

Linton Music Society concert
7.30pm Saturday
11th February at
LVC

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THE LINTON NEWS

February 2012
Vol. 25 N°11
Publication date
Monday 6th February

E & E PLUMRIDGE
Design & Print
41 High Street
Linton
01223 891407

Established 1987

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Linton library saved

AFTER intense pressure from library users, Cambridgeshire County Council has reduced its proposed cuts in library services from £4m to £1m and ditched the idea of turning libraries over to a Trust. This has saved 13 libraries, including ours, and will even bring a slight extension of Linton library hours from the present 20 hours per week. This will include one evening opening per week, but details have still to be finalised.

The bad news is that management pruning has led to the redundancy of our highly-skilled and much-loved librarian, Linda Pearson, whose knowledge and understanding of books and library services has helped and encouraged so many of us. Self-service machines may save time, but they can't answer questions or give a child

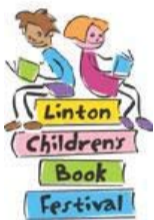
a friendly smile.

Taking £1m out of a library service that is already one of the most efficient in the country will still hurt and we can expect pressure on stock, particularly new books. So, a Friends of Linton Library group is being formed, to see whether we can help with this issue and extend the use of the library in whatever other ways we can. The Cathodeon Centre has been taken as an example of community co-operation by the library service, and this may well be a way of getting yet more out of it.

Our first meeting will be at the Cathodeon Centre at 8pm on Friday, 24th February. If you can't attend and are interested, please email johnbald@talktalk.net and I'll set up a register.

John Bald

Children's book festival takes place in May



THE Linton Children's Book Festival is happening again this year, with the main events on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May, so mark your calendar now. The Festival will feature an exciting programme, with more authors, more free events and more fun activities than ever before.

The Festival will feature writers, illustrators and performers from the world of children's literature, with the

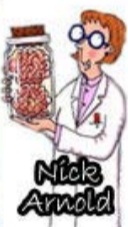
opportunity to meet and listen to authors like Joanna Nadin, Andy Cope, Jeremy Strong, Nick Arnold and many others to be confirmed, with book signing sessions and workshops. There will also be creative activities for the entire family, with different sessions for children from pre-school to teens.

The main events will be at Linton Village College at the weekend, taking full advantage of the beautiful new buildings and outdoor spaces. Other pre-Festival sessions and events will be held over the previous week for Linton clubs and

schools, starting on 5th May.

Keep a lookout in future editions of the Linton News for more information and how to book tickets for the most popular authors and sessions. You can also keep up with the latest news on our website at www.lintonbookfest.org, on our Facebook page, or feel free to send us an email with your comments and questions: info@lintonbookfest.org

See you at the Festival.
Josephine Patterson
893582, Co-ordinator
Linton Children's Book Festival



Just a few of the characters and authors who will be appearing at the Book Festival

Local choir success at Christmas and in Ely Cathedral



The choir of St Mary's church pictured in the choir stalls

Picture by Janet Conochie

THE choir of St Mary's Church, Linton has completed a very busy period of services over the Advent and Christmas period. We were also delighted to win first prize in the adult section of the Music Society's X-mas factor music competition in December. The junior members of the choir were honorary adults on that occasion.

On 9th and 10th January, the choir gathered in the Parish Church for two evening recording sessions for a new CD and MP3 download album called Waiting for the King. This recording features favourite Christmas hymns, carols and choral and organ music for Advent and Christmas. The recording will be available for Easter at £8.50, with profits going to support the development of the choir.

By the time you read this, the choir will have sung Choral Evensong at Ely Cathedral, while the cathedral choir prepared for its tour

concert. We plan to visit other cathedrals to sing services during the year.

We are always seeking new members – we have singers of all abilities. The most important attributes are enthusiasm for music and willingness to learn. We are particularly keen to build up the junior section of the choir with children aged around seven to 12. Children who have been in the choir over the last three years have gained confidence in reading out loud, singing, music theory and working as a team with the other choristers.

The full choir sings on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month (plus major festivals), with choir practice on the Friday before a choir Sunday (6.30-7.15pm for juniors, 7-8.30pm for adults). Please contact me for further details.

David Parry-Smith,
Director of Music, 894715

Wingwalker wanted

I AM a local lad, having spent most of my life in Linton. During the summer I am an Air Display Pilot for the world's only Formation Wingwalking Team – The Breitling Wingwalkers. We are on the lookout for a new Wingwalker to join our team for the 2012 air display season. Interested applicants should forward their cv, covering letter, recent photo, height and weight details to sarah@aerosuperbatatics.com

David Barrell



Could this be you? What an opportunity.

Picture supplied by David Barrell

Farewell to Dr Silverman...

A retirement message from Dr Jonathan Silverman

AFTER over 30 highly rewarding years working as a partner at Linton Health Centre, I have decided to retire in February. For some time now I have worked half-time at the practice and half-time in the Clinical School at Addenbrooke's and I will still be continuing half-time in my academic post and living in the village. My wife Barbara is still continuing to work at Addenbrookes as a consultant rheumatologist.

The practice has seen amazing changes over the last 30 years. When I first started there were four male partners and one female assistant and the practice had recently moved from much smaller premises in Bartlow Road to the current site. Since that time we have had two major extensions which have provided fantastic facilities for the people of Linton and surrounding villages. There are now eight clinical partners and three assistants plus a managerial partner and now women considerably outnumber men.

Despite many changes in



Dr Silverman who retires in February

Picture supplied by Dr Silverman

government policy, I hope that the practice is still seen as one which values personal care and gives time to each patient and their problems.

I will still be busy working as Associate Dean at the Clinical School, where my main responsibility is teaching communication skills to medical students and doctors. I'm fortunate that my work takes me to many countries throughout the world, I will now have more time for this.

After I retire from Linton we will be visiting New Zealand to see our son, who now lives there and then do some work in Australia on the way back.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the patients of the 16 villages that the practice looks after. I have had a thoroughly enjoyable career working in a lovely area with a population that has been very supportive to me and the practice. I'm sure the practice will go from strength to strength and, as a civilian, I look forward to seeing many of you around.

...Welcome to Dr Reem Al-Shaikh

DR Al-Shaikh will be joining us at the beginning of April, working full-time as a salaried doctor. She trained in London and then completed her General Practice Training in Cambridge, so knows the area and Addenbrooke's Hospital well. She is looking forward to joining the team here and getting to know the patients.

Linton Health Centre

Tom Macer earns his colours

THOMAS (Tom) Macer aged 20, who lives with mum and dad Ann and Steve and brother James in Linton, has just graduated from the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell, Lincolnshire as an Acting Pilot Officer.

At Cranwell he faced 30 difficult and challenging weeks during which his leadership skills and competencies were assessed. The course required the cadets to complete adventure training weeks away, maintain physical fitness and undergo lectures and examinations in Air Power Studies.

Whilst away he represented the college in numerous sports and earned his College Colours. Upon completion of the course he was also presented with the RAF club prize, which is awarded to the cadet who, in the eyes of the Directing Staff has, throughout the course, shown grit and unwavering perseverance, meeting every challenge with enthusiasm. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at RAF College Cranwell and in January moved on to the next phase of his career to complete further training at RAF Honington in order to become an RAF Regiment Officer.

Ann and Steve Macer, 891553



Picture of Tom taken by Ann Macer

Tokens needed

Petals is a new charity supporting parents who lose their baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death.

