

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2022

ISSUE 228

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday	3 May	Black
Monday	9 May	Blue & green
Monday	16 May	Black
Monday	23 May	blue & green
Monday	30 May	Black

Household Recycling Centres are open on an appointment system. For details visit:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

1 May	10.30. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
8 May	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
15 May	10.30. Morning worship. Joint service at Balsham Church
22 May	9.00. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
29 May	9.00. Morning worship at St Mary's Church

WEST WICKHAM POST OFFICE

Use it or loose it!

A reminder that the Post Office van visits the Village Hall car park on Thursdays between 2—3pm

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 Monday 16 May

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Email: editor_wwwvillagevoice@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.

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

Something for everyone

Friendly people & expert advice

SATURDAY 21 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

**WEST WICKHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

Payment by cash or cheque only

VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs

COFFEE MORNING

19 May, 10.30 at the Village Hall

By now I hope you have it on your calendars that the 3rd Thursday of every month is when we hold our COFFEE MORNINGS at the Village Hall. The next one will be on 19 May, and it has been so pleasing to see friends and neighbours coming back each month to enjoy each other's company and catch up. It would be lovely to see some new faces too.

There is always a selection of tea and coffee and cold drinks on offer together with a variety of freshly made cakes, etc. Donations towards the refreshments are welcome and any profit will go to charity. Suggestions for which charity to support each month are welcome as are offers of baked goods!

Everyone, young and old, Burton Enders, High Streeters, Maypole Crofters, Home Closers, Streetly Enders and outliers are all welcome. Do come along.

Sue Thurston (T: 897811) & Di Licence (T: 290434)

In spite of the lighter evenings do please remember there are over 100 jigsaws in my garage at Nine Chimney House, Balsham. They are mostly 1000 or 500 pieces. Do come and have a look and take some away! Joanna Sanders

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on Monday 28 March the following are some of the matters discussed. The draft Minutes can be found on the two noticeboards.

Age UK Mobile Warden: Lucy Cameron, who lives in Streetly End, introduced herself and spoke about her job supporting older people in their homes to keep them independent, looking after their needs and visiting, sometimes twice a week, and doing shopping etc. Contact details are on the noticeboards. (Ed. Also on the front page of the Village Voice)

Planning:

1. 22/1038/39/FUL. Platts Farm – Conversion of barns into two dwellings. It was agreed to support the application. However those parishioners who have concerns about the small space allowed either side of the development should submit their objections as private residents as this holds more weight with the planners.
2. White Horse. The appeal against rejection of permission to build a new dwelling on the former pub car park had been turned down.

Finance: It was agreed that the Parish Clerk's salary for 2022/23 should be increased by 5%, after adding a 1.75% increase for 2021/22, with a review in 6 months.

Election matters: Four of the present Councillors will be standing down, Patrick Charlton, Marcus Cornish, Peter Grieve and Di Licence, all of whom have done sterling service for many years and will be much missed. Only five nominations have been made so two more councillors are still required. It is hoped the vacancies can be filled by co-option.

Maintenance:

1. Street sign missing from Streetly End: The cost of the Parish Council replacing this sign would be approx. £160 but this is the responsibility of CCC Highways Dept. Nothing had been heard from them.
2. Defibrillator: This has been paid for and should soon be operative.
3. Bench at the High Street junction. This has been refurbished. It was originally put in place in 1977 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee. As it has been refurbished in the year of the Platinum Jubilee it was agreed to put a plaque on the seat with these details.

Neighbourhood Plan: An independent examiner will be anonymously visiting the village and the Regulation 16 consultation has been completed by SCDC.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 May at 7.30pm.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260; email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org.

A1307

Progress is being made with the installation of lights at the Hildersham crossroads and the extension of the cycle route into the Abingtons. Work is expected to continue for several months yet.

The next project on the list is the roundabout at the Bartlow crossing and the changes to the Dean Road access to the dual carriageway. There is no date for this yet other than to say it will be in this financial year.

