

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

March 2024

ISSUE 250

## WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	6 March	Black
Wednesday	13 March	Blue & green
Wednesday	20 March	Black
Wednesday	27 March	Blue & green

**It is not 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

3 March	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
10 March (Mothering Sunday)	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
17 March	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
24 March (Palm Sunday).	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
Monday 25 March.	7.30pm. Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church
29 March (Good Friday).	11.30. Stations of the Cross at Balsham Church
31 March (Easter Day)	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

For more details visit [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

**West Wickham website:**

<https://westwickham.org>

**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

**Saturday 16 March**

Editors: Andrew Morris & Anna Fairhead

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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.**

## YOUR CHANCE TO SAY NO TO ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT AT STREETLY HALL FARM

A reminder that while the public consultation period of the first application regarding the proposed plant has closed, you can still make any objection to Cambridgeshire County Council.

**Add your name to the online petition** using this link <https://tinyurl.com/NoStreetlyHallAD> or the QR code. The petition will be open until May 2024.



## SAVE THE DATE: 1 JUNE

Following the success of the Big Lunch held at the Village Hall on the day after the Coronation of King Charles III, the Parish Council will be hosting another Big Lunch at an even bigger event this year on Saturday 1 June, from 12pm to 4pm.

Everyone is invited to bring food to share and there will be a bar, teas, coffees and soft drinks, lots of stalls with opportunities to win prizes, a dog show and hopefully a bouncy castle! Clubs that use the Village Hall will be invited to set up their own stalls and demonstrations to attract new members.

More details will be published in due course but in the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering to help with the planning of the event or organising the games and activities, please email me at [ronnie.temple@gmail.com](mailto:ronnie.temple@gmail.com) or call/text/WhatsApp me on 07710000153.

Ronnie Temple

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AT OUR

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★

COMMUNITY PUB



SATURDAY

**16.03.24**

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

7PM-11PM

## DELICIOUS PIZZA NIGHT!

A great evening of drinks and pizza from The Little Pizza Oven!

Freshly made pizzas to order on the day. Prices from £8.00 - £10.00.

**MUSIC | TRADITIONAL BAR GAMES | SNACKS**

West Wickham Hub Nights will happen the third Saturday of every month.

**NEXT HUB NIGHT: 20.04.24**

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following are notes from the meeting held on 22 January. The full draft Minutes are on the noticeboards.

### Planning:

1. CCC/23/110/FUL – Anaerobic digester & Streetly Hall farm access road: A decision is unlikely until spring. Further investigations are being made regarding the impact on the landscape. Mr Covey would be happy to show people round.
2. Possible family leisure destination at Horseheath Lodge: Cllrs Temple, Mulley-Richards & Schuilenburg have accepted an invitation to visit the site.

**Finance:** The full details of financial transactions are shown in the draft minutes available on the noticeboards.

**Budget:** The Chairman discussed the financial needs for the coming year and said there was a shortfall of £4735 after Greenscape Energy had been paid for the Village Hall solar panels. He will put in an application for a grant to cover this from The Wadlow Wind Farm fund.

**Precept:** It was agreed to request an increase of 3.17% making the precept £13000 for 2024/2025. This was agreed.

### Traffic & Parking issues:

**Local Highways Initiative application for new speed signs.** This has now been submitted and accepted for consideration.

### Maintenance:

1. **Footpaths:** One cross field footpath is still to be reinstated and the Parish Clerk will write to the landowner about this.
2. **Wild flower area re cut back & hedging:** The Parish Clerk had established that English Cottages are responsible for maintenance of this land as they own the houses in Home Close and she will write to them.
3. **Dog fouling issue, dog fouling signs and additional general waste bins:** There has been a good response to the request put into the Village Voice and there have been no further complaints. The cost of signage has been looked into and this will be purchased but ordering further bins will be delayed.
4. **Trimming of hedges.** Owners of hedges that need cutting will be asked to do so.

**Reports by County Cllr Batchelor & Dist.Cllr Harvey.**  
Distributed to Cllrs. and on website

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 March at 7.30pm.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

## DOG WALKERS

**Please would all dog walkers ensure that your dog is kept under control.**

The Parish Council has received complaints that dogs are being allowed to roam uncontrolled, letting them run up to and scare elderly residents and children, making them fearful they could be injured.

