VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2025

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	2 April	Black
Wednesday	9 April	Blue & green
Wednesday	16 April	Black
Wednesday	23 April	Blue & green
Wednesday	30 April	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/wasteand-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

C A 11		
6 April	11.00. Joint service of Holy	
-	Communion at Balsham Church	
13 April	9.30. Holy Communion at	
	St Mary's Church	
For Easter Week services see page 2.		
20 April	EASTER SUNDAY	
	9.30. Holy Communion at	
	St Mary's Church	
27 April	9.30. Holy Communion at	
-	St Mary's Church	
F		

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

West Wickham website: for news, what's on, directory of information & useful contacts. https://westwickham.org

AgeUK Community Warden: Sheree Geoghegan. T: 07436 102865 Email: wardens@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 Wednesday 16 April

Editors: Andrew Morris & Anna Fairhead 21 High Street, West Wickham Cambridge CB21 4RY T: 01223 290863

Email: editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

The Village Voice is sponsored by West Wickham Parish Council and delivered free to all households in West Wickham and Streetly End. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

THE VILLAGE VOICE NEEDS YOU!

ISSUE 263

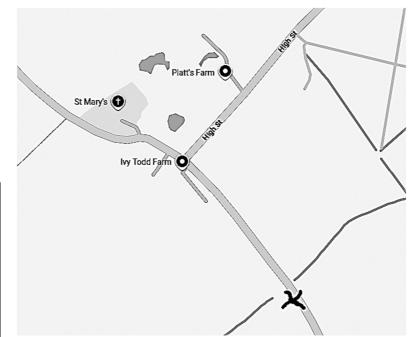
First, we must thank Linda Adams, who has delivered the Village Voice to houses in the middle of the Village since it started publication 21 YEARS ago. Before that she delivered the Venture. A terrific effort and much appreciated but now Linda has decided to retire. Hazel Cowan has agreed to deliver for a few months but not long term. Again, many thanks to her.

The Village Voice needs your help, someone to deliver it each month from the Village Hall to Maypole Croft. If you think you could take this on please contact me, Email: editor_wwvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk. T: 290863

Andrew Morris

ROAD CLOSURE

The road into West Wickham from Streetly End will be closed all day on 6 April, from just before the bridge where the side of the road has all but disappeared to the junction with the High Street (see X in image below). There will be diversions in place.



Alex Schuilenburg

VILLAGE HALL NEWS Chair Yoga Classes Meet the Needs of the Community

Laura Nicholson recently launched chair yoga classes in the Village Hall and has quickly filled the seats! A clear sign of the growing interest in gentle, accessible movement. These sessions offer more than just physical benefits like improving strength, mobility and balance. They've become a space for connection, where people come together not only to move but to share moments of community and peacefulness.

For many attending, the class has become a welcome part of their week, a chance to ease stiffness, boost confidence, and enjoy the simple joy of being among others. Laura's classes involve a series of gentle seated

Chair Yoga Classes continued

exercises that couple movement with breath; providing a level of mindfulness and calm that traditional yoga is well known for. Each week



she focuses on different themes, giving the class opportunities to learn about the philosophy and science behind the practice.

The popularity of this class shows there's a real need for inclusive, wellbeing-focused activities in the village. With so much enthusiasm, there's hope for more opportunities like this in the future as Laura is keen to add new classes to her schedule. If you're interested in participating in these types of classes then Laura can be reached on restriseyoga@gmail.com or 07891017887.



FROM THE VICARAGE

Spring often feels like a time of renewed hope. Many people say to me it gives them a boost to enter Spring, leaving aside debates about when Spring actually begins! Maybe it's the palpable sense of new life and lighter days after the darkness of winter. At the time of writing there is an early Spring warmth and in our church yards flowers are blossoming. This has been reflected in the Lent activities of our children's church council, who have put together a beautiful collage of photos of new life in Spring in the form of a cross, which is on display in Hildersham church until Easter.

From a Christian point of view, this time of Lent and Easter actually marks a journey, from the ashes of sorrow to shouts of gladness; from slavery to freedom; from despair to new life. Preparations for Easter in our churches include Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, riding on a young donkey and greeted by a multitude of joyful people. This year, our Palm Sunday celebrations will include a procession though Hildersham accompanied by not one, but two donkeys! It promises to be joyous and chaotic, and all are welcome to join in.

