

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2025

ISSUE 267

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

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

3 August	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
10 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
17 August	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
24 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
31 August	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **23.8.2025** 7PM-11PM



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 Saturday 16 August

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21 High Street, West Wickham
Cambridge CB21 4RY
T: 01223 290863

Email: www.villagevoice@gmail.com

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.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DAMAGE

Over these summer holidays and with the glorious sunshine, we hope many children and adults will be enjoying the playground along with its equipment and the facilities in and around our lovely Village Hall.

Unfortunately, a very small minority of people are abusing the playground equipment, in particular the Multi-User Games Area (MUGA - combined basketball and football hard-surface area). The basketball hoop has suffered structural damage resulting from someone climbing and bouncing on it, with the back-board and panels being kicked in. Similarly, the football net has been badly damaged (2nd time within 2 years), as has the net of the basketball hoop. Fence panels are also being kicked out which could easily result in an unsuspecting child or animal stepping on exposed nails.

Apart from spoiling the enjoyment of the majority of users, the Parish Council are having to spend significant amount of time and money (**your taxes**) to repair or replace these damaged items. If you do witness any damage, please report this to the Parish Council through the clerk (parish.clerk@westwickham.org), or, and only if you are comfortable in doing so, have a word with the perpetrator. While we have not yet got the police involved, I would like to remind everyone that this amounts to criminal damage and ask for parents to remind their children that the playground is for everyone to enjoy and is to be treated respectfully. The persons responsible in two cases were either directly witnessed by myself (and subsequently told off) or captured on CCTV.

Alex Schuilenburg, West Wickham Parish Council

BIG GARDEN PARTY – THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came, helped, ate, drank, jumped on the bouncy castle, bought raffle and tombola tickets, threw balls at coconuts, visited the local club stands, watched the Punch & Judy shows,



brought their dogs to the show and cleared up afterwards. Your presence, enthusiasm and generosity helped make the day a wonderful success. Your Parish Council is so grateful for the community spirit and hope you had as much fun as we did.

Ronnie Temple

A huge THANK YOU to Ronnie Temple, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee for letting us fund raise for the maintenance of the Church and the churchyard. An even bigger thank you to all our volunteers who helped on the day, and those who donated raffle prizes and bottles. The tombola raised £319.30, the raffle £228.50, the dog show £89 & teas £124.21. A grand total of £761.01 was raised.

Nicky Cornish

SUMMER YOGA CLASSES

Join Laura at the Village Hall over the summer holidays for Chair Yoga & Yoga for kids! If you're looking for gentle movement and a way to meet new people then Chair Yoga for Ease, on a Wednesday morning, is just right for you. There's no experience needed and all abilities can join. And if you have young children in your family and are looking for something to do this summer, Yoga for Toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years is the perfect activity.

Classes being held Wednesdays 20 & 27 August, returning to a weekly schedule from 3 September. All at the Village Hall.

- Chair Yoga for Ease, 9.30am - £7.50
- Yoga for Toddlers, 10.40am - £4.50

www.bookhwen.com/restriseyoga, restriseyoga@gmail.com

Laura Nicholson

COFFEE MORNINGS

The Village Hall is a very pleasant place to meet and enjoy tea, coffee and cake with friends and neighbours and when we met in July it was refreshingly cool inside while another heatwave was building up outside. Once again, thanks to all the volunteer cake-makers for their contributions (plus a few leftover - but still fresh - offerings from the Big Garden Party). Numbers were a little down on usual, but perhaps some of you were away or left lethargic by the weather, though cold drinks are available too.

All refreshments are free with any donations made going to a charity of our choice each month. In July, £50 was sent to Cambridge Women's Aid which has provided dedicated and specialist services to women and children affected by domestic abuse since 1977. Any suggestions for charities to support in the future are always welcome.

The next coffee morning will be on Thursday, 14 August from 10.30. If you have never been before, do give us a try; you will be very warmly welcomed. Lifts can be arranged.

