

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

April 2021

ISSUE 215

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	7 April	Black
Tuesday	13 April	Blue & green
Monday	19 April	Black
Monday	26 April	Blue & green
Tuesday	4 May	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 Andrew is more than happy to help.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Nurse: Kim Cox. T: 07498994205
Email: 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com
This is NOT a 24hr monitored service.

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

Cambridge Water Company: 01223 706050

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Friday 16 April

Editors: Andrew Morris & Anna Fairhead
21 High Street, West Wickham
Cambridge CB21 4RY
T: 01223 290863

Email: editor_wvillagevoice@yahoo.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.

MEET THE NEW JOINT EDITOR

I came to Hill Farm when I married my husband Ted in 2007. After spending 30 years working in the thoroughbred bloodstock industry in Newmarket, I now divide my working life between the farm and helping my reflexology patients. We always enjoy receiving the *Village Voice* with its local information and I am looking forward to being involved with the production.

Anna Fairhead

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

With the government's roadmap out of lockdown published, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will run our Regulation 14 consultation from 1 May to 30 June. Look out for updates on the village website and in the May edition of *Village Voice*, which will explain where to read the plan, what it means and how to participate in the consultation.

Dave Sargeant

CAR WASH IN AID OF PROJECT TRUST

10am-1pm. Saturday 24 April,
Village Hall car park.
Cakes also available.

Matt Magin

SAVE THE DATE!

We are planning to hold the Fete and Dog show at Manor Farm on Saturday 3 July. Please start looking through your cupboards for good second hand items for the bric a brac stall, books, plants, raffle prizes, bottles, toys, and produce but not clothes please. You can leave non-perishable items in the barn just inside the gate at Manor farm. We also need volunteers to run a stall. Please contact

Nicky T: 290203. Email: nicolacornish@hotmail.co.uk
Di T: 290434. Email: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

On Saturday 4 September we are planning a glorious afternoon of interactive games for children and adults, in and around the Village Hall, to be followed by an entertaining evening of drinks, food and music. The event will be set up as per COVID-19 regulations in place at that time. More details will follow providing particulars of games and food, but you will be welcome to bring your own picnic to the recreation ground during the afternoon. We hope you will come and join us as for a fun family afternoon and evening.

Diane Hazlehurst

LITTER PICKING

Usually at this time of year I organise an annual litter-pick. This year, possibly due to the uncertainties created by the pandemic, I haven't been able to get a response from South Cambs regarding the provision of equipment and collection of rubbish on a particular date.

Whatever the case there is no doubt that the wanton disposal of beer cans, water bottles, sandwich wrappers and other miscellaneous waste products is a perpetual and I would say growing problem. **continued on page 2**

Litter picking continued.....

The verges and ditches on the periphery of the village are a favourite depository but litter also finds its way into other parts of the village such as the playing field and the Village Hall car parks.

An alternative to having an annual event is to acquire a stock of grabbers for use on request by anyone wishing to do some litter picking in and around the village at any time of the year.

Whether we are able to organise an event, or a system for keeping West Wickham a bit cleaner, watch this space, notice boards or the village web site for further information.

Peter Grieve

GRANTA Medical Practices

As I write this (08/03/2021), we have now vaccinated 17,805 patients. All patients in cohorts 1 to 4 should have been contacted and vaccinated by us. If you haven't, or if you have previously declined the vaccine but have now changed your mind, please call us on 0300 234 5555 (option 2) and you will be prioritised for our next clinic. If you know of anyone that falls into one of these cohorts but have not yet been vaccinated please let us know as soon as possible.

