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THE FUTURE: ARE YOU BEING LEFT OUT?

[TOP](#)

IF YOU THINK SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE, SAY SO NOW

The issues,

What does the village need? How should we organise it during the next decade? What are the problems? What are the issues to solve, the hopes to meet? If you have any views on this, send them to the Linton News, Gill Barker at the Parish Council or Judy Rossiter who is coordinating work on the village survey. Don't miss your chance of influencing the future. Write or email now !Judy Rossiter: Springfield House, Horn Lane. Gill Barker: Parish Office, Coles Lane, 891001, email lintonpc@btconnect.com, Linton News: Editor, 9 Maple Close, email LNeditor@linton.info – or leave suggestions in the Linton News box in the Post Office.

Residents in Linton parish are about to get the biggest chance of shaping the area's future – and many run a big risk of being left out of the discussions.

Some people have already come forward to help identify the issues that will be tested in a survey of the whole community and will eventually find their way into a Village Plan for the foreseeable future.

But other residents are not yet represented in this vital job of identifying the issues and working out what to cover in the survey. And if your concerns are not in there, you could be left out in the cold.

Among those not yet represented are groups always shy of coming forward to claim their rights as citizens — young people are not putting forward their views, low income families do not have a voice, people with special needs have not yet volunteered, and there are not many people in their 20s.

In addition, others with special interests, like leisure facilities and dog walking, should be demanding their right to help plan the village's future.

"We need people from every section of the community to give their views," said Judy Rossiter, the coordinator for the village survey project.

"People can just tell us what they think the issues are, but it would be even better for them to join one of our working groups to identify the alternatives to be put to the community as a whole."

When the survey questions are worked out, they will be circulated to everyone and the responses will be professionally and independently analysed. From that, the Parish Council will know what the community wants and will draw up a plan for the district council.

The District Council has a statutory duty to produce its own community plan and has to take into account properly organised parish consultations and plans.

The parish's village plan will also have a big influence on any grant money for the village – as well as being vital if the Parish Council is to win quality status and increase its powers and funding to put more control of our future in our own hands.

"We will be forming groups with special interests to identify the issues and the alternatives," said Dr Rossiter.

At this stage, the number of groups and the issues are not fixed but preliminary work suggests they will include: traffic, planning, facilities (including leisure, sports and churches), services (including health, police, clubs and societies, recycling), employment, education, nursery provision, and environment aspects like wildlife, the river and footpaths.

Other specialist groups may include those considering facilities for people with disabilities, the needs of low income families, what the young adults of our community need to improve their position in the village and what needs to be done for elderly people.

If you want to have a say in this, telephone Judy Rossiter or Gill Barker (891001), call in at the parish office, email via the Linton community website at survey@linton.info – or just turn up at the Cathodeon Centre at 8pm on 25th September. You can be sure of a warm welcome and an eager interest in your ideas and views!

Linton News Team

DOROTHY'S LANE ... IT WAS HERE SOMEWHERE [TOP](#)

WITHER Dorothy's Lane? At the Parish Council meeting on 9th February 1906 there was an item listed concerning the "Dorothy's Lane Posts".

Mr Brinkmann proposed that the posts at the end nearest to the church should be removed altogether, those next to the street, to be put on hinges.

Mr Burgess seconded, and the proposal was carried unanimously by the council. Can any venerable, longstanding member of the Parish identify the location of Dorothy's Lane ?

It would seem from the description that it may well be the lane leading from the High Street, beside the Infants' School, to the Church Gate.

On the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of Linton, Church Lane is clearly marked and also Dodges Lane which we now know as Horn Lane.

But Dorothy's Lane is not marked.

Replies please to Dr Brian Cox (email: bdc10@cus.cam.ac.uk) or the Linton News.

Brian Cox

SIGN ON FOR DRAWING MORE SUPPORT

[TOP](#)

HAVE you noticed how many homemade signs are placed by our roads over the year, especially in the summer? These give us invaluable information about the events that are happening in our community. However, some of these signs are too small to read safely or the hand painted writing is difficult to see.

