

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JULY 2026

ISSUE 278

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	1 July	Blue & Green
Wednesday	8 July	Black
Wednesday	15 July	Blue & Green
Wednesday	22 July	Black
Wednesday	29 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

5 July	11.00 Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
12 July	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
19 July	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
26 July	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: **18.07.2026** 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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE THURSDAY 16 JULY

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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.

KINGSWAY ACTION UPDATE

The final plans have been submitted. What happens next? At the time of printing, we are still waiting to hear whether the Kingsway Solar Farm application has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). If it is accepted, all the final application documents will be available on both the Kingsway Solar Farm project page and the Kingsway Solar website: kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/documents/ (Ed. More up-to-date information will be posted on the village WhatsApp.)

Acceptance does not mean the project has been approved. It simply means the formal planning process is beginning. Once the application is accepted, everyone will have the chance to send their views directly to the people who will help decide the outcome. If you do not take part at this stage, you won't be able to influence the decision later on. It is important that we all stay alert for the upcoming **30-day registration period**. This will open shortly after the application is accepted, and it is the only opportunity for people to register as Interested Parties and submit comments.

If you want to have a say, you will need to act during this registration period. To help people prepare, KSCA is planning a series of information sessions and workshops:

- Sunday 5 July. 10.30am–12.00 noon. West Wrattling Village Hall
- **Saturday 18 July. 11.30am–1.00pm. West Wickham Village Hall**
- Sunday 19 July. 10.00–11.30am. Weston Colville Reading Rooms
- Wednesday 22 July. 7.30–9.00pm. Balsham Sports Pavilion

We are finalising arrangements for the workshops. For the latest details on venues and times, visit the KSCA website at kingswayaction.org or follow KSCA on Facebook and Instagram. You can also sign up for email updates here: tinyurl.com/KSCA emails

For official project updates, you can sign up with the Planning Inspectorate at:

national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165

We are stepping up our legal work. Now that the planning application has been submitted, KSCA and the Parish Council Alliance are working closely with expert advisers to review the large number of application documents. These experts will help identify issues, challenge the developer's evidence where needed, and present findings during the Examination hearings.

This expert work is essential, but it comes at a significant cost. If you are able to support it, please consider donating to our legal fundraising campaign:

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

If you would prefer to discuss other ways of supporting the campaign, please speak to a member of the KSCA committee.

Can you help? We are also looking for volunteers to support the wider community campaign. Whether you can spare a few hours a week or just occasional time each month, any help would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed for leaflet delivery, social media and communications, community events and information sessions, and general campaign support.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us at: hello@kingswayaction.org

Together, we can keep our community informed, prepared and heard throughout the planning process.

Kathy Day

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 on Thursday

9TH JULY



FROM THE VICARAGE

What does that word 'Pilgrimage' conjure up in your mind, I wonder? We are becoming used to seeing celebrities undertaking pilgrimages - stepping out of their comfort zones to embrace whatever challenge comes along. It involves adventure and sharing their own thoughts about their lives with the group. They may also share their faith, and the joy of profound moments when they realise something significant that had previously passed them by. They allow themselves to be vulnerable, accepting each other's differences, whatever their perspective.

The trip I made to Iona recently involved different modes of transport, just like pilgrims of old, including two ferry rides, two coach journeys, and two train rides. It was a way to wind down from the hectic daily life I had just left behind. There was time to take in the Scottish scenery, with lochs and mountains, some still topped with snow. These are not man-made views, but part of God's wonderful creation.

Is it all worth it, you might ask? Well, on arrival, for those who have not visited Iona, there is such a sense of peace. The beautiful sandy beaches and turquoise sea are a feast for the eyes. Shoulders drop as we step off the boat and it becomes a time to relax. There is an awareness of the simplicity of the surroundings, giving us time to be still. All the responsibilities we carry are left behind for a while. There may be a realisation that our lives have become too complicated and need a little pruning, because sometimes less really is more.

As I write, we are moving into the summer season, with good weather we hope still to come! We do not necessarily need to go on a long journey to experience that sense of peace. Instead, we can feel renewed by simply noticing the beauty of life around us. We can stop and look at the birds we often take for granted because we are too busy. Taking the dog for a walk, pausing to use our senses - taste, smell, touch, and hearing. Smiling as we pass people, or simply saying "hello".