We are currently vaccinating patients in cohorts 5 and 6. Some of you may receive a letter inviting you to a vaccination centre, and others may receive a text or telephone call inviting you to an appointment at Granta Sawston. NHS England are starting to contact patients that fall into cohort 7 (over 60 years old) and cohort 8 (over 55 years old). You will receive a letter direct from NHS England giving you further instructions about how to book your vaccination. May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that, if you have booked a vaccine appointment but are not going to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your vaccine to someone else. We appreciate that everyone wants to know when their appointment will be, and we are working as fast as possible to get through our patient lists. Contacting us before being invited will not make this process move any faster. Please bear with us as our team continue to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

Please remember – you will NEVER be asked for payment for the COVID-19 vaccination. Any text message, letter or telephone call requesting your bank details and/or payment should be ignored. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be more susceptible to this type of scam.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes rapidly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance please go to the Government website www.gov.uk and the NHS UK website www.nhs.uk If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and you do, please help them access the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 01223 627743 or sandra.east@nhs.net

Sandra East, Granta Patient Liaison

KITTEN WANTED

One or two kittens (up to 12 weeks old) wanted for family in Weston Colville. We have been looking for over a year now but without success. We can offer a loving home with a good sized garden and all home comforts. Any sex or breed considered. Please contact Juliet Gamble on 290184.

FROM THE VICARAGE

In this strange Spring time, as children have returned to school, as businesses begin to re-open and as we gradually inch along a roadmap we hope will lead us out of lockdown, we may be wondering what life will look like on the far side of the covid pandemic. What is it that we long for on the other side? We may long to see friends and family again. We may look forward to a resumption of what we remember as normal; a situation where the threat is over and it's back to where we were.

Yet I also hope some of the strangeness of this time will stay with us. A strangeness which leads us to see things we once took for granted in a fresh light. Which helps us to see that, when we relinquish ideas of being in control, sometimes moments of grace may happen. The strange but tangible way in which people have been brought together, maybe more than ever before, by what has been called the 'solidarity of the shaken'.

As we arrive at Easter in the midst of this, it is good to know we can still come together to worship by holding services both inside and outside our church buildings – just as we did at Christmas time - and all are welcome to come along and celebrate the good news of Easter in this way. I also hope this Easter time we may encounter afresh the strange events of the crucifixion and the resurrection, and their power and reality in our lives today.

Easter reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event which completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

We have travelled a hard road over the last year, but as we look ahead with longing towards life beyond lockdown, I hope we may take with us those good things we have witnessed in these strange times and be refreshed in the power of God's Spirit. If we allow ourselves to be open to renewal, we will be in a better place to play our part in whatever creative newness of life lies ahead.

Revd Iain McColl



Easter Sunday Services – 2021

9.00am

Holy Communion (online)

10.00am

Outdoor Services at
Weston Colville & Hildersham

♦
Holy Communion at West Wickham

♦
Morning Worship at West Wrattling

11.00am

Outdoor services at Balsham
& Little Abington

All are welcome to attend!
www.grantavale.org.uk

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW, 21 AUGUST CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Each month I am planning to focus on one of the categories in this year's Show in an attempt to enthuse and inspire you to take part, or at least come to the Village Hall in the afternoon to admire all the entries. Last month it was Photography, this month it is the Classes for Children aged 11 and under. The classes for children are free to enter, and you could win a (small) cash prize or even take home the Trophy!

This year the two classes both have bugs as their subject:

- making a home-made Bug hotel and
- baking 3 fairy cakes, decorated with a bug theme.

Your bug hotel could be one to welcome just one type of insect or several and you can find lots of examples of bee and bug hotels online to inspire you and websites such as those of Friends of the Earth, the Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and Countryfile have instructions on how to make them to encourage bees, wasps, ladybirds, earwigs and other creepy crawlies.

I thought I would have a go at making a very basic hotel to encourage some solitary bees into our garden. Did you know that there are over 250 varieties of bee in the UK? There are currently 24 species of bumblebee, one honeybee species and the rest are solitary bees. It is really important to try and encourage all sorts of bees into our garden as they have lost much of their natural habitat in recent years.

I made my bee hotel out of a plastic bottle, some old bamboo canes and some dried hollow stems of stinging nettles and teasels that I found in the garden. They are about 15cm long and the holes need to be between 2 – 10mm wide. It was quite simple to put together but it is important to try and make the entrance and the holes as smooth as possible so as not to hurt the bees when they fly in. Once I've found a suitable sunny spot in the garden, at least a metre off the ground and facing south or south east, I will secure it and I'm hoping that it will attract some mason bees, leafcutter bees or other solitary bees to use it to make their nests. As this is only a temporary design, I will take it down in the autumn to keep it cool and dry in the shed and bring it out next year so that the adults can emerge from the stems in the spring. The canes need to be replaced each year.