We then continue to journey through what is traditionally called Holy week. Through participating in this, we may identify with Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the suffering on the cross, and then the empty tomb. This culminates in the joy of Easter and the proclamation of the risen Jesus. We will hold services on Easter Day in all of our parishes, including gathering around a bonfire outside Weston Colville church before we light the Easter candle and continue with Morning Worship, and Holy Communion services in all our other churches.

The lighting of the Easter candle is often accompanied by these words: 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds'. This draws us towards worship of the crucified and risen Jesus who is the light of the world, whose Spirit can help us overcome the darkness within. It also reminds us we are called to share the light of Christ in our villages and in the wider world, and why there is always a living hope in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

Services for the week before Easter

Monday 14.	Evening Prayer, West Wickham, 7.30pm - <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
Tuesday 15.	Evening Prayer, West Wratting, 7.30pm - <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
Wednesday 16	Evening Prayer, Weston Colville, 7.30pm – <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
Thursday 17	Holy Communion, Great Abington, 7.30pm - <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
Friday 18 (Good F	Devotional service, Hildersham, 9.30am - <i>Alistair Collen</i> Stations of the Cross, Balsham, 11.30am - <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Last Hour, West Wratting, 2.00pm - <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Last Hour, Little Abington, 2.00pm –
	Revd Hannah Threlfall

WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST A MISCELLANY

In April 1834 the *Cambridge Chronicle* reported, in a rather patronising tone it has to be said, that:

The little village of West Wickham in this County seems to have caught the contagion of the Unions and to have determined to do less work for more wages...

The report went on to say that about 50 agricultural labourers had gone on strike. Their masters had quickly obtained a warrant from a local magistrate for the apprehension of the ringleaders and four men had subsequently appeared at the Quarter Sessions in Cambridge. William Rowlingson, William Mynott, William Barker and Edward Barker were all found guilty of molesting and intimidating fellow agricultural labourers, forcing them to go on strike. They were each sentenced to three months hard labour in Cambridge Castle, then the County gaol. According to the *Cambridge Chronicle*, this had the desired effect and the rest of 'their misguided companions are returning to their work'.

Three months hard labour might be considered lenient when, earlier in that year, six agricultural labourers in Dorset (the Tolpuddle Martys) had been sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia ostensibly for forming a trade union to protest about low pay. Forming a trade union was not actually illegal but an obscure law about taking oaths of secrecy designed for naval mutinies was used to prosecute them. The sentence caused mass protests and prompted an 800,000 strong petition to Parliament which finally led to them being pardoned and returned to this country. In fact, at the same time as the West Wickham men went on strike, a representative from the Grand National Consolidated Trade Union was in Cambridge gathering support for the petition. While there, he also chaired a meeting of 200 working men following on from the sacking of a number of shoemakers in the town precisely for belonging to a trade union.

To put all this in context, agricultural unrest was prevalent in the 1830s and 40s. A rising population meant an over supply of labour for work that was essentially seasonal and weather dependent and so poorly paid. Lack of transport to enable a move to more lucrative occupations elsewhere kept people on the land. Agricultural depression, the prospect of job loss through increased mechanisation (notably the threshing machine at this time) and fears about the introduction of the New Poor Law in 1834, which moved poor relief from a parish level to a multi-parish Union centred on the workhouse, all added to rural tensions. Although there was again unrest in the 1870s at the onset of another prolonged period of agricultural depression, it seems the men in West Wickham did not go on strike again until 1914 when the start of the First World War and more regulation of agricultural wages led to a stop to the action.

For further information about this and any aspect of village history contact:

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



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB with WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Why not come along to our April meeting when we will be welcoming West Wickham & District Gardening Club for a joint meeting.

Monday 14 April

The rise and fall of Cambridgeshire Horticultural Societies Talk by Jonathan Spain Historian and author. The talk looks at the journey of these

societies from the 19th century to the present day.

7.30pm in the Village Hall

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



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB Spring Shoots

For those of us who grow plants from seeds, April is an exciting month. Win-

dowsills get dirty with rows of pots and the emerging green shoots offer a promise of summer to come.



Photo by Francesco Gallarotti on Unsplash.

If you haven't had a go at propagating before, April is the perfect month to try. We even have a **free seed table** at our monthly meetings so if you don't know where to start, that might provide the perfect solution. There will even be some plastic pots available at the April meeting if you are short of containers!

