

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JUNE 2026

ISSUE 277

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	3 June	Blue & Green
Wednesday	10 June	Black
Wednesday	17 June	Blue & Green
Wednesday	24 June	Black
Wednesday	1 July	Blue & Green

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

7 June	11.00 Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
14 June	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
21 June	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
28 June	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: **20.06.2026** 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 TUESDAY 16 JUNE

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.

Photo Competition

Open to everyone living in the area and their families



We're aiming to be inclusive...
a phone and an eye for the opportunity are all it needs.

This year's categories are...

Lovely Leaves

The Sky's the Limit

Along the Path



... all open to interpretation when you're out and about,
on holiday or in your garden.

We'd love to see your favourite pictures of the summer,
so why not make this the year to give it a shot?!



Closing date 1 September
All entries will be displayed at
The Summer Gardening Fair
on **Saturday 12 September**



Photos must have been taken after 1 October 2025
up to two entries per category: 50p per entry.

Send your entries and questions to
Alice and Andy Mitchell: photo@westwickham.org

KSCA NEWS

Kingsway Solar: How much do you know? Thank you to everyone who visited the KSCA stand at the Balsham Red Balloon Sale on 17 May and took part in our "Did You Know?" quiz. It was a pleasure to speak with so many local residents about the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm and what it could mean for our local communities.

If you missed us, our "Did You Know?" series will continue over the coming weeks on Facebook, Instagram and the members' WhatsApp group. We'll be sharing key facts, updates and myth-busting information about the proposal. To stay informed, you can request email updates here: tinyurl.com/KSCAemails, or become a member here: <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>

What happens now? Last month we reported that Kingsway was expected to submit its planning application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) by the end of April. This did not happen. Following direct contact

Continued on page 2

KSCA news continued

with Kingsway, we understand submission is now expected possibly as late as June, although no confirmed date has been provided.

Once submitted, PINS has up to 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for examination. This is an important milestone, but it does *not* mean the project has been approved. It simply marks the start of the formal national planning process and the first opportunity for residents, Parish Councils and community groups to put their views directly to decision-makers.

There will then be a 30-day window to register as an 'Interested Party' and submit comments, known as 'Relevant Representations'. KSCA will provide clear guidance, workshops and templates to help make this as straightforward as possible when the time comes.

In the meantime, residents can register with the Planning Inspectorate to receive direct updates as soon as the application is submitted: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165>

Our legal work continues — we need your support.

KSCA continues to work with the Parish Council Alliance to appoint legal advisers and independent experts in key technical areas including hydrology, battery energy storage and landscape and visual impact. This expert evidence will be essential as the process moves forward and will help ensure local concerns are properly and rigorously represented.

If you are able to support this work, please consider contributing here: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction/>

Volunteers make a real difference. We are also looking for volunteers to help with leafleting, social media and upcoming community events and information sessions. If you can spare a few hours, please contact: hello@kingswayaction.org. Together, we can make sure our community is informed, prepared and heard.

Kathy Day

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE

MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 on Thursday

11TH June



*Selection of teas & coffee
Variety of homemade cakes*

ALL WELCOME

Call Sue Thurston (01223 897811)

FROM THE VICARAGE

As we move into June, the great festivals of Ascension and Pentecost are still echoing in the life of the Church. Ascension reminds us of Jesus entrusting the future into the hands of ordinary people - the disciples standing looking upwards, perhaps unsure of what would come next. Then, at Pentecost, comes the gift of the Holy Spirit: courage where there was fear, hope where there was uncertainty, and the sudden realisation that God was not absent at all, but wonderfully present among them. And perhaps that is something we still need reminding of today. It can sometimes be tempting to think of faith as belonging only to extraordinary moments - great celebrations or significant occasions. But Pentecost reminds us that God so often works through ordinary people living ordinary lives with love, faithfulness, and kindness.

