

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

May 2021

ISSUE 216

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday	4 May	Black
Monday	10 May	Blue & green
Monday	17 May	Black
Monday	24 May	Blue & green
Tuesday	1 June	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 Editors are 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: Sunday 16 May

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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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

With this Village Voice you should have received a brief summary of the draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation document with details of how to see the full version and a form for your comments. If this is missing contact Andrew Morris. T: 290863, E: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON 6 MAY

There are elections for County Councillor, Police & Crime Commissioner and Mayor of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority. The Village Hall will be open as a polling station from 7am – 10pm. A one way system will be used and social distancing and hand sanitizers will help to keep voters safe. Please wear a mask and take your own pen or pencil to mark the ballot sheet.

DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL TO CLOSE

It is with a sad heart that we have to write this to inform you that Daisy Chains Pre-School will be opening its doors for the very last time at the end of this summer term.

The Pre-School has been running, in one form or another, for over 40 years and I have been involved in its history for over 20 of those years. Looking back over those 40ish years we reckon that over 1000 children have spent their early years with us preparing them for their next step up to primary school.

We are all very sorry that it has come to the point of closure but the Pre-School has been running at a considerable loss for over two years now. This, coupled with the fact that we will only have 3 children registered with us for the next school year, has forced us to take the decision to close.

Over the years, it would not have been possible to run the Pre-School without the considerable efforts of staff, parents, and 'helpers'. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody (you know who you are!) who has supported us in any manner over the years so, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Also a special thank you to The Village Hall Committee who have provided us with a beautiful community hall in which to take care of the children in a clean, healthy and safe environment.

Sue Harrow

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Mini 'pop-up' plant sales
Saturday 22 May, 10am – 1pm

Under normal circumstances the Club would hold its Plant Sale in the Village Hall in May but this year we have four venues where tables will be set up with surplus plants for sale. You will find them at:

- 21 High Street, West Wickham
- 41 Streetly End, West Wickham
- Cowslip Pightle, Hazel Stub, Camps Road, Haverhill.
- Castle Camps, by the butcher's van

Please put the date in your diary and support us if you can. Thank you.
Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262

FROM THE VICARAGE

As we enter May, I am looking forward, like many I imagine, to the further easing of lockdown restrictions which will allow us to enjoy seeing more people face to face. For those with good internet access or reliable smart phones, seeing family, friends and colleagues online has been possible over the lockdowns. Yet we should acknowledge as well the loss of human contact 'in the flesh' and reflect on how important the joy of life together is for our sense of humanity.

Church gatherings over the last year have also been a mix of both online and in person. Our services via zoom have helped us to worship together during each lockdown and inspired a growth in creative resources for reflection! Before Easter, for example, we produced three short reflective films entitled 'Life in the Spirit', 'Love in a time of Covid' and 'After the Flood', all of which can still be viewed via our website.

Gatherings in person during the pandemic have taken place, where possible, both outside and inside church buildings. Services have been held in churchyards often dappled in sunlight, or inside our ancient buildings, perhaps allowing us to experience in a fresh way the joy of gathering face to face; a reminder of the incarnational nature of our Christian faith.

In May our services will continue to be a mix of online services and services inside and outside our churches, so please do feel welcome to attend whichever you prefer. During May we will also celebrate Pentecost and remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection of Jesus. This astonishing gift of the Spirit, as described in the book of Acts, bound together the early church in worship and shared life, and empowered them to reach out to others in the name of Christ.

I hope, as we move along our roadmap out of lockdown, we may continue to re-discover the joy of shared life together and allow ourselves to be shaped by the life of the Spirit. For the Spirit draws us into a deeper relationship with God, empowers us to forgive, and creates bonds of mutual love and service, which will help us support and rebuild our communities this side of lockdown and beyond.

Revd Iain McColl

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

As this falls before the May restrictions are lifted there will be no local house to house collections this year. However there will be an open air Coffee Morning in Balsham Church Car Park or the Churchyard when all the restrictions are lifted. The date is yet to be arranged but is likely to be sometime in July.

