

Linton slowly coming out of lockdown

Over 2,350 copies distributed free in Linton, Hildersham, Hadstock & Bartlow

THE LINTON NEWS

www.thelintonnews.co.uk, email editor.linton.news@gmail.com

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Linton lockdown lift-off

IT is lovely to see most of the High Street open for business, though it is a different experience now, with social distancing and masks/visors/Perspex screens. The latter are to protect both staff and customers but resemble a scene from a sci-fi movie. Before venturing out, please check what is actually open and what safety measures are in place.

We have been fortunate to have the services of the key businesses that were allowed to remain open particularly the Village Pharmacy, the Co-op, Sweet Talk News (including the Post Office), our two lovely bakeries, Case Solved wines, the Farm shop and of course the food collection and delivery services of the Crown and the Dog and Duck.

Some of our shops such as The Flower Boutique have been trading since mid-June with safety alterations paid for by a business grant which Leen was thankful for. She hopes to welcome you into the shop from 4th July, when social distancing rules are relaxed to one metre-plus.

Home has also reopened with a lovely range of gifts. The Darryl Nantais Gallery is open only to pre-booked visits and online. The Linton Kitchen is sticking with the Tuck Shop throughout July until things become clearer and they can reopen with staff safety measures in place. Small Gifts remains closed but is expanding its online service. Designer Drapes in Hadstock is open to booked appointments and has a fine range of face masks in different fabrics and sizes.

Following the Government's announcement that pubs and restaurants can re-open, going to the pub from 4th July will be an alien experience with no standing at the bar and everyone sitting at tables at least one metre apart. It will take patience to pre-book certain venues as spontaneous visits are likely to become a distant memory. See below for a list of what the current plans are but please check with your preferred venue by phone or website before venturing out as the situation remains fluid.

The Waggon and Horses have spent lockdown landscaping the garden and plan to welcome you back see page 4.

The Crown Inn is busy preparing to reopen following their successful takeaway venture with a one-way system and reservation table service with a limited menu alongside their takeaway options.

The Dog and Duck pub turned grocer has no definite date for reopening but continue to offer their very popular food and refreshment from the car park see their advert on page 7.

The Three Hills at Bartlow hopes to open Friday evening and all-day Saturday and Sunday for al fresco dining with a reduced menu to begin with. They will continue with pizzas for collection on Thursdays not Fridays.

The Pear and Olive pub is closed but continues to sell fresh

food and drink from The Pantry farm shop every day except Tuesdays 9am–5.30pm following their successful bid for funds from Pub in the Hub. Later they hope to open the bar garden Thursday to Saturday 5–9pm and Sunday 12noon–4pm.

For our shaggy haired residents there is great relief that hairdressers can also reopen from 4th July under strict guidelines including staff wearing a full-face plastic visor and clients wearing a face mask which may be provided for a small fee. You may also need to wait outside until called in for your appt and follow instructions re hand hygiene. Boyz2men and Chickz, Mops and J and S Hair are all taking bookings but check their safety details on booking. Bizarrely you have a wet cut but no blow dry under the current guidelines.

Most other personal services are also for pre-booked appointments only. For example, Cambridgeshire Family Chiropractic Service, Linton Complementary Health, Mobile Chiropractic Service, Kalma, Simply Feet Chiro pod clinic and Pilates all require booking ahead. Anton at Afib fitness is training by Zoom or in the garden weather permitting.

Beauty Salons and nail technicians are not yet allowed to open but we hope that they will be able to later in the month, along with Gyms and venue hire.

Dentists are operating reduced services and contacting everyone by email or text message.

Businesses in the Grip are now gearing up to a full return to the new normal. Glenwoods is open as usual, Mackenzie and Haywards are open and taking bookings, and so are SQ car sales and Cooper Barnes Automotive.

Our tradespeople have been allowed to do essential maintenance work inside the home during lockdown and building work done outside is allowed.

Linton zoo has re-opened – we will say more on that next month.

As lockdown eases for all businesses in Linton we must give them our support. As a small token of our appreciation of our advertisers past support to us, all their adverts in the July edition are free.

Schools are opening gradually to a few children see pages 2 and 6 and hope to hear more about what will happen in September.

Note: The Cathodeon Centre has had the midwife service and the playgroup operating but not the library or meeting rooms. The Village Hall was able to accommodate the monthly Farmers' Market. Now things are changing, so for all meeting rooms including church halls and school halls and the Recreation Pavilion ring the appropriate booking clerk.

The Linton News Team

GRANTA Medical Practices

WE remain open and continue to work hard to keep our patients as safe as possible, along with our staff and our community, by managing medical care remotely. This way of working has proved very successful and is reflected in the very low number of covid-related illnesses in our area.

Patient access to any Granta site continues to be by invitation only, following a prior telephone assessment and only when the clinician assesses that the balance of risk and need justifies a face-to-face interaction.

We are working hard behind the scenes to see how we can start to safely reintroduce various services and we will keep you updated via our website and social media.

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Tim Harrison as our new Chief Executive Officer.

Having previously worked in the John Lewis Partnership for over 23 years, Tim is committed to taking Granta forward, shaping the new normal of primary care, and embracing the concept of a Primary Care Network.

Tim's vision is clear: "Granta Medical Practices are trail blazers in primary care services and I have been really impressed with their mix of professionalism and patient-centred care. Their response to the recent coronavirus pandemic has been exceptional and their commitment to the safety of their patients, their staff and their community is of paramount importance."

GP Managing Partner, Dr James Morrow, said "We are very pleased to welcome Tim to our team. More so than ever, primary care faces challenging times, and with Tim's expertise I know we will continue to adapt and develop, whilst taking full responsibility for working with our patients to promote health when they are well and to deliver the care needed when they fall ill."

Sandra East, Granta Communications
0300 234 5555 sandra.east@nhs.net

Connections

ON page 5 we have a heart-warming true tale, connecting two generations, that happened whilst the Linton Community Help team did their welfare checks during lockdown.

Yannick of LCHT would love to see if we can set up some more safe exchanges between older and younger people in the village – perhaps sharing stories or letters.

If you are interested in helping with this, please email Yannick at lintoncommunityhelp@gmail.com and mark it FAO Yannick Auckland.

Yannick Auckland

New online directory

Take a look at page 7 for the fabulous new online directory of Linton businesses and shops done by Jenny Seaward. Editor

Linton Community Help Team update

Its's time to change

WHAT a contrast June has been to May – we hope you have survived the wetter weather and that your garden has appreciated the rain.

The weather is not the only thing that has changed. As you may have read here last month, Linton Community Help now has a slightly new way of working. Back in March we set ourselves up in response to an emergency situation as a rapid response team, but we envisaged a sprint and now see that what lies ahead is more of a marathon.....!

With the pace slowing as other services are in place, and demand reducing, we want to still offer help, but create something more sustainable as a longer term resource for the village. So we have been busy contacting all our partners and all our clients - seeing if they need our help still, in some cases arranging new help with prescription delivery or social contact, and ensuring that our food bank clients are safely handed over to Reach, Haverhill.

Our thanks

WE have been working with many other organisations and hope to continue to do so, but we especially want to thank St Mary's Church and all the local businesses who supported the Foodbank, including the Crown, Dog and Duck and Three Hills (Bartlow) pubs; Jigsaw Bakery, the Farm Shop, the Co-op and Tom's Fruit and Veg.

We would also like to thank all those who gave food or cash donations (which will continue to be used to support local people), those who sponsored families, and the fantastic foodbank team!

Last but not least we have been thanking and checking in with all our wonderful volunteers and are delighted to say that many are able to stay on with us to help the community as needs arise.

