VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE 222

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday 1 November Black
Monday 8 November Blue & green
Monday 15 November Black
Monday 22 November Blue & green
Monday 29 November 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

7 November. 10.30. Joint service of Holy

Communion at Balsham Church

14 November 10.00. Remembrance Day

Service. St. Mary's Church

21 November 9.00. Holy Communion

St. Mary's Church

28 November 9.00. Morning Worship

St. Mary's Church

Sunday zoom services will also continue. For details contact Cazzy Walshe on 7churches.seven@gmail.com

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.

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Tuesday 16 November

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

Email: editor wwwillagevoice@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.



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BREAST CHICKEN + CHIPS £6.00

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PLEASE PRE-ORDER BY 19 NOVEMBER

Contact Nicci | Tel: 07527879135 | Email: nicci@innerlather.co.uk

NEXT HUB NIGHT: 18.12.21

RAF WRATTING COMMON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER

There will be a short Service at the Memorial at 12 noon.

Having been unable to invite more than a handful of attendees to last year's' and the May memorial services because of the Covid pandemic, we now feel we have reached the point where we can broaden the invitation. Please do bear social distancing in mind and be aware that some may feel less comfortable attending an event like this.

Please do not attend if you feel unwell in any way.

The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause

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RAF WRATTING COMMON continued

of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath for Friends of Wratting Common Email rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com, Tel. Mob: 07736 737 174, Home: 01440 730 192

BONFIRES

It's that time of year again, time for a good bonfire. The Parish Council would like to remind you to be thoughtful of your neighbours. Before lighting a bonfire think about wind direction, and PLEASE don't burn plastic rubbish. Recently an elderly resident had to shut all her windows and suffered breathing difficulties due to a bonfire next door giving off acrid fumes. Be mindful of others this autumn, including animals before lighting up.

Di Licence



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2021

It is not too late to donate to this charity where filled shoeboxes are given to underprivileged children in many parts of the world to show God's love in a

tangible way. They go to ANY child in need. Collection week is 15 – 22 November. Please contact me on 893232 or jane.furlow@gmail.com. Thank you

WEST WICKHAM& DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Nearly everyone in the village has a good view of the woods which surround us, but have you ever wondered how old they are, why they were there at all or did they have a purpose? If so, why not come along to our next meeting when I will be talking about:

Ancient Woodland and the Forgotten Harvest

Monday 8 November 7.30pm in the Village Hall

All are welcome. There is a small charge for visitors.

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

THE BALSHAM SINGERS HAVE RESTARTED REHEARSALS!

We rehearse once a week on a Thursday evening from 7.30 – 8.45 pm in Balsham Church,. We are a friendly bunch and new members are always very welcome to join us: no audition is required, and the ability to read music is not essential, although useful. We sing a wide range of music from sacred works and classical anthems, to more contemporary works and musical theatre medleys. Please contact balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk for more information. We hope to sing to an audience again in the future, COVID permitting.

Dr Friederike Schmidt-Tremmel

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council held on Monday 13 September the following were some of the matters discussed. The full draft Minutes can be found on the noticeboards and village website.

Six free trees The Parish Council has accepted the offer by SCDC of 6 free trees. It is hoped to have fruit trees if available but no decision was made about this or where the trees will be planted.

Planning. It was decided to support the following applications.

21/03933/34. 34 Streetly End. Replacement of ancillary building with oak framed outbuilding.

21/03986. 45 Streetly End. Window repair & replacement.

Finance: Details of authorised payments and receipts are given in the draft Minutes. It was agreed that a donation of £50 given by Agricole Oil should be used for the purchase of litter picking equipment. (Ed. See separate article)

Traffic & Parking issues: Trevor Hall reported that recent checks showed 2% of traffic was over 50mph in Burton End and 13% over 50mph in Streetly End. He asked if the Parish Council would consider buying their own Speed Indicator Equipment. The latest SID's give much more data on speeding and can also be moved around the parish and used for Speed Watch. It was agreed to consider putting in a Local Highway Initiative bid.

