

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

APRIL 2026

ISSUE 275

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	1 April	Black
Wednesday	8 April	Blue & Green
Wednesday	15 April	Black
Wednesday	22 April	Blue & Green
Wednesday	29 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/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

5 April	9.30. Easter Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
12 April	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
19 April	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
26 April	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: **18.04.2026** 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 THURSDAY 16 APRIL

Editors: Andrew Morris & Anna Fairhead
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.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A reminder that there will be elections to the Parish Council on 7 May. Please think of standing for election as one of our 7 Councillors. The village needs a good representation of people from all parts who are willing to commit time and effort to representing your views and opinions. Nominations must be with South Cambridgeshire District Council by 4pm on Tuesday 9 April. Nomination forms can be downloaded from <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/elections-2026> or obtained from the Parish Clerk, Jenny Richards, West Lodge, 88 High Street, Balsham. T: 01223 665260, E: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

Ed. We invite all candidates to provide us with a photograph of themselves and an election statement of no more than 200 words by 16 April, for publishing in an election supplement in the May issue of the Village Voice.

BECOME A LOCAL BUMBLEBEE CHAMPION JOIN US FOR A BUMBLEBEE IDENTIFICATION AND SURVEYING TRAINING EVENT

Join us and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust for a **Bumblebee Identification training session** and **BeeWalk** at the Village Hall and the Devana Centre for Environmental Recovery. You will learn the bumblebee lifecycle and ecology, how to identify bumblebees around West Wickham and how to create surveys for them using the Bumblebee Conservation Trust BeeWalk methodology.

This is a great opportunity to become a citizen scientist, support our bumblebees and carry out pollinator surveys.



Photographs courtesy of The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Wednesday 15 April, 09.00 -12.30: **Bumblebee Identification** training session and **Bee Walk**, West Wickham Village Hall and Devana Centre for Environmental Recovery.

If you are interested, please email Chris Bawtree at chris.bawtree@ground-control.co.uk

HUB NIGHT

Our next village Hub Night is 18 April. Thank you to Caroline who has been manning the bar for the last two events. The Hub Night is a community event, so we are always happy for people to step in and run them. The bar can be stocked ahead for you, so it's ready to go on the evening.

If you would like to run one of the Hubs let us know, it's usually the 3rd Saturday of each month and we donate to a different local or national charity each time.

Di and Nicci, E: nicci@innerlather.co.uk, T: 07527879135

*Come & meet up with your friends & neighbours
(& discover some new ones)
in West Wickham Village Hall at our monthly*

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday, 9th April

10.30 – 12.00



Selection of teas & coffee

Variety of homemade cakes

Books to swap

*More information from
Sue Thurston 01223 897811*

FROM THE VICARAGE

Spring is a time when we can enjoy seeing new life appearing all around us. This spring, however, has also seen conflict in the Middle East, amid scenes of destruction which have had a ripple effect around the globe; from political instability, fluctuating oil prices and the challenge of bringing home people stranded in places such as Dubai. As we witness these events, we are called to respond in our prayers for peace but perhaps also in committing ourselves anew to the vital work of being peace-makers where we can; in our families, neighbourhoods and places of work. Spring is also a time when we prepare for and celebrate Easter. Our preparations include Palm Sunday, this year celebrated at a united service in Balsham in late March and featuring two local donkeys! At this service we remembered Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Some had expected the Messiah to lead military resistance against the Romans. Jesus, however, proclaims the peaceable kingdom. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and meets the violence of those who plot against him with his sacrifice on the cross.

We will celebrate Easter Day in each of our six churches, including lighting the Easter Fire at Weston Colville church at the beginning of the service there. Easter proclaims the power of God's saving love in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter also reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event which completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

As we carry forward a vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life, let us be encouraged to speak up for the peaceable Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. We can put into practice both love for our neighbour and also, however difficult, love for our enemies. This is not an optional extra if we are to live in a world where peace prevails in our lives. In doing so, we may also experience something of the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, and share the good news of new life in Christ.

Rev'd Iain McColl

KSCA NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Walk event in Weston Colville on 21 March. This has helped the Parish Council Alliance (PCA) raise funds for the legal campaign. During the talk, the KSCA and PCA panel answered questions from the community about what lies ahead and where matters currently stand with the Kingsway Solar proposal. We had originally been led to believe by Kingsway Solar that the Development Consent Order (DCO) application would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of March, but this may now be delayed.

At the talk, residents were urged to register with the Planning Inspectorate to receive updates (Ed. See below for link). **This is the most important thing to do right now.** Everyone who registers will be notified once the application is submitted. Once submitted, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide whether the application is "fit to be accepted".

