

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

OCTOBER 2022

ISSUE 233

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday	3 October	Black
Monday	10 October	Blue & green
Monday	17 October	Black
Monday	24 October	Blue & green
Monday	31 October	Black

It is no longer necessary to book to attend any of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres.

For details of locations & opening hours visit:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

At the date of going to the printers the details were not available. See Church noticeboard or www.grantavale.org.uk

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.

Electricity & powercut helpline: 105

British Telecom helpline: 0800 800150

Cambridge Water Company: 01223 706050

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Sunday 16 October

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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.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

1926 - 2022

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE A TREE FOR THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

To mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council and a local landowner will be planting a new small area of woodland north of Burton End. The wood will consist of a range of native species including hazel, alder, rowan and silver birch. Thank you to all the people in the Parish who have offered to buy a tree to plant in the wood.

If you would like to make a donation of around £20 to contribute a tree for this project please contact

Dave Sargeant T: 07976 973929, Email: davidjsargeant@googlemail.com
or Di Licence T: 290434, Email: dianarubylicence@gmail.com.

ROAD CLOSURE - STREETLY END

Between 33 Streetly End & Flowers Cottage

The closure order has been made for new water connection works. It is anticipated that these works will be carried out between 10 October and 21 October 2022. Access will be maintained to properties affected by this order. Pedestrians will be able to pass.

THE VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Trust will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 24 October at 7:30 pm.

We welcome everyone to come to the meeting to see how the Hall is managed and make suggestions on how we can increase the use of the Hall by residents.

The Hall faces a challenging time financially and it has become necessary to increase our hire rates in 2023. However, we will be keeping our rates lower than other halls in the area, which do not provide such high-quality facilities as ours.

The Hall was built to provide recreation and leisure-time facilities for the village. There are some great clubs for you to enjoy, sports facilities like badminton, short-tennis and table tennis are available. Please use and enjoy these and by doing so, help keep your Village Hall available to all.

An Agenda for the AGM will be posted on the Village Notice Boards and on the village website.

Trevor Hall

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT
DATE: **22.10.2022** 7PM-11PM



FROM THE VICARAGE

It was with deep sadness we received the news Queen Elizabeth had died in early September. It brought with it a sense of loss on many levels and may take some time to sink in. Queen Elizabeth was the only monarch many of us had known all of our lives. A constant presence in the political and cultural landscape of this country for so long, in times of both peace and adversity. There has been a tangible sense that an era has come to an end; that this country will never be quite the same again.

Yet also something new has begun. When I first heard reference to 'the King' it felt strange! Yet I was very moved listening to the often deeply personal King's address given on the day after the Queen's death, when he reflected on his mother's reign but also pledged himself to follow her example of service and duty. Let us pray for him in his new role, as he takes on a huge privilege and burden, and will need inward strength and guidance to fulfil this role.

In mourning for Queen Elizabeth, we also give thanks. She was an inspiring Christian witness around the world through her Christmas broadcasts and her public conduct. She also connected with our communities in Cambridgeshire at key moments of celebration. Many may remember her visit, already in her nineties, to the plant research centre outside Cambridge when she was determined to plant the tree herself. She went on to open the Royal Papworth Hospital, revealing her commitment to serve and her resilience to meet the demands of her office at an age when most people had retired.

Latterly, as she relied on a shepherd's stick to remain mobile, we continued to see her public service guided by the opening words of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd". Service carried out with a strong sense of vocation and often with wisdom, humour and joy. As we reflect on some momentous changes in our national landscape and perhaps contemplate more personal changes in our own lives, we may also recognise that Jesus Christ calls each one of us into a life of faith and service, and that this is a vocation we may respond to with thanksgiving and joy.

Revd Iain McColl

RECYCLING OF ELECTRICAL ITEMS

South Cambs District Council has installed 8 new pink recycling banks for small electrical items such as hairdryers, toasters and phones. These are all over the District and Cambridge, in the locations:

- Gwydir Street car park, Cambridge
- Lammas Land car park, Cambridge
- Abbey Pool car park, Cambridge
- Chesterton Road public toilets, Cambridge
- Morrisons car park, Cambourne
- Tesco car park, Bar Hill
- Village car park, High Street, Melbourn
- Tesco car park, Fulbourn

DO YOU NEED A BABY SITTER?

Hello my name is Mae Cameron. I live locally and am available for babysitting/pet sitting/house sitting jobs. I am currently a student at Hills Road Sixth Form College and would be available evenings and weekends. Please contact at 07913 029595 for more information.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Interested in maps?

