

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

FEBRUARY 2023

ISSUE 237

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Monday	6 February	Black
Monday	13 February	Blue & green
Monday	20 February	Black
Monday	27 February	Blue

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

5 February	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion. Balsham Church
12 February	9.30. Morning worship at St. Mary's Church
19 February	9.30. Morning worship at St. Mary's Church
Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion. 7.30pm at Hildersham Church
26 February	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

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 February

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

T: 01223 290863

Email: editor_wvillagevoice@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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Thank you everyone who took part in the Christmas Eve carol service and an especially a big thankyou to the readers. The collection raised £344 for the AgeUK Small Village Community Warden Scheme which West Wickham benefits from with the warden, Lucy Cameron.

If you would like to read at the carol service next year, please email me at nicolacornish@hotmail.co.uk

Nicky Cornish

VILLAGE EVENTS FOR YOU TO JOIN IN & ENJOY

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 9 February (See below)

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Monday 13 February. *The great plague in Cambridge.*

Talk by Dr Evelyn Lord
7.30pm, Village Hall

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 20 February. *Everything you ever wanted to know about slugs.*

Talk by Ian Bedford.
7.30pm, Village Hall

Further details from: Sue Boase, T: 01440 762911
Email: sueboase@hotmail.co.uk

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 9 February

Our first coffee morning of the year was well attended, and it was good to see some regular faces back in the Hall enjoying tea, coffee and their choice of delicious home-made cake. Our next one will be on Thursday, 9 February, so do make a note on your calendar to join us at the Village Hall from 10.30 until around midday.

There is no charge for the refreshments but we welcome donations which, once the hire of the Hall is paid for, will go to charity. Please let us know your suggestions for charities to support.

Lifts can be arranged to and from the Hall if you need one – just phone me or Di Licence (290434).

Sue Thurston, T: 01223 897811, Email: mail@suethurston.co.uk

SNOW DROP FESTIVAL - OPEN GARDEN Clover Cottage, 50 Streetly End

Shirley Shadford will again be opening her garden for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) Snowdrop Festival on Sundays 19, 26 February and 5 March 2pm - 4pm. The garden is well worth a visit and has been featured in several magazine articles and at least one book. Snowdrops, hellebores, iris reticulate and daffodils will be on sale and teas available. Shirley would be delighted to see you all. Adults £3.50, children free. Proceeds go to the National Garden Scheme.

FIRES IN THE AREA PRE 1966

Here are some more memories from Graham Hopwood. Fires and fire engines have always been a source of fascination for the young!

The first fire I remember involved a trailer full of straw bales being towed by a tractor. It was coming towards West Wickham from the Balsham direction and the driver stopped as he was coming by the parish church. When I saw the trailer next morning it was burnt out and was still in the same place. It was thought that sparks from the tractor's exhaust started the fire.

Another fire I remember was at Rose Cottage (when it was 2 houses – now 9 High Street)). Some workmen were burning the old paint off the window frame when it caught fire. The fire was out when I got there but, as the hose pipe was across the road, there were ramps for vehicles to go over it and I moved these to fit the width of the passing vehicles.

A fire also occurred at College Cottages when it was 2 houses (now Platts Farm). The house involved was the one nearest the farmyard, which was occupied by Bert Taylor, the farm pigman. I think it was a chimney fire. I knew one of the Linton fireman, Mr. Gurney, as he delivered the school dinners to the village school. I took his helmet to the Linton fire engine for him and I think the other fire engine came from Haverhill.

One day I was stood at the bottom of the High Street opposite the shop (no 1) when I heard a bell ringing. It was the fire brigade water carrier from Cambridge and as it turned into the High Street it stopped and the driver's window opened. The driver popped his head out and asked for directions to Weston Colville, which I gave him. There was another fire at Streetly Hall Farm, then owned by Jack Webb, which was in the cow shed.

An RAF plane crashed into one of the fields belonging to Hill Farm. It was on the West Wickham side of the farm, the second field from the West Wickham to Streetly End road.

