

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

August 2024

ISSUE 255

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	7 August	Black
Wednesday	14 August	Blue & green
Wednesday	21 August	Black
Wednesday	28 August	Blue & green

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

4 August	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
11 August	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
18 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
25 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **17.08.24** 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 Friday 16 August

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.

STREETLY HALL ANAEROBIC DIGESTER NOT THE NEWS WE HOPED FOR!

On 17 July Cambridgeshire County Council Planning Committee unanimously approved planning permission for an anaerobic digester at Streetly Hall Farm. Because this application fell under waste and minerals policies it was considered by the County Council instead of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.

The Parish Council, Cllr. Henry Bachelor and 3 individuals from West Wickham and Streetly End made representations to the Committee objecting to the application. The planning officer recommended approval and ultimately our objections were outweighed by the fact that, apart from the Landscape Officer, all the other statutory consultees recommended approval or offered no objections.

Whilst this decision is disappointing for many of us it is now important that the Parish Council work constructively with Streetly Hall Farm to minimise the impacts on our Parish. The planning committee have added a condition that a liaison committee will be established to help the community work with the operators of the facility so that issues can be raised and addressed.

Cllr. Dave Sargeant, Vice Chairman, West Wickham Parish Council.

I would like to thank Anita Stone, Amelia McNeilly, Dave Sargent and John Blackman for speaking at the Cambridge County Council Planning Committee today. They offered clear and coherent objections to the siting of the proposed Biodigester at Streetly Hall Farm. It was interesting that the outcome was not actual support of the proposal, more a fear of the legalities of risk of appeal.

Personally, I am deeply saddened by the outcome, whilst being grateful that I live in a Parish with residents passionate enough to put in the time and effort to stand up on our behalf. Let's hope that this ill conceived project never actually gets built.

Laura Hawksley

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB *Ready Steady...Dig!*

The West Wickham & District Garden Club *Summer Gardening Fair* is fast approaching and we are getting ready to welcome you to share late summer produce, plants and maybe have a cup of tea and a slice of cake together.

Everybody is welcome and if you would like to donate any plants, vegetables, gardening books or old tools you no longer use, all will be gratefully accepted.

Books can be delivered to Sue Thurston at 41 Streetly End (01223 897811) either prior to the event or before the Fair on the 31 August. Any plants, books and (clean) tools you would like to donate on the day should be brought between 9:00 and 9:45. Doors open at 10:00.

All photography entries should be sent to Sally Collins by **Friday 23 August**. Details for submission are listed below. As a reminder, the children's class (age 15 and under) is *My World and Me* – send us your three favourite photos; adult classes are *It's a Small World*, *The Changing Landscape* and *My Garden Palette*.

Email your entries (taken after 31 August 2023) to Sally Collins at photo@westwickham.org or contact Sue Boase on 07716 401646. 50p per entry (up to two per adult class), by bank transfer, card reader or cash. Details provided by return email when entries submitted.

Summer Gardening Fair

Saturday 31st August
West Wickham Village Hall 10:00–12:00

Join us for a late summer celebration of gardens, gardening and nature.



Bring and buy!
Fruit and vegetables
Plants and flowers
Old garden tools
Gardening books
Seeds



... and much more

Raffle
Climate Change Gardening stand
Tea and cake
Photography competition winners



For more information email Sue Boase at wwdgc@westwickham.org or call 07716 401646

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



NEXT DATE: **17.08.24** 7PM-11PM

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE MORNING

8th August

from 10.30 a.m.

*Selection of teas & coffee
Variety of homemade cakes
LIFTS AVAILABLE
Call Di Licence (290434) or
Sue Thurston (897811)*



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

12TH SEPTEMBER & 10TH OCTOBER

NATURE NOTES

July and August are the high points of the butterfly season as many species change from caterpillars or chrysalises and become adults on the wing. Let's hope for a period of sunny weather in contrast to the summer so far, because butterflies need warmth and sunlight. Some of the 'brown' group of species have already begun to emerge in good numbers whenever the sun has been shining, particularly the **meadow browns** and more recently the **ringlets**, which had a poor year in 2023. One of the most attractive of this group is the **marbled white**, which in recent years has been spreading from its previously rather restricted areas of chalk grassland in the south of England. A recent count on the day of the election on a section of the Fleam Dyke produced 150 marbled whites, comfortably exceeding the number of Conservative MPs returned to parliament that day.

