

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

June 2024

ISSUE 253

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	5 June	Blue & green
Wednesday	12 June	Black
Wednesday	19 June	Blue & green
Wednesday	26 June	Black

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

2 June	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
9 June	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
16 June	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
23 June	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
30 June	11.00. Holy Communion at Balsham Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: 15.06.2024 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 Sunday 16 June

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.

THE BIG GARDEN PARTY

**Saturday 1st June 12pm - 4pm
West Wickham Village Hall**

**BRING A PICNIC TO SHARE
OR BUY SOMETHING THERE**

**Food Truck * Ice Cream
Bar * Raffle * Tombola
Games * Bouncy Castle
Face Painting * Dog Show**
DRESS UP OR DRESS DOWN

CALLING ALL DOG OWNERS

The eight classes at the Big Garden Party's Dog Show will include PRETTIEST BITCH, WAGGIEST TAIL, BEST 6 LEGS - DOG AND OWNER, BEST JUNIOR HANDLER and more. Rosettes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. Entry will be £2 with all proceeds going to St Mary's Church. Judging by a Vet from Ash Tree Veterinary Practice will begin at 3pm so there will be plenty of time to enjoy the attractions beforehand. Don't forget your poo bags!

Nicky Cornish

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

With gardens bursting with blooms and allotments needing daily tending, sometimes we need somewhere to turn to for helpful advice or an attentive audience for our gardening tales. So why not come and meet Club members at one of this summer's events to share your pains and pleasures and find out more about us.

Continued on page 2

Gardening Club continued.....

Saturday 1 June. West Wickham Big Garden Party

Saturday 6 July. Castle Camps Fete.

There are also two summer visits for members to enjoy...

Monday 10 June. A private evening visit to the walled garden at Grove Lodge, Saffron Walden. £6.

Tuesday 16 July. A private afternoon visit to Porter's Lodge Garden and Tearooms, Cavenham. £10.

Both evening visits require booking in advance so if you would like to come along, please contact Sue Boase at wwdgc@westwickham.org or call 07716 401646.

Sally Collins

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall Management Committee met on 26 February. A new Chair was appointed and there was a change of Treasurer.

The Committee now comprises of:

Martin Kerslake: Chair

Alex Schuilenberg: Co-Chair, and Parish Council representative

Trevor Hall: Treasurer

Georgina Magin: Booking Secretary

Peter Grieve: Minutes Secretary and Bowls Club representative

Caroline Mulley-Richards: Parish Council representative

Nicci Trudgeon: HUB Night representative

Andy Champ: Local History Club representative

Indi Liepa: Gardening Club representative

Liz Elkins: Social Events Secretary.

The April edition of the Village Voice contained an article asking for volunteers to come forward to act as members of the committee and Trustees for the Village Hall Charity. Regretfully there were no responses. We are looking for someone to replace Georgina Magin as the Booking Secretary. Georgina has been in the position for quite a few years and it is time to hand the job on to someone new. The position is not a full-time job and is vital for the efficient running of the Hall. Anyone who could be interested in taking on this role can find what the Booking Secretary's activities are by contacting vhmc.chair@westwickham.org

The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee is on 24 June 2024, 7.30 PM in the Village Hall

SPECIAL EVENTS AT LINTON LIBRARY

- 8 - 16 June is Great Big Green Week, a national celebration of simple planet-friendly actions. We will have a display of small changes you can make and a selection of free books to keep that were once library books.
- 29 June – Children's author and illustrator, Steve Antony, will be here to delight and captivate. Steve is well known for prize winning picture books such as *Mr Panda* and *The Queen's Hat*, and recently *Rainbowsaurus*, a colourfully inclusive animal adventure. Come and meet Steve at 10.30am for a story and singalong. Places are limited, please book a free ticket at the library.