Next month I will focus on another category – I still have to remind you of the Fruit and Vegetable, Flower and Domestic classes – but if you would like to have a look at the Show Schedule, please go to the village website (<https://westwickham.org/>) or for a paper copy, contact me directly.

Sue Thurston, Chair of the Show Committee. T: 897811

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Club had another very successful Zoom meeting on Monday 15 March when we invited non members to join us for a beautifully illustrated talk on "Bell Flowers" by Andrew Ward from Norwell nurseries in Lincolnshire. We were very pleased that many took this opportunity to enjoy an entirely free evening's entertainment. Zoom presentations give us the chance to book speakers whom we would not normally be able to have since they live too far away. We have our next Zoom meeting on Monday 19 April when John Summerfield from Westshores Nurseries in Lincolnshire tells us about vegetable growing, his talk is entitled "Plant to Pot, growing veg for fun and flavour". If you wish to join us send your e-mail to sueboase@hotmail.co.uk and she will invite you in at 7:15 on the evening of the talk.

Members of the Club hope to be able to organise a couple of mini pop-up plant sales on Saturday 22 May, one in the High Street, another in Streetly End. Please look out for notices giving details.

Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262



MEET THE NEW PARISH NURSE

My family have grown up in this area, living in Weston Colville and now Balsham for the last 15 years. My long nursing career within the NHS has been mainly at Addenbrookes's hospital and more recently health screening in the community. The Parish Role for me is an exciting one, in which my

hopes are that I can help as many people and make a real difference to those of you who are struggling within our community, during these very difficult times. I strongly feel that the future is full of hope and that we have all learnt lessons in how to care about each other once more. I am looking forward to meeting some of you and supporting you in whatever way I can.

Kim Cox, Parish Nurse

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We are slowly working through the Programme, concentrating this term on activities for the skills we completed last term. All of the Brownies are progressing well and a couple have almost finished their Bronze award. By the time you read this we will hopefully have survived the Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East Virtual Sleepover, the theme of which is based on activities you can do at the Jarman Centre, the guiding centre in Newmarket, where we stay each year for our weekend away.

Girlguiding are permitting us to resume outdoor meetings from 29 March but I think we will wait until at least May before we start meeting. Hopefully by then the weather will be warmer and it will be lighter in the evenings for our activities.

If you would like to send your daughter to Brownies, where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just being themselves, we still have space. As mentioned we are meeting online until we can meet face-to-face again. If you would like to know more drop us a message on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené

HORSEHEATH FARMERS MARKET Launching Saturday 10 April

Horseheath village is launching a new Farmers and Craft Market on the second Saturday of each month. The markets are being held in the grounds of the Village Hall, using the space to the front, adjacent to a fabulous play area, and the small field behind and start with a Farmers Market on Saturday 10 April.

Horseheath Markets will support local traders as well as being a convenient one-stop shop for meat, vegetables, pies, cakes, preserves and drink. Frances Howard from the Horseheath Village Community Association, who is running the markets, said 'The pandemic has reminded us of how important it is to support our local community and connect them with our local businesses. During the first lockdown we compiled and circulated a list of local suppliers which was really well received. We have been busy refurbishing the Village Hall over the last year; although it has always been well used we want to make it a really vibrant centre to benefit all of us. Promoting local businesses and serving the area through our new Markets seemed a natural thing to do'.

The first Farmers Market will be from 9am to 1pm offering a wide range of produce, and from May we will be adding a Craft market as Covid restrictions are eased. Make sure to put the date in your diary. For our first market we have Saffron Grange Vineyard, Wylde Sky Brewery, Prior's Hall Farm, Totham Bangers, River Glem Smallholders, Karen's Kitchen, The Jam Trolley, Christine's Little Kitchen and others bringing local food and drink direct from the producer to the local people.

