LLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday

3 September

ISSUE 244



SOLAR POWER FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council have adopted the proposal by the Village Hall Management Committee to install a Solar PV System on the south east facing roof of the Village Hall. This system consists of 22 solar panels as well as battery storage, an essential element as the Village Hall uses most of its electricity out of sunlight hours. This system will provide the Village Hall with green electricity and an estimated savings of between £2,000 to £2,300 per annum of electricity costs at today's prices. In addition, the batteries can be charged overnight on cheaper rate tariffs during the winter months when daylight hours are shorter, providing an even greater saving.

The capital cost of this work is about £25,000, of which £9,500 has already been received into an Appeal Fund from the National Lottery Community Fund, and an additional £4,000 from a South Cambridgeshire Zero Carbon Communities grant which the Village Hall Management Committee received last year. We have also raised just under £500 from public contributions, including profits from the Coronation Big Lunch, but need more funding from you, the community.

Please consider donating to the cost of this system and help us to contribute towards the reduction of climate change whilst also supporting a local community facility. Donations are accepted by cheques made payable to "West Wickham Parish Council" and posted to The Parish Clerk, West Lodge, 88 High Street, Balsham, CB21 4EP, as well as online.

Please include "PV Appeal Fund" on the rear of the cheque or as the reference for online banking. Should there be any excess, this will be donated to the running of the Village Hall.

Alex Schuilenburg, Chair, West Wickham Parish Council

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL NEXT DATE: 23.09.2023 7PM-11PM

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

West Wickham website: https://westwickham.org

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 Tuesday 12 September

Editors: Andrew Morris & Anna Fairhead 21 High Street, West Wickham 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 HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee will be held in the Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Monday 23 October.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting and offer themselves for election to the committee. The continued success of the Hall depends on the support of volunteers who act as the Trustees of the Village Hall Trust. The committee holds six meetings each year and contributes to the events the Hall holds. Members are also asked to support other social events and help with small maintenance jobs.

The present Chairman will be standing down this year but will remain on the committee to ensure an orderly handover takes place.

Trevor Hall. Chair WWVHMC

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL Lost Property

These items have been left in the Village Hall. These will be disposed of if not claimed

- Blue Joules Quilted Hoody coat size 9 year Name Tag Morgan Pelly.
- A pair of red thermal gloves.
- Girls pale blue wool cardigan with pockets, John Lewis size 10 year.
- Navy blue body warmer, make Northern Reflections.
- Dark Blue Hawkshead hooded cotton coat, size medium.

To claim, please contact trevor.hall@btinternet.com, phone or text to 07831391268

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

I wonder if other residents are, like me, becoming increasingly frustrated and disgusted by the amount of dog mess being left on our pavements. This seems to be particularly bad at the Church end of the High Street. Not only is this disgusting, unhygienic and disrespectful towards neighbours and fellow residents, it is also an offence. I am sure that it is only a few irresponsible dog owners who contribute to this, but I really would encourage them to be more considerate and to clean up after their dogs rather than leaving it to others to do so.

Name & Address supplied

(Ed. There seems to be an increase in dog walkers having their eyes glued to their phones. Please make sure you know what your dog is doing at all times. There is a considerable fine if you are caught!)

BRINGING BACK NATURE WITH THE DEVANA CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY

Ground Control are on a mission to realise the potential of human nature by bringing together people, places and the planet. Through this mission, they are pioneering the recovery of nature with the launch of 'The Devana Centre for Environmental Recovery' in West Wickham. This is the second centre of this kind, adding to the 296-acre 'Wildfell Centre for Environmental Recovery' in Braintree, Essex.

The site will support the UK's natural recovery, champion Cambridgeshire's regional objectives, provide jobs and give greater access to nature to the local community.

From a regional perspective, Devana supports a key part of Natural Cambridgeshire's ambition to double the land managed for nature across the region from 8%, one of the lowest in the country, to 16%, the national average. The new location will plant native tree species and shrubs, alongside a wide variety of native wildflowers and grasses, which will create valuable habitats for fauna such as pollinators, birds, bats, mammals and reptiles.

Nationally this enhances UK biodiversity and tackles key issues from their groundbreaking 'Time to Act' report, which engaged key stakeholders such as Forestry Commission and highlighted that "Britain now sits in the bottom 10 percent of countries globally for biodiversity."