Sue Thurston, T: 897811

HELP BUTTERCUPS COLLECT TESCO BLUE TOKENS

Buttercups Community Preschool in Balsham has been selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme, offering funding for new play equipment as well as day-to-day consumables. Please collect as many of the Tesco blue tokens as you can in Fulbourn and other Cambridgeshire stores and pop them in to the Buttercups collection box from July to September.

Many local children attend, attended or will attend Buttercups and we need community support to maximise this opportunity. Thank you so much from me, the team and of course all the children. We'll let you know how we get on later in the Autumn.

Thank you! Kirsty Salmons

FROM THE VICARAGE

Hello! My name is Alastair France and I'm delighted to have been part of the Ministry Team for the Granta Vale villages for the last few months. I've recently retired from full-time employment and have been exploring my ministry within the Church of England for some years – and now rather feels like the time. I live in Stetchworth, a bit north of our villages and close to Newmarket, where I've been a Churchwarden and led services locally in the Raddesley group for many years.

There is a “discernment” process where both the Church and the candidate decide whether going forward towards ordination is the right thing for both the Church and the candidate. For those candidates of a “certain age” who have experience within Church that process can be modified a little so that training can start earlier (although the discernment process is still as rigorous; just some of the process happens at the same time as study). This is called the Elizabeth Pathway and I'm delighted that I've been accepted for this and will commence my formal training with a summer school at the end of August.

I'm also very pleased that I will continue to work with the team here in these villages; the Granta Vale group led by Iain will act as my “training benefice” – although I will continue to lead some services “up north”. During my study I will also continue (provided I can manage the workload) to be part of the Chaplaincy teams supporting river users in the Cambridge area and separately to staff, visitors and passengers at Stansted Airport (neatly covering two of my other interests).

I've lived in Stetchworth with my wife, Rebecca for 36 years; my previous career in technology gave me many opportunities to travel and work in interesting places – and I do enjoy drawing on that variety of experiences when leading worship. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next couple of years!

Alastair France

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

It's not too late to sign your pre-school and primary school aged children up for the **Summer Reading Challenge!** With a theme of Story Garden, this year's challenge from The Reading Agency invites children to enjoy reading and the great outdoors – and collect stickers! Whilst we have stocks left, Scotsdales are generously providing a free gift to all children who sign up for the Challenge.

Each Saturday in the holidays we will be running a **Craft Activity**, 11-12.30pm. Come along to this free event to make Pecking Hens, a Flower Collage, Handprint Tree and Flower mobiles! Parents and Carers to stay with their children.

Adults, we hope you'll keep reading all summer too! Choose from our shelves, or travel light on holiday by downloading free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers onto your device.

Find out what is happening in libraries across Cambridgeshire this summer by picking up our What's On brochure, or check www.library.live.

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

★ **HUB NIGHT!** ★
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WEST WICKHAM IAIDO TRIUMPHS

KenYuKan Dojo located in West Wickham Village Hall, practicing Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, took part in the British Iaido National championships, held this year at the Cambridge University sport centre. They fielded 11 individuals and three teams, returning with quite a haul of medals in the following divisions:

Mudan (ungraded) Gold
Shodan (1st Dan) Silver, Bronze and fighting spirit
Nidan (2D) Silver
Yondan (4) Gold
Godan (5) Silver and Bronze
Rokudan (6) double Bronze and fighting spirit
Team - Silver, Bronze and fighting spirit



We are always open to anyone who would like to spectate or just find out what it is we do!

Please contact Martin Clark .

Email: japaclark@aol.com, T: 01440 763003.

Web: <https://kenyukansuffolk.wordpress.com/>

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB A Summer Celebration



Thanks to everyone who came to see us at the Big Garden Party. Good fun was had by all who entered the gardening and children's quizzes and both the goodie tree and cake box were well-visited by the successful entrants!

Our biggest event of the Summer is just a few weeks away: the Gardening Club's own Gardening Fair on Saturday 6 September, 10.30 – 12.00 at the Village Hall. Building on the success of last year's new format, this is a chance for Club members and visitors to get together and have a chat over tea and cake whilst enjoying some gardening-themed stalls and activities. There will be plants and produce for sale, a raffle, quizzes and the photography competition winners announced with all entrants displayed. There might even be some flower and vegetable-based competitions to enter on the day so keep your eyes open for flyers nearer the time.

