

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

MAY 2026

ISSUE 276

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	6 May	Blue & Green
Wednesday	13 May	Black
Wednesday	20 May	Blue & Green
Wednesday	27 May	Black

For details of locations & opening hours of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

CHURCH SERVICES

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

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **16.05.2026** 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 SATURDAY 16 MAY

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

Email: wwvillagevoice@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.

PLANT SALE

Saturday 16 May
10:30–12:30
West Wickham
Village Hall
flowers shrubs
vegetables herbs
free advice
ALL WELCOME

KSCA NEWS

Kingsway Solar - what we know now. With Kingsway's plans nearly finalised, we now know more about what this industrial-scale development around our villages will look like.

- Over one million panels mounted in frames over 4-metres high (as tall as double decker buses).
- Include up to 300 container-sized lithium-ion battery storage units.
- Over 3,000 acres of prime farmland (larger than Heathrow Airport).
- Affecting an area roughly 7 miles across, from Worsted Lodge by the A11 to Brinkley
- With 15km of pylons up to 65m tall, connecting the site to Burwell substation (not yet submitted for planning).
- Three years of heavy construction traffic on our village roads.

This will fundamentally change the land use, heritage and character of our countryside. If you're unsure why so many people in the community are opposing the project, watch our short video explaining their concerns:

<https://vimeo.com/1162674623?fl=pl&fe=vl>

Continued on page 2

Kingsway Solar Farm – the fight continues. At the time of writing (16 April), Kingsway is expected to submit their planning application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in the coming days or weeks. Once submitted, and if accepted by PINS (which can take up to 28 days), the national planning process will begin — but this does not mean the project has been approved, and the community can still play an important role. This is the first chance for residents, parish councils and community groups to send their views directly to the decision-makers, rather than the developer, Kingsway.

At that point, anyone can register as an **Interested Party** and submit a short comment outlining their concerns (called a **Relevant Representation**). There will only be 30 days to do this, so it is important to be ready. KSCA will provide guidance, workshops and templates to help make the process straightforward. In the meantime, please sign up to receive updates from PINS so you are notified as soon as the application is submitted. Go to: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165>

Our aim is for over 1,000 people to register as Interested Parties to ensure the Planning Inspectorate knows the strength of feeling across the area.

KSCA becomes a registered community organisation & is now registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Community Interest Company, meaning it can operate formally while ensuring it acts in the interests of the wider community. These steps help ensure the campaign is run responsibly and can represent the community effectively.

Support the legal campaign. KSCA, working with the Parish Council Alliance, is engaging legal advisers and independent experts in areas such as hydrology, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and landscape impact. Their evidence will be essential to present to the planning inspectors at a later stage. If you are able, please consider supporting this work:

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

Together we can make sure our community is heard.

Kathy Day, KSCA

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE MORNING

From 10.30 on Thursday

14TH MAY

*Selection of teas & coffee
Variety of homemade cakes*



ALL WELCOME

Call Sue Thurston (01223 897811)

R.A.F. Wrattling Common Memorial Service Sunday 31 May

A short open-air service will be held at **12 noon on Sunday 31 May** at the R.A.F. Wrattling Common Memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the commissioning of the airfield. The last Sunday in May was chosen for this annual service as it was on this day in 1943 that the airfield was commissioned. The Memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some relatives of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service. For further information please email: rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath, Friends of Wrattling Common

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S NEWS

Food Waste Collection. Due to a change in the law by DEFRA (the Department for Environment & Food), all local authorities will have to collect food waste separately from other green waste, starting this year. This means we will all get a new separate food caddy in the coming months with which all food waste must be disposed. This will then be collected every week alongside the usual bin. For most of us this is on Wednesday.

We are expecting the new caddies to reach us by September, as the rollout is across the Greater Cambridge area, with our area one of the last to receive them.

Oil Fund. The County Council has received £708,000 from the Government which is ring-fenced to support households struggling with the cost of domestic oil heating. The money has been added to the Council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

Applications to the Fund opened on Monday 30 March. The link to apply is at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>

This Fund is intended for Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top up their tanks as a matter of urgency. To receive this support, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Live in Cambridgeshire.
- Be reliant on heating oil to heat their home and/or water.
- Have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application.
- Be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means-tested benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Pension Credit
 - Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Contact Details

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

County Council. Henry Batchelor:

henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The draft minutes of the 23 March meeting have been posted on the website (<https://westwickham.org>) and the village notice boards. The following are the main items discussed.