Our April meeting is a joint one with West Wickham & District Local History Club – see boxed advert.

Having finished planning our programme for the year, with summer garden visits, talks and fairs we are now looking forward to the **Plant Sale on 17 May**, our big spring event. If you are lucky enough to have some leftover seedlings or are dividing plants in the garden we would be delighted if you'd like to join in. It's a great way to share leftover plants, find some bargains and enjoy homemade cakes baked by members. We'll share more details in the May edition about timing for the day.

Monday meetings held in West Wickham Village Hall at 7:30pm. Annual membership of the Garden Club is £8 per person, guests £2. Please contact Sue Boase on 07716 401646 wwdgc@westwickham.org

NATURE NOTES

March is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb but I think it tends to chop and change between the two as the month progresses. In fact the first week of March was particularly balmy whereas the second week has been chillier. As I write, the lion-like qualities have yet to come to the fore, so perhaps we should prepare for roaring winds and lethal storms. That first week of warm sunshine brought out the brimstone butterflies, which once the temperature dipped, will certainly have retreated to their winter quarters – probably in the ivy.

Whatever the weather, nature tends to keep to its normal timetable, which at this time of year includes the first chiffchaff announcing its presence. Di heard one, chiff-chaffing away behind the Old Vicarage, and my first was during a walk at Hadstock. We both thought this was rather early but on checking our records from last year, it was around the same time, so who needs a watch or calendar? The chiffchaff clearly doesn't.

During our period of warm, sunny weather it has been interesting to note how sunlight enhances the colour of birds, sometimes to the extent that you can be deceived. Birds that show up particularly well are the yellowhammers, who have been seen quite a bit this month in the fields, even singing their familiar song. Another very smart gentleman is the stonechat – normally a bird of the coasts and moorlands, but every so often seen in West Wickham. Lucy Cameron spotted one near Hare Wood. I suspect the bird was on passage, but not travelling as far as the redwings and fieldfares, which although surprisingly absent from this locality for most of the winter, appeared in big flocks for a brief time in early March before presumably flying back to their homelands. One bird of more modest colouring is the dunnock, but, seen close to, is rather stunning, with a slate grey head and chest, and streaked brown upper parts. It normally has rather a low profile, but can sometimes be seen picking up the crumbs under bird feeders and at this time of year sings from the hedgetop with its somewhat underrated song - 'deedly-deedly-dee'.

The barn owl has made it into Nature Notes now for three months running and one has been seen in these parts recently, hunting near the Roman Road in daylight and perched on a fence overlooking grassland. The silent grace of this bird is good for the soul.

For many creatures it is the mating season and I was lucky enough to catch a couple of badgers in the act of mating on my trailcam, so hopefully after a few months we will see some youngsters coming out to play. Foxes tend to mate a bit earlier in the year, so when they are feeding their young in April / May, those of us with chickens have to be particularly alert.

The roadsides, hedges and ditches are now showing more colour, including the golden stars of lesser celandine and the white flowers of blackthorn which precede their leaves. Our damson tree, which is from the same family as blackthorn is also in flower.

In contrast the hawthorn trees and hedges are already coming into leaf in sheltered spots, yet we have to wait until May for the flowers to come out. Still, the freshness of the green hawthorn leaves are a treat on their own, as are the horse chestnuts, whose leaves are now beginning to unfurl.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

KINGSWAY SOLAR COMMUNITY ACTION Walk. Record. Protect

Last month, we launched our **Step into Nature** campaign to stand up to Kingsway Solar's plans. In March, we asked you to spot hares to help protect their habitat. This April, we're asking you to do the same—but also to listen for skylarks. These threatened birds nest in our fields, and we need to show just how important this land is for wildlife.

Scientists from the RSPB and the University of Cambridge recently found that solar farms managed for nature in East Anglia support more bird species and a higher number of birds per hectare than nearby arable farmland and solar farms with only simple habitats. However, while pigeons tend to favour solar farms, skylarks prefer arable land. This isn't surprising, as skylarks need long, open sightlines something solar farms can't provide.

You can record your sightings on iRecord, which allows us to gather data within a 2km area around the proposed solar farm. You can also use the Merlin app to help identify skylarks by their song. Use the app to identify skylarks by taking a screenshot, then upload it when recording your sighting on iRecord. Every sighting counts. Let's join forces to protect our farmland!

