

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2021

ISSUE 218

## WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday	5 July	Blue & green
Monday	12 July	Black
Monday	19 July	Blue & green
Monday	26 July	Black

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

## CHURCH SERVICES

There has been some confusion recently about church services. Services for July are as follows:

4 July 10.30am	Joint Service of Holy Communion at Balsham.
11 July 9am	Morning Prayer St Mary's
18 July 9am	Holy Communion St Mary's
25 July 10am	Morning Prayer St Mary's

Sunday zoom services will also continue. For details contact Cazzy Walshe on [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com)

## FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO [www.westwickham.org](http://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](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com)  
This is NOT a 24hr monitored service.

**AgeUK Community Warden:** Faye Parker.  
T: 07436102865,  
Email: [Faye.Parker@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto: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: Friday 16 July

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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.

## WEST WICKHAM FETE & DOG SHOW

1pm Saturday 3 July  
at Manor Farm

BBQ Bar Raffle Ice creams  
Lucky Dip Cakes Tombola  
Teas Plants Produce  
Games Books

Fun for all the Family

**STOP PRESS.** The Fete and Dog Show will still go ahead, with a few changes. The bar now will be a ticket tombola and there will be a takeaway BBQ. The Dog show starts at 2pm. We have received many fabulous donations including soft toys and sundries from the Jelly Cat warehouse. We ask everyone to be sensible and respect social distancing. There will be seated areas for family bubbles. Looking forward to seeing you.

Nicky Cornish. T: 290203

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

## FABULOUS FAMILY FUN, FOOD & FROLICS @ WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Fun for all the family. Please come and join us for an afternoon and evening of entertainment.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with activities for the everyone. If you would like to join in and/or run an activity please email [diane.hazlehurst45@gmail.com](mailto:diane.hazlehurst45@gmail.com)

We need a fit and healthy goalkeeper/s for our 'Beat The Goalie' competition.

3 pm – 5pm	Fun and games in and around the Village Hall
5 pm	HUB Bar opens
5 pm – 7 pm	BBQ
7 pm – 10.30 pm	Live Music by The Melodybeats

Sponsored by the Parish Council & Village Hall Management Committee

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following are some of the items discussed at the Council meeting held on Monday 24 May. The full draft minutes are on the notice boards and the village website.

**Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman.** Patrick Charlton was elected Chairman and Marcus Cornish as Vice Chairman.

**Village Hall Management Committee.** Di Licence & Alex Schuilenburg were appointed as the Parish Council representatives.

**Planning:** 20/02564. Installation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure at Wratting Common crossroad. It was decided to support this but with additional comments.

### **Finance:**

1. *End of year accounts:* These had been distributed and accepted by the Council. The Chairman was pleased with the continuing savings enabling future projects to be carried out.
2. *Audit.* As the Council's expenditure and receipts are under £25,000 a letter is to be sent to the Auditors requesting exemption from an external audit. An internal audit will still be required.

### **Maintenance:**

1. *Defibrillator purchase:* The supplier has been informed that the Parish Council would pay for this but proof of fundraising was required before there could be a discount on the purchase.
2. *Flooding at entrance to Streetly End.* This has been dealt with by Mr Covey.
3. *Playing Field flooding.* The field has been mole drained by Bartlow Estate without charge.
4. *Village Hall bench:* It was agreed to purchase a replacement bench, the existing one had been removed as it was found to be rotten and unfit for repair.

### **Recreation Ground:**

1. *RoSPA inspection of play equipment report:* Some minor faults need to be dealt with and it was agreed that a maintenance plan should be set up to maintain the equipment in good order.
2. The demolition of the climbing wall has been carried out.

### **Parish Communication:**

1. *Website provider:* The provider has been changed by Cllr Schuilenburg who was thanked for sorting out this difficult and time consuming job.
2. *West Wickham Village Sign website picture:* This is being used by a Facebook site in West Wickham, Bromley. Investigations are being made to prevent this deception.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** The Consultation document has been distributed to residents and Cllr Sargeant hopes there will be a good response.