Then, you might enjoy our first meeting of the year, indeed our first meeting with an outside speaker since before Covid.

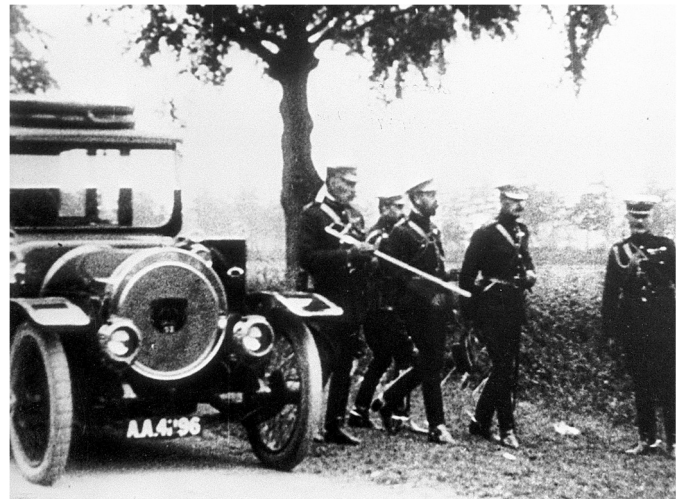
Monday 10 October
7.30pm in the Village Hall

Cambridgeshire in Maps: Saxton to Satnav
Tony Kirby

New members are more than welcome as are non-members (with a small charge). So why not come along for what should be a fascinating talk.

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

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST



The only known monarch to visit West Wickham has been the current King's great grandfather, George V. He came to witness the Army Manoeuvres in September 1912 when the 'invading' Red Army (starting in Norfolk) met the Blue Army, 'defending' London, roughly along the line of the Roman Road. The schoolchildren were given a day off school so that they could see the King, who watched proceedings from the Roman Road near Streetly Hall.

This photograph is taken from a film of the event but I have seen one of George V on his horse at the entrance to Hill Farm. Unfortunately, I could not get a copy of this at the time so if anyone has one or sees one for sale anywhere please do get in touch.

The King's visit to the area is marked by a plaque on the churchyard wall at Horseheath.

Photo from West Wickham & District Local History Club Photo Archive

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

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT
DATE: **22.10.2022** 7PM-11PM



IMPROVING THE USE OF THE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Management Committee have been looking at ways to increase the income of the Village Hall. The hire rates will be increase slightly in 2023 but we feel that income can also be increased by encouraging more use.

Income

Since the closure of Daisy Chains Pre-School there are more opportunities for the Hall to be used during weekdays between 9am and Thursday morning of the month and have seen several private hires being booked during the daytime. Any ideas for generating income from increased usage is welcomed.

Provision for young residents

We feel there are more opportunities for the Hall to be used during the week and particularly on Saturdays when it is infrequently booked.

The Hall is not used by the younger generation in the village. The rear car park is used for a few casual activities. There were some rudimentary skateboard ramps in the past but these were removed due to some of the parts presenting a risk of injury.

The Hall could provide help in accessing grants to purchase equipment if someone is willing to help with the organisation of activities.

Improvements and Maintenance

Facilities in the bar are being upgraded following the flood earlier in the year.

The Hall is facing increased electricity costs and the Management Committee is considering the purchase of PV panels for the roof and battery storage. This will help to offset some of these price increases. A grant of £4000 has been approved by the District Council but we will need to provide the balance of money to complete the project.

We are seeking volunteers to help with some gardening tasks around the Hall on 15 and 16 October (weather permitting). This will involve tidying the flower beds, digging over and re-sowing the small grass area to the front and clearing weeds from the paving stones around the hall.

Anyone willing to help can let me know their contact details via SMS to me at 07831 391268 or by coming to the AGM on Monday 24 October.

Trevor Hall

CAN YOU HELP?

Hello everyone! This October, my friend Emily Hirst and I will travel to Calais for two weeks to volunteer for the charity Care4Calais. We will spend our time working in the charity's refugee camp, helping to sort donations, distributing essential aid and supporting those in the camp in any way we can. We have just graduated from university and since then have been working hard to save money for our trip; however, we would be extremely grateful for any additional help to cover expenses while we are out in France, for example, accommodation, travel costs and food. If you would like to donate, please email me on georgie@thesalterfamily.org and I can point you in the right direction.

Thank you all in advance!

Georgie Salter

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Date for your diary:

Monday 17 October. 7pm, Village Hall. Annual General Meeting postponed from 19 September, followed by *Scented Plants*. Talk by Peter Jackson.

