

VILLAGE VOICES

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2022

ISSUE 235

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday .. 5 December Blue & green
Monday 12 December Black
Monday 19 December Blue & green
Wednesday 28 December Black
2023
Wednesday 4 January Blue only

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

4 December 11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion. Balsham Church
11 December 9.30. Morning Worship at St. Mary's Church
18 December 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
24 December 6pm. Carol Service at St. Mary's Church
25 December 9.30. Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **17.12.2022** 7PM-11PM



USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Nurse: Vacancy

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 12 DECEMBER

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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.

VILLAGE EVENTS FOR YOU TO JOIN IN & ENJOY

Come along to our festive monthly

COFFEE MORNING

in West Wickham Village Hall

THURSDAY, 8TH DECEMBER

FROM 10.30



SELECTION OF TEAS & COFFEE
(GROUND & INSTANT)
VARIETY OF FESTIVE TREATS

MORE INFORMATION FROM
DI LICENCE (290434) &
SUE THURSTON (897811)

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Monday 12 December. Lighthearted quiz and seasonal refreshments
7.30pm, Village Hall

Further details from Janet Morris. T: 290863, Email:
jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 19 December. *Brussels sprouts to tangerines*

Talk by Jaqueline Aviolet

7.30pm, Village Hall

Further details from: Sue Boase, T: 01440 762911

Email: sueboase@hotmail.co.uk

HUB NIGHT

Saturday 17 December (See adverts)

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

6pm, St Mary's Church

FROM THE VICARAGE

There is so much to look forward to in December in our parishes: Christmas tree festivals; Christmas concerts; carol singing to name but a few! Whilst I sometimes find myself rushing from one event to another, I really enjoy the festive atmosphere! It's as though there is a deep instinct that Christmas is a time for seeing the good in each other and the world. For celebrating gift, generosity and expressions of love. You don't need religion to understand these are some of the things which really matter in life.

Gift, joyful celebration and an instinct for seeing the good, also point towards the deeper reality of the Christmas story. A familiar story, but one with strange beauty. A story, which is a mix of uncertainty, hope, joy and new life. A child, born in humble circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'".

In our Christmas services we hear the story of Jesus' birth anew and celebrate this good news with joyful thanksgiving. Christmas services in our churches will be a mix of Communion services, Christingles and carols. Some carol services will be inside our churches and some outside, as they were over the last couple of years, when we wrapped up warm and sang by torchlight! There will be details of all of our services on our website: www.grantavale.org.uk and on our church notice boards.

Recently, in our youth group, we asked the children which Christmas food, decorations and carols they especially look forward to, which gave rise to a variety of interesting responses! A traditional Christmas carol I look forward to is 'O little town of Bethlehem', written in the mid-19th century but still very popular today. The last words of this carol also declare that, in Jesus and through his Spirit, "God is with us": 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel'. As we come together this Christmas, let us ponder anew this divine gift, and celebrate this joyful and life-changing good news.

Revd Iain McColl



**Balsham Singers
Christmas Concert**

Musical Director - John Clenaghan

**Saturday
17th December 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

COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

We celebrated Pam Jolly's 92nd birthday at our last Coffee Morning and here she is flanked by her granddaughter Lisa, who baked this wonderful sponge, and daughter Trina.



Our next Coffee Morning will be a festive affair with mince pies, cake and no doubt other treats to get you in the mood for Christmas. Do come along and join your friends and neighbours in the village hall. All are welcome.

If you would like a lift to or from the Hall, please give me a call and we can arrange it.

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

THE PETER & RUTH LLOYD TRUST AWARD

We are pleased to report that this year the Trust presented its annual award for 2022 to Oliver Hodge. Oliver is from West Wrating and has gone to the University of Hull to study medicine. Very well done!

As always it was a pleasure for the Trustees to meet such enthusiastic and interesting candidates from our locality during the selection process. Oliver was presented with his cheque by the Trustees at the RAF Wrating Common memorial stone.

Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award 2023

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2023. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year to the amount of £1000.

Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following: Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Education, Medicine, Nursing and Veterinary Medicine.

The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrating Common airfield - Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Willingham, West Wrating, Weston Colville and Withersfield. The Award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

Final decision and Award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and University offers are known.

For further information about the Trust and Award please contact: Jonathan Drury, T: 01223 290968

For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 2 April 2023.