And, as if that wasn't enough, we also have a talk on Monday 15 September on the topic of *In the garden with William Morris*. Given by Fiona Rose, member of the William Morris Society. We are anticipating a large attendance so please turn up early to get a good spot.

Here's a reminder of this year's Photography Competition categories: Frozen, Light and Dark, Terrific Trees. All entries to be emailed by Friday 29 August.

Contact us on photo@westwickham.org for more details.

For Club information please contact Sally Collins at wwdgc@westwickham.org

GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE Flu Vaccinations 2025

It's that time of year again already! If you book your flu vaccine with us, we can also check that you are up to date with all of the other vaccines you may be eligible for.

The flu vaccination programme starts in October for all eligible adults, except pregnant women and children, who will be offered the vaccination from late September. Pregnant women are vaccinated to protect both mum and baby in first few weeks of life. Children get flu earlier than adults as they are "super spreaders".

You should get vaccinated because:

- Getting vaccinated against flu can help protect you, your family and friends.
- Everyone is susceptible to flu, even if you are in good health and eat well.
- You can be infected with the virus and have no symptoms but can still pass flu virus to others, including family and friends, patients or residents.
- The 'flu vaccine has a good safety record and will help protect you. It cannot give you flu.
- The impact of flu on frail and vulnerable patients can be fatal and outbreaks can cause severe disruption in communities, care homes and hospitals.

You are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination if you:

- are aged 65 and over
- have certain long term health conditions
- are pregnant
- live in a care home
- are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system

Additionally, eligible children include:

- children aged 2 to 3 years
- school aged children (reception to year 11)
- children aged 6 months to 17 years with certain long term health conditions

This year we are also giving the Covid-19 vaccination at the same time as the flu, if you are eligible. You are eligible if you are:

- a resident in a care home for older adults
- aged 75 years and over
- aged 6 months and over and are severely immunocompromised

Flu Clinic dates

Saturday 27 September	Granta Sawston (children and pregnant women only)
Saturday 4 October	Granta Sawston
Saturday 11 October	Granta Linton
Saturday 11 October	Granta Shelford
Saturday 18 October	Granta Sawston
Saturday 25 October	Granta Linton
Saturday 25 October	Granta Shelford

There are also sessions at Royston (on Sundays) & Barley Health Centres.

All flu clinics run from 08:30 to 16:45

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 please go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services.

Email: cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This was held on 19 May, attended by the Parish Council, District Cllr. Harvey, 10 parishioners and the Parish Clerk.

1. There were no matters arising for last year's meeting.
2. The Chairman read out all the reports received from Village Clubs & Societies (Ed. See following). He also gave a short report on the Village Hall, pointing out the installation of solar panels last year and that £1300 had been received for electricity sent to the grid. The rental takings for the year were down slightly, with the Karate Club cutting back on the times they hire the hall. A suggestion has been made to start a Youth Club on Saturday mornings or Friday evenings. This would require the help of volunteers. The Hall is in excellent condition and he thanked Trevor Hall for the very good job he had done whilst Chairman of the VPMC.
3. **Finances:** The Chairman went through the accounts for the past year and observed that costs have increased. Money has been put aside to replace part of the play area fencing with the funds at the end of the year going into 2025/2026 financial year were £32,497.
4. **Any Other Business:** There was a complaint about the orchid area being mown. The Councils contractor had apologised for this. Another wild-flower area had been wrongly mown by District Council contractors.

REPORTS TO THE MEETING

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

It has been an honour to preside for another year as chair of the Parish Council, so I would like to express my gratitude to all my fellow councillors for the trust they have put in me, as well as thank them for the time and effort they have contributed freely and generously to their roles as Parish Councillors. I would also like to thank both County Councillor Henry Batchelor and District Councillor Geoff Harvey for their time, support and effort in providing information, advice and support to us throughout the year, and to thank our Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards, for her continued experience and professionalism. I would also like to thank those members of our community who have supported our meetings during the year, and have supported our activities. Thank you all.