We can still help

SO please be reassured, the Team will continue to find the best way to help at this time and hopefully for the future and we are still here to help with shopping, garden visits or social phone calls, emergency food or urgent prescription collection and postal errands.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to offer help or need help, or would just welcome a friendly call or garden visit – **please do still get in touch:**

Email us at LintonCommunityHelp@gmail.com or if you do not have access to email you can phone us on 901132

Here are some of us



Upper picture: from left to right Faye, Yannick and Ellie, LCHT Administration team

Lower picture: representatives from the various teams – foodbank, shopping and prescriptions, social contact and leaflet delivery.



Not forgetting you

THANK you to all the neighbours who have been helping each other – please keep in weekly touch with your neighbour, especially if they may be shielding.

We know many of our community don't feel comfortable asking for help, but really appreciate it when people pop by for a chat or to see if there is anything they need.

Many of us may be struggling as the weeks turn into months, feeling increasingly lonely and isolated and welcome a call or visitor. As one of my new friends said to me: "Just talking to you is heaven!"

We are lucky to live in such a lovely and caring village where we all do our bit to help each other.

Faye, Yannick and Ellie,
Linton Community Help Admin team

The foodbank

ALTHOUGH the food bank is now closed, remaining stock from the food bank was shared between local schools and foodbanks and we now work with Reach, Haverhill, offering additional support such as help with fresh food.

Going forward we hope to continue to support the most vulnerable, not just with food needs but with the other impacts of Covid 19: economic hardship, isolation and online access. Our new Leadership Team includes representatives from different agencies so we can work in partnership to identify and support local needs as they arise.

For example, we have been speaking with Linton CE Infant School and Linton Heights Junior School who will be providing food parcels throughout the school holidays to the families of over 50 children who receive free school meals.

The government has now agreed to fund this but at only £15 per week for each child. In addition, the Infant school is self-funding fruit and milk for every child who is in school as the free milk and free fruit scheme has been suspended during the pandemic. LCHT is proposing to top up the budget for each parcel to £20 using some of our remaining donations and grant funds and pay for the fruit and milk.

We have also been working with South Cambs District Council on a new meal delivery scheme and our volunteer drivers will be starting on this from mid-June.

Urgent – Vacancy Linton News Editor

OUR current Editor, Frances Armes, after almost seven years, is going to retire in August for a well-earned rest and we are seeking an enthusiastic and dynamic editor to take over and advance the Linton News still further.

The paper is run by a team of volunteers who work together to produce each month's edition. Being the Editor is a very rewarding way to get involved in the community and really get to know the village. The Linton News is an invaluable source of information for everyone who lives in and around Linton, Hildersham, Bartlow and Hadstock.

If you are interested, do get into contact, even if you have just moved to the village or you have never edited before. You never know, this could be your perfect opportunity! For further details, please e-mail Diana at unabated@talktalk.net

The Linton News Team



Silver Lining at the Heights

IT takes a great deal to make pupils and staff at Linton Heights despondent and one staff member in particular, Mrs Hannah Threlfall, is a shining example of grit and determination and proof that COVID-19 should not get any of us down. Despite being unable to return to school for medical reasons, Hannah has worked tirelessly at home to bring enjoyment to pupils at home during the lockdown and teach us all new skills. She writes:



Mrs Threlfall

Photosupplied by the school

For me one of the silver linings of COVID-19, has been the wonderful ability to adapt and find new ways to interact and share with the pupils of our school. My sewing blogs, posted onto our YouTube account, have enabled me to do just that and share my passion and enjoyment of sewing with the children – allowing them to learn a new life skill whilst having fun.

We started by learning some basic stitches and then we went on to make felt decorations, bunting and we have even made face masks – most apt for these COVID-times.

It took me a while to get my set-up correct and I learnt, in true Blue Peter style, to have one I made earlier at the ready, so my blog did not drag and kept a good pace.

I was very aware that not all of our pupils would have access to the equipment required and so I have been making up packs, which include a needle, threads, fabric, ribbon, stuffing and all the other bits and bobs we need for that week's creation. These are left in a basket on the wall within school, for those who need to collect whilst out on their daily exercise.

It has been an absolute joy to receive emails from the children sharing photographs and tales of their sewing adventures. A little ray of sunshine.



The basket with packs of needles and threads etc.

Photosupplied by the school

James Puxley, Headteacher



Return to Linton Infants

WELL, school is a very strange place at the moment. Following the announcement regarding the return to school for some pupils, our staff team swung into action.

There are many guidelines to try and keep everyone safe on the school site: one-way systems are in place, staggered drop-off and pick-up times, children and staff working in small bubbles with limited resources and space to move around, no assemblies or communal lunches and everyone trying to keep the two metre distance, along with regular washing of hands.

There have been anxieties around the return to school from staff, parents and children; however, I am proud to say that our school still feels a safe and happy place to be. The children are happy and smiling, pleased to be back in some sort of routine.

Staff are pleased to have the opportunity to do what they are trained to do and what they do best, which is to teach the children face-to-face. It is lovely that the school has come back to life, with the sound of chattering and playing echoing along the corridors.

Our online opportunities remain in place for those children who are unable to return to school and we have staff who are working from home, supporting these families and keeping in touch with them. Everyone is working so hard. Our parents really are showing what a resourceful bunch they are, with some fantastic photos of learning taking place at home and around the village.

Once again, stay safe everyone and thank you for your support and best wishes.

Kellie Harries, Headteacher



Granta School activities

WE are continuing to work with our parents/carers during this pandemic to ensure our pupils have access to educational activities, whether they are attending school or learning from home. We are all learning to adapt to the new changes and altered surroundings and thank everyone continuing to support us during these unprecedented times.

The pupils' photo wall is a lovely visual display which continues to grow. Thank you for sending in your photos, they really are a lovely addition to our staff room and we have all enjoyed seeing what our pupils have been up to whilst at home: making cakes, hand painting, arts and crafts including lots of rainbows, swimming, bike riding, walking the dog and so much more. Our website is also a hive of activity, with class work uploaded weekly and lots of videos and activities to keep pupils busy. Please have a look at our Just for fun and the Wildlife and Outdoor learning tabs.

We have had to say

goodbye to Lucie Calow, our Head Teacher, whilst in lockdown, and although we were unable to provide her with our planned send-off, we know everyone wishes her well in her next venture. We welcome Sarah Crouch as our new interim Headteacher. She was, until recently, our Deputy Head and has worked closely with Lucie for many years. She will hold the reins until September when Ruchi Datta, our newly appointed Headteacher, joins us.

Emma Jennings, Communication Officer

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Chestnut Playgroup

WE have been back open now since 1st June and it has been lovely having some children return. The children are settling into the new routine very well and we have been doing lots of playing and learning. We have been busy looking at light and exploring shadows in many ways, we have done this within the playgroup and at home through Class Dojo.

We are still uploading each day our story times for everyone to watch on our Facebook page.

If you are passing near the playgroup you will see our slinky the stone snake, he lives on the path that leads to the bus stop from Chestnut Playgroup. We are encouraging everyone to add their own painted pebbles to his tail, you can upload your photos onto our Facebook page at Chestnut Playgroup, Linton. We are looking forward to seeing how long he gets.

We do have some spaces left for September please do get in contact with Charlene Hayes on 07817069696 for any enquiries.

Family Centre events

EVERYONE at South Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres hopes you are all keeping safe and well.

Our groups are currently closed but we are still available to give support and advice or signpost to services if needed. During this challenging time we have set up a helpline.

We offer an opportunity to speak to a friendly professional from the Early Help District Children's Team about any child or young person aged 0 to 19.

You can ask a question, request support about your child's or young person's behaviours, get help with new routines and boundaries, or maybe just talk about how you are managing parenting in the current situation.

We will give you advice, support and help with signposting or just listen to your parenting experiences.

Please do get in touch if you require any support, just leave a message on 01354 750420.

