

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

September 2024

ISSUE 256

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 4 September Black
Wednesday 11 September Blue & green
Wednesday 18 September Black
Wednesday 25 September 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

1 September 11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
8 September 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
15 September 9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
22 September 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
29 September 9.30. Harvest Communion at St Mary's Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **21.09.24** 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 Thursday 12 September

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.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO GO IN THE OCTOBER EDITION OF THE VILLAGE VOICE THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

WELCOMES YOU TO

An interesting, skilful, fun, inexpensive sport which is accessible to all

+

A sociable evening with the opportunity to meet people and make new friends (with a chance to win a chocolate at the end!)



**Wednesday evenings 7 - 9.30pm
Village Hall**

Just come along or contact Janet Morris for further details

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Come along and find out more about the Club at its Annual General Meeting. 7.30pm on Monday 16 September at the Village Hall.

Future talks: 7.30pm, Village Hall

Monday October 21: Simon White from Peter Beales - *Rambling and Climbing Roses.*

Monday November 18: Jim Payne - *Grand Botanical Tours.*

NATURE'S COMING HOME TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Many of you will have noticed the transition of our land at Yen Hall farm as our nature recovery works get underway.

Our plan to bring nature back to the area has been developed to include a variety of complementary habitats to maximise the positive impact on nature, whilst also enhancing existing features such as the woodland, field margins and hedges.

The new habitats will enhance biodiversity in the area increasing the abundance and diversity of species that will make the area their home.

These habitats include:

- 43 acres of species-rich grassland to boost the populations of pollinators
- 29 acres of mixed scrub and grassland to develop healthy soil and complement the landscape
- 17 acres of native broadleaf woodland as a home for wildlife and to store carbon

- 2.5 acres of traditional orchard to offer food and shelter for nature
- 1.3km of native hedgerow with trees to interconnect nature and support a resilient ecosystem
- 8 wildlife ponds as a refuge for key species and replace valuable, lost freshwater habitats

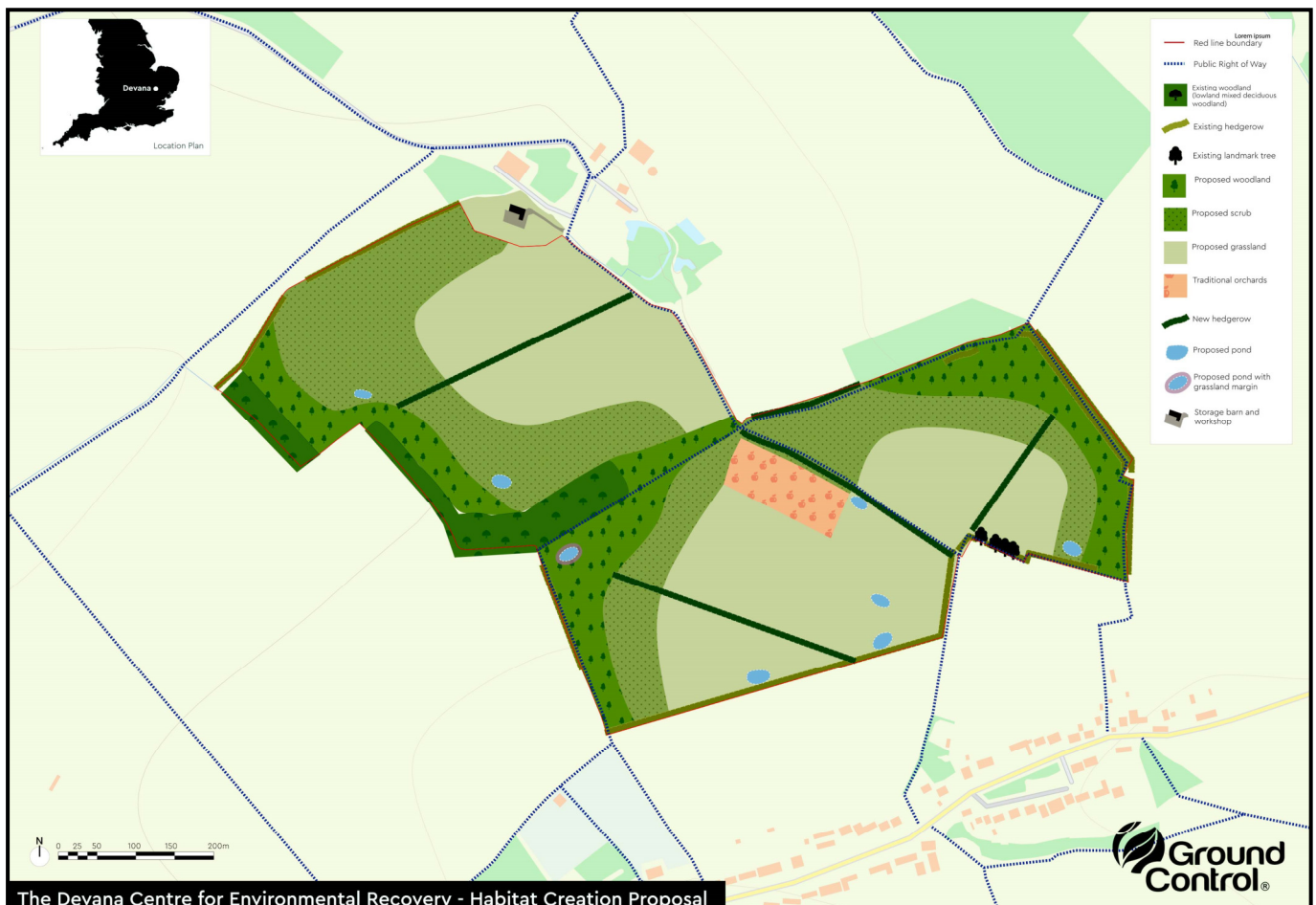
So far, we're excited to share that we have completed the formation of the wildlife ponds and look forward to seeing and sharing what wildlife they will attract over the coming years. In order to avoid disturbance to the developing habitats please keep dogs away from ponds at all times.