I would like to offer – as a community service – to match up groups who want new metal road signs advertising their events, with local businesses that would like to sponsor such signs.

As an example, six 2ft square signs would cost approximately £250 to sponsor. The sponsor's name or logo would be on the sign, and the sign would probably last 10 years.

I would be pleased to hear from the representative of any group who would like to replace their current signs, and from any local businesses that would be interested in sponsoring them.

Please contact me by email (preferred) david.seacombe@perceptron.co.uk.

David Seacombe

NEWS APPOINTS ITS YOUNGEST EDITOR

[TOP](#)



THE Linton News has appointed its youngest editor – 27-year-old biochemistry graduate Hazel Olway (above).

Hazel, who took over the reins within the Linton News Team for this issue, applied for the job to become more involved in the village and its organisations.

Sally Simmons, who steps down after two years of editing the paper, becomes assistant editor – and assistant editor John Keeble, also a former editor, will concentrate on the website (www.linton.info) and

LNT

Profile, page 3

WHY WE MUST BE READY FOR FLOODING

[TOP](#)

Now is the time to act, writes Darryl Nantais

NOW what we could all do with is a good old fashioned prophet, plus a few people with water divining skills. Unfortunately I don't really qualify for either position but many people have asked me "will the floods return this October?" and "why are our cellars now becoming damp or flooded having remained dry during the floods?" Some speak of the Linton Flood as if it were some mythical creature that returns every few years, so what we also need is a gladiator to slay it.

It is true, having observed and painted with a lifelong passion our local rivers, some insight may have unwittingly developed and last October the invisible crow on my

shoulder screeched "I told you so".

I had already suggested a rather radical change to the Pocket Park and surrounding area to create a lake, high banked flood plain and automatic sluice gate. This would not only become a superb wildlife sanctuary making properties here even more desirable, but would greatly reduce the risk of flooding by holding and controlling the water and flow safely.

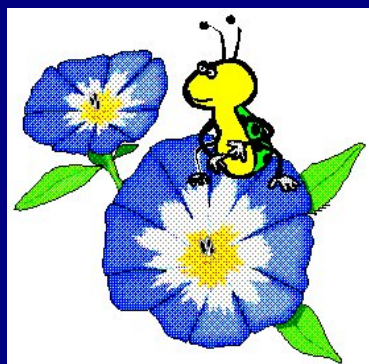
People in Bartlow have now ensured their rain water is carried away more efficiently, but this means a faster river rise making it increasingly difficult for the mill owners of Linton to control the water level through our village.

If the current weather pattern does not change soon we are in for a tough time. The Parish Council has worked hard to get drains cleared and have sand bags at the ready. Councillor John Batchelor informs me that funding is now approved for what I understand is to be a flood risk management pre-survey to begin, possibly by the environmental agency.

In advance of this I would like to hear from anyone regarding their concerns about the river and water levels. Also about any environmental issues, springs , drains and wells.

Please write to 59 High Street, Linton or e-mail: Darryl_Nantais@grantaart.freeserve.co.uk

GARDENING CLUB'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW [TOP](#)



2.30pm, 14th September help with Linton News special projects like coverage of the village survey.

BUSY AUTUMN FOR WI MEMBERS [TOP](#)

WI President, Wendy Foster, welcomed members and one visitor to the August meeting at the Social Centre and birthday posies were made and distributed by Marjorie Blackman.

Members were invited to attend the official opening on 29th September of the Cambridgeshire Federation's new offices at Haslingfield and Jean Goodwin gave a very favourable report on her recent visit there.

New members in all WIs are now being asked to fill in a questionnaire about why they have chosen to become members.

A talk on rowing and the famous boat race will be given at the autumn council

meeting on 28th October by the Lord Lieutenant of the county.

There will be a WI cake stall at the Social Centre Jumble Sale on 28th September. Volunteers were requested for the Quiz Night on 1st November at Cottenham and it is hoped Linton can muster three teams.

