

VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

AUGUST 2026

ISSUE 279

WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	5 August	Black
Wednesday	12 August	Blue & Green
Wednesday	19 August	Black
Wednesday	26 August	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

2 August	11.00 Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
9 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
16 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
23 August	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
30 August	11.00. Holy Communion at Balsham Church

For more details visit www.grantavale.org.uk

★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

NEXT DATE: **15.08.2026** 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 SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

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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.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



Get Set for the Gardening Fair!

Our biggest event of the summer calendar is just a few weeks away: the Club's own **Gardening Fair** on **Saturday 12 September**, 10.30 - 1.00 at the Village Hall.

With the 'live hive' of Malcolm Cameron's Streetly End bees being the highlight of last year's Fair it's going to be a tough act to follow but we are going to give it a go! There will be **plants and produce** for sale, a **raffle, quiz** and the **photography competition** winners plus a few surprises.

Of course, there will be **tea and homemade cakes** for you to enjoy while chatting to other visitors so it proves to be an enjoyable social occasion. **Everyone is welcome so do come and join us.**

And, as if that wasn't enough, we also have a **talk on Monday 21 September** by David Hinkley on the subject of *Soil Science: the hidden world beneath our feet*. We'll be using the Club's new state-of-the-art projector for the first time so we hope you won't miss what we hope will be a most enjoyable evening.

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.

PHOTO COMPETITION

High summer is giving different opportunities for photos, with some beautiful sunsets and harvest underway in the fields. Together with holidays, that's plenty of scope for entries the 2026 photo competition. It's open to everyone living in the area or with some connection, so give it a go. The categories this year are:

Lovely leaves

Sky's the limit

Along the path

The closing date is 4 September. The winners will be announced at the Gardening Fair on **Saturday 12 September** and all entries will be on display.

The rules are simple: photos must have been taken after 1 October 2025, two entries for each category are allowed, and it's 50p per entry.

The email address for entries and any questions is photo@westwickham.org. Payment is by bank transfer to the West Wickham & District Gardening Club account 30-93-99 00394794, or if you'd rather pay by cash, email for details.

Alice and Andy Mitchell

DEVANA FOOTPATHS AND PONDS

As wildlife has started to return to the area in abundance, walkers are reminded to please stick to **public footpaths only** and for those with dogs to keep them under close control. Several walkers have been seen crossing the fields, unfortunately some with dogs off lead, disturbing young deer, rabbits, hares and nesting birds. Pond life, including protected newts, can now also be found in the ponds, so please **DO NOT SWIM IN THE PONDS**, or allow your dogs to enter the water.

Alex Schulenburg, Chair WWPC.

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL PITCH UPDATE

Suitable goals, pitch-marking equipment and paint have now been purchased using the fantastic funds raised through last December's Auction of Promises. Once again, a huge thank you to all those who donated lots, and to everyone who placed bids and made purchases.

Since then, a ride-on mower has also been generously donated and renovated through the Parish Council. Other companies have pledged lawn dressing, grass seed, fertiliser, labour, advice and even a finishing mower to help give the pitch a professional finish. The Parish Council has agreed to purchase secure storage for the mower, marking equipment and other maintenance items. Meanwhile, volunteers are working hard to apply for funding for an FA storage container. This would provide out-of-season storage for the goals, as well as space for footballs and training equipment for residents, clubs, schools and other groups wishing to use the field for training or matches.

Following a number of delays and unsuitable ground conditions, the Parish Council and existing volunteers are now aiming to have a marked and playable five-a-side pitch ready by the first or second week of August, shortly after the goals and marking equipment arrive. In October, we hope to dress and seed the field to establish a high-quality playing surface for everyone to enjoy. We also hope to encourage use of the pitch by clubs, schools and other organisations, helping to contribute towards its ongoing maintenance.

To make this happen, we need volunteers for a wide range of tasks. These include helping to establish the pitch, dress, seed and water the field, and assist with mowing, maintenance and pitch marking. We would also welcome ideas about how the pitch should be maintained, used and shared, and even take over and/or help with the management. This could include helping to organise informal kickabouts, friendly matches, training sessions and other activities.

If you are interested in helping, volunteering or playing, please join the 5-a-Side WhatsApp group within the West Wickham WhatsApp Community by scanning the QR code.



Alternatively, please email Alex at alex@schuilenburg.org.