**Henry Batchelor** was congratulated on his re-election as County Councillor.

**The next meeting will be on Monday 26 July  
7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

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

## LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The County Council are currently running a consultation on the creation of a local walking and cycling infrastructure plan. The close of the consultation is 13 July. Please do feedback any thoughts for our local area. Visit:

<https://consultcamb.southampton.gov.uk/engagement/ccc-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021>

Henry Batchelor

## CAKE AT THE FETE

This is just a reminder to all you generous people who have offered to make a contribution to the stall. We are looking forward to having the best stall ever. We also hope that children who enjoy cooking will be inspired to make something to donate for sale. We will put special stickers on your contribution so everyone will know that you made it. To everyone, we want you to know that if you are not into baking or simply do not have the time, a bought cake will be equally acceptable. All donations will be gratefully received. Cakes can be delivered directly to the stall or left at Manor Farm at your convenience.

From the Cake Stall Team: Vivienne Henderson, Di and Allen Hazlehurst

## FROM THE VICARAGE

I wonder how you felt in response to the news that the final 'unlocking', previously proposed for 21 June, was to be delayed? Perhaps you see it as a cautious but prudent step; or maybe a deeply frustrating one. For many businesses around the country, including some within our parishes, it will be tremendously challenging. For those looking forward to larger gatherings including weddings, it may bring real disappointment.

Indeed, it's been part of our way of life during the pandemic that we've sometimes had to take each day and week as it comes, without being able to plan too far in advance. For some there has been a gift in living day by day, but it may bring with it a sense of insecurity, which may lead us to lose heart at times.

Church life has also been a mix of simply taking it week by week as well as trying to plan in advance! In looking ahead, we have recently created a new pattern of worship which we hope will be sustainable and enriching in both this time of crisis and beyond. Within our group of churches on a Sunday we now regularly have, covid rules permitting, 9am services, one 10:30am service and usually a 6pm Evening Prayer. There will also still be a service available online at 10:30am.

Recently, our lay minister in training, Kristi Stewart Elliott, challenged us in a reflection to contemplate these words from our bible reading: "So we do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 4:16). St Paul, who was writing to the church in Corinth, saw this as a vital part of Christian life and of seeing the world in the light of faith in Jesus Christ. Let us also seek to live today, in these still uncertain and turbulent times, as people who "do not lose heart", who may both rejoice in the everyday and also look ahead with hope.

Revd Iain McColl

**A GET TOGETHER  
in aid of  
CHRISTIAN AID  
FRIDAY 2 JULY  
In  
BALSHAM CHURCHYARD  
10.00 – 11.45 am  
RAFFLE (to be drawn at 11.30)  
CREPES AND WAFFLES AVAILABLE  
or bring your own drinks/food  
Please come and support us!**

# GRANTA Medical Practices

## 2021 FLU CLINICS

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, having your flu vaccination is more important than ever. It is important because if you are at risk from coronavirus, you are also more at risk of problems from flu. Additionally, if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you are more likely to be seriously ill.

This year the flu vaccine will be given to people who:

- Are 50 and over
- Have certain health conditions
- Are pregnant
- Are in long-stay residential care
- Receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- Live with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus
- Frontline health or social care workers

From 1 July you will be able to book your flu jab and, as a Granta patient, you have the flexibility of choosing when and where you would like to go for your vaccination. Clinic dates are as follows:-

Saturday 11 September	Sawston Medical Centre, Shelford Health Centre Linton Health Centre
Sunday 12 September	Market Hill Surgery, Royston
Saturday 9 October	Sawston Medical Centre Linton Health Centre
Sunday 10 October	Market Hill Surgery, Royston
Saturday 23 October	Shelford Health Centre

When you ring to book your appointment, please state your preferred date, preferred venue and give your age so that you can be booked in for the most appropriate vaccine. Please note, we do not currently have dates for the child flu clinics as we are waiting on delivery information.

**Did you know** having your flu jab at your doctors' surgery is the quickest and most convenient way as there are no forms to fill out – the doctors and nurses have your medical history at their finger-tips.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services,  
Tel: 0300 234 5555, [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net)

## Open Studio

KATHRYN M HOLFORD  
ARTIST

Kathryn welcomes you to her studio  
secreted in her semi-wild garden at

*Secret Cottage  
44 Streetly End  
CB21 4RP*

Open weekends  
10th/11th, 17th/18th  
and 24th/25th July 2021

11am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW 21 AUGUST DOMESTIC CLASSES

This month I am encouraging you to think about what you could enter at the Annual Show in August and be in with a chance to win the Stan and Hilda Cox Cup for the most points awarded in the Domestic Classes. Stan & Hilda Cox lived in Maypole Croft. They were founder members of the Gardening Club and generously donated a cup for these classes.