The Big Butterfly Count is currently in progress. It ends on 4 of August. Just spend 15 minutes in any location counting and recording what you see and then add your results to the Big Butterfly Count web site. Hopefully there will be **small heaths, skippers, gatekeepers, whites, small tortoiseshells and red admirals** which you can add to your list.

Many birds meanwhile are producing second broods and Di has noticed small fluffy blue tits, speckled baby robins and demanding young blackbirds in the garden. Blackbirds are one of our most common birds, but we have recently heard of a new threat to them from the usuru virus which is spread by mosquitos. London is the hardest hit area but people have been asked to monitor numbers all over the country.



Starling

If you notice a large gang of young **starlings** chattering away, they are obviously not just one brood. Apparently starlings use the tactic of synchronized fledging as it enables the young to form large feeding flocks. Some also use fragrant herbs in their nesting materials and research has shown that fledglings raised in these nests have a better survival rate than those raised in nests made

from just leaves and grass.

As everyone will be only too aware, slugs are doing extremely well this summer. Some of them are very destructive of our plants, including my runner beans, but they are a part of nature and consume large quantities of decaying vegetation and other unpleasant material, so sometimes we just have to take the hit and hope that the balance will be restored.

Wildflowers do not seem to suffer from attacks by slugs and some have given a really good show – notably on the verge between Balsham and Charterhouse Bridge, which has been a riot of pale pink mallow and creamy wild carrot flowers. A favourite of mine is the spiky yellow agrimony which can presently be seen along many verges, while if you have a good sense of smell, pause at the gates into our churchyard and take in the intoxicating sweet smell of the lime trees.

Drawing by Maureen Williams

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

On 16 August 1894 the Head teacher of the village school recorded in the school Log Book that she had '*closed school today for Harvest Holidays, not enough children to keep it open*'. The school did not re-open until 15 October. It may perhaps come as a surprise, in these days of standardised term times, that the Head could decide when to close and re-open the school but, for example, in the late 19th century the school closed as early as the 5th of August and as late as the 21st to coincide with the start of harvest (which was weather dependent) and recommenced anytime from the 29 September to the 15 October when it was over. The children were not in school because they and their families went away for a break. Far from it in fact – every family member was needed at home to play their part in gathering in the harvest.

Harvest, whether of barley, wheat or oats (all maturing at slightly different times) was the culmination of the farming year with the whole village dependent on its success or failure. While it lasted, the work was intense and over long hours which meant that farm workers could negotiate special rates of pay with their employers. The money earned enabled cottage rents to be paid, new boots or clothes to be bought and debts built up in leaner times to be paid off. All family members were vital to the family fortunes. Children could earn a penny or two during harvest by doing odd jobs or running errands or they carried their fathers' meals to them in the fields where they worked or they looked after younger siblings releasing their mothers to earn some extra money in the many casual jobs associated with harvest. It's no wonder that children did not attend school during this period. Family survival was at stake.

After the fields were cleared, women and children were allowed in to glean any of the grain dropped during the harvest process. Everyone would have been familiar with the custom of allowing the poor to glean from the Biblical story of the widowed Ruth gleaning to support herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi. In West Wickham there are several references in the school Log Book to children being absent because gleaning, even when the school had re-opened, so we know that it took place. What we don't have is any record of particular village customs associated with gleaning. Usually, a farmer would give some sort of indication that a field was open for gleaning – either by a physical symbol such as a shock (a bundle or sheaf) of corn or by agreement with one of the women designated leader. The hours were regulated so everyone had equal opportunity. Catherine Parsons, for example, recorded that in Horseheath the church bell (which would be heard throughout the village) was rung at 8am and again at 6pm. Gleanings of wheat were then taken to the miller, who for a percentage of the produce, would grind it into flour. Other grains were used to feed the family pig or chickens and these all made an important contribution to the family economy.

The introduction of more and more efficient harvest machinery throughout the 20th century, which left no waste, effectively put an end to the centuries-old custom, although cheaper bread prices resulting from the import of wheat from parts of the British Empire such as Canada meant the custom would probably have died out anyway.

If you have any memories or stories about gleaning or harvest please do get in touch.

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

FROM THE VICARAGE

Report says "*More people turning away from News*"

So ran the title of a BBC News article. It piqued my interest, not least because I felt that I must number myself among those "more people", globally, who described the news as increasingly depressing, relentless and boring, and something to actively avoid.

I guess it's understandable when the news agenda has become increasingly difficult in recent years: the pandemic, wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the threats of climate change and AI. And closer to home: increases in knife crime, more sewage in rivers; and ever-tedious political debate. No wonder we feel overwhelmed and confused and powerless, and fatigued by the amount of news. And to help protect our mental health or simply wanting to get on with the rest of our lives, more people are turning away from news.