Help us to collect a share of £10,000 from the Cambridge Cash for the Community Project featured in the Cambridge Evening News. You can do this by cutting out tokens in the CEN and dropping them into:

Karen Burgess at The Meadows, Joiners Road. (the house on the rec.). Email karenburgess100@aol.com for more information. Thank you.

Karen Burgess

Too good for jumble...

DO you have a Canon photocopier FC-1/2/3/5/22 or FC-6/7/11? If yes, this month's special offer is for two brand new cased cartridges.

The Sharp portable electronic typewriter, the beech coloured computer work station on wheels, three shelves (one pull-out), the Degas framed print *Dancing Class* 18in x 24in (perfect condition) and a Boot's ultra-violet/infrared health lamp are all still available.

The Kiddicare cot raised £25 for NICU at the Rosie; the computer system made £30 for Crisis at Christmas and a further monitor, keyboard and mouse made £10 for Macmillan Nurses.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Kate France 891602 or email kfrance@profsoundconsult.com

NB The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

MOOSC has splendid results from fundraising events

THE children who attend the Meadow Out Of School Club in Balsham were very excitable towards the end of term and enjoyed making decorations for the tree displayed in the Church Christmas Tree Festival.

A party was held on the school playground with an inflatable snow globe and the rain didn't dampen their spirits.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported MOOSC over the last few months with our fundraising activities.

These extra funds make it possible to purchase new equipment and provide the children with events to look forward to.

The cake stall at the Balsham bandstand, the Pampered Chef evening in the mobile and the Christmas raffle have all been extremely successful.

We would like to thank

everyone who made and purchased cakes, this event raised £145. At the Pampered Chef evening Marie Burleigh, the consultant, gave us exciting simple recipes to create: Thai mango, chilli and lime filo cups, turkey pilaf and Christmas croissant pudding. Delicious. This event raised £185.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the raffle prizes, especially Plumbs Dairy and everyone who purchased a ticket.

The winner of the first prize Christmas hamper was Sarah Lloyd - congratulations. We were thrilled to raise £339 from this alone.

We appreciate that it's been a busy time and we couldn't have done it without the support of the staff, the committee, local residents, parents, friends and family members.

Claire Walker

Study Skills tutor in Linton

MANY students/pupils find it difficult to cope with their ever increasing educational workload, either because they are not very good at organising themselves or because they may have mild learning difficulties. With a background in Psychology, Sheila Bennett from Linton is offering study skills/revision skills tuition to support secondary school students. Sheila has had several years' teaching experience at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge. She has also researched into Intelligence at Cambridge University, and has taught Psychology at the University.

Study Skills tuition can support students by teaching practical learning skills and strategies to enable them to fulfil their educational potential. With appropriate help to understand the individual problems and needs, they can learn how to harness their unique skills.

It is important that young people do not become overwhelmed with the demands of education and can take control over their own learning in order that problems can be overcome. Study Skills tuition can help students with specific learning difficulties or general organisational problems.

It is claimed that Einstein had learning difficulties. That may or may not be true, however, it is nice to think that even geniuses (and there are other examples) have shortcomings that can be overcome.

Sheila Bennett, 890171

Happiness and achievement go hand in hand



I WAS interested to hear the new figures just released from the Children's Society saying half a million children in our country are unhappy. The study focused on children between the ages of eight and 15. This means one in 11 children (9%) has a low well-being. I listened with interest, as the staff and governors of Linton CE Infant School had a morning session considering our vision statement, which is *Linton CE Infant School where happiness and achievement go hand in hand.*

Every adult at our school is here because of the children. Children are at the heart of what we do and we believe that their happiness and achievement are paramount. In all discussions we were looking at how we achieve this and what areas we need to improve to ensure this is true for every child. Each adult involved in this process has a different view on happiness and what achievement looks like but the outcome demonstrated how much every one cared and their commitment and dedication to the young people.

Apologies to the parent audience who have already read our thoughts but I believe a whole community brings up a child and a school is just part of that community. If, like us, you think happiness and achievement are key, then you may appreciate what we think helps bring this about in our youngsters.

The children at Linton CE Infant School are happy and achieve because:

- I know that someone is doing the best for me.*
- I am important. I count.*
- I am celebrated.*
- I am enjoying it.*
- I feel great.*
- I can make decisions and choices. I am trusted.*
- I am a learner and I'm loving it.*

Louise Clark

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

Some positive results from the police

THE Linton skate ramp fire damage which happened in October last year has been resolved. With the help of CCTV, local residents coming forward and enquiries by the Police with local youths, the offenders have been identified and are currently being dealt with through liaison with the Parish Council. As these offenders have never offended before, they are being dealt with by way of restorative justice.

The incident of the theft of a child's scooter at Linton Heights Junior school has been dealt with. The offender has been identified, dealt with and the victim compensated.

Chris and I will be conducting speed checks in local villages throughout the month. The next surgery will be held on Sunday 12th February at Linton Police Office situated at the Fire Station in Linton between 2pm and 6pm.

PCSO 7239 Leanne Fisher
PCSO 7081 Chris Pulley
Part of the Linton Safer Neighbourhood Team

News from Conkers Children's Centre



Children and carers enjoy the Fun@one session

Picture by Emma Selin

WE are sending out our programme for the spring term with news of groups and new dates for infant massage, first aid training and speech and language drop-in sessions.

Also we have a great new group for two year olds - Time for Twos - which will be held on Thursdays from 9.30 to 11.30am. Activities will be centred around

learning through play including messy play, songs, rhymes, construction, story telling and counting. There will also be parents' discussion time focusing on making choices, taking turns, sharing, behaviour and routines.

For more information please call the Children's Centre on 893594

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The Ely Diocesan Board of Finance would like to invite you to attend a public consultation event on proposals for a new residential neighbourhood for Linton. We have prepared initial plans for a four hectare site located off Horseheath Road and are keen to hear your views. The consultation will be taking place at Linton Village Hall on Tuesday 28th February, 5pm-8pm. We hope to see you at our event and hear your views.

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Mandy Norris - Nursery Manager : 01223 897945 e-mail lh-bartlow@btconnect.com
Little Hands is also at Bourn, Melbourn and Newton, visit the website at www.littlehands.co.uk

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Mon	Closed	Senior Citizens
Tues	9-5 pm	Tuesday & Wednesday
Wed	9-7 pm	Late opening until 7 pm on
Thurs	9-7 pm	Wednesday & Thursday
Fri	9-5 pm	
Sat	9-3 pm	

Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. 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
It is with much sadness that I write to tell you of the death of my mother, Ellen Cooper, in her 102 year.

Mum will be known to many of the older generation of the village. Since 2007 she has been living in a nursing home in Southampton, near to me and we have spent many happy hours together.

Although she had reached this great age her death was very much a shock to her family. We managed to bring mum back to Linton and following a service at St Mary's on 29th December she was laid to rest with my father.

I am sorry that we were not able to notify many of her friends but due to the time of year communication was particularly difficult.

Mary Butler, Southampton by email

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
IT was a great comfort to me and my family to receive so many beautiful flowers, cards and phone calls from friends and neighbours after the sad loss of our daughter and sister, Nicola.

We thank you all so very much. Everyone has been so kind. Daphne and Alison Brazier.

A talk on Costa Rica warms a cold evening



INSPIRING WOMEN

AT our December meeting June welcomed County Chairman, Heather Wilkins, to our Christmas celebration, a festive buffet with delicious desserts, followed by monologues supplied by our secretary, Brenda, and performed by six of our members.