This year there are 9 classes:

- A jar of home-made jam.
- A jar of home-made jelly.
- A jar of home-made marmalade.
- A jar of home-made chutney or relish.
- A non alcoholic beverage.
- 4 savoury biscuits.
- 3 seeded white rolls.
- A Bakewell tart.
- A filled Victoria Sponge .



It may be that you already have in your cupboard a jar of marmalade, chutney or other preserves that you made at the end of last year or earlier this year so why not label it up and enter it into the Show? Now is the time when we may be enjoying a glut of strawberries or other soft fruit so consider trying your hand at a few pots of jam or jelly and enter them. The judge will be looking for an even distribution of peel, a good set and of course flavour when judging the marmalade and taste, appearance and set are the main criteria with the jams, jellies and chutney/relish too. Make sure the jars are clean, sealed and well labelled.

The bread category this year is 3 seeded white rolls. Your choice of seeds and they can be incorporated into the dough, sprinkled on the top before baking or both. The judge will be looking at uniformity in the size and appearance of the rolls and the 4 savoury biscuits.

This year the schedule includes a full recipe for the Victoria sponge; a classic test of a home baker's skill. We have chosen a Mary Berry recipe. Our judge will be cutting the cakes in half to examine the texture of the sponge and distribution of the jam and tasting all of them. The 4 baked classes each need to be presented on a plate and covered to protect them with cling film or a clear plastic or glass cover.

Details of all the classes can be found on the village website and next month's Village Voice will include a copy of the full schedule. If you have any particular questions, please contact me.

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

## THANK YOU

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported me with the fundraising for Project Trust. It has been really appreciated. The car wash was a success thanks to everyone who came out and generously supported my fundraising. It has been confirmed by the charity that I will be going to Ghana, so I am really looking forward to this.

Matt Magin

## NATURE NOTES

Having a pond in your garden gives you an appreciation of the harsh realities of life in the wild. Kill or be killed. Eat or be eaten. That is everyday existence for the creatures who live in and around ponds. When we admire the activities of frogs, newts, pond skaters, water boatmen, dragonflies and damsel flies, we should remember that they are all carnivorous and are often seeking a meal from other living organisms who reside in or near your pond. If that is not enough, there are external dangers too, and we have evidence that a top predator has returned to the village. An otter visited Trevor's pond in 2016. Not far down the road, Deborah Record discovered one of her fish lying dead beside the pond with a large chunk taken out of it behind the head. It looked like a signature killing by an otter, though why the fish was left poolside is a mystery. After a couple of days the fish had been taken away, possibly by a red kite which had been seen hovering overhead. Unfortunately we were unable to obtain photographic evidence this time.

Our own pond here in Streetly End is newly dug but has now begun to attract some interesting insects, including blue and red damsel flies and a pair of broad bodied chasers which are not uncommon but still a great watch.

The insect world may be predatory but it also depends hugely on flowering plants to provide food and there is a growing awareness of the importance of wildflowers to the whole eco system. So the big question is 'to mow or not to mow?' Local councils now seem to be cutting less drastically but it is difficult for them to get the timing right. Mowing is necessary for some species to be given sufficient light and different insects favour long grass while others need the low growing flowers. Diversity is the ideal but this is hard to achieve in a relatively small area. In any case buttercups have flowered in swathes of yellow and alongside the grasses they make an impressive sight. So too do oxeye daisies which look particularly splendid en masse, notably alongside the Haverhill by-pass. Between West Wratting and Six Mile Bottom poppies are holding sway, supported by common mallow.

Bees are insects we most associate with the benefits they obtain and provide to flowering plants and they have been particularly active during the warm weather. Annabel discovered two bumble bee nests - one in a tree trunk along the roadside, the other in her blue tit nesting box. These were tree bumblebees, who showed a dislike of the vibrations caused by the mower. Perhaps another reason not to mow.

July is the season for butterflies so we hope that 2021 will be a good year for them. There have been some more reports of painted ladies but not in the numbers we had last year yet. As the month progresses, be on the lookout for meadow browns in the grassy areas, gatekeepers beside the hedges, skippers and marbled whites.

Bird news doesn't have last month's excitement. According to the rhyme cuckoos fly away in July but we have seen very few of them here although some people have reported hearing them, which is good news. However on a recent trip to Devon we had a day on Dartmoor and there were cuckoos everywhere. Perhaps next year they could spare one or two for us. One of the delights of summer is seeing and hearing swallows and swifts on the wing but they also have been in short supply.