The next stage is the transition of grassland into woodland and scrub areas. This also involves, with the support of local contractors, preparing the areas for tree and shrub planting, with planting set to begin in November in line with the UK planting season. If conditions are right, we aim to complete this phase of planting early in the New Year.

Other works you may see are the protective fencing going up around the planting areas, ground preparation for planting areas and ongoing grass management. All of these works enable planting to establish, flourish, and put the habitats in the ideal condition to bring nature home to your area of Cambridgeshire.

Chris Bawtree, Ground Control

If you want to find out more there will be a presentation by Chris Bawtree of Ground Control, followed by a Q&A session in the Village Hall on 23 September at 18:30.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following items of interest have been taken from the draft Parish Council minutes of the meeting held on 22 July. The draft minutes can be seen on the website (www.westwickham.org) and on the noticeboards.

Planning: Streetly Hall Farm Biodigester. This has been granted planning permission by the County Council despite all the objections from the local Parish Councils, the County Councillor, SCDC landscape officer & numerous residents. Julie Copas raised the question of setting up an Informational Liaison Group as soon as possible to keep people informed of what is going on and would be happy to organize it alongside Chris Covey but this will likely be an informal group. This is in addition to the liaison group that is part of the pre-construction planning conditions, as this requires representatives from the Waste Planning Authority, Environmental Agency, District and County Councils, as well as local Parish Councils, it may not be set up until the site is preparing to start production. The Chairman suggested there should be regular Informational Liaison Group meetings to report to the community via the Village Voice, website and social media also reporting to the Parish Council. Cllr Hazelhurst felt it was not a job for Chris Covey to set this up but the Parish Council should facilitate it on a voluntary basis by making the Village Hall available for these meetings. Chris Covey agreed that this could be possible and agreed to work with Julie Copas to set this Group up prior to the formal site liaison. Cllr McNeillie asked whether the access road would be built before the construction work begins but was told by Chris Covey that this would be unlikely as the procedure to start construction of the new junction with the A1307 was likely to be lengthy and out of his control.

Finances: Details are shown in the draft minutes.

Traffic & Parking issues:

1. Potholes & flooding - There have been several complaints and despite confirmation that the work would be done within 21 days it has still not been carried out. The Parish Clerk will make further enquiries.
2. Blocked storm drains & a large pothole at the entrance to Balsham from West Wickham - the Chairman had been told that the necessary work has been approved.

Maintenance:

1. Defibrillator at Streetly End - Cllr McNeillie told Council that a design that will fit into a telephone box has been sourced at a cost of approx. £1500. Cllr McNeillie will be applying for funding from the British Heart Foundation and other funding agents. The Parish Council may have to pay half the cost.
2. Waste Bins - There appears to be some confusion about the emptying of these bins, with one not being emptied at all. The Chairman is taking this up with SCDC as this service has been provided by them for the last 30 years.