So what might be a Christian's response to this? In our Western culture today, probably more people would say that they had a sense of the 'spiritual' rather than that they were 'religious'. Each to his own? Yet 'spirituality' alone risks leading us into a purely private world of experience-seeking for *my* personal wellbeing and comfort. Religion, for all its obvious distortions and tendency to alienate the sceptic, does constantly remind us of a broader world beyond the cramped horizon of *my* personal space and self-regard: a broader context of a moral order, and a network of obligations to other humans, to the Earth and to the other that lies beyond.

For example, when Jesus teaches that "Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled", he's not simply giving a divine pat-on-the-back to those who work to fight injustice. Even more deeply than this, he's saying that to be most authentically ourselves, most deeply human, we need the nourishment that comes from ensuring the well-being and flourishing of others as well as merely feeding ourselves.

So to switch-off from the complexity and injustice and suffering within our world is to risk starving our own humanity, and diminishing ourselves. And to be clear eyed and alert and open to whatever we might selflessly do for righteousness sake, means that probably we do need to regularly keep abreast of the news.

Alistair Collen, Licensed Lay Minister

UKRAINE CRISIS Displaced families in critical need as winter approaches - Please help

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 24 August at Abington Primary School from 9.00am until 12.30pm. Supported by Abington School and the Granta Vale churches this will be the fourth collection organised by Rotarian Tony Collett and Saffron Walden Rotary.

As the war continues and winter approaches there are thousands of displaced people who have lost their homes and possessions. Warm clothing and footwear in good condition is needed as well as such stable food and household items including pasta, rice, canned goods and gluten free items, toiletries and cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and crockery. In addition cash donations will be going towards the purchase of pallets of food and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on the day.

Please contact Tony re any queries: 01223 893447

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

West Wickham Parochial Church Council invites
"Friends of St Mary's" to a Garden Party
with drinks and nibbles at

St Mary's Church on Friday 6 September, 6 - 8pm.

Janet Morris will give a short talk on the Revd Wollaston, former priest in charge in West Wickham, and his family's extraordinary trip to found the Anglican Church in Western Australia in the 19th century.

All are welcome to support the important work of maintaining our beautiful mediaeval church. If you have not had an invitation please let Marcus Cornish know that you will be attending. T: 07836 213307 or Email: wmcorn@hotmail.com

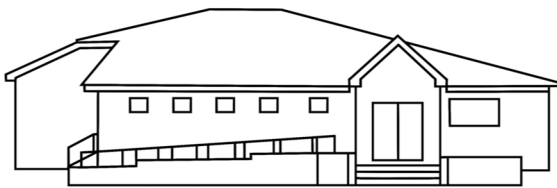
GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEWS

New telephone system – call back option. Some patients have reported the call back option not working for them. To use this service, when you are prompted please press option 1, but then you also need to listen to the next message and press option 1 again. There is also an option to receive a call back to a different telephone number.

Long Term Conditions (LTC). If you have a long term health condition such as asthma, COPD or diabetes, we aim to review you and your medication in or around your birth month. When it is time you will receive a letter or text message asking you to book an LTC appointment.

Accurx Patient Triage. We have an online consultation service that patients can use for routine medical questions and queries. The link to this can be found on our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk. Routine queries are usually responded to within 72 hours. The direct link is <https://florey accurx.com/p/D81043>

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services
Email: cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net



West Wickham Village Hall

Open for hire by Residents, Local Clubs and Organisations

Suitable for family functions, childrens parties, meetings
social events and fund raising

Hiring provides the use of all facilities including the bar area, table tennis and badminton equipment and tables & chairs. The kitchen includes crockery, cutlery, a dish washer, cooker, microwave, fridge & freezer.

The Hall is licenced for music and performing arts.

Bookings can be made to:

bookings@westwickham.org or
by using the online booking/query at www.westwickham.org
Alternatively by leaving a voice message on 01223 789719

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

This month's talk is all about Bees! Tony Yeats will be here on 14 August at 2pm to tell us all about Beekeeping. This event is aimed at adults and teenagers. It's free but please book your place by contacting the library or email: cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The Summer Reading Challenge is underway! If you are aged 3-11 years old, sign up to this free event. 0-2 years olds have a special mini challenge. Read and collect stickers. Head into the library to find out more.

Family Games, 2.30pm - 4pm, Thursday 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 August. We have a selection of games for you to enjoy or bring your own.