Planning:

New applications. The Council agreed to support applications at 102 High Street (single story extension), 36 Streetly End (installation of wood burner) and 2 Streetly End (single story extension).

Kingsway Solar Farm: Kingsway are about to submit their application to the Planning Inspector. The Parish Council agreed to accept the Kingsway Parish Council Alliance terms of reference and legal representation delegation to it's solicitor.

Finance:

Precept for 2026 has been agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Auditor for 2025/6: Running Total have agreed to again carry out the 2025/2026 audit.

Traffic & Parking issues:

Highway faults: Cllr. Batchelor was asked to follow up on numerous highway faults in the Parish which have been reported. These included some issues that have been unresolved for many months, required repeated reporting or have had substandard repairs that are already failing. Full details are available in the minutes.

Speedwatch: A Speedwatch session was carried out in Streetly End and near the Church where 6 speeding motorists were recorded and reported as they passed Ivy Todd farm traveling towards the Church. It was felt the visible presence of the new monitor and the volunteers are being effective at reducing the rate of speeding.

Maintenance:

Footpaths: Cllr Temple reported a broken post on Footpath 16 which he will repair.

Gatepost at White Gables footpath: The landowner will purchase a new post and hinge and the Chairman & Cllr Temple will help install it. It was confirmed that installing other gates does not require permission but these cannot be locked.

Tree planting: A covid commemorative tree with plaque has

been planted on the recreation field. The six silver birch trees have been planted at the three entrances to the village. The Chairman has sent photos of the locations to South Cambs District Council who supplied them as part of their free trees offer.

Devana Project: There is to be a bumble bee count at the end of April. The on-line programme about bees produced by the Devana Group is still available.

The Chairman noted the proposal to plant 20,000 trees at Horseheath Lodge raises the possibility of a "green highway" between Horseheath Lodge and the Devana Project.

Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

Repairs to play equipment and fencing: Repairs to the play equipment have been completed. The woodwork of the multi games unit is in a poor condition and Tom Licence, has been asked to quote for this repair work. The rotted and broken posts at the rope-pull climber have been replaced with more durable recycled rubber posts.

Five-a-side project: The work is progressing. Volunteers have cut, harrowed and aerated the area. A scarifier will be hired to clear the dry grass out and then two weeks later it will be treated by spray. A notice will be put up to warn dog owners of the possible danger of this treatment. The hoped-for grant from the FA is not available but a grant and discounts on maintenance equipment may be possible.

New bollards: 3 new bollards have been erected in the back car park to control vehicular traffic onto the grass and recreation ground.

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on
Monday 18 May at 7pm in the Village Hall
followed by the Parish Council meeting
at approx. 7.40pm**

**Please support and attend this
important meeting**

MEET YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

With seven people standing for seven places there will not be an election to the Parish Council on 7 May. Meet your new Parish Council.

Julie Copas



I moved into the village with my daughter and her family three years ago, following in the footsteps of my great grandfather who was born in Weston Colville and six earlier generations who worked on the land and raised their families in Horseheath, Carlton and Lark Hall.

We have been welcomed with warmth and friendship and have really appreciated the chance to join in with the long running clubs, events and activities that the village provides. We've all been very pleased to volunteer to support these vital opportunities that regularly bring everyone together.

I am now retired, after a working life in secondary schools, as a teacher, school leader, local authority adviser and Ofsted inspector. I had a special interest in improving standards and provision for 14 to 19 year olds and would love to see a young people's group working with the Council.

I have been closely involved in consultations on recent renewable energy schemes in the area, working to protect what we love about our distinct environment, yet recognising the challenges we need to face and work through.

Further important changes are approaching, from national planning reforms, new local government structures and a government-led initiative to accelerate large-scale housing and economic growth in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. I am committed to helping us to be as well informed and as well prepared as we can be, always minded that we want future generations to thank us for what we left them.

Graham McNeillie

I have served on the Parish Council from 2022. By background, I am a retired Civil Engineer, married with two children and four grandchildren. I live with my wife in Streetly End. We moved here from Oxfordshire in 2018 to help look after our grandchildren. My daughter and her family live in Weston Colville.

On the Parish Council, I led the successful Parish application to the Local Highways Authority for funding for our Speedwatch Equipment. I was particularly active in our campaign objecting to the proposed Anaerobic Digester plant.

I care passionately about our precious landscape which we are privileged to enjoy.



Amelia Midwood



I was born in the village at Manor Farm and have lived here on and off all my life, settling back here for good 9 years ago when my husband & I and 3 children bought the barn by the Church and spent 2 years renovating it. We are now living at Manor Farm where my parents lived for over 50 years so back to where I started!