In January many of us felt that we would rather be in the comfort of our own homes than be buffeted by the cold winds to attend our monthly meeting. We soon had different thoughts when Trysha Hunt, our WI member, began her illustrated talk on her beautiful adventure in Costa Rica. Trysha journeyed through rain forests to the lovely coastline, sleeping high above the tree-line in rather superior wooden huts on stilts and during the night – before applying ear plugs – listening to the sounds of the forest wildlife. Amazingly she was not bitten by insects or snakes during her journeying.

She showed us many wonderful photographs of the brilliantly coloured butterflies, birds and flowers. I liked pictures of the sloth, the lazy creature which hangs upside down in the trees sleeping for 16 hours a day; the rest is spent eating leaves. They have a few other pastimes and they do have babies whilst hanging upside down. Once a week they climb down and dig a hole to defecate, which fertilises the forest. As they stay in the same spot for so long their coats tend to become covered in algae and they take on a rather green tinge.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th February in the Village Hall when Barry Kauffman-Wright will be taking us to the Landscapes of the Arctic Circle.

Guests and new members will be welcome.

Cynthia Norris

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 5th March 2012
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 13th February
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 15th February

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER
We currently have no advertising space
Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse
email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR
Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
Editor: Wendy Foster email: lneditor@linton.info
phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office, failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here.

You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info.

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

Details of items in bold type may be found elsewhere in this edition. WEEKLY

- Conkers children's centre, 9am-12noon, Mon-Thurs call 07768 008919 CC
 - Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH
 - Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Monday termtime CC
 - Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays Pavilion
 - Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701) CC
 - WEA, 10am Tuesdays VH
 - Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays CP
 - Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays LVC
 - Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (349 314) CC
 - Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays VH
 - IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC
 - Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only VH
 - Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only) Library
 - Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
 - Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
 - The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays VH
 - Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays CP
 - Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays Ashdon Baptist church
 - St Mary's church choir trebles, 6.30-7.15pm Fridays St Mary's
 - Full choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays St Mary's
 - Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
- For sports centre courses please call Linton Village College sports centre on 890248

Fundraiser for the Warden Scheme

A WARM thank you to all who braved the freezing weather to come to our Saturday Social. This event was to raise funds to support our Community Warden, mainly to pay the travel expenses. We had refreshments, bring-and-buy, raffle, and information on the Warden and ACE social events.

Having accosted Edge of Dementia Compass and Firoozeh of the Alzheimer's Society, at

Addenbrookes, they came to give information on their support groups.

Many thanks to all who donated raffle prizes, refreshments and goods; all were much appreciated.

AgeUK (Cambs) has produced a new leaflet on the work of our Warden. This scheme gives support to the older residents of the village, who do not qualify for more formal care. A

trained carer, she provides daily contact, collects prescriptions, books and some shopping, and gives other assistance. In general, she is another layer of support to help our elders to live safely and independently in their own home. If you know of anyone needing this support, call me or the Warden on 07931 852019.

The next meeting of ACE (Activities and Care for the

Elders) is a buffet lunch, at the Church pavilion at 12.30pm on 16th February. This will just be to cheer us up at what can be a rather dreary time of the year; a chance to get together and have a chat and enjoy good company – there might also be music. All older people are welcome to meet friends old and new, transport available. Come and join us.

Enid Bald, 891069

Linton blood donor urges fellow residents to become blood donors

PAMELA Phipps was already a blood donor when, in 1976, she fell pregnant after many years of trying to start a family. Complications during the pregnancy left her fighting for her life. Pamela survived thanks to receiving 11 pints of blood but she and her husband had lost their longed for son.

Pamela, an occupational health consultant, said: "If it hadn't been for the generosity and selfless act of blood donors, I would not have lived. I urge everyone to donate if they can; each whole blood donation can help three people."

A much bigger venue is being used this year and the hope is to increase donor numbers in Linton by 45%.

The first donor session is on Wednesday 4th April between 1-3.15pm and 4-7pm. Please call 0300 123 23 23 and make an appointment. The venue is Linton Community Sports Centre at Linton Village College. Further sessions in Linton are planned.

Pauline O'Brien, Senior Media and PR Officer, NHS Blood and Transplant

News from LVC sports centre

JANUARY was a fantastic month at Linton Community Sports Centre – feedback on the new fitness suite has been incredibly positive and attendance at our classes has doubled; that said there is always room for more.

If you haven't checked out our new facilities come and have a look, a member of our team will be happy to show you around.

If you decide to take out a membership, we do not require you sign your life away with a contract but allow you to pay on a monthly basis via direct debit.

We do also have a pay as you go facility and have just launched our £30 for 30 days membership for those who want to use the centre on an occasional basis.

February sees the launch of two more special offers. For those of you who have yet to try our classes, please visit the centre to claim your free class pass; the pass will allow you free access to each of our studio classes and if that wasn't enough, sign up for one of our fitness suite memberships in February and receive a 50% discount on your first direct debit payment.

For more information, please call the Sports Centre on 890248 or email lscs@lvc.org, or visit our website at www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk

Steven Austin

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- FEBRUARY**
- 4 Farmers' market, 9.30am LVC
 - 6 Camera Club, 7.15 CC
 - 7 WI, 7.30pm VH
 - 11 Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm LVC
 - 12 Sunday club, 10.30am URC Hall
 - 12 Police surgery, 2-6pm Police office, Fire station
 - 14 Gardening club, 7.30pm VH
 - 14 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
 - 15 CAMTAD, hearing help, 9.30-12noon Health Centre
 - 16 ACE buffet lunch, 12.30pm Pavilion
 - 16 Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
 - 19 Café Church, 10.15am URC
 - 21 History Society, 7.30pm VH
 - 22 Lent Lunch, 12noon 4 Harefield Rise 26
 - 24 Wine tasting, 7.30pm Pavilion
 - 24 Library meeting, 8pm CC
 - 26 Cambridge Glass Fair, 10.30am-4pm Chilford Hall
 - 28 Lent Lunch, 12noon 1 Rhugarve Gardens

- MARCH**
- 1 Lunch Club, 12.30 White Horse, Whittlesford
 - 1 Reading Group, 8pm D&D
 - 1 Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
 - 3 Farmers' market, 9.30am LVC
 - 3 MU coffee morning, 11am Pavilion
 - 3 Guides annual jumble sale, 2pm Infants school
 - 5 Camera Club, 7.15 CC
 - 6 WI, 7.30pm VH

Library times: Monday Closed; Tuesday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; Wednesday 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Thursday Closed; Friday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon.

Refuse collection: 13th, 27th, February

Recycling collection: 6th, 20th February, 5th March

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reform church, VH village hall

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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams



Sacre Geranium

PICTURE the scene. The sun, high in an otherwise pure cobalt blue sky, dry grass hissing with crickets, a lone blackbird flutters into the shade beneath the laurel. In the corner of the garden by a shed, on a rickety table, grows a potted plant, but not just any plant.

After Dick Annegarn sang his song many years ago *Sacre Geranium* the first line remained etched in my memory. This wonderful plant for me is symbolic of warm summer days, greenhouses and kitchen window sills enhanced and our lives made more jolly by intense red blooms.

Of course, that's not the only colour and quite frankly it's not that simple either, for there are over four hundred species of this genus, more often referred to as Cranesbills.

Now, gardening experts will have already spotted the error in my little story, for what I am really talking about is

Pelargonium hortorum, or am I? Confused? Well so am I, but to clear the matter up



toute suite we'll stop the confusion by calling it *Pelargonium hortorum* like confused specialists do (especially the one with the red flowers).

The Hardy Geranium or even the Half Hardy Pelargonium, not to be misinterpreted as the Garden Geranium or one Dove's Foot. Sorry, that's Wild Geranium in the witches' brew, like one Crow's Foot really

meant Cranesbill.