Biodiversity enhancements across Devana will also create woodland, scrub, grassland, ponds and hedgerow habitats that will reduce the land's carbon footprint.

Ground Control is a leading external maintenance business and biodiversity expert committed to enhancing and improving the physical environment. As one of the first 1000 UK B-Crops, and winner of the coveted Queens Award for innovation, we are dedicated to driving the nature recovery, biodiversity net gain, and carrying this ethos throughout all our services.

Charles Bawtree, Nature Recovery Director



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the meeting held on 24 July the following are some of the matters discussed. The full draft minutes are placed on the two noticeboards.

Planning: Information was received on the Devana Centre for Environmental Recovery project on land purchased from Yen Hall. Please see the separate article.

Finance: The payments and monies received are shown in full in the draft minutes. The internal audit has been carried out satisfactorily.

Traffic & Parking issues:

- Week-ending 18/6/23, outside Ivy Todd facing Streetly End. 3260 vehicles, 127 over 35mph. Max speed was 53mph.
- Week-ending 25/6/23, outside 49 Burton End facing High Street. 1351 vehicles, 1272 over 45mph. Max speed was 53mph.
- Road repairs & road narrow signs Webbs Road & coming into West Wickham from Streetly End: Cllr Batchelor reported that the County Council Highways Dept are costing the necessary repair work and he will chase up the matter of road signs. Complaints had been received about the Burton End cross-roads and the damage caused by heavy grain lorries. He will also look into this.
- Speeding farm vehicles: This has improved but Cllr Temple will look further into this.
- Rock Festival, Horseheath: This has been cancelled for 2023 as there were issues over the license application. West Wickham Parish Council had no objection to the event and Cllr Geoff Harvey will represent the Parish Council's position at the appeal hearing.
- The Wild Wood Disco: Complaints had been received in Horseheath and West Wickham from residents about the noise from the event held on Vestey farm land on 16/17/18 June. The Chairman wondered if the conditions of the license needed to be reviewed.

Maintenance:

- Footpaths posts & discs: Letters requesting permission to put the new posts in have gone out to the various farms. A few footpaths have not been completely re-instated and again letters have gone out to the landowners requesting that this be done.
- Playground fencing: Due to some damage whilst grass cutting it had been found that some fencing is rotten



Well, what a super first couple of months I've been able to have within these parishes! I really do feel blessed to be given this opportunity as a Community Minister, with the chance to walk alongside all.

My time has been spent getting out and about, attending many coffee mornings (need to watch my cake intake!) and community groups, and meeting with those who work so hard to ensure the

community is supported and cared for. I always feel so honoured as I leave a meeting, feeling refreshed that so much kindness, care and love is being given within our communities. God's work indeed.

It has been wonderful to discover so many groups, organisations and activities that are happening within our

inside and will need replacing in 2 to 3 years time. It was discussed whether quotes should be sought now but the matter was left open.

Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- Solar Panel Project: Grants received from National Lottery, ZCC and donations from parishioners have reached £13,628.72. The Village Hall Management Committee has pledged any possible shortfall and the Parish Council has pledged to cover the VAT. Work is hoped to begin in September following further fund raising.
- Play Area: Some of the play equipment and posts need protection from damage caused when cutting and strimming is carried out. A rubber appliance will be wrapped round the posts.

Anaerobic biodigester: Following a meeting with the Chairmen of Horseheath and Balsham Parish Councils, and a representative from Withersfield, the Chairman read out a letter intended to be sent to Mr Christopher Covey which said that the plan proposed was not well thought out and needed further consideration before applying for planning permission.

Any other business:

- Allotments: It was agreed that approx. £90 be allowed towards putting up the allotment gate on concrete posts.
- Wildflower area: The Hub has offered to contribute rope and mooring stakes to hold growth back. Rob Giles will eventually cut down the wildflowers to ground level co-ordinated by Indi Leipa and Alex Schuilenburg.
- Hub Night & Coffee Morning recipes: A request had been made to print recipes produced for Hub Night and Coffee Mornings as an insert in the Village Voice. This was agreed.
- Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee: The Chairman told Council that Trevor Hall will be resigning from the Chairmanship of the VHMC after their next AGM in October. The VHMC are actively looking for a replacement volunteer for the position.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 25 September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY MINISTER

parishes and it is here that I hope to help build links.