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST



John de Fraine moved to West Wickham, the home village of his wife Ursula, in 1865 and remained here until his death in 1910. He made his living travelling the country lecturing on 'social subjects', mainly about temperance and for more than forty years he raised the money for annual Christmas teas for the elderly, the children and the young men and women who attended his Bible classes. These took place in the Mission Hall he had built in 1871 (now known as the Old Chapel) which was

suitably decorated for the occasion and featured a Christmas tree with presents for everyone. In the early days these were of a practical nature – warm comforters, scarves and gloves – but later on, in a reflection of changing times, the elderly were given coal, tea, sugar and a little money while the young received books.

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

You will always find a warm and friendly welcome in your library. Drop in just to choose books, or stay to read, relax with a jigsaw puzzle or use our free WiFi or a library computer. If you are looking for advice on cost-of-living support, staff will be happy to signpost you to information.

We have the following social events in Linton Library. All are welcome:

- Our new monthly Read a Little Aloud session is on Friday 2 December, 10.45am – 11.30am. Relax and listen as library volunteers and staff read from a variety of stories, poetry and literature for adults. Join in if you like!
- Engage is on Monday 12 December at 2pm. Come along for a Christmas quiz and refreshments.
- Knit and Natter will take place at 2pm on Tuesday 13 December. Bring along your latest craft project.

If you need help with a Bus Pass renewal our Digital Buddy is happy to help - appointments are available on Thursday afternoons from 2pm, please book at the library.

Over the holidays we will be closed from Monday 26 December, re opening on Tuesday 3 January. Happy Christmas!

Ann King, Community Library Assistant, 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

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

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WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Have you enjoyed the wonderful summer of sport? Ready to try something different? The Carpet Bowls Club would very much welcome new members, so why not give it a go (there's no obligation to join if you find it's not for you)? It's easy to learn, suitable for all abilities and is fun to play. We meet on Wednesday evenings in the Village Hall – 6.45 for a 7pm start.

Just come along or contact the Secretary, Janet Morris
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

LITTER PICKERS

Thank you to everyone who has picked up litter from the pavements, roadside verges, footpaths and playing field this year. I know quite a few people do this whenever they go out on walks. However the wanton distribution of beer cans, sandwich wrappers etc shows no sign of stopping.

Some time ago we lodged litter picking equipment in the storage box next to the Village Hall and in the phone box at Streetly End. In the latter case, the three 'grabbers' in the phone box have been missing for a few weeks. If an enthusiastic litter picker borrowed them to use and has not yet returned them, please could you do so.

Peter Grieve

GIRLGUIDING LINTON DISTRICT



What an incredible experience our Brownies have had. They went to Duxford airfield and made dens to sleep in under the wings of the planes in the Space hanger, along with 500 other Brownies and 100 leaders from all over our county, Cambridgeshire East. Our girls actually got to sleep under Concorde. They had activities especially designed for the weekend including a tour of the museum, designing a space suit and making aeroplanes out of pegs. For a bit of fun, why not make a paper aeroplane and see how far yours fly? There are lots of different types to make.

One of our Balsham Brownies has achieved her Silver award, which is very well deserved and hard to achieve, so well done. More Silvers coming, watch this space. Burrough Green Brownies made a beautiful wreath for Remembrance Sunday which looked stunning and, like all our units, represented Girlguiding at all the local services. This included our Trefoil Guild which joined the parade in Linton. They also had a very interesting evening hearing about how all the districts girls got on at the East Meets West County Camp.

Guiding is never still and continues as ever to be a voice for all girls. As the words of an old Guiding song comes to mind: *Come, come light up the fire, join in the ring.* Here find dreams to inspire, stories to tell, music to sing. We are as relevant today for every girl and young woman, and change as the girls change; inspiring them to achieve their best, raise their aspirations, be confident and encourage them to be a powerful force for good.

Come and see what we do, you will be most welcome.

Contact Louisa T: 01223 833776,
Email: Lintondistrict@gmail.com
www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

NATURE NOTES

With due respect to John Keats, our season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' is, at the time of writing, turning into one of gusts and woeful wetfulness, with remaining fruit being blown to the ground and people and wildlife alike needing to take cover from the driving rain. Having said this, we have been fortunate to have had some lovely autumn days, particularly atmospheric in the misty, drippy mornings and at twilight as the sun rises and falls.

Di's favourites of these autumn mornings are the silk webs stretched across the grasses and flower stalks, enhanced by water droplets glinting in the sun. Poet Andrew Young describes:

*cobwebs drooped heavy and hoar
as with wool they had been knit,
too obvious a mark for fly to hit*

Although the spiders may be suffering a temporary blip in their fly-catching strategy, they at least have the consolation of being able to have a sip of water from the droplets that have condensed on their webs. Swings and roundabouts come to mind.