Working towards a better, greener solution. MPs are currently discussing large-scale solar farms. In March, KSCA attended a roundtable meeting at the Houses of Parliament to discuss how to present our case, alongside many other campaign groups. This meeting was valuable for networking and sharing insights from other campaigns.

We need your help! If you're interested in helping us with publicity, fundraising, or if you have expertise to help strengthen our opposition, please get in touch. For campaign news and updates visit the KSCA website at kingswayaction.org.

Ellen Collier, KSCA

THE CHESTNUT TREE PH

As many of you are aware, Debbie and I were unfortunately involved in a serious road traffic accident which has resulted in a substantial change of our lifestyle. As a result, we made what was the only sensible decision to effectively release ourselves from the running of The Chestnut Tree PH. This was not a decision out of choice but out of necessity. We are extremely grateful for all the help and assistance we have had during this somewhat difficult time from both staff and patrons.

We are pleased to announce that Jennie Higgins has taken on the tenancy, becoming the new landlady. Jennie will have already taken over when you read this article and she will be busy putting her own stamp on the premises which means it will be shut for a short while.

The Chestnut Tree PH is a Community Asset in West Wratting and I know how appreciative you all are of your local pub and the impact it has on all of us, whether it be popping in for a relaxing drink, catching up with acquaintances, having a family meal, collecting your prescription, playing darts or pool, enjoying our music events or making it to your destination after a walk in the countryside.

With Jennie in situ, together with her staff, you are now assured of the continuing success of The Chestnut Tree PH.

Paul Mower

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES NEWS

Spring 2025 Covid-19 Booster

The Covid-19 vaccine helps protect against Covid-19, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It is offered on the NHS to people at increased risk of getting seriously ill from Covid-19. This year's spring booster will be available from 1 April to 17 June, and is recommended for people at risk from Covid-19. You may be offered the booster if you:

- Are aged 75 or over,
- Are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment,
- Live in a care home for older adults.

NHS UK will contact you directly if you are eligible for the spring booster.

Granta Medical Practices will be delivering Covid-19 vaccines to our own patients and the general public via the National Booking System on NHS UK. Please may we respectfully ask that you do not try to book directly via our reception as they do not have access to the National Booking System. We will also be vaccinating older care home residents. Housebound patients will be vaccinated by one of the community services.

If you have any queries about the spring booster or Covid-19 in general, please go to www.nhs.uk

> Sandra East,Head of Patient Services Sawston Medical Centre, London Road Sawston, CB22 3HU. Email: cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net

BALSHAM WI

Following the theme for our centenary year meetings, March was the turn of the 1940s – wartime and Olympics featured this evening. Members brought their gas mask holders to the meeting, where we learnt about the shortage of food during wartime which necessitated rationing to ensure fair distribution. We saw the amount of food allowed per person during this period and tried some wartime eggless cakes and some National loaf (without the addition of chalk).

Rationing was still in place for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, and for the 1948 Olympic games. Countries such as the USA brought along extra food for their athletes to supplement the meagre amount offered by the organizing authorities which was in line with the calories allowed per person at that time. Rationing did not totally end until 1954.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8 April, 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the 1950s. 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

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 16 August when we are holding an afternoon tea for past and present members at the Church Institute in celebration of our centenary this year.

Debbie Mower

BALSHAM SINGERS SPRING CONCERT Holy Trinity Church Balsham Saturday 17 May at 7.30pm

The programme features music from Mozart, Rutter, Haydn and a selection of modern compositions and special arrangements.

Tickets $\pounds 12$ under 16s $\pounds 1$ - including a drink in the interval.

Available from 1 April, from Balsham and Gt Abington Post Offices and online at: Ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Jo Stinton

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Have you visited your library lately? If it's been a few years, you may be surprised by how libraries have changed. Of course, we still have hundreds of books, fact and fiction, for all ages to choose from. We also have free WiFi and computers you can use to research family history, look up homework topics or even watch a National Theatre play. Whether you want to read, use a computer or meet new people; libraries are relaxed, friendly places and staff will be happy to help you.

Over the Easter Holidays there will be a trail for children in the library, and a craft event on Saturday 12 April, 10.30-11.30am. We will be closed on Friday 18 April.

