

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2023

ISSUE 236

## WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

**Wednesday 4 January Blue only**  
**Tuesday 10 January Black**  
Monday 16 January Blue & green  
Monday 23 January Black  
**Monday 30 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](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres)

## CHURCH SERVICES

1 January 11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion. Balsham Church  
8 January 9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church  
15 January 9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church  
22 January 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church  
28 January 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

## 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: Vacancy**

**AgeUK Community Warden:**

**Lucy Cameron. T: 07436102865**

email [Lucy.cameron@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto: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 January

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

Email: [editor\\_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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.

## THANK YOU FROM THE EDITORS

We would like to thank everybody involved with the Village Voice, especially those stalwarts who deliver it throughout the year – Linda Adams, Jean & Kit Martin, Sue Thurston & Pete Grieve; to Janet who proof reads it each month; to the Parish Council whose support allows it to be distributed free of charge to every household; to Oliver Plumridge for printing it, and of course to everybody who sends articles, news and reports.

Thank you all. Andrew and Anna

## QUEEN'S WOOD

So far we have planted 3/4 of the trees and the balance are to go in shortly. There are 100 English oaks, 10 Scots pine, 25 small leaved lime, 25 hazel, 25 crab apple, 25 silver birch and 25 common beech. These all have tree guards and stakes. The perimeter is to be planted with trees supplied by villagers and the Parish Council. Many thanks to those who helped with this. The wood is an area of approximately one acre and beside the footpath opposite The Old Vicarage. This footpath used to be the driveway to Yen Hall until the current drive was made in the 1920's. I felt that Queen's Wood is more appropriate than Jubilee Wood, since Her Majesty died last year.

Let us all hope that this summer is kinder than last year so that the trees are able to get off to a good start and that they flourish for years to come. It is a long term memorial to our longest serving Monarch.

Marcus Cornish

## DONATIONS FOR QUEEN'S WOOD

The cost of contributing thirty alder, rowan and hazel saplings for the new woodland to the north of Burton End was higher than expected, so it isn't too late to contribute up to £20 toward the project. Cash or cheques made payable to 'West Wickham Parish Council' can be delivered to 17 Burton End. Please include your name and address so a receipt can be issued. Contact Cllr. Dave Sargeant, email [davidjsargeant@gmail.com](mailto:davidjsargeant@gmail.com) or phone 07976 973929 for further details. Thank you to those who have already made generous donations.

David Sargent, West Wickham Parish Council

## VILLAGE EVENTS FOR YOU TO JOIN IN & ENJOY

### WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

**Monday 9 January.** Light hearted New Year Quiz (postponed from December!)

7.30pm, Village Hall

Further details from Janet Morris.

T: 290863, Email, [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

### COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday 12 January (See advert on page 2)**

### WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

**Monday 16 January.** *Climate change in our gardens – a follow up*

Talk & discussion led by Janet Morris and Sue & Clive Boase

7.30pm, Village Hall

Further details from: Sue Boase,

T: 01440 762911, Email: [sueboase@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sueboase@hotmail.co.uk)

## ROAD CLOSURE

Burton End between numbers 1 and 10 will be closed for highway repair works. This is expected to be carried out between 16 and 18 January. Access to properties will be maintained while through pedestrian traffic will still be permitted. Full details are on the village website  
<https://westwickham.org>

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Thank you to everyone who bought our festive snowman and duck Christmas cards this year. We made a profit of just over £130 from the sale of them, all of which is going to the Club to pay for its speakers, etc. I am hoping we can do the same next year, using photographs taken by Club members or local villagers, so during the cold, frosty and snowy months ahead do keep an eye out for any scene that you think might make a good Christmas card and get snapping.