For more information or if you would like to enquire about booking a stall please phone 01223 892001 or email to: horseheathfarmersmarket@gmail.com or

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A1307 Update. The process of upgrading the road continues. Next will be the installation of average speed cameras between the Suffolk border and Linton, taking place in April.

There has also been progress on the much-needed pedestrian crossing at Hildersham. A revised design seems to have support from the local landowner so, all being well, this will be implemented in this phase.

Local Elections. The government have announced that local elections will take place on 6 May this year. There will be 3 votes to cast: the County Council, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Budgets. Both the County and District Councils have now agreed their budgets for this municipal year, which include council tax levels. The County Council have agreed a 3.99% rise, which equates to £3.38 per month on band D properties. The District Council have agreed a £5 per year rise.

Social Workers. The County Council has launched a campaign to recruit more social workers in 2021. If you know anybody that might be interested in this rewarding work they can get more information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/jobs-and-careers/we-love-social-workers

Geoff Harvey & Henry Batchelor

NATURE NOTES

I've been doing some digging recently and consequently thinking about earthworms. The poet William Blake assured us that 'the cut worm forgives the plough'. Whether or not these apparently lowly creatures have the capacity to forgive, it's interesting to learn that earthworms have five hearts, two nervous systems (central and peripheral) and a brain, which suggests that they can feel pain and shock. If a worm can choose to forgive the perpetrator of a brutal assault with a sharp metal tool, it can also presumably hold a grudge. Either way, I have been taking extra care to avoid worm carnage with my spade.

As it is, earthworms have enough predators to make their lives difficult without us interfering. Hedgehogs, badgers and foxes all eat them as do many types of bird, particularly thrushes. We have had a prolonged visitation from various gulls on the adjoining field, presumably because of the availability of worms thrown up in the disturbed soil.

Is spring going to be early or late this year? Some birds have begun singing earlier than they normally do in my view - notably blackbirds but also chaffinches and yellowhammers, while skylarks and song thrushes have been heard for some weeks but I had to wait until this morning (16 March) to hear a chiffchaff. The weather has swayed back and forth, from being unseasonably warm at the end of February to gale force winds in March. During those balmy sunny days in February there were a couple of sightings of brimstone butterflies venturing out for a flutter before returning to cover until the next warm spell. Commas and small tortoiseshells have also been seen in the village. All these butterflies overwinter as adults and emerge in the warm weather.

Meanwhile spring flowers are appearing, especially those in sheltered spots. Jean Martin alerted me to a patch of coltsfoot beside Hare Wood. Coltsfoot gets its name from the shape of its leaves but we rarely notice them because they remain tightly curled around the stem until the flower has turned to seed. An alternative name for coltsfoot was coughwort as the leaves were once used as a cough medicine but this is inadvisable as they are toxic (and probably ineffective). Like coltsfoot, most of the early flowers are yellow with dandelions and primroses in bloom, along with the lovely lesser celandine which lights up the ditches. This harbinger of spring was also known as pilewort as it was used as a treatment for haemorrhoids - again not recommended by modern doctors. Violets, and in the hedgerows, blackthorn, go against the yellow theme - the blackthorn's flowers come out before their leaves and are an early attraction for bumblebees which have been out and about.

Gavin Kelsey reports the bird highlight of the month as he spotted a female hen harrier (a ringtail) flying over the field behind the church. Barn owls are regularly reported along with the by now everyday sights of kites and buzzards. Coming down in scale we had a couple of reports of Europe's smallest bird, the goldcrest. My personal highlight was a male reed bunting who visited our bird feeder for two days. Di and Jan were surprised by a heron flying out of an oak tree. We normally see them standing in water or in the fields but they do nest in trees.

In case you think I forgot the mammals, I am trying to put them out of my mind after an unfortunate incident with a herd of fallow deer, but apparently a muntjac was seen strolling over Maypole Croft, cool as you like.

Please send your nature sightings to:
Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Di Licence. T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

PICTURES FROM THE PAST



The school with integral house for the Headteacher in the 1920s.