This is my seventh and last year organising the fund raising for Christian Aid.

Joanna Sanders.
Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net T: 01223 893063

STREETLY END PHONE BOX

I have changed the use of the Streetly End phone box, which is now a well stocked little library. There are books for all ages with some of the latest best sellers. Please do visit and borrow any number of books but take care of them and return when finished. I can take any donations of books to rotate.

Lucy Cameron

PICTURES FROM THE PAST



The former White Hart PH in the 1920s. The first four local authority houses in the village, built in 1926, can be seen in the background. The green at the front was the site of the annual village fair, which took place in early June. There is a description of the fair in the 1860s. There were various stalls selling gilded gingerbread and toys as well as those with games like the wheel of fortune. There was a waxworks display, a dancing pony, a stage show with clown and ballad singers, a photographer's booth, skittles a large tent for dancing and, of course, lots of alcohol from the pub. This was such an important event that those who had moved away tried to come home for it and the school had to close for a week because the children failed to attend.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

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

GRANTA Medical Practices

COVID-19 Vaccinations. We continue to deliver second vaccinations, working in date order, vaccinating patients 11-12 weeks following their first dose. Current guidelines state that patients have to return to the venue where they had their first vaccination. Should these guidelines change we will, of course, let everyone know. 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. Please bear with us as our team continue to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety. The UK vaccination programme has been very successful. More than 30 million people have been vaccinated and it is estimated that 6,000 lives have already been saved. There have been reports of a very rare condition involving blood clots and unusual bleeding after vaccination. This is being carefully monitored and reviewed.

Information is changing rapidly and we will keep our website (www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk) as up to date as possible. If you do not have internet access, please feel free to ring us with any questions you may have.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services
Email: sandra.east@nhs.net. Direct number: 01223 627743.

BUS SERVICE CHANGES

The park and ride service at the Babraham Road site has restarted. As a consequence, the 13 bus will no longer stop at that P&R site. The bus frequencies will remain as they were, operating every 10 minutes Monday to Sunday daytime and every 20 minutes after 18:00.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the zoom meeting held on 22 March the following items were amongst the topics discussed. The full draft Minutes can be seen on the Parish noticeboards .

Planning

- 21/0680/0681 – 38 Streetly End. Cllr. Grieve had not spoken to residents but there have been no objections registered on the website. It was agreed to support this application.
- 21/0161 – Tree work, 35 High Street. Cllr. Charlton has inspected and supported the application. This was agreed.

Finance: The full details are shown in the draft Minutes posted on the Parish noticeboards.

Traffic & Parking issues: It was reported that speeding was still a problem at the church end. Of the High Street There was concern about cars parking in the road, leaving little space for tractors or carriers to get through. (Ed. More importantly emergency vehicles and buses have difficulty!) Residents are asked to check that where they park is not causing a traffic hazard.

Maintenance: Flooding in High Street and Streetly End: Having reported this problem countless times, sending photos etc. it is hoped that grip cutting work will shortly be carried out.

Defibrillator: Cllr Schuilenburg had checked various makers and the cost would be approx £2000. It was agreed to make this purchase. It will be sited on the outside wall of the Village Hall.

Website: After 10 years of service the present website is running out of space. Cllr. Schuilenburg had looked at various hosting services and the best one would cost £60 per annum. It was agreed that a new host service should be used.

Village Hall: Having received various quotes for phase 1 of a possible Hall extension Trevor Hall recommended one at a cost of £950 + VAT. A meeting with the Village Hall Management Committee was necessary to discuss these quotes and to make a decision. Cllr Charlton hoped that this would be a joint decision and asked if all the VHMC wanted this proposed extension to go ahead. It was agreed that Cllr Charlton and Trevor Hall should jointly sort out what is necessary.