We had six meetings in 2024/2025, typically on the last Monday of every second month in the Village Hall, during which we discussed a wide range of topics. We encourage and welcome all members of our community into these meetings, to take an active interest in what we do and to positively contribute towards our activities.

During these meetings we have discussed large planning applications, such as the Streetly Hall Anaerobic Digester, as well as smaller developments within our Parish, as well as other developments outside our Parish that would affect our community such as the Horseheath Lodge Development and Acorn AD Plant proposal in Haverhill. While we objected to the Streetly Hall AD proposal, this was later approved by the County Council.

We were frustrated by the apparent unwillingness of the County Council Highways Dept to repair the potholes, flooding and signage in our roads during the year, despite being reporting numerous times over several months, with many vehicles suffering a variety of damage, with claims against the Council for this being turned down. We were similarly frustrated by the failure of the District Council to adequately clear the debris left behind from an abandoned burnt-out vehicle, as well as regularly empty public waste bins.

The Big Garden Party was again a success and well attended, such that we have decided to make this an annual event and invited clubs, societies and the church to make presentations or run stalls to promote their various organisations and raise funds. We replaced the fencing at the lower end of the playground, and provided the necessary maintenance and repairs to the remainder of the playground and around the Village Hall. We removed one of the old goal posts from the playing field, initially for repair but are now looking to provide a smaller 5-a-side football pitch on the field.

The Devana rewilding project is providing a lovely area to walk. Work on the new habitats has commenced with ponds created, mixed scrub and grassland planted, as well as trees, orchards and hedgerows. Different species of deer can be found roaming the area which has also become a regular visiting area and home to the many raptors in our region, and is also frequented by foxes, badgers and even otters. The footpaths through our region are also mainly well looked after by the majority of land-owners, though bridge repairs and maintenance have been slow or not-at-all.

Speeding is unfortunately still an issue through West Wickham and Streetly End, the latter suffers from the worst offenders. While our funding for a replacement MVAS unit has been approved to help us re-establish a Speedwatch in our community, this has unfortunately seen numerous delays and we still lack the basic equipment needed to re-establish SpeedWatch and to reliably extract data from our outdated equipment.

Unfortunately, with the continued rising rate of inflation, we had a deficit of over £1,300 in the accounts although this can be attributed mostly to the playground and fencing repairs that were held over from the previous year. However, we have asked for a 5% increase to bring it to £13,650 p.a. to allow us to meet the parish's ongoing commitments.

The Council would like to thank the editors of the Village Voice, Andrew Morris and Anna Fairhead, along with other contributors and helpers as well as the contributors to the Parish website. These are the main source of local news, events and resources for the village, with the WhatsApp West Wickham Community providing more immediate news and information. I would also like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee who maintain and run the Village Hall. Our Village Hall is a valuable and important community asset that remains popular and well used.

Finally, I would like to thank again the volunteers within the community that contribute their time, effort and money to provide events such as the coffee mornings, the Hubs and Hub nights. Volunteers like you genuinely change the world and make West Wickham a lovely community in which to live, and we are extremely grateful. We always greatly appreciate any volunteers who can spare some time to assist with our clubs, events and the like - without you these could not exist.

Alex Schuilenburg, Chair of the Parish Council.

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Carpet Bowls Club was started in the new Village Hall in 2000 - indeed the promise of its foundation was used as part of the grant applications to fund the building of the Hall. Over the years it has been very successful with up to 30 members playing each week. From the start, the ethos of the Club has been one of friendliness and inclusiveness with a determination not to become too serious about competition. However, although we have had many new members join us, a combination of ill health, death and moving away has meant gains have not exceeded losses and

we are down to just 10 members. We all love playing - carpet bowls provides gentle sporting activity at very low cost along with being a great social evening meeting with old friends and making new but we are finding it increasingly difficult to physically get the mats in and out of the store room. We have only four members (at a pinch five) who are fit enough to do this with perhaps only three able to roll the carpet up at the end of the evening. If any of these are not able to make an evening, we have to cancel. We are very grateful for the support of the Village Hall Committee but it's not simply about finance - we want to keep playing and would like to welcome some new members to make it even more fun. Anyone can play carpet bowls so it is a great opportunity to get all generations together —the measure of a thriving community. It would be lovely, for a start, if all Parish Councillors would come along and have a go. Even if you think it's not for you, you are in a position to knowledgably enthuse others and encourage them to support a worthwhile community activity.