Photography Classes for Next Year's Show

Does the Show Committee never sleep? It doesn't seem like it as we are still active and thinking about next year's Show already. To give you as much time as possible to think about and start taking photos to enter next year, here are the three Classes:

- *Fruits of my labour*
- *After the rain*
- *Contrast*

Photographs need to have been taken since the date of our last Show – 13 August 2022.

Christmas Cards

There were so many lovely images on display at the Annual Show in August in the Photography Classes that the Committee thought it a good idea to pursue the idea of creating some Christmas cards and general cards using some of our favourite images – with the consent of the photographers of course. We are in the process of taking this idea forward and don't know at this stage how much the cards will cost, but you will be delighted to learn that before too long you will be able to buy cards with these two images to send to your friends and family this Christmas. All profits will go to support the Club. Thank you to Lucy Cameron and Linda Upton for allowing us to use their images. The photographs are in colour.

More information on how to buy these cards and what other images will be available as cards will follow soon.



Sue Thurston, Show Co-ordinator

NATURE NOTES

It's the owl-hooting season. We have commented in past years on the sounds made by the younger tawnies who may not have quite yet honed their hooting skills. In 1771 the Reverend Gilbert White (*The Natural History of Selbourne*) was writing about the fact that owls do not keep to one note, which he and his friends judged by comparing their hoots against a pitch-pipe (cost half a crown). One of his friends claimed that most tawnies hooted in B Flat, whereas Gilbert had heard a version in 'half a note below A'. Another neighbour said that they hooted in three different keys – G flat (or F sharp), B flat and A flat. Are there any musically inclined readers who may wish to conduct a similar experiment here? Since 1771 I expect that people have become more knowledgeable about the hooting variations of a tawny owl, although the price of pitch pipes may be somewhat more than 12½p.

As far as we know, owls have not yet been hit by the dreaded avian flu, which is having a devastating effect on some seabirds, notably gannets and herring gulls. There have been distressing reports from the Scilly Isles and Cornwall of dead birds in the streets. This disease had initially affected wildfowl and now as autumn arrives, the many flocks of geese and waterfowl who will be arriving to overwinter in our wetlands will again be under threat from the disease. Closer to home, a disease which affects both finches and pigeons is trichomonosis. Di saw a goldfinch in her garden, puffed up and struggling to swallow. This is a classic symptom of trichomonosis, which is spread by birds feeding on infected seed or water, or eating food regurgitated by infected birds. It is particularly worrying to see a goldfinch suffering in this way as up to now they had seemed to be the least badly affected of the finches. Autumn is a time when there is normally quite a bit of food around for the birds so now is the chance for everyone to clean out their birdfeeders which can be a source of infection.

Some of the food available for birds and small mammals can be found in the hedges which at the moment are looking splendid, festooned with colourful berries. It is quite amazing that after such a dry and hot summer there is an abundance of many berries, nuts and fruit (with the possible exception of spindleberries – neither Di or I seem to have any yet). Could the abundance be caused by a reaction to having been placed under so much stress? Although the parent plant may wither away, new growth is more likely to come from the seeds contained within the nuts and fruit. Whatever the reason, this year is promising to be a 'mast year' when the likes of beech nuts and acorns are produced in big numbers. Last year we had barely any acorns. It's not only birds that take advantage of the foodstuffs available in autumn, but mammals too. Has anyone spotted fox poo with the stones of cherries or damsons? I'm sure they also eat blackberries and fallen apples, as do mice who, like squirrels, put together a store of food for the winter. There have been several sightings of young foxes, and my trailcam has caught foxes and badgers in action, both of whom are omnivorous.

Despite the onset of autumn we are still seeing a few swallows and martins around and Di even spotted a couple of very late swifts flying high over Balsham. Most swifts leave in August.

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

COFFEE MORNINGS - DONATIONS TO CHARITY

Each month visitors to our coffee mornings are invited to make a donation towards their refreshments. It is voluntary and there is no suggested amount. We use this money to pay for the hire of the hall and to reimburse the organisers the cost of the raw materials and the volunteers who bring cakes and biscuits their costs (none have claimed so far!) The remainder goes to charity.

Thanks to the generosity of those making donations we have, so far, helped the following charities, raising a total of **£327.63**.

Comic Relief	£51.55
Disasters Emergency Committee – Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal	£93.00
The Tressell Trust – supporting food banks	£31.08
British Red Cross	£25.00
Age UK	£63.00
Alzheimer's Research UK	£29.00
Disasters Emergency Committee – Pakistan Floods Appeal	£35.00

We always welcome suggestions of which charities to support. Hope to see you at the next Coffee Morning.

