

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2022

ISSUE 225

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday 7 February Black
Monday 14 February Blue & green
Monday 21 February Black
Monday 28 February 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

6 February 10.30. Joint service of Holy Communion. Balsham Church
13 February 9.00. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
20 February 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
27 February 9.00. Morning worship at St Mary's Church

Sunday zoom services will also continue. See separate article on page 2

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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Wednesday 16 February

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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.

HAVE YOUR SAY

West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan



West Wickham Parish Council submitted its Neighbourhood Plan to South Cambridgeshire District Council on 3 December 2021. SCDC is seeking your views on the Neighbourhood Plan before it is considered by an examiner, and can proceed towards a referendum. Comments can be submitted to SCDC until 5pm on Tuesday 15 March.

There are a number of ways that you can comment:

- ♦ using the online consultation system:
<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/>
- ♦ by emailing to:
neighbourhood.planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org
- ♦ writing to the Planning Policy Team, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

It will be possible to view the documents within West Wickham as copies are to be kept in the community telephone boxes within the Parish during the consultation:

- ♦ • In front of the Old School, 22 High Street and
- ♦ • Opposite Westview, 47 Streetly End

During the consultation, if you wish to obtain a hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan please contact SCDC on 01954 713000.

To find out more information, and to make comments, visit: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/west-wickham>

DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On 5 May all District Council and Parish Council seats will be up for election. Nominations open on 28 March. The nomination papers are currently under review by the Electoral Commission but will shortly be available from <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/elections/elections-2022/> and from Jenny Richards, the Parish Clerk T: 01223 665269, Email: clerk@westwickham.org

West Wickham has seven Parish Councillors: Patrick Charlton (currently Chairman), Di Licence, Marcus Cornish, Peter Grieve, Dave Sargeant, Alex Schuilenburg & Allen Hazlehurst (co-opted). Some of these might not seek reelection. If you are interested in the Parish, the community, how it all works, how it is financed etc, you might be interested in standing for election. If you are and want to find out more please contact Patrick Charlton, Email: patrickbcharlton@gmail.com, T: 290027 or any of the other councillors.

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 17 February from 10.30 am.

On Thursday, 17 February we will be holding the 3rd of our monthly coffee mornings in the Village Hall. Please do come along to meet old friends and make new ones in the village. A variety of teas and coffees will be available together with home-made cake and biscuits. We ask for a donation towards the cost of these if you can.

If you need a lift to get to the Hall or be taken home at the end of the morning, then please give us a call and we can arrange to pick you up and take you back.

Any questions?

Please ask Di Licence, T: 290434 or Sue Thurston T: 897811.

OPEN GARDEN Clover Cottage, 50 Streetly End

Shirley Shadford will again be opening her garden for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) snowdrop festival on Sundays 20, 27 February and 6 March 2pm-4pm. The garden is well worth a visit and has been featured in several magazine articles and at least one book. Snowdrops, hellebores, iris reticulate and daffodils will be on sale and Shirley would be delighted to see you.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB SHOW Saturday 13 August

I have read a number of articles since the beginning of the year with the usual themes of New Year's resolutions, making a new start, new ideas, how to get out of a rut, etc. Personally, I am very much against giving up things for New Year because the very thought of not doing something makes me want to do it even more. I am in favour though of trying new things and having a go at something I haven't done before. So, this year I am planning on growing several plants I haven't tried before, cooking some different preserves and entering a few new classes in the Annual Show. Anyone care to join me in this not particularly ambitious challenge? It would be great to have some new entrants taking part in the Show which will be held this year on Saturday 13 August.

The basic Schedule, listing all the classes, is now available to read or download on the village website (westwickham.org) or if you would like a paper copy now just let me know. A month or two before the Show a copy of the full Schedule, rules and entry form will be distributed with the Village Voice.