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

## PICTURES FROM THE PAST



'Nip' and Wendy Pearson c.1956, in the front garden of what is now 24 High Street but then called White House Farm. Their father 'Billy' had taken over the farm (now Platts Farm) from his father, William, who had built the farmhouse sometime in the 1930s. The house on the right in the background was demolished in the 1970s and is now the site of an extension to number 23, Wood View.

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

Janet Morris, 21 High Street  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

At the time of writing (14 June), we are planning to reopen for an additional session on Friday mornings to offer our managed browsing service. As we move into July, please continue to check the library website and social media, call customer services (details below), or pop in at the library, for details of any additional changes to our hours.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2021 for children will be running again over the school summer holidays. The theme is 'Wild World Heroes'. Developed by The Reading Agency in partnership with World Wildlife Fund, it will be a celebration of reading, nature and how to take care of our planet. The Challenge officially begins on Monday 19 July, but children can sign up at their local library from Saturday 10 July. Visit [Cambridgeshire Libraries Families Facebook page @CambslibFamilies](https://www.cambridgeshirelibraries.com) or the library website to find out or ask at the library. Children can collect their stickers at the library, although we are unable to offer our usual listening sessions.

July 5 - 11 is Health Information Week. Your library is a great source of information on health matters. Come and explore our Reading Well collections to support your physical and mental health.

The library has a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books to cater for your summer reading tastes, as well as ebooks and eaudiobooks. Please do ask us if you need any reading recommendations, help choosing your books, or with our digital offering.

Lindsay Healy and Ann King, Community Library Assistants, Linton Library

Linton Library opening hours: Tuesday 10am-2pm;  
Thursday 2-6pm; Friday 10am-1pm (from 25 June)  
Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225  
Website: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This was held on Monday 24 May. The following reports from the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, village organisations and District & County Councillors were presented. As it was not possible to hold an Annual Parish Meeting in 2020, many reports cover 2 years. Some information has already been reported in previous editions of the Village Voice.

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the Parish, District and County Councillors for the generous time and effort that they give so freely to the West Wickham Parish, especially in these challenging times. So many of our parishioners, like the Parish Council, have had to adapt to a completely new way of operating and existing during the Covid pandemic. We are meeting in person for the first time in such a long time, hopefully a sign that a good degree of normality can be achieved in the not-too-distant future. Like so many, the changes 'forced' upon the Parish Council have created challenges, but also highlighted opportunities to improve our effectiveness and make us more efficient.

We are so lucky to live in a Parish where so many people have a sense of community. When the pandemic broke, Di Licence on behalf of the Parish Council and Nicky Cornish on behalf of the Parochial Church Council volunteered to head up a Parish support network. A call went out for volunteers and the response was humbling. Di and Nicky have done a tremendous job of ensuring that if support was required it was given quietly and efficiently using the volunteers where necessary. Thank you to everyone that has been involved.

All our community societies and groups have been impacted heavily and much needed social contact has been lost. With hope this will all change shortly. Thank you to all those that are responsible in organising these valuable community activities. Sadly, as reported in the May edition of the Village Voice, Daisy Chains Pre-School will be closing at the end of the summer term after 40 years. Sue Harrow has been instrumental in running the Pre-School for over 20 of those years, over 1000 children! How can we thank Sue, her team and all those involved enough?

The Village Hall is such a valuable and important community asset, and my thanks go to the Village Hall Management Committee and Trevor Hall who chairs the VHMC. Not only have they maintained the fabric of the Hall community but improved it. The next major investment will be updating the heating system, and the PC is also exploring the possibility of an extension; at this stage we are looking at feasibility, costs and need. With Daisy Chains closing there will be a need to secure extra daytime bookings. I am personally looking forward to visiting the Hall for the next available Pub Hub and the Village party that is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. Thanks go to the social committee Di Licence, Nicci Trudgeon and Di Hazelhurst for organising this.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is now in the consultation phase, and hopefully we are getting closer to completion. To get this far has taken so many volunteer hours, possibly thousands, from the working group. This is very much appreciated by the Parish Council and will assist greatly in any future development that takes place in the Parish. Dave Sargeant who chairs the group has my thanks and admiration for his tenacity and dedication to detail.