If accepted, the proposal moves into the examination phase - the most important stage of the process, as this is the first opportunity for residents to communicate directly with the Planning Inspectorate. Parish Councils, community groups and individuals then need to register as Interested Parties and tell the Planning Inspectorate what they think ('submit relevant representations'). We will provide clear guidance on how to do this when the time comes, including workshops and templates. This should be less onerous than writing a full letter during the statutory consultation, but there will only be 30 days to do it. We will be aiming to encourage over 1,000 people to register as Interested Parties.

To receive updates from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), register here:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165>

We also need to support our legal team in appointing independent experts in hydrology, BESS (batteries & storage), landscape and related areas. Their evidence will be essential to presenting robust, well-founded arguments during the examination phase. **Please consider pledging funds here:**

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction/>

Stickers Now Available. If you would like to continue showing your support for KSCA by displaying a sticker on your bins or elsewhere, please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/CwbTEc4UdStuKKx58>. We have reprinted these so please indicate your design preference.

Stay Updated. Please follow the news page at www.kingswayaction.org to stay up to date and access links to the AGM presentations and campaign video. **Join KSCA** www.kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us

Kathy Day

BALSHAM SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

Tickets for our concert go on sale on 1 April from Balsham Post Office, members and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers.

This year's concert will be on Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm, at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. The programme that includes music by Parry, Wood, the Beatles and the Carpenters, is reflective and uplifting in equal measure. We are grateful to our very loyal audiences. Secure your seat early to avoid disappointment.

Jo Stinton

EASTER BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS ACROSS SITES

ALL PRACTICES CLOSED ON

Friday 3 April & Monday 6 April

Enhanced Access pre-bookable appointments will be available at Royston Health Centre on Saturday 4 April, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

PRESCRIPTION ORDERING & COLLECTION

Order on Wednesday 1 April: Collect on Tuesday 7 April

Order on Thursday 2 April: Collect on Wednesday 8 April

While we are closed, contact NHS 111 for urgent medical advice.

For life-threatening emergencies, call 999

UNUSED TOOLS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Saturday 25 April
collection by Saffron Walden Rotary

Unwanted tools of any kind are being collected from 9.00 – 12.30pm at Abington School by **Saffron Walden Rotary and then delivered to the Ipswich charity Tools With A Mission (TWAM)** <https://www.twam.uk> The tools are refurbished and made into trade kits for people living in extreme poverty, mainly in African countries. The tools, combined with training, help individuals start sustainable businesses and build long-term livelihoods for themselves and their families. Tools needed are agricultural, gardening, builders, carpenters, electrical, mechanical, plumbers, power, sewing and knitting and haberdashery.

Heavy bulk items can be collected by prior arrangement with Tony Collett between 10.00 - 11.30am on 25 April from Lewis Crescent, Mortlock Gardens, Magna Close, High Street, Linton Rd, Larkfield, Lodge Close and Church Lane, Church Crescent, Westfield and High St. Little Abington. Contact **Tony Collett** re any query: tony.collett3112@gmail.com or 01223 893447.



BUTTERCUPS PRESCHOOL
EASTER EGG HUNT
FRIDAY 3RD APRIL
10:00-12:00
BALSHAM CHURCH INSTITUTE
Café, activities and scavenger hunt
Prize for every entry
KSI children and under
£5 per child



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Welcoming the Spring

With our spring Plant Sale just weeks away on Saturday 16 May we are very grateful for any gardeners who might be kind enough to sow a few extra seeds or divide some unruly plants to support us on the big day. And with all this activity going on, the photography team are on hand to offer a welcome distraction...

The early spring has given some lovely opportunities for photos and it feels like a good time for a reminder of the Club's annual photo competition. It's open to everyone living in the area and their families, with a closing date of 1 September. All entries will be displayed at our Summer Gardening Fair on Saturday 12 September. We're aiming to be inclusive – a phone and an eye for the opportunity are all it needs. This year's categories are Along the Path, Lovely Leaves and Sky's the Limit, all open to interpretation when you're out and about, on holiday or in your garden.

There are a few basic rules: photos must have been taken after 1 October 2025, two entries for each category are allowed, and it's 50p per entry. The email address for entries and any questions is photo@westwickham.org. Payment methods are bank transfer to the Club account or cash, details to follow in the summer.

And finally, this month's talk is one we are sure you won't want to miss:

Monday 20 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Hawk Honey, a fascinating returning speaker will be telling us all about wasps and their role in our gardens.

Membership is £8 with new members welcome to join throughout the year.