We look forward to the day we can reopen our groups safely but in the meantime take care and stay safe.

Emma Chipps, Business Officer
South Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres
01954 284672/VOIP 01223 706109

Linton Women's Institute still going during lockdown

WE may not have had any full members' meetings in lockdown but we have still tried to keep in touch. The committee has held zoom meetings to discuss how best to support our ladies and move forward. As a result we have phoned everyone to have a chat and make sure they are managing ok. We have helped shop, shared books and held a member's zoom get together, and will try a craft meeting the same way – I know that sounds like it wouldn't work but it's good.

But there is no substitute for seeing each other in person – having a chuckle and sharing our woes. With this in mind we arranged to meet up for real one Friday in June and share the space – if not the cakes – while we have a cup of tea together (each bringing their own). So if you've seen a group of smiling ladies on a Linton green lately, animatedly chatting and gesticulating with tea and cake in hand it was probably members of Linton Women's Institute. You are welcome to join us.

Shelley Ray, Chair

Pre-school and toddler group
Linton, Cambridgeshire

IT continues to be a strange time for Linton Granta Playgroup, we have yet to return to our setting. However the staff and committee have worked hard in preparation for planning our safe return.

We are still putting out a scavenger hunt weekly, encouraging all of the children of Linton to take part. It has been lovely to see all the entries and enthusiasm coming from the families in our community.

We have also had a few entries in to our Gardening competition and the winner will be announced at the end of Summer term.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and we hope to get back to some kind of normality as soon as we can.

If you are interested in a place for your child for September please email us at office@lintongrantaplaygroup.org.uk
Linton Granta Playgroup Team

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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on this page. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested.

Dear Editor,
We, the undersigned, are part of a group of volunteers who are working to keep the churchyard (a sacred ground) tidy. We are the Monday gang.

Increasingly there are more and more dogs' messes being left in the church yard. Please can we appeal to dog owners/walkers, to have their dogs on a lead and please clean up after your dog.

With thanks,
Mrs. Margaret Cox of Richmonds, Linton
Mrs. Lian Watkin, Chalklands Linton
Tel 892782

Dear Editor,
I wonder if any local historians could help me.

I am currently trying to locate any information regarding a Matthew Crockley, who was a merchant residing in Linton in the second half of the eighteenth century. He married Sarah Symonds at Carlton-cum-Willingham on 18th June, 1782. They had at least three sons, including the future master mariner, Captain Thomas Symonds Crockley (1783-1860).

Many thanks
Stephen Haddelsey
sphaddelsey@yahoo.co.uk

News from St Mary's, Linton

DURING lockdown St Mary's has been very much alive. Quite a few of us have been among the Linton Community Help volunteers and have much enjoyed working with others to serve the village. Some are carrying on in the administration of the remodelled LCH, because we feel so strongly that all this goodwill is a community asset worth nurturing into the future. As many know, the church porch was the drop-off point for the Food Hub/Bank while it was in operation and we also were able to offer storage space.

Unfortunately, we have had to close our building for most of the lockdown but we have enjoyed on-line services, shared with our sister parishes in the Linton Team (Horseheath, Bartlow, Castle Camps and Shudy Camps) using both YouTube and Zoom. New technical skills have been learnt by many. As long as digital worship is needed, we will continue to provide it, as advertised on our website (www.stmaryslinton.org.uk) and Facebook page; we would love you to join us.

The church building is now open for private prayer and reflection. We have spaced chairs out to aid social distancing and are providing a steward to welcome you during opening hours, plus all the necessary things, like hand sanitizer. Candles are there for you to light.

Weekdays 9-11 am, 2-4pm
Saturdays 10-12noon
Sundays 2-4pm

We may be able to hold small services in church from the beginning of July. We would love to see you at 8am and 10am on Sundays but we will still offer written copies of the order of service and digital worship resources for those who are vulnerable and need to stay at home.

Maggie Guite (Rector).
For more information, contact
admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk

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Goodbye to our local historian

SADLY we must tell the village that Garth Collard has died. He celebrated his 80th birthday last December.

Garth taught history at Linton Village College from 1978 until his retirement as deputy head teacher in 2000. He had a special interest in local history, founding the Linton and District History Society in 1985 and supporting it for many years, in spite of the stroke he suffered in 2009. Garth's talks to the Society had a wonderful combination of erudition and humour, and those who had the pleasure of hearing them would often find their own house or street subtly inserted. He was co-founder of the charity A Book of My Own, to which he donated the fees from talks outside the village.

The Linton in Pictures book which he produced, edited by Norman Dann, was distributed free to every house in the village when it was first published, and he contributed the historical knowledge to our village heritage trail. For his services to local history, Garth was appointed MBE in the 2008 Honours List.

The Linton News has been delighted to have published his articles. The way we were, for many years and were very sad when he wrote his last one quite recently.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Elaine, at this sad time. The village has lost a valued member.

John Bald writes: *After Garth retired from LVC, I had the pleasure of working with him for several years on school inspections. His deep knowledge and understanding of his subject and of education earned him the highest praise from Her Majesty's Inspectors, and he was quick to recognise excellence in teaching, as well as to point out areas for improvement. His reports were succinct, accurate and a joy to read. I will miss our conversations about history, politics, education, and indeed whatever else struck him as interesting or odd. A loss, indeed, to the village, and for me, goodbye to a good friend, an entertaining companion, and a truly wonderful colleague.*

The Historical Society members write: *We have so much to be thankful to him for his help and guidance with our own WW1 research, and his support with our Map Project and subsequent publication of our Balsham village story 1617-2017. He was a great inspiration.*

The Linton News Team, John Bald and Ian and Margaret Creek

Save our swifts



Picture on left by Robert Wyatt others by Roger Willis



A VERY early stroll around the village in late May revealed four swifts circling above. I had been given a leaflet called *Action for Swifts* which inspired me to take a bit of action myself. When you're next sitting in the armchair contemplating our sedentary lifestyles, just think of the swifts.

They are larger than swallows and house martins, they are brown all over and they do not sit on wires. In fact, they don't sit anywhere. Their Latin name is *Apus Apus*, no foot no foot. They quite literally do not land between one breeding season and the next. They eat, drink, preen, sleep and mate while on the wing.

They fly around 500 miles a day, as high as 3,000 metres up, and can do more than two million miles in a lifetime.

They come to Europe each May and back to southern Africa in July, a distance of 14,000 miles.

They are the finest of flyers, eight wing-beats per second and reaching 67mph during what is known as screaming parties as they career round above your head. They eat flying insects such as mozzies, greenflies and bees and drink raindrops and occasionally swoop down onto water.

In the breeding season they collect nesting material from the air such as straw, paper, fluff, petals and seeds, all cemented together with saliva. They rebuild old nests and approach them at 40mph.

When the chicks are born, they have white around their beaks so the parents can see them in the dark nests. The parents go out hunting and collect hundreds of insects in a special pouch at the back of their throats. Again, with saliva, these are made into insect balls and fed to the chicks. Appetizing... The chicks fatten up fast and before leaving the nest have to do daily press-ups with their wings to gain strength.

At six-eight weeks they leave the nest and then fly straight away for Africa with other fledglings. It is one astonishing fact after another.

Swifts are threatened because we persist in knocking down old buildings, or we repair them without the necessary nooks and crannies. They might fly all that way back from Africa to exactly the same site, to find themselves, with the same partners, homeless.

Their numbers are apparently halving every 20 years but Cambridge City Council has made an excellent contribution in the form of the swift nesting tower in Logan's Meadow Nature Reserve on the Cam. There are also purpose-built nest boxes available and often visible in church towers and barns.

Swifts are ancient, extraordinary, mysterious and terrifyingly fast. We should honour and protect them.