Sue Thurston, Show Co-ordinator

## NEWS FROM THE PAST

This is the first of a new series of items from the local papers. These have been collected by West Wickham & District Local History Club from microfilm at the Cambridgeshire Collection, the local studies library in Cambridge Central Library or accessed online from The British Newspaper Archive

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

*Cambridge Chronicle* 24 January 1880

**To Timber Merchants, Builders,  
Wheelwrights, Coopers, and Others.**  
STRETLEY END, A HAMLET OF  
WEST WICKHAM, CAMBS  
A VERY HEAVY FALL OF TIMBER,  
COMPRISING

Upwards of 400 Trees  
(OAK, ASH, ELM, AND SYCAMORE),  
Many of them of large meetings;  
4,000 Roundwood Fagots,  
And an immense quantity of Legwood, on the  
estate of William Bird Kidman, Esq.,  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY  
**WISBEY & SON**

Hundreds of mature trees were felled in West Wickham in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the winter months were the favoured time of year as access was easier. Timber was a valuable crop, if a long term one, not only for the wood itself but also for the bark, particularly from oak, which was stripped for use in the tanning industry. The roundwood faggots would have been for firewood and for use in ovens; legwood was all the smaller, thinner material left over. This particular sale is a bit of a puzzle. William Kidman's 'estate' was little more than 100 acres and included the mill, mill house, cottages on the north side of the road, the fields behind them and Streetly End farm (then separate from Streetly Hall farm). There is no indication that there was any woodland on this land so the trees must have been entirely hedgerow trees. Their felling must have completely altered the landscape.

For details about any aspect of West Wickham history, please do contact Janet Morris, 21 High Street  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## HUB NIGHT QUIZ

Thank you to everyone who provided help to make our Village Hall fund raising event a great success as it would not have been possible without you all and the contributions you made. Well done to the winning team, 'The Illegals', Julie & Brian Marshall, Sarah & Tony Humphrey, Anna & Ted Fairhead.



Thank you to everyone who attended the evening. £430.53 was raised which will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall over the coming months.

Di Hazlehurst

## WEST WICKHAM HUB NIGHTS

Nicci, Ian and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and thank you for continuing to support our monthly HUB nights at the Village Hall. As we no longer have a pub, this is our chance to socialise with other people in the village. We have purchased a pool table, which we hope to have out when we start again in April, and on several Saturdays during the past year we have had the table tennis tables out. We have continued to give £50 each month to charity. If you haven't ventured along yet, make it one of your New Years Resolutions to do so, and come and join us when we restart on April.

Di Licence

**West Wickham Village Hall**

**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**From 10.30 on Thursday**

**12<sup>th</sup> January**



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

**Variety of homemade cakes**

**LIFTS AVAILABLE**

**Call Di Licence (290434) or  
Sue Thurston (897811)**

## NATURE NOTES

My highlight of the month (and probably the year) came while walking along the lode - the watercourse which runs between Quy and the village of Lode, behind Anglesey Abbey. I passed a couple who said that a woman had told them she had just seen an otter, so I was on the alert. There was a flutter of wings further down and a dabchick (little grebe) took off and skimmed along the water before diving in. Walking slowly on to the point where the bird had taken off, I then had the privilege of seeing an otter slip into the water from the wooded area behind Anglesey Abbey. This happened at about 11 o'clock in the morning – unusual as otters are more active at night and unique for me as this was the first time I had seen an otter 'live' in the wild.

The Wildlife Trust and the Cambridgeshire mammal group have recently published the results of their most recent otter survey, having tracked the progress of otter populations for the last 30 years. In 1992 when the surveys started, otter populations were sparse, but they have steadily increased and are now considered to be stable with otter signs on all main watercourses. Looking at the map, there is evidence of otter activity throughout the county, including in our little corner. Of course some of us with fish in ponds (Trevor, Deborah, Alex) have lost fish to this top predator in the past so we already knew that otters visited West Wickham from time to time.

