

*A Happy
New Year
to all our
readers*

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'PLEASE HELP THESE TRAGIC CHILDREN'

THE baby girl had been found on a rubbish dump in Romania. She was six months old and rats had gnawed her ears and fingers. She was dehydrated and near death.

But thanks to an Anglican-based charity, she was taken to a hospice where she revived and grew into a lovely little girl, experiencing love and comfort for the first time in her brief life before dying of AIDS five years later.

The charity, Children In Distress (CID), was started in the early 1990s by Essex vicar, John Walmesley. He had been to Romania after the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's brutal regime in 1989, and was shocked into action by the plight of thousands of emaciated babies and children abandoned in state nurseries. Many had been infected with HIV from contaminated needles and blood.

Mr Walmesley, a tireless worker and inspired fundraiser, built S' Lawrence's, a 100-bed hospice for orphans dying of AIDS in Cernovoda, a poor town in south-east Romania, and staffed it with volunteers from Britain. He was determined that whatever time was left to these children should be filled with love and comfort.

For 15 years, that is exactly what CID has been doing, growing to five hospices caring for scores of abandoned and dying children. But now, says Derek Lockstone from Linton, a cash crisis is threatening CID's future. More funds

are desperately needed to help the Romanians carry on the vital work that CID has started.

Derek and his wife Colleen, of Rhugarve Gardens, joined the CID volunteers in 1995 as a doctor and nurse team and have been visiting Romania regularly for 10 years to offer their expertise and help.

They helped set up S' Christopher's hospice in Curtea des Arges, a market town in Transylvania. Derek says: "It cares for children who are dying of cancer or are severely disabled, many with hydrocephalus (water on the brain) which leaves children with hugely swollen heads."

The effect of Romania's long isolation from the West has meant that their doctors have neither the skills nor the infrastructure to cope with these problems. There has been an operation to treat hydrocephalus since 1960 in the West, and Romania is only now learning to do this procedure in one or two centres.

Derek adds: "Colleen and I mainly visit two of the charity's five centres - S' Christopher's in Curtea de Arges and S' Andrew's in Pitesti. The latter combines a residential unit for young children with handicaps such as hydrocephalus with a day nursery for children with various disabilities and an educational unit for older children with AIDS."

"In the past year, S' Andrew's has also started a very active community project taking help into the countryside supported by financial aid from the EU. This is a new



Colleen shares a joke with one of the children

concept for Romania.

"Things in Romania remain pretty grim compared with our situation in the UK, but there is much to give encouragement. The projects in the early 1990s were staffed by British volunteers. Gradually Romanians have become engaged and now run all the projects."

Colleen and Derek still visit regularly to give encouragement and advice and ensure standards are maintained. They are really impressed by the good job the Romanians are doing, especially the younger ones.

Derek says: "They have got the ideas now and are putting them into practice with enthusiasm. We feel our input is less and less every time we go and we can see the time soon when we will be redundant which is how it should be. But now we

need your help. The biggest problem is to maintain the funds to keep the projects going.

"The Romanians are beginning to contribute but are still very poor and will need our help for some years yet.

"If any of the projects had to close, there would be tragic consequences for all the children and their families to whom our support has been so vital.

"Can you help? We would be terribly grateful for any donations, especially regular ones - monthly, quarterly or annually, however small. Even £5 a quarter (£26 a year with relief) is very significant."

If you would like to help, please call me on 891931 for details.

Derek Lockstone



Colleen and Derek Lockstone need financial help to continue their work in Romania

'Why bother with these children? They are all kaput ...'

THE aim of the hospice is to give "care" rather than "cure", a concept foreign to Romanians. When Derek was talking to a group of doctors there some years ago, one said in a puzzled tone "Why do you spend so much time and money on these children. They are all kaput".

The facts about Linton's car park

RUMOURS are rife about the sale of Linton's Coles Lane car park. Here are the facts in a letter from South Cambs lands officer Jenny Clark to Linton parish council:

"As part of the budget saving exercise following council tax capping, the council is looking to dispose of the shopping car parks at Sawston, Histon, Melbourn and Linton.

"I am currently seeking a valuation of each of these areas of land on the basis that they are to be sold subject to a covenant restricting their future use to car parking only (except for Melbourn which will be sold to the parish council for car parking and new parish offices/community centre).

"Planning officers have been consulted regarding the potential of any of these car parks to offer affordable housing.

Their response with regard to Linton is that they would not encourage an application for affordable housing on any part of the site.

"I would firstly wish to seek the parish council's interest in purchasing this site. Otherwise I shall recommend that the site is placed on the open market. I am expecting to receive the valuer's assessment in December. I would welcome the parish council's comments on this matter by 3rd January 2006 as I shall be reporting to the housing portfolio holder during January." The parish council is looking into the matter. If anyone has any comments, please write to the council or to the Linton News.

LNT

LINTON DIARY

To guarantee entry into this diary please ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

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

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

Weekly

Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays	Village Hall
Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays	LVC
Story Time, 2.15pm-2.45pm, Tuesdays	Library
Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays	Village Hall
WEA, 10am, Tuesdays (starts 10th January)	Village Hall
IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6pm-10pm, Wednesdays	VH
Tots in Tow, 10am-11.30am, Wednesdays in term time	VH
Little Acorns, 10am-11.30am, Thursdays	VH
Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays	VH
Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays	Cathodeon Centre
Ladies' netball, 7pm-8.30pm, Mondays	Sports Centre
Weight Watchers, 7pm, Wednesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm, Fridays	Village Hall
Badminton, 8-10pm, Fridays	Sports Centre

JANUARY

3 WI, 7.30pm	VH
4 Reading Group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
5 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
6 Lib-Dems 12th Night party, 8pm	38 Symonds Lane
7 There will be no farmers' market this month	
7 Friends of S' Mary's Sherry & Savouries, 11am	Village Hall
10 Gardening Club, 7.30pm	VH
13 Blood donors, 11am	Village Hall
14 Dads and Tots, 9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
17 Historical Society, 7.30pm	VH
19 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
21 Linton Democrats' Jumble Sale, 2pm	Village Hall
28 Burns' Night	Linton Heights Junior School
28 ACE Sherry and Shortcake, 10.30am-1pm	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

1 Bookfest meeting, 8pm	Village Hall (upstairs)
2 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
7 WI, 7.30pm	VH
11 Dads and Tots, 9.30-11.30am	VH
11 Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm	LVC
16 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre

Refuse collection: 3rd, 9th, 23rd

Recycling collection: 3rd (box only), 16th, 30th

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.

The Linton News can also be read online at www.linton.info
Extra copies may be obtained from BP garage on the by-pass.

Do not gift-wrap ...

RODNEY the cat needs a home. He was brought to the Belgrave House veterinary surgery towards the end of November when he was found at the top of Chalklands - and he's been there ever since.

Rodney is an unneutered male, about six months old and in good health. He is very affectionate and has been well handled, but life is pretty uninteresting in a cage near other animals who come and go after their treatment at the surgery.

"He's just really bored sitting in that cage all day," said Dr Valerie Urwin, as Rodney, a tabby with big, bright eyes, investigated a chair seat where Dr Urwin was making scratching noises with her nails.

"Rodney needs a good home, but no one should consider him as a gift-wrapped package for Christmas," said Dr Urwin. If you have room for Rodney, please call the surgery on 893720.

Kate France

Too good for jumble

LINTON Guides have received the £25 raised from the sale of the exercise bike and the glove stretcher. The offer of the cot was withdrawn as some parts were missing. Bel Griffiths' Christmas tree had no takers. Perhaps Bel could keep it for next year.

If you have an unwanted article worth a minimum £10

second-hand that you are willing to sell and donate the profit to a Linton charity, the Linton News will advertise the item for free, negotiate with the buyer and give the profit to the village charity of your choice.

