

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2021

ISSUE 213

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday	1 February	Blue & green
Monday	8 February	Black
Monday	15 February	Blue only
Monday	22 February	Black

Household Recycling Centres are open on an appointment system. For details visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

St Mary's Church. Sunday at 10.00

Sunday zoom services will also continue. For details contact Cazzie Walsh on 7churches.seven@gmail.com to sign up for the weekly newsletter or find details at www.grantavale.org.uk

FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO

www.westwickham.org

If you aren't online the Editor is 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.

Electricity & powercut helpline: 105

British Telecom helpline: 0800 800150

Water - Cambridge Water Company:
01223 706050

Sewerage - Anglian Water: 0800 771881

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Thursday 16 February

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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.

THANK YOU SUE

Very regretfully, Sue Thurston has decided to step down as joint Editor of the Village Voice. She has held this role since the Voice started in March 2003 but her involvement has been for much longer. Prior to 2003 she was the village co-ordinator for the Venture, then the village magazine for both Horseheath and West Wickham. We all owe her a huge **THANK YOU** for all that she has done over many years to help bring news and information to you all.

If anyone is interested in joining the team, either as a contributor or as joint Editor, please get in touch with me. Once the covid-19 restrictions are lifted, I will be happy to talk through and show you what is involved.

Andrew

COVID-19 BUDDY SCHEME

The scheme is still up and running in the village for anyone who needs any help, including driving you to your vaccination appointment. Please contact:

Di Licence. T: 290434 or Nicky Cornish. T: 290203.

GRANTA Medical Practices

Covid-19 Vaccinations. At the time of writing, we are about to embark on the mammoth task of vaccinating our 44,000 patients with the COVID-19 vaccinations. Please be assured that everyone will be vaccinated. However, please remember that we have to vaccinate in accordance with Public Health England's priority list. Details of the priority list can be found on our website (see below) or at

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/

Due to the extreme demand for the vaccine around the country we may get deliveries at short notice, which means we may have to contact you at short notice. We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst you wait for your vaccine during this unprecedented time.

Please note that you will NEVER be asked for payment for a covid-19 vaccination and any texts, phone calls, or letters requesting payment or bank details should be ignored.

Please continue to keep yourself and our community safe by adhering to national restrictions, social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene.

Sandra East. Granta Communications & Patient Liaison

T: 01223 627743, Email: capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net

Website: www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

Despite the Government and the Bishop of Ely saying the church can keep open for services, our ministry team have taken the decision for clergy not to conduct services in West Wickham. However the church wardens Di Licence and Marcus Cornish will continue to hold a 10am morning prayer service every Sunday for the foreseeable future. The Church Wardens assure you that all precautions are taken and we would welcome you at this short service. For further details contact:

Di Licence. T: 290434 or Marcus Cornish. T: 290203.

Ed. Details of zoom services above left

FROM THE VICARAGE

When we see people in public these days, whether in the shops, perhaps at the doctors, or on television, invariably we see a kaleidoscope of masks. I've seen all sorts! Plain white or blue; multi-coloured home-made masks; even union jacks. Mostly people recognise the reasons for using them. Yet wearing a face mask during the pandemic has nevertheless touched on a raw nerve. Many of us feel uncomfortable about having to mask our faces. How do we communicate well if our faces are hidden? How do we read someone else's expression; how do we pick up on cues?

Maybe, however, there are some insights to gain. The prevalence of masks might encourage us to pay more attention to our whole body in communication. How do you smile with your eyes?! How do you communicate interest or sympathy with your body? As the Christian faith is incarnational, we remember it's our whole body, our whole self, we bring not only before each other but also before God: in kneeling or lifting hands, in speech or in silence, with our hearts or minds.

Our masks may also remind us of the way we present ourselves to the world. We may talk about 'putting on a brave face'; 'saving face'; or 'losing face'. In the Christian faith, however, we can't 'put on a face' before God. The gospels teach us that in following Jesus, we learn more about the truth of who Jesus is, but also who we are. Turning towards God calls for deep honesty. But if we gradually get used to this, we can also approach one another with deeper honesty, understanding and joy.