One of the most humbling elements of my work are the home visits; these are indeed very special moments. To be invited into someone's home: to listen to people's worries, concerns, fears and joys! To be able to sit beside someone, connect with them and to offer prayer is a wonderful gift and something indeed which we can all do. The strength it may provide can be immense and powerful.

If there is a group, organisation or someone you feel would appreciate a visit, please do let me know. Do say hello if you see me out and about!

With blessings - Hannah Threlfall,

T: 07867 515914, E: Hthrelfall82@gmail.com

Hannah will be commissioned as the Granta Vale Community Minister on Sunday 3 September as part of the United Service at Balsham. The service starts at 11.00am and all are warmly welcome to attend. There will be refreshments after the service.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Cambridge Chronicle 17 September 1897

YEN HALL FARM

WEST WICKHAM, CAMBS

FRIDAY NEXT, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1897

Messrs J CARTER JONAS and SONS

Have received instructions TO SELL, BY AUCTION, on the Premises, at 12 o'clock, on FRIDAY next, September the 24th, the whole of the Valuable

LIVE AND DEAD FARMING STOCK

Including 7 Carts, 7 Ploughs, Harrows, Cultivator Rolls, Horserake, Horseshoes, Hornsby's Self Binder, Reaper, Grass Mower, Drill, Cake Breakers and Turnip Cutters, Weighing Machine, Dressing Machine and sundry Implements, Bins, Troughs, Harness, Miscellaneous and Hand Tools,

19 HORSES,

Including 12 Powerful and Active Cart Houses, Three Twoyear-olds, Three Yearlings, and one Foal: also a Sow and 7 Pigs.

Čatalogues may be obtained of R.O. FELLOWES, Esq., Wimpole Estate Office: G.H. MORGAN, Esq., Yenhall Farm: and of the AUCTIONEERS, Sun Fire and Life Offices, Cambridge.

Michaelmas Day, 29 September, was (and is) the usual day for the end and beginning of agricultural tenancies so September saw a large number of farm sales. It was normal, in an age when transport was horse drawn, for a farmer to sell all his stock, live and dead, when leaving a farm even if moving on to another one. These sales can tell us much about farming practices. Yen Hall, along with the other main farms in the village, was owned at this time by the Wimpole Estate and covered about 550 acres. 12 cart horses was about the typical number needed for pulling farm machinery like ploughs and harrows along with heavy carts and wagons on a farm this size. The previous tenant left the farm in 1892 and Gerard H Morgan appears to have just been acting as an agent for the Estate. This might explain the absence of sheep and cattle from the sale or they might have been sold separately. Farming was traditionally mixed and other sales at Yen Hall and the other farms mention flocks of sheep of 50 to 100 and herds of cattle from 24 to 70 as well as pigs and poultry.

If you would like to know more about West Wickham in the past please do get in touch.

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

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,

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



NATURE NOTES

We have been on holiday but were reminded of the need to write Nature Notes as soon as we arrived in Devon when we were greeted by the deep croaking of ravens, who were in residence in the trees just above our cottage on the Tamar estuary. Further promptings through the week came from visits from a snail, a cricket and a lizard coming through our bedroom window (not all at once). Generally, bird life was somewhat disappointing although August is rarely the best month for birdwatchers. However, highlights included a kingfisher, a dipper and more swallows than we have seen in West Wickham.

Meanwhile back home some of the fields have begun to be ploughed, attracting large crowds of noisy corvids – the majority being rooks but also jackdaws. The collective noun for rooks is a parliament, and the noise they make is reminiscent of Prime Minister's Question Time. There are also plenty of gulls in the area taking advantage of the soil having been disturbed. We have been lucky to have a family of carrion crows nesting in our copse and they have regularly visited the water trough. On checking the trailcam results when we returned there were four in one picture.

