

VILLAGE VOICES

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2021

ISSUE 223

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday 6 December Blue & green
Monday 13 December Black
Monday 20 December Blue & green
Wednesday 29 December Black
2022
Wednesday 6 January blue only
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

5 December 10.30. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
12 December 9.00. Morning worship St. Mary's Church
19 December 9.00. Holy Communion St. Mary's Church
24 December 6pm. Carol service St Mary's Church
25 December 9.30. Holy Communion St. Mary's Church
26 December 1030. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church

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:
Lucy Cameron. T: 07436102865
email Lucy.cameron@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: Saturday 11 December

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Cambridge CB21 4RY
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Email: editor_wwvillagevoice@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.

COFFEE MORNING

Monday 13 December. 10.30 in the Village Hall

We would like to invite you to a coffee morning at the Village Hall. This is a FREE event and purely social, so that we can meet people in our community. We would also like to know if this is something that you would like to happen on a regular basis. Bring a friend, a neighbour and a book or magazine to swap.

Di Licence & Sue Thurston

VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are having a wine tasting evening on Saturday 12 February 2022 with ahead4wine. It will be a ticket only event at a cost of £30.00 per ticket, including food. The evening will start off with a Wine Quiz, followed by Wine Tasting, probably two red, two white, one rosés and a sparkling wine.

If you would like to join us at the Village Hall please email either diane.hazlehurst45@gmail.com or dianarubylicence@gmail.com by 20 December. Tickets will go on sale in January.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Di Hazelhurst & Di Licence, Village Hall Committee

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Do come along and join us for our next meeting when we will be showing some short historic documentary films and serving seasonal refreshments.

**Monday 13 December
7.30pm in the Village Hall**

For further details contact Janet Morris, 21 High Street
T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 20 December. 7.30pm, Village Hall

Brussels sprouts to tangerines
A light hearted seasonal talk by Jacqueline Aviolet
from Rosies Garden Plants

Further details from Andrew Morris.
T: 290863, Email: morrisandrew203@gmail.com

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **18.12.21** 7PM-11PM



FROM THE VICARAGE

As we turn our gaze towards the Christmas season, hopefully we can look forward to far more opportunities to gather together than last year! It's part of the joy of Christmas time that we may see friends and family, sing carols together and share food and laughter. Knowing how we missed out on time with loved ones throughout the Covid crisis, the poignant sense of joy in being together may be even greater than usual this year.

Christmas services also allow us to come together in a special way: to hear the story of the birth of Jesus and to celebrate this good news with carols, praise and thanksgiving. Christmas services this year will be a mix of Communion services, Christingles and carols. Some carol services will be inside our churches and some outside as they were last year, when we wrapped up warm and used torches and candlelight! There will be details of all of our services on our website: www.grantavale.org.uk, and on our church notice boards.

After all we've been through over the last year, I hope the strange beauty of the Christmas story may speak afresh into our lives this Christmas. A story which is a mix of uncertainty, hope, joy and new life. A child, brought into a world under the rule of Rome and born in difficult circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'". A testimony to the past, a witness to the present and hope for the future.

A traditional Christmas carol we will no doubt be singing in or outside our churches, and one of my favourites, is 'O little town of Bethlehem', written in the mid-19th century but still very popular today. The last words of this carol also declare that, in Jesus and through his Spirit, "God is with us": 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel'. As we come together this Christmas, may we ponder anew this joyful and life-changing good news.

Revd Iain McColl

(Ed. for the Christmas services see box on front page)

PICTURES FROM THE PAST



View of the church from the High Street junction in the 1950s. The barn on the left is no longer there and the barn on the middle right (Pond Meadow) was converted to a house in the 1980s. It then suffered a disastrous fire and was rebuilt using a timber frame from a different part of the country, hence the different shape.

Unlike today, before the 20th century virtually all village weddings took place in the church. It was possible to have a civil marriage from 1837 but in practice this was rarely done, particularly as it involved a trip to Linton. It will probably come as a surprise that in the 19th century the most popular months for weddings were the last three months of the year when the weather can be wet and cold. In the 110 year period between 1800 and 1909, 40% took place in October (48), November (39) and December (43) with 7 of these on Christmas Day itself. There are a number of possible reasons – it was a quiet period in the agricultural year when time could be spared from work; cottages may have become available with the traditional change of tenancies at Michaelmas (the end of September) and for those Christmas Day weddings, simply that this was a recognised holiday from work, maybe even a paid one but no doubt at least with a Christmas 'box' or bonus.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