Lego Club, 10am - 12pm, Tuesday 13 August and 27 August. Make and create with both Lego and Duplo. We have lots of bricks, so come along and enjoy being creative.

Comic Club, 10am - 12pm, Tuesday 20 August. Explore the world of comic and graphic novels! A great way to get children reading.

Parents and carers to stay with their children at each of these events.

Knit and Natter, every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

Daylight Readers. Our Book Groups meet on Friday 16 August, 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
Customer Services: 0345 045 5225
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We've had another visit to the Jarman Centre but this time we learnt how to collect wood, sort it and then light fires. Each pair of Brownies had an adult helper with them so that they did everything in a controlled way. All the Brownies promised that they wouldn't play with matches or be silly around any fires in the future. They all toasted their marshmallows over their own fire before turning them into a S'More.

We also completed the 'innovate' skills builder and 'grow your own' interest badge this term which meant that Ariane, Molly, Tiffany and Annie Rose all gained their Silver award. They were all surprised that they had managed it but that is the secret of being a Brownie, you complete things you didn't know you were working on.

After our annual water games evening we waved goodbye to Ariane as she is moving up to secondary school and also to Gemma who will be moving to Yorkshire soon with her new job. We will miss them both and wish them good luck in their new school and job.

In late September/early October we will be holding a 'want to know about Brownies' evening so if you'd like to know more about what Brownies or guiding is all about please come along, the date will be announced soon.

If you have a 7-year old girl, or older, living in your home and think she might like to join us then 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.

Pauline and Katie. Email: horseheathbrownies@gmail.com

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

LVC Creativity Week 2024 – ‘Footprints’

We were very honoured to welcome Michael Rosen into LVC to launch our Creativity Week. This is a week of events and lessons at LVC based around a theme. This year's theme was 'Footprints.' Michael Rosen is a British children's author, poet, presenter and academic and is now a professor of children's literature in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also served as Children's Laureate.

Michael arrived to the sound of Year 7 singing 'Nothing is Forever', a song written using lyrics from one of his poems about refugees. He gave a wonderfully engaging poetry workshop, performing some of his funnier poems and then some more serious poems on the theme of 'Footprints.' He wrote poetry alongside the year 7s and inspired all the students to get writing to talk about themes of home, hope and togetherness.



Following Michael Rosen's launch, subjects across the curriculum interpreted this year's theme. It was great to see the range of interpretations and learning across different subjects. A few examples of learning included Design and Technology teaching Year 7 how to design the footprint of a house and garden within a footprint shape. Geography created their own innovative/sustainable farming strategies linking to footprints on the land and reducing carbon footprint.

In Religious Studies Year 9 considered the concept of the footprints – 'imprints' – that religion leaves on the lives of believers. In English, Year 7 collaborated with Michael Rosen to create a year group poem and individual poems with the overarching theme of refugees. Eco Club have created a mural out of plastic waste to highlight the importance of reducing waste and linking to plastic free July. Other subjects that interpreted the theme were Maths, Dance and Drama.

Students were able to reflect and make connections relating to the central theme of 'Footprints.' The impact for students' learning was both the transferable skills which they were developing, in addition to making connections across a variety of subjects based upon the same theme.

Creativity Week culminated in a celebration exhibition at the beginning of our Science and Arts evening. This work is important to us as school to demonstrate the collaborative nature of subjects, in addition to illustrating how students can respond in different ways to a central theme.

Helen Frost, Head of Dance

Photograph: LVC music, dance and poetry students who were invited to perform at the prestigious concert at the Corn Exchange, organised by Michael Rosen and HistoryWorks.

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

Celebrating Our Achievements

As we approach the end of this academic year we want to extend our appreciation to all our children and staff for their incredible efforts and achievements. This month has been particularly eventful and full of highlights that have showcased the talents, teamwork, and resilience of our children.

Sports Day was a resounding success, with our children demonstrating remarkable sporting talent and a true spirit of camaraderie. They participated in individual races like the classic egg and spoon race and the sack race, as well as a carousel of skill-based physical activities including axe throwing and hurdle jumping. The enthusiasm and determination shown by everyone was inspiring.

We were also treated to a fantastic performance by our Year 4, 5, and 6 pupils, who presented "The School 'O' Vision Song Contest." The show had everyone laughing, crying, and thoroughly entertained. The creativity and hard work that went into this production was evident and much appreciated by all who attended.

To finish the year off in style, we embarked on a whole school trip to Hunstanton beach. The day was filled with fun and adventure, creating memories that will last a lifetime. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated, and we didn't get too wet! This would not have been possible without the support of the PTA who helped raise the funds to foot the cost of the coaches and ice creams! Thank you again to everyone who supported them and made this happen.