On 27th September at June Bunn's house, there will be a "knit-in" and meeting for members interested in craftwork.

Jean Curl was welcomed as the speaker for the evening on 'Henry VIII, victim or villain?'. She was a very lively speaker and painted a vivid picture of the upbringing Henry would have had, setting this in the context of his family background and life in Tudor times.

The next meeting takes place at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 3rd September at the Social Centre, Coles Lane. This will be the annual Harvest Supper, followed by an auction to be run by Clare Neville. Members are asked to bring an item for the auction.

Visitors are welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE LEAVERS

[TOP](#)



Riding into the future ... Linton Village College leavers arriving for their ball at Chilford Hall Photograph by kind permission of Julian's Photography (ball pictures available pictures@linton.info)

GOING FOR BRONZE

[TOP](#)

AMONG members at the Linton Action for Youth's drop-in centre there is a group of young people working towards Bronze Youth Achievement Award certificates.

The summer term has been very busy and a new group has formed and started a challenge which they have called a "Community Challenge" – this has involved watering the Golden Jubilee trees on the recreation ground near the drop-in. The group water the trees once a week and all but one of the trees are doing really well. A small group was also involved in the Flower Festival. The theme they chose was

the flood, showing the river under flood and then another piece after the flood showing how everyone in the village had pulled together. This was all done with a great deal of help from Judy Rossiter once again, who guides not only the young people but the youth workers too and our thanks go to her.

In July a small group, as part of one of the challenges, went to Ely to sit on an interview panel to choose a young people's advocate. They were all praised for their input and will hopefully be asked to sit on the panel again as no-one was appointed that time. Another group of four girls took part in the Race for Life on Jesus Green on 9th June to raise money for Cancer Research – they all did very well and are busy at the moment collecting in their sponsorship money.

The whole group attended a presentation evening at Huntingdon on 27th June to collect their awards. A total of 11 awards were presented to our young people. One of them, Kari Marlow, had completed four challenges and received her Bronze Award.

Bev Reynolds
Youth Worker

WIVES IN THE FRAME [TOP](#)

CAMERA Club members visited Anglesey Abbey for a photographic and social afternoon on Sunday 11th August . It was the club's first event where partners were invited – and two of the wives, Linda Dixon with her camcorder and June Keeble with her much-used camera, put up some stiff competition for members.

The house and grounds presented a varied range of photographic opportunities – and the dahlia garden was perfect.

The event culminated with an excellent meal at the Crown and Punchbowl, Horningsea. Everybody agreed it was a lovely day out, for photographers and non-photographers alike.

The 13 participants included new member Mike Clay, recently elected a parish councillor, and his wife Christine.

The Camera Club's next meeting – always the second Sunday of the month – will be an awayday on 8th September. New members very welcome: phone cc@linton.info for details.

Peter Dixon

JUBILEE TREES WIN AWARD [TOP](#)

THE Parish Council's planting of 20 'Golden Jubilee' trees on the recreation ground and erection of a very large stone "notice" describing them have won a district council award for being the most long-lasting memorial to the jubilee in South Cambridgeshire.

The trees were carefully selected to suit the proximity to the river and the occasion. It is hoped they will provide an overall golden look throughout most of the year. A large, beautiful piece of blue/cream Clipsham limestone was erected in the middle

of the group. It was engraved to show it was a Golden Jubilee project by the council and to name the sponsors.

Members of Linton Action for Youth help with the watering of the trees. Val Urwin

READERS WRITE TOP

HUGS, LAUGHS AND THANKS AT THIS HEARTBREAKING TIME TOP

Dear Editor

Linda and John would like to thank everyone who sent cards, letters and flowers after the sad loss of their much-loved son Olli.

I cannot put into words how we as a family feel at the moment but the support we have had from our friends has been such a comfort.

A special thank you from me, his mum, goes to all of Olli's mates who have given me so many hugs, and have made me laugh over things Olli has shared with them. Olli loved life and for the short time he was here lived it to the full and we are so very proud of him.

I would also like to thank my dear friend Denise Coombe who at any time of the day or night has been there for me.