Over the next few months, I'm afraid you will be subjected to me exhorting you, once again, to take part and offering suggestions to fire up your enthusiasm. For starters, here are a couple of new inclusions:

- ◆ For the children (aged 11 and under) – design a poster to be used to advertise next year's Show with the winner having their design printed onto a T shirt. How cool is that?
- ◆ In the flower classes – the best scented flower to be chosen by everyone who comes to the Show on the day.

And this year, not only will the photo entries be displayed on the walls as in previous years, we will also have an on-screen display on a loop, including other interesting photos and information, during the afternoon for your delight.

Sue Thurston, Show Coordinator.
Email: mail@suethurston.co.uk, T: 897811

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 14 February. West Wickham & District Local History Club. *These are a few of my favourite things. A very personal selection from the collections in the Fitzwilliam Museum.* Talk by Andrew Morris

Monday 21 February. West Wickham & District Gardening Club. *Climate change in our gardens—effects & affects.* Talk & discussion led by Sue & Clive Boase.

7.30pm Village Hall

FROM THE VICARAGE

As diaries for the coming year start to be filled, it feels like we can plan events with more confidence and hope! I am delighted we are already planning for more baptisms and weddings this year with, as things stand, fewer concerns about restrictions. We are also hoping to run some confirmation sessions in the spring for those, adults or children, who may wish to be confirmed later in the year. If you are interested in this or would like to explore more about what confirmation is and whether it might be for you, please do contact me at mccoll.iain@gmail.com.

I was inspired by a letter someone wrote to me during the lockdown last year which encouraged me to remember these words from the Bible: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances". The writer of the letter was quick to emphasize the encouragement to give thanks *in* all circumstances but not necessarily *for* all circumstances! Hope, gratitude and joy are intertwined and are not just for the happier events in our lives. Even at a funeral, hope, gratitude and a poignant sense of joy may still co-mingle with the mourning and loss.

We have been through such strange and challenging times since the covid crisis began in 2020 and therefore it's so important to remember where our hope comes from and not to let uncertainty or fear steal our joy. In the Christian faith, hope is centred on Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and on his Kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Keeping our focus on this, throughout the changing seasons of our life, can allow hope, gratitude and joy to overflow and empower us to share that hope and joy with others.

Revd Iain McColl

ONLINE SERVICES

Although we have returned to a regular pattern of services inside our churches, we are continuing to run a weekly online service each Sunday at 10.30am. These services can either take the form of live streaming from the home of the person leading the service, or a pre-recorded service that is then played on the day, or even the live streaming of a service from one of our churches. There is always the opportunity for 'virtual' coffee and chat for those who wish to stay online afterwards. More information about these online services can be found on the website www.grantavale.org.uk under the calendar section, or by signing up to our weekly newsletter, details of which can also be found on the website.

Cazzy Walshe, Seven Churches Parish Administrator.
Email: 7churches.seven@gmail.com

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

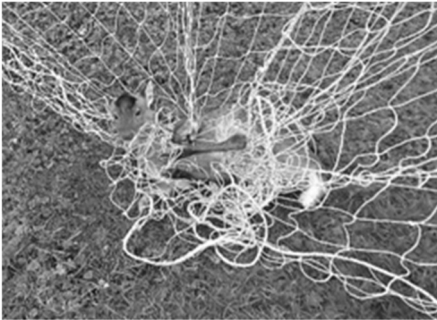
After the Christmas break we have all come back invigorated and full of ideas for the new term. We will be learning all about tools and DIY, I just hope no one goes mad with a hammer! The plans for our holiday to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket are taking shape and we hope to be able to go this time, unlike in 2020 when everything was cancelled just two weeks before the event. Our theme will be space, using all the craft and outdoor adventures planned for last time.

If you would like to know more about Brownies please check out the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) or drop us a message on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené

NATURE NOTES

In November we recommended the book *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake. Unfortunately, a local muntjac fawn has taken this advice too literally and walked straight into the football netting on the playing field where, yes, he/she became entangled.