Thank you one Joannis Borman back in the 1700s for suggesting Pelargoniums as a separate group. The point is, I had one of these perennials for many years standing on the same shelf in the same old terracotta pot, which at one stage grew to almost a metre high.

Now, every year I took cuttings. The fresh green shoots from the top seemed best, popping them in glass jam jars of water (classy I know) sometimes with rooting powder bought for ten pence at a jumble sale, at least that's what it said on the label. These cuttings would flourish, eventually filling my house with wonderful colour, and indeed in these days of austerity, what a great idea.

Lovely Mr Annegarn knew not his first line unleashed so many plants and so much joy when he sang *Sacre Geranium, tu sens bon la terre!* And they are! And they really do!

From Paris to Casablanca and back...



IF New Zealand was positioned in this hemisphere it would stretch approximately from Paris to Casablanca hence giving it a fascinating range of flora to explore. This lured Dr Steve Jones and his wife into spending four weeks driving 4,000 miles around both islands, and the resulting slides were the foundation of his fascinating talk this month.

New Zealand's native plants include phormiums, pittisporums, hebes and ferns including the tree ferns, many of which are found in gardens here. Just as we nurture exotic specimens from the garden centre so too do the New Zealanders. If anything, they are even more enthusiastic, with a botanical garden being found in virtually every town and city.

The climate in New Zealand however has made thugs out of some of the beautiful plants imported for their fabulous Victorian style gardens. Who would have thought that agapanthus could reach six feet and be used as hedging and are so vigorous that they are classified as a pernicious weed. So too are hydrangeas, crocosmia, tiger lilies and foxgloves, all of which can be found running rampantly along roadsides. Somehow I think I'd rather weed out agapanthus than the never-ending roots of bindweed but one man's weed as they say...

At a point in the year when we are all yearning for a little more colour, the next Gardening club meeting promises a dose of just that to keep you going. Barry Gayton is bringing his slides to talk about a year of colour in the garden starting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th February in the Village Hall. All are invited to join us.

In the dark and colder weather if any members would appreciate a lift in order to join us for the evening, please get in touch. Kirsten Newble, 892425, lgsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Beer about wine

NO, our heading is not a cryptic clue but an announcement that Archdeacon John Beer will host a Wine Tasting Evening at 7.30pm on Friday 24th February in the Church Pavilion.

The wines will be Fair Trade and after the tasting light refreshments and a glass of wine will be served. Admission is £8 by ticket only from Judy Nightingale, 891806 or Anne Parry-Smith 894715. Early application is advised. All profits will go to Friends of St Mary's.

Margaret Clark

Linton welcomes the Book of Inspirations

THE Mothers Union, in the Ely Diocese, is circulating a Book of Inspiration from parish to parish throughout the diocese.

We in Linton will be welcoming the book from Balsham at 11am on the morning of Saturday 3rd March, in the church pavilion and are curious to see how it will arrive.

Linton will hold it for a week, add our entries and then deliver it on horseback to the parishes of Great and Little Abington.

We would be delighted to welcome all mothers in Linton to join us on this special occasion and to find out something of the worldwide work of the Mothers Union.

Did you know that the MU is an official consultant on family affairs to both the British government and the UN? Locally we provide holidays for local families, support women's refuges, run parenting classes and help in prisons. We also relax together and have fun.

A warm welcome awaits everyone.

Ann King, 897832, amking@aade.me.uk

Do join us for the Lent Lunches this year

LENT Lunches in 2012, which have now been running for more than 10 years, will raise money for the Cambridge Blind Mission (CBM). It is an international organisation committed to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and those at risk of disability. It is based on Christian values and has over 100 years' experience. Its brief, working together with others, includes the provision of healthcare, education and rehabilitation services for some of the people with disabilities in the poorest areas of the world.

Lent Lunches will be held in a number of different homes, on Wednesdays, as usual, from 12 noon until 2pm. All are welcome to a soup, bread, cheese and coffee lunch, making a donation towards the work of CBM. We aim each year to raise at least £1,000.



El Shaddai, alive through services of CBM

Picture supplied by Alan Clarkson

Dates for 2012 have been arranged and begin on 22nd February with Monica and Alan Clarkson at 4 Harefield Rise; 29th February with Colleen and Derek Lockstone at 1 Rhugarve Gardens; 7th March with Lorna and Don Mullholland at 1a Hillway. They continue until 4th April, with the last one being held in the pavilion, with a speaker from CBM. Full details will be available in the church pewsheets and on posters. Alan Clarkson, 892988

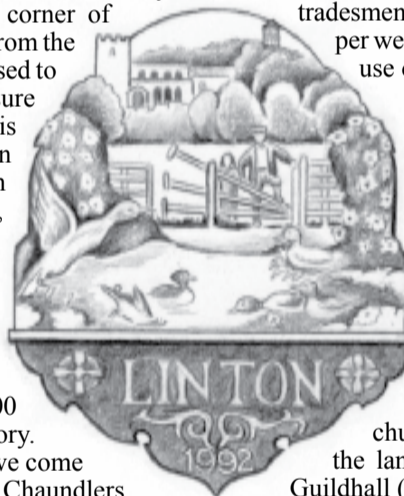
A walk through the centuries



Very easy, no stiles
3/4 mile

History is all around us in Linton, and what better way to explore it than a gentle stroll of about 3/4 mile around the centre of our picturesque village. The walk starts at the Dog and Duck and goes over the bridge. There has been a river crossing here since prehistoric times, and this is the centre of the original settlement. Although Roman and Saxon remains have been found in the parish, the oldest surviving buildings are 15th century. Across the bridge on the corner of Symonds Lane and dating from the early 17th century, is what used to be the Swan Inn until its closure in the 1980s. Just opposite is the village sign. Put up in 1992, it shows scenes from the area - the water tower, clapper stile, church, ducks - and buried beneath it is a time capsule filled by local school pupils. Going up the High Street, the first building on the right is Linton House, built in 1700 on the site of a medieval priory. Further up, at number 91, we come to Linton's oldest house, Chaundlers. This 15th century building opposite the end of Church Lane is covered in traditional decorative plasterwork.

There has been a working mill on this site from about 1220 to the 1980s when the buildings were converted to dwellings. Turn right, and keeping the mill on your left, go along Mill Lane, then on a path leading to an open green. This is known as Camping Close and was used for playing football when it was illegal to play in the street (camping is an old word for football). On the right is the Infants' School, built as a National Church School (1840) for the children of labourers and tradesmen, where the charge was one penny per week and an extra halfpenny for the use of copybooks.



Follow the path through the kissing gate into the churchyard which contains many old graves and equally old yew trees. St Mary's Church was founded in the early 12th century and the present building dates largely from the 13th to 15th centuries. Building material from a Roman villa near the bypass was used in its construction. Leave the churchyard with the church on your left and go down the lane to the river, passing the old Guildhall (1527) on your right.

Go over the footbridge, past the well fed ducks and up Horn Lane. Notable buildings along here are Springfield House, originally a tannery; the United Reformed Church (1818); and in 1669 number 8/10 was a Quaker meeting house. Market Lane, opposite the end of Horn Lane, was the hub of the thriving 17th century market town of Linton. Continue down the High Street back to the Dog and Duck, which was originally built as a pair of cottages; the rent in 1633 was one penny per year.

After 200 yards, turn right into Green Lane - the gardens of the cottages on the right were used as a market place before 1281 and a village green until 1840. The grandly titled Old Manor House further down the lane on the right was in fact a tannery until the 19th century. Walking straight on through the narrow alley we come to the mill area.