Jenny Richards  
(Clerk to West Wickham Parish Council)

## SOLAR PANEL APPEAL FUND

The Solar Panel Appeal Fund still needs your help as it needs £4,732.75 to meet its target. Please consider donating to the Fund.

Apart from the green benefits, these solar panels and batteries help reduce the electricity bill of the Village Hall which recently has had to put up its hire rates in order to cover rising costs.

Donations can be made by cheques payable to "West Wickham Parish Council" and posted to The Parish Clerk, West Lodge, 88 High Street, Balsham, CB21 4EP, as well as online. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please include "PV Appeal Fund" on the rear of the cheque or as the reference for online banking. Any excess will be donated to the running of the West Wickham Village Hall charity.

Alex Schuilenburg, Chair, West Wickham Parish Council

## DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

**Civil Parking Enforcement.** Local authorities in South Cambridgeshire have spent the last few years preparing and applying to the Secretary of State to take parking enforcement powers away from the Police and manage locally. The new traffic wardens are now active, out on the street, and issuing parking fines. There were certainly some unhappy people at Whittlesford Station in the first week of February.

The County Council has a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry Batchelor with support from Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where parking is really an issue, do let him know directly.

**Home Energy Support.** The District Council is in a partnership with 6 other local authorities in Cambridgeshire. This partnership called Action on Energy, is aimed to help people create more energy efficient homes, therefore making them cheaper to run. There are various grants available which many people aren't aware they may be entitled to. Full information, and links, can be seen here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

**Weed Killing Policy.** Some may recall that last year the County Council altered its weed killing policy to move away from using chemicals to kill weeds in every situation. This policy has been reviewed after a year and is likely to be altered, although the Council will be asking for people's views on this via a public consultation on the change to policy. Keep an eye on our reports for the link to this in coming months.

### Contact Details

District Council: Geoff Harvey. [geoff.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

County Council: Henry Batchelor

[henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

## BALSHAM SINGERS

The Singers are busily rehearsing for their next concert on 18 May, this time in the evening at 7.30pm in Balsham Church. We hope to welcome a large audience, as we did at Christmas. We produce an attractive programme and welcome new advertisers. Our audience is drawn from a wide local radius and your business may reach new clients. If you would like more information please contact Jo Stinton for details. Email: [jonotnits@gmail.com](mailto:jonotnits@gmail.com)

## CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

The former custom of skipping on Parker's Piece in Cambridge on Good Friday (29 March this year) is quite well known – it is often mentioned in local newspapers and on the radio at this time of year – but skipping on Good Friday was apparently a custom rather nearer to home as well.

According to Enid Porter, in her *Cambridgeshire Customs and Folklore*, the skipping on Parker's Piece was performed on Good Friday until 1939-40 when it ceased for the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and never really re-started. Families would arrive about 10am bringing with them ropes and a picnic and staying until early evening. Men traditionally turned the ropes with the women and children jumping. There were stalls selling sweets, ice cream, toys etc all along Parkside. She also recorded that in the 1930s an 80 year old woman from Linton recalled that in her youth the villagers of Hadstock and Linton used to skip to the Bartlow Hills on Good Friday to join in the fun of the fair held there. The Horseheath historian, Catherine Parsons, in her collection of memories of village residents, also mentions this event. However, she does not mention skipping – just that people from Horseheath and the neighbouring parishes went to the Bartlow Hills on the afternoon of Good Friday to 'dance around'. It's interesting that Roman burial mounds were the focus of such jollity on a Christian festival!

I was also interested that skipping was a form of travel as when I was a girl it was very much a stationery pastime – in the street or more usually in the school playground. Skipping was part of the annual cycle of playground games along with ball games, chasing games, jacks, fivestones and I assume marbles (at my large village primary school the infant children and the junior girls had one playground and the junior boys had another one just to themselves so we were not party to their games). One day, almost certainly in the spring, someone would bring in a rope and before long we would all be skipping. This would either be with one long rope with a girl turning at each end or with individual ropes depending on the whim of the moment. Skipping was done to rhymes passed down from generation to generation, each with words and order particular to the school. All these games must have encouraged agility, dexterity and hand/eye coordination which surely has served us in good stead over the intervening years.

Men, by the way, took advantage of one of the few holidays from work on Good Friday to plant their potatoes, an important family staple.