West Wickham Village Hall

COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 on Thursday

13TH AUGUST

*Selection of hot & cold drinks
Variety of homemade cakes & goodies*



ALL WELCOME

Call Sue Thurston (01223 897811)

KSCA CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Kingsway expected back soon

While the application was withdrawn in July, Kingsway Solar has indicated that it intends to revise and resubmit its planning application as soon as possible. So, although we've had a brief pause, the campaign is far from over. We expect a new application sooner rather than later, making it more important than ever that everyone stays informed and is ready for the next stage.

Why was the application withdrawn? The Planning Inspectorate published a detailed letter explaining why the application wasn't ready to proceed. Its concerns included:

- Missing wildlife and environmental surveys
- Outstanding issues relating to archaeology and heritage
- Missing information and inconsistencies within the application documents
- Concerns that local people had not been given enough information to properly understand the proposals and comment on them
- Doubts that the application contained enough information for the examination to be completed within the statutory timetable

As Kingsway prepares a revised application, we believe these issues must be fully addressed. If a developer cuts corners when preparing an application, it does not inspire confidence that a project of this scale will be planned, built and managed to the high standards needed to protect wildlife, the environment and our villages.

Stay connected by email. If you're not on Facebook, Instagram or WhatsApp, you can still stay up to date by joining the KSCA email mailing list. We'll send you the latest campaign news, planning updates and details of future meetings and consultation events. To join, complete our Google form or email hello@kingswayaction.org



Did you know? It can be difficult to visualise the scale of a **500MW solar farm** from the numbers alone. That's why our 'Did You Know?' campaign is sharing comparisons that help bring the proposal to life.

- Kingsway Solar Farm would be **around 20 times larger** than the existing Wilbraham Solar Farm.
- The proposed solar panels would stand **up to 4.2 metres high** - about the height of a Park & Ride bus.



Look out for more facts and comparisons as we continue to explain what a development of this scale could mean for our local area.

Kathy Day. KSCA

WELL DONE TOM

Josh Kerr beat the world record in the Emsley Carr mile at the London Diamond League on 18 July. West Wickham's Tom Keen was in that historic race and finished 8th in a personal best time of 3.49.33. Well done Tom.

A HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Traditionally, harvest has been celebrated through thanksgiving services, usually held when the Harvest Moon was at its fullest. This year this falls on 26 - 27 September and we would like to put together an exhibition of harvest in past times to recognise the historic significance of a good harvest for communities like West Wickham, alongside the opportunity to reflect on the continuing importance of producing food here in the 'breadbasket' of England.

We would like as many people as possible, of all ages, to be involved. If you have memories or can remember talking about harvest customs or events with grandparents, friends or relatives, please create a record. Or, write an imaginative story or poem. Do you have an old photograph that holds a story? Have a go and we will share them. Here is a limerick by Vivienne Henderson for amusement and inspiration.

What happens to those fields of wheat?
It's very good for us to eat.
So, thanks to clever human tricks,
It's made into the crunchy mix
That we all know asWeetabix!

Come on Saturday 26 September, and see old photographs, tools and artefacts and take part in some creative activities. Join us on Sunday 27 September, to give thanks for what has been created and for the gifts we receive and share.

Look for more details in the September issue.

St. Mary's PCC

FROM THE VICARAGE

For some of us, the idea of stepping into a church building can seem like a journey too far. Past experiences, memories of how church used to be long ago can set up a barrier, beyond which we may never tread. I should say though that our services today are places where all are welcome and our parish churches are also open for us during the day as spaces for quiet reflection. It's not unusual to have faith in God. As we journey in our own personal ways, our faith may be inspired by many different places, including our churches, but not limited to them.

I am reminded of the Welsh poet and priest R S Thomas who touches on the overlapping boundaries of faith with our natural environment. In his poem *The Moor*, he explores the reality of God as he meets us beyond the church, in a place which "was like a church to me" and where "There were no prayers said. But stillness / Of the heart's passion – that was praise / Enough;".

While church remains a central focus of worship and teaching, R S Thomas suggests that our natural environment can also be experienced like a holy place. Even as we glance out of the window, we may connect with a sense of creation, beyond but perhaps connected to our spiritual selves. As we step out across our fields and through open woodland we may notice a profound humbling release of the ego; a letting go of self.

R S Thomas also uses the phrase "the mind's cession / Of its kingdom". This implies a moment of deep surrender; a prayer-like journey towards stillness. This may occur on a dog walk or a wander in your garden, but it can be like a church to us. Above all, we may notice that beyond our troubles and concerns, there is loving God who soothes the brow and says 'all shall be well'. Church and our natural environment may both become like a holy space before God – a place where we are held by the assurance of love, joy and peace.

Steven Wheeler, Lay Minister

WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST

THERE USED TO BE....