We meet on a Wednesday evening, 7pm-9.30pm, and further details can be had from:

Janet Morris, 21 High Street.

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

I am happy to report that the West Wickham & District Gardening Club has had another successful and very busy year, with a range of interesting and stimulating talks and events. I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work behind the scenes that has supported this success. A good deal of work has been done to promote the club not only within West Wickham, but in the surrounding villages. We now have 67 members, which is many more than we have had over recent years. However, we do recognise that some of this number may have something to do with the recent closing down of two other local gardening clubs.

Looking back over the year, the Plant Sale was very popular, despite the terribly cold and wet spring, when germination and growth of so many seedlings were slow. How different it is now as we look forward to this year's Sale having had periods of lovely warm, sunny weather, though this time with very little rain.

Last year, despite strong winds, a trusty team ran a successful stand at the Big Garden Party. The aim was to raise the profile of the club and to attract new members. Also, as a result of this cold, wet weather, the first of the summer visits in June to Grove Lodge in Saffron Walden had to be cancelled. Despite torrential rain at one point, the July visit to Porter's Lodge was very successful, with 23 members and friends attending, sheltering at first in the teashop, being eventually rewarded with a most interesting tour around the gardens.

We also had a stand at the Castle Camps Fete which was again strongly influenced by the terrible weather. We had to abandon the outside gazebo early on and take shelter in the Village Hall, where we had some very good conversations with the visitors.

The Garden Fair in August replaced the Annual Show as a trial, following on from feedback about the future of the show at the last AGM. Overall, it was felt that this new approach to the summer gathering was well received, and we are planning on repeating this approach again this year.

Our AGM in September, was followed by a well-attended social event, held to thank Andrew Morris for all his work on the Committee over the years, and specifically as Treasurer during recent times.

Moving into the Autumn/Winter programme, we have

enjoyed a good range of talks and a Christmas Quiz for the December meeting. Amongst other topics we have learned a good deal about climbing roses, forgotten bees and how to set up and maintain a terrarium. The Gardening Club also had a beautifully adorned table at the West Wickham Christmas Fair, demonstrating what can be created in the way of sustainable decorations using plant materials.

Alongside all this activity, work has been going on over the year on renovating the borders surrounding the Village Hall, and although this has been a West Wickham Village project, many of the club members have put a great deal of energy and work into this, with excellent results for all to see.

Finally, we are looking forward to some enjoyable visits to local NGS gardens over the summer, while anticipating the beginning of another year full of activities and events.

A big thank you to all the members and the committee for taking part, and making the West Wickham & District Gardening Club such a busy and enjoyable club.

Sue Boase., Chair.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The Club has about twenty members, the majority from West Wickham but with others from Horseheath and Balsham. We have had a full programme of evening talks during the year. Subjects have included wartime RAF Wrattling Common, the last boy chimney sweep who died in Fulbourn, researching family history, the results of archaeological excavations over a number of years at Linton Village College and the rise and fall of 19th Cambridge horticultural societies — the latter being a joint meeting with West Wickham & District Gardening Club. We restart our next programme in October and already have talks lined up on Balsham and the medieval Sturbridge Fair.

Monthly articles in the Village Voice are intended to inform and encourage interest in our local history and we would certainly like to see more people at our meetings — as is commonly said 'you can't understand the present and the future unless you know where we've come from'. An understanding of local history also provides the ideal background for parish councillors and others involved in local government, so we would particularly welcome more of them to join us.

Further information and details can be had from Janet Morris, 21 High Street

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

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Much of this has been published in the Village Voice over the year. The report can be read on the Parish Councils pages on www.westwickham.org

SPEEDWATCH

We need more volunteers for our SpeedWatch team to help catch and report those mindless and dangerous divers speeding through our village. Our new equipment is due to arrive soon and all members of the team will receive training, so we hope to get up and running as soon as possible.