Maintenance:

- 1. Diversion signs: These have now been removed.
- 2. Footpath 6 has now been cleared.
- 3. The Parish Clerk has been told by that as the Parish Council is classed as a charity it can donate money towards a defibrillator.

Village Hall & Recreation ground: The new benches will be sited at the top of the slope behind the Hall. Turf will be removed and the space filled with bark for the benches to sit on. Rob Giles will check the grass mound for stones and strim it.

Allotments: The Parish Clerk will be writing to all allotment holders with a date for rent collecting, and also to see if anyone wished to give up part or all of their holding as she had received a request for an allotment.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations: Cllr Licence, who organised three days of events for the Diamond Jubilee, offered her services to organise this coming event in June 2022. This was gratefully accepted.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 22 November, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk). T: 01223 665260 Email: clerk@westwickham.org

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

My house, 1 High Street, is right on the junction of the High Street and Balsham Road. Would owners of dogs please stop them weeing up the walls of my house. If one animal does it others stop, sniff and do the same! It is most unpleasant.

Thank you. Cynthia Swadling

PICTURES FROM THE PAST



The unveiling of the War Memorial in the churchyard on October 1920 by S Owen Webb (farmer Streetly from Hall, Chairman of the Parish Council and also of the organising committee for the memorial). The unveiling followed a service of dedication in the church. Note the wreaths laurel and of mound garden flowers - no poppies. The British Legion (now Royal) was only formed in May 1921 from an amalgamation

of four ex-servicemen organisations. Its first Poppy Appeal was held in the same year and was such a success that a Poppy Factory was set up the following year to produce the poppies, as it still does today.

If you would like to know more about the 14 men on the memorial, a booklet with details *West Wickham War Memorial: The men who gave their lives in the First World War 1914-1919* can be borrowed from Janet Morris.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

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

ANNUAL POPPY COLLECTION 30 October – 14 November

This year poppies and other poppy appeal items will be available for donations at Balsham Post Office, The Coffee Shop, The Chestnut Tree, The Bell and The Black Bull, as well as in the four villages, whenever possible at the church and at events. A Just Giving website will be available for donations (with gift aid if wished) under the name 'Margaret's 2021 Poppy Appeal'. Last year the much reduced collection still raised almost £1900 including gift aid, which was fantastic given the circumstances of the pandemic. Thank you everyone. Please give generously to enable the Royal British Legion to continue their amazing support of our ex-service men and women. There will be a few centenary RBL poppy pins available at the PO and pubs for a suggested donation of £4.

Margaret Johnson, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser.

ALL SOULS SERVICES Tuesday 2 November

'Remembering those whom we love but see no longer'

4.00pm St Mary's church, Little Abington 6.00pm Holy Trinity church, Balsham

Please join us for a short service of reflection at either Little Abington or Balsham to remember those who have died and whom you may wish to think of at this time. If you would like the name of a loved one to be read out then please let us know by contacting Cazzy Walshe, Parish Administrator 01223 891443 or email 7churches.seven@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

In parts of the country, autumn is known as 'back-end', which gives the impression that the productive part of the year is more or less over and we might as well batten down the hatches in preparation for hard times ahead. But for fungi, the back-end is the most productive time of year. Many fruiting bodies appear above ground either singly, in groups, in fairy rings or on trees. Both Di and I are fascinated by fungi but find them frustrating because they are difficult to identify.

Some are edible but most people in Britain are understandably cautious about what to pick. I recently came across a large group of what I thought were horse mushrooms and collected some, relishing the prospect of having them for dinner. However, on checking my guide they bore a resemblance to the yellow-staining mushroom, which causes discomfort when eaten, so they went into the bin. Shaggy ink caps are edible and have a delicate flavour but need to be eaten when young (before they become too shaggy). Neither Di nor I have tried these. Puffballs are also edible. I noticed some large ones in Hare Wood. For an appreciation of the world of fungi and how it interacts with all other living things, we recommend *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake.