Playground Climbing Wall: It has been too wet to dismantle the wall. Cllr Cornish suggested that some drainage was required which he would be happy to carry out as he had the necessary equipment. The fence would need to be temporarily taken down to do the job.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Sargeant reported that he would be applying for another grant to cover the cost of printing and the consultant's work. The Regulation 14 Consultation will be carried out between 1 May and 30 June. Information is going into the May Village Voice and letters will be sent out to the landowners in the Parish.

Any other business:

1. On Footpath 17 two waymark posts have rotted and need replacing. This will be dealt with.
2. The village fete is to be held at Manor Farm on 3 July.
3. The question of whether there would be a Parish Meeting this year was asked, but this is unlikely as it will have to be held in May.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24 May. This will probably be by zoom but anyone can attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260, E: clerk@westwickham.org

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW 21 AUGUST VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CLASSES

Now is the time, if you haven't already done so, to be thinking about what you can enter into the vegetable and fruit classes at the Annual Show in August.



There are 14 classes in this Category and the entrant with the highest number of points stands to win the West Wrattling Cup. Full details of all the classes, the number of each fruit or vegetable to be shown and how they are to be displayed can be found on the village website (westwickham.org) or contact me directly for a paper copy.

Briefly, the vegetables to be judged are runner beans, French or dwarf beans, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, carrots, beetroot and courgettes. There is also a class for any other vegetable not in the Schedule and, this year, the funniest looking fruit or vegetable, always a highlight for visitors to the Show in the afternoon. There are classes for soft fruit, such as raspberries and top fruit, such as apples and one for culinary herbs, displayed for effect.

Whereas we gardeners may select varieties for their taste, ease of growing or resistance to pests and disease, our judge will be looking at the condition, size and uniformity of the entries, presented in the approved way. Here is an extract from a guide that our former Chair, Andrew Morris produced to help exhibitors:

VEGETABLES

These should be clean, fresh, tender and without blemish. Ideally, they should be of a uniform size and shape but quality is the most important factor. Large is not best – they should be what you want to eat! We suggest root vegetables are carefully lifted and sponged with cold water. Exhibits can be covered with a damp cloth until required for staging; this helps retain “freshness”. For exhibits of beans, peas and peppers the stalks should be left on; for tomato exhibits the calyx (stalk) should be left on; for exhibits of courgette it is no longer a requirement to leave on the flowers.

FRUIT

Many fruits have a natural bloom, which should not be polished off. Again uniformity of size and shape is important. Stage all fruit with stalks. Displaying the fruit on the plant leaves can show them off well but it is your choice whether to do this or to display fruit on a plain plate.

Next month I will focus on what you need to enter to win the White Horse Trophy for cut flowers. Again, details of all the classes can be found on the village website.

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

WEST WRATTING TENNIS CLUB Membership open for 2021-22

The new season starts on 1 May. Both existing members and new comers are invited to take up membership for the 2021-22 season. For more information go to www.westwrattingtennis.co.uk

NATURE NOTES

Animal migration is one of the many wonders of nature. Mammals, insects and birds world-wide undertake epic journeys every year to breed, feed or seek warmer climes. At this time of year we notice the birds most, leaving, arriving or just passing through. For us, swallows are the most well-known of our migrants and it's reassuring to know that individuals have already been seen in Horseheath and in West Wickham around the Church and the Roman Road. Having flown all the way from Southern Africa, crossing the Sahara Desert, they may be disappointed to find such dry, cold conditions on arrival here but I'm sure they will be able to cope as the weather changes.

Of the warblers, chiffchaffs and blackcaps have been heard around the parish, the blackcap's disorganized but musical song contrasting with the chiffchaff's monotonous chant. We await the arrival of our other two common warblers, whitethroats and willow warblers.

The breeding and nesting season for our resident birds is well under way. Some display incredibly intricate skills in constructing and lining their nests - long tailed tits, wrens and chaffinches are particularly clever builders. Di spotted a couple of birds using unusual materials - a blue tit with a strand of red wool poking out of the nest box, and a blackbird with a strip of white plastic which she was attempting to fold into her beak before flying away. We don't know whether she managed to weave it into her nest. Although we complain about plastics and other detritus in the oceans and countryside, occasionally nature can put our waste products to good use.