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A SPACE this month allows us to print one of the walks from the walks booklet. All the walks are based around Linton and vary in distance. Space permitting we will publish more of them in future.

Editor

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The Sunday roast is home cooked at the Crown



Joel Palmer outside The Crown

Picture by Georgina Page

THE noticeboard outside the Crown announced a Sunday roast, which seemed a positive sign after the devastating fire on 8th December last year, which destroyed the kitchen and some rooms upstairs. Joel Palmer, the owner/chef told me that the Crown never closed, even on the evening of the fire. The bar remained open for drinks and there was a limited menu of soup and sandwiches. Over the festive season, drinks parties were given tray buffets.

The fire was very intense and at one point there were seven pumps standing by. Joel has been very busy dealing with the insurers, but has now appointed a loss assessor to do the work for him. He is also awaiting the structural engineer's report and it would appear that the structural damage may not be as bad as originally thought.

As to the cause of the fire, there are two opinions, with the fire service believing it was a short circuit in a freezer in the storage area and the insurers thinking it could have been a smouldering cigarette under the deck area. However, the findings are inconclusive.

Joel is now hoping to move on to a complete refurbishment throughout with a brand new kitchen and rooms upstairs. There will also be a new feature but Joel is keeping that under wraps at the moment.

Meanwhile the Sunday roast is cooked at Joel's own home and brought to the Crown. Joel is looking forward to a grand re-opening at some point this year, but he tells me it won't be a quick fix.

LNT

IN your own time will be back next month, if you know someone with an unusual hobby whom we could feature please call us. Editor

A feast of song (to warm a winter's night)

SOPRANO Rachel Godsill and pianist Marie-Noelle Kendall perform songs, arias and cabaret by Elgar, Quilter, Parry and Britten, including Elgar's *The Shepherd's Song* and Britten's *Cabaret Songs*. Featuring piano solos including Liszt's transcription of Schubert's *The Trout*.

This all takes place at Linton Village College at 7.30 pm on Saturday 11th February. Tickets £10 on the door or in person from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street.

For more information please contact me. Linda Bird, 893600.



Top Marie-Noelle Kendall and right Rachel Godsill Pictures supplied by the artistes



The Olympics are coming

WITH just a few weeks to go until the London Olympic Games, excitement is building at LVC. Assemblies this month will focus on the Olympics and LVC will be supporting athletes from Great Britain and South Africa, where our partner school is based.

On 7th July, the Olympic torch will pass through Haverhill and we are hoping that many of our students will turn out to welcome the flame. Sports Day this summer will be extra special, with opening and closing ceremonies on the Olympic theme.

Next month, we will be reporting on a very special visitor as Olympic champion David Hemery will officially open our new building. David won gold in the 400m hurdles at Mexico 1968, setting a new world record time, and was chosen as BBC Sports Personality of the Year. It is very fitting that he should open our new building in an Olympic year.

Cross-country success for LVC

LVC took a team of 50 students to the district cross-country championships at Royston Heath on a cold, windy day in December. Our students put in a fantastic effort and came second out of 16 schools. Congratulations to all who took part and especially to our three individual champions—Niall Ackroyd, Lauren Murphy and Charlotte Murphy.

Twitter Vicar

HAVE you ever wondered what a Vicar does during the week? There are many people who only see us leading services on a Sunday – or at weddings and funerals. It is one of those jobs that seems to be cloaked in mystery for many people and I am often asked what I do from Monday to Friday.

One of the best ways I have found to make my working week transparent has been through Twitter. You can follow me on Twitter @stmaryslinton – there are many people who follow me and it has really helped them to understand what I am involved in.

For those who don't know, Twitter is a sort of text service that comes through to your mobile phone or computer. Each entry is limited to 140 characters. I use it to let people know what I am up to during the day: meetings I go to, services I am leading, when I am doing admin or school assemblies or funerals or writing sermons and so on. Lots of people in Linton follow me – especially those who don't come to church. It has deepened people's understanding of my ministry and I have had some wonderful conversations with people as a result.

So if you want to know exactly what a Vicar does during the day, why not follow me on Twitter? You might be surprised to learn what is involved and the variety of activities that make up my ministry in the Linton area.

Rev Dr Steve Griffiths, Rector, Linton Team Ministry

POT POURRI 83

The side of a room

A MATHEMATICAL house consists of 10 (equally sided) rooms. The first has a triangular floor, the next a square and by adding +1 sides each time, we reach the 10th room, a (symmetrical) 12 sided floor. The height of all the rooms is the same and starting with the first room, the volume of each room increases in the manner of the Fibonacci series. What is the length of the 10th room's side in relation to the side of the first room? (Ceilings are the image of the floor).

Solution to 82 – What size Parcel?

With $l \Rightarrow w \Rightarrow h$ and $girth = 2(w + h)$ then $l \leq 1.5$ & $1 + 2w + 2h \leq 3$. We require to maximise $(l^2 + w^2 + h^2)^{0.5}$ with the conditions that $l + 2w + 2h \leq 3$ and $0 \leq h \leq w \leq l \leq 1.5$.

Hence in three dimensions the constraints give the vertices (corner) of (l, w, h):-

(1.5, 0, 0), (1.5, 0.375, 0.375), (1.5, 0.75, 0), (0, 0, 0), (0.6, 0.6, 0.6), (1, 1, 0).

Thus the longest cane which can be sent in a box of (1.5, 0.75, 0) ie. a flat box is 1.677m.

NB \Rightarrow means equal to or greater than and \leq equal to or less than.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Guides' jumble sale

LINTON Guides' annual bumper jumble sale will be in the hall at Linton Infants' school at 2pm on Saturday 3rd March.

This is the major fund raising event for the two Linton units. All gifts of jumble will be gratefully received in the hall from 10am. Please phone 891925 or 891602 to arrange for items to be collected. Selling starts at 2pm and we look forward to your continued support.

Kate France

A1307 petition reminder

THE petition to do something to make the A1307 safer is still open. You can sign at the Co-op, Boyz2 men or the surgery; together we can make a difference.

Chloe Banks

Early notice of Spring Fair

FOLLOWING the successful coffee morning last year the trustees of the Village Hall will be holding a Spring Fair and Coffee Morning from 10am on Saturday 21st April.

As well as delicious cakes there will be a grand raffle and stalls. Anyone wishing to have a stall or to donate a raffle prize can contact me on 891001 or call into the office.

Please come along and support this event. All funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the Hall.

Sue Parry, Secretary

Is it a church? Is it a café? No it's a café church!

AT 10.15am every third Sunday in the month (next being 19th February) we have a very relaxed gathering of family and friends in our church hall, starting with excellent croissants, fresh baked bread and fresh coffee. We have many new friends coming to join us on this Sunday now, mainly from their children attending the Children's Sunday Club the previous week.

We will give you a warm friendly welcome with lively atmosphere, family activities, music, conversation and a gospel message relevant for the times we live in.

So if you fancy getting stuck in to a community made of a bunch of people who love God and care about this place called Linton, then come and check us out.

URC Church, Horn Lane, Linton. Just over the bridge from the feeding of the ducks.

Julia Burdett, 893307

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The Derbyshire Post



WE started back at College this term on 3rd January: a miserable, wet and exceptionally windy week. It was pitch black when I left the house and pitch black when I returned and I did wonder how I was going to rally the students and motivate the staff at such a time. Nationally, morale in the education sector is as low as I have seen it in 25 years. New ways to measure schools' performance are making us feel unsettled and bewildered. Then there is the threat over on-going industrial action in relation to pension cuts, increased retirement ages and the pay freezes to contend with. At the same time our students are feeling the impact that the recession is having on their own family lives.