If Graham's reminiscences spark (sorry for the pun) any memories for you, please do get in touch. I thought that an RAF plane also came down on Balsham Hill, where Will Stone now has his training stables. Does anyone remember that?

Janet Morris.

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

GIRLGUIDING, LINTON DISTRICT

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Being a part of Girlguiding is extremely rewarding and a lot of fun. Our Guide units would like more helpers each week. We also need commissioners in our area.

- Do you have managerial skills and could hold termly meetings with leaders?
- Could you showcase your skills or want to gain more?
- Could you inspire our girls to be more than they think they can?

If you think you have the correct skill set and could help lead the leaders of the future please get in touch. If you want to help your community, sign up today.

Email lintondistrict@gmail.com, phone 07711614328 or go to

www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested
www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Louisa Powell-Owens

NEWS FROM THE PAST

A hundred years previously, there would have been no such thing as a fire engine and firemen to put out fires. As the newspaper item below shows, it was neighbours who turned out to tackle fires with bucket chains being formed to carry water by hand from nearby ponds, pumps and wells.

Cambridge Chronicle 19 February 1870

Fire at Mr De Fraine's – On Saturday morning last a serious fire broke out at Whitehall, the residence of Mr John De Fraine. About six o'clock Mr and Mrs De Fraine were aroused by the barking and scratching of a little favourite dog which had been left in the drawing room. Mr De Fraine went out on the landing and on opening the door found the drawing room in flames. A cry of fire was raised in the village, and after great efforts on the part of a large number of helpers, the fire was extinguished; but not until everything in the room had been destroyed, and the house rendered uninhabitable. The dog, to whose barking Mr and Mrs De Fraine doubtless owe their lives, was burnt to death... What made the fire more serious was the fact that Mrs De Fraine was close to her confinement. She, however, was got safely to her father's house at the other end of the village, and on Monday morning gave birth to a daughter....

Whitehall is now known as Cobwebs, 27 High Street. Ursula De Fraine's father, James Traylen, was the publican of the White Hart (now White Gables) where baby, Frances Mary Elizabeth, was born on the 14 February. This wasn't the only fire that the De Fraines experienced at Whitehall. In 1886 an oak beam near the fireplace in an upstairs room caught fire and, according to the account in the *Cambridge Chronicle*, 'willing hands soon put it out'.

Do get in touch with your memories or with any questions about West Wickham in the past:

Janet Morris, West Wickham & District Local History Club
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION NEED MOTIVATION? THEN TRY PARKRUN!

If it involves exercise, then why not try parkrun? This is an energising, motivation weekly fun run over a 5km marshalled course. It started in the UK nearly 20 years ago and has now grown into many other countries. It is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate.

There is a parkrun in Haverhill on Puddlebrook playing fields every Saturday at 9am and it is indeed very motivational without being overwhelming. It's suitable for all age groups and there's no time limit. You won't come last – there's always a tail walker behind you to cheer you on and help you finish. As for the course, it is a 3 lap run of the park which is fairly flat so no big hills to worry you! There are plenty of marshals to keep you safe and as long as you have your barcode handy you'll get your time and other data sent to you after the event (you get your barcode after logging on to the parkrun website). Like other outdoor events, it has been known for it to be cancelled when the ground is waterlogged so do check the parkrun website beforehand. <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/haverhill/>

Everyone is welcome to come along. Malcolm Cameron

NATURE NOTES

We are part of the natural world and yet the natural world exists in an environment created and managed by people. The Big Garden Birdwatch, which will have taken place during the last weekend in January, is a small reminder of this, because the obvious focal points to direct our gaze are the bird feeders in our gardens, providing peanuts, seeds and fatballs, some of which would not naturally be part of a bird's diet but have nevertheless proved to be a valuable source of nutrition, particularly in the winter. I hope plenty of people have spent an hour looking out of the window identifying birds that visit their gardens. The BGB is an event that has been a fixture in the birdwatching calendar for 44 years and provides valuable information about whether our garden birds are thriving or otherwise. Di is fortunate in that her neighbour Annabel feeds the birds in her front garden, attracting goldfinches, greenfinches and all the tits. It's always pleasing to hear that the finches are around as they have declined somewhat in recent years. I have not recorded a single finch of any sort in my garden yet this year. Occasionally in past years people have been visited at this time of year by bramblings, also members of the finch family who breed further north. They are very attractive looking, with black and orange plumage, in contrast to the chaffinch's blue and pink. If anyone has a visit, please let us know.