We are encouraged to be outward-looking, as St Francis encouraged us. Simplicity is so important, so wherever you go this summer, take time to enjoy the simple things and make the most of God's wonderful creation.

Happy wandering! Revd Kathy Bishop

ANTI-SOCIAL DOG BEHAVIOUR

Residents are advised that the Parish Council has no authority over anti-social dog behaviour, such as dogs out of control. Incidents involving dog attacks on humans, or resulting in injury to humans, must be reported to the police immediately on 999. Dog attacks on other dogs or animals should be reported to the Dog Warden at the District Council on 01954 713519. Try and get the name, address and phone number of the owner or their car registration and details of their dog. Take note of the date, time and place as well as take photos of your dog and seek vet attention, even if injuries seem mild, to submit to the Dog Warden or police.

West Wickham Parish Council

THE CHURCH YARD

Marcus has now retired after 50 voluntary years and Bradley Goss is now maintaining the Churchyard, cutting the grass and strimming. If you have loved ones in the cremation area in the Churchyard, I have been having a clear up so Bradley can keep it trimmed. During the spring and summer months please keep memorial stones clear. Thank you

Nicky Cornish, PCC Secretary



WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Out and About

After a packed winter programme and record-breaking Plant Sale this spring the members of West Wickham & District Gardening Club are taking a well-earned break, out and about in the sunny summer weather.

After a fantastic coach trip to *RHS Wisley* in June we are looking forward to a private tour of two local gardens, opened under the *National Garden Scheme*, in Westley Waterless on Thursday 16 July.

Our programme of talks begins again in September, following our increasingly popular Gardening Fair on Saturday 12 September. More about these events to follow next month. So, in the meantime, enjoy the summer and we look forward to informing and entertaining you in September!

If you would like to hear more about the Club and our activities, then we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

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

For more information please visit <https://westwickham.org/clubs/west-wickham-district-gardening-club/> or **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.
- Alice and Andy Mitchell on photo@westwickham.org for information about our summer photo competition and to send your entries.

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

NEXT
DATE: **18.07.2026** 7PM-11PM



WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST

THERE USED TO BE.... butter and cheese making

Until the middle of the 20th century farms in West Wickham were a mix of arable and livestock – sheep, pigs and both beef and dairy cattle. Milk from the latter necessarily supplied a local need as there was no way of quickly transporting it in bulk to a wider customer base but in the summer months (after calving and when the grass was lush) supply often exceeded demand. Ways had to be found to utilise this milk and preserve it for the leaner winter months. Butter and cheese were the answer.

19th century adverts of farm sales (usual when a farmer left a farm whether tenant or owner) nearly all include mention of dairying equipment. Butter churns were universal although, with the lack of refrigeration, butter production was probably just on a domestic scale. Cheese, however, particularly hard cheese like Cheddar needed time to mature and had a lot longer 'shelf life'. The inclusion of cheese presses in adverts indicates that this is what was being made in West Wickham.

Cambridgeshire is not a county generally known for its cheese. There is much debate about whether Stilton, its most famous cheese, was actually made there at all or merely available at the coaching inns along the Gt North Road which passed through the village. Today a cheese can only be called Stilton if it is made in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire or Derbyshire. Until the 1930s, Cottenham was known for its cheese – both the Single Cottenham and the blue-veined Double Cottenham – and there was also a soft milk cheese known as Cambridge or Cambridgeshire cheese (the deli at Scotsdales is selling a soft blue-veined cheese called Cambridge Blue, which, although made in Lincolnshire, is apparently from a Cambridge recipe).

There is some other evidence for the production of dairy products. When the contents of Mr Lawrence's shop were put up for sale in 1826 they included a firkin of butter (a barrel holding 56lbs or 25 kilos) and a large quantity of cheese. These may well have been locally made. In the 1861 census two farms were employing live-in dairy maids. None are mentioned in subsequent census. It seems that cheese making may well have died out in the second half of the 19th century, possibly because the development of the railway network allowed large quantities of milk to be distributed widely in liquid form.