If you are interested in joining, please email speedwatch.team@westwickham.org or call Graham McNeillie on 07770 832510.

NATURE NOTES

In the hot dry weather I have to make sure that the trug I leave in our copse is kept full of water, and, having placed my trailcam in an appropriate place, have been rewarded with a variety of interesting photographs. **Crows** have nested in the treetops for the last two years and I have had some lovely scenes of them dunking bread, feeding young and one of a crow bathing while a **partridge and pigeon** appeared to be queuing up behind. **Foxes, muntjac and badgers** have frequently visited the 'waterhole' but this month I was privileged to have a **buzzard** come down to



quench his thirst. Di puts a dish of water in the garden primarily for hedgehogs but discovered a large toad in it which jumped out when she refilled it. She also found a newt floating in the dog's water bowl. I would encourage everyone to provide water for wildlife in some form or other. It would be greatly appreciated by the creatures whose world we share.

Another effect of the hot weather has been to bring forward some of the flowers which we normally associate with late summer, particularly the beautiful rosebay willowherb, of which there is a good stand on the A1307 at Horseheath. Many verges and footpath edges are showing the purple, thistle-like heads of knapweed and greater knapweed, which are favoured by bees and some butterflies, notably the marbled white and small skipper, both of which I have seen on knapweed alongside the Roman Road behind Streetly End Farm.

The butterfly world seems to have exploded into life after the June Gap. In addition to the masses of **large and small whites** (whose caterpillars will soon be devouring our brassicas) I have seen a good number of **meadow browns** and the darker coloured **ringlets** which were few and far between in 2024. The **gatekeepers** have also emerged earlier than usual as it seems the whole of our year has been brought forward by a few weeks.

I noticed a gatekeeper feeding on the bright yellow **ragwort** which is springing up everywhere at the moment. A 'marmite' flower, it is toxic for horses and cattle, particularly when cut and dried and is designated as an 'injurious weed' harmful to the interests of agriculture. It is nevertheless the plant on which the beautiful **cinnabar moth** lays its eggs. Their stripy yellow and black caterpillars then eat the leaves of ragwort, absorbing its toxicity which helps to protect both the caterpillar and the adult moth from predators. In Australia, where ragwort was known as the yellow peril, cinnabar moths were introduced as a way of controlling it. Apparently there was some temporary success but the moth could not keep pace with the spread of the plant, partly because large numbers of the pupae are eaten by **moles**.

Quite a few people in the village now have the 'merlin' app on their phones which identifies birdsong. One bird that is more prevalent than I previously thought is the **linnet** – a bird with a pretty song which gave rise to the Victorians putting them in cages. Perhaps more recognisable and more menacing are the **heron's** croak and the **kite's** whistle, which I hear rather a lot at the moment with kite families on the wing.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL MP

It really is shocking to think that a year has already gone by since voters in South Cambridgeshire put their faith in me to be their local champion in parliament and I'm so incredibly grateful to them. South Cambridgeshire is a wonderful place to live and work - with beautiful countryside, rivers and chalk streams and an economy driven by science and innovation that includes the largest biomedical research campus in Europe. It is a privilege to represent you and our area.

I hope you can see that I've hit the ground running. Right from the start, I've focused on what you told me matters most: fixing our local health services, tackling the cost-of-living crisis and protecting our environment. I'm proud that we've already had some important wins.

Alongside the hard work of many people, securing the green light from the government for the new Cambridge Cancer Hospital was a vitally important win for our area – but we have got to keep pushing to get spades in the ground. More hospitals alone won't mend our healthcare system, so I will continue to press the government to do more to fix social care.

The new government's plans for growth for our area – which propose significant new housing development and further growth of our world-leading life science and technology sectors, make it even more important for local people to have a say. I have been working with local councils and regional and national bodies to hold the government to account to ensure that there is joined-up planning that ensures there are enough GPs, A&E, and public transport to cater for our existing and new communities. I am pushing for the government to hold a ministerial roundtable here locally to tackle the water supply and sewage crisis which is a dealbreaker for this government's growth plans for our water-stressed area. Decisions made in the next few years must benefit the people of South Cambridgeshire – while ensuring that our wonderful local environment and nature are protected.