Please contact:

Sally Collins on wwdgc@westwickham.org for further information about the Club.

Janet Morris on jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com for information about the club's Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits.

MOLEHILLS

Molehills look like mountains when they come up in your lawn

When you rise and stretch and look out in the early dawn
You see them brown and ugly on your pristine pride and joy
And when you think of moles you think of unkind words
like...kill...destroy!!

Molehills are still mountains when they come up in a line
In the field or in the paddock – but the soil is soft and fine
It is rich and moist and crumbly, it's a gardeners delight
And you marvel at the tiny mole that did it in one night

When you go with spade and barrow to collect that lovely soil
Then you think of him more kindly and thank him for his toil

He is still the same small creature that you cursed and called a pest
It's not **what** but **where** he does it – and in the field is best!

Vivienne Henderson

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

NEXT DATE: **18.04.2026** 7PM-11PM



WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST

THERE USED TO BE....

Transportation as punishment

The option of transporting convicted criminals to another country was well established by the end of the 17th century. Initially, this was to colonial America until independence was gained in 1776 and trans-Atlantic transportation became impossible. After a gap, transportation was resumed in 1787 with Australia as a new destination. Transportation was seen as a way of getting rid of undesirable characters, reducing the prison population and acting as a deterrent (sound familiar?). The use of transportation as a punishment eventually declined in the second half of the 19th century due to increasing opposition. The last convict ship arrived in Australia in 1868, by which time around 162,000 convicts from Britain and Ireland had been transported to the country. At least three West Wickham men were transported as a punishment (women and children could be transported but none from this village it seems) but the most extraordinary case was that of George Dickerson.

In 1827, George Dickerson and Edmund Webb were convicted of stealing five sacks of wheat plus a quantity of peas from James Leonard, the tenant farmer at Yen Hall. There had been a hole in one of the sacks which had enabled James to trace the resulting trail back to George's house. Edmund, who admitted the theft for a share of the proceeds, was sentenced to twelve months hard labour in prison (Cambridge Castle). George, who was described as having a 'very notorious' character and one known to be a receiver of stolen goods, was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

Two years before this, George had married Sophia Turpin and they had two children. They were both aged 22 at the time of the marriage. Ironically, in 1824, Sophia's twin brother, Adam, had been transported for stealing a ham from Samuel Traylen, who farmed from what is now Cobwebs, so George's sentence was a double blow for Sophia. However, in what seems like random selection, George was not sent to Australia but to Bermuda. Convicts were there housed on prison ships and taken daily, in shackles, to work constructing the Royal Naval Dockyard. After just over four years, George was returned to England to finish his sentence, probably in Millbank Prison in London, after which he came back to West Wickham and Sophia and they had four more children.

Surprisingly, in 1841 George was in trouble again. He was found guilty of stealing a quantity of grass (hay) from John Turpin (no relation to Sophia) of Manor Farm and sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia. He did not return this time. After he'd completed his sentence, he was allowed to re-marry, had a new family and settled there. He died in 1872. Sophia was not so fortunate. She was left with six children to support and was still legally married to George with no possibility of divorce. Like so many women in the same position, she had to live on poor relief, was described as a pauper and had family members in Linton workhouse. She died in 1875.

To find out more about your village in the past why not join West Wickham & District Local History Club, come along to a meeting or contact:

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Monday 13 April

Last Best West

Ann Fletcher

A talk on emigration to Canada from the local area
7.30pm Village Hall

ALL WELCOME (visitors £2)

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

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Potholes. The pothole season is upon us. In most cases, potholes open up when the weather is wet and cold, as the water gets into the road, freezes and expands, opening up the road surface. This happens all over the country every year and is extremely annoying, especially for those that suffer damage as a result of hitting them. In most cases the County Council is responsible for maintaining the road surface, which includes repairing any potholes that are deemed to be of at least a certain width & depth – this is called the 'intervention level'. Anything under these criteria is unlikely to be repaired straight away, as it's not deemed an immediate danger.

The message from the County Council is to keep reporting all potholes you come across via the Highways department's website

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

If the hole is so large you think it's an immediate danger, then you can raise it as a Highways emergency. There is a specific phone number you can call, which is 0345 045 5212 during office hours.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/report-a-highways-emergency>

The Police non-emergency number 101 can be used outside of these times.

It might not seem it to some, but the County Council is trying to tackle them the best it can, have allocated over £73 million for highways maintenance in 2025/26 and are planning an additional £20 million of investment in 2026/27. It has also upped the number of crews it has repairing these holes from 8 to 30.

