VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2022

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday	4 April	Black
Monday	11 April	Blue & green
Wednesday	20 April	Black
Tuesday	26 April	Blue & green

CHURCH SERVICES

3 April	10.30. Joint service of Holy
	Communion. Balsham Church
10 April	9.00. Morning worship at
	St Mary's Church
15 April	11.30. Stations of the Cross at
	Balsham Church
17 April	9.00. Holy Communion at
	St Mary's Church
24 April	9.30. Morning worship
	St Mary's Church

* HUB NIGHT! * west wickham village hall NEXT 23.04.22

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 Saturday 16 April

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

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.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A reminder that there will be elections to the Parish Council on 5 May. Please think of standing for election as one of our 7 councillors. The village needs a good representation of people from all parts who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions. Nominations must be with South Cambridgeshire District Council by 4pm on Tuesday 5 April. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards, West Lodge, 88 High Street, Balsham. T: 01223 665260, E: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

We invite all candidates to provide us with a photograph and an election statement of no more than 200 words by 16 April, for publishing in an election supplement in the May issue of the Village Voice.

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Thank you to all the people in the Parish who have offered to buy a tree to plant in the wood. Trees are best planted in the autumn, so it will be during October.

At this time we would like people to offer to purchase a tree, so we have some idea of numbers. The Woodland Trust have a good selection of native trees, prices starting around $\pounds 10.00$. It is quite a wet site, so hazel and alder would be a good choice, and they create a good show of catkins at this time of the year. Rowan (mountain ash) and silver birch also seem to like our soil, and both are attractive trees.

Di Licence

COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

There was a good turn out to March's coffee morning with, yet again, a wonderful variety of cakes to choose from. We ask for donations for the teas, coffees and cakes on offer and this month the surplus, once the cost of hiring the Hall was deducted, has all gone to Comic Relief as Red Nose Day was the day following our event. We made an impressive £51.55 so thank you to everyone who came and gave a donation and thank you to those who generously baked for us this month –



ISSUE 227

Linda Upton and Ronnie Temple with their Red Nose themed offerings, Derek Hulyer for his rock cakes and my own fruit loaf. Thanks too to everyone who helped setting up and clearing away afterwards.

Next month's coffee morning will be on **Thursday 21 April at 10.30** in the Village Hall so please come and join us.

Sue Thurston, T: 897811

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 11 April West Wickham & District Local History Club *Cottage Life*. Talk by Janet Morris

Monday 25 April. West Wickham & District Gardening Club Shade lovers. Talk by Jay & Simon McWilliams of Hedgehog Plants, Risby. Please note that because of Easter this talk is on the 4th Monday of the month.

Both 7.30pm, Village Hall



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

There have been a few things happening in the Village Hall recently, which may be of interest.

The heating system has been completely replaced using an infra-red system with wall or ceiling panels in the kitchen, bar, entrance lobby and toilets. The main hall is now heated with 9 ceiling mounted, 2kw panels. The temperature in each space is controlled with a wireless thermostat, which also displays the current temperature in each room. We hope to commission the remote programming of the system soon when our own broadband connection is installed. The installation of the broadband will also provide the Hall with a telephone connection.

The installation was financed by a grant of £9000 from South Cambridgeshire District Council's Zero Carbon Community fund, £1000 from the Parish Council and £5614 from the Hall's own reserves. The users of the Hall have commented satisfactorily on the improved heating provided.

We had a recent water leak in the bar, which required the water heater to be replaced. The concrete screed became saturated and therefore we have purchased a de-humidifier to dry the bar floor. This de-humidifier will be available for any resident who may need it should they experience a similar inundation. Please give me a call on 290559 should you need it.

The recent gales resulted in several tiles being blown off the roof and thanks to Stuart Gillibrand these were quickly replaced before any rain found its way in.

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions the Hall is now fully available for hire and an increase in use would be very welcome as the loss of the Daisy Chains Pre-school has affected our income. The recently established Monthly Coffee Mornings have been a success and I would encourage more people to come along as it is not just for us 'oldies'.

Trevor Hall



FROM THE VICARAGE

Spring is a time when we can enjoy seeing new life appearing all around us. Tragically, however, this spring has also seen war brought to Ukraine, and devastating scenes of destruction and death. At the time of writing more than two and a half million refugees have fled the conflict, which the UN has called the fastest growing refugee crisis since the Second World War. As we witness these tragic events, we are also called to respond in prayer and action. We join with so many people around the world in praying for peace to prevail and seek to respond to the refugee crisis by offering financial and other support.