Phone Kate 01223 891602 or send an e-mail to katefrance@linton48.freeserve.co.uk for more information.

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FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

A HAPPY New Glummer to you all! The year 2006 is upon us, and of course I have made another resolution just so I can break it sometime soon. So, what on earth have I to look forward to this year? Well, if I can keep my health on an even track along with my sense of humour, absent since the end of July of last year, all may indeed be well – sort of.

As I sit looking into the field next door, the building work reminds me of the large Lego set I had when I was young. I used to tip all the pieces out onto the floor, start building a grand house then getting very fed up, I left it all over the place to find something else to do and someone else to clear it all up. I have heard remarks that construction is all going very well, but to the residents affected by it all, this hasn't been our experience whatsoever. I will not dwell on the subject, except to say; There is a difference between ignorance and stupidity. Ignorance can be cured by learning and reading. Stupidity isn't willing to be cured. (That's the New Year's resolution gone then). I look at many people with different eyes, and I will never, ever forget. I hope South Cambs council finds me a home soon.

Shopping with mother is getting difficult, and somewhat embarrassing. My thermal hat of three winters' was in my shopping trolley when mum decided I had to pay for it again and put it on the conveyor belt, along with my carrots and milk. The checkout lady believed me, which was handy. The only thing is that the exact same hat is actually much cheaper now than three years ago. That's deflation for you!

Over Christmas, I went to mum's. As I sat on the sofa, I noticed a large bowl of peanuts on the table. "Can I have some please?" I asked. "Help yourself," mum replied. Over the next hour or so I realised that instead of eating just a few peanuts, I had emptied most of the bowl.

"Oh, mum, I'm really sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really meant to just have a few." I said, feeling very guilty.

"That's all right," she said. "Ever since I lost my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off them!"

A great big "thank you" to everyone who made a special effort to bring the village such a glorious display of lights. I really did try to get round to see them all. The work you all put in for everyone's benefit proves there is still some magic left in Christmas, despite our modern ways of living and attempts to water down its meaning.

Readers of my ramblings here will know that I experience much amusement whenever the media require someone to try to convey to the viewers that they know more about a particular subject than us, the 'general public'. Experts spring up in all guises from nowhere, ranging from the art expert, (who looks at pictures a lot) to the bovine expert, (who does not look anything like a cow) ending in the disability expert who has just completed the London marathon and has just been on Mastermind, her specialist subject being the blooming obvious! It seems that I am not the only one who treats such experts with disdain as I stumbled across this quote from Albert Einstein recently: "An expert is a man that has made all mistakes possible in a narrow field of expertise".

Yesterday, I read an article by such an expert about the dangers of taking prescription drugs. It scared me so much that today I've decided that I'm never reading again.

I do not need to tell you all that it is likely to be cold this month, so I'll just leave you with the hope that this new year brings you luck, health and happiness, and wish you everything you wish for yourselves.

Take care of yourselves and one another, and I'll see you all again next month.

We need firefighters!

LINTON fire station is undermanned and cannot usually respond to calls during the day. At the moment there are only 10 retained firefighters on the books; eight more are needed to achieve at full strength. The fire station is an asset on our doorstep, its staff looking after the safety of the whole community. With our own station, incidents in and around the village can be attended in just a few minutes, but at the moment it is far more likely that we will have to wait much longer for assistance from Haverhill, Saffron Walden or farther afield.

Retained firefighter do the job when they can. You choose when you are available; there is no need to be released from your regular work. It's a job you can do in your spare time. Anyone between 18 and 55, who is reasonably fit, can do the job; that's men and women. There already is a female member of the crew. You need to live within three minutes driving time from the station.

I visited the station to learn more about what they do. It was the regular Wednesday training night, held from 7pm to 9pm, when they ready their equipment and carry out practice sessions. They are a disciplined, well-organised team who clearly enjoy their work and have plenty of fun. And they get paid! There is a small retainer paid for the time on standby and the full rate for the job on call out and for training. Linton deals with 150 to 200 calls a year. There are fires to be dealt with but there is a wide range of other incidents that are attended. Road accidents figure high on the list and, yes, the odd cat up a tree has to be saved.

The crew gains a great deal of personal satisfaction from the job. Helping people in a direct and practical way brings its own rewards. What they can't understand is the difficulty they are having in recruiting just eight people to bring them up to full strength. In a village of more than 4,000 there must be at least eight of you out there who would be interested. If you are, please go along to the Wednesday evening training sessions and see what it is all about. You will be very welcome.

The bad news is that if the station is not fully operational there is always the danger that it will be closed and we will all be the losers. Support our local fire service or lose it.

John Batchelor

Looking to the future

ACE aims to offer events for all tastes. In November we had a coach tour of Cambridgeshire, followed by the SCDC annual concert (perhaps the last, but they would be sorely missed) to "Celebrate the Classics" with the Cambridge Youth Orchestra and the renowned Cann Twins. Brilliant.

In December, ACEs had their annual coach trip to Scotsdales for lunch, to enjoy the festive displays and Christmas shopping. The day being mild and bright we could explore the outside displays, which were just as jolly as those indoors. We fairly filled the coach with plants, bird food, decorations and all those things you didn't know you needed, including one zinc bucket – the purpose of which might remain a mystery ... a very happy trip.

At the AGM, we had discussed the eternal problem of funding, particularly for the mobile warden scheme. The warden is employed through Age Concern Cambridge, with

the ACEs committee seeking funding for her work mainly from the Parish, District and County Councils. Linton Parish Council has confirmed that they will again support us; their generosity and support is vital to this scheme. However, restrictions caused by rate-capping and a deficit in the Primary Care Trust budget, may impact upon us; we will have to make up any deficit through our own fundraising.

So, our first event for the New Year will be the "Sherry and Shortcake" morning from 10:30am to 1pm on Saturday 28th January, at the Village Hall. There will be a raffle, bring-and-buy, a tombola and stalls etc, to raise funds to support the work of our mobile warden. We hope that local businesses will donate items for an auction. Watch out for the posters for more details. We look forward to seeing you there.

Happy New Year.
Enid Bald 891069

A successful start to the musical year



ON Saturday 3rd December the society presented an unusual concert of Medieval music given by a group of five singers called Opus Anglicanum. It was held in S^t Mary's church, suitably candlelit for the occasion.

It took the form of a service of nine lessons and carols, some sung in plainsong and some in harmony as the medieval monks would have done. The readings were the traditional ones that we hear today, but spoken in the language of the 14th and 15th centuries.

During the day a group of 15 local singers attended a workshop held by John Rowlands-Pritchard who gave an introduction to the music and its notation. We then rehearsed four pieces, in which we joined the professionals at the evening performance.

There was an unusually large (and appreciative) audience, which was surprising considering the somewhat esoteric quality of the music. Most of whom stayed on for mince pies and drinks after the performance.

Our next concert will be violin and piano sonatas given by two talented young players at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th February in Linton village college. Bruce Conochie 894460

Drinking and driving

A QUESTION often asked is "How much is it safe to drink and still drive?" The answer differs and depends on the person.

But the simple answer is either drink OR drive but not both, and don't forget that your blood alcohol level can still be high the next day.

The legal answer is that the drink-drive limit is 80 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood; but there is no failsafe guide to the amount a driver can safely drink.

The amount and type of alcohol, and weight, sex and metabolism of the driver all play a part. But any amount of alcohol affects driving ability: judging speed and distance, reaction times and risk judgment may all be seriously affected. South Cambs Police

IN BRIEF

Join the party

LINTON and district Liberal Democrats invite members, supporters and friends to a Twelfth night party from 8pm on Friday 6th January, at 38 Symonds Lane with wine, punch, finger food, puzzles and a raffle. Please ring if you are going to attend.