The Village Voice is supported by your Parish Council, and it is an excellent resource for all. Thank you to the editors Andrew Morris and Sue Thurston along with all other contributors and helpers. Sue has decided to 'retire' after nearly 20 years as joint editor and we thank her for her huge contribution. Anna Fairhead has kindly volunteered to join the editorial team; we wish her well. The Village Voice is available in digital form on the Parish website westwickham.org. Alex Schuilenburg does a fantastic job of managing the website; it is a valuable source of information and a way of keeping up to date. As a Parish Council I feel we need to review our communication methods with all parishioners, and Allen Hazelhurst has kindly agreed to lead the review on behalf of the PC. For the avoidance of any doubt, the PC is committed to keeping the Village Voice in its hard copy format and delivered to your door.

As a Council, we continue to set the precept at around £65 per household. Currently this should give us a small annual surplus to allow for the unexpected, along with general expenses and our ongoing commitments (maintaining the playing field and play area, assisting with the upkeep of St Marys churchyard, the Village Voice, Age Concern Warden and Parish Nurse).

Thanks go to Marcus Cornish, who ably assists as our Vice Chair. Recently he kindly organised the 'mole' drainage of the playing field and is our unofficial liaison officer with all our local landowners, who do so much for the Parish. Also my thanks to Peter Grieve who looks after all things environmental and writes the wonderful Nature Notes, reminding us how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful spot that should not be taken for granted or littered on.

Jenny Richards, our Parish Clerk, has done another year's sterling work on behalf of West Wickham, and we are truly grateful for her experience and professionalism.

Your Parish Council meets six times during the year, and all parishioners are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Patrick Charlton, Chair West Wickham Parish Council**

## WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

**Trustees Meetings.** The Village Hall Management Committee have met 9 times since the last AGM in October 2019 with the last 6 meetings via Zoom. The AGM scheduled for the end of September 2020 was deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Committee.** A full Committee has been in place since the revised constitution was adopted by the Charity Commission in 2020. Attendance at meetings has been very good.

One committee member stood down in October but his position has been taken over by another member who will represent 2 clubs until a new representative is nominated. The record of the current Trustees has been amended on the Charity Commission website.

**Safety.** Deficiencies highlighted in an electrical survey carried out in August 2019 have all been rectified this year and the opportunity was taken to upgrade the emergency lighting to the current required standard. The fire detection system was also upgraded and extended.

Both electrical distribution boxes were replaced and all circuits are now provided with MCB protection.

**Financial.** The account with the Cambridge Building Society was closed and the money transferred to the Lloyds

Treasurer's Account. The money in the Santander Account remains at approximately £700 but the account remains blocked. Extensive communication with Santander has taken place to remove the block and it is hoped that this will be resolved soon, the Santander account closed and the money transferred to the Lloyds account.

The Hall received £10,000 as a small business grant from the Government to cover expenses and provide support during the coronavirus pandemic. This money is only used to cover expenditure incurred due to the pandemic such as contract cleaning and sanitising consumables. The last financial year, ending on 31 March 2021, will show a significant reduction in reserves due to the loss of income due to the coronavirus pandemic and substantial expenditure in carrying out repairs and painting of the Hall internally and externally. Daisy Chains Pre-School has managed to open at times during the pandemic but all other users have not been able to use the Hall. Daisy Chains is closing down in July. The Management Committee will be investigating ways of increasing local use of the Hall and possible future promotion.

**Cleaning.** The coronavirus pandemic prompted a review of how the Hall is cleaned. The *ad hoc* cleaning by a local resident has been replaced by a contract cleaning company, ensuring the standard of cleaning enables us to meet the Government Guidelines to make sure the Hall is deemed 'Covid Secure'.

**Maintenance.** All redundant items of equipment have been removed from the main store and new trollies purchased for storing the chairs. A revised inventory of equipment is being prepared.

The kitchen, bar, toilets and lobby have all been decorated along with areas in the main Hall. Externally there has been extensive decoration and the gutters have been cleared of debris. Two defective windows have been replaced. A significant number of minor repairs have been undertaken by the Management team and the "outstanding defects" list has been cleared significantly.

**Wi-Fi.** Cambridge Wi-Fi have installed a hub inside the Hall which provides free access to the internet in the Hall for those people who register on the system.

**Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).** A system comprising of 4 cameras has been installed covering the external approaches to the Hall. The views are recorded to a recorder in the Hall and the content will only be viewed in case of any incident or acts of vandalism. The Hall has enrolled with the Information Commissioners so we can hold this data.