Spring is also a time when we prepare for and celebrate Easter. Our preparations include Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Many had expected the Messiah to lead military resistance against the Romans and restore by force a kingdom. Jesus, however, does not meet force with force but instead proclaims the peaceable kingdom. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and meets the violence of those who plot against him with his sacrifice on the cross.

Easter tells us that through death, God can bring new life. It proclaims the power of God's saving love in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter also reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event that completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God. We therefore can experience the power and reality of the crucifixion and the resurrection in our lives today.

As we carry forward a vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life, let us be encouraged to speak up for the peaceable Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. Empowered by his Spirit, we can put into practice both love for our neighbour and also, however difficult, love for our enemies. This is not an optional extra if we are to live in a world where peace prevails in our lives. In doing so, we may also experience the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, and share the good news of new life in Christ.

Revd Iain McColl

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

There will be Compline services for Holy Week on the following days at 7.30pm

Monday (11th) – West Wratting Tuesday (12th) – Weston Colville Wednesday (13th) – West Wickham.

BALSHAM SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

The Balsham Singers are very glad to confirm that we will give our first concert after 2 1/2 years on Saturday 21 May, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. Tickets £10 (under 16's free) available from choir members, Balsham or Great Abington Post Offices or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ balshamsingers



LITTERBUGS

Spoiler ALERT - I am going to have a rant about the amount of litter IN and AROUND West Wickham. I cannot fathom the mentality of anyone who just drops litter - what goes through their minds? Do they imagine that there are fairies that come along and collect it? Why not put it back into their pocket and take it home? Why, if they accidentally drop a tissue or mask when they get out of their car (and we all do this) do they not PICK IT UP the following day? Is litter invisible to the general public? On bin collection day, there is often rubbish that has dropped as the bin gets tipped up - it blows around! 'Not mine', I hear people say - does that really matter? Do people not care when there is litter on the pavement in front of their house? Picking up empty wine bottles and beer cans worries me greatly. Hopefully these are being drunk by the passengers and not the drivers that come through the village. The PC has bought some grabbers and bags for anyone who would like to use them. (See article below) On a nice day, a short walk through or around the village, picking up litter, can be quite a sobering experience!

Name & address supplied

DIY LITTER PICKING

Pete has been at it again and here is the hoard that he gathered with his grabber and bag a few days ago walking between Streetly End and the church. I covered the same route after Christmas so this has accumulated in just a couple of months. Horrific, isn't it, that so much rubbish has been hurled from car windows and abandoned at the side of the road



If you would like to help keep the village and its approach roads tidy, grabbers, hoops and bags can be borrowed 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) also keep a set if you live closer to them. Filled bags can be put in your own black bins if there is room or left at the Village Hall or by the side of the phone box in Streetly End for collection by the Council.

Sue Thurston, T: 897811

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST



Circa 1920. George and Sue Barker and their four youngest children Albert (back right) born 1904, Harry (back left) born 1906, Stanley (front right) born 1911 and Phyllis born 1914 plus pets. The family are pictured in front of one of a pair of cottages at Yen Hall which were built in the 1860s for farmworkers. These were demolished in the 1970s.

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

Autism Awareness week: the library service has a collection of books to promote better understanding of autism and neurodiversity.

On Monday 4 April, we have a Family Lego session from 2 -3.30pm for those over 2 years. Please book at the library, suggested donation £1.00. Over the Easter holidays, we will have an egg-citing trail for children in the library. Our Story and Rhyme Time, for children from 18 months, will be 10.30-11am on Tuesday 12 and Tuesday 26 April.

Jim Anderson, a local painter, printmaker and mosaicist will be talking to the Engage group on Monday 11 April, 2-3.30 pm. All adults welcome, please book, suggested donation £1.00.

Cambridgeshire Libraries are hosting a series of special Read a Little Aloud Online events starting from Tuesday 19 April, 7-8pm. Library staff and volunteers will be reading aloud from favourite books and poems. Feel free to join in or just sit back and listen. To find out more and receive a link to join in, please email

RALA.Online@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Saturday 23 April is World Book Night, a national event to celebrate the joys and benefits of reading. Join in by simply reading a book, or find a way to share your love of reading with others. There are lots of suggestions on The Reading Agency website: Get involved | World Book Night.