My parents have always been a huge part of the West Wickham community and it's about time I got involved supporting the Village which I love and know so well. I work from home as a florist and farmer. As a family we have farmed around West Wickham for generations, so I have a huge passion for the countryside.

I am looking forward to getting more involved with the local community by supporting the Parish Council and becoming a Councillor.

Caroline Mulley-Richards

Having been born in the village I, along with my family, make four generations and there are currently four generations of us living in the village. I attended both Balsham primary and Linton village college. I care passionately about the flora, fauna and wildlife that I see while out on my daily walks. Due to my work in local government, I am able to relate to people of all ages and walks of life. Using my wide expertise of working with people I would like to bring these skills and fresh ideas to the village. I am very community minded and you will often find me supporting village activities including, Hub nights (often filling in behind the bar), coffee mornings, village fetes and the Mobile Library. I have spent several years building a rapport with the South Cambs Community Policing Group, liaising with the allotment holders and being on the Village Hall committee. I look forward, if re-elected, to continue working with and representing the local community.



Nick Salter



I have lived with my family in the village since 2000; we fell in love with West Wickham and live in our 'forever home'! You might have seen me walking my two black labs around the local footpaths or perhaps cycling up the High Street.

I have a tech background and previously managed engineering development teams. I am well organised and able to think strategically. I recently semi-retired, so have time to join the Parish Council and was previously chair of the West Wickham Village Hall committee for five years.

I have a progressive viewpoint and believe we must move with the times. I am concerned about climate change and believe that renewables and electrification are the way forward, with wind and solar playing key roles. I am hopeful that eventually this will lead to energy independence for the UK.

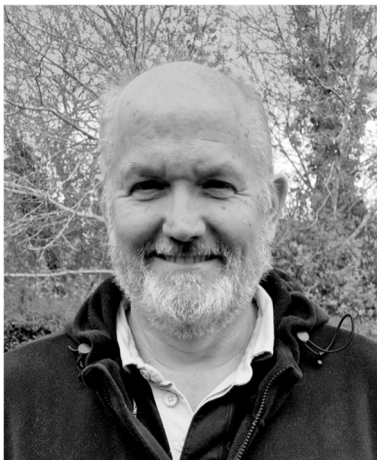
As a Parish Councillor, my aim is to protect our community, the character of our village, and the surrounding countryside, whilst embracing inevitable change.

Dave Sargeant

I grew up in Balsham and have lived in Burton End since 2012. I've served on the Parish Council since 2018 and as vice chairman since 2022. In that time I've worked extensively on planning matters after leading the Neighbourhood Plan group. I also help maintain the website. Serving on the Parish Council and representing our community has been a privilege that if re-elected I look forward to continuing.



Alex Schuilenburg



I have been proud to call West Wickham home for the past 28 years, where my wife Helen and I have raised our daughter, Michelle, and become deeply involved in village life. Over the past 11 years, it has been a privilege to serve on the Parish Council, and for the last four years I have had the great honour of being Chair.

My family and I, along with Chase our dog, love spending time enjoying the countryside and local walks that make this such a special place to live. I care deeply about preserving the character, beauty and sense of community and friendship that make West Wickham so unique.

I have always believed in playing an active part in village life. I successfully campaigned for better and faster broadband for the village, set up the village website, and have served on the Village Hall Committee since 2011, including the last four years as Vice-Chair. I have also helped maintain the Village Hall and playground using my DIY skills and have enjoyed organising Village Fetes and other community events.

I very much hope to continue serving the village on the Parish Council, bringing my enthusiasm, experience and practical skills, as well as the knowledge I have gained from starting and running our company in West Wickham since 2002.

BALSHAM WI

At our April meeting we welcomed Rachel Carr, Cybercrime and Fraud Prevention Officer at Cambridgeshire Police. She is part of a team who for the past five years have been investigating different types of fraud and the monies lost to it. Shockingly, there is between £1.5 and 2 million lost to fraud over a 4-week period in Cambridgeshire only. Half of all fraud crime is carried out online and can be anything from computer fraud, cryptocurrency, online dating sites or QR codes that direct to fraudulent websites.

Rachel also highlighted other types of scams that target vulnerable people, including door-to-door salesmen who use tactics to convince people that work is required and put pressure on for payment, often resulting in work being completed to a poor standard or not at all, and fraudsters calling pretending to be from the bank or the police asking you to move money.