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: its Anglo-Saxon roots, popularity in the 18th century & sad demise*) or contact:

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

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 IAIDO TRIUMPHS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Six individuals and two teams from the Ken Yu Kan Iaido Dojo entered and won a huge haul of medals:

- 2 bronze and a silver in the ungraded division
- Gold in 1st Dan
- 2 Bronze and Fighting spirit in 2nd Dan
- Bronze and Fighting spirit in 3rd Dan
- Bronze in 5th Dan
- Silver and Fighting spirit 6th Dan



Next stop is the European Championship in Munich. The Ken Yu Kan Dojo has trained at West Wickham Village Hall for at least 20 years and there has always been at least one member of the Dojo in the British Iaido squad since 1992.

What is Iaido?

It is the pathway to mental presence and instant reaction. Iaido is the Japanese martial art of mastering the techniques and mindset for the precise, controlled movement of drawing the sword (katana), cutting an opponent, removing the blood and replacing the sword. This 'fast draw and cut' technique has been used by Japanese warriors for some 400 years and was always taught in secret, behind closed doors. Rather than focusing on combat, Iaido is a form of moving meditation, aimed at self-improvement, character development, and calming the mind - it actively promotes physical and mental health and well being.

The Dojo is home to 17 full members and a number of students who travel from as far as Ipswich to train here. Currently the Dojo uses the Hall 2 days per week for basic and advanced training with members aged from 11 to 71 years old. The Dojo Leader is also the National Iaido Squad trainer.

New members are welcome - come and try

The Dojo would like to send a 3rd team to the Nationals next year and are actively looking for new students - of any age (yes, really). Please contact:

Martin Clark . Email: japaclark@aol.com, T: 07494791511.

JIGSAW PUZZLES AT NINE CHIMNEY HOUSE GARAGE, BALSHAM

I now have a good selection of jigsaws with over 80 jigsaws with 1000 pieces and around 70 jigsaws with 500 pieces and there are a few jigsaws with different amounts of pieces. Do please come and take some and bring back any you no longer need.

Joanna Sanders

T: 01223 893063, Email: sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was held on 19 May. The following are the reports presented to the meeting.

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

We had six meetings in 2025/2026, in the Village Hall on the last Monday of every second month (excepting Bank Holidays). All members of our community are encouraged to attend so they can take an active interest in what we do and contribute.

During these meetings we discussed the progress of the Kingsway Solar Park towards their planning application and joined the Parish Council Alliance. We also received reports on the progress of the development at the Streetly Hall Anaerobic Digester. A number of smaller planning applications within our Parish received support from the Parish Council, with only the development of two additional large houses not being supported although planning permission was granted by the District Council contrary to the Village Neighbourhood Plan. While not within our Parish, we also supported the planning application by Horseheath Lodge to provide a special needs (SEND) facility and community space, permission for which was granted.

We remain frustrated by the slow rate of repair of potholes and replacement of signage by the County Councils Highways Dept, with some issues now into their second year of neglect. We therefore encourage the community to report issues as soon as they see them. The Big Garden Party was again a success this year and well attended, with £1,200 raised (£700 for the Church and £500 for the Village Hall). The play equipment and play area is unfortunately getting old so is in need of regular maintenance, with PC volunteers making repairs to help defray the costs. However, the community stepped up and raised over £2,300 towards the permanent 5-a-side football field on the recreation ground with an auction of promises, with local companies subsequently also approached and agreeing to donate topsoil, dressing and grass seed. In addition, Yen Hall Farm have harrowed and aerated the field to aid drainage and assist with grass growth, and other volunteers have helped cut the grass until it can be dressed and reseeded.

The Parish Council finally received their MVAS unit. Two SpeedWatch teams, one in West Wickham the other in Streetly End, are now active with a noticeable decrease of speeding vehicles during their sessions, although speeding through Streetly End remains an issue when the teams are not in action.

The Devana rewilding project is progressing well with a number of walking and orienteering groups frequenting the area. Large groups of deer have been spotted in the fields in which hare, foxes, badgers and smaller deer can be regularly seen along with a wealth of raptors flying

overhead. The footpaths through our region are mainly well looked after by the majority of land-owners, and this year the County Council have been quick to respond to bridge repairs and even replacement. The area in front of the Village Hall has been cleared, restoring the beautiful views over the farmland to the front and the continued efforts by volunteers who care for the wild-flower area on the High Street and the area surrounding the Village Hall are appreciated by the many visitors to our village.