As I look across our benefice communities, I see that constantly. I see it in those who quietly prepare churches week by week, arrange flowers, ring bells, bake cakes, stack chairs, deliver magazines, tend graveyards, organise events, and care for neighbours. I see it in conversations shared over garden gates, on village paths, and in cups of tea offered at just the right moment. The Spirit of God is not only found in mighty rushing winds and tongues of fire. Sometimes the Spirit is found in simple acts of generosity, encouragement, laughter, hospitality and service.

And as we move into the summer months, our benefice calendars begin filling with community events, open gardens, suppers, fundraising evenings, fetes and gatherings of all kinds. These occasions may seem simple on the surface, but they are deeply important. They bring people together. They strengthen community spirit. They remind us that church buildings are not simply places we visit, but places at the heart of village life. Of course, these events only happen because people support them - by volunteering, baking, organising, attending, inviting friends, buying tickets and simply turning up. Every contribution matters, and every person helps create the warmth and welcome that make our communities so special.

And now June arrives with all the beauty of early summer. Gardens begin to flourish, evenings stretch longer and there is something deeply hopeful about this season of growth and light. Perhaps that is the invitation of this month: not simply to look for God in the extraordinary, but to notice God already at work in the everyday.

In kindness shared. In laughter around tables. In communities gathering. In people quietly caring for one another.

The disciples at Pentecost discovered that they were capable of far more than they had imagined - not because they suddenly became extraordinary people, but because God was with them and the same remains true for us.

Revd Hannah Threlfall

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

WEST WICKHAM PCC
invite you to wine and nibbles
in the church
on Friday 17 July for 6pm

WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST

THERE USED TO BE.... a railway carriage cottage

Most people would assume that The Orchard on Balsham Hill is in Balsham parish when actually it is in West Wickham and in the middle part of the 20th century this was the site of a cottage built around two railway carriages. After the First World War there was a chronic housing shortage, both in rural as well as urban areas. Agricultural depression before the War meant low agricultural wages with minimum cottage rents, so landlords failed to maintain and repair properties. Many cottages were condemned and allowed to fall down resulting in insufficient housing supply to meet the needs of servicemen returning from the War and wishing to settle down.

Linton Rural District Council had been one of the first local authorities to provide housing, building its first 10 houses in Linton in 1911. By 1921 it had only built 22 in total and it was not until 1925 that it agreed to build any houses in the surrounding villages (8 of these were in West Wickham). It may well have been this housing shortage, along with the fact that they had been living in various tied accommodation in Balsham, that prompted Harry and Emma Covell to take matters into their own hands and provide some security for themselves as they got older.

Using railway carriages for housing was not a new idea – as early as 1890 carriages were being converted but these were mainly as holiday homes in coastal areas, not for anything more permanent. The housing shortage in the 1920s created a new demand particularly as railway carriages were cheap to buy. Railway companies were so keen to get rid of old, redundant stock that they offered to convey a carriage, minus its chassis, wheels and running gear, to the purchaser's nearest station for free. Harry and Emma bought two carriages (for railway enthusiasts: these were Great Eastern Railway 6 wheeled composite carriages built between 1886 and 1895) and had them delivered to Bartlow station from where they were transported by trailer to Balsham Hill.

The carriages, each 32ft long and 9ft wide, were placed parallel to each other with a 10ft gap in between. A central brick chimney stack was built, walls with doors and windows covered each end and the whole structure was roofed over. A newspaper article in 1961 described how the interior space was used. One carriage contained a large bedroom and scullery, the other was divided into three bedrooms. There was a living room on one side of the chimney and a kitchen on the other with fires heating both sides. There was no electricity and lighting was by paraffin lamps while the solid structure of the carriages apparently meant the cottage was sufficiently warm.

The Covells lived in the cottage until Harry died in 1937 and Emma moved to Cambridge. By the 1980s, it had not been lived in permanently for some time and had begun to deteriorate. Planning permission was given for demolition and replacement with the current house. The carriages were removed intact but unfortunately neither of them has survived. Once you start investigating railway carriage cottages you find them all over the area. My favourite being the thatched carriage in Barrington!

