

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2022

ISSUE 229

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday	7 June	Blue & green
Monday	13 June	Black
Monday	20 June	Blue & green
Monday	27 June	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

5 June	9.00. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
12 June	9.00. Morning worship at St Mary's Church

Sadly there will be no services in the church between Monday 13 June and Friday 29 July, due to redecoration.

If anyone needs a lift to services in other villages, please contact our Church Wardens Marcus Cornish (T: 290203) or Di Licence (T: 290434)

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

Thursday 16 June

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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.



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

**SATURDAY 4 JUNE
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

All welcome



**3.00 to 5.00pm
BRING AND SHARE TEA PARTY**

Please bring a plate of sandwiches/cakes/sausage rolls/nibbles to share. This event will be on the car park if the weather is fine, but indoors if not.

**7.00 to 11.00pm
MUSIC / BAR / HOG ROAST**

We have a bar selling beer/wine/Pimms and a van doing a hog roast for us.

Do come along and celebrate with friends and neighbours, we look forward to seeing you all



West Wickham Village Hall

Open for hire by Residents, Local Clubs and Organisations

Suitable for family functions, children's parties, meetings, social events, fund raising.

Hiring provides the use of all the facilities of the hall which includes the bar area, table tennis and badminton equipment and the kitchen which includes crockery, cutlery etc.

The hall is licensed for music and performing arts

Bookings can be made to:

bookings@westwickham.org or

by using the Booking/Query at www.westwickham.org

Alternatively by leaving a Voice Message on 01223 789719

HUB NIGHTS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

It is great to be back holding our social evenings in the Village Hall, and to be able to chat to friends and neighbours. HUB nights usually take place on the fourth Saturday of the month, with the next one being on the 23 July. We decided not to hold one in June because of our Jubilee celebrations. Hub Nights are advertised on the board at the Church end junction.

We have a barrel of beer and wines and soft drinks available.

Each month we give £50 to a charity nominated by someone in the village. We also support Red Nose Day and Children in Need. Last month we gave to the Disaster Fund to help people in Ukraine and Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke.

Cards, darts and dominos are available and we generally have a good time.

Do come and join us, and if you haven't been before and 'don't know anyone', Nicci and I are behind the bar, and we don't bite!

Nicci and Di

COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE VILLAGE HALL



There was another good turn out to our May coffee morning as you can see from the photo. This month we must thank Debbie White for her delicious brownies, Derek Hulyer for his moreish rock cakes, Ronnie Temple for his extremely chocolatey rocky roads and I contributed a modest Irish tea bread. Even if you're not in the mood for anything to eat when you come for your tea or coffee you are welcome to take something home for later.

We made just over £30 in donations once payment for the hire of the Village Hall had been made and this month it is going to the Trussell Trust. They support a nationwide network of food banks (the nearest one being in Haverhill) and provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. Your suggestions of charities to support in the future would be most welcome.

Having asked you to make a note that the coffee mornings would take place on 3rd Thursday of each month can you now forget that and instead pencil in the 2nd Thursday of each month instead! This is to avoid the continued clash of another social event on that day and so to try and encourage as many people to come along. We hope that the 2nd month will fit in better. Next month's event will be on 9 June.

I am compiling a list of people who would like a reminder – by email, text or phone – a day or two before the coffee morning each month so if you would like to be added to my list, please let me know.

Sue Thurston, T: 89781

CHANGE TO MOBILE LIBRARY DAYS

The service for this village has changed to the 2nd Tuesday. 2.50-3.05pm in Streetly End; 3.15-3.30pm in the High Street.

Did you know?

- The service is free to join and use.
- Each Mobile Library vehicle carries up to 3000 items of stock including fiction, non fiction, large print, books on CD & cassette and books for children of all ages.
- You can request books/cassettes/CDs/DVDs. We have access to all the books in Cambridgeshire Libraries. You can also request books online to collect from the mobile Library on our next visit.
- Any books borrowed from the Mobile Library can be returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library and you can return books from other libraries too, so no need to worry about missing your due date.
- You can renew and order books online, please ask onboard for your 'PIN' to get you started.
- Download the Spydus mobile app to keep track of your library account using your smart phone.
- Books are issued for 5 weeks and you can renew for up to three months.
- Unfortunately there are charges when books are returned late.
- All vehicles have a lift for wheelchair users or those who find stairs difficult.
- We also supply free Hearing Aid batteries, sell stamps and reading glasses.

You can find out more at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/mobiles or just ask the mobile librarian.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB Annual show Saturday 13 August

This month I am going to remind you about the domestic classes which you may care to consider entering in this year's Show. It may be too late to make a batch of Seville orange marmalade (unless you've frozen some oranges as we do) but there's still plenty of time to make a pot of jam, jelly or chutney to enter. Closer to the day there is a wide range of baking classes and the cup cake class gives those of you who enjoy being creative with icing, chocolate, fruit, etc. to let rip!