Henry Batchelor, County Councillor

MEET YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

With just five people standing for seven places there will not be an election to the Parish Council on 5 May. Regretfully, once again, no one from Streetly End has stood for election. The two vacancies will be filled by co-option. If anyone is interested please contact the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards.

T: 01223 665260; email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org.

THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL IS:

Allen Hazlehurst

I have been a resident of the village for 11 years and served on the Parish Council (PC) for the last few years.

I was born and spent most of my life in Manchester where I was employed in the Pharmaceutical Industry. After 23 years I migrated to academia working for Imperial College and then the University of Cambridge (CRUK). I retired 3 years ago and spend some of my time serving my local community.

I have been involved with the combined Parish Council meetings, a forum where Planning and Highway issues are discussed and I have, together with fellow members of the PC, represented your views at these meetings.

For the future I would like to spend some time collating the residents' views on how the PC communicates with households. The village Voice is a great method of giving information as it is delivered to every home and together with the Village website most needs have been met. I would like to investigate other methods of communication for example WhatsApp, Email lists and Facebook.

Caroline Mulley



I live with my family and two dogs. Having been born in the village I care passionately about its flora, fauna and wildlife that I see while out on my daily walks.

Due to my work in local government, I am able to relate to people of all ages and walks of life. Using my wide

expertise of working with people I would like to bring these skills and fresh ideas to the village.

I am very community minded and you will often find me supporting village activities including, Hub nights, coffee mornings, village fetes, the Mobile Library and Post Office van.

I look forward to working with the local community to improve local facilities, amenities and shape the future of our village.

Continued on page 4

Dave Sargeant

Amy and I moved to West Wickham from Sawston in 2012. We both wanted to live in, and contribute to, a small rural community. I grew up in Balsham, attended the Meadow School and Linton Village College and know the area well. I work as a software engineer and Amy is a primary school headteacher.

I joined the Parish Council in 2018 and have taken an interest in planning matters. I have authored the Parish Council responses to several significant planning applications and have worked extensively on the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan. If re-elected, I hope to see the Neighbourhood Plan through the final stages to its adoption and broaden my role to include other aspects of the Parish Council's work.



Alex Schuilenburg



I have lived in West Wickham for 24 years with my family where I am an active member of the community, enjoying the countryside, local walks and the friendly communal atmosphere. I hope to continue to serve the community on the Parish Council with my experience and local knowledge. I started our company in West Wickham in 2002 and successfully campaigned for better and faster broadband

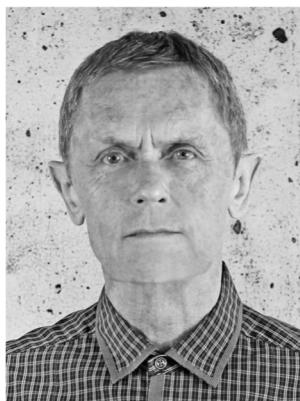
for the village. I joined the Village Hall Committee in 2011 when I set up the village website and have been a member of the Parish Council since 2015. Our daughter Michelle was born in Addenbrookes and raised here, attending The Meadow School and Linton Village College.

Ronnie Temple

My wife Loraine and I retired in 2017 and moved to West Wickham after a long search for a peaceful village where we could actively participate in the local community – something we found hard to fit in while we were managing our careers – and consider ourselves very lucky to have found our house in Burton End.

We are members of the Gardening Club and History Club, help out at the annual Village Fete and enjoy developing new recipes for the monthly coffee mornings in the Village Hall.

We are grateful for the friendship and hospitality extended to us by the residents of West Wickham and in my response I hope to be able to represent their views on the Parish Council and work with the other Councillors to improve our environment and the quality of life for everyone who lives here.



NATURE NOTES

Spring into summer is an exciting time of year as fresh green leaves unfold, blossom appears and woodland and wayside flowers come into bloom. Normally the star turns are the bluebells, and at the time of writing they are coming into their prime, but this year they have been somewhat upstaged by the warm-up act, because the wood anemones have produced the best display I can remember in Leys Wood.