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 next meeting will be on **Monday 12 October** when Nigel Fenner will talk on *East Anglia's early football culture*) or contact:

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

NATURE NOTES

In Maypole Croft the dawn chorus begins with a rooftop **blackbird** announcing the new day like a town crier. In Streetly End the honour seems to alternate between blackbird and **song thrush** and then in both locations other birds join the ensemble – **robin, wren, duncock** etc, and then a 'backing group' of gently cooing woodpigeons, occasionally interrupted by magpies or raucous jackdaws.

There has been no measurable rainfall during the last two weeks of April or early May and many of these birds who sing so beautifully in the morning will be hoping for rain which will bring earthworms and other invertebrates nearer to the surface. Perhaps they could persuade their cousin the **green woodpecker** (known in folklore as the 'rain bird') to do a bit more yaffling and encourage the heavens to open, although the woodpecker was thought to be a predictor of rain rather than a cause of it. [*This may be hard to believe, but a woodpecker was on our lawn this morning, and no sooner had I typed the last sentence, but a series of heavy showers descended – uncanny!*]

A bird that often escapes our notice, due to its secretive behaviour, preference for thick undergrowth and lack of any striking features, is the **garden warbler**. What also is unhelpful is the similarity of its song to the **blackcap**, which is very plentiful locally. It is exciting to have one nesting and identified in Jan and Doug Dennis's garden in Maypole Croft. I have come to the conclusion that there may be more garden warblers in the area than some of us first thought. The key differences in their songs are that the garden warbler's song is deeper and more continuous, whereas the blackcap hits more high notes and has more pauses. My Merlin App has identified both birds in the same time slot although up to now I have always been rather sceptical. The next time you think you hear a blackcap, it could be a garden warbler.

It is the nesting season for all bird species and tit boxes are occupied throughout the village. We hope that the parent birds will find sufficient caterpillars to feed their brood and a good number of those who fledge will survive. People with ponds may have **moorhen** chicks or **ducklings** although their lives can be rather hazardous, bearing in mind the presence of predators such as stoats. We have **rock doves** (aka feral pigeons) nesting under the solar panels on our roof. This is also hazardous, being on a slope, and already one egg has rolled out onto the floor. Rock doves are the ancestors of the pigeons we see in towns and cities and although their appearance has become variable due to selective breeding by pigeon fanciers, these ones have the markings of the original rock dove including iridescent feathers on the neck and a double black bar across the inner wings.

Swallows seemed to arrive late but a few have been seen recently, particularly where there are barns or stables offering suitable accommodation. Swallows too need some rain as their nests are largely constructed of mud.

Just in case you think that these nature notes are a bit too 'bird heavy', the dry spring has been good for the early butterflies. On the days when temperatures were high enough, **brimstones, orange tips and holly blues** have all been plentiful so many of you may have seen them in the garden.

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

Following May's local elections, I am looking forward to working closely with the newly elected councillors to serve our community. I would also like to offer my commiserations to all those who stood for election but were unsuccessful, and I would like to thank all councillors, regardless of political party, for their service over the last four years.

Charity Skydive for Arthur Rank Hospice. Some of you will know that Arthur Rank Hospice, which provides truly amazing palliative and end-of-life care for hundreds of patients every year, has had its NHS funding cut. It is therefore imperative for the hospice to urgently raise funds to close this funding gap. In April, along with an extraordinary team of campaigners devoted to raising money for the hospice, I did a tandem skydive to raise vital funds.