Any other business. Fencing round Play Area - The lower section of fence below the main gate will be replaced by the end of August.

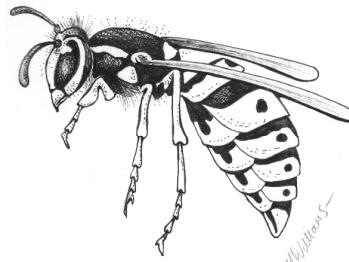
**The next meeting will be held on
Monday 23 September at 7.30pm.**

All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.
T: 01223 665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

NATURE NOTES

Gardeners have had a difficult year, what with the cold, wet spring and the Spanish slug armada (where is Francis Drake when you need him?), but there has been one high spot. It has been a very good year for soft fruit – raspberries, strawberries, redcurrants, plums, damsons etc. So where are



the **wasps**? Many people have remarked upon their absence but should we be glad or worried? There are some 9000 species of wasp in the UK. Most do not sting, and those that do are mainly solitary wasps who hunt specific types of prey. The yellow jackets and hornets that do sting

people have been noticeably absent this year. The reason is that the cold, wet spring meant that the big queen wasps struggled to successfully grow a nest. This is because they are solitary at this time of year and they have to do the nest building, egg laying and prey hunting all by themselves.

Is this a bad thing? Most certainly, despite their annoying behaviour, yellow jacket wasps are natural pest controllers, pollinators and important decomposers. So if next year there are more wasps around, we should welcome them even if they do damage our plum or apple crop.

At least this year you will have been able to do your Big Butterfly Count without the worry of being stung. The final conclusions of the count have not yet been published but the most seen butterfly was the **gatekeeper**, a brown and orange smallish butterfly which frequents hedgerows and meadows, but particularly likes bramble flowers. Its numbers have recovered after a decline. It is similar to the duller meadow brown, but smaller, the orange colour on the wings is brighter and a close look will reveal that it has two 'pupils' in its 'eyes' whereas the meadow brown has just one.

The recent sunny weather has brought out some of the butterflies that survived the rest of the year and the clear skies at night have also given us the opportunity of seeing the **Perseid meteor shower**, when cosmic dust crashes through the atmosphere, leaving bright light trails, commonly called shooting stars. It is best seen in the east, in the direction of Cassiopeia, and Di was doing just that when she was brought down to earth by a snuffling round her feet, which turned out to be an adult **hedgehog** – definitely a memorable moment. She also reports seeing a lot of small brown grasshoppers on the grass at Maypole Croft. You need a practised eye to be able to spot them, but there are a lot to see. Grasshoppers are smaller, and with shorter antenna than crickets.

As the crops are harvested and the fields ploughed, gulls magically appear to take advantage of their own harvest in the form of various invertebrates that are brought to the surface but birds of prey also become more visible as they watch out for small scuttling rodents or the corpses of animals caught up in the farm machinery. We had an interesting bird of prey incident last month. I found a dead pigeon beside our shed and placed it in front of the camera expecting a fox to take it away. Instead, a buzzard came down and ate the pigeon in situ, during which time a rabbit was sitting watching from a few yards away. I would like to have been able to read the minds of the two animals while all this was going on, but we can only imagine.

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

Drawing by Maureen Walker

CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

For more than 400 years the month of September meant Stourbridge (variously spelt Steresbregge, Stirbrigge, Stirbitch) Fair for the people of Cambridgeshire – an annual event which has been described as the biggest medieval fair in Europe. Each year a huge temporary market of wooden booths and tents was set up on a site roughly between the river Cam and Newmarket Road (street names like Garlic Row, Oyster Row and Mercers Row are surviving reminders). Sellers and buyers came from all over the country, even continental Europe, and although it was unlikely that many ordinary people from West Wickham would have been able to make the journey to Cambridge, farming families, shopkeepers and other tradesmen from the village may well have gone to stock up on household goods or supplies or just to see what was the latest fashion. They would undoubtedly have come back with tales of unheard luxuries and the entertainments on show.

The earliest mention of the Fair would appear to be a royal charter of 1211 granting the right to run a fair to the Leper Hospital in Cambridge (the small chapel by the bridge in Newmarket Road is all that remains). The Hospital was able to collect all the rents and tolls from traders in order to support the patients. Eventually, the Fair became the joint responsibility of the City and University. Its position was ideal. There was no real road network at this time but Cambridge was close to the one major road between London and the north and the site was right next to a navigable river which linked it to Kings Lynn and to the east coast ports.