The good news about the recovery of otters is counterbalanced by the continuing decline of hedgehogs, with national statistics suggesting population declines of up to 50% since the turn of this century. Bearing in mind that hedgehogs have been in trouble since well before 2000, this is very serious. In rural areas like ours, villages act as islands for hedgehogs amid seas of potentially unfavourable arable habitat. Gardens are probably a more friendly environment for hedgehogs provided they are accessible and unpolluted by pesticides. The exact causes of hedgehog decline are not fully understood, but are likely to include habitat loss and fragmentation, reduced numbers of invertebrates, road deaths, and increasing badger populations. Our own garden probably isn't ideal for hedgehogs, given the proximity of a thriving badger community and our efforts to make the garden dog proof, which makes access as well as egress more difficult for dogs and hedgehogs alike.

Birds of course can still fly in and at this time of year plenty of species take advantage of bird feeders, berries from the shrubs and hedges and remaining fruit. In the latter case, I spied a trio of blackbirds pecking away at apples at the top of the tree. The blackbird population is always inflated at this time of year by visitors from the north while some of our resident birds either go south or stay put.

Last month I asked you to let me know if you saw a mistle thrush and the birds obliged. Di spotted them at Maypole Croft defending the whitebeam berries and again down at the Village Hall having a battle royal with about twenty redwings who were apparently leading the thrushes a merry dance. The birds are all part of the thrush family and what could be more appropriate at Christmas time than to have a good old family row. There is a suspicion that mistle thrushes nest in the lime trees at the back of the churchyard so we hope to see them there in the early spring when they establish their territory.

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following items were discussed at the meeting on 28 November. The full draft minutes are posted on the noticeboards.

### **Planning:**

1. 22/04206/FUL: 38 Streetly End. Ground mounted solar panels – this application has been reissued and discussion is pending
2. 22/05912/LBC: Streetly End Farm, 61 Streetly End. Re-rendering using sympathetic lime render. Pending

**Finance:** Please see full minutes for details.

### **Traffic & Parking issues:**

1. Speed Indicator equipment: Before a decision can be made about purchasing our own SID equipment enquiries need to be made about the makes bought by other villages as they are not all acceptable in a Highways grant bid.
2. Speed Indicator report: Trevor Hall reported for the week ending 16-10-22: Streetly End east facing Horseheath total 3423 vehicles, 363 over 30mph, maximum speed 53mph. Week ending 21-10-22: Streetly End west facing Horseheath total 4035 vehicles, 797 over 30mph, maximum speed 58mph.
3. *Speed Watch*: It was felt it would be good to start this up again and Trevor Hall said he would put something in the Village Voice with an appeal for volunteers.

### **Maintenance:**

1. Footpath maintenance: Cllr Temple has been told that footpath waymark posts are no longer available through the County Council Footpath Dept. due to lack of funds and it was the landowner's responsibility to replace them. He will endeavour to obtain marker disks once he has checked how many are required.
2. Pavements: Complaints had been received about slippery paths due to small stones and also the need to cut back hedging. These matters have been dealt with. (Ed. It would have been good to know how !)
3. Winter gritting volunteers: Cllr McNeillie and Robert Giles have volunteered to look after gritting in Streetly End.

**Trees for Queen's Wood:** English Woodlands has given a quote for trees and stakes etc. and it was agreed to accept this at a cost of £414.96 (incl VAT).

### **Village Hall & Recreation ground:**

1. Solar panels: Greenscape will carry out a physical survey this month having given a paper quote of £14000.
2. RoSPA report: The cradle seat has been purchased from Wicksteeds and installed by the Chairman. One quote has been received for the other work needed to be done, two other quotes had been requested. The Chairman has also carried out many of the smaller repairs needed.

### **Allotments:**

1. The rents for 2022/23 have now been collected.
2. Water meter: There are concerns about the inclusion of sewerage charges in the water charges to allotment tenants. It was agreed that Cllr Mulley-Richards try to set up a meeting with the tenants and the Village Hall Management committee to sort this out.

**Reports by District & County Councillors:** These have been put on the village website.

**The next meeting will be held on  
Monday 23 January.  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

**A very Happy New Year to you all.**

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.  
T: 01223665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It certainly has been a very busy but productive end of term for us all at The Meadow!