Sadly, we did have one incident of senseless, misled anti-social vandalism to the newly planted hedgerow on the edge of the Village Green, which also brought with it a great amount of distress. However, the outpouring of support following this event for the landowner did illustrate that this type of behaviour is not condoned by the vast majority of our community and has no place in this society.

While we had a financial surplus for this past accounting period, most of this has been allocated to the establishment and maintenance of the recreation ground, with the P.C. looking to obtain secure storage for the 5-a-side and maintenance equipment for the upkeep of the field. ABC Tree Surgery, who have been maintaining our recreation ground and the area around the Hall, will no longer provide this service after this summer and the PC has been looking for alternative solutions. The continued rising rate of inflation as well as the higher anticipated maintenance costs of our ageing playground have necessitated an increase to our annual precept to £14,325 p.a.

The Council would like to thank the editors of the Village Voice, Andrew Morris and Anna Fairhead, along with other contributors and helpers as well as the contributors to the Parish website. These are the main source of local news, events and resources for the village, along with the West Wickham WhatsApp Community which provides for the sharing of more immediate news and information.

I would also like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee who maintain and run the Village Hall, and would like to appeal for further volunteers from our community to help run fundraising and community events in the hall. Our Village Hall is a valuable and important community asset that needs community support to help ensure it remains popular and well used. Lastly, thanks to all the volunteers within the community that contribute their time, effort and money to provide events such as the coffee mornings, the Clubs and Hub nights.

Alex Schuilenburg, Chair of the Parish Council.

VILLAGE HALL

Usage. The Village Hall is well used during the evening. Only 20 days had no bookings or activity during last 12 months (excluding Christmas). The main use of the Hall is:

1. Regular local clubs during the evenings that includes Bowls, Local History, Gardening and the new Arts club.
2. Regular commercial clubs using the Hall which includes iaido, karate and chair yoga, but the latter moved to Castle Camps due to lack of local support.
3. Monthly community events include the well attended monthly coffee mornings and the evening hub nights
4. Other users include local hire for badminton and dance, garden fetes and private hire e.g. recently for funeral wakes, birthday parties, family parties, scouts orienteering day - the largest being over 100 people - which was well managed by committee members for parking, clear up and noise. Despite the lateness of the departure no complaints have been received.

The Hall was inspected after use and found to be generally

clean, aside from occasional minor matters remedied by the committee such as vacuuming the Hall carpet by committee members.

Volunteers. The Hall has been run with the help of a small number of dedicated volunteers and committee members - all of whom have extensive other demands on their time. I want to record and extend my heartfelt thanks for their undying good humour, commitment and support over the years. The Hall is in good hands. I note that a number of key volunteers may soon move on and replacements through the normal word of mouth has not, as yet, convinced replacements to come forward - either for the committee or continuing existing hubs. Volunteer replacement remains a key concern and needs addressing urgently during the coming year - we would welcome a committee secretary and a social secretary.

Cleaning and Maintenance

1. Water leak. A silent water leak as a result of a fractured joint under the kitchen sink remained undetected for at least a month, draining unseen through the concrete foundations. Some kitchen units will require partial rebuilding with DIY. It was decided that a claim would not be made to the insurers as the cost of the leak itself is not (apparently) covered and the ongoing impact on premiums for the repairs would exceed any claim. The water bill itself costs c£800 despite long and detailed engagement with the water company. A proposal for an automated water leak detector will be brought forward.
2. The cleaning schedule has been reviewed and requests to remove high-level spiders has been effective. No further complaints have been received.
3. Planting around the Hall and the new planter at the front look great, with a significant donation of soil from a local company. A heartfelt thank-you to the Gardening Club. The grass cutting has kept the area tidy.