Linda and John Reynolds

30 Woodlands

Dear Editor

My brother Olli would have been well chuffed to hear all the wonderful stories of him being a hit with the ladies, and the reason for so many hugs and kisses shared between friends and family last month – what lad wouldn't?

I would just like to take a moment to say a massive thank you for all the support and kind words that we have received. I know that they have helped those closest to me immensely through this heartbreaking time, although it is not just the family that feel hurt and at a loss but friends too – Olli had many it seems.

Right now the emotion comes in waves, you get through one day and feel OK and then come crashing down again. You don't know when the next one will hit.

I don't think we will ever get over it, but hopefully in time will learn to cope and accept that there is a little bit of sadness in our lives and life will never quite be the same.

It has been like losing part of myself, in losing Olli, but I know at the worst times when I am missing him most or when one of the emotional waves crashes, I shall call round and see one his many wonderful mates and be around him again.

Hannah Reynolds

JOB TO KEEP YOUNG SAFE TOP

Dear Editor

As outgoing Crossing Patroller for Linton Infants' School, I would like to appeal to anyone in the village to consider taking up the post henceforth.

My time in the job has been rewarding and I like to feel that I've made a little difference to the community.

A newcomer to Linton myself, I have found this an excellent opportunity to get to know the community. The efforts I've made have always been warmly appreciated and the bright, smiley faces on the children make it all worth while.

Would anyone in the village like to make such a difference? If so, they can inquire with the County Council.

Children's safety is paramount and I'm sure they and their families would appreciate continued assistance in coming to and from school.

Victor Mazumdar

18 Market Lane

STAYING IN TOUCH FROM USA [TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

As a former resident of Linton I must say how I enjoy reading your local newspaper – it brings back a lot of memories of my younger days and also it reminds me of the little things I miss. We have been living in USA now for 34 years and we do get back from time to time. Keep up the good work and I will be in Linton in September.

Chris Moore

FRIENDS HELPED WHEN HUSBAND WAS ILL [TOP](#)

Dear Editor

I am very grateful to all my friends in Linton who gave me so much help while my husband was ill.

He died peacefully at home on 25th July. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who managed to attend the service at St. Mary's Church, Linton.

I would like to thank you for the lovely cards and letters I have received and for the donations to the Marie Curie Cancer Nursing Fund. Special thanks are due to the nursing staff at Linton Health Centre.

Ann Simpkin

27 Chalklands

THANKS FOR CARE AND HELP WITH FATHER [TOP](#)

Dear Editor

I would like to say thank you to everyone for their help and support during my father Bill Banks' illness and subsequent death.

Also thanks to those who attended his funeral and joined us at Flaxfields Community Centre afterwards. I know he was very happy living at Flaxfields for the last two

years of his life.
Hazel Lunan
7 Rivey Close

RIDING A NEW ROUTE [TOP](#)



Profile Hazel Olway Linton News Editor

HAZEL Olway has been living and working in Linton for just over a year – one of many people coming to the village who are eager to join in community activities. "I knew Linton fairly well as I have friends here and used to come and visit regularly," she said.

"I heard about a job that I wanted to apply for and it happened to be in the village. It was a logical step to live here too. I'm not a morning person so the very short journey to work is a bonus!"

Then the Linton News announced that its Editor, Sally Simmons, was looking for a replacement after a very successful term leading a team of about 50 village people producing and delivering the paper.

Hazel saw the advertisement for the new Editor and was tempted to sign up for a key role at the centre of village activities.

"My job involves a lot of scientific writing, which I enjoy but I was interested in doing something that wasn't science based," she said.

"When I saw that the Linton News was looking for a new Editor I realised that it would be a good way to branch out from scientific writing and also become a lot more involved within the village."

Hazel was born in Barnet, in north London, but has moved around quite a lot. She was brought up in Surrey and then went to Warwick University in the Midlands to study biochemistry.

After university she lived in London and Canterbury before moving to Linton in April last year.