It was the scariest thing I've done and yet so exhilarating to jump out of a plane over Cambridgeshire at 15,000 feet! For a full 60 seconds we plummeted to the ground in tandem freefall at 125mph, and then for 5 minutes floated down under the parachute. I am delighted to say that together we raised over £26,000. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Championing our Chalk Streams. I have continued to champion one of South Cambridgeshire's most precious natural assets. Our chalk streams are globally rare, with only 260 in the world and 85% of them in England. They are essential to biodiversity and provide unique habitats for wildlife. They are being damaged by the twin threats of over-abstraction of water and pollution by sewage. I introduced a Bill in Parliament calling on the Government to nominate the UK's chalk streams, including those flowing through our own constituency, such as the Rivers Cam, Granta, Mel, Rhee and Shep, as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. UNESCO designation will help galvanise public engagement and investment in their recovery.

Fighting for SEND Reform. Since becoming your MP, I have heard from countless families struggling to access the support their children need. The delays in obtaining diagnoses, developing Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and securing funding are causing real distress — and too many parents are being forced into costly complaints and tribunal processes just to get what their children are entitled to.

The SEND system (Ed. Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) is broken. It is failing children every day and pushing councils to the brink of bankruptcy. That is why I welcome the Government's recognition of this crisis and the steps they have set out to address it — though I know many parents have serious concerns about what the reforms will mean in practice. I have written to the Minister to convey those concerns, and I am grateful to everyone who responded to the consultation and shared their experiences with me. I will continue to campaign in Parliament for greater special needs funding for our area, and to raise individual cases with the local authority. If you are struggling to navigate the SEND system, please do get in touch — I am here to help.

These are just a few of the things I've been working on in recent weeks that I wanted to share with you. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter, available at

<https://www.pippaheytings.org.uk/newsletter>.

Pippa Heytings, MP



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Clover Cottage

50 Streetly End, West Wickham,
CB21 4RP

Sunday 7 June
Sunday 14 June

12 - 4.30pm

Adults £4 Children free

Tea, coffee & cake



More information at ngs.org.uk



Registered charity No. 112844

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Are you ready for the **Summer Reading Challenge?** Aimed at children, you can sign up from Saturday 4 July to enjoy over the summer holidays. This year's theme is Read to the Beat.

- **Daylight Readers:** Our Book Groups meet on Friday 19 June, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. The morning group would love to welcome new members. Come and check it out.
- **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're 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 olds.

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

For our May meeting we were joined by Bob Ensich, who came to talk to us about FutureIN and It Takes a City initiatives. When Bob retired from a long career in the construction industry, he decided he didn't want to sit at home all day and instead give something back to the industry that had been such a big part of his life. He joined the board of TrAC, an organisation that employs apprentices directly and places them with companies primarily in the construction industry.

He then went on to form FutureIN, a partnership with Cambridge property developer Howard Group, which provides training opportunities specifically for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people locally. Cambridge is the UK's most unequal city which, despite its immense wealth from the University and the high-tech sector, has a stark economic divide. Added to that the rising cost of living and homelessness is becoming more of a crisis.

FutureIN works with local property development companies to provide and sponsor placements in the industry for these young people. Organisations can also contribute by donating tools and helping with transportation and certification costs to help get these young people out of the care system and onto a career path.

Bob didn't stop there and he now also works with It Takes a City, a charity working to end homelessness in the city. They formed a community land trust building modular housing, fully equipped and self-contained units created to help vulnerable people off the streets and into a safe space they can call home.

It was a very insightful talk about the important work and the difference that these organisations are making locally.

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 is on Tuesday 9 June, and we will be enjoying a historic walk and talk around the village, which will focus on the history of the Prince's Memorial (bandstand), The Old Butchers and the old school.

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

Sarah Evans

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

During the summer we will be getting out and about outside a bit more by completing the Have Adventures – Explore. We will also be making some sugar cookies with Michelle's help.

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.

Pauline, Katie, Esther and Ella

BALSHAM SINGERS

Singing for Fun

Come along on THURSDAY night 7.30-9 pm

Balsham Sports Pavilion. Pay as you Go - £5

No booking required, any questions to

Balshamsingers@hotmail.com

4, 11, 25th June & July 2nd

LOVE TO SING?