Andrew Gore 891970

Celebration

LINTON WI celebrated Christmas with a party which was thoroughly enjoyed by members.

Next month the speaker will be M^{rs} Pushkin Gowlett who will be enlightening us about 'working within the parole system'. Everyone is welcome.

Ann Simpkin 892090

Burns' night

JUST a reminder that after all the fun and festivities of Christmas, it's time to get out your kilts and sporrans for the popular Burns' Night celebration run by the Friends of Linton Heights junior school at Linton village college on Saturday 28th January.

You can expect haggis (both the traditional and vegetarian varieties), whisky, poetry, live music and plenty of dancing.

Tony Kelly

Tell Linton your news in brief

THIS column is for you to tell Linton all about your meeting, fair, bazaar, or organisation in just a few words. Maybe you would like to tell everyone about something that has already taken place, a short report could feature here.

If you have something to tell the village in brief please let us know – either e-mail lneditor@linton.info or put a note in the box in the post office in Balsham Road.

If you need help writing an article or need a photo taken, please contact us, preferably by e-mail a couple of days before it is required.

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Readers write

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters on page 8
Please note: All letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity



Jill, Daphne and June celebrate at the get-together

Picture by Derek Birch

Old Lintonians' reunion party

Dear Editor,
The organisers of a reunion party which was held at the Welding Institute on Saturday 26th November for Old Lintonians who were born in the village before 1935, would like to express their thanks to all who attended, together with their spouses.

A joyful party resulted and many old acquaintances were renewed. What a lovely

evening we had. We thank you all for coming and sharing the wonderful memories of all these years!

Our raffle made £260 which will go to the Air Ambulance and Magpas. Thank you for your generosity.

The organisers: Jill Moore (Pamment) June Hall (Sparrow) and Daphne Brazier (Sparrow)

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor

Many thanks from the Children's Society to all those who attended a magical Christingle service on Sunday 4th December. The church was full of eager children and parents who went away carrying a Christingle.

Wrapped presents were brought for needy children and will be distributed to the women's refuge in Cambridge in time for Christmas giving.

The box collection amounted to £1208.44 and the retiring collection was £62.00. The cash has now been sent to the Children's Society in London to help their work with young runaways.

Janet M Conochie

Representative for the Children's Society

Granta Grapevine looks for help

GRANTA Grapevine will be starting the New Year with some new faces in the team following the departure to Suffolk of John and Clare Neville. Roger Lapwood is now operating the high-speed tape duplicator and we have two new volunteers to read. However we could still do with more help.

The monthly Linton News is read onto tape by two teams of readers for the news side and two editors for the magazine side, led by Janet Conochie, to reduce the load on group members. Recordings are currently made on the Thursday after the news is published.

Male reading voices are in particularly short supply and back up for the technical tasks of recording the master tape and magazine-side features is required. You may be interested in operating our recording

equipment, which is mainly cassette tape-based at present, but also includes minidisk, CD and shortly solid-state digital recording. If you have time to spare we would be pleased to meet you.

We are also on the lookout for non-copyright material suitable for the 45-minute magazine side, either in print or as a recording in any format. An interesting story from the past, a holiday experience or a current activity which would take up five to 20 minutes on tape, would be useful to us. If you can produce it yourself that would be fine but we can always record it for you if that is more convenient.

Further information about the group is on our website www.grantanet.co.uk/grapevine/granta.htm or you can ring Janet Conochie on 894460 or myself:

Mike Crofts 893619

Memories of Balsham past

A NEW book entitled *A Wartime Childhood* relating the reminiscences of an eight-year-old evacuee in Balsham during World War Two has just been published.

Audrey Lancemen is a professional artist living in S^t Leonards-on-Sea. She grew up in Islington but when the war started, she was evacuated along with her schoolfriends to Balsham. She was good at drawing even then and drew whatever was around her in the village. Audrey still remembers vividly her life as an evacuee and recently she decided to put her memories down on paper. Her story is told just as she remembers it.

Some of her drawings are reproduced in the book, including one of Iris Squire, a lifelong friend still living in Balsham. This is a charming story, full of childish optimism and wonder, a million miles away from the preoccupations and hardships of day to day living during the war.

Copies of this book are available at the Post Office in Balsham or contact me:

Andrew Westward-Bate 892430

You never know - you might be lucky

THE trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2006. The aims of the charity are as follows:

a) to support the work of S^t Mary's Church;
b) to promote education and any other charitable purpose "for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton".

If you represent a group, you will need to include the latest financial statement when

you apply.

Applications can be sent to 4 Fairfield Way, Linton, CB1 6YP by Thursday 26th January 2006. Alternatively, you can e-mail your applications to Anderson@parry-smith.co.uk The trustees will be meeting in early February 2006 and will let all applicants know the outcome shortly after the meeting.

For further information please contact chairman of the trustees:
David Parry-Smith 894715

Hildersham WI learns about Addenbrooke's

ON a very cold and foggy November evening, Hildersham WI extended a warm welcome to our guest Keith Day who gave a very interesting and informative talk about Addenbrooke's past, present and future.

Born into a clerical family in 1680, John Addenbrooke at the age of 17 studied medicine at Catherine Hall (now S^t Catherine's college) qualifying in 1710. He married Susan Fisher; they had no children and in 1719 at the age of 39, John died.

Upon his death John Addenbrooke bequeathed £4,676 to build one of the first voluntary hospitals for the poor. On 13th October 1766 the doors opened to the first Addenbrooke's hospital in Trumpington Street with 20 beds. Over the years this was extended using all available ground. In 1947 the governors considered moving to another site, and so the new

Adden-brooke's on Hills Road was agreed to by the Ministry of Health, to be built in stages. In 1961 the main ward block was ready to take its first patients; the most recognised construction being the chimney. In 2005 building work continues to expand the site, with plans to double its size over the coming years.

Along with the history of the hospital we were shown amazing photographs of the hospital and of those who worked and were patients there, reminding us of how basic medicine was then and how lucky we are today.

The vote of thanks was given by M^{rs} Muriel Crampin and refreshments made by M^{rs} Gillian Anderson and M^{rs} Pauline Franklin.

Our meeting this month will be for members only.

Hildersham WI wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pamela J. Parris

December's K-Club winners

THE lucky K-Club winners of the monthly prize draw for December were:

1st prize (£50)

Val Urwin (No.210)

2nd prize (£25)

Jan Coatham (No.083)

3rd prize (£10)

Liz Hide (No. 135)

Peter Dixon

Still wanted: a web wonder

WE'RE still looking for someone to replace Mandy Honeyman, who designs and maintains the Linton News website.

If you're into computers and that kind of thing, take a look at our website at www.linton.info to see if it's the kind of challenge you would like to take on. If it is, please call our editor Wendy Foster (the contact numbers are on P8).

Annette's Beauty and Well Being

HAVING only just opened new premises on the 26th November, Annette would like to take this opportunity to thank all her loyal existing clients and so many brand new customers for their overwhelming support in the run-up to Christmas.

The open day demonstrations were well received with Hot Stone treatments and Hopi ear candling being demonstrated, refreshments enjoyed, and, of course, an opportunity to pop in for an informal chat and to have a look around.

Annette wishes all her clients, friends and associates a Happy New Year, and looks forward to a busy time ahead, (there are certainly a lot of gift vouchers to cover over the next few months!) Annette is adding two new members to her trusted team who both share her holistic approach, treating the whole person - mind, body and soul. Happy New Year

Annette Jackson, 37 High Street, Linton 891900

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Jumble sale
IF you have any old jumble cluttering up the house and you want to get rid of it, the Liberal Democrats are holding a sale in the village hall on 21st January starting at 2pm. All welcome.
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Meet the team...