**Upgrades.** The Hall applied unsuccessfully for a grant from the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Zero Carbon Communities fund. The application was for the installation of a roof mounted photo-voltaic array. The purpose of the installation is to reduce our energy consumption from the grid, which is presently in the region of £3,200 per year. A further grant application will be made in 2021.

The electric radiators throughout the Hall are obsolete; two units have failed and another has an element broken. A quote has been obtained for replacing all the units with Dimplex convector radiators at a cost of £3,000. An alternative quote is being sought to replace the existing radiators with infra-red heaters which are more efficient. The main Hall lighting is mainly fluorescent units with only the emergency lights converted to LED units. A quote for replacing the remaining fluorescent units with LEDs is £5,000. The undertaking of these upgrades will need some

degree of grant funding. This is under investigation.

**Additional Facilities.** In normal circumstances the Hall is well used but at times it can be difficult to secure a meeting room. The Parish Council, with the support of the Management Committee, are considering the building of an extension to provide additional meeting and social space for the Hall. This will be the subject of wider consultation with the community.

## **Trevor Hall, Chairman Village Hall Management Committee**

### **DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL**

The village has had a preschool, in one form or another, for over 40 years but the time has come to call an end to its existence and will close in July. We have been running at a considerable loss for approx 2 years. Covid-19 has put an end to our fundraising, and younger people with young families do not seem to be moving into the area. This, coupled with the apparent need for wrap around care and the fact that we are lucky enough to be "stuck out in the middle of nowhere", has left us with dwindling numbers and being unable to continue.

The Pre-School has been labelled as outstanding (by OFSTED) for a number of years now, and I am proud of that fact, but being outstanding is just not enough these days for a local community pre-school.

Even though we are closing down, this year's group of children have continued to enjoy a varied curriculum and have been able to relish in the fact that we do, indeed, live in the middle of nowhere giving them opportunities that many other children do not have access to.

We would like to thank the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, other users of the Hall, and all residents of West Wickham and the surrounding area for the massive support that they have given us over the time that the pre-school has existed. Some of you may have had children who attended. I can think of a few such children, and when I see how they have grown and developed, I feel that we did a good job in setting them on the right path when they were toddlers. Yes, Daisy Chains has been a valuable commodity for our village and I am very sorry to have to witness its demise.

### **Sue Harrow, Daisy Chains Pre-school**

### **WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

The Club has not met since March 2020. Although it would seem to be possible (at the time of writing) for meetings to resume from the 17 May, the problems associated with keeping members in 6 person bubbles while playing would not be practical. It is hoped to restart after 21 June. New, younger members would be very welcome (and might surprise themselves with how enjoyable carpet bowls is and how good the company) particularly as the physical effort required to clean down and sanitise equipment, chairs, tables etc before and after use may simply make meetings something of a chore rather than a pleasure.

### **Janet Morris, Secretary**

### **WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB**

The Club has not met since its AGM in March last year. As membership is not large we decided not to go for the expense of zoom talks ourselves but have made many available through our affiliation to Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Cambs Association for Local History and Jigsaw

(for community archaeology groups). These bodies have also produced extra newsletters throughout the year, which have been circulated to our members, keeping the local history community in touch with recent research and items of interest. The Covid-19 restrictions have meant that the final presentation of our test pit community archaeology project has had to be put on hold, and no new archaeological work has been possible. We are aiming to restart our regular monthly talks in the Village Hall in October.

**Janet Morris, Secretary**

#### **WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

In the two years since I last reported, the Club has sought to respond to the challenges posed by Covid-19 in as innovative a way as possible, in order to sustain the interest and involvement of its members.

The Club ended its 2018/2019 year positively and in good health. The plant sale in May was very successful and the coach trip to West Acre Gardens and Mannington Hall (which we shared with our neighbouring Balsham club) and our visit to Fornham St. Genevieve were both most enjoyable. Our Annual Show over the August Bank Holiday weekend disappointed a little by attracting fewer exhibitors and visitors, but it included a revitalised and distinctly professional photograph section. Crucially, the Club ended its year in excellent financial health.