It was a most interesting and enlightening talk, and we were left well equipped with information on what to do should we find ourselves victims of this ever increasing and technologically advancing crime and remembering that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12 May, 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. We will be joined by speaker Bob Ensich, who will be talking about FutureIN and It Takes a City initiatives, which offer opportunities for young and vulnerable people in Cambridge.

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com

Sarah Evans

BALSHAM SINGERS
present their
SPRING CONCERT
Saturday 16th May, 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham, Cambs, CB21 4DS
Music by Parry, Wood, The Beatles and The Carpenters
Tickets £12 adults, £1 under 16s
available from Balsham or Abington Post Offices, or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

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

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NATURE NOTES

Many of you may have been watching David Attenborough's latest wonderful series of documentaries, 'Secret Garden,' which reinforces what we in West Wickham already knew – namely that our gardens are rich habitats for many forms of life. This was brought home to me recently while I was in Trevor and Carol's garden, looking at the **moorhen chicks** on their pond when a lovely **hare** emerged from the shrubbery and loped away across the grass. Here in Streetly End a particularly gorgeous but ravenous **vixen** has been frequenting our gardens in broad daylight, looking for an easy meal or food for her cubs. We had four visits in one day.

As well as mammals, gardens are home to insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds, wildflowers, fungi and bacteria. If you are one of the many who have a pond, there is a world of life in it. A handful of soil will contain billions of culturable bacterial cells – probably exceeding the number of humans on Earth, which makes me realise how insignificant we are.

Of the wildflowers in our gardens one of the most common is the **dandelion**, which at present is decorating the verges in huge swathes of bright yellow flower heads, each containing 100-300 individual florets. The dandelion has been around for 30 million years and in that time has perfected a system for surviving and multiplying which deserves our respect, despite it being a bane for some gardeners. All parts of the dandelion are edible: the traditional French dish

pissenlit au lard, consisting of fried bacon scraps and croutons served on a dandelion salad, is one example. Before lettuce was produced commercially, dandelion leaves were added to salads. The health benefits of dandelion as a diuretic and laxative are long-standing. In the 1920s, when there were hard times for the rural population in Cambridgeshire, it was usual for families to dig up dandelions in the fields and sell them to chemists to buy bread.

This year has seen the earliest spring this century. **Bluebells** have been flowering in the woods as early as I can remember. We are very lucky to have Leys Wood within West Wickham and Lower Wood in Weston Colville close by, both of which are currently carpeted with bluebells. There are also good numbers of the flower in Hare Wood and Rands Wood but these have to be viewed from the perimeter. On a sunny day they give off a delicate perfume, a quality not often mentioned. The addition of white wood anemones to the colour scheme create a beautiful picture. Meanwhile **primroses** have been flowering in the verges for some time and **cowslips** are out in profusion. The drainage area opposite Sainsbury's is covered with cowslips. Next month they will be replaced by **oxeye daisies and orchids**. A walk round there is thoroughly recommended. Further afield, a trip to the Devils Dyke would reward you with the sight of **Pasque Flowers**, the county flower of Cambridgeshire.

The early spring is also confirmed by the plentiful sightings of **brimstone, orange tip and even speckled wood butterflies**.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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



Drawing by Maureen Williams

WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST

THERE USED TO BE.... a famous sheep breeder

Jonas Webb has been described as 'the most prominent figure in English farming' in the first half of the 19th century. He was born in Gt Thurlow in 1796 and is most associated with the village of Babraham, where he lived and farmed for most of his life, but he also had a close connection to West Wickham.

It was Jonas's grandparents, Samuel and Mary Webb, who moved from Gt Thurlow to take on the tenancy of Streetly Hall Farm in the years just before Jonas was born. Samuel was said to have come 'like Abraham with flocks and herds'. Sheep were then an important part of the agricultural economy, primarily bred then for their wool but, by grazing the stubbles and fallows, they provided a valuable source of manure before the advent of artificial fertilisers. Jonas's father, also called Samuel, remained in Thurlow and brought up his family there. He regularly rode to Streetly Hall to help his elderly father, undoubtedly accompanied by a young Jonas, and when the elder Samuel died in 1808 the family moved to Streetly permanently to take over the farm.

Jonas, therefore, spent his formative years at Streetly Hall. This was a time when there was a great emphasis on improving agricultural efficiency in order to provide food for a rapidly increasing population, particularly in towns and cities. Jonas was allowed to experiment with many breeds of sheep while at home and when, aged just 23 years old, he was given the tenancy of Church Farm, Babraham, by Henry Adeane of Babraham Hall, he had already settled on the Southdown as the breed which would give him more mutton and wool of the best quality per acre of land.