Back-end for farmers means a lot of activity ploughing, harrowing etc and this is continuing to attract the gulls. I noticed two particularly fine looking great black-backed gulls in company with all the herring and black headed gulls on the field as I drove down towards Balsham. Another bird taking advantage of human activity recently was a kestrel who hovered to within six feet of Rob on his tractor while cutting our meadow. The cutting had exposed multiple mice and voles so this was bad news for them, but good for the kestrel. Many of us gardeners are familiar with the way robins react when we are digging or weeding, exposing worms. So what is the difference? All we can say is that wildlife does what it can to take advantage of human activity and sometimes we tilt the balance between predators and prey.

At this time of year, we begin to look out for our winter visitors. Golden plover have been seen already although I always feel they use us as a temporary staging post for a few weeks in autumn and spring on their way north or south. The winter thrushes from northern Europe will stick around for the whole winter but have not yet arrived. While most of the summer species have all disappeared for warmer climes, both Di and I have heard chiffchaffs singing in early October. From previous years, the latest they have been heard is 13 October so it will be interesting to see if we can beat that.

In other bird news, two little egrets were seen flying over Burton End. These birds have been expanding their range north over the last couple of decades and I have seen them in the stream at Mark's Grave and more recently flying up from the Granta at Hildersham. Some resident birds begin to establish territories at this time of year, especially robins who continue singing. One dive bombs Di whenever she sits on her garden bench. Owls also establish territories in autumn, as they breed and nest early in spring. I am hearing tawny owls hooting or yipping most nights and quite often during the day. There are dozens of immature pheasants around at the moment but happily our group of native grey partridges seem to be holding their own.

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 15 November. 7.30pm Village Hall

Talk on unusual trees by Jim Payne of Walnut Tree Nurseries.

LITTER

The Parish Council has acquired some litter pickers and bag hoops (part funded by a grant from Agricole, the oil cooperative) and they are now available for use by anyone who wants to spend some time keeping the Village clear(er) of litter. Some are housed in the phone box in Streetly End and some in the storage box beside the Village Hall, along with bags provided by South Cambs DC. This storage box is padlocked so if you want to access it to use the equipment, contact me and I will let you have the combination.

If you do collect a bagful of litter you can either dispose of it in your own bins or those at the Village Hall, or leave it beside the Streetly End phone box or the Village Hall bins and it will be collected by S. Cambs on their normal collection day.

I know that quite a few people already do some litter clearance of their own and that is very much appreciated. I hope that providing this new equipment will make it easier and encourage others. Being some distance from the Village Hall it may be that someone in Burton End will want to hang on to a couple of sets and make them available for others who live out on those far reaches of the village. If so, let me know.

In the long run it would be much better if people could be educated into better habits. However in the meantime it seems that used cans, bottles and packaging continue to be casually lobbed out of car windows. Recent cutting of verges has revealed quite a bit of litter by the roadside. Other areas which are probably in need of regular attention are the Village Hall car parks and the playing field. Hedgerows and footpaths also seem to acquire bits of plastic, either dropped or blown.

Strangely, picking up litter can be quite a rewarding experience, and at times, interesting even though we are exasperated by the wanton behaviour of those who drop or throw it.

Peter Grieve. T: 897811, Email: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

YOUR CARE HOME EXPERIENCES WANTED!

Do you, a loved one, family member or friend live in a Cambridgeshire care home?

Health and social care champion Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is calling out to local families to share their experiences of care homes over the last 12-18 months. From communications and visiting restrictions to Covid testing and end of life care, they want to hear what it's been like for you.

What you tell Healthwatch will help local health and care services prepare better for the future. If you're not online, get in touch and they can send you a paper questionnaire and a pre-paid envelope. Call 0330 355 1285.

Share your views at:

www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/care-home-survey

FROM THE VICARAGE

When we consider that the history of our villages reaches back well before the Anglo-Saxon period and that we are recorded in the Domesday Book, sometimes called 'Domus Dei', it's difficult to believe that we are the continuation of the years that came before us

As I step out along the lanes, the fields and footpaths of our village, I discover more and more people who have recently moved in. I welcome them, and conversation is often one of shared astonishment that our place in the countryside is so beautiful – so much to be thankful for. This is often followed by a sort of 'what's on' guide to social events centred around village and church activities, which are traditionally of one kind.