Alan Sanders,
07849 229095

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 3rd August 2020
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 13th July
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 15th July

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Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
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LINTON DIARY

Farmers' Market
Saturday 4th July from 9am to 12 noon in the Village Hall, with strict Social Distancing and only food stalls.

Bin collection dates
Linton refuse collection: Mondays 6th and 20th July
Linton blue bin collections: Mondays 13th and 27th July
Linton green bin collections: Mondays 13th and 27th July (only one per month guaranteed)

Household Recycling Centres
THE County Council reopened the centres on 11th May for essential visits only.

An essential visit is where waste / recycling could not be stored on your property without causing a risk of injury, health or harm to members of your household or harm to public health and amenity.

There will be other restrictions in place.
Full details here www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/re-opening-of-household-recycling-centres

Garden Club under coronavirus



IT has been an extraordinary few months for the Garden Club. As is the sad case for many other clubs and groups in the village, we have had to cancel several events including club meetings, the Plant Sale and the Annual Show. It has been strange not to meet up with club members or see them out and about in the village. Hopefully things will continue to improve and we will be able to get together again soon.

We, like many others, have been spending much more time in our garden than usual. It has benefited from the recent rain showers and everything is flourishing. We have been enjoying eating the first of this year's home-grown crops including raspberries, strawberries and peas.

One of our main tasks at this time of year is to fill the gaps left by the removal of the old spring bulb leaves. We would usually have bought plants from the local Garden Centres to put in, along with the geraniums and fuchsias



A beautiful clematis

Picture supplied by Helen and Jim

we have grown from cuttings and the dahlia tubers we have overwintered in the shed. But as we did not know when the Garden Centres would re-open we sowed a lot more seeds than usual and also bought plug plants online instead.

Our small plastic greenhouses are now full of seedlings and young plants ready to pot on which will keep us busy and out of mischief over the next few weeks.

Keep safe and well. Enjoy your gardens.
Jim and Helen,
Linton Garden Club
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

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The Waggon and Horses is back!

THE Waggon and Horses reopened on the 24th January with new landladies, Helen and Di, at the helm. The Grade II listed building has had a complete internal makeover including a new bar area, modern toilets and a refreshing rustic style décor.

The Wag, as it is affectionately known, has been serving the village since 1838 and is the only wet-led drinking establishment in Linton.

Helen and Di have a vision to restore the pub to the thriving village hub that it once was – a clean and refreshing place where everyone is welcome and made to feel a part of the community.

Both have been regular users of the Wag for a number of years now and although they are new to the trade, know most of the customers and understand their needs and expectations.

Before the recent pandemic forced the well reported shutdown, it was already offering

regular live music events, televised sport and fielded a number of pub teams in local leagues – together with weekly raffles and pub games.

The enforced closure has allowed Helen and Di to completely renovate the garden in preparation for the long-awaited reopening. It will now offer an extended grassed area, new seating and mood-lighting which creates a Mediterranean style ambience.

The drinks menu has also been completely upgraded and now demonstrates a wide range of high-quality beverages.

Future plans include a belated VE Day celebration, race nights, musical bingo and the re-introduction of regular quiz nights.

Helen and Di welcome new and returning customers and are open to new ideas and suggestions to unite the community.

The Waggon and Horses is well and truly back.



Library in Lockdown

AT time of writing Linton Library remains closed to the public – please keep checking the Cambridgeshire County Council website for updates. However, we're pleased to announce that Cambridgeshire Libraries can now accept new referrals to the revised Library@Home Service. This service is open to Cambridgeshire residents who fit the following criteria:

The service is for anyone who usually relies heavily on reading books or listening to audiobooks and who is shielding or isolating due to age or health conditions under the current COVID-19 Government guidelines.

People accepted for this service will be contacted by a member of the Library@Home Team who will arrange a doorstep delivery of specially chosen books/audiobooks. Deliveries will be monthly (by prior arrangement) and previously loaned books/

audiobooks will be picked up when new ones are delivered.

To enquire about the Revised Library@Home Service you can contact us by email: volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by phone: 07442 022926 (Magda) or 07342 700308 (Fay). A member of Library@Home team will respond to the referral.

The 2020 Summer Reading Challenge has launched – all online this year – and we hope children will sign up to join in with fun games and activities to inspire them to keep enjoying books over the summer months. The Silly Squad theme puts the focus on funny books. Look out for extra Silly Squad goings-on via Cambridgeshire Libraries Facebook page.

As always, please stay safe and well – and keep reading.

Anna McMahon & Lindsay Healy
Community Library Assistants

Take Healthwatch's new survey about your health and care during the coronavirus crisis

HOW has the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown affected your health and care? Health and social care services are working hard to care for us all in these difficult times, and the way most services are provided is changing to help keep people safe from COVID-19.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire, the local champion for people who use health and social care services, want to know how these changes have affected you and those you care about and what toll the crisis has had on mental health and well-being.

You can help them find out by taking part in the survey.

The survey is online, takes 10 minutes to

complete and is anonymous. So you can share your or your family's experiences in confidence. Good and bad.

What you say goes back to the people running the health and social care system, so they understand what is working well or what needs to change and why.

Please take part and help our local NHS and social care system make sure everyone gets high quality and safe support.

Take the survey at www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/coronavirus-yourviews

Or if you need a paper questionnaire, please contact Healthwatch on 0330 3551285 or text 0752 0635176

Volunteers needed as patient voice

AN Addenbrookes oncologist has developed a new blood test, Neurocheck, which warns patients on chemotherapy treatment, if their immune system has fallen to dangerously low levels, requiring emergency antibiotics to prevent sepsis. The home testing kit involves a simple pinprick blood test and delivers results in minutes.

As a former cancer patient, I can tell you that this will make a huge improvement to patients' quality of life. Patients on chemo are urged to look out for early signs of infection, but if you're already feeling very sick from the side effects of the chemo, it is difficult to know if a deterioration is anything significant.

The only way to check for infection is to take your temperature every 2-3 hours. I really remember the long, stressful days of watching my temperature creep up during the day, seeing it hit the trigger point at which the nurses have told me to go to hospital, and facing a dilemma...what if it's a false alarm and it comes down in an hour or two? I really didn't want to waste doctors' time, NHS money and receive unnecessary antibiotics, contributing to the very serious issue of antibiotic resistance. On the other hand, any delay in treatment could have had serious consequences.

If I'd been able to do a quick test at home, it would have given me so much reassurance and peace of mind. I would only have had to do a quick finger prick, instead of being admitted and having yet another needle in my already damaged veins. Importantly, in 2019 the test could have prevented 50 000 unnecessary hospital visits, potentially saving the NHS £250 million.

I've been volunteering as a patient "consultant" with Neurocheck. My involvement came about through the Cancer Patient Participation Group at Addenbrookes. This friendly group of patients and carers gives advice and suggestions to medical staff and researchers on all sorts of treatments and procedures.

I got involved because I was aware of the huge debt of gratitude I owed to everyone who had gone before me on the cancer pathway – the devoted and hardworking medics and researchers, the brave patients who took part in clinical trials. This is my way of giving something back. It's a very interesting and worthwhile form of volunteering and if you are interested you can contact Lenja Bell on 01223 216842 or via cpgg@addenbrookes.nhs.uk.

Helene Judge

Camsight VIPs

The Cambridgeshire charity for people of all ages with low vision and blindness.

WE are of course missing our monthly meetings and very much looking forward to seeing our members again in the hopefully not too distant future.

We are maintaining regular contact by telephone for a chat and to offer any help they may need. The Cambridge Camsight team is working from home and can be contacted either through the number below, or by ringing the office number 420033 which will relay your call to a team member.

Although the help we can offer is naturally

limited at the present time, they will give advice and discuss the aids and resources available.

If you know of individuals with sight difficulties who have come to need our services since the start of lockdown, we will gladly offer whatever help and support is possible, even if they have not been registered as a Camsight member.