During this pandemic but perhaps at any time in our lives, these truths may sometimes recede into the background and sometimes appear in sharp focus. Perhaps this is partly because for now, as the apostle Paul says, we "*see in a mirror, dimly*". Yet, as Paul adds, "*we will see face to face*". As we support and love one another in this difficult time, we may also seek to put aside our home-made, self-serving masks and attend to the presence of each other and to God with openness and joy.

Revd Iain McColl

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Regrettably, due to the tightening of COVID-19 regulations, it will not be possible to start our Neighbourhood Plan consultation this month as we had hoped. As soon as the restrictions are sufficiently relaxed, we will advertise the consultation start date so everyone can take part.

Dave Sargeant

MOBILE POST OFFICE Thursdays 14.00 – 15.00 Village Hall car park

Wow what an amazing service. Did you know you can use all usual post office Services from this van? That's right:

- Every day banking
- Bureau De Change
- Bill payments
- Phone top ups
- Mail services

And if you contact them on 01371 810310 or via their website www.finchingfieldpo.co.uk they can even bring you a fresh food parcel.

Caroline Mulley

PICTURES FROM THE PAST



Photograph from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

Italian prisoners of war working for Billy Pearson at White House Farm during the Second World War. They were billeted in the garage next to the house. When Italy left the war these were replaced at farms in the village by German and Austrian POWs based in Balsham. German POWs were used in the First World War as well. They were housed in Linton next to the Workhouse (now Symonds House) and transported by lorry.

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

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Due to the covid-19 crisis, the Club is not currently able to hold meetings. However, the Club's committee have put together a programme of talks on Zoom for the next few months and would be happy to welcome non-members who wish to join us. Our talks are as follows: Monday 15 February gardening historian Cherrill Sands from the Guildford Institute will talk on Gertrude Jekyll, one of the most iconic figures in 20th Century garden design; Monday 15 March Andrew Ward from Norwell Nurseries in Nottinghamshire will talk on "Ring the Changes with Bell Flowers" which will include plants such as foxgloves and campanula. All these talks will begin at 7:30. The Club is offering these talks for free as a gesture to our local communities during this long lockdown.

If you would like to take us up on the offer please send your e-mail address to Sue Boase our Zoom co-ordinator at sueboase@hotmail.co.uk. She will then invite you in from 7:15 on the evening of the talk. We are lucky to be able to book these eminent speakers on-line since under normal circumstances they are too far away to travel to West Wickham.

Best Wishes to you all from the Gardening Club for 2021.

Rosemary Yallop. (01799584262)

USED STAMPS

Very many thanks to those of you who have taken the trouble to save your Christmas card stamps and deliver them to me and a special thanks to those of you who have trimmed round the stamps – much appreciated!

Don't forget the jigsaw puzzles – now around 100 in stock mainly 1000 and 500 pieces, to be found in Nine Chimney House Garage, Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham.

Joanna Sanders

NATURE NOTES

The Old English name for February was 'Solmonath', which means mud month. As I write this, we still have a couple of weeks of January left but I'm beginning to think we might have to go back to the ancient terminology as mud is everywhere. The actual name February comes from the Roman feast of Februa, meaning purification. Perhaps that is what we need after getting covered in all that mud. There have been one or two days when the landscape looked purified by a dramatic frost - trees and hedgerows were pure white for a while but when the sun came out the ice particles fell to the ground like snow.

Whether nature purifies itself at this time of year is perhaps a moot point. A harsh winter might involve a bit of a clear-out of the less robust of living organisms but most species seem to have a way of surviving. This may be famous last words, but in recent years we have not experienced an extended period of really cold weather, which can be threatening to some of the smaller species like the goldcrest I saw the other day. In any case, Di has detected that there is already 'something in the air', namely romance among some bird species, notably great tits which have been heard singing their 'teacher, teacher,' refrain. A worry is that great tits have in recent years been beginning their breeding cycle too early so that when eggs are hatched there are insufficient caterpillars to feed the nestlings. Di has also seen two robins together with no apparent aggression so this means there is one of each sex and a probable pairing.