Wanted: Are you good with IT? We'd love to have a Digital Buddy Volunteer, to help people in the library with their IT queries. Please call in for more details.

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4-7pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm General library enquiries: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB 2022 Annual Show Flower Classes

Now that spring has sprung and our thoughts are turning more towards doing things in the garden, I would like to encourage you to think about what flowers and plants you might be able to enter into the Flowers Classes of the Annual Show, which takes place on Saturday 13 August.

The entrant with the highest number of points in these 9 classes will take home the White Horse Trophy.

- 1 Not more than 3 stems of one variety of rose, selected for form and health
- 2 4 stems of dahlias, mixed or same variety, displayed in water
- 3 A single flower stem with "WOW" effect, displayed in water
- 4 A vase containing 5 10 stems of at least 2 different kinds of flowering plants, displayed for effect
- 5 A vase of flowers of more than 1 variety in shades of a single colour without additional foliage, displayed for effect
- 6 6 stems of one variety of flower not in the schedule, displayed in water
- 7 A posy of garden flowers in a small container, displayed for effect
- 8 A cactus or succulent in a pot
- 9 Any other pot plant

The judge will be looking at the condition of the flowers, foliage (where allowed) and their stems – freshness is very important – together with the way they are displayed, so choose your containers thoughtfully, weight them if necessary and don't forget to add water! Flowers of one type will also be judged on their uniformity and mixed vases on their symmetry and balance.

This year we also have an exciting new class with its own prize which will be judged by everyone who comes along to the Show and that is for the best SCENTED flower. You may already have a fragrant plant in your garden, such as a rose, which you could enter or perhaps think about planting some seeds, buying plugs or plant something notable for its scent which will be in flower in August such as sweet alyssum, sweet pea, night scented stock, phlox, honeysuckle, etc. Not only could it win the special prize at the Show but you will also have the pleasure of having it in your garden and be able to cut it to bring into the house to enjoy the fragrance.

Next month I will focus on what you need to enter to win the West Wratting Cup for your fruit and vegetable entries. Details of all the classes can be found on the village website and if you have any particular questions, please contact me.

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

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

If you're looking for some gentle exercise that's near to home, something which is easily learnt, can be played all year round, doesn't need any special equipment or clothing and all in a friendly atmosphere, then West Wickham Carpet Bowls Club is the place for you. We meet every Wednesday at 7pm in the Village Hall and new members are welcome at any time or you can come along and try it for free without any obligation.

For further details contact: Janet Morris Tel: 290863, Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

NATURE NOTES

With ghastly events going on in Ukraine and elsewhere, we need reassurance that the normal rhythms of life are continuing as they always have. The natural world provides this reassurance. Although when I say 'normal' there are changing trends and variations which must be acknowledged, many of which result from the warming climate, and surprises too. It looks as though we are experiencing another early spring with blackthorn in the hedges coming into flower, celandine, coltsfoot and violets appearing on the banks and ditches, even an early cowslip.

The rabbits up in the copse at the top of our garden seem to have caught the springtime mood as the trail camera has picked up endless pictures of baby bunnies cavorting around. There was one picture of a fox and another of next door's cat, but neither of these predators seems to have had a significant effect on the burgeoning rabbit population just yet. Di saw a rabbit run across her track swiftly followed by a stoat, so with so many threats to life you would think that a rabbit's lot is not a happy one, although the pictures from the copse belie this. Hares, meanwhile, have been witnessed showing symptoms of March madness in the fields.

Birdsong is the centrepiece of the spring soundscape and while robins and song thrushes have been singing for a while, they've been joined by the beautiful tones of the blackbird and I have begun to hear chaffinches and greenfinches singing in recent days. Andrew tells me there were five greenfinches on his feeder which is great news for a bird which has suffered a dramatic decline in recent years due to the disease trichomonosis. This makes it doubly important that we regularly clean feeders and bird baths where it is thought that the majority of infections occur.