Janet Morris, 21 High Street  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

### WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

If you would like to know more about the village and its history please get in touch or better still come along to the next meeting of West Wickham & District Local History Club on:

**Monday 11 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

This meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and there will also be a display of maps and plans relating to the village and surrounding area which you can enjoy over refreshments.

For further details contact: Janet Morris, 21 High Street  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

With the first signs of spring on the way it's a time of anticipation and excitement for new and experienced gardeners alike: wondering what might have survived the winter months; planting tubs and pots to brighten dull days and maybe even growing some seeds to avoid expensive trips to the garden centre.

The *West Wickham and District Gardening Club* is also gearing up for the growing season and always enjoys welcoming new members who often bring new ideas to interest our wide range of novice and experienced gardeners.

Last year's *Gardening for Climate Change* event (also involving other gardening clubs) led to a wealth of knowledge being shared on organic gardening techniques and plants that can weather the changing environment. We have now introduced a swap table at all our meetings to share spare seeds, plants and plant pots.

Topics at our monthly talks range from how to grow and care for a particular plant species (such as orchids, irises and roses), to companion planting and garden history. We encourage members to share their ideas for new topics to feature so that there is something interesting for everyone.

Here are some diary dates if you would like to find out more about us...

**Monday 18 March *Twelve Tremendous Trees!*** A talk by Gwenda Kyd, designer of the Chemicals from Plants Trail at Cambridge University Botanic Garden and a complementary medical practitioner exploring and celebrating our relationship with trees.

**Monday 15 April *Asian Woodland Plants.*** A talk by Helen Chen from Japonica Plant Nursery, looking at the popular plants grown in British gardens from China and Japan as well as some of the hidden treasures that we are less familiar with.

**Saturday 18 May *Plant Sale.*** 10:30–12:00 in West Wickham Village Hall. A busy annual event open to all. Browse the plants on offer and pick up some bargains and treasures. Tea, coffee and cakes available for hungry shoppers!

**Saturday 1 June *The West Wickham Big Lunch.*** The Club will have a mini-plant sale, information about the Club, workshops and a feature on the autumn Photography competition for adults and children (entries welcome from both members and non-members).

If you feel inspired by one of these topics or events or simply want to find out more, just come along or contact us using the details below. We'd be delighted to hear from you!

Meetings are held at West Wickham Village Hall at 7:30pm on the third Monday of every month. Annual subscriptions are £8.00 per person or £2:00 for non-members per visit. Tea and coffee provided.

For more information about the Club and membership go to [westwickham.org/community/clubs/west-wickham-district-gardening-club](http://westwickham.org/community/clubs/west-wickham-district-gardening-club), email us on [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org) or call Sue Boase (Chairperson) on 07716 401646.

### SNOWDROP TIME - OPEN GARDEN Clover Cottage, 50 Streetly End

Shirley Shadford will again be opening her garden for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on Sunday 3 March 2pm–4pm. Plants will be on sale and refreshments available. For more information on the NGS go to [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

**West Wickham Village Hall**

# **COFFEE MORNING**

**14<sup>th</sup> March**

**from 10.30 a.m.**

**Future dates for your diaries:**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)**

**11<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May & 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Selection of teas & coffee**

**Variety of homemade cakes**

**LIFTS AVAILABLE**

**Call Di Licence (290434) or**

**Sue Thurston (897811)**



## **LINTON LIBRARY NEWS**

Everyone loves something for free...

When did you last use your library card? If it's sitting neglected in a wallet or coat pocket, bring it along to the library so we can get you borrowing again. Or using our computers. Or downloading eMagazines and eNewspapers. Or using research websites such as Britannica Online and Ancestry. All for free!

Visit a warm Linton library this March:

- Our Monthly talk, this time **Build a life-enhancing Pond**, is on Wednesday 13 March, 2 – 3.30pm. It's free but please book your place by contacting the library or email: [cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
- Do you, or someone you know, have difficulties getting to the library? Come along to our **Library at Home Service** drop in session on Tuesday 19 March, 1 – 2.30pm to find out more.
- Our monthly drop-in **Beano Comic Club** is on Saturday 9 March, 10-12pm. Each month there will be a different pile of Beano's for you to sit and read here in the library. You could even try drawing one of the characters.
- Our friendly group for 0-4-year olds, **Storytime. Rhyme-time. Duplo-time**, 10am – 11am, every Tuesday (in term time). Stories, songs and Duplo play.
- **Games Afternoon**. Tuesday 12 & 26 March, 2pm – 4pm, meet new people and try new games (you can even bring your favourite with you).
- **Knit and Natter**. Bring along **any** craft project you're working on, 2pm – 3pm on Tuesday 5 & 19 March.
- **Daylight Readers**. Our Book Groups meet on Friday 15 March, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm and always welcome new members!