Helping constituents is a vital part of my work as an MP – and one of the most rewarding. Each week, my small team and I receive hundreds of emails with requests for help with problems or a response to issues constituents are passionate about. At the time of writing, we have now helped and closed over 7,000 cases from more than 5,000 constituents.

I will be out and about in our communities throughout the summer recess listening to residents and attending local events. I hope to see many of you on my travels. If you would like to sign up to my weekly newsletter to find out more about what I am doing in parliament, you can do so by going to pipaheytings.org.uk/newsletter.

Pippa Heylings MP

WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST: A MISCELLANY

You will (hopefully) have noticed the old school building in the High Street. This was opened in 1877 following the 1870 Education Act which required villages to make proper provision for education. However, this was not the first purpose-built school although no visible remains of this exist. Universal education was a contentious issue in the 19th century. Those in the new manufacturing industries saw the value of a literate workforce while those in more traditional areas, such as agriculture, feared education would make workers dissatisfied with their lot and cease to be a source of plentiful, cheap, manual labour. There were also arguments between those who wanted a tax payer funded, non-denominational system and those who maintained that mass education should be the preserve of the Established Church i.e. the Church of England. The Reverend John Wollaston was of the latter opinion.

In 1827, not long after he became priest in West Wickham, John Wollaston applied to the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England & Wales for his Sunday school to become affiliated. The National Society (as, not surprisingly, it is usually known) was founded in 1811 to train the young in their religious duties by early discipline sufficient 'to guide them through life in their proper station'. Wollaston said that the school already followed the system of teaching with instruction in the Liturgy and Catechism with the children attending Divine Service twice on Sundays. Eighteen months later he made a further application for a grant for the building of a dedicated Sunday school.

The Sunday school, which would be free of charge, intended (he wrote) to receive about 80 boys and girls in one room and was to be supported by public subscription. The new school room was to be built in the far corner of the churchyard to the right of the church gate and would have flint walls with a pantiled roof. It would be 45ft long, 14ft wide and 7ft high giving about 7 sq ft of space per child. The building costs were estimated at £96 with annual running costs of £15. If sufficient funds were available in the future it was hoped to extend the school to a day school although there would probably be a charge for this.

Wollaston and his wife, Mary, personally supervised the Sunday school and actually had more than 100 children, aged from about 5 years to 13 years, attending. He was very keen that the children should be dressed respectably and used funds from the poor rate to buy clothes. One recollection says that the girls were provided with white straw hats, calico (coarse hard wearing cotton) aprons and capes. The emphasis was on religious instruction so, although they might have been taught to read, writing and numeracy were probably not on the curriculum. It is not clear if a day school was provided by the time Wollaston left the village in 1840 but there is evidence that there was one prior to the new school being built. Education did not become compulsory for 5 to 10 year olds until 1880 and was not free until 1890. The school room was demolished before 1900. The new school remained a Church of England school until its closure in 1971.

To find out more about your village in the past why not join West Wickham & District Local History Club or contact:

Janet Morris, 21 High Street
T: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

BALSHAM WI

The July meeting took us back to the 1980s. The presenters reminded us of world events such as the AIDS epidemic, Chernobyl disaster, fall of the Berlin Wall and the Falklands War. Closer to home we also had the Royal weddings, the Miners' Strike and Live Aid. During this period the WI had many resolutions concerning health and were one of the first organisations to support AIDS research. Locally Balsham WI were very engaged with their competition entries to the East of England Show, local produce shows, and entering floats into the village carnival. There was a thriving rounders team and some very crafty members, as well as a committee of 15! One of these left the Christmas party early one year with labour pains and had a baby within the hour – her husband returned before the end of the meeting with the birth announcement!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8 September, 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the 1990s. We are a friendly group, 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 or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI

Are you an ex-member of Balsham WI? If you are and would like to join in our Centenary Celebration Afternoon Tea from 2.30pm-4pm on Saturday 16 August in Balsham Church Institute, then please email us on balshamwi@gmail.com to let us know that you will be there (and let us know of any dietary requirements). We hope to have as many past and present members as possible at this event.