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: 0345 045 5225

CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

June was the time when the travelling fair went from village to village (conveniently when there was a 'breather' between the hay and corn harvests). In West Wickham the fair took place on and around the 6th of the month on the green next to the White Hart (now White Gables). In the 19th century it lasted nearly a week and the head teacher had to close the school as attendance was very low! Not long after he moved to the village in 1865, the temperance lecturer, John De Fraine, wrote a description of the fair which was published in the local papers. There was a big tent for dancing and stalls selling gingerbread and toys. There were wheels of fortune, booths where you could have your photo taken, skittles, a collection of waxwork figures, a dancing pony and a show with a variety of 'comic and sentimental' performances. The best thing, John said, was seeing the children happy and excited enjoying the few pence they had to spend but unsurprisingly he ended his piece condemning the men who were spending all their money on drink. Catherine Parsons, too, recorded her memories of the fair in Horseheath when she was growing up in the 1880s. She adds stalls selling rock, brandy snaps and sherbert and describes the cheap toys for sale – drums, water squirts, tops, marbles, mouth organs, tin whistles, Dutch dolls and wooden soldiers. There were also stalls selling crockery and fancy goods along with swing boats and coconut shies before dancing in the evening.

Travelling fairs seem to have declined in the 20th century and many did not resume business after the First World War. One or two people have told me they remember a smaller fair in West Wickham between the wars so if you have memories please do get in touch.

West Wickham & District Local History Club is having a summer break from its talks programme but we will be back on 14 October when Richard Adams will be telling us about *RAF Wrattling Common: Then & Now*.

If you would like to know more about the village, your house or family history please do get in touch:

Janet Morris. Tel: 290863

Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

West Wickham Village Hall

**COFFEE
MORNING**

**13th June
from 10.30 a.m.**

**Selection of teas & coffee
Variety of homemade cakes
LIFTS AVAILABLE**

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



NATURE NOTES

Undoubtedly the event of the month was the spectacular show from the **aurora borealis** on 10/12 May – well shared on the village WhatsApp group. It was caused by a massive solar storm which rearranged the sun's magnetic field. The knock-on effect on the Earth's magnetic field gave us this wonderful display and while these events are difficult to predict, experts are saying that another storm could be on its way, potentially affecting the aurora once again, although it probably wouldn't be so widely viewable.

Although the light show was unexpected, the month of May is a more predictable assault on all our senses - sight, sound, smell and touch, the last of which I was made aware of as I brushed past a patch of nettles in my shorts. The **hawthorn blossom**, be it white or deep pink, always makes a good show but also gives off a heady aroma, as does the **cow parsley, or Queen Anne's Lace**, when you walk along narrow paths flanked by it on either side. **Bluebells** will have finished flowering by the time you read this, but they have been especially bountiful this year and have their own pleasant scent which one experiences when walking through woodland.

Birdsong creates the soundscape, from the dawn chorus, usually started by the incomparable notes of the **blackbird**, until twilight when we hear a **song thrush** bidding farewell to the day. I find that the thrushes and blackbirds are often in good voice after rain so this year has given them plenty of encouragement. Quite a few people have said to me that there have been many **skylarks** singing, which is wonderful because nationally skylarks have been on the decline. To see and hear a lark rising and singing always gives us a boost. Other birds in the area at the moment include some **swallows**, though not as many as we'd like, and a couple of **swifts** which Di spotted going up the High Street. On 15 May she also heard a **cuckoo** behind her house, as I did the following day at Sturmer near where the Stour Brook flows into the River Stour.

Other birds seen in West Wickham this month include a **stonechat**, which we normally associate with heathland or rocky coasts. But here it has found a place it likes near the crossroads at the top of the village, a place where it has been seen several times over the years. I've also had a number of reports of **reed buntings**, who often sit quite prominently on top of hedges or the rape crop. The male is unmistakable with a black head and white collar. Some people have expressed concern about the lack of **yellowhammers** but I heard one at Thurlow the other day so hopefully we will soon be hearing requests for a '*little bit of bread and no cheese*'.