Meanwhile we send all our members our very best wishes.

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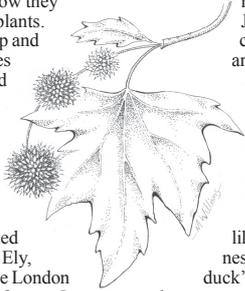
COUNTRY MATTERS
Text by Oriel O'Loughlin and illustrated by Maureen Williams

The London Plane

AT the corner of Symonds Lane and Hill Rise is a large London Plane. How many of us have walked past oblivious of its splendor? The press has been full of how people have been discovering new areas in their neighbourhood and how they are noticing previously ignored birds, trees and plants. Hooray! We are learning to look about us, heads up and observant, taking in our surroundings. These trees are truly magnificent and can give a much needed lift to flagging spirits.

The London Plane is a hybrid of the American Sycamore and the Oriental Plane, known as Platanus x Hispanica. It took time for these two lovers to wed, coming from different sides of the world. This cross pollination was first noticed in London by John Tradescant, in the 17th century, hence the name. Bishop Gunning planted the first one in the Bishop's Palace in 1674 in Ely, changing forever the treescape of British cities. The London Plane grows to 35 metres and lives for hundreds of years. It is extremely hardy and thrives in soils that are acid, alkali, loam, moist, sandy, well-drained, wet, clay – you name it. Though it needs little root space it is definitely not one for small gardens.

Visit cities from here to Australia and you will find plane-lined boulevards. In London the plane is the second most common



tree after the sycamore but provides by far the largest leaf area. It thrives on the harsh city environment, tolerating pollution and compacted soils. It started as an interesting curiosity and is now magnificent in its scale and beauty, especially in St James' Park and in Berkeley Square. It is monoecious, meaning that the male and female flowers are on the same tree but on different stems.

Its bark is eye catching – multicoloured with a camouflage style pattern. It is like a benign militia lining our streets (great image – wish I had thought of it). The bark has the extraordinary ability to break away in large flakes, literally ridding itself of the pollutants which interfere with air reaching the trunk.

It has thick leathery maple-like leaves, shaped like a five-pointed star. They have an otter-like sleekness – the daily grime simply rinses off them like a duck's back. As urban populations expanded, more planes were planted and were much sought after in plazas and main streets, flourishing whether pollarded or not.

In April and May hundreds of people in London are employed to sweep up the furry round seed heads dropped from their long drooping stems. They break up and disperse on the wind. Not a good time for city hayfever sufferers.

Keeping your email safe

If you receive an email you haven't requested or it seems suspicious in any way, make sure it's actually from the person or organisation who claims to have sent it. Do this by calling the actual person or organisation on a number you know to be the right one.

Don't click on links in emails from unknown sources, or if it seems strange that the email would come from that source.

Never open attachments from unknown sources, or if it seems strange that the email would come from that source.

Check for poor design, grammar and spelling, and whether the email addresses you by your name. However, even if an email passes these tests, it may still be from a fraudster.

Don't make purchases, payments or charity donations in response to spurious emails.

Beware of emails which suggest that you need to transfer money, provide personal details or perform some other critical action urgently to resolve a problem. Banks, government departments, the police and other trusted organisations would never communicate with you in this way.

Don't reply to an email which you suspect is fraudulent, and don't forward it unless you're reporting it.

Don't click on remove or reply to unwanted email – this simply tells senders that your account is live and may result in you getting a flood of unwanted scam or spam emails.

Make sure spam filters are switched on and set up appropriately to avoid unwanted emails getting through but permitting authentic ones from trusted sources. Check junk mail folders regularly in case a legitimate email is filtered there in error.

Use strong passwords to prevent your email accounts from being hacked. Keep passwords to yourself, and don't use the same or a similar one for more than one online account.

When sending emails to multiple people, list their addresses in the BCC (blind copy) box instead of in the To box. In this way, no recipient will see the names of the others and, if their addresses fall into the wrong hands, there will be less chance of you or anybody else receiving phishing or spam emails. Delete everyone in the email trail before forwarding or replying.

Think twice before you click on anything. For further information check out:

www.getsafeonline.org/safeemail

A tale of two boats

ONE of the most inspiring aspects of life in Linton during lockdown is the making of lovely new connections between villagers of all ages and situations. I have had the pleasure to get to know some of the Linton Community Help Team volunteers including Gabi, who has been helping with leaflet and news deliveries and check in calls on local residents. Gabi's son Zach, seven, often goes with his mum on the visits and has loved the chance to help with the delivery of Linton News.



Zach with the two boats
Picture supplied by Yannick

Gabi has taken to making a regular call to one of her more senior neighbours that she met through this and over the passing weeks, she and Zach have got to know John a little. On the last visit, seeing Zach's own toy boat, John insisted on giving him his own model boat. It turns out that John has been making models of ships, planes and lorries since he was seven and hasn't stopped yet! John is not a man of many words but has clearly been touched by the kindness of Gabi and Zach.

And the benefit is all round – not just for the people helped but those who enjoy being able to help.

Gabi says: "When the lockdown started, I was really hit hard. I'm an outgoing person, I thrive on the interaction with others and enjoy being surrounded by friends and family. So getting involved in the local community has really given me a purpose."

Yannick Auckland, Linton Community Help Team

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Pot Pourri 181 – The Digit Total

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I do not require the sum of the numbers **but** the digits!

Pot Pourri 180 - How many Money Bags to the Bank?

There were eight bags containing:- £1, £2, £4, £8, £16, £32, £37 and £64.

Urania

Roman Road rides

IN this age of lockdown more and more cyclists are taking to the roads around Linton for their daily exercise. I've been exploring routes on and off the Roman Road from Horseheath to Worsted Lodge. After the long dry spring the tracks are in splendid condition, perfect for cycling. Here are some routes I've enjoyed: most of them should take between one and two hours to complete.

Route 1: Hildersham – Roman Road – Worsted Lodge – Babraham – Abington

Take Back Road to the Hildersham crossroads. Turn right onto Balsham Road. After 150 metres take the bridleway on your left which leads steeply up to the Roman Road. Alternatively, stay on the tarmac and join the Road at the top of the hill and turn left onto it. When the bridleway meets the Roman Road (great views), then turn left and enjoy a long downhill ride to Worsted Lodge. Take the tarmac road to Babraham, crossing the A1307 with care to take you into the village. After 200 metres turn left onto the bridleway over the A11 haul your bike up and over the road. A track takes you through a field to the tarmac road. Turn right then take a left into Abington Piggotts. Or continue up to the roundabout then turn second left into Great Abington. Back to Linton, either via Hildersham village or along the new cycleway beside the A1307.

Route 2: Balsham – Woodhall Lane – Roman Road – Mark's Grave – Bartlow – (Hadstock)

There are a number of options on this route. You can ring the changes, depending on weather and how you're feeling. Cycle up Balsham Road past the Chilford Hall entrance to the Roman Road. (You can of course lengthen this ride by doing the first part of Route 1 then turning right when the bridleway reaches the Roman Road.) Now you have two choices: turn right onto

the Roman Road and continue straight down to Mark's Grave; or follow the road into Balsham, ride up the High Street to the Café then turn down Woodhall Lane, a good track (the Icknield Way) which will take you back to the Roman Road, where you turn left to ride down to Mark's Grave. From there turn right towards Bartlow, crossing the A1307 with care. At the Bartlow crossroads either turn right up the hill and across the A1307 again or, more interesting, go straight across the crossroads and turn right towards Hadstock. At the sharp bend either continue on the tarmac road up to Hadstock (steep and long) or turn right onto Chalky Lane where a good track takes you to Maltings Cottages then onto Long Road and across the A1307 again to Linton.