The 9 Classes are:

- A jar of home-made jam
- A jar of home-made jelly
- A jar of home-made marmalade
- A jar of home-made chutney, relish or pickle
- 4 ginger biscuits
- A wholemeal loaf (handmade please, no bread maker)
- A vegetable quiche
- A Swiss roll, filled with jam
- 4 decorated cup cakes

Most points will be awarded for appearance, taste and texture but presentation is also important; you need to label your preserves and the baked goods need to be covered with cling film or an alternative clear cover. After the judging and the presentation of awards in the afternoon anything that you don't wish to take back home with you can be entered into the auction of produce and is a good fundraiser for the Club.

Do think about having a go and entering some of the classes; they might inspire you to cook something you haven't tried before with a delicious end result, and you will also be part of an established village tradition. There seem to be fewer and fewer village shows around so I'm keen to try and make sure our one thrives.

Next month I'll be reminding you about the two Children's Classes and doing my best to encourage you to persuade any eleven-year-olds and under in the village that you know to take part. (The show is open to club members and residents of West Wickham and Streetly End and visiting children & grandchildren; also to residents of neighbouring parishes without horticultural societies of their own.)

The full Schedule is available on the Gardening Club page on the village website but if don't have access to a computer or want to talk about any aspect of the Show then please give me a call.

Sue Thurston, Show Co-Ordinator, T: 897811

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

South Cambridgeshire District Council held elections at the beginning of the May. Geoff Harvey was re-elected to represent Balsham, Horseheath, Carlton, West Wrating, West Wickham and Weston Colville for another 4 years. Regardless of who, if anyone, you voted for, Geoff represents everybody in the constituency on the District Council and is really looking forward to continuing to do so. You can contact him on Geoff.harvey@gmail.com

The full election results across the whole of South Cambridgeshire were:

Liberal Democrats – 37 Councillors
Conservatives – 7 Councillors

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST



Early 20thc. Left to Right: Ann Daniels, Susan Woollard and Mahala Beavis outside Ivy Todd farmhouse. Ann's husband, Henry, was the tenant farmer of this small (72 acres) independent farm (ie one not part of the Wimpole estate which owned the 5 largest farms in the village). Susan and Mahala lived with their families in the two cottages belonging to Ivy Todd opposite. In 1911, Susan's husband, Daniel, described himself as a groom on a farm and Mahala's husband, John, as a horseman on a farm. It is not clear whether they worked for Henry or elsewhere. Note that Ann appears to be doing some darning – a long lost skill!

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

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

FROM THE VICARAGE

It seems impossible to imagine that we are half way through 2022, but what a joy it is to see spring flowers, the birds singing and the longer days.

As we celebrate the changing seasons I recently heard on the radio a folk song by the Byrds with the lyrics taken from Ecclesiastes, 'For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven'. On a trip to Bury the next day there it was on the radio again. All of us at times in our lives face change, even when we have had a period of stability, including me! Prior to moving here I spent three years as a curate in the Raddesley group, near Newmarket. And now, after eleven years, I am retiring from our group of parishes with my final service on Sunday 26 June at 10.30am at Balsham church. I plan to take 6 months off and see where God leads me after that.

It has been a great joy to walk beside so many people over that time. I have completed all the challenges presented with the help of God, and have grown in confidence. I have been able to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice.

There is so much happening in our fast changing world today. Although the pandemic is subsiding we continue to face climate change and poverty in many parts of our society, and of course the war in Ukraine is never far from our thoughts. But we can respond by being compassionate and showing love to each other. Our churches offer a warm welcome and even a visit to the church when it is empty offers a stillness and much to sustain us when times are difficult. We are all being called to have greater resilience as we work together in the future.

May I wish you all a very happy Jubilee weekend and I look forward to seeing you all as I go about my daily life.

Every blessing, Rev. Kathy Bishop

NATURE NOTES

Having spent a few days near the Suffolk coast in 'nightingale heaven' my descent to earth here in West Wickham has had a soft landing thanks to the sound of local songbirds. Blackcaps, whitethroats and willow warblers have all helped to keep my spirits up. We are privileged in this part of Cambridgeshire to host a healthy number of skylarks whose song is said to be the most complex of all birds. Song thrushes may have had a hard time during the incredibly dry April and first half of May because worms stay deep and snails hidden but they have been in good voice nonetheless, as have blackbirds. Walking on the track that leads from Woodall Lane down to the Roman Road in Balsham I heard my first cuckoo of the year from the Balsham Wood direction. Trevor heard a cuckoo from his home in the same week.