The best way to experience nature and all its glories is to be in it and feel part of it, but quite a bit of what I have to report has come to us via the lens of a camera. The most unusual was a photo sent to me by Deborah Record of a toad hitching a ride on the head of one of the large fish in her pond. We are not sure what the motivation was but he had the look of Toad of Toad Hall, perched in the driver's seat while the fish made all the effort. Whatever, there has been plenty of both frog and toad spawn in the pond, which has begun turning into tadpoles – probably quite vulnerable to fish and other pond predators. While we are talking about vulnerability, a brood of ducklings visited Trevor's garden, probably originating from the pond on the other side of the road. There were 14 to begin with but the number has diminished, and a fox, again caught on the camera, is the chief suspect.

The most beautiful picture came to me from Sam and Trish Agnew in Cardinals Green, who were privileged to have a barn owl perch right outside their dining room window. Tracey Podd sent us a snap of two black and white birds sitting on the church tower but we couldn't be sure of their identity. The light may have been deceptive. Elsewhere in the bird world, people have been noticing the arrival of the summer warblers, particularly blackcaps and willow warblers, both of whom have a finer musical sense than their relative, the chiffchaff. A recent walk along the Devil's Dyke beside Newmarket racecourse was punctuated by willow warblers singing every 100 yards.

It's the nesting season and Di has been musing on the skill, care and persistence that many birds employ when constructing a nest using a variety of materials ranging from old sticks to feathers, grasses, mosses and spiders webs. Locations also vary from chimneys, eaves, hedgerows and trees to down on the ground and of course human supplied nestboxes. Di has been given a book with a nature poem for every day and has been enjoying Edward Lear's limerick *There Was an Old Man With a Beard*. Perhaps us bearded types need to check for an owl, a hen, 4 larks and a wren nesting when we look in the mirror.

Butterflies on the wing include those who have overwintered as adults such as brimstone, peacock and small tortoiseshell and now the first emerging from chrysalises – orange tip and speckled wood. The speckled wood is unique as it can overwinter as a caterpillar or chrysalis, which allows it to produce three broods and be seen from March onwards although we normally see them somewhat later than early spring.

I would finally like to give a mention to the amazing 'snail trail' on the Devil's Dyke near Stetchworth (every tree trunk on a stretch of the path is covered with snails) and the white fallow deer which has been seen with the rest of the herd between Hare Wood and Hill Farm.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

**WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB
Annual Show
Saturday 13 August
Fruit & Vegetable Classes**

Those of us who went to the Gardening Club's March talk given by Nigel Start, this year's fruit and vegetable judge on "Growing for Showing", will have picked up a few tips if we were planning to enter any of the 15 classes in this category this year. However, listening to his talk made me realise the big gulf that exists between the professional growers and showers at the major Shows who will be choosing particular varieties of fruit and vegetable, renowned for their uniformity and appearance rather than choosing, like I certainly do, based on taste, resistance to insects and disease and personal recommendations.

The main purpose of the Show is for people to enjoy it, so don't be put off entering any of your produce by thinking that our judge will only be looking for perfection and will pour scorn on any of your entries. Yes, he will be looking at the uniformity of your entries and he will also be looking at their condition – they need to be clean, fresh, ideally free from blemishes, well displayed and "according to Schedule" (the correct number and displayed as the Schedule specifies). Whatever variety you grow it should be possible to achieve this. He will also be comparing your entry with all the other entries in that class and if it's been a poor year for a particular class, perhaps due to the wrong sort of weather, then please don't let it stop you entering as your fellow competitors are likely to have encountered the same problems as you have.