Sue Thurston

Come & meet up with your friends & neighbours (& discover some new ones)

in West Wickham Village Hall

at our monthly

**COFFEE
MORNING**

Thursday, 13th October from 10.30



***Selection of teas & coffee
(real & instant)***

Variety of homemade cakes

***More information from
Di Licence (290434) &
Sue Thurston (897811)***

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE HUB NIGHTS

I thought you may like to know that so far this year you have nominated, and we have donated to, some amazing local and national charities including: EACH, Friends of the Roman Road, Teenage Cancer Trust, Arthur Rank Hospice at Home, Alzheimer's Research UK and The Pakistan Flood Appeal. Please let me know if you have a charity you would like to nominate for a donation

For your diary. Future Hub Nights will be on: 22 October and 26 November – we hope this will be a quiz night. Will keep you posted.

Nicci Trudgeon. Email: nicci@innerlather.co.uk,
T: 07527879135)

24/7 PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION POINTS

Here at Granta, we recognise that modern life is pretty busy, which often makes remembering to order and collect your medication challenging. With our 24/7 prescription collection points, you can pick up your repeat prescriptions on a day and at a time that suits you – even when our dispensaries are closed. You can collect day or night, weekends and bank holidays.

Where can I find the collection points? We have 24/7 collection points at Granta Sawston and Granta Linton, and have just installed a new one at Granta Shelford.

How do they work?

- Order your prescriptions from your surgery in the usual way.
- When your medicines are ready to collect you will receive a text on your mobile phone with a unique collection pin.
- Simply type the pin number into the machine and pay any charges via card (if you pay for prescriptions) and the machine will dispense your medication.

Are there items that cannot be collected from a 24/7 collection point? There are some items the collection points cannot be used for, for clinical or regulatory reasons. These include:-

- Controlled drugs like morphine and oxycodone
- Drugs that need to be stored in a fridge
- Very large bulky items

More ways to manage your repeat prescriptions. The 24/7 collection points add to the range of ways you can now access your medications – direct at the dispensary counter, in the comfort of your own home with our free home delivery service, and now at a date/time of your choice. **Try them out for yourself**

For further information and to register, pick up one of our collection point forms or contact us via granta.dispensing@nhs.net, stating which collection point you would like your medicines dispensed from. Our friendly team are here to help. Please note that you do need to have a smartphone to use this service.

FLU CLINICS 2022 - REMINDER

Have you booked your flu jab appointment yet? If not, but you are eligible, ring 0300 234 5555 now to book your appointment. The flu clinic dates are as follows:

- Saturday 1 October – Linton Health Centre, CB21 4JS
- Sunday 2 October – Market Hill Surgery, Royston, SG8 9JN
- Saturday 8 October – Shelford Health Centre, CB22 5FY
- Sunday 16 October – Linton Health Centre, CB21 4JS
- Sunday 16 October – Barley Surgery, SG8 8HY
- Friday 21 October – Sawston Medical Practice, CB22 3HU
- Saturday 22 October – Shelford Health Centre, CB22 5FY

Sandra East, Email: sandra.east@nhs.net, T: 0300 234 5555

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Our Guess the Gadget competition proved popular and resulted in 7 winners who correctly identified all the gadgets – well done! Congratulations also to the 75 children who signed up to the Summer Reading Challenge. By now those who completed the challenge will have received their medals and certificates. If you were not able to attend our presentation ceremony, call in to pick up yours now.

We will be celebrating Libraries Week from 3 to 7 October, the theme this year is Lifelong Learning. Do come along, whether you are a regular user or haven't been for a while, and help us celebrate. We have a special Knit and Natter poppy making session on Tuesday 4 October at 2pm, so this is your chance to try your hand at crochet or knitting. There will also be a Digital buddy session on Thursday 6 October from 2pm – 3pm, a drop-in session for anyone who has IT queries or would like to find out more about digital learning.

Our next Engage session takes place on Monday 10 October, we will be hearing about Reach Community Projects from 2pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome. At our last meeting we enjoyed learning about beer with Wilde Skye Brewing. And yes, there were samples!

Story and Rhyme time will be 10.30am – 11am on Tuesday 11 October for our younger members.

As the nights get cooler come and choose some reads for cosy autumn nights. We change our displays regularly if you need inspiration, or ask staff for ideas.

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

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 045 522

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have returned to Brownies full of enthusiasm for the new term. By the time you read this we will have carried out our annual litter pickup around Horseheath. Hopefully, we won't lose any Brownies in the tall grass at the side of the roads, but you never know.