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

★ Eat Well ★ Live Well ★ Celebrate Community

BALSHAM

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 11th December

2pm to 4pm

Sports Pavilion

BUY LOCAL

SHOP SMALL

Instagram Facebook

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

Make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time to ensure that **you do not run out of your medication** over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Day and date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Thursday 23 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30 Dec
Friday 24 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31 Dec
Saturday 25 December	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 Jan
Sunday 26 December	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 Jan
Monday 27 December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 Jan
Tuesday 28 December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 Jan
Wednesday 29 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 4 Jan
Thursday 30 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 5 Jan
Friday 31 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 6 Jan
Saturday 1 January 2022	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 Jan
Sunday 2 January	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 Jan
Monday 3 January (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 Jan
Tuesday 4 January	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 7 Jan

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your **local pharmacist** can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. **Whilst we are closed**, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999. For further information on available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

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



END OF YEAR UPDATE FROM LUCY FRAZER MP

As 2021 draws to an end I wanted to update you on some of my work.

I have been proud to recognise those in our communities that have gone above and beyond to help others throughout the pandemic: collecting medication and groceries, to looking out for elderly neighbours or volunteering for local causes. I am pleased to have recognised this hard work through the Cambridgeshire COVID Community Champions Awards that I have organised, spotlighting these stories of selfless acts. I will shortly be announcing the winners and holding a special event in Parliament to recognise the hard work of nominees. Their stories will be shared on my website and social media as well as with the local community.

In September I was appointed to a new post in government as Financial Secretary to the Treasury and am pleased to have played a role in the recent Budget. Locally, Cambridgeshire will receive funding for schools, health and transport. All Cambridgeshire schools and colleges will receive a share of the additional £1.8 billion of catch-up funding, bringing total catch-up funding to £4.9 billion. Cambridgeshire County Council will receive £1,573,580 from the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care, and the area will receive a share of £70 million Zero Emission Bus Regional Area funding to transition around 30 buses on 5 park and ride routes.

If you have any questions or concerns then please contact me on lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk

DIY LITTER PICKING



Our model is sporting the latest look in must-have accessories this year in West Wickham.

Pete's hi-viz jacket and gloves are his own, but he is brandishing a grabber and hoop, courtesy of the Parish Council, and bag, supplied by South Cambs Council. The photo was taken as he was about to set out for a session clearing up some of the verges around the village. You too can get this look by borrowing the equipment from the phone box at Streetly End or the storage box at the Village Hall (padlocked but phone for the number to the combination lock). Di Licence at 7 Maypole Croft (290434) and Brian Upton at 31 Burton End (290914) have also kindly volunteered to hold a grabber, hoop and roll of bags if you would prefer to borrow theirs. Filled bags can be put in your own black bins if there's room or left at the Village Hall or by the side of the phone box in Streetly End for collection by the Council.

If you send a photo of yourself in action and submit it to the editors of the Village Voice, who knows, you too could become a pin up?

Sue Thurston. T: 897811

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Following the publication, by the District Council, of the preferred sites for development, there is now a public consultation on these proposals that is live and runs until 16 December. The proposals are to concentrate all major development into existing and forthcoming settlements, such as Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne, etc. and leave the villages as they are, as villages. The documents can be accessed and commented upon at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan - if people are broadly in favour of the principle of keeping major development in the existing settlements, please do comment and say so.

Geoff Harvey, District Councillor

★ HUB NIGHT! ★ WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL



NEXT DATE: **18.12.21** 7PM-11PM

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We held a successful 'bring a friend' evening just before half-term and have been joined by Ethel and Ellis, both from Abington, and Emilia from The Camps will be joining us in January.

During the second half of the term we have been taking advantage of the dark nights by going on torchlit tours of the village as well as stargazing to see if we can spot Cassiopeia or Ursa Minor. We also made Poppies for Remembrance and talked about what Remembrance Sunday means to us. With Christmas just around the corner we will be making some Christmas craft and also making clay elves with the help of Jumping Clay, the company we made the mini-me figures with in May.

Next term we will be making plans for our Brownie holiday to the Jarman Centre. We haven't been away for two years so it will be good to get away plus it will be a new experience for all the Brownies as none of them have stayed at the Jarman Centre before. I hope we all remember what we are supposed to do!