Bringing Linton's news to your door

EVERY month, the Linton News drops through your letterbox. It is the end product of hours of work by a dedicated team of Linton people to bring the latest news and views about life in Linton to more than 5,000 readers.

All the people who work on the Linton News do so voluntarily.

To mark the start of the Linton News' 19th year of publication, we will be running a series of profiles about the team behind the paper, which keeps you in touch with what is happening in Linton.

But first a little history ... the Linton News was started in April 1987 to give voice to village individuals and organisations, to serve as a forum for debate, a billboard for events and an outlet for anyone who wants to convey information.

It was set up with financial help from the parish council but before long it was completely financially and editorially independent.

As we are independent, we can, and do, use our funds to contribute to improving things in the village, such as donating trees for the parks and schoolgrounds, and giving money for library books, as can be seen in this issue.

We'll begin our profiles of the Linton News Team in reverse order, starting when the papers have left the printer.

First stop is Kate France, our delivery organiser, who says: "My first job when I get 2,300 copies of the paper delivered to my door, is to sort them into bags for our 61 deliverers for Linton, Hildersham, Bartlow and Hadstock. We also send a few copies to Abington."

Sorting out the papers is not the end of Kate's responsibilities. She also writes occa-

Kate France: her first job is to sort 2,300 copies of the News into 61 bags for the deliverers



sional articles and supervises regular features, such as the Too Good For Jumble spot usually on the front page.

Kate is also responsible for a key section of the Linton News – the Linton Diary. A diary is kept at the post office in which people can write details of the items they want featured in the paper. Once a month, Kate collects the diary and transcribes the entries, which are then passed on to the editing team for inclusion in that month's diary.

When Kate has organised the papers, the next stop is our delivery co-ordinator Vernon Boyd, who has the task of distributing the 2,300 copies of the News to the deliverers.

He plans the most effective routes to the many deliverers that are most effective to help him get all the bags distributed as quickly as possible.

Vernon says: "I use a car, a cycle or just plain walking – whichever is the most efficient way. Even so, it can take between four and six hours spread over a couple of days to get all the bags out.

"Linton itself is not a problem, but getting to some of the outlying districts can prove more difficult.

"The task can obviously be made more unpleasant by the weather. You have to go out in all conditions, and summer deliveries are usually a lot more enjoyable than the winter ones."

Once Vernon has handed out all the bags, it is up to the individual deliverers – the final link in the chain that brings the Linton News to your door every month.

In the next issue, we will look at the technical and financial side of our operation.

• *The News followed in the footsteps of the Linton Tribune, another free newspaper for the village which started a little earlier than we did but folded after a few months.*

LNT

Linton library in great shape

IN 2004/05 visitors to Linton library were up 25 per cent and borrowing was up 10 per cent. These figures are even more impressive when compared with the average for the similar sized libraries in the county which were up just two and one per cent respectively.

Linton library has more than 2,500 registered borrowers of which 44 per cent had borrowed one or more items in the last year. The service is particularly popular with children, who make up almost 30 per cent of the customers: 100 per cent rated it "good" or "OK" in five out of 10 categories in a recent survey.

These findings were presented to a group of community representatives who were asked for feedback about how the library is working. Generally the response was positive. The representatives, who came from the library staff, the county, district and parish councils, the Girl Guides and the Linton News felt that the library was a pleasant place to be and that the staff provide an excellent service. The group feels that the library should be open longer and that more new stock was needed.

Opening hours are unlikely to be increased but the times will be reviewed to ensure they meet the needs of the community. The county book fund is one of the

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smallest in the country so new stock is limited although the library received almost 1000 new books in 2004/05. The library staff keep the stock fresh by arranging exchanges with other libraries and good quality donations from the public are always gratefully received too.

A greater number of "quick pick" displays was requested, including one in the children's area to allow busy mothers to pick up a book for themselves. A general level of ignorance about some of the library's services was expressed and the library agreed that marketing had been a weak area in the past, and something that they were hoping to concentrate on county-wide over the next year.

The library is regularly a host to special touring collections. Its December collection was themed around World War II and includes fiction and non

fiction. The Linton News team is hoping to advertise future collections.

The Linton library works with the local community and helps volunteers run a storytelling session for under fives each week, a reading group that meets in the Dog and Duck once a month, a "silver surfer" club and the Doorstep service that delivers to those with health or mobility problems.

Access for all is an important part of the Library and Information Service's remit and there are special schemes for the blind and visually impaired, the hearing impaired, non-English speakers the over 60s, the Skills for Life students and those living a long way from the library. For more information call:

0845 0455225
(Minicom 01480 376743) or online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

New books snapped up fast

LINTON library had a lot to celebrate on 10th December when the 37 new books, generously donated by the Linton News became available for borrowing, and were eagerly snapped up by readers. The books cover a wide range of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction, and have been carefully selected by library supervisor, Linda Pearson to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

Representatives from the Linton News, including Wendy Foster, Norman Dann, Joanne Scrace and her baby son Eric along with councillor John Batchelor were present. Lynda Martin, representing the library service, expressed thanks and delight at the donation.

Library users were invited to have a cuppa and share a slice of cake while making their selections, and more than 70 pieces were handed out. A very enjoyable, busy morning was had by all.

Many thanks to the volunteers at the Linton News, who made the donation possible,

PS: The latest circulating collection of books at the library is *Adventure - who writes like?* and is issuing fast. Come and borrow a copy.



Eric watches carefully as mum Joanne, a regular library user and also new subeditor on the News, cuts the cake



Regular library users Mr and Mrs Moore choose from the new books

Linda Pearson, Linton library

Pictures on this page by LNT



Vernon Boyd: "The task can obviously be made more unpleasant by the weather"

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Playgroup celebrates Christmas

LINTON Granta Playgroup has been celebrating its last Christmas in its existing building before work begins on a brand new one as part of the Linton Village College building programme.

On 8th December the children performed their annual Christmas concert for the parents and some grandparents. There were enthusiastic choruses of such classics as *When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney* and *Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer*, while several brave children sang solos (Joshua Chipps, Mia Diaz, Rheanna Wells and Jasmine Clayden).

Our Christmas Fair was held in the Village Hall on 3rd December. As ever, this was a very successful and enjoyable event, making an impressive profit of £580. Children enjoyed activities such as Hungry Santa and Mystery Tombola, and made Christmas decorations on the craft stall. There were also plenty of visitors to Santa's grotto. Many thanks to the large numbers of willing volunteers who set up



Christmas is coming: a happy party group gets in the mood at Linton Granta playgroup

Picture by Frances Reynolds

(and cleared away) the fair, and particularly to Heidi Pryor.

The playgroup term finished with parties for both the playgroup children and the toddler group. Party food was pro-

vided by parents, and Father Christmas paid a visit to deliver a present for every child.

We would like to thank everybody who has supported the playgroup during a very

successful year for us. If you would like to find out more information about the playgroup, please visit our website: www.lintongrantaplaygroup.co.uk

Frances Reynolds

The Salvation Army in Linton



Picture from Garth Collard's collection

JUST one picture this month for you to get those memories working.

The Linton and West Wickham Salvation Army band is pictured probably before 1950. The Salvation Army started in Linton in 1885 at Kingdom Hall, later called 'Amy Hall' in the High Street next to the chemist. It was sold and converted into a private house.

If you can put a name to any of the faces please let Garth Collard know on 892395.

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POT POURRI (13)

A Feasible Party

AS this is the season for social get-togethers, I have decided to invite people according to the numerical formula $S = 4m + 3f$, where S is the total number that are attending, m is the number of males and f is the number of females.