She is a very keen traveller and in the last year has visited both Australia and China. Closer to home Hazel has recently started learning to ride horses ... "though I'm not sure how long that will last – I fell off for the first time last week!"

But with the Linton News she has a whole team to help her stay in the saddle ...

Linton News Team

RISE AND SHINE [TOP](#)

THE Linton Out of School Club is pleased to announce that places in the school holidays will now be available from 8.30am (previously 9am).

Toast, preserves and juice will be on offer!

Due to a reorganisation of our staff structure, we now have a vacancy for a play-worker from September. The hours will be from 3pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and will include collecting children from school. Previous experience is preferred and a willingness to undertake training desirable. Jobshare would be considered.

Gail Thacker

RIVEY LANE SLIPPING STANDARDS

[TOP](#)



IT'S A BEAUTIFUL AUGUST MORNING. PERHAPS THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE YEAR. BUT RIVEY LANE, ONE OF THE VILLAGE'S BUSIEST FOOTPATHS, IS STILL THICK WITH MUD. WHY?

RIVEY Lane, the foot-path that runs from Back Road by the cemetery up to the top of Rivey Hill, is unusable in winter and much of summer.

Last autumn, winter and spring it was so bad that children and their mothers could not cross it on their safe route to school away from the busy Back Road.

Elderly people and anyone with anything but heavy footwear were kept off even the

surfaced area because of mud and the danger of slipping. They had to walk the long way round the Chalklands estate to get to the Post Office – and struggle up the inclines in Coles Lane and the High Street to get to the Coop and back.

Even last month, during one of the hottest periods of the year, the centre section – between the surfaced section leading to Back Road and the top section that climbs to the top of Rivey Hill – was cut by a stretch thick with mud.

Within a month or two, depending on rainfall, the centre section is expected by local residents to turn into a swamp again as the surfaced area becomes slippery and muddy and the top section starts running with the stream of spring water that rises at the top and flows down – on a course partly controlled because a Chalklands resident took the trouble to dig a channel for it down the hill.

The path, technically a bridleway, is a source of annoyance for local residents who want to use it.

One resident commented: "It is disgusting. It never used to be like this years ago – you could use it in shiny shoes."

John Franklin, of Chalklands Residents' Association, said: "I have been battling for improvements."

His earlier gains, when land drains were laid along the path and it remained dry, were lost when the new housing was built on the edge of the Chalklands estate.

That, he said, led to the path being flooded all the time – and has put at flood risk many houses on the estate as well – because water does not flow away as it did before.

The Parish Council has been pressing the County Council to sort out the problem of flowing water.

The County Council hired surveyors who examined the path during the summer of last year.

Plans to start work on a solution failed to turn into action and the problem is now awaiting attention.

LNT

RECORD GCSE RESULTS AT LVC [TOP](#)

PUPILS at Linton Village College achieved yet another record set of GCSE results with 76% achieving five or more higher grades.

All subjects have done extremely well but the leading subject is technology with an outstanding 97% higher grades.

In this male dominated year group boys have done extremely well, once again bucking the national trend very convincingly.

This year's highest achieving pupils were one girl with all starred A grades and two boys with nine starred As and one A respectively.

Overall the percentage of starred A and A grades increased by 3% to an amazing 30%.

With the national average looking like hitting the mid fifties, all pupils and staff at LVC deserve tremendous congratulations – well done to everyone.

C R Bush

FUN FOR ELDERLY [TOP](#)



A Linton resident discovering a more leisurely way to board a coach

A TRIO of Lintonians, Linda Read, Hazel Lunan and Margaret Cox have been awarded a grant for one year to help elderly people have a better social life. The scheme is being funded by Help the Aged through a Community Action Millennium Award. Margaret, Linda and Hazel are all members of the Mobile Warden Committee in Linton, so they are cooperating with the Mobile Warden to arrange a programme that her clients and other, particularly older people who have difficulty getting out and about as much as they would like, will enjoy. Two days after the grant was in the bank the first event took place, with 26 participants and volunteer helpers, most of them members of the Mobile Warden Committee, going to Scotsdale's Garden Centre for the afternoon on Wednesday, 3rd July. Local taxis and volunteers in cars took people to the Social Centre where a coach, specially adapted to take wheelchairs, arrived to collect the party. The driver, who entertained everyone with a fund of jokes, was very skilled at operating the lift which ensured that those in wheelchairs were boarded smoothly and easily. The Mobile Warden joined the party at Scotsdale's where she and volunteers pushed