Lots of us are feeding the birds, most important at this time of year and ideally regularly cleaning feeders to prevent disease. The activity around feeders has been intense. Trevor has had a camera trained on his and picked up images of a member of the tit family which it was thought could possibly be a willow tit, a bird that has seriously declined, particularly in this region. However it is extremely difficult to differentiate between marsh and willow tits, the key difference being their songs and calls. There were certain features of the wing and black crown which led us to think this one may have been the much sought-after willow tit but after consultation with someone from the Wildlife Trust we were told it was probably a marsh tit. They are resident in Lower Wood, Weston Colville and have also been spotted in Rands Wood and Hare Wood. Having said this, willow tits were only recognised as a British bird after 1900. Until that time people thought they were all marsh tits.

Last month I bemoaned my lack of barn owl sightings but Ted and Anna Fairhead told us they have a resident barn owl which is quartering in their field until ten in the morning some days. Sue saw what was possibly the same bird in the twilight hunting in the uncultivated field next to Hare Wood but barn owls are still avoiding me. In this bird-dominated edition, other interesting sightings include golden plover, seen by both Di and Gavin Kelsey. Gavin also reported on three grey partridges down by the crossroads at the bottom of Balsham Hill, confirming Andrew's sighting of the same number last month. Unusually, a single fieldfare has been occupying Di's garden and feeding off crab apples. A normally gregarious species, this one seems to have chosen a more solitary existence, having found a food source which it intends to keep to itself.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

**A REMINDER. Don't recycle used masks and gloves.
Put in your general waste bin.**

CHRISTMAS QUIZ.

First an apology. The answer to no.11 consisted of twelve letters (not 11 as stated). I hope this didn't put people off. Next time I will make sure I sharpen up my counting skills. I received five entries from Juliet Bevan, David Boxall, Andrew Docherty, Janet Morris (ineligible), Dave Sargeant and Ronnie Temple. I hope those who tried to disentangle my peculiar thought processes but didn't send in their answers still had some fun. There was the odd spelling error and places as far away as Dunmow, Baldock, Heydon and Berden crept in but the only absolutely correct answer came from David Boxall.

The answers were:

1. Part of Berlin to Nuremberg route (6). Linton.
2. Cry about her - nothing detailed organized (6,6). Cherry Hinton.
3. What remains from firing Trump, perhaps (6). Ashdon.
4. Mild disinfectant or poet (6). Milton.
5. By surrounding ice venue leg is shortened (8) Brinkley.
6. Rub back thoroughly (7). Burwell.
7. Young man returns to his alma mater initially (6) Dalham.
8. Doctor heals your head (6). Ashley.
9. Big actor has determination for audience and support inside (5,9). Great Wilbraham.
10. Woman's topless garment for Heather? (8). Kirtling.
11. Castle venue (for eye tests apparently) is heavyweight (12). Barnadiston.
12. Man and cats have clash with mixed up dates (7,9). Helions Bumpstead.
13. How to cross rivers I hear (7). Fordham.
14. Former lover from Northern Ireland - no good to begin with (6). Exning.
15. Lose hair when electrically connected (7). Moulton.
16. Make love to large breasted Italian heavyweight (10) Woodditton.

If anyone would like explanations of the answers, I will supply on request.

Peter Grieve.

AGEUK COMMUNITY WARDEN

I hope everyone is well and keeping safe and healthy. Age UK Community Wardens are busy making sure no one on our schemes feels isolated and that they have everything they need, plus helping family members to feel assured knowing their loved ones are cared for when they are unable to visit as much.

I've been having some adventures with my service users: broken heating, broken care alarms, broken phones. It has all been going on but we got there together. I hadn't realised how hard it was for people to do things when you don't have access to the internet and a smart phone. Trying to find a phone number for BT was a particular challenge. (Ed. See useful numbers on front page)

Please remember that if you are over 60 and would like some extra help during lockdown, Age UK are here to help you. You can join the scheme temporarily until lockdown is over - your first two weeks is completely free, and after that there is a small fee of £9 per week for a single person (£11 for couples). 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

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

It's incredible just how much has changed in the space of a month. All of us have had to adjust to being in lockdown once again and the impact that this has had on children's education.

At Linton Village College, needing to revert back to remote learning and closing the College to the vast majority of our students came as a shock at the end of term. However, the resilience and adaptability of our staff, students and families has been remarkable.