However, there is a slight sting in the numerical tail. There are two extra criteria, $m + f < 20$ and $3m + f < 30$.

These conditions may seem contradictory but are there to ensure that the get-together goes with a degree of festive cheer.

This then is required: what value are m and f respectively such that S is a maximum?

Solution to No.12: Averages- not always what the numbers suggest.

Shame on those who thought the average speed over the two halves of the journey is 45mph - it is 40mph.

The average speed over the 12 miles is 36mph.

Urania

It's all systems go for the book festival

THE Linton book festival (6th -7th May 2006) is fast becoming reality. We actually now have money to spend, thanks to Cambridgeshire

ACRE Local Network Fund, and some great speakers and performers are booked.

The regular meetings are getting busier and busier and there is no shortage of exciting ideas and inspiring input from Linton villagers - it is a wonder that we've never done this before.

You can now read all about what's planned at www.lintonbookfest.org.

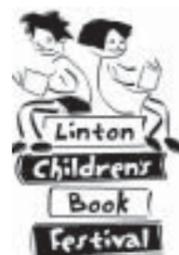
The website has been designed by Andrew Clark of nextnorth.com and will provide all sorts of information about the festival, plus games

and competitions. You can also add your email address to our mailing list and receive regular Bookfest updates.

My task in January is to be pacing the streets and interviewing the Linton Village business owners, representatives and familiar faces about their favourite children's book. It could be one that they remember from their childhood, or one that they now read to their children or grandchildren.

Little posters should be appearing around the village in the spring revealing these gems of information - do look out for them. If you'd like to get involved, please contact me:

Josephine Paterson
893582 or email
Josephine@mjsquare.com



Crooks about, so watch out

POLICE have warned that fraudsters are operating a scam using e-mails asking for personal bank details. Banks have been alerted and they say they would never seek this type of information on the net.

So, be warned: never give out personal or banking details over the net until you are absolutely certain of the person/

company you are dealing with. If in doubt, ask a third party and never feel pressured to provide information that you have not instigated.

Police have also warned about a spate of burglaries when a thief breaks in, steals your car keys and drives off with your car. So do keep your keys safe and out of view.

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Was there once a stone circle in Linton?

MORE than 4,000 years ago in 2,500BC, some clever astronomers were active in our area. They carried out a survey which linked Wandlebury earthworks on the Gog and Magog hills to earthworks in a Hatfield Forest. My husband Christian O'Brien and I discovered their work and tracked down their prehistoric survey in the 1970s.

Christian found a line of stones which went across country for 26 miles. The large, shaped stones used to mark every mile along the way, and there was an occasional earthen mound instead of a stone. These markers started at Wandlebury and, passing through Hatfield Forest, ended in the village of Hatfield Broad Oak, just beyond the forest. Not all the stones could be sited, which is not surprising considering the long years inbetween, but we listed several still in position or thereabouts, and two crumbling mounds.

Christian said that Wandlebury was built originally as an observatory and much later was used by the Iron Age people as a fort, because it was there. He dated it, from astronomical charts, at about 2,450 BC. He wrote a paper on this and after a great deal more research, we published three books on the sages and their activities. These theories were

backed up by extensive evidence; mathematical, astronomical and historical.

Linton comes into the story because there is, lying on its back by the bridge at the end of Horn Lane near the Glebe, a large shaped limestone. It was once standing proud. I believe it gave a message, possibly of a stone circle nearby. This was true of the last village we lived in, Waddington, which boasted a large shaped stone standing just outside the village, and there were remains of many shaped stones in old gardens in the village proper. The Linton stone might be marking the ford across the river, and it might have been moved from somewhere else, as many of these stones were.

The Line, although important in itself, was probably part of a survey grid covering East Anglia, the British Isles and maybe the whole world. And the Linton stone is on a 'cross' line to our original line. So, some feet in ancient time did walk on our pleasant land!

If anyone would like to know more, there is a website it is possible to visit. The address is: www.goldenageproject.org.uk

Barbara Joy O'Brien

The stones inspired Joy O'Brien to write the following sonnet, called The Anannage (pronounced Ana-nah-gi), an ancient Sumerian word found on clay tablets now in the University of Philadelphia. Anu was the supreme commander of the Anannage; the sons, or followers, of Anu

The Anannage

*OH yes, their feet, in ancient time, did walk
on England's pleasant fields – Salisbury Plain,
the Vale of Pewsey, Bodmin Moor, arcane
East Anglian woodlands where the soft chalk*

*shimmers in the soil, here they left their mark
and, working on a suitable terrain,
they taught our forefathers the measured chain.
Yes, they were here: you could have heard them talk*

*in Heaven's language, our own parent tongue,
whilst fresh winds billowed out their linen robes
and cold rain fell. Although long lost they live*

*in legend still; they are the Ones,
the young, the free, who built the fairy hills,
whose probes circled this earth. What knowledge they did give!*



The Victorian household

LINTON WEA spring term 2006 presents the Victorian household with Liz Carter.

This 10-week course looks at everyday life in Victorian households of the upper, middle and working classes, investigating the changes brought about by government legislation, new technology and the changing economic climate throughout the period 1837-1901.

We shall study decor and furnishings, the employment of servants and their duties, changes in dress and fashion, bringing up children, leisure time and of course, how families coped with death.

All the lectures will be illustrated with OHP slides and displays - handouts provided. There is something for everyone, with activities ranging from crosswords to trying on a crinoline cage.

Liz Carter is a full-time genealogist, lecturer and writer. The course starts at 10am on Tuesday 10th January at Linton village hall

For more information and to book your place, please contact:

Leslie Allison 891154

How heraldry helped knights tell friend from foe

AS you wander around Cambridge and look up at the various colleges, or take a glance at the stained glass windows and furnishings of your local church or even look at the badge on your child's school blazer, you are bound to have seen a brightly coloured shield, often portraying mystical beasts, strange shapes and a strip of Latin text or motto.

Most of you would quite rightly describe these as a coat of arms; but how many of you know the origin of the coat of arms or the ins and outs of the complicated language and world of heraldry.

For instance if you walked into most local churches, you will more than likely observe a coat of arms that has a red shield containing three gold crowns, with a Bishop's mitre on the top. The reason that you see this symbol in most of our local churches is because it is the Bishop of Ely's coat of arms and is correctly described as the "See of Ely".

Why was there a need for these coats of arms in the first place?

During the Middle Ages, armour became increasingly more sophisticated and the medieval warrior found himself encased in iron from head to toe, including a fully closed helmet, so much so that the individual became completely anonymous to his compatriots.

As the medieval battlefield

was a very dangerous place to be, it was absolutely essential to know exactly who your friends and, more importantly, your enemies were. As the shield was the knight's main form of defence and because its shape and size provided a relatively large and blank canvas on which to paint, it became the focal point for a system of identification and the term Heraldry entered the English language.

I suppose that if today's modern technology could be used on ancient battlefields, knights would be armed with microchips, "i-clubs" and perhaps a 'Bluetooth' connected scanner to help them determine who was friend and who was foe.

If you would like to learn more about heraldry, why don't you come to the January meeting of the Linton and District Historical Society?

We will meet at 7.30pm on 17th January 2006 in Linton Village Hall, when heraldry expert David Broomfield will be on hand to enthral us with his excellent illustrated talk entitled: "Everything you wanted to know about Heraldry, but were afraid to ask"

So why not come and join us, and have a great evening amongst friends. There is always lots of news of what is happening locally in the social, family and local history world and a chance to discuss your own research project with the experts.