The school was built in 1877 when the predominantly Anglican ratepayers of the parish were galvanised into action by the threat of having imposed on them a secular school run by an elected board. The existing school room in the churchyard was no longer considered adequate following the 1870 Education Act which required the proper provision of elementary education for all 5 to 10 year olds. Land was made available for a peppercorn rent by the major landowner, the Earl of Hardwicke, and the ratepayers raised money for the building. Education did not become compulsory until 1880 and free until 1891. The school leaving age was raised to 11 in 1893, then eventually to 14 by 1900 and to 15 in 1944.

The log books (the daily diaries which Headteachers were and are required to keep) for the whole period the school was open are deposited in Cambridgeshire Archives and give us something of a picture of school life. Cambridgeshire Archives also has a plan and inventory of furniture and equipment made when the County Council became responsible for educational provision in 1902 (water had to be fetched from the pump outside, toilets were of the earth closet type and lighting was by oil lamp until after the Second World War). West Wickham Local History Club Photo Archive has several photos of school groups, mainly from the 1920s and 1930s, some with names of pupils.

In 1937, the older children were transferred to the newly opened Linton Village College and the school finally closed in 1971 when the Meadow Primary school was built to serve the children of Balsham, West Wratting, Weston Colville as well as West Wickham.

Did you go to West Wickham school or did your parents or grandparents? Do you have memories of school life, the teachers, games you played in the playground, even the horrors of the toilets? I would love to collect them for future generations and perhaps with a possible exhibition in mind. It is obviously difficult to meet at present so perhaps you could write these down or get a family member to do so for you and email or drop them in to me.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive.

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

CAR WASH IN AID OF PROJECT TRUST
10am-1pm. Saturday 24 April,
Village Hall car park. Cakes also available.
Matt Magin

UPDATE FROM YOUR AGE UK COMMUNITY WARDEN

I hope you are all well and managing to keep your spirits up. A lot of people I visit are finding this last lap of the pandemic hard, so if you are elderly and need a friendly chat or email conversation please do get in touch.

The Age UK Information and Advice Team have been helping me again, and have informed me about a great service run by South Cambridge District Council called LEAP - Local Energy Advice Partnership. I am helping one of my Service Users check whether they are paying too much for their energy bills. The Age UK information and Advice Service is open to everyone and is free. They are a mine of useful information, and always go the extra mile to help. If you'd like to know more about the Information and Advice Service or LEAP, get in touch and I will give you all the details, or help to arrange someone to call you.

Lastly, Linton Community Help Team are running a lovely new initiative called Creative Communities Scheme. They have been kind and generous in linking in with the Linton and Small Villages Community Warden Schemes, so I am hoping that through this some of my Service Users will be able to get involved in some creative projects at home whilst they are unable to leave the house much.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about the Community Warden Scheme or if you need signposting with any matters related to support for the elderly. I am always glad to help.

Faye Parker.
T: 07436 102465, Email: Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES 2020

Thank you for the wonderful response to last year's appeal (Ed. October 2020 edition), one that was difficult and unusual. The whole operation went ahead despite many obstacles but with a lot of prayer, and the boxes collected from this area went to Belarus, Serbia and Nigeria, bringing great joy to children and giving them a gift of love. If you want to know more, or look at the many photos or videos, please go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk, and hopefully you will feel inspired to take part again this year.

Jane Furlow (OCC connect volunteer)

LINTON LIBRARY

We are hoping to offer managed browsing at the library again from 12 April, but this will depend on government restrictions continuing to be eased, so please do continue to check our website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library) for updates. We are looking forward to welcoming you at the library as soon as we can reopen further. (opening hours: Tuesday 10am-2pm; Thursday 2-6pm)

There is a large and varied selection of e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers also available for download free of charge. The offering that was on RBDigital is now on Overdrive and Libby - on a PC, download Overdrive Library Books and Audio app or software; on a tablet or phone, download the Libby app from your App Store. You will just need your library card and PIN. Find out more by visiting <https://cambridgeshirelibraries.overdrive.com/>

Lindsay Healy, Community Library Assistant, Linton Library

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

By the time you read this, we will have passed the one year mark of many of our children spending a considerable amount of time learning at home. I don't think a year ago anyone could ever have anticipated the amount of time we wouldn't be open to all of our pupils. As teachers, we come into teaching to work with young people, to educate them not only in the content of the National Curriculum but also in things such as social interactions, trust, friendships, life skills, self-esteem, confidence, and resilience (although the list really is endless). The past year has taught us that face to face interactions are crucial and relationships over a screen are really not the same.