We have all been through difficult times of late, and many of us have come to value the quiet that our churches provide. Even if you are not sure what you believe, that sense of being still in a place where generations have gone before, can bring a wonderful sense of peace, restoration and calm. Thinking back as you may to the survey compiled for William the Conqueror in 1086, *Domus Dei*, from the Latin translation "House of God", you may wonder how many hundreds of people, families and individuals have been nourished here up and down the centuries. And how, in times of relative peace, people have returned with a thankful heart.

Our church buildings have always belonged to the people of the village. They continue to be important places of prayer and support for the community. If you are a relative newcomer to one of our villages and you would like to find out what your church has to offer, I invite you to take a look at our recently launched website www.grantavale.org.uk. Here you will be able to find links to recorded Zoom services, talks and inspirational films. The 'what's on' button will lead you to information about a variety of activities, groups and details of services coming up. The church has come to serve an important need over the Covid period and many have come to value unconditional love and support. If you would like to discover more about the Christian faith, do get in touch with one of the ministry team. We're here for you. Contacts can be found in the village magazines or, of course, by checking out the website.

Steven Wheeler, Lay Minister

AGE UK SMALL VILLAGES COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

Autumn is here and it almost feels like we didn't have a summer this year! On a positive note, I have compiled a list of local clubs and activities for the elderly, and was delighted to see things getting back up and running. A number of my service users have been set up with Community Transport so that they can get out and about, and many are starting to feel less isolated. If you'd like any information on clubs and activities, I'd be glad to share what I have compiled. Please get in touch via 07436 102865 or email faye.parker@ageukcap.org.uk.

Faye Parker



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2022 Annual Show Photography Competition

Although it seems no time at all since this year's Annual Show we are already preparing for the next one.

As you may remember, the rules for the photography classes state that entries must have been taken in the year between one show and the next. Consequently, we are releasing the titles for the 2022 classes to give you as much time as possible to craft and compose your images. Next year's titles are:

- Patterns in Nature
- My Favourite Season
- Born to be Wild

Classes are open to members and non-members, children and adults. The competition is designed for everybody to share photos they have enjoyed taking, from smartphone snaps to SLR studies. All photos are printed and displayed at the village show as a 'thank you' to all who have taken the time to be part of the 'photography family'.

These titles are designed to give you plenty of scope to stimulate your creativity through the months ahead. Your ideas and creativity count. The competition is all about how you compose your image and how you interpret the title, so the quality of your equipment really doesn't matter.



You can enter two photographs in each class – handy if you can't decide which is your favourite! We'll post some pointers and ideas in the months ahead, although we hope you'll take advantage of the last weeks of autumn to begin your album of inspiration.

Sally Moon

Organiser of the photography classes, Show Committee. Email: sally@sallymoonpublishing.com

JULIAN GROUP

This group meets at Nine Chimney House in Balsham on a Wednesday evening at 7.00 pm each month for just an hour.

We start with relaxation, listen to some music, hear one of Mother Julian's readings and then have half an hour of meditation followed by the reading again and ending with the Grace. Anyone is welcome to come.

Further details from Joanna Sanders, T: 01223 893063 or Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

We are very glad to see so many of you back at Linton Library. For everyone's safety and comfort we currently continue to manage the numbers of people inside the library at any one time and encourage you to wear a face-covering and maintain social distancing.

Thank you to all the customers who shared their reflections on "What the library means to me", during Libraries Week in October. It was wonderful to hear your thoughts and feelings about libraries.

In November we will be highlighting non-fiction, so if you usually read mostly fiction, why not try stepping out of your comfort zone this month with a biography, a travel book, or some cookery or history?

November is also men's health awareness month, and we have a range of books available at Linton to support you with your health and wellbeing, both mental and physical.

If you have a collection of items on a particular theme that you think would be of interest to library customers, and you would be happy for this to be housed in our display cabinet for a month or so, please pop into the library for more information.