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

## **NATURE NOTES**

I got out of bed this morning and looked out of the window to see a **heron** standing beside our pond. Herons never give the impression of joie de vivre, but this one looked particularly disappointed on two counts – seeing me looking out of the window and realising the meagre fare that was on offer for him in the pond. I was about to say that 'some days there just ain't no fish', but before I could open my mouth the bird had flown off in a disdainful manner. Needing a boost for my self-respect, this was provided by the pair of robins who presented themselves, as they do daily, when I opened up the chicken house. They expect, and receive, a share of the chickens' breakfast.

The heron did not figure in my **Big Garden Birdwatch** this year. It was dominated by the colony of house sparrows who reside under our garage roof, while Di had a preponderance of the tit family and others had goldfinches or blackbirds and fieldfares, depending on what food was on offer on the bird tables and feeders. Jan Dennis spotted a sparrowhawk no doubt attracted by all the small birds on the bird feeders. Happily a pair of greenfinches were attracted to Andrew and Janet's feeder (see last month for concerns about greenfinches).

It is nearly springtime and the mating season is upon us. First out of the blocks, it seems, are the **earthworms**. Steve Licence came across two of them attached 'at the saddle'. Earthworms are hermaphrodites in that they contain both male and female organs. They can either reproduce sexually, in which case a mating pair will exchange sperm (like these two), or self fertilize, thus doing away with the need for relationship counselling. We would not exist if it were not for worms. 500million years ago worm-like creatures tunneled through the ocean floor, thereby keeping oxygen at just the right level to allow animals and other complex life forms to evolve. We still depend on earthworms for many reasons, so it seems fitting to quote William Cowper from his poem *The Task*:

'I would not enter on my list of friends...the man who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.'



Drawing by Maureen Williams

My copse camera has captured two foxes together on a couple of occasions (not in such an intimate embrace as the earthworms) but probably an item. As the copse is also populated by badgers I doubt whether we will be seeing cubs in this location, but in the meantime, those of us who keep poultry need to be doubly careful during the next couple of months when foxes are feeding their families.

It's the time of year when birdsong comes into its own, and the resident songsters are in good voice. It is very uplifting to be woken by a song thrush high in a tree, or a blackbird deep in the shrubbery. And the spring flowers will soon be showing. Already violets can be found in sheltered spots, green shoots of cuckoo pint and dogs mercury are showing and blackthorn is starting to flower in one or two places. I even spotted a celandine in flower this morning – all signs that an early spring could be on the way.

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

## GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

### Our telephone system is being upgraded!

You said, we listened! Our new 'phone system now allows you to stay in the queue whilst not staying in the queue! If you are holding on waiting to be spoken to, you will be given the option to request a call back. You can then come off the line and we will ring you back when it's your turn to go through to reception, keeping your place in the 'phone queue.

Don't forget though, you don't have to ring up at 8am to get an appointment. If your health condition is urgent you will be seen on that day, regardless of the time you ring. If you need a routine appointment you can ring any time of the day, you can book online (new appointments are released online at 8am and at 2pm daily), or you can use our online consultation tool, Accurx Patient Triage, a link to which can be found on our website.

Finally, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you that have taken the time to give us positive feedback recently. All of our staff work really hard to provide the best possible service, in the face of increasing pressures in primary care. Every single compliment is shared with the entire team, and really makes a difference. Thank you.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

## SEVERE WINTER IN UKRAINE 3.5 MILLION REFUGEES IN CRISIS AN APPEAL FROM ROTARY YOU CAN HELP!

A collection for the people of Ukraine, organised by Tony Collett of Saffron Walden Rotary, will be held on Saturday 2 March at Abington Primary School from 9.00am until 12.30pm.

As the war continues more and more families are losing their homes and possessions and are often without a breadwinner for the family. This creates a need for everyday food items, including pasta, rice and gluten free items, toiletries and warm clothing, cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and crockery. In addition cash donations will be going towards the purchase of generators and to assist in transportation costs. These can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 2 March.