Route 3: Mark's Grave – Horseheath – Streetly End – West Wickham – West Wrattling – Balsham

From Mark's Grave the Roman Road continues up the hill towards Horseheath. The track here is initially steep and rough. A third of the way up you can turn left onto a track that takes you onto the road to Streetly End. Otherwise, continue up to the outskirts of Horseheath. Turn left and follow the road to Streetly End and West Wickham. Here you have a number of options: you can turn right in the village and go through Burton End to the T-junction where you turn left for West Wrattling, Balsham and Linton; you can go past the church and down to the crossroads and either carry on up to Balsham or turn left at the crossroads and follow the road to Bartlow, as described in Route 2.

From West Wrattling to Balsham, either take the main tarmac road or head down the Six Mile Bottom road and turn left onto the Icknield Way track at Green End Farm. This takes you past the Fleam Dyke path onto Fox Road at the Linton end of Balsham and then it's a mainly downhill ride back to Linton.

Alan McLean

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The Marsh mail



WHILE still officially closed, the College is increasingly busy as we accommodate growing numbers of students on site. We continue to provide childcare for key workers and vulnerable children. We have also welcomed back groups of Year 10 students to benefit from face to face time in school before the summer holidays.

The site feels rather different with partitioned zones, floor markings and signage to support with social distancing and hygiene measures. However, the human connection with our students and being able to see them engage with their learning in person has been brilliant.

There is still a great deal of uncertainty about what schooling will look like in September. We are awaiting guidance from the government but are anticipating that we may not be able to fully re-open for all students next term.

In the meantime, our staff, students and their families are doing a great job at adjusting to online learning. We are increasingly making use of technology such as the video tool, Loom, and Microsoft Teams platform to enable our students to benefit from dynamic, engaging and interactive teaching content.

The Cambs Youth Panel has been amazing with supporting our families with access to IT. The group, which originally began as a means for Cambridge Constabulary to build a stronger relationship with young communities in the County, has reinvented itself to loan laptops and Chromebooks to students without technology devices at home. They have also constructed low-cost Raspberry Pi devices for families to purchase (www.cambsyouthpanel.co.uk).

Phil Priestley, Ex-Police Sergeant, who works at LVC as an Inclusion Officer, leads the initiative.

In total, Cambs Youth Panel has issued 420 devices across the County. More than 20 LVC students have benefited from this scheme so far. We have also been able to provide other families with refurbished devices that have been kindly donated by members of the LVC community.

If you have a laptop or other personal device that you no longer need but is still in working order that you would like to donate, please contact Mr Darby, Deputy Principal at LVC

(tim.darby@lvc.org). This will be gratefully received by students who could make use of this technology to support with their remote learning over the coming weeks.

Helena Marsh

Linton FROG bouncing back to work



The FROG team hard at work and admiring the results.



Pictures supplied by Helen Brookes

WE started this year with a fantastically well-attended litter pick of Camping Close and Leadwell Meadows (the pocket park) at the end of February.

A village-wide pick planned for April was postponed due to lockdown. We hope it can be rearranged for later this year.

With the recent relaxation of lockdown rules, members of Linton FROG (Friends of the River Granta) and the Parish Council have engaged in a couple of socially distanced working parties to improve our local river environment.

On Saturday 13th June a group of six litter picked the newly dug ditch and channel leading from the clapper stile to the river's edge at the recreation ground. A hot morning's work resulted in eight bags of rubbish, one bag of recycling and a bucket full of broken glass and metal. Some of the rubbish was decades old, including an intact early 20th century Booth's gin bottle. And who remembers Christie's Crisps?

The following day another group of six cleared branches and raked over the soil on the ditch bank, then broadcast a kilo of mixed wildflower seeds along the length of the ditch. With luck, and a bit of rain, we will be rewarded next year with a beautiful display of colourful wildflowers for all to enjoy and a habitat and food source for our precious pollinators. Thank you to everyone who has participated in our events so far this year – you have made a big difference.

We hope to carry out more litter picks and conservation tasks later this summer to improve the river habitat for local residents – wild or otherwise. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved – everyone is welcome. If you aren't able to do physical work perhaps you could take photos, write articles or put up a poster in your window.

For more information contact me.

Helen Brookes, helen.brookes44@gmail.com or 07812 988917

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Councillors' report June 2020

Planning update

THE new town at Northstowe is about to enter its second phase and should eventually deliver around 10,000 homes. Outline planning permission has been given for a further 11,000 houses at Waterbeach. Future projects include further expansion of Cambourne and development of a new town at Bourn.

This seems a lot of houses, so it is surprising that South Cambs is having difficulty meeting the government minimum house building requirements. This is known as a *five-year land supply* and is an analysis of how many houses will be built over the period. One issue is that large projects take a long time to get underway. Northstowe, for example, took eight years before building commenced. Builders will only build what they can sell.

Another issue is that major development companies are mounting legal challenges to the District Council's five-year land supply figures. If there is a downturn in the market, inevitable given the Coronavirus issue, or a large project is late starting, then we could fall below the land supply requirement. 112 other local planning authorities are also under threat. As a group we are lobbying government to be more flexible in their approach.

We have now re-started meetings of the Planning Committee working remotely. With a backlog of applications, we will be meeting fortnightly. The *Delegation Meeting*, dealing with requests for applications to go to committee, has also restarted.

Initial Feedback from the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation

In terms of where new development should go, densification of existing urban areas and building along existing transport corridors were the favoured options. Transport is the topic most commented upon, then homes followed by climate change. The full report is at:-

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s116475/Appendix%201%20Consultation%20Feedback.pdf>

Zero Carbon Strategy

The first ever Zero Carbon Strategy for South Cambridgeshire has been agreed by SCDC and pledges to lead a green local economic recovery out of lockdown and reduce carbon emissions. The Council will support the district to halve its carbon emissions in the next 10 years and reduce them completely by 2050. Alongside this, the Council aims to deliver a reduction of at least 45% of its own carbon emissions by 2025 and at least 75% by 2030.

Emergency support for Milton Country Park

Milton Country Park is being provided with up to £50,000 by the District Council, to ensure residents can keep enjoying the green spaces and paths. The grant will include a £25,000 payment now and the option of the second half from September. The Park's main sources of income are normally the café and water sports activities, both of which have been out of action during lockdown.

Funding for provision of hot meals

SCDC has successfully applied for funding provided by Countryside to provide a limited number of hot meals to homes as part of the Covid-19 response. It is hoped that this can be organised in conjunction with community groups. SCDC would like to hear from any furloughed chefs who might be able to help.

A1307

There was a meeting of the A1307 Local Liaison Forum on 1st June. The next scheduled works are due to start this month: the east-bound busway between Babraham, the A11 roundabout and a signalled crossing at the Babraham research park roundabout. Average speed cameras for the Linton to Haverhill section are due to be installed in September.

Cambridgeshire County Council Communities Capital Fund

A new £5m fund aimed at creating opportunities and improving lives and skills across Cambridgeshire has been launched by CCC (7th April). The Fund will support projects that will make positive changes in the community, bringing people together and meeting the priorities that matter most to local people. Grants of up to £500,000 are available to support community-led projects which improve the health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities in communities.

Park & Ride

Most of the Park&Ride sites reopened on 31st May. Milton P&R remains closed.



S/1740/17/Cond 3, 116 High Street, Condition 3 – New Window and Door Details.

20/02457/FUL, 25 Rivey Way, Erection of detached two bedroom dwelling.

Linton & District Historical Society

THE Society is hoping to be able to run a new season of talks for 2021 – subject to COVID-19 restrictions. The following is the speakers list.

Please note: All the meetings are booked with the speakers but are subject to cancellation at short notice due to any unforeseen restrictions and to availability of venues.