Normally at this time of year we ask everyone to listen out for the first chiffchaff of the year, but this year the birds have beaten us to it as chiffchaffs have been heard in a number of locations. My first was 12 March and I can't remember hearing one any earlier. Chiffchaffs are small members of the warbler family who spend their winters in warmer climes (although some over winter in Britain) and project their recognisable, if monotonous, chant from high up in trees or hedges. Though far from complex, their song is nevertheless uplifting because it is one of the first markers of spring arriving. They will be followed by other warbler species, swallows, house martins, swifts and cuckoos. We would love to hear of your first sighting or hearing of these birds when they come.

The early butterflies will soon be out. In fact I have already had reports of brimstones emerging from their winter hiding places and fluttering about in the sunshine. It is the male brimstones who are the most recognisable, with their sulphurous yellow colour. They emerge before the females who seem to be more cautious about coming out into the open. Females are much paler and can be confused with large whites although the pointed tip to their wings is definitive.

The star spot of the month was by Steve and Tom Licence who heard a rustle of leaves in Leys Wood and there was a woodcock skulking in the undergrowth. Woodcock often do not fly off when disturbed because they rely on their streaky brown and black colouring as a camouflage defence. I have previously heard stories of people standing in woods and looking down to see woodcock directly beneath them. Woodcock have also been seen in Over Wood.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR GARDENS

At the February meeting of West Wickham & District Gardening Club two members, Clive and Sue Boase, produced a presentation on how we gardeners could make an impact, if small, on climate change which resulted in much discussion. We thought this summary of the main points of the presentation was well worth circulating to a wider audience:

Climate change (CC) is underway, with global temperatures increasing steadily since the mid 20^{th} century. In the UK, the 10 hottest years have all been in the last 20 years. Increasing levels of greenhouses gases, such as carbon dioxide, are driving the changes.

The Royal Horticultural Society has reviewed the likely impact of CC on UK gardens in their publication: *Gardening in a Changing Climate*. They conclude that, although the growing season will become longer, there will be wetter winters and drier summers and greater variability with later frosts, heavier rain and longer droughts.

There are a wide range of measures that gardeners could adopt in response to CC:

Accept and adapt

This approach is to adapt our gardens and gardening, in order to live with CC. For example, we could:

- Use larger rain-water butts and tanks, in order to cope with longer summer droughts.
- Plant shade over our terraces and patios, to provide protection from the heat.
- Replace plants that require regular watering, with those that thrive in warm, dry climates.

Improve environmental resilience

CC will have negative impacts on UK wildlife. We could use our gardens to mitigate those impacts by:

- Mowing our lawns less often, to encourage wildflowers, pollinators, other wildlife, and to fix more carbon in plant material.
- Creating a pond which will compensate for the loss of natural ponds by providing a home for aquatic wildlife such as dragonflies and frogs, and provide water for animals such as hedgehogs.

Reduce carbon dioxide emissions

Gardeners can reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by:

- As far as possible, buying locally grown plants from nurseries, not imported plants.
- Using only peat-free compost.
- Reducing usage of petrol-driven power tools.
- Sharing plants and garden items such as plant pots and tools, with other gardeners.

Trap carbon dioxide

The carbon content of soil has been reduced by agriculture and urbanisation. Gardeners could adopt measures that will transfer carbon dioxide from the air back into plant material and the soil, by:

- · Home composting.
- Adopting a no-dig regime, or at least reduce the frequency of digging.
- Growing more longer lived plants, shrubs and trees.

West Wickham & District Gardening Club organises talks, discussions and excursions relating to all aspects of gardening, including CC, and everyone is very welcome to come along and become involved. For further details about the Club contact: Arthur Mawby, 23 Burton End,

T: 290474, Email: arthur.mawby@mypostoffice.co.uk

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

What a glorious weekend we had at Jarman Centre, Newmarket for our space themed Brownie Holiday. The sun shone all weekend, the daffodils were out and one of the Brownies even saw a deer wandering through the grounds. I think it was a muntjac rather than one with a full antler.

We had 10 of our 12 Brownies attend our space themed weekend and we were joined by four Rainbows for a sleepover on the Friday night. During Saturday we were joined by 10 Rainbows who all enjoyed making bottle rockets, moon rocks, rocket welly-pegs, phases of the moon flip-books and constellation viewers. We had a traipse around the woods ending in a picnic and the Brownies also enjoyed a campfire on Saturday evening.

As mentioned last time we have been working on recognising DIY tools and how to use them. We have even managed to rope in Katie's dad to help with the technical bits. We've also learnt how to use peelers, sharp-ish knives and graters to prepare food for tortilla wraps.