There are not too many descriptions of the Fair until the 18th century. A plan made then clearly shows that particular traders each had their own area. The coal and pottery fairs were next to the river for easy transport, as were the fish and oyster markets. There were separate fair areas for hops (hugely important once these became an essential ingredient for brewing), leather, timber, furniture, wool and cloth. There were rows for ironmongery, tinware, books, cheese and luxury goods in gold, silver and fine leather. There was clothing for agricultural workers and hats but the only livestock on sale were horses. Amongst all of these were many places to eat and drink along with 'little edifices of general convenience' and there were booths with entertainments and a theatre to keep people amused (and spending money). There were plenty of officials too – to collect rents, to check weights and measures, and to keep order. The Fair even had its own courts so miscreants could be tried before it was over and everyone had dispersed.

From its peak in the early 18th century the Fair steadily began to decline. The growth of towns and the establishment of permanent shops together with better road and eventually railway connections meant the site next to the river lost its advantage and attraction. The Fair was formally abolished in 1934.

For those interested in learning more a useful introduction is *Cambridge and Stourbridge Fair* by Honor Ridout. This appears to be out of print but is available as both reference and loan copies from Cambridge Central Library.

West Wickham & District Local History Club will be resuming its programme of talks on Monday 14 October, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with Richard Adams on *RAF Wrattling Common Then & Now*. All are welcome.

Further details from: Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

FROM THE VICARAGE

Autumn may have a special place in our affections, as expressed by the romantic poet John Keats when he wrote in his ode 'To Autumn' of the: 'season of mist and mellow fruitfulness'. Written in September 1819, the poem celebrates autumn's abundance and harvest. This is a poem which I, like many, studied in school but enjoy returning to, especially at this time of year.

A celebration of abundance is also brought to the fore in our Harvest festivals at the end of September. We will have a Harvest service in each of our churches, as well as a Harvest themed Creative Church on 22nd September in the Abington Institute. All of these will provide, in a variety of different ways, an opportunity to give thanks for both the Harvest and also for the spiritual gifts we receive. Thanksgiving is such a vital part of the Christian faith, and indeed may help us experience life more richly and deeply.

Just as importantly, Harvest services also focus on how we may use our resources and gifts in service of others. As in recent years, we will be supporting the charity *Reach*, and asking for donations of non-perishable food towards the foodbank run by Reach in Haverhill. We seek to keep in mind the kind of generosity the Apostle Paul commended in his second letter to the church in Corinth, where he encouraged cheerful generosity and linked this to praise and thanksgiving.

Later in the autumn we hope to welcome Henry Wilson, the CEO of Reach, to speak at our united service on the first Sunday in November, which all are welcome to attend. Henry is an engaging speaker and will be able to reflect both on the story of Reach and also why generous giving can change us on a personal level as well as supporting others. As we experience the connection between thanksgiving, generosity and praise, we may know this is not just about Harvest time, but a way of living with gratitude in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl



WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL
**COFFEE
MORNING**
12TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 10.30 A.M.

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

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE Flu Vaccinations 2024

This year NHS England have informed us that the routine annual adult Flu programme for adults aged 18 years old upwards will start on the 3 October.

To ensure you have maximum protection for the flu season you should be vaccinated in October preferably, but certainly by the end of November. Flu numbers start to rise in November and peak in December & January.

However there are 3 groups of people who should be vaccinated early and we encourage you to be vaccinated in one of our September clinics.

Those who are pregnant (especially if near due date), because:

- Pregnant women are at higher risk from complications from flu.
- To protect the baby during pregnancy (for example flu infection increases the risks of the baby being premature or stillborn).
- To protect the baby in the first few months of life (babies aged under 6 months are at high risk of complications from flu).

Children, because:

- The protection from the flu vaccine lasts longer in children.
- Children tend to be “super spreaders”.
- Getting your child vaccinated not only protects your child but also their grandparents, vulnerable parents and will reduce the spread of flu to the wider population.

People due to have treatment such as chemotherapy, because:

If you are due to have treatment that will weaken your immune system, such as chemotherapy, the vaccine given before treatment starts will work better as your immune system is stronger.

Flu Clinic dates

Saturday 28 September	Granta Sawston (see September eligibility above)
Saturday 5 October	Granta Sawston
Saturday 5 October	Granta Linton
Saturday 12 October	Granta Shelford
Saturday 19 October	Granta Sawston
Saturday 19 October	Granta Linton
Saturday 26 October	Granta Shelford

There are also sessions at Royston & Barley Health Centres.