Speakers list for 2020 – 2021

15th September 2020 – Paige Pope + special guest

The history of the Dogs Trust.

20th October 2020 – Geoff Hales

Mary Kingsley, letters home.

17th November 2020 – Peter Green

The history of the National Trust.

15th December 2020 – Mike Furlong

200 years of milling.

19th January 2021 – Carolyn Wingfield

Saffron Walden Museum.

16th February 2021 – Janet Morris

Horseheath Hall, a vanished country house.

16th March 2021 – Geoffrey Heathcock

The history of the RNLI.

20th April 2021 – Dr Richard Paden

Cambridge Instruments.

18th May 2021 – Kate Cole

Postcards from the front, 1914–1919.

Margaret Creek, 893915

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Changes and surprises at the Clapper Stile...



The new bench at the site of the Clapper Stile

Picture by Tom Mytton-Mills

DELIGHTFUL weather and lockdown brought many more walkers and cyclists to enjoy the Recreation Ground, as well as a range of diggers and moving equipment - what were they doing?

When the Clapper Stile was rebuilt, Dan Harmer the carpenter, found that it could not be returned to the original site as there was a void under the path. This joined the list of jobs needed to improve that end of the Recreation Ground and fulfil LPC Riparian duties.

When Tom Mytton-Mills (the contractor) came to repair the void, he discovered that the culvert was built of oil cans filled with concrete (who thought of that one?). It had long ago collapsed and concrete had been poured in to attempt repair.

Water had found its way over the top washing out the soil causing dampness - no wonder the Clapper Stile had rotted at the base - then left a void under the path. None of this was visible and the path could have collapsed. Tom has created a proper culvert, large enough for winter flow, and has resurfaced the path and made it safe.

The ditches have been cleared and re-dug to take surface water from the Rec, to hold flood water and allow it to drain safely into the river. The ditch now curves so that flood water does not hit the opposite bank directly, preventing erosion. In the hot, dry weather it was hard to remember the torrents and standing water early in the year, and the need for this.

To dig the ditch, the scrub, dead trees and brambles had to be cleared. Thanks to the Little Linton farmers, much of the work was done from their side of the ditch and they also facilitated the removal of the woody debris.

A surprisingly large new area has been uncovered - just right for a natural walk. The FROGS now came to help, clearing litter (10 bags!) on one day, then clearing debris, raking and broadcasting wildflower seeds (Eddy is a deadly shot with a seed bomb!).

Now all we need is rain and a wildflower meadow will emerge; perhaps later, seating at the river bank?

Finally, a seat has been made using the largest Oak beam that Tom could transport. It sits on a specially designed stand on a flinted base edged with engineering bricks.

This suits the rural area and gives a good view of the Rec and countryside. Of course, nothing is ever simple in Linton, so there will have to be more oak fencing to prevent people falling into the ditches or getting entangled in barbed wire or electric boundary fences.

Thanks to all who helped - craftsmen, contractors, volunteers, the FROGS, farmers, the advice of Rob Mungovan, and of course... LPC.

Cllr Enid Bald

Reports Round-Up May - June 2020

MEETINGS are now virtual, it is like returning to work where this was routine!

This month's meetings involve different aspects of travel and the A1307.

Stansted Focus Group - 13th May - more discussion around air traffic routes, options and preferences. The consequences of Covid 19 on business travel could be heavily affected, although perhaps not holiday and cargo flights - perhaps for the next discussion!

GCP Local Liaison Forum - 1st June - The focus was the off-road public transport route between the Biomedical Campus and the site of the Travel Hub near the A11/A1307/A505 junctions. The effect on the countryside, noise and lack of screening sounded familiar! The schemes for Linton are mainly complete with the Travel Hub and west-bound bus lane still under discussion.

The Mayor of Haverhill would like a P+R there with extra X13 buses; then the bus lane would benefit 6 rather than 4 buses a day. Many thought that a rail system would be a better use of money! This includes s106 money (£150k) from Linton developments which should be used to mitigate their harm on the village.

GCP Joint Assembly - 4th June - LPC were not informed despite Linton schemes being discussed. Once alerted, we submitted further objections to the west-bound bus lane.

Errors in the reports were noted: the CBA was 1.68 not 4.5, the time saving 3 to 4 minutes, not 34 minutes as originally stated. Errors were acknowledged, as was some lack of consultation. Our detailed objections will be sent to the Executive Board where the decisions will be made.

Greenways - 8th June - This is the walking/cycling route from Cambridge to Linton, which has now been built up to LVC.

It will now carry on down Stanton's Lane turning right, across the Rec, to Meadow Lane (LPC had consulted cycling groups and walkers and this was the preferred route).

The cart track and path will be improved and widened for (clearly-marked) shared use, barriers moved and the gate re-designed. Suggestions for drainage improvement should mean the end of puddles.

Perhaps Stanton's could be improved across the Rec to Symond's Lane to help travel to/from Back Road and onwards?

Cllr Enid Bald

The New Linton Directory



LINTON VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Image from the site homepage

LINTON has a new and updated Village Directory!

As we all continue to adapt, and adopt to new ways of working in the midst of the Coronavirus it is vital that we support the local businesses and shops.

A local parishioner, Jenny Seaward, with the support of the Parish Council, has set up a new and improved website and updated the Linton Village Directory to ensure that everyone has access to current information and links to local businesses and services.

As a community our businesses have been well supported over the past few months and this is a chance to encourage continued loyalty. Our village has so much to offer!

There are plans to produce a hard copy of the directory once things settle down a little, however in the meantime - please take a look and make the most of this amazing tool!

The Directory is available at: www.lintonvillagedirectory.com

There is an email address on the Contact page should you need to add or to amend any entries.

Linton Parish Council would like to formally thank Jenny Seaward, for all her hard work on the site and making such a valuable contribution to the Linton Community.

Linton Parish Council Clerk and Jenny Seaward

Planning Updates for Linton - May and June 2020

PLANNING applications still arrive despite the lockdown. Most are smaller applications, amendments and discharge of conditions. Here are some that have required more discussion, research and follow up with the planning bodies.

Clockhouse - under new SCDC delegation rules, the expansion of the Dental Practice will be decided by officers rather than the Planning Committee; the new process entails a loss of democratic input into the planning process.

LPC has many valid reasons to object, not least of the effect of extra traffic and parking in an already congested village centre. The traffic plan includes clients parking in the Lanes and the Grip with concomitant loss of amenity to residents

1, Horseheath Road - further discharge of conditions applications. LPC continues to raise concerns particularly on drainage, infiltration and porosity testing, contaminated land and tree planting.

Bartlow Road - A TTRO (involving road closures) was submitted. LPC strongly objected as this was to enable a link to the sewer on Bartlow Road (at manhole 2503) contrary to a specific planning condition.

The TTRO included installing a 1.8 to 2m wide path from the site to Crossways. Plans for this have not been sent to LPC, nor for public consultation. The attempts at circumventing planning procedures are not appreciated... Other conditions remain unresolved, so work is at a halt.

Horseheath Road - This should be heard at the June SCDC meeting. The previous concerns regarding legality of the decision, archaeology, etc will be raised.

Cllr Enid Bald, Chairman of Planning

Government guidelines and the Recreation Ground

THE Government originally adjusted the guidelines on recreational activity from the 13th May 2020, allowing sunbathing at parks and beaches and picnics, as well as the use of outdoor sports facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses and basketball courts, whilst social distancing.

The new government guidelines now mean that as of the 4th July 2020, there will be further relaxation of the UK Lockdown, which includes relaxation of the restrictions on recreational activity.

As of the 4th July, the government has now provided permission for the reopening of all outdoor exercise equipment and children's play equipment.

However, until then, please continue to refrain from using the children's play park. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Linton Parish Council has also scheduled some repair works to some of the equipment which is due to commence on the 17th July 2020. Please be aware of these works and take extra care when using the recreation ground.

