

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2022

ISSUE 224

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Thursday 6 January Blue only
Wednesday 12 January Black
Tuesday 18 January Blue & green
Monday 24 January Black
Monday 31 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

2 January 10.30. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
9 January 9.00. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
16 January 9.00. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
23 January 9.00. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
30 January 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

FOR UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION GO TO <https://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:

Sunday 16 January

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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.

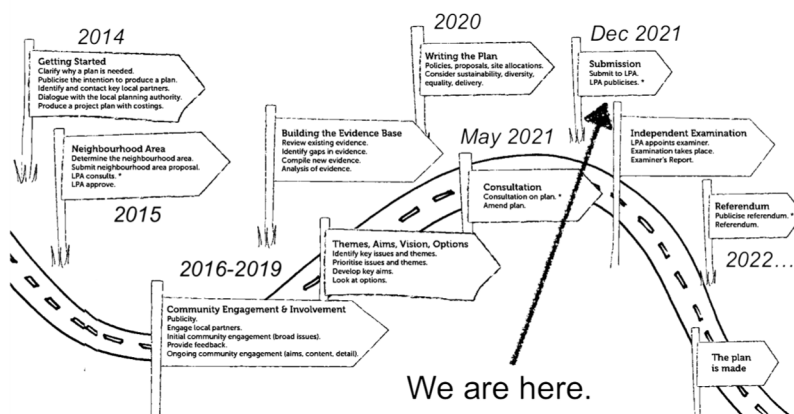
THANK YOU FROM THE EDITORS

We would like to thank everybody involved with the Village Voice, especially those stalwarts who deliver it throughout the year – Linda Adams, Jean & Kit Martin, Sue Thurston & Pete Grieve; to Janet who proof reads it each month; to the Parish Council whose support allows it to be distributed free of charge to every household; to Oliver Plumridge for printing it, and of course to everybody who sends articles, news and reports.

Thank you all. Andrew and Anna

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

At the end of last year, the Parish Council approved the draft Neighbourhood Plan for submission to South Cambridgeshire District Council who are our Local Planning Authority (LPA). The District Council will organise a final consultation on the Plan and submit it to an independent examiner. All being well we will have a referendum to approve our Plan next year.



Getting this far has taken an enormous amount of time from volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has helped with developing the Plan or supported it by replying to questionnaires and consultations.

Dave Sargeant, West Wickham Parish Council

RECYCLING OF PLASTIC WRAPPERS INCLUDING PET FOOD POUCHES

If anyone like me, feels bad about throwing plastic wrappings (bread bags, plastic film and pet food pouches) in the black bin, I have discovered Tesco in Haverhill have 2 big recycling containers in the foyer of the store for such waste. I rinse out pet food pouches and store them ready to take with all the plastics that at present we are unable to recycle in our blue bins. If anyone local is unable to get to Tesco but keen to recycle, I am happy to have bagged plastic wrappers and rinsed pet food pouches dropped off (34 Streetly End) which I will take with my own.

Lucy Cameron

HUB NIGHTS

IT IS HOPED THESE WILL RESTART IN MARCH

FROM THE VICARAGE

I can hardly believe we have arrived once again at the beginning of a new year. May I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

What hopes do we have for 2022? What are the expectations we have for the year ahead? We might also ask ourselves what do I want or we could say what small act of kindness and care can we do for others?

The pandemic has shown us how we can make a difference by all sorts of small actions to our neighbours and friends and at the moment with the Omicron virus spreading we will need to carry on. Despite our hope that this pandemic is ending we are learning to live with it. It is more important than ever to ask ourselves how can we approach the new year? The answer lies in the poem *The Gate of the Year* by Minnie Louise Haskins. This speaks of hope even when we cannot see into the future very clearly. The first verse says:

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Darkness can be frightening. I am reminded of a story I tell my granddaughter, that as a child one day we had a power cut at home and so out came the candles to help us to see. It happened to be bedtime; my mother, two brothers and I climbed the stairs seeing the shadows dancing on the wall of the staircase leading onto the landing. It felt really strange and yet we had to trust that we would not come to any harm and we didn't. As we go into the New Year some may have had a really good time but others maybe facing bereavement or illness.

By remembering we have just celebrated Christmas and the birth of Jesus we can receive hope just like the shepherds and wise men on a journey to the manger to meet the Christ child. Jesus the saviour of the world comes to those who are in darkness helping us to take the next step forward. God loves us all so much so that whatever we face we are not alone. We can trust the words of Julian of Norwich *'All things shall be well and all manner of things shall be well'*.

This year when thinking of New Year's resolutions we could each day perform small acts of kindness with great love as Mother Teresa of Calcutta suggests for the vulnerable in our society. You won't go far wrong with this approach in 2022.