There is a good local news article on this, for anyone interested

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czej21gg817o>

Forest City. This is an idea that is being banded around the media by the proponents. For those that aren't aware, two entrepreneurs are promoting an idea of building a new eco-city between Haverhill and Newmarket which could take one million people. It's very much in its infancy and doesn't carry any kind of planning merit at this stage. The government aren't looking at it at all and the proposers of this scheme have no background in development or sustainability. They are currently trying to get enough high-level support from MPs and business leaders to warrant putting the scheme to central government for consideration, but currently it is simply an idea.

Contact Details

District Council. Geoff Harvey: geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Council. Henry Batchelor:

henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

One of the colloquial names for **lesser celandine** is 'spring messenger'. Usually beginning to flower before the end of February, it has been adorning our verges and ditches and woodland edges with its brilliant yellow blooms throughout the last month. Wordsworth is remembered for his daffodils but in fact celandine was his favourite flower and he wrote three poems about it. He admired its brightness and beauty and felt it should have been noted earlier in English verse. Less romantically, another colloquial name for the flower is 'pilewort', the herb given for haemorrhoids due to a resemblance between the knobby tubers and piles. I don't think there is any evidence that this treatment was effective, **so don't try it at home.**

Another flower with a medicinal connection is **coltsfoot**, one of whose alternative names is 'coughwort' as it was used by apothecaries to treat lung ailments, but also 'baccy plant', which is rather a contradiction. An alternative name is 'son-before-father' because the flowers appear before the leaves, which remain tightly furled round the stem until after flowering. It can be seen in a couple of places alongside Hare Wood but is also found in bare ground. Coltsfoot has a resemblance to the dandelion, which seems to flower all year round, but flower heads are smaller, and the petals are paler and much finer.

As always at this time of year there is something of a changing of the guard in the bird world. **Chiffchaffs** have been heard and **blackcaps** seen. These warblers are migratory but blackcaps in particular have increasingly overwintered in Britain. This may now be considerably safer for them than continuing to fly back and forth to north Africa. On the journey they are in danger of being trapped (and eaten), particularly in Italy, Malta and Cyprus but despite this, blackcaps have increased in number in this country over recent decades, unlike many species. Whereas the warblers have started to arrive, **fieldfares** have been returning to their northern breeding grounds and large flocks have been seen flying overhead. The Editor reports having a **brambling** on his bird feeder, which will also be heading back north. These glamorous finches are occasional visitors in winter when conditions further north are particularly harsh.

Of the resident birds, prime place goes to the **barn owls**, which have been seen in various locations at either end of the village, including on one occasion catching a rodent and then being mobbed by a crow. In East Town Park in Haverhill I was talking to someone who had seen two of them there. Lucy Cameron sent me a photo of a **meadow pipit** sitting on a fence with a barn owl in the background. Meadow pipits stay in Britain all through the winter and are often seen in mountain and moorland habitats but here in West Wickham a favourite location is the fields either side of the footpath between the church and Streetly Hall. A relative of the pipit family, the grey wagtail, put in an appearance in the ditch running down from the water treatment works at Streetly End.

A final sign that spring is here is the emergence of overwintering butterflies from their hiding places on days when the temperature is warm enough. Several people have seen the pale yellow brimstone and peacock butterflies. On colder days, like most of us, they go back into hiding.

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

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

We will be doing some Easter Crafts for children on Saturday 4 April, 10.30 - 11.30 am. We will be closed for on Good Friday.

In the **National Year of Reading** (www.goallin.org.uk) we want to encourage everyone to get into reading. There is no better way to get little ones off to a flying start than with stories. Bring your children along to our free Rhythm & Rhyme, held regularly on a Tuesday morning.

Book groups are a fantastic way to make new friends, discover new authors and titles and get more enjoyment from reading. Two groups meet at the Library every third Friday and the morning group would love to welcome new members.

- **Daylight Readers:** Our Book Groups meet on Friday 17 April, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm.
- **Rhythm & Rhyme:** Tuesday mornings 10.30-11am for 0-4 years (term time only), followed by Duplo. We would love to see you and your little ones there!
- **Knit and Natter:** every Tuesday, 2pm – 4pm. Bring along any craft project you are working on.
- **IT Drop In:** every Wednesday 5-7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with Information Technology.
- **Games Afternoon:** weekly, Thursday 2-4pm. Come and meet new people, board/card games provided or bring your favourite to share.
- **Lego/Duplo:** Friday 10-11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0-4 year old.

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

BALSHAM WI

Our March meeting saw three members giving a presentation on the very different collections they have. Firstly, we had a collection of World War 1 memorabilia including photos of village families, a nurse's skirt with a tiny waist and a brass button cleaning tool.