Andrew Westwood-Bate

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THE LINTON NEWS TEAM

Wishes all its Readers a Happy New Year

From
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Norman, Kate, Maureen
Vernon, Alan, Graham,
Judith, Joanne, Charlotte
and
its 61 deliverers LNT

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Linton bids a sad farewell to Clive Bush

AS Clive Bush has been a major correspondent of the Linton News for many years now, the team thought it would be fitting to write a farewell article for him. Undoubtedly you all know that Mr Bush left us at the end of last term, but I'm sure his stay at Linton Village College will not be forgotten for a very long time.

Mr Bush has been with the school for 12 years, and when asked why he was leaving, he said that his lifelong ambition is to run a big school or college, and by moving to his next school, this dream is being fulfilled.

I asked Mr Bush what his fondest memory of Linton would be. He said that there have been too many to remember, but a couple stick out specifically. One of these memories is of when the prep. room caught fire six years ago, and everything he had learned about this kind of thing, such as fire drills, was no longer a practice session. There have also been many funny moments that he reminisced about, such as the time when the year 11s left a cassette player in a locker, and whenever anyone walked past, they would hear the crying sounds of what seemed like a year 7 pupil calling 'help!' to passers by.

When I asked Mr Bush what he thought was his greatest achievement in his time here, or the thing he'd like to be remembered for he said it is his link with the school in Africa. If it wasn't for him, none of this would have happened, so I



End of term: Clive Bush leaves his desk at the LVC

Picture by Charlotte Westdijk

Charlotte's Chatroom

hope we can continue this great success.

The thing Mr Bush said he liked and appreciated most about this school is how pleasant everyone is to each other. When walking through the school everyone greets you with a smile. I'm sure this part of the school's ethos is largely due to him.

Mr Bush hopes that once the new head teacher, Caroline Derbyshire, has taken over the school, the amazing track record which Linton has managed to achieve during his time

is maintained, and that we go on being a top school in this country; but more importantly that pupils want to be part of this school.

Although I'm sure it won't be the same when Mr Bush leaves, he wants to make clear that he's had a fantastic experience running the school, and has lots of regrets that he's going. He gives a big thank you to all the friends, pupils and people he's worked with throughout his years at LVC and wishes them all the best, and I'm sure he will be greatly missed by everyone who knows him.

Charlotte Westdijk

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

The mink Illustrated by Maureen Williams

The Linton News team is delighted to welcome back the Linton Country Diary, which will normally reside on page 8. For those of you wishing to read the rest of *The Heron's Nest*, Darryl's complete narrative will be published in book form later this year.

WHEN I looked up from the top of Chalklands hill, the summer had gone and the space-station sparkled like a star in the frosty skies of November. I began to write to the readers of the Linton country diary expressing here how pleasantly overwhelmed I've felt by a year long of comments, notes, cards, calls and letters. It's so gratifying to know the diary meant so much to so many! Furthermore, during my sabbatical I'd become aware of the worldwide readership of the Linton News. One dear elderly couple with whom I spoke, having moored their barge alongside my boat (*The Heron's Nest*) last year on the Ouse casually said "Oh yes, you're that artist chap from Linton. We always read the Linton News and we're looking forward to your return!" Turned out they were from Newcastle.

Well, return I have to the place where country matters matter and where creature myths are poetically embraced, dispelled or moulded into fact! No moaning or groaning allowed here unless accompanied by positive and constructive suggestions. You see, I'm no Pollyanna but I felt we needed to get down to the nitty gritty facts about *the mink!*

It almost reads like the script for a Hollywood horror movie. The village it seems has come under attack by these mysterious yet beautiful, black and cheeky little beasts from North America! Perhaps it's my French/Canadian ancestry at play here, on the one hand feeling the urge to trap them and on the other a certain empathy with this creature.

While studying them on the banks of the Great Ouse it became apparent they are highly intelligent, playful and like cats, incredibly inquisitive! They also like cats, for dinner! The minks silky coat, twinkling eyes and funny little snout create an appearance akin to an adorable Victorian teddy bear. Do not however attempt to handle them for I can vouch that only by the grace of some specially reinforced gloves, lightening reflex and a guardian angel do I still have all my fingers, for the mink is a veritable killer with razor-like teeth.

With a greater propensity to devour ground nesting birds, voles, rabbits, cats, frogs and fish than any other local predator, eradication was going to prove difficult. In fact they are so predacious they do not appear to have any natural

enemies other than perhaps the otter. Another case of the irony of nature.

Mink are members of the weasel family who came to Britain in the late 1920s with nothing but the fur on their backs to be commercially farmed. As that industry went into decline the inevitable happened, coupled with a little help from others. Their bid for freedom and consequent colonising of the waterways has been successful, especially in the south of England, and nowhere more evident than on our local river.

You either love them or hate them. The watcher of all things bright and beautiful along the banks of our Granta will have noticed a change. More roach, fewer trout. More rats,



fewer ducklings. The water voles have virtually disappeared although keen eyes can still catch a glimpse of a couple of kingfishers whizzing by near the mill. The population of wild and

privately tended ducks and geese has been decimated, but here's the good news. The mink tend to live by water and the males are voracious when it comes to territory; hence a low population density is likely.

Another North American escapee called the signal crayfish, which looks like the lobster and grows just as large in our rivers, is the favourite dish of the otter. Now, can you see where all this is leading? Another species called the coypu (*Myocastor coypus*) was also introduced into this country in about the same year, only this time from South America. Its rise to fame and family fortunes dwindled once the fox took a liking to its young. Anyway, the otter appears to be feeling rather miffed at our unwanted guest with the fine black coat, and has, according to a number of recent reports, been getting its own back. It's easy to blame the mink for a large array of disappearances, but is man the real culprit? Why does nature vie with itself so cruelly? It all could be viewed as a natural course of change or explained away as an evolutionary chaos theory.

Whichever your preference, be assured that everything is happening in the universe perfectly. With that closing thought, I sincerely wish you all tranquillity and contentment for 2006.

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My challenge, by the LVC's new principal

THESE are exciting times at Linton Village College – and new principal Caroline Derbyshire is looking forward to tackling the challenges ahead.

There are major developments in the life of the college on three fronts – a summer that saw its best exam results, the start of an extensive new building project for the college of the future, and a new school being built on site.

Ms Derbyshire, who starts work this term after five and a half years as deputy head of Saf-fron Walden County High, said: "The next few years are going to be exciting and a huge change. I'm very keen to make sure the school continues to flourish.

"It's been very successful during the time that Clive Bush was here, so my objective is to make sure that that improvement continues.

Ms Derbyshire, 40, went on: "The building programme will almost reinvent the way the college looks. The original remain because it is a listed building but almost all of the developments at the college will be razed and replaced by a fairly extensive school for the future.

"Then there is the relationship the college is going to have with the new school that is being built on the site – the Granta School for children with special educational needs – and the way that develops is also going to be very exciting.

"There are some things at the college which have already got their own momentum – the start of the building project, the Granta school, the continuation of improvements in exam results – all of those things are moving on.

"In a way I am in a lovely position because I will see them come to fruition over the next five years. Making sure all goes



Exciting times ahead for Caroline Derbyshire

well is a high priority for me."

Ms Derbyshire, who was born in Manchester and spent most of her childhood years in Oxfordshire, brings a wealth of experience to her new post. Her parents were both teachers and she has been in the profession for 18 years.

Her husband, Michael Murray, is also a head teacher, having just started in charge at the Ramsey School in Halstead.

"Our careers have always been like that," said Ms Derbyshire. "Mike will make a move and then I will, or vice versa. "We met when we were both studying at Cambridge University. We settled in Cambridge initially when we got married and then moved to Linton about 18 months ago when we wanted a bigger house for our children, Alice, seven, and Tom, six.

"I love Linton; it's extremely friendly and people are very community minded. Having lived in a city, you really notice that and appreciate it. We got to

know people very, very quickly when we moved into the village and made lots of friends."