Do you like reading stories aloud? We have a volunteer vacancy for story and rhyme time. Pop in if you are interested.

- **Rhyme then Duplo**: Tuesday mornings 10-11am for 0-4 years. We would love to see you and your little ones there!
- **Lego/Duplo:** Friday 10-11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0-4 year old.
- **Games Afternoon**: weekly, Thursday 2-4pm. Come and meet new people, board/card games provided or bring your favourite to share.
- IT Drop In: every Wednesday 5-7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with Information Technology, including how to use the Addenbrookes MyChart patient management software.
- Knit and Natter: every Tuesday, 2pm 4pm. Bring along any craft project you are working on.
- **Daylight Readers:** our Book Group will be taking a break for April.

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King. 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.

DON'T FORGET THE COFFEE MORNING Thursday 10 April 10.30 in the Village Hall

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

To celebrate Science Week, LVC holds a week-long series of events that are designed to inspire and engage our students. Science week has been a long-standing occurrence in the school's calendar. British Science Week is a 10-day celebration of science and innovation and is an initiative run by the British Science Association. The BSA believes that its remit is to continue to invest in and position the UK as a leader in undertaking research and development in a way that benefits all of society.



Events that took place during LVC's Science Week in March included dissections, 'Shock and Awe' chemistry, a forensic investigation, a Science Fayre, a dance/science collaboration and a trip to Sizewell B Power Station. There were also a series of assemblies aimed at inspiring students to think about how they might change the world and how science can have an impact on that change.

Alongside this, we entered eight of our top Mathematicians in Year 10 into the Cambridgeshire Maths Feast, hosted at LVC. The event comprised of problem solving, geometry and algebra. Out of twenty-one teams from twelve schools across Cambridgeshire, LVC placed 8th and 10th.

We are enormously proud of our students and their curiosity and academic rigour. As our school is on the doorstep to Cambridge, a city brimming with scientific innovators, pioneers and thought leaders, we continue to inspire the next generation of scientists and STEM industry personnel.

Helena Marsh, Principal



MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

World Book Day Celebrations. This month, we had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day, featuring the story *I Want a Dog* by Jon Agee. The day began with a special assembly where Mrs. Butcher, our literacy lead, brought the story to life as she read it to the children. Following this, each class took part in exciting activities inspired by the book. From drawing cleverly disguised animals and engaging in drama performances to designing habitats and even writing their own books, our pupils had a wonderful day exploring the magic of storytelling.

Chocolate Bingo Fundraising Success! Another highlight of the month was our much-anticipated PTA fundraising event: Chocolate Bingo! This sold-out evening was a huge success, raising an impressive amount of money that will go towards enriching experiences for our children and funding new playground equipment. Families enjoyed a fantastic night of fun, with some lucky participants heading home with plenty of chocolate prizes. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event!

Our Journey to Sustainability. We are committed to becoming more sustainable. To help drive this initiative, we are launching an Eco Committee, which will focus on four key areas: recycling, energy conservation, reducing waste, and enhancing nature. KS2 children are invited to join the committee and work towards making a positive environmental impact under the guidance of Miss Evans. We are excited to see the changes this team will bring - watch this space!

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Whilst Barney (Pauline) has been recuperating from her stroke, Katie has taken over the running of the Brownies. They have made and eaten pancakes, enjoyed a sleepover at Duxford Scout hut with other Brownies, Guides and Rainbows from the District to celebrate world thinking day, which is our founders birthday. The Brownies have also decorated pebbles with positive messages and also started a new skill builder *reflect* from the *know myself* theme.

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 the please email us on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com or register her on www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register -your-daughter/ and we will get in touch. Also, if you have a daughter who is 5 years old, she can join the Rainbows or if she is over 10 years old, the Guides. We have spaces available in local units in Horseheath and Linton.

Pauline, Katie and Esther

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Acorn Biodigester. The proposal by Acorn Bioenergy to build a new anaerobic bio digestion plant on the edge of Haverhill has taken a step forward. Suffolk County Council, who will be making the decision on this, had asked the applicant for more detailed information on various parts of the plan, to enable them to come to a decision. After some time, the applicant has now provided this information, and it can all be read and commented upon on the Suffolk County Council website. Visit https://suffolk.planningregister.co.uk/Planning. The planning application reference is SCC/0045/23SE.

Henry Batchelor & Geoff Harvey