The AGM. in September 2019 saw the election of an unchanged committee. In the autumn, our Trading Officer, Marian Corbett, again organised the economical bulk purchase of seed for members. Most importantly, from October onwards our Programme Secretary, Rosemary Yallop, once again organised the rich programme of monthly meetings in the Village Hall, which are at the heart of the Club's appeal. Of course, it all came to a grinding halt in March 2020. In the ensuing months, along with the rest of society we experienced the necessary extension of the lock-down. The Plant Sale, and all planned summer outings were cancelled. Nevertheless our Show Committee, under its new chair, Sue Thurston, concluded the year on a high note by organising that one aspect of its activity compatible with social distancing, its photographic competition, which was judged by member Ronnie Temple and won by a recent West Wickham resident, Ciaran McNally.

The unprecedented continuation of the lock-down in the autumn of 2020 faced the Club with an existential challenge. The September AGM. was postponed – unconstitutionally but in accord with the advice of the Royal Horticultural Society. Though the schedule of monthly meetings booked for autumn and winter also had to be cancelled, the Club was fortunate to receive the offer from member Clive Boase to make a Zoom presentation to the Club. Over 60% of our members “attended”, and the presentation was so well received that the Club committee decided to take out a Zoom licence, and from early December onwards the Club has held regular monthly meetings on-line. All these were well received though the committee remains mindful that a (quite small) minority of our members do not have the facility or inclination to “attend” on-line events. These meetings have also been attended (by invitation) by representative officers of four local gardening clubs, though none of them have yet persuaded their colleagues to emulate our initiative. It should be noted that the successful shift to Zoom meetings has depended on the skill and commitment of two of our committee members – our Programme Secretary who has at no notice produced a new programme

of remote monthly presentations, and our technically competent member, Sue Boase, who has set up and managed our Zoom meetings. Two other committee members, Janet and Andrew Morris, have played parallel valuable roles in cutting through isolation by circulating members' garden pictures and other news. Through such innovation and activity the Club has sought to meet the challenge of the last year and to remain in healthy contact with its members.

The committee resolved that individual members of the Club would have their membership extended until the next AGM. (which we hope can be held later this year) and that no further subscriptions would be called for until then. It is intended that the annual Plant Sale will take place in a dispersed way which is compatible with continuing social distancing, and it is hoped that by August normality will have returned sufficiently for a conventional Annual Show to be held in the Village Hall. Fundamental to this resumption of regular activity, and to our ability to take out a Zoom licence and to engage presenters, has been the very healthy financial situation of the Club, and for that our long-term Treasurer, Andrew Morris, must be given much credit. Credit must also be given to our committee secretary, Sue Herbert, who has kept on top of and recorded our rather numerous committee meetings and their sometimes complex decisions.

**Arthur Mawby, Chairman West Wickham & District Gardening Club.**

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**Covid-19.** The key issue this year is still Covid-19 and all that it entails. We would have hoped to be in a changed world by now.

The District Council has been at the heart of providing support for our communities and businesses. All the funding that the government has been pumping into the local economy has been managed and distributed by the Council. To give some idea of the scope of this work since November, the latest round of grants, some £10,570,066, has been distributed to 4,447 local businesses. In addition £3,550,204 has been given out in Hardship Grants.

It is also the District Council that has been providing support and funding to our local community groups who have been doing such sterling work providing practical assistance to those who need it, and who continue to provide this invaluable service. A big thank you to them.

Let's hope that the world will be very different by next year's meeting and we can put this all behind us.

**Housing development.** In preparing its next Local Plan, the District Council has asked for landowners and potential housing developers to put forward parcels of land for consideration to be included as sites for housing in the future. A lot of land has been put forward in our area. None of these sites have been assessed by Council Planners yet, so we don't know if any have planning merit. The planners are working through all of these sites and will produce a shorter list of sites in the autumn. There will then be a public consultation, so this is when everyone will get their say on what they think is or isn't acceptable.

**Geoff Harvey**

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**Shire Hall.** The County Council took a decision last year to leave their Cambridge city centre office, Shire Hall, for a new-build facility at Alconbury - the other end of the A14 from us. This caused some local consternation, not least

from the staff, some of which are not keen on the move. Whatever your views on it, the decision has been made and the move confirmed. The update this year is that Shire Hall has now been sold to another party and will be vacated by the County Council later this year.

**A1307.** The big news over the last few years, from the Highways department, is that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), which is formed of the local Cambridgeshire councils plus the university and a few other bodies, has been implementing upgrades to the main road in our area, the A1307. There have been many local meetings over the years where people's views on various proposals have been put forward and, to the credit of the GCP, some of the views have been taken into account and implemented.