Spiders and flies are essential players in the cycle of life, as are other creatures further up the food chain. There has been a fallow deer lying dead beside Webbs Road in Streetly End for some weeks (cause of death unknown – surely cars wouldn't be going fast enough?). A couple of times when passing the carcass we have disturbed a red kite and although we see these birds most days, there is still a sharp intake of breath when seeing it at such close quarters in these somewhat gruesome circumstances. Meanwhile the deer carcass diminishes by the day as not only the kite but also various insects and bacteria get to work on it.

Other birds that eat carrion as part of their diet include buzzards and carrion crows who are seen frequently in West Wickham, but a pair of the crow's big cousins, the raven, have been spotted recently. They are more often associated with coastal and moorland locations in the north and west of the country, so this sighting was a surprise. They have a distinctive deep croaky call and are spectacular flyers who can fly upside down, seemingly just for the fun of it.

Fieldfares and redwings cannot, as far as I know, fly upside down but they have managed the trip from Scandinavia to Britain once again, and they can be heard chuckling and ticking as they rise from the hedgerows when disturbed. It would be nice to hear if anyone sees one of their relatives, the missel thrush, which I believe has declined somewhat in recent years. On the subject of migration, there are many species of water fowl who come to this country for the winter, including Bewick swans who can sometimes be seen at the Ouse washes north of Ely but have been reported as arriving at the Slimbridge wetland reserve on 10 November, ten days later than last year and their latest arrival since 1965. It is thought likely that this late arrival is due to warmer temperatures in their breeding grounds in the arctic.

The mild autumn could also be the reason for Carol Hall's spotting of a red admiral in her garden on 12 November. It is not unheard of to see overwintering butterflies emerging for a quick flutter on unseasonably warm winter days, but red admirals are mainly migratory and come from southern Europe and North Africa. However, more are beginning to overwinter in this country so we may see more of them in the autumn and early spring in future years.

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 GARDEN CLUB

2023 Annual Show Photography Competition

With the mild weather we experienced in early November it's difficult to imagine Christmas will be upon us in a few weeks' time. In-fact it was still warm sunshine when we were ordering the Christmas cards produced from two of last year's photographic entries.

Given the success of these cards, the Gardening Club will definitely be producing some more throughout the year using some of the beautiful photographs of the natural world taken by the 2022 entrants... which brings us nicely to the 2023 competition.

To give beginners, newcomers and our more seasoned entrants plenty of scope the titles are open to your own interpretation and so over the next few months we'll give you some ideas on how to think about each of the three categories. Here we give our thoughts on the first title: *Fruits of my Labour*.

Although the title suggests garden produce it can be interpreted in a much wider context: possibly your amazing Christmas tree or cake (which, even if it doesn't win could be used for next year's Christmas cards). You may enjoy DIY and be particularly impressed with one of your projects, or even a colourful garden tub. Whatever you choose, think about how the image will look if it is displayed and if it is intriguing or appealing. Different light, angles or close-ups can be effective and easy to achieve on a phone or camera.

The rules state that entries must have been taken in the year between one show and the next. This year's other titles are *After the Rain* and *Contrast*. Classes are open to members and non-members, children and adults. You can enter two photographs in each class.

If you would like details on how to enter please contact either Sally Moon sally@sallymoonpublishing.com or Sue Thurston mail@suethurston.co.uk, T: 01223 897811. Full details on how to submit your entries and fees will be included in the July edition of the *Village Voice*.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of your labours!

Sue Thurston

CAMBRIDGE CITY ACCESS CONSULTATION

A 'Sustainable Travel Zone' road user charge has been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body currently implementing the upgrades to the A1307) for private vehicles between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The plans are part of a package to improve public transport, reduce congestion in the city and help the environment through lower emissions.

A £5 congestion charge to drive into and around Cambridge is being considered as part of a 'once in a generation' plan to shake up how people travel during the working week.

There is now a public consultation on the proposals and it is vitally important that as many people as possible respond to this with their views. It will be one of the largest decisions that will affect the way that we travel in and out of Cambridge for generations to come.