Peter Liepa happened to be walking through with his dog, borrowed a pair of scissors and cut the animal free while its mother watched on with concern. A happy outcome to what

could have been less so. Netting of all sorts can be very hazardous for wildlife - I expect many of us have disentangled blackbirds from strawberry netting. I once had an exhausted sparrowhawk flat out after a session bashing herself against the netting round our raspberries but fortunately for both of us she came back to life just before I could pick her up.

On the subject of sparrowhawks, Jan and Sandra have each had one in their gardens in Maypole Croft. Jan's had caught a pigeon, and was straddling it and beginning to pluck it, when the pigeon moved and then flew off. Bird feeders are often a hunting ground for rapacious sparrowhawks, especially at this time of year but we hope they don't wreak too much destruction, especially as recent sightings of bramblings (visitors from the far north & more colourful versions of chaffinches) and goldfinches, who have a particular liking for niger seed, have been a source of delight. I was personally very pleased to see three redwings on our lawn as people have been remarking how comparatively few fieldfares and redwings have been around this winter.

In February the bird world becomes focussed on pairing up and breeding. Traditionally, it is said that this sort of activity begins on St Valentine's Day, so we can soon expect to hear a bit more birdsong as part of the territorial

and mating process. Winter has not been completely silent as robins and the occasional song thrush lift our spirits with their songs. Great tits have already begun to repeat their 'teacher, teacher' refrain so there are definitely stirrings. Birdsong is very complex and has meaning to those of us who hear it, whether we be human, bird or other living creature. A recent David Attenborough programme on his favourite sounds in nature is well worth a watch as he explains how in some species those male birds with a wider range tend to be more successful in attracting mates. For us humans however the reaction can be one of calm, elation or contemplation depending on our mood at the time.

I have changed the camera position of our trailcam in the copse at the top of our garden and was pleased to see a couple of shots of foxes and badgers, as well as four red legged partridges and a song thrush exploring the floor of this small patch of woodland, in addition to the usual dozens of rabbits.



At the time of writing our winter this year has been hardly worth the name - the new year period producing record high temperatures for that time of year. Who knows, we may still have a cold blast yet to come, in which case Longfellow's poem *Woods in Winter* will have resonance:

*'Chill airs and wintry wind! My ear
Has grown familiar with your song
I hear it in the opening year
I listen, and it cheers me long.'*

Meanwhile I look forward to spring and particularly to using my new moth trap and extending my very meagre knowledge of these insects, many of whom spend their adult lives in darkness. Watch this space.

Please send your nature sightings to:

Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: mail@petergrieve.co.uk
Di Licence. T: 290434, E: dianarubylicence@gmail.com

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST



An undated photo of West Wickham School. Judging by the fashions, this is probably early 20thc. Sailor suits for boys gained popularity from the 1890s but rural fashions inevitably lagged behind urban ones. Our earliest dated school photo from 1920 shows they had gone out of fashion by then, as had lace collars for the girls. Elizabeth Mitchell became schoolmistress in 1905 at a salary of £92 per year plus accommodation in the attached school house. Her daughter, Frances but known by her middle name of Kate, was paid £36 as assistant teacher, so this may be her with the younger schoolchildren in the photo. If you recognise anyone do please get in touch.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive
Janet Morris, 21 High Street,
T: 290863
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Cambridgeshire Libraries continue to follow the latest government covid-safety guidelines.

We are beginning to reintroduce in-person library events. Next time you visit please pick up a copy of our What's On brochure to find out what's happening at Linton Library and other libraries around the county in the weeks and months ahead.

- ◆ 7-13 February is Children's Mental Health Week. We have lots of supportive books in our Reading Well for Children collection to help younger readers understand their feelings – we'll be glad to help you find the right one for your child.
- ◆ February is LGBTQ+ History Month - celebrate the rainbow with us by choosing from our books by LGBTQ+ authors.
- ◆ We are holding a mega book sale during half-term, with all items 10p each for one week only.
- ◆ There's a half-term craft activity on Tuesday 15 February, which you can drop in and collect and take away.
- ◆ We are planning to restart our Engage events in March, with a Library quiz on 14 March at 2pm. Please check at the library nearer the time for more details.