One of the most rewarding aspects of her job, she says, is to see children develop and grow while at school.

"It usually takes two years to get comfortable and embedded at a school," she explained. "Then you really begin to feel as if you're having an impact. After another three years, you have seen a cohort of children coming in at 11 and moving into the sixth form or leaving when they're 16 and to see that development is a very nice cycle."

One aspect of teaching about which Ms Derbyshire feels very passionate is the children's experience in the classroom.

"One of my main interests is the way that children learn," she says. "I think knowledge of that is developing all the time. It comes from an understanding of how the brain works, of how children learn in ways that are different from the ways that adults learn.

"In the past two or three years, teachers have discovered more strategies to assist children in their learning. The actual craft of teaching so that you get the very best out of children is something that I will be working on with staff."

Ms Derbyshire's final message is: "I'm very much looking forward to my new role and continuing the success that Clive Bush has generated, and listening to the views of parents and young people in the community."

LNT

The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Two headteachers of the past

THE arrival of Caroline Derbyshire as the seventh headteacher at Linton Village College led me to think that readers might be interested in learning a little about two of her predecessors.

The village college opened in September 1937 and was really a senior elementary school with a communal centre. It had cost £21,000 and catered for 308 pupils from Linton and surrounding villages. The curriculum was designed to provide an agricultural bias to school life and there were no external examinations.

The first head or warden was Mr H Tomlinson who had been second master at Letchworth grammar school. His stay was very brief; he obviously preferred a more academic institution, and he left Linton in 1939 to become headteacher of Sexey's grammar school in Somerset.

Mr Edwin Swannell then assumed the role of warden at the outbreak of war in 1939. He was already employed as the music, craft and art master and had previously taught at Pixmore secondary school in Letchworth.

His headship spanned the difficult war years and he overcame tremendous obstacles in acquiring suitable staff. He ensured that college pupils benefited from the new subsidised school dinners, he watched over the buildings



Pupils at the old fountain outside the entrance

Picture from Garth Collard's collection

during every air raid, supervised the periodic influx of evacuees and introduced popular Friday evening film shows.

Music was his great love and college productions were always highly successful. He shocked the educational establishment by keeping pigs on the site, selling some to local butchers and diverting others to the school canteen.

After the war, Linton became a secondary modern school and the warden successfully introduced new courses for pupils staying on at school to 15, after the raising of the school leaving age in 1947. The temporary hut building erected in 1947 is still on site.

College numbers remained

under 280 throughout the 1950s and early 1960s since our region was economically undeveloped. School visits and exchanges were the norm in those days. Former pupils enthuse about their holidays abroad in Switzerland, as well as camping expeditions to Robin Hood's bay, Mundesley and the Lake District.

Ill health dogged Mr Swannell by the early 1960s and this, together with national pressures to introduce more GCE examination courses, led him to choose early retirement in December 1964.

Above all else he was concerned with the welfare and well-being of every child, and former pupils recall their schooldays with affection.

Granta school takes shape



Ellie Abbott reaches the heights

LUCIE CALOW, the headteacher of the new Granta school, writes: "I am very excited to report that the new school (for pupils of all ages with a range of learning needs) is taking shape in Linton.

"Built next to Linton Village College, the new school will provide an impressive hub in the area for education, health and family support. The new building will include a gym hall, hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms, specialist ICT and subject rooms as well as purpose-built classrooms and a library.

"I was pleased to be able to invite LVC school council representatives Dave Stock and Ellie Abbott to visit the site recently, and was able to offer them an exclusive view from the rooftops.

"Local headteachers have also had the opportunity to take an early look at the new school and Clive Bush, former LVC principal, has been a frequent visitor.

"I am very much looking forward to developing close links with the staff and pupils at LVC and to Granta becoming a vibrant part of the Linton community.

"I can be contacted by email on head@granta.cambs.sch.uk or written to at room B211, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP if I can be of any assistance."

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/2286/05/LB Dr Harris, Church Cottage, Church Lane, Linton.

Alterations, removal of pantiled/weatherboarded kitchen/shed and adjacent garage/outbuilding. Heightening of front boundary wall. Alteration and conversion of existing utility/pantry to WC. Construction of extension attached to boundary wall comprising single storeyed flat roofed link to kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and master bedroom with ensuite.

S/2288/05/F Dr Harris, Church Cottage, Church Lane, Linton.

Extension.

S/2298/05/F The Papworth Trust, Land adjacent to 19 Rivey Close, Linton. House.

S/2320/05/F Mr Pleasance, 5 Balingdon Lane, Linton. Extension.

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THE LINTON NEWS

Next Publication Date 6th February 2006

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Parish Council Matters

THE SHAPE OF PLAY TO COME....

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

A pupil from the Heights, representing a group of friends, came to one of the Parish Council meetings to address the council during Open Forum (Public Participation). Her request was for some *more* exciting play-ground equipment at the recreation ground. The Chairman asked if she had any idea what sort of play equipment she would like, the answer that came back was not what he expecting. 'A twirly thing' was the reply. After much discussion on what 'a twirly thing' was, the Chairman asked if the representative would do some research on the matter and come back to the Parish Council with her findings.

Over the next week she arranged with her friends to troll through all the play-ground equipment brochures that were available. After identifying the sort of equipment they would like, they set off on a bright Sunday morning to test them out. With the help of two 'very young at heart' adults they set off on their adventure to see how the play-ground equipment they had identified, was going to stand up to their rigorous scrutiny.

They didn't have to wait long, the first stop was at Abington, where they put a Supanova through its paces (a Supanova is the giant ring



Meet the Supernova and the Dorado, fun for children and adults alike

in the picture). After they had finished on the Supanova they were off on the other equipment that Abington has had installed. Then it was the turn of the 'very young at heart' adults to see what this supanova thing was all about. Well you sit on it and because it's on a slant and the top of the ring is on bearings it is free-moving and you end up at the bottom, when another person gets on there is no doubt who is carrying more 'muscle'! But, have teams

of children on each side and they can have all sorts of fun.

Moving on from Abington and on to Cambridge, and more play equipment to *sample*. After a brief stop in Romsey, we headed for Arbury (now there's an experience), to hunt down a Dorado (a Dorado is the larger piece of equipment in the picture). After asking the shopkeeper where the play-ground was situated, the kids ran in and there it was with arms sticking out and

poles coming off them you guessed it the 'twirly thing'! It was like Christmas had come early for them, they were all over it having a great time, going round and round on the twirly thing. Then it was time for the 'very young at heart' adults to have a go. Well, I haven't laughed so much for a long time, the children made it look easy, it seems to be all about balance, get it wrong and you can't stop spinning! My sides were aching with laughter. So the

children were convinced that's what they would like in their recreation ground.

We were not finished yet; we now had to head for Swavesey. Swavesey have just had their village play equipment completely replaced. Yes it was all brand new. The kids loved it all and the 'very young at heart' had a good time as well.

The only way we could retrieve the children from the play area was a trip to 'The big M', it worked a treat, and they were back in the car raring to go.

In the Parish Council office there is a larger picture of the one on this page, of the recreation ground with these two pieces of play

equipment superimposed on it, to show you how the area will look when it's complete.

Unfortunately all these things come at a cost, the total cost of this project is in the region of £20,000, the Parish Council have budgeted for 10% of the total cost within their Precept, so we are looking for more donations from local businesses and grants from various funding organisations.

If you can help with a small donation or have any ideas of funds that would bring these children's dreams to reality could you please contact me on 891372 or contact the Parish Clerk on 891001.

Bob Hammett



Bob Hammett on the Dorado, all in the interest of research!!



Road signs for the High Street

THE HIGH STREET IS BACK!