The entries this year are as follows:

- 5 Runner beans on a plate
- 5 French or dwarf beans on a plate
- 3 Potatoes on a plate
- 3 Onions from either sets or seed, trimmed and tied
- 5 Small fruited tomatoes (no larger than 35mm diameter) on a plate
- 3 Large fruited tomatoes (larger than 35mm diameter) on a plate
- 3 Carrots of the same variety, trimmed and tied in a bunch
- 3 Beetroot, trimmed and tied in a bunch
- 2 Courgettes on a plate
- 2 or more of any other vegetable not covered by this Schedule (2 entries per exhibitor allowed)
- 9 or more berries (e.g., strawberries, raspberries) or strings of currants (e.g. red, black)
- 2 or more top fruit (from trees, e.g., apples, plums)
- 2 or more fruit not covered by this Schedule (e.g. bunches of grapes, melons, rhubarb (not a vegetable for this purpose))
- 4 varieties of culinary herb (foliage predominating) displayed, for effect, in water
- The longest runner bean

If you need any advice on how to present your produce, please contact me. The full Schedule is available on the village website or if you cannot find it there or don't have access to a computer then give me a call.

Sue Thurston, Show Co-Ordinator, T: 897811



**BALSHAM
SINGERS**

Spring Concert

Musical Director – John Clenaghan

Music to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
by Parry and Handel; plus a medley of James
Bond themes, "Gloria Festiva", "Fields of Gold",
"Tears in Heaven" and more.

**Saturday 21st May 2022
Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham
7.30pm**

Tickets £10 (under 16's free) available
from choir members, Balsham or Great
Abington Post Offices or online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

FROM THE VICARAGE

I'm someone who usually loves an excuse for a party or gathering! Like many, then, I've really missed these things at times over the pandemic. Yet it hasn't just been about missing celebrations. Over the last two years, we have missed so many of the markers of times and seasons in our lives. It may well have felt a little disorientating! Times of celebration and mourning, anniversaries and birthdays, community festivals and gatherings, often kept, but in radically different ways. Some were postponed, reduced in numbers or moved online. Yet marking such times and seasons remains of great importance in giving shape to our lives and I'm so grateful we can do this more regularly now. We will soon be reminded again of this importance as we look ahead to a very special weekend in early June. The weekend of Sunday 5th June will see people gather around the country, and indeed the world, to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee which marks the 70th anniversary of the accession of the Queen, and give thanks for her service and dedication as monarch. As churches we will be marking the occasion with a special service in each of our parishes on that Sunday and will then enjoy being part of the many parties in each village that afternoon!

That Sunday will also be another type of anniversary when the church celebrates Pentecost, sometimes known as the 'birthday' of the church. At Pentecost we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection of Jesus. This astonishing gift of God's Spirit, as described in the book of Acts, bound together the early church in worship and shared life, and empowered them to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. As with other anniversaries, it also helps remind the church of its calling and purpose today, as we seek to share the joy and good news of life in the Spirit.

Marking the times and seasons, and being grateful for all that is good in our lives, shapes our humanity. It shapes our sense of purpose, helps us cherish the time we have, and may increase our capacity for joy. It may also, as Pentecost reminds us, draw us more deeply into the life of the Spirit and lead us, in all the seasons of our lives, to praise, prayer and thanksgiving.

Revd Iain McColl

THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The cost of living crisis is set to hit all of us. From energy bills to petrol pump prices, from groceries and Council Tax to mobile phones and broadband, households are facing huge increases in expenditure. The effects of Covid, supply chains, commodity prices, economic resurgence, the war in Ukraine and a range of other factors have all contributed to the current crisis and it looks like this issue isn't going away anytime soon.

The sharp increase in oil cost recently hit home at Ivy Cottage when we went to fill up our tank and were quoted double the price from last time we filled up.

However, there are a few things we can all do to help minimise the impact as much as possible and I am planning a regular update to advise on recommended suppliers who can help mitigate these price increases as much as possible, plus any tips that people use to help lower their bills.