New Assets

Generous donations, prudent use of funds and time given by local experts has enabled the purchase and installation of:

1. An internal PA and music system for lectures
2. An enhanced fire warning system
3. Extended CCTV to cover the upper carpark to make sure that it is open and used
4. Greater memory for CCTV to cover longer periods of time (more than 7 days)
5. 4 additional tables to match the number of chairs and 2 damaged tables removed
6. The key safe replaced & re-sited under CCTV cameras
7. New cooker and hob, kettles and mugs

Income and expenditure. Over the course of the year a new double signature digital bank account was successfully introduced. The final accounts for 24/25 show that the Hall was running at breakeven with the costs and income around £12,000 for the year.

It should be noted that for this year's income

1. The support from ACRE of c£1,100 has been withdrawn for all Halls, which is a 10% reduction in our income.
2. Club income - the loss of the Chair Yoga income and reduced karate club usage has been offset by Iaido taking an extra day
3. The Hall has held the hire rates for the 2nd year and remains competitive with other local Halls
4. The Hall continues to support the local regular users with a reduced rate (50%) from the baseline £20/hour and a greater discount for the smaller clubs
5. Occasional direct fund raising for the Hall itself has been limited by the shortage of volunteer time

To increase revenue we have:

1. The University of 3rd Age for badminton, Weight watchers and NHS for mental wellbeing clinic. Other ideas and outreach welcome.
2. We have registered the Hall on the ACRE website to promote our Hall to the wider community

Running costs have increased significantly, particularly electricity, which is c£3,575 annually (c£3,200 for the winter period), although the solar panels are now helping during the summer months with £175 generated from the return to the grid.

1. The solar system has been inspected to optimise the beneficial impact and reduce costs further, particularly the function of the batteries. The outcome is awaited.
2. The radiant heaters are effective but heat the entire Hall air space and are expensive - to put this in context a 4 hour evening hire to a regular club will raise £40 and cost £41 (c147kWh at 28ppkWh) - a loss.

The current dual rate tariff precludes the use of night rate to charge the batteries and will be reviewed on contract renewal in April 2027

Compliance. Existing fire certificates remain valid, whilst regular fire safety inspections are scheduled and conducted by a committee member.

Security of the Hall users - Stockport impact has been evaluated and hirers agreements now include recommendations for hirers about securing unexpected access.

The need for and cost of a music license under the new rules will be considered at the next meeting.

Charity Commission financial returns and trustee details are complete and up to date, and I note the increasing time, resource demands and cost of compliance is increasing as the complexity of the returns is increasing.

Electrical Installation Certificate remains valid and scheduled for re-test by August 2029.

Parking. A complaint about the behaviour of the members' parents waiting to pick up their children from a busy club was received, solutions identified and formally reported to the PC. The club was reprimanded and identified actions implemented, including instructions and expectations given to each hirer. No further complaints have been received. Some clubs are very busy, which places pressure on the lower car park and this parking remains under regular review.

Martin Kerslake. Chair WWVHMC.

ARTS CLUB.

The newly created Arts Club holds regular sessions in the Village Hall. The current sessions focus on watercolour painting and are hosted by the artist Andrew Dockerill. The sessions are usually on a Friday evening and cater for all levels of interest and ability, including those who have never painted before. The current sessions are attended by about 8 people. Materials such as paper and paints are provided. Andrew adapts his teaching to the audience. Each week, confidence and skill grow as people learn new techniques.

We would love more people to join the sessions and to give watercolour painting a go. It's a lovely way to get to know other people in the village and to master a new, or long forgotten skill.

Indi Liepa

WEST WICKHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Unfortunately, after 26 years the Club will more than likely have to close by the end of the year. There were 30 or so members back when it started but this has dwindled to just 7 regular players despite much encouragement for others to

join us. The Club will be forced into this, not by an unwillingness or ability to play, but because it is increasingly difficult for remaining members to get out and put away equipment. We have often had to cancel meetings at short notice because there have not been enough people who can physically do this.

Carpet bowls may not be a heavily aerobic sport but it promotes good hand/eye coordination and team work – all transferable skills to other sports. All equipment is provided, it's cheap to play, suitable for all abilities, great fun and makes a great sociable evening, plus it's right on the doorstep and provides a regular income for the Village Hall. It's hard to see why people don't want to play. It's a sad reflection on our times that people seemingly prefer to contact each other on Whatsapp rather than meet their neighbours face to face and support community endeavour!