Every blessing in 2022. Rev.Kathy Bishop

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Subject to the coronavirus situation the Club hopes to have a talk on Monday 17 January

Ferns and their companions
by George Lockwood.

7.30pm in the Village Hall

Further details will be posted on
<https://westwickham.org>

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST



Job and Elizabeth Hancock in the garden of the Mill House c 1900. Job was born in Swaffham Bulbeck and Elizabeth in Oakington. They moved to the village in about 1880 when Job became the miller. By 1900 he had taken on the tenancy of College Farm in Horseheath (which had land on the south side of the Horseheath/Streetly End road and along behind the houses in Streetly End) although continuing to live at the Mill House. Job was active in the community becoming both a parish councillor and a school manager (what is now called governor). He died in 1920 and on Elizabeth's death in 1929 the Mill House was sold. Their son, L'Argie Feakes Hancock continued to live in West View, the house he built in Streetly End, until his death in the 1950s.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

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

BALSHAM SINGERS

Rehearsals will restart after the holiday season on the 20 January, 7.30pm in the Balsham Church. 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. For more information please contact balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk

A spring concert is planned for 21 May and we very much hope that we will be able to go ahead with that!

Dr. Friederike Schmidt-Tremmel

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the last Parish Council meeting the following are some of the matters discussed. The draft minutes are posted on the noticeboards. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 24 January.

Planning: No decisions have been made since September. Cllr Harvey asked for details of any old and listed buildings which had been refused double glazing replacement windows as he felt there were inconsistencies in decision making.

Finance: The accounts had been distributed and all is in order. The details are listed in the minutes which are posted on the noticeboards. The January Council meeting will discuss the Precept for 2022/23 and the budget for the same period.

Defibrillator: This will be purchased by the Parish Council.

Six free trees: It was agreed these should be planted on the boundary of the Church and Court Barn.

Village Hall & Recreation ground:

1. Trevor Hall was congratulated regarding the grant awarded for a new heating system.
2. The playground mound has now been reseeded and despite some slippage the grass is now growing.
3. A quote of £1760 has been accepted for work to site the two new benches on a concrete plinth sunk into the ground.

Jubilee 2022 celebrations: Cllr Licence reported that Diane Hazelhurst would be joint organiser of this event. Details of the event will be given at a later date.

Queen Green Canopy: Cllr Licence suggested that a small wood is planted to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee with parishioners purchasing or donating and planting it on the site. The idea was agreed.

Reports from County Cllr Batchelor and District Cllr Harvey: These are shown on the village website but further to the report Cllr Harvey said that the Greater Cambridge Partnership have an open consultation regarding bus services in the area with a suggestion of a new daily hourly service which would go through West Wickham. (Ed. Regretfully details of this survey were received too late to be included in last month's Village Voice but were posted on the village website)

Cycleway: Cllrs Harvey and Licence walked the proposed route for a cycleway to Horseheath. At the moment the siting of a possible transport hub is not yet known so no decision can be made.

The Parish Council hope everyone has had a happy Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year.

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

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

There is a support fund available from the County Council that is aimed at supporting families, with a below average income, through the more difficult winter months. There is a fair amount of money in the pot at the moment and the fund will remain open until March 2022. Eligibility criteria and application form can be found here:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

Henry Batchelor

NATURE NOTES

When you are sitting snugly at home with the curtains drawn and the log fire roaring in the grate, spare a thought for the life that is going on outside. We know that many mammals continue their nocturnal habits during the winter and owls hunt for prey, but not many of us would think about the few moth species who choose to be active during the cold months of the year.

Three of these are the November, December and winter moths. The reason they choose to fly when the weather is cold is probably that they avoid predation by bats who are only active in warmer temperatures. The easiest of them to find is the winter moth, which can sometimes be seen flying in large numbers at this time of year, illuminated by car headlights near woodland and hedgerows. Most moths need to warm their bodies to over 30°C before they can fly but the winter moth's body temperature is close to the temperature outside - sometimes almost at freezing point. They are probably able to fly because their body weight is unusually low compared to the size of their wings. This only applies to the male moths however. The females are completely flightless, their wings having been reduced to tiny nubs. They sit and wait for the arrival of the males, who they attract using pheromones released into the air. They lay their eggs on the woody parts of a variety of trees and shrubs and the caterpillars hatch out in the early spring when the first tree buds burst into life.

Provided the timing is right these caterpillars should help to provide food for the likes of blue tits and great tits for whom 40,000 food items are required to raise a nest of ten chicks. There is a concern that climate change is causing leaves of trees such as oak to emerge earlier, as are the caterpillars that feed on them, and it is difficult for the tits to bring their breeding dates forward to still take advantage of the peak in caterpillar abundance.