The upgrades that we have seen so far, from the GCP funding, have been:

- Upgrades to the traffic lights at LVC to make them 'smarter'.
- Installing a bus lane on the dual carriageway on the western approach to Linton
- Upgrading the foot/cycle path between Linton and Hildersham

The upgrades that we can expect to see next are:

- Average speed cameras installed between Haverhill and Linton
- A pedestrian crossing at the Hildersham junction
- A 'greenway' off-road non-motorised user path between Abington and Linton
- A new roundabout at the Bartlow Road junction at Linton
- Remodelling of the Dean Road junction, where a lot of fatalities occur

The detail of most of these changes are still to be finalised, so please do make your opinions heard either directly through the GCP local liaison meetings, or via your parish, district or county councillors.

**Henry Batchelor**

## GIRLGUIDING LINTON DISTRICT

What a summer term our girls are having. There have been Promise ceremonies, trips to Wandlebury, kayaking, night hiking and cooking on and having campfires at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. Girls have built dens, played wide games and had a host of other activities. We are also still zooming as well having fantastic adventures online and gaining lots of different badges and taking part in all sorts of Challenges.

Our region is Anglia and some of us are doing the regions 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Challenge 1972-2021. The Jarman Centre is holding lumberjack and archery days again. If you or your firm are interested email [estate@jarmancentre.org.uk](mailto:estate@jarmancentre.org.uk) Up and down the country we may not be able to sleep under someone else's roof but throughout the summer virtual sleepovers are happening everywhere for girls and adults to take part in, either as a unit or just as a family. Sleeping anywhere but your bed has led to dens in gardens, under tables or putting chairs together with blankets strung with fairy lights. We have also had fashion parades, making outfits out of old bags with every type of neckline imaginable. So much excitement, challenge and adventure I cannot list it all. If you would like to see more or join in the fun, go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Louisa Powell-Owens, Linton District Commissioner.

## UPDATE FROM LUCY FRAZER MP

I know this year has been very tough for so many people but it has been great to see how our local communities have pulled together to help those in need.

After an immensely successful vaccine rollout we are slowly able to see life return to normal. We have seen that effective vaccines are a vital part of ending the pandemic. The largest inoculation programme this country has ever launched, has been a remarkable achievement. By the end of May, a total of 129,251 doses had been administered in South East Cambridgeshire and national estimates indicated that 39,000 hospitalisations and over 13,000 deaths in older adults have been averted.

Much of my time has been spent dealing with the virus and its impact but I have also managed to ensure that work continues with local organisations on local issues.

I want to let you know specifically about an issue that affects West Wickham. I appreciate that parts of West Wickham are poorly served by the main providers of mobile signal, especially in terms of reliable indoor 4G coverage. I welcome the signing of Shared Rural Network agreement between Mobile Network Operators and the Government. The deal, which is worth £1billion, will share investment costs between MNOs and the Government and increase 4G mobile coverage throughout the UK to 95% by the end of 2025, irrespective of what network provider people use. It will be underpinned by a legally binding coverage commitment from each operator. I will feed in areas of poor coverage into the Shared Rural Network programme and continue to press for improvements as soon as possible.

On a more regional level I am pleased that the Government's £3.7 billion funding allocation over the next four years includes funding for Addenbrooke's to help develop a business case for a fully redeveloped hospital. The new hospital will be a modernised, world class hospital at the heart of our community, and is in addition to the £100m announced to build a new children's hospital on the site, as well as the allocation of the funding necessary for a new cancer centre.

Don't forget if you need help with accessing local services or have a question or a query that I may be able to help with, then please email me on [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Best Wishes.

Lucy

## WANTED: YOUR VIEWS ON HEALTH AND CARE

What do you think about the health and care services you use? Good or bad, Healthwatch would like to hear your views. Healthwatch listens to local people and shares their experiences to help improve NHS and care services. The kind of things you can tell us about are:

- Covid vaccinations - how did it go?
- Who's doing a great job? Your local dentist, pharmacist or district nurse?
- Visits to the GP - are video consultations working well or are you struggling to see your local doctor?
- Hospital waiting lists - we know many people are waiting for treatment and procedures. Tell us what would help you while you wait.
- Home care services.
- Care homes.
- Using the NHS 111 First service.

Please get in touch. Give your feedback at [www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views) Not online? You can also call 0330 355 1285 or text: 0752 0635176.