So, PLEASE HELP SAVE OUR CLUB. Just come along at 7pm on a Wednesday evening or contact me:

Janet Morris:

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

I'm happy to report that the Gardening Club continues to grow from strength to strength. This is in large part due to the very active and talented committee who worked hard to deliver both the traditional events and new initiatives that are carrying the Club forward. We are also lucky to have an extremely supportive and committed membership who are prepared to give their time, effort and produce in order for the Club events to be welcoming, varied and increasingly successful.

With an expanding membership (81, up on last year's record number of 67) the Club is looking to the future and how to offer quality, variety and interest for members of all ages.

We are particularly appreciative of the sound system in the Village Hall, provided by the Hub Night team, which has enabled us to provide a greatly enhanced experience on speaker evenings. We have noticed a marked increase in numbers attending and are looking for other ways to improve these events over the coming year.

As a gardening club for modern times, we feel it is important to inform not only about gardening but also about how to support the ecosystem around us. With these aims in mind, the speaker programme has been thoughtfully curated to offer a range of topics that cover individual plants, gardening techniques and styles, the history of gardening as well as conservation.

We continue to have two major events in the year:

- The Plant Sale on Saturday 17th May was our biggest to date and at which we took card payments for the first time.
- The Summer Fair on Saturday 6th September continues to evolve with many more plants for sale than the previous year, the Photography Competition winners and stalls from conservation and garden-related groups. The highlight of this year's Fair was Malcolm Cameron's display hive and I'm sure many young visitors will remember getting up close to the bees as they moved around their home.

As well as the garden-related offerings, of course, none of these would be so well attended without the delicious cakes so kindly donated by members which enable visitors to enjoy the shows and each other's company in a relaxing environment.

During the summer we also managed to fit in two summer visits to National Garden Scheme gardens. These are

members-only events where scheme members open their gardens to us for evening visits and are another opportunity to meet each other as well as discuss the fascinating gardens we are visiting.

The Club strives to be an active force in bringing members of the community together and we see this as a large part of our remit. Offering a friendly environment to gardeners from first timers to accomplished allotment holders provides a vibrant range of conversations at our meetings and, we ^{hope,} leads to long-standing friendships in the village.

We are looking forward to the 2026-27 year with optimism and welcoming old and new members to the Club.

Sally Collins, Chair.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The Club has had a full programme this year with talks on Balsham, Cambridge's Sturbridge Fair, the life and death of Richard III (more relevant than it appears as men from the village may well have accompanied their Lord of the Manor, William Alington, and fought for the King at Bosworth), the life of Oliver Cromwell and the experiences of emigrants to Canada from the area. A display was provided about the Home Guard in West Wickham for the Big Garden Party last summer. This was not a particularly successful event for the Club as the associated dog show kept owners (quite rightly) out of the Village Hall and there was no encouragement to support the stands inside.

The Club is affiliated to both Cambridge Antiquarian Society and the Cambs Association for Local History which gives wider links within the County. The Secretary is a Council member for the former and represents it on the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local History. The Club will have a display at the Open Day of Cambs Archives in Ely on 20 July. This will give members of the public an opportunity to see where and how archives are stored including many from West Wickham (eg Parish Council records, Parish registers for baptism, marriage and burial and school log books).

The Club welcomes new members and can provide help and information on village, family and house history. It maintains an extensive photographic archive from which copies can be provided.

Further information and details can be had from Janet Morris, 21 High Street
Tel: 290863 Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The draft minutes of the May meeting are displayed on the noticeboards and will be on the village website. The following are the more important items discussed.

Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and appointment to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Two new councillors, Amelia Cornish and Nick Salter were welcomed onto the Council. Cllr. Alex Schuilenburg was elected as Chairman and Dave Sergeant as Vice Chairperson. Caroline Mulley-Richards will continue as representative to the Village Hall Committee.

Correspondence:

A letter of resignation from Jenny Richards, our long serving Parish Clerk has been received and our new Parish Clerk, Jess Ashbridge was introduced. Jenny will be retiring in November.

Planning:

Kingsway Solar Park - The PINS submission to the government has been delayed twice. Kingsway will issue guidelines to people who wish to respond to the Planning Inspectorate. (Ed. See front page)

Finance:

End of Year accounts 2025/2026: The years accounts and bank reconciliation were agreed and signed prior to being submitted to the internal auditor:

Authorised Payments and monies received are shown in the draft minutes.