Some species of bird seem to be more attuned to the human way of life than others and have adapted their behaviour accordingly. Di has a resident blackbird who has found that making a low, slow trilling sound results in someone coming out with mealworms. I am sure many people have experienced similar behaviour from robins, who are very human oriented. One often appears when we open up the chickens each morning, in advance of the regular invasion of woodpigeons and collared doves. They, of course, are varieties of bird that thrive in the human-made world. Woodpeckers also seem to be doing well. The great spotted varieties are more likely to be seen on peanut feeders, such as the one jammed under Di's pergola, although this morning I witnessed one on a fat slab. Green woodpeckers are more often seen on lawns jabbing their beaks into the ground.

Foxes have also long interacted with humans – not always in a good way. They are admired and persecuted in equal measure depending on your point of view. As predators and omnivores and having a deserved reputation for wiliness they possess the essential ability to adapt, which most living things are going to need in a rapidly changing world. Urban foxes make the most of the waste that is left around by people and require much smaller territories than our rural foxes, which, I like to think, have an altogether healthier lifestyle. As an example, this rather magnificent fellow



came into our copse one morning looking in the best of health. Trevor and Carol also regularly have visiting foxes as well as (coincidentally we trust) hounds from the local hunt.

Trevor also showed me some footage of roe deer browsing on the trees in his garden. He asked me why they were not eating grass. Grass is in fact their main diet but they prefer fresh, moist grass shoots particularly after rain so perhaps in January the grass shoots were not fresh enough for their taste.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

FROM THE VICARAGE

When our village churches were first built, some six or seven hundred years ago, Christmas was a season of celebration and feasting that lasted for well over a month. Officially the festivities ended on 2 February, the Feast of Candlemas.

How things have changed. We now know that Christmas is over when Easter chocolates start appearing on the supermarket shelves early in January!

The Bible reading for Candlemas records the words of a holy old man who finds the child Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. Simeon thanks God for this gift of having at last seen the child destined to be a 'light of revelation' and hope to the world, and so he can die in peace. Candlemas gets its name from the candles that people would bring to church on that day to be blessed and lit through the long dark days of winter and deprivations of Lent before Easter finally arrived.

Yet for us, finding things to hope for this February may seem something of a stretch. Our forebears endured precarious lives. However, in our generation, we have learned to take for granted predicable seasonal weather and steady progress on many fronts: an increased standard of living, longer healthier lives and an increasingly democratic

world. All this progress, probably not driven by a God in the sky as much as by science and reason have made us, we believe, the masters of our own destiny.

However, there is much happening in the world today to make you wonder if the progress we enjoyed is stalling. The relationships within and between, nations is again creaking badly. We are only promised increasingly severe weather events and uncertain seasonal patterns.

Falling back on the certainties of our ancestors isn't an option. So is there anything we might still learn from the light and hope of Candlemas, within the whole pattern of the Christian year, to help sustain us in our uncertain times? Things, which perhaps our village forebears, in their lives bound more closely together, took for granted but in a world of rivalry, greed and increasing suspicion we fail to see. I think there is.

In our communities, we all *need* each other. And to 'make it' with each other we need the light of seeing our mutual vulnerabilities, the light of compassion and sacrifice and the light to find joy in each other as the only underpinning giving our lives real meaning and true hope.

Alistair Collen, Lay Minister

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Well, we have had a busy start to 2023 and the Spring Term!

OFSTED: On the Monday of the first full week back, we received a phone call from OFSTED stating that they would be visiting for a 2 day ungraded inspection. An inspector visited and carried out an intense and vigorous inspection of early reading and art as well as focusing on behaviour, safeguarding, staff workload and wellbeing, plus pupils' wider development. We could not have been prouder of the staff and children who carried on showcasing what they do each and every day to a high standard. Details of the report will be published shortly.