Many people have commented on the number of butterflies seen in the last few weeks. Despite all the rain, they have emerged every time the sun comes out. Blackberries are particularly attractive to butterflies – first when they are in flower and then when the fruit begins to ripen. It is the 'vanessids' who seem to be most attracted to blackberry bushes – the peacocks, red admirals and commas. Normally I would also include small tortoiseshells but they have been in short supply this year. To confirm the impression of high numbers, Sue & Clive Boase counted 257 in one afternoon walking their usual mile stretch where they monitor them in Haverhill. Another example of citizen science in action.

Just before we went away I had a message from Lucy Cameron to say she had spotted a Jersey tiger moth in her garden. I set my moth trap that evening and was rewarded with two (pictured). This is a moth more often seen in the south-west and Channel Islands – but only rarely on the eastern side of the country so we were privileged that they decided to come all the way to Streetly End.



Autumn is approaching fast and some of us were predicting a 'mast year' with a profusion of beech nuts, acorns and conkers but the early signs are mixed. The beech trees on the Roman Road near Wandlebury are certainly loaded but while the local oak trees seem to have more acorns than last year, it is not yet a profusion. Some of the berry-producing bushes and trees, such as the rowan, are well covered – notably those at the Village Hall. We hope that we get some late summer sun to ripen up the blackberries so both humans and wildlife can take advantage of the harvest.

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

GARDENING & CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT

The Gardening with Climate Change event took place at West Wickham Village Hall, on Saturday 12 August. The event was organised by a planning group drawn from West Wickham, Balsham, Wickhambrook and Linton gardening clubs, with many more volunteers helping the event to run smoothly.

The morning session took place in a packed Village Hall, and consisted of three fascinating presentations. Jim Paine of the Walnut Tree Garden Nursery in Norfolk explained the reasons why global temperatures are rising, and why extreme weather is becoming more common. Sharka Baxter from Utopian Gardens discussed the changes we can make to our gardens to adapt to climate change, while Cathy Smith from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust covered how garden wildlife is impacted by climate change, and the steps we can take to support them. Pippa Heylings, Chair of South Cambridgeshire District Council Climate and Environment Committee, rounded off the morning with an empowering message on climate change and community action.



The afternoon session comprised 23 different stands, all related to gardening and climate change. Many stands were family-friendly, with interactive activities and quizzes. There were demonstrations about garden ponds, scything, peat-free compost, garden wildlife and many more topics, as well climate-change tolerant plants, wildflowers, and gardening books being available to buy.



Sue Boase, Chair of the event planning group, emphasised that: "Thanks to the hard work of our planning group, the volunteers, and the support of our sponsors, the event was larger and more successful than we originally thought. We are now considering how to develop the group's aims in the future."

Photographs of the event will shortly be available to view on www.climatechangegardening.org



FILM MUSIC - WITH LALA

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new 10 week course looking at film music, on Tuesday mornings from 26 September. We meet in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane from 10.15 to 12.15. Come and explore the development of music in film from the earliest silent movies to the present day. Join composer and writer Christopher Budd to look at the work of many great film composers, with clips from King Kong, Once Upon a Time in the West, Psycho, Jaws, The Third Man, The Day The Earth Stood Still, 2001:A Space Odyssey and more. Alongside the Hollywood giants, we'll also enjoy and study the work of some of the great British film composers, some sophisticated sounds from across Europe, a bit of Hammer horror and some very silly comedies.

Please contact me for more information or to register interest. Cost for the 10 weeks remains at £50 and includes a coffee break.

Sue Mudge

T: 01223 892737 or Email: mudges.linton@btinternet.com

GIRLGUIDING LINTON DISTRICT

What a summer we have had in Linton District. Our leaders spent a wonderfully relaxed afternoon sitting in the sun selling cakes at picnic in the park. The cakes we had were absolutely georgous; well done to all our terrific bakers.

Our Trefoil Guild held their annual summer barbecue and had a brilliant evening, remembering that Trefoil celebrates its 80th birthday this year with many celebrations still to come, not forgetting a badge or three as well.

All our guides and Rangers went on their annual summer camp this year, at Phasels Wood and a good time was had by all. The site has over 30 actitvities for leaders to chose from for their girls. As well as beautiful grounds to camp in along with plenty of space for campfires.

All our Brownies and Rainbow units had fun outside during the end of term, with parties and picnics and a host of other activities. We have also now seen the new active wear for leaders as we go forward with our rebranding over the next couple of years. There is much fun to be had and many adventures to take part in for adults and children alike and at any age too. One of our girls is fundraising for her trip to Sangam in Pune, India, when she will be visiting many places such as the Taj Mahal as well as helping the local communities there.