the wheelchairs and escorted those with visual or other difficulties around the Garden Centre. Fortunately, by this time it had stopped raining, so everyone was able to enjoy the large array of garden plants as well as the magnificent display of conservatory and house plants, pots, gardening equipment and furniture and the pets, including, of course, the very noisy resident parrots.

A sumptuous cream tea was provided in the restaurant, during which time the participants were asked to complete a questionnaire about what sort of events they would like organised.

The trio are very anxious that there should be events that everyone can enjoy, whatever their disabilities. Participants made it clear they were all enjoying themselves so much that they wanted to do everything suggested and to return to Scotsdale's for the Christmas display.

The next event will be at the Social Centre – or Village Hall as it is soon to be called – on Tuesday, 3rd September at 2.30pm when Mr Garth Collard will give a talk about the changing face of Linton. Tea will be provided. In October, also at the Social Centre, there will be a lunch (fish and chips or something similar) possibly with a group singing sea shanties.

If you would like further information or would like to attend any of the events, contact Margaret Cox on, Linda Read or Enid Bald on 891001. Remember, disability is no bar to joining in as lifts can be provided and one of the objects of the scheme is that there are plenty of willing volunteers to help in any way.

Margaret Cox

GET INTO THE DIGITAL AGE BY HELPING SOMEONE [TOP](#)

ARE computers a mystery to you? Would you like to learn how to use them or take part in a whole range of other activities during the daytime and free of charge? Well, you can – if you take an isolated person with you.

There are many isolated and depressed people who would like to go to such activities but do not have the confidence to do so.

Their GPs refer them to a local community project called Health for Life, which encourages them to get out and go to community education classes and village clubs. Here they make new friends, learn new skills and interests and start to feel better. But, the project needs volunteers to drive them to the activities. In return for their help volunteers can stay and enjoy the activities free of charge. We will also help with fuel costs.

We are looking for more volunteers starting in September. Are you interested? Please phone Sue. Sue Mudge

WACKY RACES, STRAIGHT CASH [TOP](#)

Two cheques for over £1,100 each were presented to the Chestnut Playgroup and the

Linton Fire Service.

This considerable amount of money was raised by the Wacky Races event staged over the Golden Jubilee by the Crown Inn.

"We were truly amazed at the support and generosity of the community," said Joel Palmer, landlord of the Crown.

People came out onto the streets in droves to cheer on the field of over 80 competitors in this modern day version of a pram race around the streets of the village. The Crown has promised that it will become an annual event for Linton-based charities.

The overwhelming level of community spirit was a tonic for the whole village and saw over 1,000 people lining the route of the race.

For further details contact Louise or Joel

Joel Palmer

CHEERS! K-CLUB HEADS FOR PUB [TOP](#)

SEPTEMBER is "big money" month for the K-Club and this year there is £1,300 available to be won by three lucky people. The draw takes place on Monday 16th September at the Dog and Duck, so if you are a member, come and see fair play for "the big one" – you never know, it could be you!

If you have not yet signed up, come along anyway and if you want to join for next year bring £12 as the deadline for getting into the 2002/03 K-Club is September 30th.

The K-Club is the main local fund-raising arm of Linton Action for Youth. To date it has raised over £7,000 and has opened the door to many more contributions from the Community Fund and other providers – funding that would just not be available without the demonstration of a strong commitment from the local community.

Six prize-winning numbers will be drawn – September's monthly prizes, worth £50, £25 and £10, and then the annual prizes of £800, £350 and £150.