The consultation and related documents, can be found at: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022>

There will also be pop-up events around the area, with one proposed in Linton. Details to be confirmed

Henry Batchelor & Geoff Harvey

The last
BALSHAM
CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 10th December
2pm to 4pm
Balsham Church Institute

Love a local Christmas

BUY LOCAL SHOP SMALL

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

The Brownies had a fantastic time trying to sleep under the wings at IWM Duxford. We joined over 500 other Brownies and 100 leaders at the event. Each unit was allocated a sleeping area and we were lucky enough to be given the area under Concorde. We all arrived late on Saturday afternoon and after the museum closed we were able to place our luggage where we were going to sleep. After dinner we had different activities, from learning how to make the perfect paper aeroplane to exploring Concorde and hearing tails about famous female aviators through history. The evening ended with a cocoa and campfire singing.

After a very warm and restless night, the lights came on at 6.30am and it was time to pack away our beds and get ready for breakfast and a morning of other aviation and space themed activities. At 10am we could visit the other attractions at IWM Duxford when it opened to the public. It was a tiring 24 hours but an experience not to be missed.

We have been joined by a new Brownie, Amber, who has just turned 7. She is joining in well and will be making her Promise at the end of term.

At the beginning of December we will be joining 1st Linton Guides at the Panto in Cambridge, we've already started practicing the traditional phrase "it's behind you"!

Finally, the Brownies will be out delivering cards and calendars during December so if you find one through the door you'll know you've made it onto the Brownies 'you've been good' list.

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 then please email me on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com or register her on www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/ and I'll get in touch.

Pauline and Katie

BALSHAM MARKET CLOSURE

After much consideration, and with great sadness, I have decided to close the Balsham Market. This December's will be the last market for Balsham. Visitor numbers to the market have fallen drastically during the past year. With the lack of customers, my regular stall holders are finding it difficult to justify attending our market.

I understand there is a requirement for a butcher, baker and fruit and vegetable stall which I have been unable to secure on a regular basis. I have also considered running a morning monthly market in the hope it would attract more customers, however, all of my stall holders are already busy attending weekend morning markets.

If you wish to continue to support our lovely stall holders, you can either visit them at other markets, social media or online. Most of them support online shopping:

Borakis Greek Food - Linton, Orwell, Wilbraham, Ely, St Neots, Hauxton (Sunday)
Cambridge Artisan Cheese - Burwell, Isleham, Waterbeach (Sunday), Cheveley (Sunday)
CB21 Cheesecake Company, Orwell, Wilbraham, Hauxton (Sunday), Cheveley (Sunday)
Jane's Cupcakes - Fowlmere, Clare, Steeple Bumpstead
Nikki's Homemade - Burwell, Wyken Vineyard, Bungay, Cheveley (Sunday)
Macarons by Kiwi Debs - Orwell, Wilbraham, Hauxton (Sunday)
Studio 50 Glass Design - Hartest, Keddington (Sunday)
Wilbraham, Steeple Bumpstead,
Turn and Burn - Burwell, Keddington, Waterbeach, Steeple Bumpstead

Thank you to all who have attended and supported the Balsham Market over the past six years. I have raised £2,500 for local charities and events: Balsham Parochial Charities, Balsham Ploughmen (Tommy statue near the cenotaph and Christmas tree lights), the foodbank, the Parish Nurse, Balsham Christmas Tree Festival and the Balsham Feast.

I hope to see you on 10 December. Doors open 2pm to 4pm. Balsham Church Institute.

Wishing all the very best. Maybe see you at some of the markets above.

Debbie Paton

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

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GRANTA Medical Practices

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

Make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time to ensure that **you do not run out of your medication** over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Friday 23 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Friday 30 December
Saturday 24 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January
Sunday 25 December	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January
Monday 26 December	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January
Tuesday 27 December	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January
Wednesday 28 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January
Thursday 29 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Wednesday 4 January
Friday 30 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Thursday 5 January
Saturday 31 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only	Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January
Sunday 1 January 2023	Closed	Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January
Monday 2 January	Closed	Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January
Tuesday 3 January	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January

Don't forget, we now have the **Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford**. Sign up today to pick up your medication at your convenience over the Christmas holidays.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your **local pharmacist** can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists are available on every High Street and in supermarkets with many open evenings and weekends.

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season. Sandra East, Head of Patient Services. Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

JIGSAW PUZZLE LIBRARY

Writing this on a sunny October morning it seems difficult to think that by the time you read this it will be getting dark around 4 pm as the clocks will have gone back an hour.

Just to remind you that there are over 100 puzzles available to borrow from the garage of Nine Chimney House, Balsham.

Most are either 1000 or 500 pieces. Do come and have a look.

Joanna Sanders

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

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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