Di and I both have moth traps and as the nights get warmer there are more and more moths flying around during the hours of darkness, some of which can be lured into a trap by light. When the trap is opened up in the morning, they are free to fly away. Di has caught a **poplar hawk moth** in her trap, a beautiful insect which flies from May to September, but as an adult does not feed as it does not have a functional proboscis. It relies totally on the fat reserves built up as a caterpillar which feeds on its host plant, having hatched out from an egg laid under a poplar leaf, or sometimes willow, willow or aspen.

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 Iain and Cazzy asked me to write to say farewell to you all as Community Minister, I could not quite believe that the year had gone by and that it was time to take off the Community Minister hat. But sadly, it is so.

It has been such an honour and privilege to have been able to take on the role and it has been a joy to meet so many of you within the Benefice. This may have been at a coffee morning, community lunch, a service, at the primary schools, a chance meeting or when I have been able to provide support within your home. Wherever our paths crossed – I will always be so grateful that we were able to connect, laugh, share, solve and pray. Blessed moments indeed.

Thank you to you all, for making me feel so welcome, for allowing me to walk alongside you and for giving me the support needed to flourish within ministry.

Now, I mentioned earlier about taking off a hat, and I am thrilled to be able to share that I am indeed putting on a new one. I shall be Joining the Benefice in July as your new Curate! My family and I will move into The Vicarage, Abington in June and an exciting venture for us all. On 30 June, I will be ordained by Bishop Dagmar at Ely Cathedral and I will then begin my Curacy on 1 July!

This placement affords so many advantages – for I can continue with so many of the connections and events that I did as Community Minister. So, it is a "Goodbye" but also a very big "Hello".

May God bless each and every one of us within our communities and continue to shine his love, guidance, care and strength to all.

Hannah Threlfall

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

By the time you read this we will have had a Brownie holiday at the Jarman Centre with Balsham Brownies. Their leader, Julie (Brown Owl), organised the holiday this year which was cake-based. The Brownies will have made rocky road thumb buns for our snacks as well as funky foam cupcakes, gingerbread men badges and lots more cake inspired crafts. We'll also have had a campfire with S'Mores. They will also have complete their baking badge.

We have started our next skills builder, Innovate, and have already designed and perfected our sailboats, plus designed a play-park. Next we will be making edible architecture with apples, grapes, marshmallows and kebab sticks which is always fun.

Plans are being finalised for the US Girl Scouts visit to Linton in June; we hope that the weather will be warm and sunny so we can pitch tents, play games outside and crafts indoors. I know the Brownies really enjoyed it in 2022 when the group last visited.

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 that they could join. Email me for more details.

Pauline, Katie and Gemma.
Email: horseheathbrownies@gmail.com

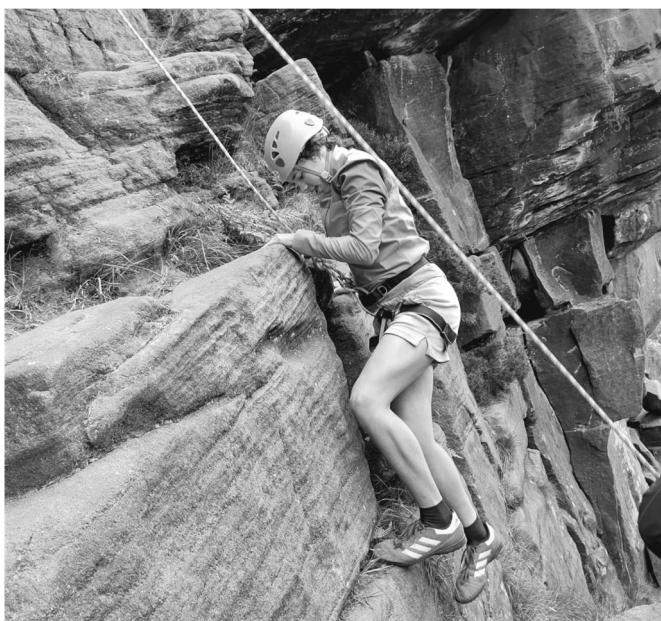
LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Beyond the Curriculum at LVC. We are proud of the depth and breadth of our Enrichment programme. Enrichment encompasses all of the clubs, trips and opportunities for our students outside of lessons and is firmly at the centre of the LVC experience for all of our learners.