I am, however, an eternal optimist and remain resolutely cheerful. 2012 is going to hold so many positive things for the College. To begin with, it is 2012 after all and for a school, the arrival of the Olympics in the country brings lots of interest and educational opportunity. We are already generating a list of ideas about the ways in which we can get our students inspired and involved: the first of which is that our new school buildings will be opened by gold medallist Olympian David Hemery.

2012 also heralds the College's first whole school musical production for a number of years. Oliver is to be staged at the end of March and we are all very excited about it.

Finally, we have yet to take full advantage of all of the features of our new buildings: a café for students opens in the atrium between the common rooms in just a couple of week's time. This will take considerable pressure off our queues for the canteen at break and lunchtime.

As for the students: attendance is at an all-time high, behaviour is excellent, and in 2012 the results look very promising indeed. Bring it on!

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

New play equipment for Linton recreation ground – a proposal

MY name is David Walker, a Linton resident and parent to two under-fives. If you study the council minutes meticulously you may have read that I have been asking the Parish Council about the possibility of some new play equipment for the recreation ground (specifically the under-fives enclosed area).

I have earmarked some new and interesting equipment for the children (eg a roundabout) and the council have been extremely helpful and have pledged some funds towards it. However, there is a funding gap to be filled and it looks like grant funding will be the best way to fill it. So, getting to the crux of the matter, I need your help. If anyone in the village knows of grants or funding sources for which this type of project would be eligible, I would be grateful for the information. I have shortlisted some but there are a surprising number when you start looking. Perhaps you work for a company that has a community fund for employees? In addition, if any residents feel like volunteering their time to help prepare the grant applications, please contact me, your help would be appreciated.

Any letters or emails of support would also be welcome and valuable for the project. I can be contacted on 892 614 or linton-playgroundupgrade@gmail.com. There is even a Facebook page for updates – please search for *Linton playground upgrade* on Facebook. Thanks for your attention.

David Walker



The Way We Were
by Garth Collard

The way we were will be back next month along with the planning applications. Amazingly there have been none since 1st December

The Ninth Annual Bartlow Three Counties Charity Walk



A few of the children who enjoyed the activities

Pictures supplied by Graham Howat

THE 2012 Bartlow Three-Counties Charity Walk will be held on Sunday 6th May. We raise funds through our walkers arranging individual sponsorship and through the generosity of local companies. We share the net funds raised equally between Linton Health Centre, Bartlow Church restoration and an Addenbrooke's cause – this year the Dementia and Delirium Team. In our best year

650 walkers took part and our good causes each received over £4000. The eight-year total for the walk is £67,000. For our regulars, we plan some route changes to keep it interesting. To first-timers we say welcome to a top family day out in a good cause. In 2012 we will offer four walks, all through beautiful local countryside, and by special agreement with local landowners:



Now which way do we go? Four Linton ladies accept the challenge and complete the nine and a half mile walk.

The Classic 13½-mile Three Counties Walk, which takes walkers to the point where Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex meet and back.

The 9½ mile Family Route which appeals to those who see 13½ miles as too much of a challenge.

We offer a five mile option under which we'll give you a lift back from Castle Camps.

Finally, the popular one and a half-mile Junior Nature Trail for the under 10s, incorporating a Nature Quiz and many other games and adventures.

For details, and to download a sponsorship form, visit bartlow.org.uk – look out for our distinctive day-glo yellow posters, call in at Linton Health Centre, or call me.

Graham Howat, 891732
Walk Organiser

Don't delay, enrol now for the Sawston fun run ...

WELL known charities and local organisations will benefit from the 2012 Sawston Fun Run to be held on 29th April at Sawston Village College. The family friendly event, the largest community-led event in the area, has donated over £354,000 to local charities. The organisers, the Rotary Club of Sawston District, aim to raise over £15,000.

The major beneficiaries will be:

East Anglian Children's Hospices [EACH], Histon
Macmillan Cancer Support, Cambridge
Cambridge Samaritans

Other groups to benefit are:

Centre 33 – Young People's Drop-In Centre, Cambridge; Sawston Boys and Girls Brigade; Sawston Cricket Club; Sawston Youth Group; Sawston Air Training Corps; Sawston Sports Centre; Whittlesford and Duxford Scouts; Sawston Girls Football Club; Shelford and Stapleford Scouts; Rainbow pre-school and Sunnyside Pre-school; Sawston Village College and seven local primary schools.

Additional sponsors:

The Cambridge Building Society will continue their support as the event sponsor. Bradshaws, the estate agency and Gibbs Denley Insurance Services have joined Adams Harrison Solicitors; Budgens Sawston; Excell Voice & Data Specialists; Morgan Ashurst; Vindis Sawston and Sawston Parish Council as sponsors too. They illustrate just how much the event engages with all aspects of community.

Entries will be accepted from February: online via www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk and forms from branches of Cambridge Building Society and the reception area at Sawston Village College.

Advertising and promotional opportunities exist for those who wish to be involved. Details can be obtained from Tony Collett, of the Organising Committee, on 893447 or emailing tony.collett@virgin.net

Tony Collett

... and start training for the Chilford 10K run too



Ready for the off at Chilford last year

Picture supplied by Stephane Toussnel

A REMINDER for the Chilford 10k race which will take place on Sunday 17th June at Chilford Hall.

So start training gently to be ready to tackle the challenging route.

Further information will be available on www.losc.co.uk or send an email to chilford10k@gmail.com

Great prizes up for grabs courtesy of Chilford Hall, Brooks running shoes, Advance Performance, Body Design Pilates, Kevin Henry and Nextnorth.

See you there.

Stephane Toussnel

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Parish Council Matters

The parish council - the very early years

Parish Council Matters is written, edited and published by the Parish Council with the support of the Linton News Team.

Local Government Act, 1894.

PARISH COUNCIL.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS CONTROLLING PROCEEDINGS.

It is enacted in the Local Government Act, 1894, in effect, as follows :-

Constitution of Parish Council.

(1.) The Parish Council for a rural parish shall be elected from among the parochial electors of that parish or persons who have during the whole of the twelve months preceding the election resided in the parish, or within three miles thereof, and shall consist of a Chairman and Councillors, and the number of Councillors shall be such as may be fixed from time to time by the County Council, not being less than five nor more than fifteen.

(2.) No person shall be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected or being a member of a Parish Council.

(3.) The term of office of a Parish Councillor shall be one year.

(4.) On the fifteenth day of April in each year (in this Act referred to as the ordinary day of coming into office of Councillors) the Parish Councillors shall go out of office, and their places shall be filled by newly-elected Councillors.

(5.) The Parish Councillors shall be elected by the parochial electors of the parish.

(6.) The election of Parish Councillors shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be conducted according to rules framed under this Act for that purpose by the Local Government Board.

(7.) The Parish Council shall in every year, on or within seven days after the ordinary day of coming into office of Councillors, hold an annual meeting.

(8.) At the annual meeting, the Parish Council shall elect, from their own body or from other persons qualified to be Councillors of the parish, a Chairman, who shall, unless he resigns, or ceases to be qualified, or becomes disqualified, continue in office until his successor is elected.

(9.) Every Parish Council shall be a body corporate by the name of the Parish Council, with the addition of the name of the parish, or if there is any doubt as to the latter name, of such name as the County Council after consultation with the Parish Meeting of the parish direct, and shall have perpetual succession, and may hold land for the purposes of their powers and duties without licence in mortmain; and any act of the Council may be signified by an instrument executed at a meeting of the Council, and under the hands, or, if an instrument under seal is required, under the hands and seals, of the Chairman presiding at the meeting and two other members of the Council.