While the press is quick to criticise teachers and teenagers, I have the privilege of working alongside both and observing how hard both have worked to make online learning a success. Overnight, teachers changed curriculum plans and learnt new skills to move their regular lessons onto Microsoft Teams. Students stepped up, with the support of their parents and carers, to take greater responsibility for their learning.

Our partnership with Cambs Youth Panel continues with many families benefiting from access to technology through this means, in addition to devices issued by the Department for Education.

Meanwhile many members of our support staff have been working hard in school to supervise vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Those learning in school have engaged brilliantly with the remote provision and new routines.

Other members of staff and volunteers from the local community have contributed to the setup of a rapid covid-19 testing centre on site. The College's sports centre has been converted into testing bays and the trained testing team, expertly led by our Sports Centre Manager, is now working hard to administer lateral flow tests for staff and students based in school.

In time, as we welcome back more teachers and students to work and learn in school, more testing will be required. While not as accurate as the lab-processed PCR covid-19 tests, the lateral flow devices can help us to identify asymptomatic cases amongst the College community.

I am incredibly proud of how colleagues and families have responded in the current challenges. The volume of appreciative messages and comments of support have also helped to keep morale high and community relationships strong.

Helena Marsh, Principal

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A1307 Update. The upgrades to the A1307 continue with the next steps being installation of average speed cameras between Haverhill and Linton, a new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road in Linton and remodelling of the Dean Road junction.

Vaccine Transport Volunteers. The County Council are looking for volunteers to help transport elderly people, who aren't able to drive, to their Covid vaccination appointments. If you can assist please register here www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-volunteers-to-transport-people-to-vaccination-appointments

New directory. South Cambs now have an online customer-facing business directory to help signpost people to local businesses. It is free to sign-up and only takes a few minutes. Here is the link:

www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory

Geoff Harvey & Henry Batchelor

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

January has been an interesting month. We welcomed the children back for only one day, then the Prime Minister announced that the country was going back into lockdown. Contrary to the rhetoric, our school was not closed. We have very much remained open for children of vulnerable families or critical, frontline key workers. After making the very difficult decision that we would close for a short time to give us time to organise things safely, the staff worked tirelessly changing all of our plans and re-writing our curriculum to enable us to deliver it remotely to two thirds of our cohort. Then came the trickier aspect still – what happened to the children at home who didn't have access to a laptop or tablet or adequate broadband. Our school community pulled together in the most generous way. We had laptops donated, along with money to buy devices to allow everyone to access learning from home. The Government laptop scheme only allocated our school 10 devices, and as I type this, they still have not arrived.

We have been determined to keep things as structured and normal as we can for the children both in school and at home. We have merged the children in school to have 4 classes, which has enabled us to have 1 teacher teaching them with Teaching Assistant support and 1 teacher to deliver live lessons to the children at home. This has been no mean feat and the teachers have been absolutely amazing in transforming their plans and getting their rooms set up to enable this. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we all stay fit and well and can continue to deliver this model.

School is a very different place to a year ago, the one way systems, perspex screens, hand sanitiser dispensers, coned areas to play in, children not mixing outside of their bubble, staff wearing face coverings in all communal areas and all meetings being held online. We can never say we are Covid safe, but we can say we are very Covid aware.

Schools should be full of chatter, laughter, smiles and you should feel the 'buzz' as you walk around school. At the moment we still have an element of that and it is lovely to hear the children at home chatting to their teachers via Google Meet, but it isn't the same. The personal interaction, the smiles, the waves, the hi-fives are all missing. We cannot wait to welcome every single one of our children back into school and are very much looking to the light at the end of this awfully long tunnel to be able to re-build those connections and more than anything, just to be able to hug our loved ones. Please keep safe everyone.

Nicola Connor, Head Teacher

KEY MOMENT

There is a world beneath our feet and we may have found the key to it. We are in the process of having a pond created and our pond man, Ben, brought along his son plus metal detector, and discovered this rather splendid key. It was



only a few inches below the surface but looks old and could be a key to a door rather than a treasure chest - unless you know different. If it proves to be valuable we'll send

you all a postcard from the Cayman Islands. If you've unearthed anything of interest in your garden, why not let the Village Voice know?

Sue Thurston, Streetly End

Ed. Janet Morris has a wealth of archaeological artefact identification sources and useful contacts.