We have been immensely lucky as our school community has pulled together to ensure that in the past year we can keep going as best as we can. Parents have supported children's learning at home whilst also trying to balance their own jobs and commitments. Teachers have adapted to using technology to deliver the curriculum remotely through live lessons, whilst also still teaching the children of key workers in school. Children at home have learnt to work remotely, accessing Google Classroom and Google Meet, unmuting themselves, turning cameras on and off and doing their work in their own home, whilst still being able to see and chat to their teacher and friends on screen if needed. Children in school have adapted to being in smaller groups, being taught by a mixture of teachers and perhaps not having their close friends in school. School staff have adapted to one way systems, bubbles of children, not seeing colleagues in other 'bubbles', taped floors, hand sanitiser everywhere and wearing face coverings in communal areas.

Children have missed so many rites of passage in their school journey, concerts, trips, residential, assemblies, school plays, time with buddies, transition events for moving schools/classes, face to face school council meetings – the list is endless. It is now time to start to use the time we have left in school this academic year to make memories and ensure we give every single child the best experience we can. Whilst 'catching up' on learning is important, so is 'catching up' on life experiences.



The joy on the faces of the children and staff when all children returned to school was incredible. Friendships were reignited, children were excited to be back in school, learning and playing with their classmates and teachers were delighted to be talking to children in the flesh rather than on a screen. However, much technology has enabled the curriculum to continue to be taught, teaching and interacting in person, having those face to face relationships and social interactions is vital. The light at the end of the tunnel is now shining much brighter. Vaccines are being rolled out at a truly impressive speed and parents and staff are embracing the lateral flow testing to keep everyone as safe as we can. It is vital that our whole school community continues to follow the rules on lockdown and we go at the steady pace needed to ensure we can keep the school open to everyone.

Whatever the final term of the school year brings, we are determined it will be a good one and one filled with positive memories and experiences for our children.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

While much of school life tends to be typified by fairly rigid structures, the last few months have exemplified just how adaptable the school community has been. Students and staff have become accustomed to staggered timetables and a range of new routines to keep learning and stay as safe as possible in school. While the College remained closed to most students, teachers acclimatised to delivering all timetabled lessons online. Both they and their classes became proficient with using technology to ensure learning continuity.

Issuing devices donated by families and Cambs Youth Panel, as well as those issued by the government, has enabled our students to be equipped to access learning from home. Our live lesson attendance was more than 80%; the narrative of lockdown 'lost learning' certainly doesn't reflect the experience of LVC students.

Returning to school has enabled everyone to benefit from re-establishing face to face learning routines and reconnecting with each other. Hearing the school alive with the sound of students and staff again has been brilliant.

Adaptation has continued with students adjusting amazingly well to wearing face masks in lessons and engaging responsibly with our rapid mass testing roll out. The transformation of our sports hall into an Asymptomatic Testing Centre, led very capably by our Sports Centre Manager Sam Pollard, has been remarkable, as have the efforts of our team of testing volunteers from our staff and community volunteers.

Over forty members of our parent body stepped forward to offer their support as testing assistants. The slick and welcoming operation has been a real triumph. Supporting the school's reopening, processing 2572 Lateral Flow Tests have identified some positive Covid-19 cases that would have otherwise gone undetected. Staff and students are now accustomed to testing themselves twice weekly at home.

I have been astonished and extremely proud of the resilience of our young people, by the support of their families and the commitment of LVC staff to make remote learning and school reopening a success. We look forward to the return of more customary routines as well as continuing to evolve practices that have proven to be really beneficial in these exceptional times.

Helena Marsh, Principal