If you would like to know more about Brownies please drop us a message on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com or check out the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just being themselves.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 4th December, 10 am - 3 pm

St Mary's Church, Weston Colville CB21 5PE

New and exciting stalls, including:

Inside and Out

Polly's Textiles

Candy's Candles

Cambridge Soap Studio

FC Foods (Spanish meats and cheeses)

Presents * Costume Jewellery * Vintage

Christmas Fayre * Decorations

Children's Craft Corner * Refreshments

for information contact Gay Redman
(redman.tessa@gmail.com)



NATURE NOTES

With all the world's leaders gathering together at COP26 to try and address the problems of the changing climate, what should we call them collectively? A greenwash of politicians? Or am I being cynical? Perhaps a compromise of statesmen would be more appropriate, but who loses out in the compromise?

In any case, this is the season for collective nouns as many species of bird congregate in response to the regular seasonal changes in the weather. Free of their breeding and territorial imperatives they gather together seeking food, warmth and safety in numbers. Of these, the most spectacular are the starlings who congregate in large groups, or 'murmurations', at twilight before suddenly descending to their roosting sites. Locally the best place to view this phenomenon is at Lackford Lakes, near the West Stow Anglo Saxon Village, where an enormous number of birds fly in, forming wonderfully artistic formations. If you can walk through the reeds on the boardwalks after they have roosted, the noise is just as uplifting as the display.

Among the most sociable all the year round are rooks and jackdaws - a 'clamour' of rooks is just one of the collective nouns applied to them. It is the one which best reflects their behaviour, often seen on late afternoon walks near Streetly Hall. Large groups of crows are less likely to be seen as they are more solitary individuals but in the winter you may see a few together in which case they become a 'murder', or less threateningly, a 'muster' or a 'storytelling'. Other corvids also have collective nouns - a 'mischief' of magpies or a 'scold' of jays are just two of them. One or two jays have been visible recently and their call resembles a cat fight so a scold is an appropriate description. The jay's diet includes acorns but they would have needed to find a substitute this year as the oak trees have produced hardly any.

One doesn't always associate birds of prey with large gatherings but the kites have certainly given the lie to that idea. Twenty-six were seen floating over the woods towards West Wrattling one evening. This sort of phenomenon is known as a 'wake' of kites - a term also applying to buzzards and vultures - not a bird we have had the chance of viewing in West Wickham yet, but once global heating really kicks in, who knows?

A normal occurrence at this time of year is the arrival of the redwings, fieldfares and blackbirds from northern Europe and groups have been seen and heard. It is great to hear the chuckling of the fieldfares as they fly over or occupy trees or bushes in the hedgerow. Even more satisfying was the sound of a resident song thrush singing in the evening and morning - a reminder that some birds do start to establish territories at this time of year in preparation for springtime.

We have had a very mild November up to the time of writing, and on the warmer days insects have been attracted out into the open - notably the larger butterflies that normally overwinter as adults. People have seen brimstones and red admirals in recent days. Bees are still visiting the ivy flowers.

Hedgehogs are normally thinking of hibernation at this time of year but there have been some recent sightings, which is a good sign, and our trailcam at the top of the garden continues to pick up nice images of other mammals, including foxes, muntjac and badgers, of which there have been many signs all around the village.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Meadow School life continues to be very busy. Every class you go into is learning something exciting and the children are clearly enjoying being back at school. Our new Reception children have settled really well and are super confident! Year 6 children are loving having their roles and responsibilities this year once again. They wear their Meadow Monitor, Meadow Mentor, Mini Playleader, Librarian badges with pride. We also have a full School Council in operation once again too. The children, elected by their peers, had to undergo a tough campaign and set of speeches to be voted on. We are really looking forward to working with them this year to make some positive changes.

As of November, we have found ourselves back in higher restrictions, with Cambridgeshire now being in the Emergency Measures Response Area. We are still doing assemblies outside or online. Visitors are very limited and most meetings, including our recent parent consultations and staff meetings are now back online. Despite all of the restrictions, we are still finding ways to bring learning to life. Trips and visits are definitely more challenging but they are so worthwhile. Our Y5/6 children have been to West Stow in Suffolk to experience a day in the life of an Anglo-Saxon. This has supported their understanding and knowledge of this period in History, and is currently supporting the children to write their own battle speeches in English. The language and vocabulary they are using is absolutely amazing - the teachers were scared just marking them! Our Infant team have had 'Little City' visit them in school for the day setting up a variety of job experiences for the children to explore and try out as part of their, 'Not all Superheroes Wear Capes' learning. Year 3/4 are not to be forgotten and have visited Flag Fen to learn about life in the Stone Age which has been the focus of their learning. They created some superb cave paintings using natural materials from our school environment recently. Not only did they look great, due to the flowers and berries, they smelt amazing too!