To book your flu vaccination please call 0300 234 5555 and choose the Granta site of your choice or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment.

For further information about the flu vaccination go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services.

Email: cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

BALSHAM PAVILION

(Off Church Lane – ample parking)

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER FROM 10.30

Raffle and Table Top Sale

TREE SURGEON TO THE RESCUE!

If you came home to see a cat stranded on the very top of your roof what would you do? Whose cat is it? How do we get it down? How urgent is it?

None of our neighbours knew who owned this cat but gave us some advice. The Fire Brigade said they wouldn't come out unless the feline was injured and in immediate danger and anyway it might find its own way down shortly. The local RSPCA had an answer phone only. It was already late in the afternoon. Then speaking to a neighbour again he suggested trying the WhatsApp “Village Shout” and he enabled us to join. There are nearly 100 members and rapidly we started to get some ideas and suggestions including about asking a roofer. During the evening a local tree surgeon Rob Giles of ABC Tree Surgeons said he could help in the morning.

By 7am the cat was still up top. We were no nearer knowing who the owner was until another App message came through with a possible address in the village. Going there we met Amy. The tom's name was Milo and he had a habit of getting on her roof!



Rob arrived with his co-worker Eddy and Amy came too. After getting on to the very top of our roof and edging his way along the ridge Rob finally managed to take hold of Milo and carefully make his way back down.

It's wonderful that we have such helpful and kind people in our community with animal welfare at heart.

We want to thank all of you who helped us both with advice and practical help enabling a distressed cat to be reunited with his relieved owner and particularly to Rob Giles of ABC Tree Surgeons who generously gave his time and skill. We could not have done this without your help!



So why not join the WhatsApp “Village Shout”? The advice and support is amazing!

Steve and Sarah-Jane Jones

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

We enjoyed a warm sports day at the end of term with students competing in field and track events to secure House points. Discovery House was the victorious team this year. Students demonstrated great camaraderie, cheering each other along during the races.

Like many LVC and Abington families, I enjoyed tracking the progress of ex-LVC student Angharad Evans competing in the summer Olympics in Paris. We are very proud of Harri's amazing performances in the 100m women's breaststroke final and 4x100m medley relay heats. Her achievements demonstrate the results of great commitment and discipline.

Meanwhile, at the end of July, thirteen Year 11 students and two teachers embarked on a World Challenge expedition to Morocco.



During their two weeks away, the group visited Marrakech and trekked the Atlas Mountains. They camped at base camp and climbed the Toukbal summit – 4167 metres high!



They were also involved in a community project, helping to complete construction work and carpet weaving within a cooperative initiative in Tizi N'Oucheg.

The maturity and teamwork displayed by the group was impressive. The trip was an incredible life experience for all involved. I'm grateful to Miss Mayzes and Ms Price for making this possible by supervising the group during their summer break.

Having celebrated GCSE results day with the class of 2024, we welcome a

new cohort in September. I have enjoyed reading and responding to Year 7 letters during the summer holiday and wish our youngest students a great start to their time at LVC.

Helena Marsh, Principal

We are very grateful to Ground Control for enabling this edition of the Village Voice to be printed in colour.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

A reminder that 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.

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

First of all, thank you to all those who took part last year, by either filling a box, sending an on line box, giving items for the boxes or coming and packing a box at the shoebox filling party. This is a gentle reminder to those who would like to, that it is the time of year to think about filling a shoebox to send to disadvantaged children. It is never too early to knit items, buy items or make items.

Collection week is 11 – 18 November.

Thank you. Jane Furlow. 07745046921.

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

LONDON THROUGH LITERATURE 2 – WITH LALA

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new 10 week course called London through Literature 2, on Tuesday mornings from 24 September. We meet in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane from 10.00 to 11.45.

The Tutor, Ros Connelly, says: Following on from London through Literature 1, although it can be taken as a stand-alone course, London through Literature 2 will explore some exciting ways that London has been portrayed through literature. Topics will include catastrophic events, such as plague, fire, uprisings and riots, and the two world wars; immigration and minority ethnic communities, including Jews in 19th and 20th century London, the Windrush generation and those from the Indian subcontinent and China; and how London has been imagined as a futuristic city (both utopian and dystopian).

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

COFFEE MORNING

A reminder that there will be a coffee morning held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 September, from 10.30.

A selection of teas and coffee plus a variety of homemade cakes will be available. Lifts available, call Di Licence on 290434 or Sue Thurston on 897811.

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **21.09.24** 7PM-11PM