The most exciting bird sighting of the month has been a redpoll, seen both by Gavin Kelsey and my former neighbour Deborah Record. It is not the first time these little birds with their pink crowns and chests have been seen in West Wickham but a rarity nevertheless. They favour birch, larch and alder scrub but sometimes can be seen on birdfeeders. The most likely of the three varieties to be seen in England is the lesser redpoll, of which there was a large incursion in 2012. Deborah also had a nuthatch on her feeder, which makes me wonder why we decided to move.

Many butterflies also migrate but those that have been seen in West Wickham this year will have overwintered as adults. We have had reports of peacock, small tortoiseshell, brimstone and red admiral. The last of these we normally see later in the year after they fly over from Europe, but some do stay. The brimstones that I have seen have all been males. The creamy coloured females usually wait a bit longer before they decide to come out. The first butterfly to emerge from a chrysalis will be the orange tip. Last year was a bumper year for them so please let us know when you see your first of the year.

More spring flowers are blooming. White wood anemones and stitchwort, and blue violets, ground ivy and periwinkle breaking the yellow monopoly, but there are plenty of cowslips and oxlips in flower.

Trees are also in flower but with small, underrated flowers they often go unnoticed. The candles of horse chestnut are a well-known feature but if you have the chance, take a closer look at field maple flowers and silver birch catkins.

May is the best month for hearing the dawn chorus so why not get up early one morning and go along to a local wood to listen? You may even hear a cuckoo, in which case please let us know.

STOP PRESS. Jean Martin has just let me know that the swallows are back and investigating the garage where they nested last year.

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

It has been fantastic to observe the College grounds alive once again with the sights and sounds of grassroots sport. Welcoming back community groups onto site has marked the start of our re-emergence from lock down restrictions. Our Sports Centre has also reopened its indoor facilities and looks forward to even more members supporting this village resource over the coming months.

Within the College, students have benefited from a broader educational experience this term. Our Year 7 and 8 students have moved into new learning bases and all year groups have access to more specialist teaching rooms and practical lessons. A number of extracurricular clubs have also restarted.

A healthy lifestyle is also supported by positive mental health. We have been particularly conscious of our Year 11 cohort and how to ensure that the process of awarding GCSE grades this summer takes account of their wellbeing as well as achieving optimum academic outcomes. At LVC we have designed a schedule of assessments, in line with the government guidance and exam board requirements, that gives students the best opportunity to achieve their potential.

During the first half of the summer term, students will be completing a range of slimmed down assessment tasks within their lessons. We have sought to avoid replicating the pressurised conditions of the exam series that has been cancelled.

I have been incredibly impressed with how maturely students have responded to the significant disruption to their education. I have been equally impressed by the hard work and commitment of teachers and support staff. Having adjusted to the requirements of teaching and learning in the Covid-19 contexts and the challenges that this has presented, students and staff are now adapting to the requirements of a teacher-led assessment process.

It is no surprise that the global pandemic has led to a surge in the number of applications for teacher training. While some of this may have been motivated by the job security associated with the profession, the privilege, job satisfaction and sense of reward that comes from supporting young people in their education has been highlighted in the current context.

Helena Marsh, Principal

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

At the time of writing, government restrictions have started to ease and we expect our managed browsing which restarted on 12 April to continue to be available at the library. We are very pleased to be able to welcome you back in to choose your own books! If you do enter the library, please sanitise your hands, complete test and trace by scanning the QR code or filling in the slip, and wear a mask, unless you are exempt. A one-way system is in operation, and we are restricting the number of people in the library at any one time so we can maintain distancing, so please bear with us if you have to wait for a moment. Our Select and Collect service continues to be available for anyone who would prefer to use this - we can choose a selection of books for you based on your preferences. Our opening hours: Tuesday 10am-2pm; Thursday 2-6pm.

Please check our website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library) and social media for further announcements of any situation changes.

Lindsay Healy
Community Library Assistant, Linton Library