The second collection was of Westerwold Stoneware Pottery, named after the area in the Rhineland Palatinate where it was made from the 15thC. This pottery is a greyish colour with cobalt blue decoration and shiny glaze and is used to make many household items. This collector reported that she had to stop acquiring items due to space limitations, but preparing the talk had piqued her interest into acquiring more!

The final collection was kimonos. We saw some different styles and were told that they had large sleeves for young girls whereas married woman had shorter sleeves, with the finale being a heavily decorated wedding kimono embroidered in silver and gold. .

SAVE THE DATE. Balsham WI Autumn Fair, Saturday 3 October, 10am – 2pm at Balsham Church Institute. If you are interested in a stall at this event, please contact Juliet Bevan on g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk

Our next meeting will be on 14 April, when our speaker will be from Cambridgeshire Police with a talk on Fraud Prevention. 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Balsham.

Debbie Mower. balshamwi@gmail.com

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a busy and exciting time at The Meadow Primary School, with pupils enjoying a range of memorable learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.

Wonderful Women Workshop. Reception and Key Stage 1 children recently took part in a Wonderful Women workshop as part of their history learning. Throughout the term, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been exploring inspiring women from the past and learning about how their achievements helped shape the world. During the workshop, the children learned all about Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter and palaeontologist. Through drama, storytelling and movement, the children discovered how Mary's passion for fossils led to important discoveries along the Jurassic Coast. It was a fantastic way for the children to bring history to life while learning about determination and curiosity.

A Special Lesson with Steve Backshall. In the same week, the children were also treated to a very special live lesson with wildlife presenter Steve Backshall. Linked to their topic work, he explored the polar regions, the animals that live there and the unique climate of these environments. The children loved hearing from the presenter of *Deadly 60*, asking questions and learning fascinating facts about some of the most extreme places on Earth. It was a brilliant opportunity that sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.

Platform Project 26. The School also took part in the **Anglian Learning Platform Project 26**, where children from across the trust showcased their work at a special event. This year's theme was *Belonging*, and our pupils rose to the challenge, producing some beautiful and thoughtful pieces of artwork. It was wonderful to see their creativity on display alongside work from other schools.



Joining the Journey with Parents. Parents were invited into school to 'Join the Journey' through a No Outsiders assembly and classroom workshop. Families experienced an assembly just as the children do, before spending time in class sharing a story from the scheme and completing activities together.

World Book Day. We also celebrated World Book Day with a creative twist this year, as children came to school dressed as a *word*. We had everything from *fierce* to *dainty* and *athletic*, and it was wonderful to see such imaginative interpretations. Pupils enjoyed sharing stories throughout the day and took part in whole-school activities based on the book *Dave the Not-So-Brave* by Alex Latimer and Philip Cullen.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

**DON'T FORGET
COFFEE MORNING**

**THURSDAY 9 APRIL
10.30–12.00
VILLAGE HALL**

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

The College is delighted to announce that we have been awarded the *Platinum Artsmark Award*, the highest recognition from Arts Council England. This national accolade celebrates schools that embed exceptional arts, cultural and creative learning across their curriculum, and we are proud to share this achievement with our local community.

Over the past two years, staff and students have worked together to develop an ambitious and enriching arts offer. Supported by Goldsmiths, University of London, through an immersive professional development programme, we have strengthened creative teaching across the College and expanded opportunities for students to lead and participate in the arts.

Artsmark Assessors commended LVC's "strong, long-term commitment to the transformative power of the arts," noting the impact our work is having not only within the school but across the wider area. Highlights included our thriving student leadership programmes, growing cross-curricular projects, and our successful arts and science partnership with the University of Cambridge. Cultural experiences such as the Drama and History visit to Audley End were also praised as examples of our rich offer.

We're extremely proud to have achieved the Artsmark Platinum Award. This recognition reflects the passion and creativity of our staff and the inclusive, enriching opportunities our students enjoy at LVC. The arts are central to our culture and educational experience.



We extend our congratulations to our students, whose enthusiasm and creativity have been instrumental in achieving this award.

Helena Marsh, Principal

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ROYAL BALLET IN 75 MINUTES

An illustrated talk with audio clips by ballet and opera specialist, Sarah Lenton

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham

In support of the Friends of Holy Trinity, Hildersham

Monday 27 April, 7.30pm

Tickets £12, including refreshments

Tickets From Eventbrite or at the door

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-royal-ballet-in-75-minutes-tickets-1983388271712?aff=oddtcreator>

For more information please contact

Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