The plans for the county sleepover at IWM Duxford are coming together. We know that we will be 'sleeping under the wings' of the planes in the huge hangar which is closest to the M11. I hope the weather is nice otherwise we are going to be a bit chilly in there.

We are planning a Scottish evening as St Andrew's Day falls on a Brownie night, and we also have Christmas crafts planned as well as start a new skills builder, Feel Good, from the Be Well theme (purple).

If you have been intrigued by what you have read about the Brownies and you have a 7-year old girl, or older, living in your home and think she might like to join us the please email me on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com and I will get in touch.

or register her on www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter

Pauline and Katie

THE WEST WICKHAM BLACKSMITH

The other evening I was watching a farming programme on television when a feature on a blacksmith was shown. I remembered that back in the 50s West Wickham had its blacksmith shop and I thought most of the current residents wouldn't know much about this.

The blacksmith's shop was situated between what was then the village shop and the White Horse pub. It was a long building with windows overlooking the pavement. The forge end joined onto the village shop and I think that end was eventually turned into a storeroom.



I often went into the blacksmith's shop when I was a young boy. The entrance was at the opposite end to the forge. The floor was earth, well trodden down over the years. I used to operate the bellows to keep the fire in the forge red hot. The anvil was just in front of the forge. This blacksmith was the last one to operate the blacksmith's shop.

The previous blacksmith was John Simkin, the West Wickham Salvation Army bandmaster. A song called 'The Village Blacksmith' was written based around him.

Graham Hopwood

The blacksmith's shop that Graham remembers is now the garage of 1 High Street (the building above, with the man in the doorway, in the 1920's) Does anyone else have memories of it? If so, please do get in touch. According to an article on the village which appeared in the *Cambridge Independent Press* in 1960, the last blacksmith was Mr Ruffles who, although officially retired, still came from Horseheath when needed to do 'running repairs' for local farmers. A photo of the Salvation Army band in 'People from the Past' in the May *Village Voice* included John Simkin.

The popular Salvation Army song that Graham mentions is actually called 'The Village Bandsman'. The words were written by Lieut-Colonel A R Wiggins (who apparently served one time as an officer for the West Wickham Corps) with music by Bandmaster G Marshall. The chorus begins:

*So when the anvil is a-ringing
With the hammer he's a-swinging
You can hear the smith a-singing
Songs of gratitude and praise;*

I do have the full words with music if anyone is interested.

Graham currently lives in Hartlepool and I would be happy to pass on his address if any old friends wish to get in touch.

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club,
21 High Street.

T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com



MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

School has started back well and the children returned looking super smart in their uniforms and full of stories about the adventures they had in the summer holidays. We have also welcomed lots of new families to The Meadow and our community this academic year.

The start of the school term was also one of mixed emotions. We arrived back to school to have received a letter to the school from Her Majesty the Queen thanking us for writing to her to share our celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee. The letter was accompanied by a beautiful card with photographs of The Queen. The day we were planning to share this with children in assembly was the day after the sad announcement of her death. The children were delighted



to have received the letter and we marked her life by observing a period of silence in assembly.

Over the summer, we have said goodbye to some staff and welcomed new team members. As always, a huge thank you to all of the staff who have left for new adventures; we are very grateful for the dedication and commitment you have given to our school during your time with us.

This term learning has begun really well with lots of curiosity and engagement. The Infants are focussing upon 'Footsteps through Time' as their Autumn learning, with a particular focus on Mary Anning. Year 3/4 are looking at Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes and Year 5/6 are focussing on the Victorians and are off to Burghley House for an experience day. We are also looking forward to welcoming our families for our 'Welcome Meeting and Bedtime Story' evening and sharing information about our curriculum plus focus on how to support maths at home.

We have also welcomed a new school catering company – Innovate. Our school cooks have moved across to their company and are continuing to cook up a storm. Innovate have provided some new equipment and exciting new menus. The children and staff are loving the new food choices and our kitchen staff look great in their new uniforms!

If you have any skills or knowledge that you think would benefit our school community then please do let us know. We welcome visitors and helpers into school to enhance our children's learning experiences. All helpers are required to have a DBS check to meet our safeguarding requirements.

As a member of Anglia Learning, we are lucky to receive some funding to improve our school facilities each year. This summer our Y3/4 toilets were refurbished, much to the delight of children and staff. We are now waiting for the rear perimeter fencing to be replaced at the bottom of the school field and on the KS1 playground.

Nicola Pickford, Head Teacher