Join us to learn & sing theme tunes from the Bond Films,
Musical theatre - Grease & Les Miserables

As well as Abba and Queen

Echoes of the Spanish Baroque

The Lowe Ensemble

Five siblings with Spanish and British heritage,
play 17th and 18th century European instrumental and
vocal music with a Spanish influence.



at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham, CB21 6BZ

on Sunday 28th June at 7.30pm

Tickets - £15 - including refreshments
from Eventbrite - <https://tinyurl.com/3nyxrsc>

or at the door

Contact: Athene Hunt - huntcam2015@gmail.com



In support of the Friends of Hildersham Church

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Hildersham: Registered Charity - 1153435

★ HUB NIGHT! ★
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **20.06.2026** 7PM-11PM



MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

It has been an exciting and action-packed half term at The Meadow Primary School, with pupils taking part in unforgettable experiences, celebrating important milestones, and helping to bring the local community together.

Memorable Residential Adventure. Year 5 pupils recently enjoyed a fantastic residential camping trip at sister school Wimbish School, where they took part in an exciting army experience led by soldiers from Carver Barracks. The children learned about specialist military equipment and safety operations before taking on a challenging obstacle course during a lively Physical Training session. They crawled under heavy cargo nets, balanced across benches and used their elbows to manoeuvre along the ground.



Pupils were also thrilled to control an £80,000 robot used to detect mines and hidden weapons, as well as try on protective bomb disposal equipment. By the end of the afternoon, children from both schools agreed it had been “the best experience ever”! The following day, the adventure continued at Grafham Water, where pupils enjoyed orienteering challenges and team-building games.

Year 6 Celebrate SATs Success. There has also been plenty to celebrate for Year 6 pupils, who recently completed their SATs assessments. Staff are incredibly proud of the children for all their hard work, determination and dedication throughout the year. With SATs now behind them, pupils are eagerly looking forward to their upcoming residential trip to Norfolk Lakes, which promises even more exciting opportunities and lasting memories.

PTA Brings Community Together. The school’s PTA has also been hard at work organising successful fundraising events this half term. A fun-filled Chocolate Bingo evening proved to be a great success, raising valuable funds for the school while bringing families together for an enjoyable night of entertainment. They also hosted a teddy tombola at the Big Balsham Sale, helping to strengthen the school’s connection with the wider community. Staff and families alike have commented on how wonderful it is to see the community come together to support the school and create such positive experiences for the children.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher



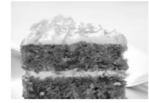
BUTTERCUPS COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

Bake Stall

Saturday 6th June



From 8am



Outside Balsham Post Office

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

At LVC, developing independence, one of our core school values, is central to preparing students for life beyond the classroom. Through leadership, mentoring and enrichment opportunities, we empower students to grow in confidence, take responsibility and thrive.

Our highly successful Year 10 Sports Leaders programme enables students to take ownership of sporting events. Following a competitive application process and focused training, students plan and deliver sessions both in school and with local primary pupils. Their impact was evident at a recent tennis tournament for Year 3 and 4 pupils, where their professionalism and leadership were so highly regarded that they have been invited back to support future events.

Supporting younger students is at the heart of our 8M8s mentoring programme. Recently, our current Year 7 students were selected to become Year 8 mentors through an application and interview process. They play a vital role in supporting Year 6 pupils during the transition process this July, helping them feel settled and reassured. This support continues when students start in September. Many mentors draw on their own experiences, developing empathy, confidence and responsibility.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award further strengthens independence. Students build practical skills such as cooking and navigation, volunteer in the local community and take part in expeditions. A practice expedition around Saffron Walden this weekend will prepare them for their Peak District expedition later in the academic year.



Across all programmes, students are supported to lead, contribute and grow together, developing the independence and skills to shape their futures.

Helena Marsh, Principal