Our Parent Teacher Association continue to work hard to support school with fundraising, and again have had to find new ways to do this with face-to-face events all cancelled. They have recently donated money to school for some computer upgrades to our IT Suite, replacing books in the school library, furnishing reading corners in school, Purple Mash online learning platform and the cost of the coach to take our Year 5 and 6 children to Young Voices in January. If you have any fundraising ideas, or work with a company, looking to sponsor or match fund, then please do get in touch with our PTA via pta@meadowprimary.org.

Breaking News.

As I send this to print, we are celebrating our Year 6 English Team who took part in the Cambridgeshire English challenge. We were up against 14 other teams and we won! We now have a place in the finals.

We are incredibly proud of our team.

Nichola Pickford,
Headteacher



LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

LVC students have been involved in a range of enriching extra-curricular opportunities in the Arts this term. We've had a Year 11 trip to Cambridge to watch 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' and also have a group of students visiting Ipswich in December to watch the Jasmin Vardimon Company production of 'Pinocchio'. The unique and quirky choreography and physical theatre, which examines the idea of what it means to be human, will no doubt inspire our students.

DanceEast, the theatre venue, has also been involved in delivering professional dance opportunities for LVC students. A team of their associate artists visited the College earlier this term to lead workshops for our GCSE students. The Hofesh Shechter Dance Company spent a day with us on their educational tour of the East of England, and our students benefited from learning about Shechter's unique movement style and choreography.



Students from all year groups have also been involved in musical theatre workshops delivered by LVC alumni Richard Woodford, who has performed in West End shows including Starlight Express. Seeing him roller skating through the school common rooms as he treated classes to performances from this musical and others was a treat.

Rehearsals for our annual school production have begun. Carol Ann Duffy's collection of 'Grimm Tales' are the inspiration for the sketches that key stage 3 and 4 will be performing in the spring. These adaptations of traditional fairy tales give a dark and humorous twist to familiar stories.

Helena Marsh, Principal

WARNING AFTER A SPATE OF BURGLARIES

Cambridgeshire Police are urging residents to be vigilant, review their home security and look out for any suspicious activity following a string of burglaries across the south of Cambridgeshire. Since the beginning of November, the force has received reports of burglaries spiking in Cambourne, Sawston and Trumpington as well as nearby villages. Thieves have been successful in breaking into properties, stealing jewellery and cash along with electrical items. Please take simple measures to keep your home safe. Lock doors, keep keys and valuables out of reach and ensure outbuildings and rear entrances to properties are also secure. Consider installing good interior and exterior lighting, used together with time switches or motion sensors. Keep an eye on your neighbours' property and report anything that doesn't feel right to police. If a crime is in progress, call police on 999. Otherwise, please call 101 or report it online at www.cambs.police.uk/report/Crime

Detective Sergeant James Rabbett, Southern Burglary Team

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

It's always great to see you at Linton Library. For everyone's safety and comfort we 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.

Help us to find Christmas! Cambridgeshire Libraries are holding a Treasure Hunt for children and families in December – use your mobile phone to scan a barcode and get a video clue. Find all of our lost items and you'll get a certificate. If you don't have a mobile phone don't worry, there's a paper version too.

We continuously add to our regular book stock, so please drop in and see what's new. Find festive favourites, or absorbing books to help you escape the Christmas season if that's what you'd prefer!

Staff will be taking a break over Christmas. We will be closed from 24 December at 1pm until 4 January at 10am. Please note that loan periods make allowances for when the library is closed. Of course you can continue to download free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers at any time to your home device – please check our webpage Library online - Cambridgeshire County Council to find out how.

Thank you so much to everyone who has visited and supported the library this year. Wishing all of our customers a restful and happy Christmas with good wishes for the New Year, and we are looking forward to welcoming you in 2022.

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

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

Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225

Website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Email: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

YOU CAN HELP GIVE CARERS SOMEONE TO TALK TO THIS CHRISTMAS

In the run up to this Christmas, local charity Caring Together are asking you to help make sure carers have someone to talk to. Looking after a family member or friend can be very hard, and at this time of year the advice, information and support the charity has available to carers is even more important.

The Caring Together helpline team are available to carers year-round and talk to carers and their families living in Cambridgeshire.

Everyone the helpline team speaks to has their own personal story. Some have just become a carer and are completely new to a situation that has turned their life upside down. Others have been caring for a loved one for many years, and have reached a point of crisis, or where they need help or support they have not had before.

The donations made by people like you mean the charity can help more carers in your community in the way they want and need. You can donate online at

<https://caringtogether.enthus.com/cf/christmas2021> or by posting a cheque made payable to 'Caring Together' to Caring Together, Unit 4, Meadow Park, Meadow Lane, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 4LG