Parish-level responsibility for poor relief

For some two hundred years up until 1834 support for those inhabitants experiencing poverty legally lay with individual parishes. Before this it had simply been left to religious foundations or other charitable effort. Poor relief was funded by the collection of a Poor Rate from those better off members of the community such as property owners and tenant farmers. It was collected and dispensed by one or two ratepayers elected from within their number who were known as Overseers of the Poor.

The poor were classified into three categories: the impotent poor unable to work – the elderly, chronic sick, infirm, widows, orphans; the unemployed able bodied and those unwilling to work. This distinction between 'deserving poor' and 'undeserving poor' still forms part of any discussions on welfare provision to this day. The first category could be helped with things like money, rent, fuel, clothing or food. The other two categories were to be found work or would receive no help.

Unfortunately for West Wickham, only the parish Overseers' Accounts survive for the years covering 1830 to 1832 but these do give some idea about the poor relief the Overseers were providing. The parish owned six poor houses – a double cottage divided into four in a rather isolated position on the outskirts (where there is now a small patch of woodland on the left past the last house going towards the top crossroads) and an unidentified double cottage in the High Street. In addition to these they were supporting a number of people outside the poor houses, mainly widows, with their rent.

The Overseers made regular purchases of sheets, shifts (an undergarment), shirts and calico along with paying for the mending of shoes. In 1830, 400 bushels of coal were bought to distribute during the winter months. Allowances were paid to a family where the husband was in prison and several men were supported while ill and unable to work. A doctor was paid for medical attendance and there was payment of a weekly bill to Ann Lawrence, who may have been a shopkeeper, so was possibly for redeeming food vouchers. Payments were made for confinements, coffins and burial costs and for the support of orphans.

All this locally funded and disbursed, face to face poor relief ended in 1834 when the Poor Law Amendment Act grouped parishes in Unions to administer a new system under a seemingly more remote and impersonal Board of Guardians. Linton Union, including West Wickham, was comprised of twenty three parishes from Duxford to Burrough Green and from Sawston to Castle Camps with each parish nominating a Guardian. This new system was designed to be a deterrent and reduce costs. The test for needing help was determined by a willingness or not to admit your family to the Union workhouse (the purpose-built Linton workhouse is now Symonds House) with its regime of hard labour and austere conditions including the segregation of men and women, husbands and wives and children from parents. This however is another story.

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

NATURE NOTES

I am sometimes reminded that homo sapiens is probably still evolving. Let's hope we can complete the process before we self-destruct by continuing to emit carbon into the atmosphere. The recent frequent and prolonged heatwave should be a wake-up call for all.

As a result of the hot weather, early morning dog walks are essential and they have produced a couple of very uplifting highlights for me. The first was the sight of a number of recently fledged **nuthatches** on the corner of Hare Wood. They were very active but one of the adults could be seen in characteristic pose going head-first down the trunk of an ash tree. Nuthatches are one of our most beautifully marked birds with slate grey back, apricot underneath and a black eye stripe. If you are lucky enough to tempt them onto your bird feeder, you will find them rather aggressive towards other birds wishing to share the bounty.

The other highlight for me was the appearance of **yellow wagtails** in the sugar beet field next to our garden. Yellow wags are summer visitors that have declined markedly in recent years so to see them so close to home in the same location as last year was a real treat. The yellow wagtail is an unusual species in that there are six or seven sub-species from parts of mainland Europe showing different facial patterns, some of which occasionally visit Britain. The form with which we are most familiar, *flavissima*, has correspondingly started to breed in parts of Norway, France and the Netherlands. The call of the yellow wag is very similar to its pied cousin, and is often emitted in flight so may be equally deserving of the nickname '*chiswick flyover*.'

The Big Butterfly Count runs until 9 August so I hope as many of you as possible are engaging in this citizen science survey, which asks us to spend 15 minutes identifying butterflies and day-flying moths, and recording them on the Butterfly Conservation web site. The hot dry weather seems to have benefited butterflies. There have been a good number of **marbled whites** and **meadow browns** in early July, and at the time of writing there are plentiful **gatekeepers**, **small and green-veined whites** and still **painted ladies** which have been seen for many weeks. Add to this the more familiar **peacocks**, **small tortoiseshells** and **red admirals** which are particularly attracted to buddleia. I was lucky enough to be paid a visit by a silver-washed fritillary, a woodland butterfly which seems to be bucking the trend of many other species by doing very well and increasing its range. Of the day-flying moths, two of the more notably colourful have been seen recently – the **scarlet tiger** (in the Editor's garden), and the **jersey tiger**. The scarlet tiger has benefited from the spread of its food plant (comfrey) combined with its ability to disperse widely to take advantage of changing circumstances. Yellow and black stripy cinnabar moth caterpillars can be seen on ragwort plants (particularly on the allotments).