Peter Dixon

AUGUST K-CLUB WINNERS: [TOP](#)

1st prize (£50) Mrs E Manfredi (358); 2nd prize (£25) Mrs J Argent (142); 3rd prize (£10) Tony Crouch (31)

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH [TOP](#)

WHEN you have been in this kind of job for a long time, and I suppose I must now admit that I have, you tend to relate the events in the world around you to the realities of the job. So it is with the tragedy that unfolded in Soham last month. As a parent, I ache for Jessica and Holly's parents whose sense of loss must be close to unendurable, but as headteacher I also feel for the pupils and staff who now have the

task of establishing a degree of normality in their town and its schools; a task that will be slow and painful over the coming months.

My travels this summer took me back to South Africa on a double mission. Firstly I wanted to see how things were developing at Boepathutse, our partner school in Soshanguve, near Pretoria and secondly, Cambridgeshire County Council had asked me to explore the possibility of forging links between the LEA here and its equivalent in South Africa. I asked LVC's head of technology, Tom Minnock, to accompany me because the next project in Boepathutse is to develop a Technology Centre there that can be used to teach adults as well as children. Tom spent a week in Soshanguve Township and attacked the issues facing the schools there with his usual enthusiasm and commitment. The result of his work is a series of proposals for our pupils to get their teeth into over the next few months and which will make an enormous difference to the lives of their fellow pupils in Soshanguve. I, on the other hand travelled on to the Eastern Cape, officially the poorest region in South Africa, where I met teachers who were embarking on five week placements in some of the most isolated and poorly equipped schools on the planet. I visited several of these schools and while the people I met were, without exception, friendly and positive, my Western European preconceptions were severely challenged by classrooms that looked like chicken sheds, with dirt floors, no electricity or water and no books or materials. I met children and adults however, who saw these problems as mere challenges and who, in one notable case, decided to take direct action by making their own bricks and building a new school. They did it too! This part of Eastern Cape also wants to link with Cambridgeshire and I now have the interesting task of coming up with some proposals that will benefit all the parties involved. I'll keep you posted.

Clive Bush, Principal

DIVE IN NOW TO PUSH POOL PROJECT [TOP](#)

DESPITE raising over £3,000, and a further £5,000 promised, Linton Area Pool Project (LAPP) now faces the challenge of recruiting people that really want to see a pool in Linton.

Awarded charity status & a Cambridge Evening News Community Award last year, LAPP urgently needs a new secretary and 12 committee members in order to continue with its fundraising efforts. There are approximately six meetings a year, plus fundraising activities. "LAPP is an extremely worthy project that needs new members to continue," said Councillor Joan Smith.

Those interested in helping to raise funds for a pool should attend the next meeting to be held in the bar at Linton Community Sports Centre at 7pm on Thursday 5th September.

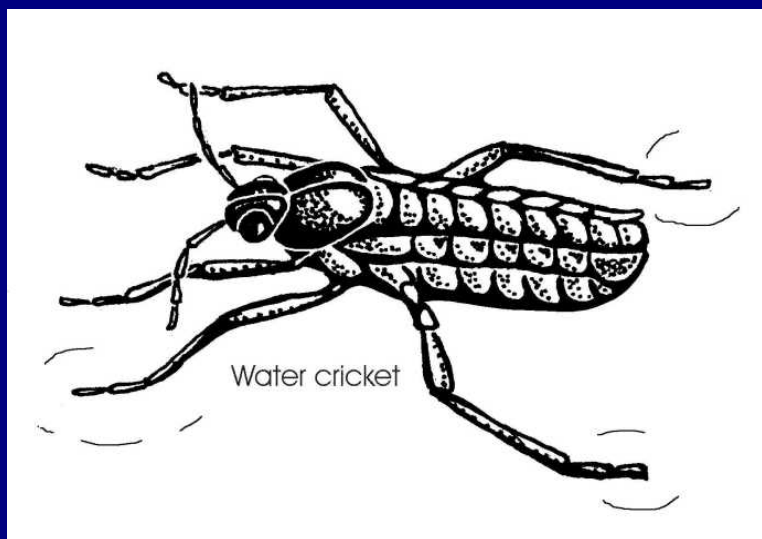
Mark Wilson

PRISON PROVES PROFITABLE [TOP](#)

YEAR 8 Linton Village College student Luke McKenna successfully completed an eight hour sponsored lock-up in a cell at Haverhill Police Station on 16th August. Luke came up with the bizarre idea some months ago and had to get special permission from the Suffolk Constabulary's Chief Inspector before being allowed to fulfil his ambition.