As we close this chapter, we wish all our children, staff, parents, and the entire community a wonderful summer break. Thank you for your hard work, support, and dedication throughout the year. We look forward to starting afresh in September, ready for another year of learning and growth. Enjoy your summer!

Faye Facer. Assistant Headteacher

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **17.08.24** 7PM-11PM



BALSHAM SINGERS

Our Choir Needs

TENORS & BASSES



IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US
PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY

balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.choirsites.co.uk/balshamsingers/>

Everyone is welcome but we particularly need more
Tenor & Bass voices for balance.
We do not AUDITION, you do not have to sight read
[although it helps]
We meet for rehearsals in Balsham Sports Pavilion on
Thursday Evening 7.30-9.30
Next session after summer break is 12 September

INTRODUCING 'HOW ARE YOU SOUTH CAMBS'

Connecting with others, getting active, learning a new skill, being creative, seeking professional support, exploring the outdoors, volunteering – all these things (and more) can improve wellbeing...but it isn't always easy to know what is on your doorstep or to feel comfortable trying something new. <https://haysouthcambs.co.uk/> is a website that brings together everything local in the district that boosts mental wellbeing. Just like our physical health, we all have mental health and we all need to look after it – what that looks like for each of us is unique. The How Are You South Cambs website gives you the factual information you need to find a wellbeing boost, alongside videos, photos, quotes and a description of what to expect when you go for the first time. If you are on Facebook, give the How Are You South Cambs Facebook page a follow too

@HowAreYouSouthCambs

We're also keen to discover, share and support what is good for wellbeing in South Cambs and Royston – what it is you value for your health and wellbeing. If you know about something that we should know about, please email Charity Green (the How Are You South Cambs Coordinator) on HowAreYou@cpft.nhs.uk – she'd love to hear from you.

H.A.Y. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is brought to you by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

FORMER WEST WICKHAM RESIDENT PLAYS TO ROYALTY

I was a member of the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment based at RAF Catterick, North Yorkshire, where I played the cornet and the bbb bass (tuba).

The Band did the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace twice while I was at RAF Catterick, although I only did the first one as I was on a training course for the other. The rehearsals took place at RAF Uxbridge together with the Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force who was providing the guard. On the day, we went to Wellington Barracks where we did our last minute preparations and then marched from there through the Palace gates and into the courtyard.

During the ceremony the Band was given the order "stand easy". This meant I could unhook my bass and rest it on the ground. When I hooked my bass back up I don't think I attached it correctly because when I let go my bass dropped. Luckily, I caught it before it hit the ground. When the Band left the Palace we marched down the Mall to St. James Palace to play "Happy Birthday" to the Queen Mother.

The Band regularly visited Scotland for various engagements. One of these was to form a Guard of Honour with the Queen's Colour Squadron for Queen Juliana of the Netherlands when she arrived at Turnhouse Airport, which shared the same runways with the RAF. One December we had another royal engagement. This time it was the visit of Princess Anne to RAF Wittering

In September 1969, the Band went to Belgium to take part in the 25th anniversary of "the Battle of the Bulge". A military band and a marching contingent from each country which had fought for Belgium in the battle took part in the parade. We also did an open air concert in Antwerp and took part in a mini tattoo with other bands. As we went through the streets of Antwerp we were greeted by thousands of spectators cheering and waving flags.

In 1977 it was the late Queen's Silver Jubilee. The first major engagement we did was the tri-services music pageant at the old Wembley Stadium. At the end of the display, the section of the Band I was in marched off using the exit under the Royal Box. Rehearsals had been done in daylight but the pageant was done under floodlights, so when we went under the Royal Box, where the Queen and Prince Philip were sitting, it was dark. I couldn't see where I was going, hit the wall at the side of the tunnel and spun round colliding with a few other musicians. Fortunately nobody was hurt but my bass was slightly dented. Taking part in the pageant were four Guards bands, four Royal Marine bands and four RAF bands who were wearing their new ceremonial busbies for the first time. The pageant can be seen on YouTube.

The second major engagement for the Silver Jubilee was the Royal review of the RAF massed bands. This parade was held at RAF Finningley (now the Robin Hood airport). The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were the guests of honour. All participants in the parade received a letter from the Queen - I still have mine.

I took part in three Royal Tournaments and three Edinburgh tattoos. Each night there would be a guest of honour which variously included the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret, Princess Anne, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Kent.

Graham Hopwood