For those of you who prefer not to go out cruising round woodland edges looking for groups of male winter moths (also cruising but not for the same reason), you may wish to try seeking out nature interest closer to home. Sue had occasion to climb up into the loft recently and emerged with three interesting specimens. The loveliest of these was a small spherical delicate papery nest with a honeycomb structure inside, undoubtedly the work of a solitary wasp. Coming a close second was the egg of a house sparrow which presumably had fallen through the nesting material and remained unincubated. The egg was pale blue with brown blotches and so small it was difficult to imagine any baby bird being able to form inside it. The third was the perfect skeleton of a house mouse. All the flesh had gone but the bones and joints were all in perfect working order. You could tell that it was a house mouse because it had a notch in its upper incisor teeth.

Other exciting sightings this month include a large frog uncovered by Andrew in his leaf mould compost and several sightings of a barn owl near Streetly Hall farm. A treat for early morning or late afternoon walkers. Finally, when walking across the brook which runs through Haverhill, I was delighted to look down and see a little egret wading about in the water.

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 LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Subject to the coronavirus situation the club intends meeting on Monday 10 January, 7.30 in the Village Hall. Details will be posted on <https://westwickham.org>

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

While it has not been possible to have our full calendar of regular festive events, we continued to mark the season in a range of ways. A Christmas Jumper Day was held in December to raise money for a number of charitable causes. The whole of Year 7 learnt Christmas carols in French and Spanish in their lessons to perform at an inter-class singing competition.

Coming together as a community to enjoy live music is a highlight of the school calendar. It is a shame that it was not safe to do so en masse, huddled together in Balsham Church. I am grateful to colleagues for finding ingenious ways to celebrate and share the musical talents of LVC students.



Our team of peripatetic music teachers compiled a virtual Christmas Carol Concert. A recording of readings and performances from a variety of ensembles were streamed on the school's website. The variety of talent was a joy to listen to.

Helena Marsh, Principal

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM LINTON LIBRARY!

We hope you'll support us in 2022. Here are five ways:

1. Join: it's simple and free! Everyone can be a member of the library - even babies.
2. Use: make use of your library. Borrow books (in person, or download to a device), use a computer, attend events and activities, access online tools to help with work or research.
3. Volunteer: we can offer even more programmes with help from volunteers. Could you be our next Storytime reader, event helper, Library@Home book bringer or Digital Buddy?
4. Donate: library services are free to use but monetary donations, small or large, help us provide more books and services.
5. Spread the word: if you love your library, tell your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join! The more members we have, the stronger we are.

When you visit, please note that we continue to follow the latest government COVID-safety guidelines. Please help us raise awareness that Cambridgeshire Libraries are safe spaces for domestic abuse victims. All libraries have contact details for appropriate support agencies. Our computers are free to use and your search history can't be tracked.

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

Email for general library enquiries:

your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

GRANTA Medical Practices

At the time of writing this piece, we are experiencing a high level of staff absence. We will continue to try and provide the best possible service we can to all of our patients, but day-to-day operations may be disrupted. Below are some hints and tips to help you help yourself and in turn help us and the NHS:-

USE YOUR LOCAL PHARMACIST: They can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment needed. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many being open in the evenings and at weekends.

USE THE NHS UK SYMPTOM CHECKER
www.nhs.uk: This helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for your needs.

RING NHS 111, OPTION 2: If you are experiencing a mental health crisis. This First Response Service puts your mental health first. It provides 24-hour access, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to mental health care, advice, support and treatment.

If you have done all you can but feel that your problem remains unresolved, please do ring us and we will be happy to help you.

MEDICATION: If you need to order medication, please do this online via SystmOnline or the Airmid app. Details of how to do this can be found on our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk If you do not have internet or mobile telephone access, you can send in your repeat medication slip or write in with your repeat request. Unfortunately, we cannot take prescription orders over the telephone.

Thank you for your continued understanding, patience and support.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT WITH YOUR, OR YOUR FAMILY'S CANCER DIAGNOSIS?

At Maggie's we can help. We provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends, from diagnosis through to living with the affects after cancer.

Maggie's has been providing high quality, evidence-based support since 2013 in the local area. We help over 8,000 people a year to achieve the best possible state of psychological and physical health during diagnosis, treatment and throughout their cancer journey. People across Cambridgeshire and beyond can come to Maggie's at any stage, for as long or as little as they like. We believe that the built and natural environments in which people are cared for have a direct impact on wellbeing and how a person responds to the challenge of cancer.

Our centre is staffed by Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor, Nutritionist, Counsellors, and Psychologists who can support people in whichever way is best suited to their needs. Maggie's is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea.

You don't need an appointment - just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them.

Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Find us at: 21 Milton House, Puddicombe Way, Addenbrooke's, Cambridge CB2 0AD

T: 01223 249220, E: cambridge@maggies.org