Luke raised £450 for LVC's Link School, Boepathutse, in Soshanguve, South Africa, to help improve their educational facilities and equipment. Luke would like to thank friends and neighbours who gave their support. Paul McKenna

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY BY DARRYL NANTAIS [TOP](#)



Illustrated by Maureen Williams

GREAT Gods and little breath. Sparky the cat yawned, looked disapprovingly out of the window then curled himself into a tight ball. The weather affects us all, so if you too have felt lethargic or short of breath lately the reasons are probably in the air. That old Norse god Thor moved into the flat above Linton last month with some pretty heavy furniture. Warm and cold air, ice crystals and water droplets collided to create opposing electrical charges. This activity equals lightning between clouds or to earth which in turn produces heat, rapidly expanding the air causing shockwaves called thunder. No need to tap the barometer, just watch the rise and fall of gangs of gnats to note extreme bouts of low pressure. It's the weather of the wheeze as asthma sufferers and our local doctors will know well. You see, the high humidity is perfect for the growth of moulds which in turn produce mould spores. Add these to some pollen with a dash of pollution. Sprinkle on a little harvest dust and cook under low pressure for a few days to create an atmospheric bowl of soup with first prize going to Linton. Phew! deep breath.

Despite the storms it has been an exciting and wealthy month of sightings such as Corncockles, Kingfishers, Lampreys and Fly Catchers. The twenty-fourth of July though was a day when so many wonderful young woodpeckers of Linton, screeching like monkeys, claimed their independence. It was the same for the Great and the Green and by darkfall I had spotted over twenty.

During the no-go period of Foot & Mouth many footpaths and fields recovered from crushing feet or machine leaving wild flowers to grow as I remember them as a boy. Despite the lack of a 'Flaming June' the roadside array along Back Road was a painters paradise. During July I spent many hours travelling the landscape of a buddleia bloom under my microscope. This fantastic journey ended with sore eyes, images stuck on my retina and no plausible explanation for its extraordinary appeal to insects, other than its stunning colour. The buddleia known as the 'butterfly bush' and observed at night reveals its equal appeal to moths. It was a distinct lack of butterflies this year other than our faithful Cabbage White that sparked my interest although my special discovery this month was a pair of water crickets *Velia caprai* at the mill ford. Warning! There's a hole in the church cemetery wall guarded by a couple of the tenant wasps. It's not for us to judge their persuasion but may I suggest to be attack free we respect their stay as no doubt they are one of natures essential cogs.

By the way, thanks to all who helped me nurse Fagin the young asthmatic magpie back to health. He gave me one final and excruciatingly painful peck and returned to the wild. Now, whilst Sparky and Thor are both sleeping, I bid you farewell and easy breathing.

TINY-TOTS TO TACKLE TODDLE WADDLE

[TOP](#)

OUR mother and toddler group has been a great success, with children coming from not only Hadstock but surrounding areas. Initial funding was obtained from the Parish Council which allowed us to get the group up and running, and further funding was obtained from The Community & Voluntary Forum's Community Champions' fund enabling us to buy some outside play equipment amongst other things.

After the summer break we will be meeting again every Thursday from 19th September, with a new time of 2 - 4pm.

All are welcome to join us for a coffee and a chat in the village hall – toddlers not compulsory!

A date to remember is Thursday 26th September, as we are holding a Toddle Waddle in aid of meningitis, so if you would like to support the little ones as they tackle a small obstacle course to raise funds for this important research, please come along. Enjoy the rest of the summer. All enquires to Kay Elston

Kay Elston

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