Everything girls do is led by leaders and everything Girlguiding does is led by leaders too, some of whom run units, some of whom do many and varied roles and some of whom have specific skills and use them for Girlguiding. Catering at Camp, making and reviewing our policies, finding leaders to do such things as a Narrowboat or Archery Certificates so they can give girls even more experiences, as well as many more besides.

Come and see what we do and have your own Guiding adventure. Further details at: www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested / Trefoil Guild 18+ www.trefoilguild.co.uk

Louisa Powell-Owens. Email: lintondistrict@gmail.com

Clive Boase

VILLAGE VOICE DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER

Please note that the deadline for the October edition has had to be brought forward a few days. It is now Tuesday 12 September

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to all those who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge! It was lovely to see you all and talk about the books you enjoyed reading. If you haven't finished yet, don't worry there's still time before our ceremony on Saturday 23 September, 11-12pm. If you took part in the Summer Reading Challenge but cannot make the ceremony, please let us know and we will put your medal and certificate aside for you.

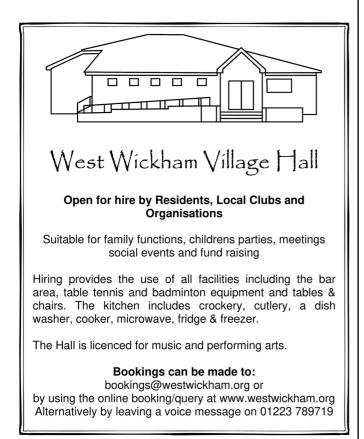
Stop by to find out what's new, browse the shelves or use our free Wifi. You are always welcome at the library! Have some time to spare? Like reading stories? Rhyme-time/ story-time volunteer sought for Tuesday mornings in term time.

What's coming up?

- For adults, bring along your latest craft project to Knit and Natter, 2pm on Tuesday 5 and 19 September
- Daylight Readers, our two Book Groups, meet on Friday 15 September at 10.30am and 2.30pm.
- Justine from Reach Community Projects will be here to offer advice and help 3 4.30pm on Thursday 7 and 2 September.

Ann King and Melanie Symonds

Community Library Assistants, Linton Library Opening hours: Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4-7pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225 www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library



GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES The NHS app

Did you know that you can use the NHS App to access a range of NHS services on your smartphone or tablet? It doesn't replace existing services, and you can still contact us in the usual ways. However, once you have verified your identity in the app, you will have easy, 24/7 access to a growing range of health services and information. You can:

- Order repeat prescriptions
- Access NHS111 online
- Find NHS services
- View your health records
- Book appointments
- and much more ...

If you have any problems using the NHS App, you can select "help" in the top right-hand corner of the app or visit www.nhs.uk/helpmeapp

Flu Clinics. Have you booked your flu jab yet? If not please call us now on 0300 234 5555. Details of dates and eligibility can be found on our website

www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk/uncategorised/fluvaccination-programme-2023/

Please note that those between 50 & 65, with no underlying conditions are no longer eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine. However, private flu vaccinations will be widely available through high street pharmacies, etc.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sandra East. Head of Patient Services. E.cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net

YOU'VE HEARD OF PHISHING BUT WHAT ABOUT QUISHING?

No, we're not making it up, quishing is the latest trend used by scammers to get to your hard-earned cash. The scam uses fake QR codes on parking machines, charging points, even restaurant menus. Once scanned, you're taken to a bogus website where you innocently input your details thinking you're paying for a service, when in fact, you're sharing all your personal details with the scammers.

Our fraud and cyber security advisor, Nigel Sutton, has this advice...

- Check... if the QR is on a poster in a public area, always check whether it appears to have been stuck over the poster, window, billboard. If the sign or notice is laminated and the QR code is under the lamination or part of the original print, chances are it's more likely to be genuine
- If in doubt... download the app from the official Google or Apple store or search the website on your phone, rather than scanning a QR code to take you there. It may take longer, but it's more secure
- Trust your instincts... if something doesn't seem right, don't share your details

Larissa Chapman, Police, Communications officer.