A couple of months ago we began anticipating the arrival of swallows and they have been seen in some familiar locations - particularly around the mill at Streetly End and skimming over the rape, but my perception of numbers is that they continue to decline. I'd be interested to hear of any swallows or house martins nesting in West Wickham. My neighbour Jenny gave me some good news about a group of swifts flying over and I spotted three over Haverhill near Tesco's. They are a rare sight these days but a phenomenal bird that can spend years on the wing without landing, including periods of sleep when they presumably switch to autopilot.

Di has been up in Scotland where the swallows and house martins were plentiful and the first contributors to the dawn chorus with their rapidly delivered chatter. May is the prime time for the dawn chorus but it's still worth the effort to get up early one morning and either go to one of our local woodlands or sit in the garden and listen. Di's other highlights from the Lowther Hills included grey wagtails, dippers, sandpipers, oystercatchers and mistle thrushes, all of which are either rarities or absentees in West Wickham. Moving down from the hills of Scotland to the mundanities of shopping at Sainsbury's and wrestling with the cost of living crisis, I can suggest an ideal antidote. Simply have a stroll around the drainage reservoir opposite Sainsbury's (also known as West Town Park) and appreciate the riot of wildflowers that occupy the banks. In April these banks were covered in cowslips but, as I write, the oxeye daisies, clover and buttercups have taken over, soon to be joined by more than one species of orchid and numerous butterflies attracted by the diverse vegetation.

As for mammals, the foxes and badgers have temporarily absented themselves from our copse but apparently are making regular appearances at the other end of the village in Trevor and Carol's garden, along with roe deer, while the ten remaining ducklings in their pond are growing feathers and will soon be fledging as long as they can avoid the foxes.

Finally, a couple of small dramas to report, both involving a crow as victim. We have a regular carrion crow in our garden who chose to use our pond for a wash and brush up. He was just 'splashing it all over' when our chickens, who were out on the lawn, took exception and rushed over to chase him off. On another occasion, we were walking near Skippers Hall when we spotted a commotion in the field where a single crow was being dive bombed by two kites for no apparent reason.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

In May, we had the delight of taking our Year 5 and 6 children to the O2 in London to be part of the Young Voices 2022 celebrations. It was an extra special year as it was the 25th year of the concerts. We arrived in London to glorious sunshine and had a picnic outside the O2, which helped to build the excitement and anticipation. We then had the excitement of going inside and finding our seats. When we first walked through the doors, most of the children were in total awe at the size of the venue. We had 4 hours of rehearsals, which involved singing the medleys and songs we have been practising for months, learning how to beat box and doing some street dance. After tea, the show began. We were part of a choir of 7000 children singing for their schools. The audience was even larger - 10,000 people came to watch. The lights, singing, dancing, special guest stars and the atmosphere made it an event to never forget. We couldn't have been prouder of the children. It was an exceptionally long day, not getting back to school until 11.25 at night but it was absolutely worth it!

May has been a busy month for sports tournaments, which are some of the first ones we have been to in over two years due to Covid. It has been fantastic to see the children back once again taking part in competitive sport. We have attended the Bee Netball tournament, St Neots Cross Country relay race, Y5/6 Tag Rugby and Y5/6 Football.

In school, we have some exciting developments happening in our swimming pool. 2 years ago, before Covid, we started experiencing some issues with it. Covid hit and the pool wasn't needed. This year, we had to make a big decision, did we bite the bullet and try to source funds to repair the pool and build new changing rooms or did we look to swim at a local leisure centre. With the support of our Academy Trust, Anglian Learning, we made the decision to repair and rebuild our pool. We have some amazing new changing rooms being built and a wonderful new liner in the pool, which is currently being filled up. We are planning to start swimming at the beginning of June and after 2 years of no swimming, we cannot wait!

Keep an eye on our Twitter account, @Meadow_Balsham to see all of the wonderful things we get up to in our school.

Nicola Pickford, Head Teacher

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We had six Brownies join Katie and I at a fun day at Ely College for 'Survive to Thrive', a mindfulness, wellbeing and fun day at the beginning of May. The Brownies took part in archery, smoothie bikes - pedalling a bike to make the blender work for the smoothie, making marshmallow/spaghetti towers, playing garden games, learning about the history of Brownies and making a body scrub from household ingredients. All the Brownies had a great time and want to do archery again!

We have started on our Camp skills builder and have already learnt what to take on a camping trip and how to pack a bag. Over the next few weeks we will be learning how to put up a lightweight tent and also a ridge tent that Guides usually use when they go to camp. Towards the end of term we will be learning how to build and light a fire.

Our final meeting of term will be our traditional water fight, so if you hear squealing don't worry it will be the leaders being pelted with water balloons by the Brownies.

If you would like to know more about Brownies. The girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just being themselves.

Pauline and Katie. horseheathbrownies@gmail.com