open air Christmas concert at the end of term. The Arts team is also busy preparing students for practical exams and a Year 7 production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is underway.

School staff have had to be incredibly innovative to adapt to the challenges of educating our young people in the current context. The prospect of returning to 'normal' later this year is a welcome relief to staff, students and parents. Learning during lockdown has taught us the value of human relationships and connections and the importance of the holistic, enriching aspects of education for students' physical and mental health.

However, the phrase 'necessity is the mother of invention' has certainly struck a chord in schools over the last 9 months. There are plenty of innovations and developments that have arisen through necessity that we will harness in the future. Developing our use of technology has enabled flipped learning, virtual parents' evenings and click and collect library loans.

Seeing students living the Linton Learner attributes through their responsible, caring and independent conduct and staff rallying together with community spirit will certainly sustain us this term.

Helena Marsh, Principal

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES

The first Covid-19 vaccinations have begun and it suddenly feels like there is hope and a light for us all at the end of this very long, dark tunnel. The vaccine is currently being offered to patients in priority groups first, namely:

- People aged 80 and over who already have a hospital appointment in the next few weeks
- People who work in care homes
- Health care workers at high risk

It will be offered more widely as soon as possible. For further information on priorities and delivery schedules please go to www.nhs.uk. The general public are asked not to contact their GP surgeries regarding the vaccination programme. The NHS will contact everyone direct when it is their turn to have the vaccine.

In the meantime, thank you all for continuing to abide by all the social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene guidance. We will keep our website (www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk) updated with any developments.

Sandra East, Granta Communications & Patient Liaison
T. 01223 627743, E. capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net