(10.) With respect to meetings of Parish Councils, the provisions in the First Schedule to this Act shall have effect. —(SECTION 3.)

In the January edition of the Linton News parish council section, John Linsdell reported on the parish council in 1971. However, I wish to go back even further to the formation of the parish council in 1894 and its early agendas and the problems which beset the parish many years ago (and still cause problems today!).

Above this article is a copy of the first page of the 1894 Government Act which led to the setting up of parish councils.

The initial statutory provisions describe the constitution of parish councils and the first item (1) sets out the criteria for the composition of the council, which is basically followed to this day. The second (2) states that "no persons shall be disqualified by sex or marriage from being elected". This statement may seem strange but it reflects the changes in suffrage (being able to vote) which were occurring during the latter part of the 19th century.

Increasingly, women were being given the privilege to vote on various local issues. But they were not able to vote in Parliamentary elections until well into the 20th century. For instance in what was known as "Parochial Elections" owner occupiers, and principal tenants of property could vote. If the owner was a woman, single or married, she could vote. However, if the owner occupier or tenant was a married man, his wife did not have a vote.

So probably, this was the first occasion whereby some women could vote but all could stand as candidates for the newly established parish councils.

However, Linton did not have any female parish councillors until well into the 20th century.

The first meeting of Linton parish council took place on the 31st December 1894 in the National School (Infants) (there is no mention of an election in the minutes), which led to some 11 councillors meeting to establish the post of chairman, vice chairman, clerk and a treasurer of the council (the treasurer not being a member of the parish council).

Present were: H Allen, J Boning, AJ Butt, W Camping, HP Chalk, ET Chalk, RJ Clayden, WM Cowling, TT Holtum, J Maris

and RD Wright. In his absence FS Nichols was elected chairman.

The council decided that the next meeting was to be held within a fortnight.

The agenda for that meeting included items which recur on a regular basis for the next 117 years. They were:

- 1 Rules of procedure.
- 2 Street lighting.
- 3 The allotments question.

In fact, in the first two full years (1895,1896), allotments and street lighting together took up some 70% of council meeting time. The other main matters raised during this period were the state of the footpaths and the situation regarding the parish charities.

At the first full meeting in 1895 the street lighting question was deferred until the county council had indicated what action they were going to take in respect of the state of the footpaths in Linton.

A letter dated the 5th February was read out at the meeting held on the 6th February: "Mr Camping has called upon us this afternoon respecting the desire expressed by some labourers at Linton to obtain thro' your parish council additional land for allotments, and estimated that they considered Joiners Close containing 7½

acres as very suitable". It was pointed out that Mr Camping was the yearly tenant of the land, and that there would be problems associated with this proposal. It was suggested that Mr Keene and Pembroke College as being large landowners should be approached to ascertain whether they could assist the council in providing land for allotments.

On another matter, a letter to the clerk of the county council was appended to the minutes of this meeting which read: "Dear Sir, I am directed by the parish council of Linton to bring before the notice of the county council, the dangerous state of the public footpaths through the town, and to beg the serious consideration of your council to the matter. In many places they are not fit to walk upon, and most of the pedestrians are obliged to take the middle of the road, which in wet & frosty weather is to say the least of it, most uncomfortable and dangerous. They beg therefore that prompt measures may be taken to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs".

At this meeting the parish charities were discussed by Mr HP Chalk as churchwarden, and identified as being: "Firstly, a bequest by Miss Keene of £100, of which had been by the gift of blankets, by the Rev Brett reduced to £50, the proceeds of which were used for church purposes.

The Pest House and land is a charity, the significance of which it is impossible to trace, but the income from such property is also paid over to the church. The third charity is called "Harrison Charity" and a sum of money is invested which brings in an income of £2 18s 4d per annum. This amount should be spent by the churchwardens & overseers on New Years Day, in bread to be given to the poor". The clerk was instructed to write to the charity commissioners to ascertain their opinion as to the object of the first two charities as the council considered that they were parochial and not ecclesiastical. It was suggested that councillors should be trustees of the charities in place of the churchwardens and overseers.

In relation to the allotments it was not evident from the parish council minutes which land was being made available for allotments, however, there was discussion as to whether the applicants should be allowed one or half an acre. After a vote it was decided that an acre should be the size of a rentable plot. The rent being 40 shillings (£2) an acre, payable quarterly in advance.

At the meeting of the 3rd July 1895 a draft document was presented to the council regarding the terms of tenancy of the allotments. It read as follows:

"Memorandum of agreement

Made this ... day of ... 1895 between the trustees of the Linton parish council allotments, hereinafter called the landlords of the one part and of Linton in the county of Cambridgeshire, hereinafter called the tenant of the other part".

"Whereby the said landlords agree to let and the said tenant agreed to hire on a yearly tenancy all that piece or parcel of garden ground lying in field numbered and containing by measurement rods at the annual rent of shillings, payable quarterly in advance, free of all rates and taxes which are to be paid by the landlords. The tenancy to commence from September 29th 1895. No tenant will be allowed to underlet".

"The said tenant agrees to cultivate the said garden ground in a good and husbandly manner, and keep it clean. To avoid trespassing and not damage any of the crops on any part of the landlords ground".

At a subsequent meeting held on 24th July 1895 regarding the terms of agreement it was proposed by Mr Holtum "That the tenants of the allotments shall be allowed to plant trees upon their allotments & to build pigstys".

This was carried unanimously. It was evident also from the minutes of 4th September 1895, that land for allotments was still under consideration as a letter was proposed to enquire whether a portion of College Close (Pembroke's) of some 12 acres, now in the occupancy Mr R Clayden could be rented to the parish council as allotments and at what price per acre.

On the 6th November 1895 it was proposed that a further letter be sent to the county council directing their attention once again, to the dangerous and disgraceful state of the footpaths in the parish and for the council to take steps to remedy this unhealthy state of things without further delay.

It is quite clear that the application via Mr Nockholds as agent for both Mr Keene and Pembroke College in some way resolved the matter of provision of land for allotments, as in early 1896 a communication was received from Mr Nockholds to the effect that "no more land would be let for allotments unless the council took over all the existing holdings", but how the matter was finally resolved, and where the allotments were situated was not recorded in the minutes.

In 1899 there was a council minute to the effect that a proposal to provide a deep water well and pump at the Balsham Road corner was no longer necessary as the wells where the outbreak of typhoid fever occurred were declared satisfactory.

For the next 10 years the principal items on the parish council agendas were: footpaths (especially Stanton's Lane), street lighting, burial ground and the charities.

However, as a final comment on a matter which continues to this day as a problem for the village, on the 19th March 1914 "It was unanimously resolved that clerk be instructed to draw the attention of the county authority to the dangerous speed of some of the motor cars while passing through the main street of Linton and, to ask whether the 10 mile speed limit could not be enforced".

Nearly a hundred years later we still have a problem!
Cllr Brian Cox

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 1st December 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, Mrs A Walker, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with seven members of the public. Mr Ian Dewar, CEO of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cornell, Linsdell and Mannassi.

Disclosure of interest: Under the Nichols Court external lighting application item Cllr Dew declared a prejudicial interest as a resident owning a neighbouring property but did not leave the meeting as no vote took place. Under the allotments item Cllr Walker declared a personal interest as an employee of Camgrain.