So what can we all do? I have started a list below of considerations when shopping around and thinking about how best to make changes to our lifestyles and homes:

1. Oil Suppliers - have you found a supplier who offers the lowest cost or one who we use as a village collective to try and lower the costs?
2. Energy tips - does anyone have any tips for using less energy in their homes? Smart meters in the home certainly help to identify appliances that use a lot of energy, for example tumble driers and some electric fires.
3. Insulation - insulating our homes can make a huge difference (and no I won't be gluing myself to West Wickham High Street until we all insulate!) Can anyone recommend any local companies that specialise in identifying energy leaks in homes?
4. Solar energy - if anyone in the village has solar panels installed, can they please let me know the name of their supplier if they come recommended and details of how much energy the solar panels produce. I will look at costings and recommendations for configurations from these suppliers.
5. Heat pumps - we know some homes in the village already have heat pumps. This is a relatively new technology and there is some scepticism about how they work, if they can work in certain property types, the cost of running etc. What are your experience of heat pumps? Who did you get to install them and in general what are the positives and negatives of this technology?
6. Grade 2 listed homes - there are a number of grade 2 listed homes in the neighbourhood and these buildings represent their own challenges to keeping them warm and energy efficient. For example, in our home we still have single glazed windows which represents a huge amount of energy loss. Does anyone have any experience with a company who specialise in improving grade 2 listed buildings and has anyone dealt with local planning in the process of upgrading their homes?

Remember, if you are struggling there is help out there. The following charities offer free, impartial advice for those struggling with the cost of living increases:

National Debt Line -<https://www.nationaldebtlive.org>
Turn2Us (also offers benefits and grant eligibility calculators) -<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Other-help/Debt>

If you come across any suppliers who you have used that you would recommend, or think I have missed anything, please get in touch. I will do a regular feature collating our shared experiences and hopefully we can help each other as much as possible.

Please email me at paul_dunstone@hotmail.com.

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEWS

Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) for treatment of minor illnesses

What is CPCS? When you call us, our receptionists will ask about your symptoms. If these indicate that you can be helped by a pharmacist, you will be offered a same-day private consultation with a community pharmacist.

Pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals and experts in medicines. They can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for all sorts of minor illnesses, and a same day consultation can be arranged quickly and at a time to suit you. This in turn frees up GP appointments for those people with more complex symptoms who really need to see a GP.

How does it work? We will forward your details to the pharmacist, along with details of your minor illness. The pharmacist will contact you to arrange your consultation on the same day, or at a time that suits you. You may be seen in person in a private consulting room if the pharmacist thinks it appropriate, or your consultation may be carried out over the phone or via video. You will be asked about your medical history and symptoms and current medication, in the same way the GP would ask you about them. Usually, the pharmacist will provide you with advice and can recommend an over the counter product if needed. Details of your consultation with them will be sent to us for our records.

If the pharmacist feels you need to be seen by a GP urgently, they will call us to ensure you are seen, or they will advise you to contact the hospital Emergency Department if deemed necessary. You may also be referred back to us to arrange a non-urgent appointment or follow up.

Why is this a good thing for patients? Community pharmacies are local, can be open longer hours than we are and can offer you the same consultation outcome at a time that is convenient for you. If the pharmacist thinks you need to see a GP, they can help arrange an urgent appointment for you. Patients who have already used this service liked the convenience of having a consultation on the same day, or a day that suited them, at a pharmacy of their choice.

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

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Would you like to join the library but never find time to visit? Sign up online and download free eBooks, eMagazines and more!

Do you want to learn more about the history of where you live? May is Local & Community History Month – a great time to explore our local studies resources - an interesting selection of books, or use library computers for free access to Ancestry.com, Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archives.

On Tuesday 3 May we are starting a fortnightly Knit and Natter session at the library, 2pm to 3pm. Come along, bring your current craft projects, and enjoy working on them in the company of others at the library.

Tuesdays 10 & 24 May we have our regular Story and Rhyme time for under 5s, 10.30am-11am.

16-22 May is Dementia Action Week. We have books and information about dementia to help everyone better understand the condition and to find support.

Lindsay Healy, Linton Library Community Assistant.