HAVE you noticed we have a 'High Street'? Well, you might ask yourself what is the Chairman referring to? We have always had a High Street, and that's what it's about. I received a verbal reference to it some time ago, and if you are like me, you are all on autopilot turning into the unmarked road?

We received a letter recently so I had to investigate and was true from the Cambridge Road end of the village there were not any signs to say that you

were turning into Linton High Street. I was informed that the last sign was damaged and never replaced when a car ran into the garage next to the clock house. I asked the staff in the office to enquire about getting them renewed. It happened so quickly that I was thanked for getting the street signs replaced before the office even knew! So off I had to go and have look, and sure enough there they are.

Therefore I would like to thank all the people concerned for getting them replaced.



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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

MINUTES of the meeting of Linton Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 3rd November 2005.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2005, were approved and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes of 20th October not already listed.

Item 113 - the Clerk confirmed that Dan Schumann will be attending the meeting on 16th February to talk about the heritage trail.

Consideration of the minutes of the Planning meetings held on 20th and 24th October 2005. The minutes of the meetings were considered and agreed. Phase 2 Paynes Meadow; decision regarding the hedge bordering the open space and Rivey Lane. It was agreed that Hundred Houses will be consulted and ask to leave the gap open and not plant



Phase II Paynes Meadow - the gap to Rivey Lane

any hedging.

Reports from Coordinators:

Open Spaces - C^{llr} Clay reported that some remedial work to paths had been carried out by Ringway.

Recreation Ground - C^{llr} Kenyon reported that the dead willow tree has honey fungus. No decision was made whether to have the tree and/or root removed. The Clerk is meeting with John Hellingsworth, SCDC Tree Officer on Tuesday 8th November. Council will be guided by his advice.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the blocked drains on the recreation ground. It was decided that more information was required as to their location before any jetting by contractors could

take place. C^{llr} Potter agreed to investigate.

Cemetery - C^{llr} Gee reported that the cemetery working party were due to meet shortly. C^{llr} Potter asked that the working party also report on the condition of the tarmac paths in the cemetery.

Rights of Way - C^{llr} Rossiter had previously distributed a draft letter to CCC regarding a biodiversity project. It was agreed that the letter should be sent. C^{llr} Rossiter reported that she had recently walked footpath no 9. This is a diagonal path across a field and discussion had taken place for it to be resited along the boundary. C^{llr} Rossiter now suggests that this does not take place as the views from the footpath are beautiful and would not be seen from the edge of the field. She also commented on a new metal barn near

Insurance. Leadwell Meadows - C^{llr} Cox reported that the river



The river at Leadwell Meadows in need of attention

is choked with vegetation. Glebe Land - C^{llr} Rossiter had nothing to report.

Churchyard - C^{llr} Gore reported that the inaugural meeting of the Churchyard Working Party had taken place. The working party consisted of 2 parochial church members and 3 parish councillors. C^{llr} Cox had been appointed Chair.

All items from correspondence sheet 9 (Oct) were noted. Of particular interest:

Item 50 - report from M^{rs} Anderson, Tree Warden. It was agreed to accept her recommendations and this item will be passed to Finance Committee for approval.

Item 57 - Zurich Insurance have agreed to pay for repairs to the bus shelter by the fire station.

Confirmation of Clerk's position - 6 month review; it was agreed to confirm the Clerk's position.

Matters Arising (for information only)

In February 2005 it was agreed to send a donation of £750 to Magpas, however this had not been paid. As this was in last year's budget adequate funds do not exist in this year's S.137 budget. This item will be forwarded to Finance.

C^{llr} Rossiter reported that a street light outside the old Barclays Bank building had been damaged. She asked that this be replaced with a lamp more sympathetic to the conservation area. The Clerk will check what is available.

The meeting closed at 21.05.

MINUTES of the meeting of Linton Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 17th November 2005.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2005. These were approved and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 3rd November 2005 not already listed.

Item 126 - ii) Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the dead willow should be cut down and left on site, contrary to the advice of SCDC Tree Officer.

Item 126 - ii) C^{llr}s Kenyon and Potter to meet to discuss drainage.

Item 126 - iv) C^{llr} Hammett suggested that councillors visit Camgrain. Councillors had a guided tour several years ago.

Report from the Police. There was none.

Report from the County C^{llr} Batchelor, 15 interactive traffic signs will be installed between Haverhill and Four Went Ways roundabout. He had attended a meeting regarding the pressure and expenditure on CC budgets.

Report from District C^{llr} Batchelor, had attended a meeting to confirm the ongoing cuts at SCDC. A further meeting to re-organise the management contact centre and to develop it further over the next year, had also taken place.

C^{llr} Bald commented on the length of time council houses appeared to be empty. C^{llr} Batchelor asked for specifics. C^{llr} Bald also asked if there was a policy regarding refurbishment. C^{llr} Batchelor replied that a government requirement is the 'Decent Houses Standards'. C^{llr} Kenyon asked what percentage of the budget goes toward the pension fund for past employees. C^{llr} Batchelor thought it was in the region of 17-24% because of a shortfall based on final salary.

C^{llr} Smith had previously distributed a report regarding the redevelopment of Cambridge Railway Station. C^{llr} Batchelor handed the Clerk a paper on Historical Resource and Cultural Centre (HRCC) Consultation. A copy will be sent to the Historical Society.

Written reports from council representatives including

minutes of the Churchyard Management Working Group had previously been distributed. These will be discussed at the next meeting on 1st December. A report regarding trees in the cemetery had also been distributed and will also be discussed at the next meeting.

Consideration of minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 3rd and 7th November 2005. These were considered and agreed with one amendment. In this amendment C^{llr} Kenyon wanted her objection written within these minutes.

Standing Orders were considered and amendments were made. One item relating to Annual Parish Meeting/Parish AGM procedures required clarification. The Clerk will



Water Meadows at Finchams Close

check with CALC.

Recreational Land - the land known as the Water Meadows adjacent to Finchams Close, has been earmarked for possible purchase. C^{llr} Potter confirmed that it is the policy of the Parish Council to try to purchase that land. C^{llr} Batchelor reported that all local landowners have objections regarding the Local Develop-

ment Framework and no decision will be made for a further year. It was agreed that the decision be deferred until then. C^{llr} Batchelor will check to see if this land is on the list of objections.

All items from Correspondence Sheet 10 (Nov) 2005 were noted. Of particular interest: Item 21 - Library development meeting. C^{llr} Bald hoped to attend and requested date. Item 25 - M^{rs} Griffiths, Joiners Court - regarding street sign. Clerk to contact Highways. Item 28 - M^r Knight, Essex Gardens - regarding drains - C^{llr} Potter has this in hand. Item 29 - M^r Tucker, SCDC - questionnaire regarding Code of Conduct Training. All Councillors to complete and return it to the Clerk. Items 17 and 33 - regarding business premises sign. This had already been discussed at the planning meeting.

Matters Arising (for information only)

C^{llr} Hammett showed a proposed plan for new play equipment on the Recreation Ground.

C^{llr} Bald voiced her concerns regarding the proposed move of Papworth Hospital to the Addenbrooke's site and its impact on the village and the need for affordable housing.

C^{llr} Bald also highlighted the proposed merger of the Primary Care Trusts and how this could affect healthcare in the village.

C^{llr} Cox reported that he had completed the rotovation work in the cemetery.

C^{llr} Potter reported that hedges had been cut and asked councillors to report any that had been missed.

The meeting closed at 21.55

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB1 6JS. Tel: C. 891001
www.lintonpc.org.uk

Clerk to the Council - M^{rs} Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Office hours : Monday 9am-12noon, & 4-6pm,
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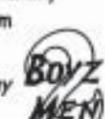
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