Chairman's comment: The chair reported on the death of Mrs Arthur who had been the oldest Linton born resident. Sympathies were sent to her family.

Public participation: Ian Dewar was in attendance to answer any questions on allotments.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open spaces and environment: It was agreed that tree packs be bought for planting on Paynes Meadow.

Recreation ground: Cllr Manley had issued a report in respect of the pavilion project management fee proposal of £6500+VAT. Cllr Hickford proposed that £6500 be set aside to cover staggered payments to project manage the pavilion refurbishment. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Manley and resolved by the meeting.

Venture playground: The play equipment inspection reports from Wicksteed Leisure and Zurich Insurance were considered. Cllr Gee proposed that repairs should be carried out as soon as was practical at the discretion of the clerk. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Manley and resolved by the meeting.

The clerk had written a report but emphasised the need to carry out, at the very minimum, weekly visual checks of the play equipment. Cllr Penfold offered to carry out these checks with support from councillors Potter, Hunt and Wilson. A record of every check should be emailed to the clerk on the checklist provided.

The police had asked how the culprits responsible for the arson attack on the skateramp should be dealt with. They had suggested using the restorative justice method. This would address those who were of previous good character to make amends for their actions by contributing towards the community. This was agreed.

Churchyard: Cllr Cox reported that three lime trees required some dead branches to be removed for health and safety reasons. A quotation had been requested. The diocese had reported that there were several small holes in the northern flint wall. Mr Cahill had been asked to repair them. The chair asked if any funding had been sought for any of the repairs as a large amount of money had been spent recently. Cllr Cox reported that there had been none available from SCDC. The clerk was tasked to investigate how much had been spent on the churchyard since 2004.

A1307, traffic and recreation ground parking: Update on proposed recreation ground parking area - Cllr Manley reported that the previous Monday evening 19 cars had parked at the pavilion for the bingo session. All had driven slowly and were carrying elderly people. Concerns had been raised that if parking were to be disallowed then the bingo sessions would cease. These events were raising money towards the pavilion refurbishment and provided an opportunity for elderly residents to have an enjoyable, local night out. However health and safety was imperative and unauthorised vehicles were driving on a footway. The council was asked what constituted an authorised vehicle. The chair commented that essential delivery vehicles, emergency services and the water company were deemed as authorised. Cllr Manley stated that there appeared to be no problems on Saturday evenings when most people walked so they could have a drink. It was agreed to recommend that the bingo sessions start earlier,

that parking be at the village college, to use the new disabled access down Stanton's Lane which was well lit and had a safe walking surface. Cllr Penfold confirmed that there was adequate parking at the village college as the main gates were not locked until 10pm or later.

Allotments (non confidential issues): Mrs T Coston had concerns as to why the minutes did not include more detail on allotments. The chair replied that the minutes were confidential due to the financial nature of the discussion however the public statement had been issued to give more detail. No decision on the layout, positioning or plans of the allotments had been made. Much discussion had taken place in the public participation part of previous meetings however it was not mandatory to report all of this. At the two previous meetings allotments had appeared on the agenda of the normal meeting, however due to certain issues being raised, those two sessions had to be changed to being confidential. Allotments were now being included on the agenda as non confidential and confidential items.

Nichols Court external lighting application S/2256/10: Following the approval of this council needed to decide what stance it would take in response. Mr Bowen, a resident affected by the building, had attended the planning meeting at SCDC and was extremely disappointed that Cllr Batchelor had voted for the application. Cllr Bald reported that the previous conditions set had still not been met by Sanctuary, and no amendments to the lighting scheme had been reflected in the officer's recommendations. It was agreed that Cllr Bald would draft a letter of concern.

The chair reported that he would write a letter to Cllr Batchelor requesting more information on his stance on this issue.

The chair reported that council had that day received communication from Sanctuary, stating that they would be prepared to meet.

To consider correspondence received: The county council was inviting local minor highways improvements bid applications. It was agreed to nominate the proposed 20mph speed limit.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
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2nd and 16th February, 1st and 15th March 2012
All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre
commencing at 8pm

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 5th January 2012.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, Mrs A Walker, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was also in attendance together with three members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cornell, Cox, Dew, Linsdell and Mannassi.

Disclosure of interest: Under the allotments item Cllr Walker declared apersonal interest as an employee of Camgrain.

Chairman's comment: The chair reported that Mike Gee had moved away from the area and had therefore resigned as a Councillor. He was thanked for his many years of service to the council.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2011: Under the Camgrain item, the chair reported that he would be attending a meeting with South Cambridgeshire

district council (SCDC) environmental health department regarding excessive noise in the village as a whole. An action plan would be formulated to determine any source of excessive noise and the exact level of the noise. Under the A1307 meeting item, it was confirmed that Cllrs Hickford and Cornell would attend. Under the churchyard item, the chair reported that since 2006 a total of £34,504 had been spent on repairs and maintenance in the churchyard with only £2199 being provided from a church source. No external grants had been obtained or even applied for. It was essential that for any future expenditure grant funding was applied for, and the parish council could support any such application via matched funding.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open spaces and environment: On consideration of the planting and use of community space at Paynes Meadow Mrs Wright, a resident of Paynes Meadow, reported that she and Mr Nantais, with advice from the biodiversity and tree officer at SCDC, had designed a horseshoe shaped area for tree and hedge planting. This would give privacy and security to householders. It was agreed to support this project in principle but two further quotations were required.

Cllr Bald confirmed that she, Susan Anderson and John Cunningham had planted hedging around the fire station perimeter fence to replace some planted previously which had not survived.

Venture playground: Consideration was given to possible projects following the offer of decorating services as compensation for skate ramp damage. Possible projects to be undertaken included the cleaning of bus shelter seating and removal of graffiti and the decoration of the upstairs meeting room of the village hall. Cllr Potter was concerned that although the skateramp repair had been carried out free of charge, the damaged area had been patched and was therefore not back to its original state.

A1307, traffic and recreation ground parking: Cllr Manley reported that no bingo sessions had taken place during the Christmas period. The chair was concerned that unauthorised vehicles were still driving to the pavilion and not using the college car park. This was a safety concern and if a pedestrian were to be involved in an accident the parish council would be held responsible. Cllr Hickford proposed that another letter be sent to all users explaining the council's grave concerns regarding safety and requesting that all users park at the college. A new lock would be sourced which would be accessible by authorised vehicles which included emergency and utility vehicles. No vehicles should be driven to the pavilion unless they were delivering necessary equipment or services. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt. A vote took place with four votes in favour, one vote against and three abstentions.


Allotments: It had been confirmed that the alternative site in Back Road was a genuine offer of land. The council was awaiting advice from its solicitor with regards to progressing the situation. It was suggested that as the land was very close to the pumping station water extraction may not be allowed. Investigation was ongoing as to whether the council could enforce the resurfacing of the Bridleway access to the first site.

Youth club: On consideration of whether to continue to fund the youth club following withdrawal of funding from Locality, it was agreed to continue to support and fund the youth club.

On consideration of transferring funding to another provider or being independently run by the community, no decision was made but a meeting with Locality to explain all possible options would be requested.

Correspondence received for discussion and decision: The provision of a dog bin in the area of Meadhaven was considered at a cost of £456 plus £3 per week to empty it. Discussion took place and the general consensus was that owners should clean up after their dogs whether or not there was a bin in vicinity. However the council would be willing to have a bin placed in the area but was reluctant to pay the ongoing costs of £3 per week. It was agreed to contact SCDC for an alternative site.

Note: Copies of the full minutes, reports and documents referred to above can be inspected at the parish council office.



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