Would you have a collection of items for display for around a month in our small glass topped locked cabinet? Please ask at the library for more information.

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

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4pm-7pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm
Website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

GRANTA Medical Practices

New Hospital Helpline for Patients. The Covid-19 pandemic has added to the strain on all NHS services. As a result of this, waiting list times for outpatient and specialist appointments and procedures have increased for everybody. This can cause worry and uncertainty about when you will eventually receive an appointment, and unfortunately Granta has no direct access to the hospital appointment lists.

- ◆ If you have been referred by your GP / are waiting for:
- ◆ An outpatient appointment
- ◆ An appointment for hospital tests (e.g. scans)
- ◆ A date for an operation or other treatment
- ◆ A follow-up from your hospital team

and you have a query about what is happening, there is now a new dedicated Freephone Patient Help Line - 0800 048 5800.

May we respectfully ask that you only call Granta if your condition has genuinely deteriorated, when you will be reviewed by one of the clinical team and appropriate action can be taken in regard to your hospital care.

Thank you for your continued understanding, patience and support.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services, Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

FOUND ON A FOOTPATH IN WESTON GREEN BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Apple Air Pods in black charger case, with belt clip. Please contact Chris on 01223 290547 if you think they are yours..

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As the new school term begins we have lots of exciting learning planned. It is quite scary to think that this time two years ago, we were also just starting out these very same learning topics, when we were suddenly plunged into a lockdown. I don't think any of us could have even imagined nearly two years ago that so much would have happened and that the children in our schools would have had so many lost opportunities and rites of passage. We teach about things like the plague and small pox, but we never envisaged we would ourselves be living through a pandemic that in years to come people will learn about in History lessons in school.

This term in school, the children will be studying the following topics that will drive much of their learning:

- ◆ Infants – Grab Ya Brolly! Focussing on UK weather and Grace Darling
- ◆ Years 3 and 4 – Rainforest Adventure – looking at South America. They will also be studying rocks as a side topic.
- ◆ Years 5 and 6 - Where in the World? Focussing on comparing the UK and the USA.

If you feel you have something you could share with us about any of these topics, then please do get in touch. We love hearing from 'experts' who can help bring the learning alive for our children.

All of our year groups have been undertaking mammoth Design Technology projects this term, which have involved many lessons researching, evaluating and experimenting.

Year 5/6 have evaluated, explored and researched different musical instruments. They then spent a whole day making their very own musical instrument. There was lots of measuring, cutting, gluing, fastening and testing but by the end of it, all of the children were able to perform on their own instrument. We were incredibly impressed with the orchestra they formed!

The Infants did exactly the same for their biscuit-making project. This included the very hard task of tasting lots of biscuits to see what the crunch, texture, crumbliness and of course, taste was like. They then used all of these ideas to design and make their own biscuits. The test was in how they tasted and I think we all agreed they were yum!

Year 3/4 were also focussing on a food based project. They made pasta salad. After all of their initial investigation, testing and evaluating there were lots of different salads made in the end. Cheese was a popular ingredient for many!

You will have heard in the media that children's learning has been affected by the lock downs and online learning. Reading and comprehension, being one of the areas that schools are being encouraged to continue to focus on. Thanks to our wonderful Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Tesco blue token community collection, we have been able to re stock our library. One of the most powerful things we can do in school is enable children to find a passion for reading as this opens up so many opportunities in the rest of their life. We are always on the look out for community volunteers, who might have an hour to spare each week, to come in and listen to our children read. If you are interested in becoming a reading volunteer, or would like to help with another subject in school or have an idea to help us continue to fundraise to continue our library re-stock campaign, then please do get in touch.

Nicola Pickford, Head Teacher