Rotary Saffron Walden is very appreciative of all the support it gets in its many different fundraising efforts.

## PETER & RUTH LLOYD TRUST

FINAL CALL - applications for students starting university in September. 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 Wrattling Common including West Wickham. The Award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. The final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level results & University offer are confirmed.

For further information about the Trust and Award please contact: Jonathan Drury 01223 290087. For an application form apply via email to [peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com)

The application form & supporting documents must be received by 2 April.

## MY EARLY DAYS IN WEST WICKHAM Pt 2

Easter weekend was quite busy. On Good Friday there were three Salvation Army services, one in the morning at Linton, one in the afternoon in West Wickham and one in the evening at Haverhill. At all the services the three SA bands joined together, as did the songster brigades.

In my early teens I started going to the regular afternoon service at Haverhill, as there wasn't one at West Wickham. I cycled the six miles there with my cornet in my duffle bag. The Haverhill band played marches, while at that time the West Wickham band only played hymn tunes. After the service I had tea at the Colour Sergeant's home and watched football on the television. I then cycled back to West Wickham and, after putting my bicycle away, joined the open air service before marching back to the Hall.

When I was in my mid-teens I started going to the Royal Albert Hall in London to listen to the national brass band championships sponsored by the Daily Herald, part of which was broadcast on the Light programme (now Radio Two). Our trombone player, Iris Dockerill, was going out with a member of Haverhill Silver Band, which is how we got the tickets and transport to London.

When I attended the Grammar School for Boys in Cambridge I joined the school orchestra which played once a week in school assembly. I was provided with a cornet by the school and they also arranged cornet lessons for me. For these I had to go to the Cambridge Technical College once a week after school. I once visited the school when I was on leave from the RAF. I was wearing my RAF uniform and after seeing the Headmaster I visited the classrooms of my old teachers. Mr Hare, my old English master, got me to tell his class about my life in the RAF and my old Music master, Geoffrey Varley, was particularly pleased to see me and find out how I was getting on. He invited me to play the EB bass with the school orchestra at its next concert, but I wasn't able to.

In my late teens I played the Last Post and Reveille with the Bandmaster at the Remembrance Parade and Church service which was usually held at Horseheath, although one year it was held at West Wickham.

When I was nineteen I saw an advert in the paper saying there were vacancies in the RAF for musicians. I applied and received an application form. I had to go to the recruiting office in London. I went there three or four times. Each time I was given a travel warrant to get a train from Cambridge railway station (this was in the days of the steam trains) to Kings Cross.

In June 2013 I looked on the internet to see what I could find out about West Wickham. I discovered there was a village newsletter so I got in touch with Andrew and have had a copy of the newsletter ever since. On 1 August 2013 I created a flickr group and a youtube slideshow called the Salvation Army West Wickham (Cambs). I also created a flickr group called Salvation Army Bands which features the West Wickham SA band.

Graham Hopwood

★ HUB NIGHT! ★  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: 16.3.2024 7PM-11PM



## FROM THE VICARAGE

I can hardly believe it, Christmas seems to have come and gone, Lent is now upon us, and Easter is fast approaching. I was shocked to see Easter eggs/gifts in the supermarkets at the beginning of January. Commercialism at its finest; it persuades everyone that the only way to celebrate something is by spending vast amounts of money.

As Christians, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent towards the glorious day of Easter Sunday. However hard we try to understand the Easter story it will almost always be beyond our comprehension, Jesus, God the Son, should sacrifice himself to such a cruel death on the cross of Calvary so that we can be forgiven into the presence of God.

I am a great believer of hope, if you have heard me preach you know that I refer to the infamous yet wonderful actress Miriam Marguloyes. She once quoted "hope is the chink in the curtain which lets the light shine through". As we journey through Lent and Holy Week with hindsight, we know that by the end of the week the resurrection will come, and Jesus will raise from the dead. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight to the future, at the cross of crucifixion their world fell apart. Having something to hope for is so important if we are to keep going and stay positive, when everything around us is tough, demanding, painful, sad, and unwelcome. Jesus saying to his Father, not my will, but Yours be done, surely was the hope of resurrection, hope of reunion with His Father and appearing to his disciples again that gave Him strength and resolve to see through the costly and sacrificial plan for the salvation of the world.