Clerk

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PLEASE NOTE; due to COVID-19 the Parish Council has been holding shorter but more regular remote meetings. The minutes for the Full Council meeting held on the 21st May 2020 have not been included in an edition of Parish Council Matters but are available on the Parish Council website or a hardcopy can be requested by calling 01223 891001.

ABBREVIATED Minutes from the Extra -Ordinary Council meeting held on the 4th June at 7:30pm via remote meeting. Apologies for Absence None. Councillors' Declarations of Interest None
Councillor Vacancies: There are currently five vacancies available for co-option. Noted.

Chairman's Comment: Cllr Enid Bald's report regarding the GCP meeting report is important and it must be taken into consideration that there is an error on the timing where it is listed as improving the time by 34 minutes, when in fact this is later referred to as 3-4 minutes.

There are also concerns regarding the planning process pertaining to LPC not being updated on delegated decisions - the Planning Committee and office shall be sending through a complaint to District Cllr John Batchelor.

Open Forum for Public Participation None
Matters Arising/Clerk's Report; Update regarding Local Handyman Services and the installation of the bench in the High Street.

Cllr John Bald proposed the Clerk be given a budget up to £750.00 to source a contractor should LHS not be able to progress the works and to have delegated power to action this. Cllr Lee Gardner seconded. Agreed.

General updates on office. None
Trees, Biodiversity, River care and Wildlife

Correspondence items March 73 and April 72. Rob Mungovan, Conservation Officer from the Wild Trout Trust re update on work and possible ideas for work under FRA exemption and Report from Linton Walkover, report dated 20th January 2020.

The Working Group meeting is still being arranged so this will be covered in greater detail at a later point.

Cllr E Bald requested four more days of work be assigned to Rob Mungovan to continue to progress the project. Rob Mungovan's charges are £260.00 per day plus mileage charge at 0.45p per mile.

Four days of work and mileage would cost £1,140.00 (if mileage was capped at £100.00 as previously agreed on the last works order for the Wild Trout Trust).

The current budget in the River Granta budget for the financial year of 2020/2021 is £8,000. A lot of the work would be completed via volunteer's which could reduce the cost of the works.

Cllr Enid Bald proposed that Rob Mungovan goes ahead with preparatory work as described in the email of the 25th March to allow LPC to make plans for the next five years, based on the recent walkover report to a maximum of four days and to include mileage up to a maximum of £100.00.

Seconded by Merrie Mannassi put to a vote, five for none against but three abstentions. Agreed. Motion Carried.

Consideration of the written report from Cllr E Bald on the meeting of the River Care Group on the 2nd March 2020. Written report. Noted.

Village Enhancement; Consideration of installing a fence along the riverbank edge behind Granta Leys and Kingfisher Walk, this land is not owned by LPC but has been requested by several members of the parish due to safety concerns.

There were concerns as LPC does not own this area of

land, it did belong to a previous existing residents association which has now disbanded. There are safety concerns pertaining to this section of the pathway and there is a steep drop. It is a well-used route to school and given this it was felt that there is a duty to protect the residents, despite this not being the responsibility of LPC.

The Clerk was requested to draft a letter to all residents in the area and advise LPC intend to put a metal fence, if there are no objections from residents in the area then this work would look to be carried out.

The Clerk was also requested to obtain a quote for the fence.

This was proposed by Cllr John Bald, seconded by Cllr Brian Cox, put to a vote seven in favour, one against and one abstention. Agreed.

Correspondence item March 8; Parishioner email re broken bin and outdated road signs on Church Lane. To be considered in conjunction with Correspondence item March 34 refers. The office was requested to ask Nicola Burdon, Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Officer, to have this bin removed as it is considered to be County Council's property.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi proposed this bin just be removed, should County Council not remove this then LHS be requested to. This was seconded by Cllr Chris Hine, all for with one abstention. Agreed. Motion carried.

The Cathodeon Centre; Correspondence item March 65; Sue Mudge, Secretary of the Trustees re notification of damage caused by a parishioner to the bench at the Cathodeon Centre. For information. Noted.

Consideration of employing a Tree Surgeon to remove the Ash tree at the rear north eastern corner behind the Cathodeon Centre with agreement of a maximum budget.

This is in very bad shape and does require removal. Cllr Enid Bald proposed this be removed with a budget of up to £500.00 for the works and the Clerk be provided delegated power to action this, seconded by Cllr Kate Kell, put to a vote and agreed. Agreed. Motion carried.

The Churchyard; Update from Cllr Enid Bald following a meeting with Andrew Gore to discuss the Churchyard. There were some discussions on what to do regarding the parking area, this may not be actioned until 2021 so this shall be brought back at a later point.

Correspondence item March 88; PCC re letter to Cllr Enid Bald regarding St Marys Churchyard. Noted.

Update on the conversion of the external fire door at the bottom of the stairs of the Village Hall to a private, main entrance and exit to the Parish Council Offices. The Village Hall is very happy to modify the existing fire door to make a main access point to the offices so that this can make the first floor offices independent and more secure.

The Village Hall are happy to pay for the exterior work if the Parish Council are happy to set up the intercom system and fund this.

This does not have to be a fire escape due to the fact that the Village Hall meets the legal requirement.

This will be reviewed and brought back at a later point.

Fire Safety, procedures, policies and training. These need review for the office staff and the Parish Council office as a formality. Clerk to check if the office is required to have fire safety practice and evacuation process etc.

Airports and Future Airspace; Written report from Cllr E Bald re You-Gov Focus Group, Stansted and future airspace from the meeting of the 4th March 2020. This may be something that could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. LPC would hope to be a statutory consultee on any planning that were raised.

Cllr Enid Bald was thanked for attending and keeping the

Council informed.

Verbal update from Cllr E Bald re virtual meeting held on the 13th May 2020, from the Civil Aviation Authority focus group. Verbal update from Cllr Enid Bald. For information. Noted.

Correspondence items not pertaining to an agenda item

Item March 4. Linton Kitchen re request permission to hold the Linton Kitchen Christmas Market and request for the conversion of the phone booth in the High Street into a plant exchange. Cllr John Bald proposed they can have the Christmas Market upon agreement from the resident of number 38 High Street. This was seconded by Merrie Mannassi, put to a vote and agreed. Motion carried.

The phone booth is still in working order and is property of BT so this cannot be used for this purpose and LPC cannot provide permission.

However the Clerk was requested to put the Linton Kitchen in touch with the Linton Garden Club to see if they have any other site recommendations or events this could be done at. **Office**

Item March 43. The Voluntary Network re Spreading the Connecting Communities Service (formally, Dial-a-ride). Cllr Paul Poulter proposed LPC subscribe to the service for the cost of £15.00 per annum. This was seconded by Cllr Merrie Mannassi, put to a vote with seven in favour, none against and two abstentions. Motion carried.

Item March 44. Locality Information re the Keep it Local Network. Cllr John Bald proposed that LPC do not subscribe and note this. This was seconded by Cllr Merrie Mannassi, put to a vote. Agreed.

The meeting was closed at: 9:20pm

Office Access

AS the government has started relaxing the restrictions and people have been beginning to return to onsite working, LPC would like to ensure we are keeping our parishioners up to date on the current situation pertaining to public access to the office.

At present, all the office staff are still currently working from home. Although working from home, a member of the office staff will always be available between 9am - 12pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday to be contactable via email. If you are trying to contact the office via telephone then please note, these hours are the same except for Tuesdays (where a message will need to be left).

Whilst LPC are keen to return staff to the offices, we have to ensure this is safe for both staff and members of the public.

However, please be aware that the staff are still working and are happy to assist with any enquiries you may have during this time. LPC shall continue to keep parishioners updated as much as we can.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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