In the hot weather it is so beneficial for many forms of wildlife to keep a bowl of water available. Your Editor has a bucket of 'grey' water to use on plants, but after leaving it outside overnight discovered a frog swimming around in it. This must have involved considerable gymnastic ability. I keep a trug in our copse which is used by **badgers** (for drinking and bathing), **squirrels**, **foxes** and various bird species, including recently a magnificent **buzzard**.

Please send your nature sightings to:

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

CONNECTING WITH NATURE THROUGH ART

The Flora & Fauna of East Anglia exhibition running from 26 August to 26 September at Gallery Above & Beyond, 94 High Street, Linton, showcases a delightful collaboration between local wildlife conservation groups and six talented local artists.

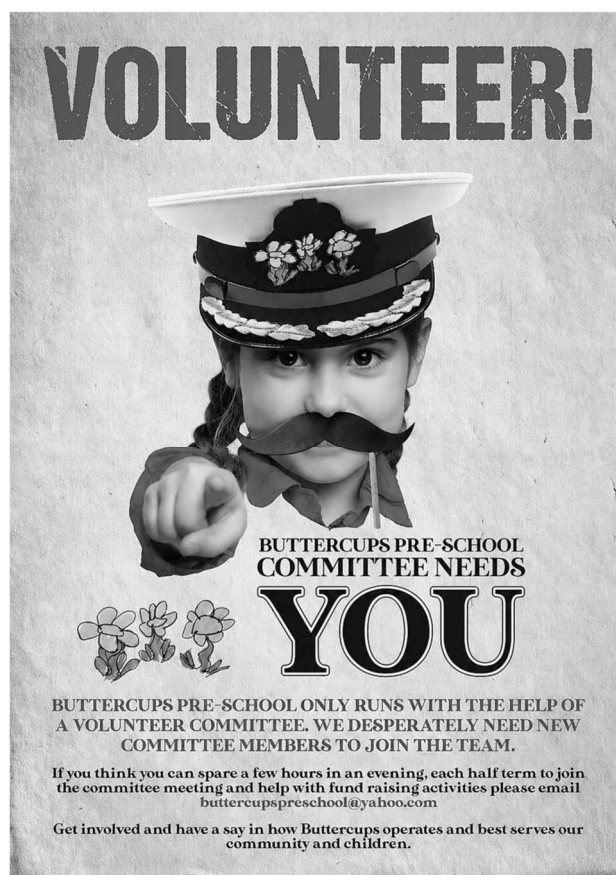
Discover the amazing wildlife that can be seen across the region through the lens of wildlife photographer Paul Wyer, who works for the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire. Paul will also be presenting a Wildlife Trust display featuring information on local nature reserves and inspiring places to explore.

Enjoy stunning artwork by Ali Ginn, Sachiko Purser, Diana Catchpole, Darryl Nantais and Maureen Williams, with original paintings, prints and greetings cards available to view and purchase.

THANK YOU FROM BUTTERCUPS COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

The children, staff, parent committee and families of Buttercups would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone in our village and neighbouring villages who have supported us over the past year. Whether attending our events, volunteering your time, donating resources, or simply offering words of encouragement, your kindness and generosity make a real difference. Your support helps us provide a happy, nurturing and enriching environment where our children can learn, play and grow. We are especially grateful to the local businesses, organisations, and residents who continue to champion our pre-school and help us remain an important part of the village community. **We have a few spaces still available for September please contact us on buttercupsadmissions@yahoo.com for more information.**

Have a lovely summer! Buttercups Community Pre-School



BALSHAM SINGERS

The Choir starts again on 10 September 7.30pm at Balsham Pavilion. Watch out for information on our Come and Sing event on 7 November raising money for The Royal British Legion. Enquiries to Jo Stinton, text mob : 07977502015

LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, Read to the Beat, is here! To complete the challenge, children simply need to read six library books over the summer holidays and collect a sticker for each one. Families can sign up in the Library for free.

- **Drop In Summer Craft Club:** Saturday 1, 8, 15 & 22 August.
- With the **holiday season** upon us, make sure you stock up on some reading matter to take with you. Travel guides, sci-fi, romance, audio books or large print – we have something for everyone (and if we don't, we can reserve an item for you for only 50p).
- **Blood Pressure Monitors:** Cambridgeshire Libraries are offering blood pressure monitors to borrow from all our libraries and mobile libraries. Any library member aged 18 or over can borrow a monitor for 3 weeks and for free. Ask at the library for information.
- **Daylight Readers:** Our Book Groups meet once a month on a Friday, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm.
- **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.