Traffic & Parking issues:

Potholes & Flooding: County Cllr Batchelor was asked to again press the County Council Highways Dept to repair the reported potholes and replace the broken signs.

Speedwatch. There was an initial response to the new equipment with December showing no speeding but in January 161 vehicles were speeding. Cllr. McNeillie suggested using the spare moveable speed signs where necessary, including for traffic coming into West Wickham from Balsham.

Maintenance:

Footpaths: Cllr Temple, who checked the footpaths, is no longer on the Council. The Chairman hoped that those who use the footpaths would notify the Council of any problems.

ABC Tree notice: Rob Giles had decided not to cut grass anymore but concentrate on his tree surgery side of his business. It is hoped he would continue to look after the hedging but not the weed-killing.

Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

1. *Repairs to play equipment & broken fencing.* Following the RoSPA report the cable-way needs replacement wooden posts. The seat has been removed as recommended by RoSPA. This is a big job and the Council needs to investigate the cost of the repair.
2. *Five-aside project.* The Council has been offered a sit-on mower by Cllr. Copas to cut the new 5-aside area. The Chairman had shared a map showing two suitable locations for storage of the mower and goalposts. He will investigate the preferred location on the grass which is nearer to the 5-aside area so less distance to carry equipment after games.
3. *The "Strowger" bench.* The Parish Clerk had been told that the old bench would be shortly cleared away and the new bench put in place.
4. *Allotment vacant plot.* The Parish Clerk had been in touch with Mrs Vera Donert about the clearing the allotment before it can be re-let.
5. *Defibrillator. AED batteries:* There is a national shortage of replacement batteries. Checks of the machine will be done more regularly to ensure that the device is still serviceable.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on
Monday 27 July.**

All are ENCOURAGED to attend!

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk.

T: 01223 665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is asking residents to share their views on proposed changes to local bus services. The proposals aim to improve reliability, strengthen connections and ensure services continue to meet local travel needs. They include proposed changes to the 16A service, which connects West Wickham with Cambridge, Addenbrooke's and Great Thurlow, as well as other services across East Cambridgeshire and the rest of the region.

No decisions have been made, and residents are encouraged to review the proposals and have their say before the engagement closes at **5pm on Tuesday 28 July**. View the proposals and complete the survey:

<https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/>



MOBILE LIBRARY

This stocks a great selection of books for all ages with each vehicle carrying up to 3000 items of stock. There are fiction, non-fiction, large print, audio books etc. plus NHS hearing aid batteries, postage stamps & reading glasses. The ferrules on walking sticks can be checked and replaced.

This will be at:

Streetly End on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.50 – 3.05pm
High Street layby (between Village Hall & Maypole Croft) on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3.15 – 3.30pm

Make use of this wonderful resource.

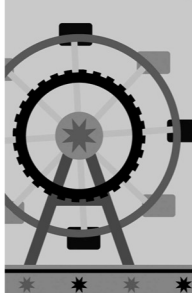


**BUTTERCUPS
SUMMER
FAIR**


Sunday 12th July
12-2pm
MEADOW PRIMARY – BALSHAM
SCHOOL LANE ENTRANCE

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Bouncy Castles •
- Face Painting •
- BBQ •
- Games •
- Sweets & Popcorn •
- Tombola & Raffle •
- Temporary Tattoos •
- and much more!



£6 PER CHILD – INCLUDES BOUNCY CASTLES

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As the summer term gathers pace, Meadow children have been embracing new challenges, stepping out of their comfort zones and making the most of some fantastic opportunities. From scaling high ropes in Norfolk to building confidence in the swimming pool, pupils have shown determination, resilience and a real sense of adventure.

Year 6 Enjoy an Unforgettable Residential visit. One of the highlights of the term has undoubtedly been the residential visit to Norfolk Lakes. The children spent five action-packed nights away, taking part in a huge range of exciting activities designed to challenge them, build confidence and encourage teamwork. From kayaking and giant paddleboarding to crate stacking, high ropes and archery, there was no shortage of adventure. The children demonstrated resilience, determination and excellent teamwork throughout the week, often stepping outside their comfort zones to try something new. The visit provided countless opportunities for personal growth, friendship and fun, and the children returned full of stories, memories and smiles. It was clear they had an absolutely fantastic time.