A highlight of this month is our Enrichment week. Students in Years 7 and 8 go on a variety of exciting excursions and trips, whilst Year 9 will go further afield on residential adventures to the Peak District and Greece amongst others and will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills such as leadership, resilience, and teamwork.

As part of our Enrichment programme, students are also able to gain a variety of National Qualifications. Year 8 can take part in the Silver Arts Award validated by Trinity College in London and Year 9 can take part in the Gold equivalent. We are very lucky to be able to offer this as the Gold Award is usually a 6th Form undertaking and carries a certain amount of UCAS points.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has had a long history at LVC. We offer the Bronze Award which comprises of four sections to complete which involve helping the community, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition. Our Year 10s are currently training for their expedition to the Peak District, which will take place in mid-June.



Our Enrichment programme also consists of a range of opportunities that involve outside organisations and visitors coming in to work with our students. Some of the visits we have had this year include our local MP, a PHD scientist from the LMB Laboratory and dancers from the internationally acclaimed 'Hofesh Shechter Dance Company'. Additionally, we are very excited to be welcoming children's author and poet Michael Rosen to the school in June to participate in our Creativity Week.

Helena Marsh, Principal

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As we look forward to the warmer weather it make us reflect on the beauty of nature and how we can continue to foster creativity in our curriculum. This month has seen lots of wonderful outdoor learning experiences take place at our school. From immersing ourselves in nature to exploring the beauty of outdoor art, our students have embraced the great outdoors with enthusiasm and creativity.

Forest School Trip to Wimbish Primary: Our Year 6 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Wimbish Primary School for an enriching Forest School experience. Surrounded by the sights and sounds of the natural world, our students had the opportunity to connect with nature in a meaningful way. We are grateful to Wimbish Primary School for hosting this and we look forward to hearing about the developing friendships across both schools as they get ready for their residential trip together. We would also like to add how immensely proud of our Year 6 pupils we are for their dedication and hard work as they completed their SATs exams. These assessments represent a significant milestone in their academic journey, and we commend each student for approaching them with determination and resilience. As a school community, we celebrate their achievements and look forward to supporting them as they continue to flourish and grow in their educational pursuits. Well done, Year 6 – you have made us proud!

Inspired by Nature: In addition to our Forest School trip, our school community took part in a whole school focus on the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy, a renowned environmental artist known for his captivating sculptures and installations made from natural materials. From leaf patterns to stone sculptures, our students unleashed their creativity while learning about the interconnectedness of art and the environment. Each and every artwork created was unique to each child and showcased, not only a real talent, but a beautiful and creative flair.

Skipping into Action: We were also lucky to have Skip Beats visit us to provide all our students with the opportunity to skip and stay active! Skip Beats specializes in promoting fitness and fun through skipping, offering a unique and engaging experience for children of all ages. This initiative aligns perfectly with our commitment to promote physical activity and well-being among our students. By participating in skip-based activities, our students not only enjoyed a fantastic workout but also developed coordination, balance, and teamwork skills.

Faye Facer, Assistant Head Teacher

THANK YOU

I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks for the many messages of love, encouragement, support, and good wishes which I have received since my final Sunday service at the beginning of May. I have been inundated with gifts and cards which have been so very much appreciated. They say that having a good 'ending' enables a good 'beginning' and I leave this place well, with precious memories which will stay with me for the rest of my days and speed me on my way to Hertfordshire.

My prayers will remain with all of you in each and every village. It has been an honour to have played a significantly small part in the Granta Vale Group of Churches.

Revd Ben Brady.

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

NEXT DATE: **15.06.2024** 7PM-11PM