Balanceability and Scooterability - Reception and Year 1: As part of our Sports Premium funding, we have provided sessions on how to ride and scoot safely for all Year 1 and Reception aged children. The children showed their use of one of the characteristics of effective learning 'Persevering Parrot' an awful lot! Many of them told the instructor, Julie, that they knew how to scoot or use a balance bike and were very surprised when they had to learn how to glide. The children have more sessions to complete, and we are looking forward to seeing how they continue to progress!

Learning Themes: The children have launched into their new learning topics for the Spring Term which are: Foundation and Key Stage 1: Fire and Ice (focusing on the significant individuals: Scott and Polar Antarctic explorers Years 3 and 4: Roman Britain / Empire (Where did they come from and where did they settle?) Years 5 and 6: Earth Matters – Extreme weather and the effect of climate change on people's lives and environments (extreme weather events in History) Year 3 and 4 have already had their experience day to launch The Romans.

It was fantastic to see so many of the children in their Roman themed costumes, partaking in a range of activities: shield making, making mosaic bookmarks, making their own clay coins and being archaeologists and digging for Roman artefacts. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience.

Young Voices at The O2 Arena: Years 5 and 6 are getting very excited at performing at The O2 in London alongside 5,000-8,000 other children as a single choir to friends and family! They will be performing with the singer Heather Small. As well as being an amazing experience, it will help with their self-belief, self-motivation, confidence and ability to communicate as part of a team, which is invaluable!

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head Teacher

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BIG THANK YOU

Thank you very much to all of those who filled boxes, gave items for the boxes, gave money donations, made and bought cakes, helped at the processing centre and most of all prayed. 15,129 boxes were checked and packed to start their journey at the east of England pop up processing centre at City church Cambridge during one week. These have gone to Central Asia and Albania. Boxes from other centres will go to Ukraine and the surrounding countries for the refugee children and further boxes will go to other countries around the world. These will bring some joy in a very difficult time and the opportunity to hear about the gospel story.

Jane Furlow (Connect volunteer for Operation Christmas Child)

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEWS

This is advanced notice. Granta Medical Practices, in conjunction with the Patient Participation Group will shortly be running their biggest ever patient survey. This will be a real opportunity to make your voice heard. Whilst we may not be able to fix the NHS, by taking part you could help us shape the future of Granta in the face of these challenging times. The survey will be available online at www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk and also in paper form in our surgeries – we will let you know when we go live. Thank you in advance for completing the survey and letting us know your views.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We all had a great time at the Panto at the beginning of December. Emilia was lucky enough to be called up on stage to help the Dame and with the song, which this year was 'Sweet Caroline'. Emilia did really well, and was given a goodie bag containing a box of Maltesers, note pad, pencil, pen, rubber and balloon (deflated/yet to be inflated). It was great to see someone I knew up on stage.

We have now returned to Brownies for the new term and are getting stuck into some unit meeting activities. We recently made kites out of bamboo kebab sticks, tissue paper, sticky tape and string. We hope to complete a chocolate heist, trash fashion and room in a box soon.

Also this term we will be off to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket for our annual holiday, and this time we will be joined by Balsham Brownies. We will be Detectives, so if you need something investigating please speak to us after the end of March as by then we will know what we are doing and can help you.

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, 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. Also if you have a daughter who is 5 years old she could be a Rainbow or if she is over 10 years old then she could be a Guide, we have units in Linton that have spaces. Email me for more details.

Pauline and Katie

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

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 3 February, 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! It takes place every first Friday of the month.
- Knit and Natter will take place at 2pm on Tuesdays 7 and 21 February. Bring along your latest craft project.
- We have a Family Lego session on Monday 13 February, 2-3pm, call in to book your place. Rhyme and Storytime will be 10.30 – 11am on Tuesday 28 February.

We have a locked display case, if any individual or local society would like to make a display for a month, please ask in 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