Making a Splash! Another much-loved part of life at The Meadow continues to be our swimming provision. We are incredibly fortunate to have a heated swimming pool on site, allowing every child from Reception through to Year 6 to enjoy regular swimming lessons throughout the year. Swimming is an essential life skill, and it has been wonderful to see children grow in confidence and ability in the water. Whether taking their first tentative strokes or refining more advanced techniques, pupils continue to make excellent progress.

Supporting a Unique Opportunity. At a time when school budgets continue to be stretched, we recognise just how fortunate we are to be able to offer this opportunity to all of our children. Maintaining and operating the pool is a significant commitment, but one that we believe brings enormous benefits to our pupils. We are committed to continuing this provision for future generations of Meadow children. If there are any local businesses, organisations or individuals who would be interested in supporting the running of our swimming pool through sponsorship, donations or partnership opportunities, we would be delighted to hear from you via the school office.

As we move towards the end of another successful academic year, we look forward to celebrating even more achievements and sharing the final few weeks of learning, adventure and fun with our school community.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

UKRAINE'S CONTINUING CRISIS LET'S NOT FORGET THEM PLEASE HELP

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 25 July at Abington Primary School from 9.00am until 1.00pm. Organised by Saffron Walden Rotary this will be the twenty-fifth collection that Rotary has organised since Ukraine was invaded.

Donations, together with food and generators bought using cash contributions, are taken to UK-Aid, the local charity also known as Felsted Aid for Deprived Children. They already have a large amount of clothing to process so have asked that clothing not be donated for the time being.

Please help us. If you have any queries contact Tony Collett on tony.collett3112@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

Migration is a hot topic at present in both the human and natural world. Nature is no respecter of national boundaries and this month we have some very interesting reports of arrivals in our part of the world.

The **golden oriole** is a relative of starlings, and at one time, regularly bred at Lakenheath Fen. It seems not to have bred in this country since 2009, but this year apparently some have overshot their migration and have been seen in southern counties, including Cambridgeshire. Both the song (like a blackbird yodelling) and appearance (the males are bright yellow and black) are recognisable although they are very elusive and tend to stay in the upper parts of the tree canopy. Here in Streetly End the 'Merlin App' was picking up their song for four successive days during the hot spell in May and at least two people claimed to have seen flashes of yellow. The bird's presence coincided with a lot of activity among recently fledged starlings who were creating havoc in various gardens as they discovered the new world outside their nests. Perhaps there is a link.

The **painted lady** butterfly is globally widespread. Those we see in Britain are thought to emerge in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco before beginning their journey northward. Some fly all the way to Britain while others settle in Spain, race through their breeding cycle in as little as six weeks and pass on the baton to their offspring who continue the relay. The early arrivals in Britain also breed here (the favourite food plant for their caterpillars is the thistle) and if conditions are good will produce offspring who will be seen in July and August. I have seen a number of these butterflies in the village (likely to be those who took a direct flight from Morocco) so perhaps we can hope that 2026 will be a 'painted lady year'.

Di did her own bit of migrating in May to the north-west of Scotland where it never really gets dark at that time of year. The night long twilight is known up there as the '*simmer dim*'. With so much light it is not surprising that many birds seemed to be calling constantly – notably ravens on the hillside and gulls and oystercatchers on the beach. However it was our most illustrious migrants, the cuckoos, which



were omnipresent. They began calling at 5.30 am and continued for most of the day (can you get fed up of a cuckoo?) and were joined by wrens, wheatears, linnets, twite and meadow pipits. Some of these ground nesters (particularly the pipits) would have been anxious about the cuckoos' intentions.

Plants do migrate, but not quite as quickly as birds and butterflies. One family that we hope stay with us (though you are never entirely sure where they will appear) are the orchids and some are showing now – particularly the bee and pyramidal varieties. Those that I have seen are rather smaller than usual and I was wondering whether this was down to the very dry May. Di in Scotland saw lots of pyramidal orchids growing amongst the tussock grass, also quite small.

Drawing of a cuckoo by Maureen Williams

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