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

Linton Library opening hours: Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4pm-7pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm

Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225 Website:www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) booster vaccine. The coronavirus boosters are being given by NHS vaccination centres in our area, and you will be contacted direct, not by the Granta Medical Practice, when it is your turn to book. The booster vaccine dose helps improve the protection you have from your first two doses of the vaccine and also helps gives you longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

Who can get a COVID-19 booster vaccine? Booster vaccine doses are available to those most at risk from COVID-19 who have had a second dose of vaccine at least 6 months ago. This includes:

- People aged 50 and over
- People who live and work in care homes
- Frontline health and social care workers
- People aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts them at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19
- Carers aged 16 and over
- People aged 16 and over who live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)

If you are pregnant and in one of the eligible groups listed above you can still get a booster dose. If you are a frontline health or social care worker you can book a booster dose appointment online – you do not need to wait to be contacted by the NHS. For further information on coronavirus booster vaccinations please ring NHS 119 or go to www.nhs.uk

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services.

Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

We held our Year 11 Awards Evening and belated Prom on 1 October. It was so lovely to welcome back the Class of 2021 to celebrate their achievements and see them enjoying reconnecting with their classmates.

We are so proud of their exceptional hard work and resilience, reflected in amazing academic outcomes awarded through the Teacher Assessed Grade process. Just as important were the certificates and prizes recognising students' Linton Learner attributes.

Our current Year 11 students are also demonstrating great care and responsibility as they prepare for their Year 11 mock exam series this month. There remains a great deal of uncertainty for our young people about how the academic year will unfold. Nevertheless, they are applying themselves with great focus and fortitude.

We've also spent the last month welcoming new, prospective families to the school. We hosted 550 visitors at our Open Evening and enjoyed visiting our cluster primary schools to meet Year 6 students. Members of the College community may be interested in the online Open Evening materials that we have on our website, including a virtual tour recently recorded by a drone. The video really captures our expansive site and great facilities.

We are currently recruiting for new committee members and volunteers to support The Friends of LVC. Please contact our current chair, Nicola Tudge, via reception@lvc.org if you would like to get involved.

Helena Marsh, Principal



JIGSAW PUZZLES GALORE!

Now that the clocks have gone back perhaps you would like to do a jigsaw or two. Well over a hundred in stock – mainly 1000 or 500 pieces – awaiting you in the garage of Nine Chimney House, Balsham. Just come along to see them all.

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

NEWS FROM THE CHESTNUT TREE

We are happy to report that trade has bounced back beyond our expectations and we have, thankfully, managed to survive Covid on a sound financial footing, and are very much enjoying trading fully again. We would like to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you who supported us during lockdown. The takeaways played such a huge part in enabling us to keep our heads above water, whilst also making improvements to our outside space and bar. Also the love and thought shown by many saw us through a difficult time, we are so lucky to be surrounded by so many wonderful people, thank you!

Sorry, this seems very early, but we now have RNLI Christmas cards available. We will also be advertising our Christmas menu shortly. Apologies but we will also not be serving food from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 November due to a family wedding. Whilst we are not serving food, if any of you would like to come in for a drink and bring or order in a takeaway we are happy for you to do so, and our team will provide plates, cutlery etc if needed.

Thank you again, it has been great welcoming you all back to our pub.

Best wishes, Peter & Rachel. T: 290384

WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB We're back!

After 18 months, we're delighted to say that we are going to be showing films again from autumn to spring. For our first one we've chosen a comedy, as we don't know about you, but we think an evening of laughter will be just the thing at the moment. On Wednesday, 3 November, you're welcome to join us to watch 'The Blues Brothers'.

Donations, refreshments available, all welcome. The programme starts at 7.30 pm as usual with an introduction to the film. To help you feel safe, seats will be arranged allowing your party to sit together and when not in your seat, masks are recommended.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, T: 291475.

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Carpet Bowls Club is up and running again after our enforced break. We would very much welcome new members. So why not give it a go (there's no obligation to join if you find it's not for you)? It's easy to learn, suitable for all abilities and fun.

We meet on Wednesday evenings in the Village Hall -6.45 for a 7pm start.

Just come along or contact the Secretary, Janet Morris T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com