Debbie Mower

KINGSWAY SOLAR COMMUNITY ACTION

Find out what Kingsway Solar Farm could mean for our villages. This August, we're holding a series of public talks about the proposed large-scale solar development and how local residents can get involved to challenge it. Everyone is welcome. **Come along to one of these events:**

6th August The Reading Room, Weston Colville, 7:30pm

11th August Memorial Hall, Brinkley, 7:30pm

14th August Sports Pavilion, Balsham, 7:30pm

18th August West Wickham Village Hall, 7:30pm

The Statutory Consultation for the Kingsway Solar Farm is likely to begin in September and will be open for public comment for six weeks. This is our one and only opportunity to respond to Kingsway's plans, raise concerns and give feedback. Your voice matters: join us to see how you can take a stand and help stop this development.

Have Your Say – Updated Survey Link

Apologies if the QR code didn't work for you last month. This has now been fixed. We're extending the survey to make sure everyone has the chance to share their views (note this is different from the earlier survey circulated by the Parish Council).

Tell us how the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm could affect your wellbeing, lifestyle and connection to the area. Your feedback will help shape our community's response. If you are unable to use the QR code go to (<http://bit.ly/3IFWA4o>).



LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

On an extremely hot weekend in July, 42 of our Year 10 students completed a weekend expedition to the Peak District as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

This award is designed for young people aged 14 and above. Completing it typically takes a minimum of six months and requires dedication and commitment. At LVC, we run our own assessment of the Award, providing coaching, leadership and verification of the qualification.

The scheme has been run at LVC by Mr Barton for the past 15 years and hundreds of our students have benefited from taking part. We are proud that nearly a third of our Year 10 cohort are registered for the programme. It offers an important opportunity for personal development and community involvement through four components: volunteering, physical recreation, skills and an expedition.

Volunteering involves participants engaging in community service activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy. This could range from helping at local charities to participating in local conservation projects.

Physical recreation aims to improve health and fitness and the skills element focuses on developing new talents or honing existing ones. This is about exploring interests and passions, whether it is learning a musical instrument, cooking or even coding.



Our trip to the Peak District for the expedition is perhaps the most exciting part of the Bronze Award. Participants plan, train for and undertake this journey in a group. This section is designed to build teamwork, resilience and a sense of adventure. Our students went on two day-long hikes and then spent the nights camping and cooking their own food. We have recently been awarded a certificate from the scheme praising the 429 voluntary hours that our students have given to the local community this year. Well done to all of you!

Helena Marsh, Principal

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 details



Tel: 290863

Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have now finished for the summer with our traditional water meeting. Thankfully it was still fairly warm. We said goodbye to Morgan, Molly and Tiffany who have all finished their Gold Awards and are moving up to Guides. We will miss them all and we wish them all well as they continue their Girlguiding journey. We have also been joined by Mila and Amelia. During the last few weeks the Brownies pimped my wheelchair with glittery foam star stickers which also now decorate my walking stick and ankle orthotic.

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 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. 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. Girlguiding is the largest organisation for girls and young women in the UK. Girlguiding helps them to find their voice, build skills and confidence. It inspires them to discover the best in themselves and empower them to make a positive difference in their community.

Barney, Katie, Esther and Ella

WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW BENEFIT FROM WELLBEING SUPPORT?

Care Network Cambridgeshire's Wellbeing Service offers free, short-term support for adults (18+) in South Cambs who may be struggling with confidence, isolation, illness, or low mood. Our friendly team can provide one-to-one support and match individuals with trained volunteers who can offer companionship through phone calls or accompanying them to access the community. Support is tailored over 6-8 sessions, helping people regain independence and feel more connected.

If you or someone you know could benefit, making a referral is easy — just visit care-network.org.uk/wellbeing or contact us at wellbeing@care-network.org.uk or phone 0330 094 5750.

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT
DATE: **23.8.2025** 7PM-11PM