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 July meeting, our President, Bridget Durham, kindly welcomed us into her lovely garden and we enjoyed a relaxed evening of wonderful food, drink and plenty of chat amongst members. It was the perfect setting and weather and a chance for members to catch up and socialise before we pause for our summer break. We have no meeting in August but will be back in the Pavilion for our next meeting on Tuesday 8 September. For this we will be joined by Lindsey Barrell for a talk on "Burlesque, WI and Me". We first met Lindsey on Zoom back in lockdown and she was very entertaining, so it will be wonderful to have her join us in person with what promises to be a fun and fascinating talk.

SAVE THE DATE

Balsham WI Autumn Fair, Saturday 3 October. 10am – 2pm @ Balsham Church Institute.

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

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

As another academic year comes to a close, it's safe to say we've had a busy end to the summer term.

Stepping into the spotlight. One of the highlights was undoubtedly our Year 5 and 6 production of *The Greatest Show*. The children put on an incredible performance, showcasing not only their acting talents but also some fantastic singing. This year saw lots of solo performances, which was wonderful to see and hear, with so many children stepping confidently into the spotlight. Performing in such warm conditions made their achievement even more impressive!

Across the school, children have been busy completing their final topics and celebrating all they've learned throughout the year. Classrooms have been full of exciting DT projects, creative end-of-unit activities and all the special traditions that make the final weeks of term so memorable.

A Day at the seaside. One of our absolute favourites has to be our Whole School Beach Trip. Thanks to the support of our PTA and the fundraising efforts from our Summer Fête, we were able to take every child in the School to Hunstanton Beach. Although the weather was certainly on the windy side, it didn't dampen anyone's spirits! The children loved building sandcastles, paddling in the sea and enjoying time with their friends. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils even had the chance to experience the fairground rides, making for an unforgettable day. It was certainly tiring, but full of smiles, laughter and lasting memories.



Thank you to our community. As we reflect on another successful year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our parents, carers and the wider local community for their continued support. It has been a year of change and challenge - from frozen pipes in the winter to soaring temperatures in the summer - but, as always, we've faced everything together.

Throughout it all, our school values have remained at the heart of everything we do: **We Respect, We Care and We Learn.** We are incredibly proud of our pupils and everything they have achieved this year.

We wish everyone in our community a wonderful, restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year at The Meadow Primary School.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Students from LVC have showcased outstanding artistic talent both at home and abroad this July, celebrating a remarkable summer of achievement through music and dance.

Thirty musicians and singers from Years 7–11 recently embarked on a concert tour of Belgium as members of the Linton Symphonic Wind Orchestra and Linton Voices Choir. Following more than 30 hours of rehearsal, students performed in De Panne and Ostend. The programme featured classical, popular and film music alongside an original choral composition by Mia in Year 11.

Closer to home, LVC students took part in *Voices of Hope and Compassion* at the Cambridge Corn Exchange, a concert celebrating the 80th birthday of acclaimed poet and author Michael Rosen while highlighting the experiences of refugees. Lower and Upper School Dance Companies created and performed a moving piece inspired by one of Rosen's poems, reflecting on the tragic story of two of his relatives during the Second World War. The performance was enhanced by an original composition written and performed by Year 11 student Mia, which received considerable praise from Michael Rosen.



Dance students have also been sharing their skills with younger pupils. During the Year 6 induction day, Year 7 performed a dance showcase for incoming students, while five Year 8 dancers led a workshop for Year 5 pupils at Linton Heights as part of Creativity Week.

The school would like to thank Mrs Juckes, Head of Music, and Mrs Frost, Head of Dance, for their hard work and commitment in making these experiences possible.

Helena Marsh, Principal

West Wickham Village Hall

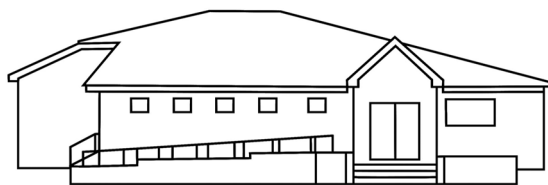
**COFFEE
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*Selection of hot & cold drinks
Variety of homemade cakes & goodies*



ALL WELCOME

Call Sue Thurston (01223 897811)



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

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

NEXT
DATE: **15.08.2026** 7PM-11PM



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