After Easter we hope to start on the Have Adventures camp theme. We will learn about tents, how to build a fire and light it (under supervision). There is also county trip to Ely for a Survive to Thrive event which we hope to attend.

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

Pauline and Katie



GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEWS

Recently Granta has only been able to offer urgent appointments. This has been due to sickness and staff shortages in both the clinical and administrative teams. We have had a few team members retire and move on to new jobs and we have recruited new staff who will be starting in the coming months. Unfortunately, we also have staff absent with Long Covid.

Not only is this frustrating for our patients, it is also frustrating for us. We want to offer the best possible service and we know we are not currently doing this. Sadly, our staff are experiencing a high level of verbal abuse and this is not acceptable. Please may I ask that everyone be courteous and kind to our staff.

If you have a minor illness or injury you may be able to address this without going to see a GP. Here are some simple self-care steps everyone can follow:-

- Keep your medicine cabinet stocked up with self-care essentials, such as pain relief (e.g. Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn / indigestion treatments and a first aid kit.
- Use your local pharmacy. Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you no appointment needed.
- Ask us about the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS). This service enables patients to have a same day appointment with their community pharmacist for minor illness or an urgent supply of a regular medicine. Should you need to be escalated or referred to an alternative service, the pharmacist can arrange this. Please speak to our reception team to be referred into this service.
- Utilise 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.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis call **NHS 111**, and select **option 2**. 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.

Help us - help yourself - help the NHS

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 01223 627743 or email me on sandra.east@nhs.net

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

WELCOME TO BALSHAM OUTDOOR BOWLS CLUB

- Outdoor, or lawn bowls, is easy to play and we welcome all ages from 10 to 90+
- Play for fun, chill out and relax, or join a team!
- It's a skilled target sport, and a strategy game that can help keep you fit
- We have an Open Day planned for Saturday afternoon 30 April with coaching provided, and a range of wood (bowls) sizes will be available.
- You can find us at the Balsham recreation ground, Church Lane. We look forward to welcoming you to the Club.

For more information contact: Bob Stigwood at balshambowls@gmail.com or 07717535133

PARISH NURSE UPDATE

It has been a difficult year for so many in our community, but as spring arrives we are all hopeful for the future.

My first year has been busy facilitating GP appointments and helping those people who have not had access to services during the pandemic. Bereavement, loneliness, and anxiety has been challenging for so many of us and our elderly population have complex care needs that must be addressed. Being 'proactive' and not 'reactive' to keep them as independent as possible, whilst maintaining safety and being the best advocate, has been difficult to achieve at times.

Kindness and empathy to our neighbours is something positive that the pandemic has given us all and I believe that we have all become more aware of those in need.

The community cafes have been a 'god send' to many of you and I would like to thank all the wonderful helpers who are inspirational and make such a difference to the lives of others.

I am so very lucky to have been given the opportunity as Parish Nurse to meet so many of you and I hope to have made even the smallest impact on your lives.

My formal commissioning service will take place on Sunday 1 May, 10.30am at Balsham church, with refreshments after the service. All are warmly welcome to attend this service.

Kim Cox, Parish Nurse

SPRINGING TO LIFE THE LIBRARY PRESENTS RETURNS WITH NEW ARTS EVENTS

The Library Presents is making its return to Cambridgeshire libraries and outdoor locations this spring in an exciting burst of live arts-based events. This year's Spring Season will run from April - July with the programme and tickets launching late March. There will be an eclectic selection of family-friendly artistic workshops, musical events, live theatre and more, including:

WILLOW SCULPTURE & BASKET WORKSHOPS 4 sessions at Sawston Library Sundays 5, 12, 19, 26 June 2pm Running time: 2 hours each session
Suitable for: Adults and young people 13+ yrs Tickets: £20 / £10 (for whole series) Check it out: www.frostart.co.uk

These four willow sculpture and basket workshops will be led by Jane Frost. Each will focus on one or two techniques. Participants will be able to include some of their own ideas of techniques learned. Jane encourages workshop participants to be ambitious and try techniques they have not experienced before; everyone will be successful and take home beautiful items they can be proud of owning.

The Spring Season brochure and tickets will be available from late March in libraries, or visit www.library.live/thelibrary-presents.