The first Christians had a scary Easter, but it helped them become fearless about the future and to look to the future with hope. I pray that each and every one of us look to the future with hope and that on Easter Day we have the hope to shout we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our Song! I wish you all a hopeful Lent and a very Happy Easter.

In Christ, Revd Ben Brady

## BALSHAM WI

The speaker at our February meeting was Jan Cassidy with a talk about Women in Prison and how it affects their families and their mental health. Women make up 4% of the total prison population in England and Wales which means that there are few prisons in the country and therefore they will be a long way from home for visits. Women are more likely to be imprisoned for minor crimes and have a relatively short sentence, but this causes major disruption to children who must be taken into care, especially as many are re-offenders and the whole cycle repeats itself. It is estimated that 67% of the total prison population suffers from Mental Health problems.

Many questions were raised about the facts and Jan suggested that research showed that maybe longer sentences with better support or community sentences would bring about better outcomes with less re-offending.

At our next meeting on 12 March, we will be having a session on Mindfulness by Mel Cunningham. This will be a session on reducing stress, followed by our brief annual meeting.

We are a friendly bunch, and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – [balshamwi@gmail.com](mailto:balshamwi@gmail.com) or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI

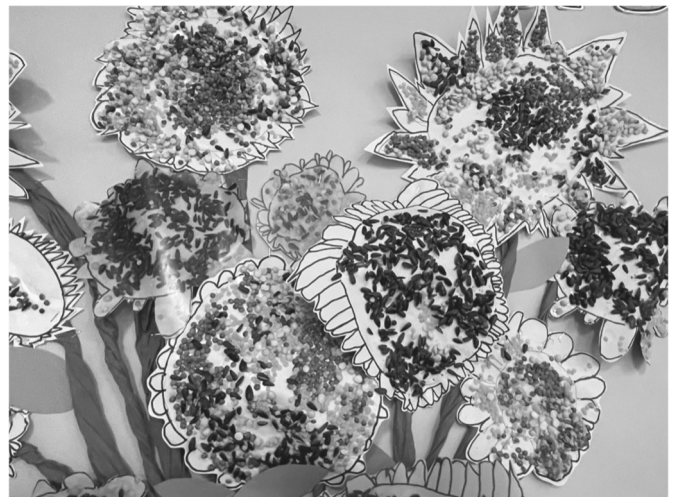
## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As we step into the month of love and reflection, everyone at The Meadow continues to foster a spirit of collaboration, resilience, and excellence.

**Young Voices.** We are overjoyed to celebrate the remarkable achievement of our young performers who recently took the stage at the O2 Arena for Young Voices. Seeing our children come together, singing their hearts out and embracing the joy of music, was a special thing to be a part of. Congratulations to our young voices for shining brightly on such a prestigious platform, showcasing not only their talent but also the strength of our supportive and collaborative community.

**Cultivating Creativity and Collaboration: A Trust-Wide Early Years Initiative.** Continuing with the theme of collaboration, our dedicated Early Years team embarked on a transformative training experience this term featuring esteemed guest speakers, Greg Bottrill and Anna Arnold. Their insights and expertise added a rich layer to our collective understanding of fostering creativity in early education. Armed with innovative approaches and a renewed passion for empowering young minds, our educators are now implementing fresh ideas and strategies into the ongoing project. This collaborative effort, fuelled by the wisdom of Bottrill and Arnold, promises to shape an exciting and creative landscape for our Early Years students, laying the foundation for a future generation of imaginative thinkers and collaborative problem solvers.

**A Brush with Creativity.** This term, we welcomed parents to join their children in a collaborative exploration of creativity. This Van Gogh-inspired Art Café not only celebrated artistic expression but also served as a platform for communication, fostering a supportive environment where families engaged in open conversations about art, creativity, and the significance of expression. The walls of our school are now adorned with sunflowers, swirling stars



and bedroom inspired artwork. Displaying this acts as a lasting testament to the collaborative efforts of parents and children.

Faye Facer. Assistant Headteacher

### COME ALONG TO THE COFFEE MORNING

From 10.30 on Thursday 14 March  
at the Village Hall

Selection of tea & coffee, homemade cakes and friendly company.

Lifts available. Call Di Licence (290434) or Sue  
Thurston (897811)