Jonas initially built up his Babraham flock by buying from the best sheep breeders in Sussex. He then concentrated on improving his Southdowns with selective breeding from within his own flock, not crossing them with any other breed. He held increasingly popular annual ram-lettings - where rams were rented out for a year - which became national and international events. By letting instead of selling he kept his best sheep while ensuring their influence was spread widely. He won many prizes at the top agricultural shows including at the Paris Exhibition of 1855. His reputation was unsurpassed.

In 1852, Jonas also took on the tenancy of Streetly Hall from his ageing father, Samuel, while continuing to live at Church Farm. This eventually passed to his son, Henry. By 1861, Jonas was suffering ill-health and wanted to retire from sheep breeding. His entire flock of Southdowns was sold in two dispersal sales which attracted more than 1000 people. Sheep apparently went to America, Canada, Australia, South America and most countries in Europe. Jonas died in 1862, five days after his wife, Mary. The tenancy at Babraham was given up but Henry developed a famous flock of his own at Streetly Hall from some of the Babraham sheep. After Jonas's death, breeders and friends from many countries clubbed together to raise £10,000 towards a statue of him. This originally stood in Peas Hill in Cambridge, then in the Corn Exchange before finding a permanent home today in Babraham High Street.

To find out more about your village in the past why not join West Wickham & District Local History Club, come along to a meeting (our current programme of talks has now finished but we will be back on **Monday 12 October** for a new series) or contact:

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



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

A hive of activity!

We are veritably buzzing with energy in the Gardening Club this month after a packed Village Hall welcomed **Hawk Honey** for our final talk of the season to answer the question *Wasps: malicious or misunderstood?*

Members are working hard preparing their plants and seedlings for our most popular event of the year: our annual **Plant Sale** being held on **Saturday 16 May, 10.30 to 12.30 at the Village Hall**. For those generous enough to donate seedlings and plants for sale (or cakes for the tea stall), please bring your (labelled) pots between 9.15 and 10.00 or deliver plants to Janet Morris at 21 High Street before the day. If anyone would like plant labels or pots, again, Janet can help you! (Contact details below)

As always, there will be tea and cakes available for visitors to enjoy and we accept card payments as well as cash for plants, merchandise and at the tea stall.

Summer garden visits are being planned at the moment and this year include a trip to Wisley, plus we have now a full autumn programme for members to enjoy. This will be posted on the Village website shortly.

If you would like to hear more about our Club and our activities, they we'd love to hear from you. Membership is £8 with new members welcome to join throughout the year.

Contact...

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

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

BIG LIFE TALKS

Wednesday 13 May, 6.30pm, Abington Institute

'This is the first in a series of engaging public talks and discussions that we hope will continue throughout the year and are open for everyone' says the Revd Hannah Threlfall. Each event will feature a brief talk addressing important life topics, delivered by leading figures from scientific, medical, technology, and theological fields. The session will be followed by a Q&A and complimentary refreshments.

The first speaker will be Prof. Bob White and the talk will be titled – "Are Natural Disasters Inevitable? Insights from Science and Religion". Professor Robert (Bob) White is a Fellow of St Edmund's College Cambridge having been Professor of Geophysics in the Dept of Earth Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society and his work at sea has taken him to the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans and his research group is currently investigating the internal structure of volcanoes in Iceland. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, was awarded a Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of a lifetime's achievement in research. His scientific work is published in over 350 papers and articles.

For more information please contact either Revd Hannah Threlfall, Email: RevThrelfall24@outlook.com or Tony Collett, Email: ftony.collett3112@gmail.com

FROM THE VICARAGE

Churches Together in Cambridgeshire has a long-standing partnership with the Diocese of Vellore in the Church of South India and in January I was blessed to be invited along with eight other Christians of various denominations to join with the Diocese in celebrating their Golden Jubilee. I had visited India many times before and Vellore once as part of a previous group. Two of my children have also visited Vellore as part of youth visits.

However well prepared you are though, however many times you might have been before, India always excites, surprises, and finds some way to change you. Christians in general, and members of the Church of South India in particular are a small minority in India although the Church is involved with schools and hospitals as well as social projects. Many of these started being set up by missionaries many years ago although we always do well to remember that Christianity came to India well before it came to our shores; the first Christian missionary was the Apostle Thomas (famously known as "Doubting Thomas" although I believe his doubts helped many people to find faith). Saint Thomas was martyred in Chennai (formerly Madras).