**School Council.** This is made up of Year 6 Team Captains and a representative from each class and has been having regular meetings throughout the term focusing on our yearlong Eco Campaign. As a council, they have come up with ways to try and save energy in school, created posters to display around our school and led a Team Assembly to inform the rest of the school as to what they can do to help the campaign.

**Maths Workshops.** Mrs Searle, our Maths Subject Leader, ran two problem solving workshops for parents and carers. After explaining how we teach the pupils to solve maths problems and strategies that could be used at home to support this, the adults went to work with the children in the classrooms. Both adults and pupils enjoyed this time explaining these strategies and working together.

**Sporting Events.** We have competed in many sporting events over the term. The last one of the term was the cross country at Wimpole Hall. 4 teams of boys and 4 teams of girls in Key Stage 2 had to run over a mile over uneven and muddy ground. The children did themselves and the school proud by giving 100 per cent of their effort but also supporting every single runner. They stood on the finish line and cheered all finishers across the line regardless of which school they attended. One of our pupils finished 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 120 boys and another won a Spirit of the Games award. The Year 5 and 6 team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall out of 24 schools which was amazing!

We are looking forward to returning to school in January, refreshed and ready for some new learning as well as welcoming parents and carers in for Spelling, Writing and Reading workshops. Please look at our website or Twitter for more information on school events.

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head

## LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Happy New Year! You'll 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 this month, all are welcome:

- Our new monthly Read a Little Aloud session is on Friday 6 January, 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!
- Knit and Natter will take place at 2pm on Tuesdays 10 and 24 January. Bring along your latest craft project.
- Rhyme and Storytime will be 10.30 – 11am on Tuesdays 17 and 31 January.

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.

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](mailto:your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 522

## FROM THE VICARAGE

First and foremost, please allow me to wish you a very Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are at the beginning of a new year, 2023. I hope you all had a joyous advent and Christmas times with those who you know and love. I have always thought that January has been a good time to reflect; taking stock of all that has been in the last year and our hopes and expectations for all that will be, this coming year.

I wonder what 2023 will bring? My mind turns back to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey and eventually found a King. Not the sort of King expected but one who opened up new horizons for the whole world. The one who offers us unconditional love, forgiveness, and the way back to God; with no reason to hide away. When I reflect on January, I am asking questions which search for deeper meaning. What sort of Journey will you take this year?

As Christians it is not so much of us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes us this coming year, or even if we slip from following in God's way, he will never give up on us and will never let us walk alone. *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* This verse from Philippians 4.4, seems to offer a us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, may you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year. My hope and my prayer are that God grants you the desires of your heart in 2023.

Reverend Ben Brady., Curate

## THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH ART WITH LALA

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new 10 week course called 'The Golden Age of Dutch Art', on Tuesday mornings from 10 January. We meet in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane from 10.00 to 11.45. We are pleased to welcome back Deborah Monteiro who has presented very informative and well-illustrated art courses in previous years. Deborah says 'The history of Holland in the 17th century is a unique success story of a newly independent country that can be understood perfectly through its art'. Please contact me for more information or to register interest. Cost for the 10 weeks is £50 and includes a coffee break.

Sue Mudge

T: 01223 892737 or Email: [mudges.linton@btinternet.com](mailto:mudges.linton@btinternet.com)

## CALL FOR WINTER AID FOR UKRAINE REFUGEES FROM ROTARY

A collection of winter items for the people of Ukraine is to be held on Saturday 14 January at Abington Primary School car park from 9.00am until 1.00pm. It is being supported by Guy Underwood, Headteacher and Revd. Ian McColl of the Granta Churches. The current need is for good warm clothing and thermal garments, blankets, duvets and sleeping bags, towels, sheets and bedding items, toiletries and cleaning materials, medical supplies - bandages, plasters and activity games for children.

Call Tony Collett of Rotary in Saffron Walden on 01223 893447 if you want items collected.