Fifty years ago, the Diocese of Vellore was founded, previously the region had been part of the Diocese of Madras – and that Jubilee was our main reason for the visit, but there were many celebrations that formed part of it. We were involved in dedication ceremonies for several new church buildings – mostly built by the local congregations themselves. The joy of such occasions just cannot be overstated, singing, dancing and praising the Lord in an explosion of colour, sound (and nearly always a celebratory meal afterwards – we were never hungry!).

I returned tired, as you can imagine, but wonderfully spiritually refreshed and renewed and we are looking forward to a visit from Bishop Sharma to coincide with the installation of Bishop Sarah in Ely.

Alastair France, Granta Vale Churches Team member

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

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

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LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Community Connections

The College continues to value its close links with the local community, working with families, volunteers and partner organisations to support students and shared activities. It is grateful for the ongoing support of its Trust Fund, established in 1987 to help meet the welfare needs of individual pupils and to widen access to extra-curricular opportunities. Over the past year, more than £3,200 has been donated, including Gift Aid, helping over 40 students take part in activities. The College would also like to thank John Batchelor and Scilla Harvey, who recently stepped down from the Trust Fund committee after many years of dedicated service.

The Friends of LVC is our PTA. We are very lucky to have a fantastic, dedicated team of parents and carers that support the College through fundraising and organising community events. The annual Friends Quiz Night takes place at LVC on Friday 8 May in the main school hall. Tickets are on sale online for teams of 6 and are available via the school website on the 'Linton Village College - Parents - Friends of LVC' page. Tickets are priced at £15 including a fish and chip supper. There will be a bar and raffle with donations from local businesses. Money raised will be invested in enriching LVC students' school experience.

We are also excited to be hosting the 20th anniversary of the Linton Book Festival on the weekend of the 16-17 May. It's a fantastic free family event celebrating reading and offering reading themed and creative activities for children aged 0-11 including talks and workshops led by children's authors and illustrators. Tickets can be secured in advance via the lintonbookfest.org website.

Helena Marsh, Principal



West Wickham Village Hall

Open for hire by Residents, Local Clubs and Organisations

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

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

The Hall is licenced for music and performing arts.

Bookings can be made to:

bookings@westwickham.org or

by using the online booking/query at www.westwickham.org

Alternatively by leaving a voice message on 01223 789719

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

New Beginnings. As we welcome the summer term, there is a real sense of change and reflection across The Meadow Primary School, alongside the same warmth, energy and enthusiasm that make our school such a special place.

A Fond Farewell. This term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our Headteacher, Nichola Pickford, who has led The Meadow for the past 13 years. During her time here, she has guided the school through both challenges and successes, helping it grow from strength to strength.

Mrs Pickford has supported hundreds of children, families and staff, and her care, dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on our whole community. She has also played a significant role across Anglian Learning and at our sister school, Wimbish. While we will miss her guidance tremendously, we are incredibly proud of her as she moves on to her new role as Director of Primary Education. We wish her every success in this exciting next chapter.

Looking Ahead. Following on from this, we are delighted to welcome Nicky Butcher into the role of Headteacher. Having been a dedicated and supportive Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Butcher already knows our school community inside and out. We are confident she will continue to lead The Meadow with the same care and commitment, steering us confidently into the future.

A Performance to Remember. Our Year 3 and 4 children recently treated us to a truly beautiful performance of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*. The children, supported by their teachers, worked incredibly hard to bring this inspiring story to life. It was a powerful and moving production that left not many dry eyes in the audience. We are so proud of all the children and staff involved for creating such a memorable experience.

Fundraising Fun. The children also had great fun, last month, raising money for Comic Relief by taking part in a "Break the Rules" day. From wacky costumes and creative hairstyles to choosing their own breaktime snacks, there was plenty of laughter and excitement throughout the day. It was wonderful to see the school community come together for such a good cause while enjoying a well-earned bit of fun.

As we step into this new chapter, we look ahead with excitement - embracing new beginnings, fresh opportunities and continuing to grow together as a school community.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

National Year of Reading is about inspiring people to read more. Whatever your passion, we have something for it. If you visit to use the computer, find a quiet space, or borrow a jigsaw, why not explore our shelves too? Membership is free and we have books, CDs and e-lending for every age and interest.

Never been to the library? This is the perfect time to discover what is waiting for you. Our library is a friendly community space for reading, creativity and connection. Explore, discover and read into what you love at your library.

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