

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR
READERS**

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The commitment and dedication of the East Anglian Air Ambulance team

I MAKE no apology for promoting the work of EAAA and the Magpas First Responder scheme in this first issue of the new year. In view of the terrible carnage on local roads in the run-up to Christmas, I hope it serves as a reminder to all of us to take more care on the roads all the time. Editor.

From here to maternity

As our roads become more congested and fraught with danger, some comfort can be drawn from the magnificent emergency services operating in the region, and the dedication of their personnel. The East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) is no exception. Their crews of highly trained clinicians attend emergencies on a daily basis – road accidents, injured walkers, industrial accidents, even expectant mothers in advanced stages of labour.

Founded in 2000, the EAAA is the second busiest service of its type in the country and now has two aircraft. "Anglia One" serves the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. "Anglia Two", a BK117, is based during the day at RAF Wyton near St Ives serving Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. It only came into service in 2007 after a massive fund raising effort. Alison Horsley, fund raising co-ordinator, spoke of "our ambitious plans to build a state-of-the-art helipad at Addenbrooke's Hospital." She said it would give the area an air ambulance service "second to none."

It may surprise readers to learn that this vital 365 day service receives no government or national lottery funding. The EAAA has to raise around £250,000 each month to keep the helicopters flying and maintain the on-board specialist equipment. They are crewed by Magpas clinicians and NHS paramedics whose training is also paid for by the EAAA.

The team fly four or five missions per day, and always aim to transport the casualty within the "golden hour", greatly increasing chances of a full recovery. In many cases, the casualty can be transported to hospital in a matter of minutes. There is even room on board to carry a family member with the patient if, for example, a child has been injured. The crews are highly trained, dedicated people who deserve our utmost respect and support.

To find out more about their amazing work and current fundraising work, visit the website:

www.eastanglianairambulance.org.uk or telephone 0845 066 9999.



Lifesavers Anglia Two and the crew which serves this area.

Picture supplied by East Anglian Air Ambulance

Survival in the Arctic

In aid of Magpas First Responder's scheme (Balsham and Linton group)

DR David Barnes of British Antarctic Survey is giving an illustrated talk (with props) at 8pm on Thursday 24th January in the Manor House, 42 High St, Balsham.

Dr Barnes is a marine biologist with a wonderful selection of spectacular slides of both animals and scenery. He has a wealth of knowledge and anecdotes accumulated during his five Arctic and five Antarctic trips.

We are lucky that he is willing to give this talk less than a month before he sets off to join the icebreaker to survey one of the most inhospitable environments on earth – the Amundsen Sea.

The evening will be in two parts and Dr Barnes will have a question and answer session including those on climate change.

Adults and children over 11 years will find this both entertaining and educational. There is a limit of 100 tickets so please do book early.

Tickets are £10 including wine or soft drinks, from me: Hilary Potter 891211

Help us to get to know you

AS reported briefly in last month's Linton News, we are still gathering information to update the Linton Village Directory which we hope to publish in early 2008.

If you want to ensure that your details are printed in the directory and placed online, please e-mail Owain Bury on koolowain1000mhz@hotmail.com or fill in the form below and place in the Linton News box in the post office.

Details of village clubs and societies are especially requested as many of these are most likely to have changed, closed or new ones started.

Business/Faculty/Service/Club/Society Name:

Description:

Address:

Staff/Personnel:

Telephone Numbers:

E-mail address:

Website:

Opening times (if relevant):

Meeting place and times (if relevant):

Congratulations to Linton zoo



Getting to know you: red ruffed lemurs and friends

Picture supplied by Linton zoo

THIS year the Simmons family celebrate their 35th anniversary at Linton zoo. The family moved to Linton in January 1972 when the original 10.5 acre site was just an open field without the wonderful trees, shrubs and landscaping of today.

During the 35 years the zoo has built up a positive worldwide reputation for its success with breeding endangered species and is especially respected for its work with animals often regarded as difficult. The zoo is also an important centre for environmental education and provides a facility for leisure.

Over the last year the zoo's hard work and dedication has been rewarded with a number of national awards. The British and Irish Association of Zoos awarded Linton zoo "Best new zoo enclosure" for the Rare Lemur Breeding Centre and "Best education project for schools and educational institutions" for "Fur, feathers, scales and dinosaurs." 21st Century Tiger awarded us a "Gold" award for raising over £5,000 to help keep tigers in the wild. Finally South Cambs DC has just announced that in an on-line poll to identify the locations and attractions across England that you are most proud of and would show a visitor if you had just one day, Linton zoo came top of the local poll and is to receive the "Pride of Place" award for the region.

What a wonderful way to end the year!

Kim Simmons

Linton and Balsham First responder scheme

OUR group of 10 volunteers has now been in operation for five years and we have a new responder about to join the team. We were one of the first groups to be set up and four of us are founder members. We have enhanced (Criminal Records Bureau) CRB checks annually and are trained in first aid, which is redone three yearly, and immediate life support, (ILS) which is redone yearly at Hinchingsbrooke or Peterborough Hospitals and updated quarterly.

This gives us skills to attend to adults in households that have phoned 999 reporting a life threatening condition. We carry equipment that helps us to keep the patient stable until an ambulance arrives. We are on 24hr/7day cover and try to get to the patient address within four minutes of ambulance central control calling our duty person, so please, if you have rung the ambulance, make sure there is someone to let them (or one of us) in.

In the past year we recorded 8,300 hours of availability and went to 85 calls of which 58 were to Linton, 20 to Balsham, four to West Wrattling, two to Weston Colville and one to West Wickham, all of which are in the area we cover. We run some fund raising events to help pay for our training and equipment but are always grateful for the financial and personal support given by our communities. If you would like to help in some way or know more about the scheme please contact Lorna, our scheme manager at MAGPAS on 01480 371060 or lorna@magpas.org.uk Hilary Potter

Too good for jumble ...

WEDNESDAY Brownies have received £15 from the cigarette cards and £25 from the sewing machine.

The Belswick hopper bike, baby buggy with shopping tray, new pump station iron, JVC TV with remote control, Epson Stylus printer with black and colour cartridges and a Toshiba music centre with radio, cassettes and record player for 33 and 45 records in a dedicated cabinet with glass fronted storage space, are all still available.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact:

Kate France 891602 or email
katefrance@linton48.freereserve.co.uk

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

WHAT is it exactly that goes into the users of the A1307's water supplies that leaves so much of the local population with little or no road sense, and a seemingly carefree disregard for the Highway Code?

From pedestrians to lorry drivers, there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm for the safety of themselves and other users of our streets.

The A1307 is becoming busier with every passing year. The local action groups and representatives are still calling for improvements to be made. No doubt speaking for many on this issue, the director of highways for the county council, Mark Kemp said "Unfortunately, addressing the problems of this 15-mile stretch of road is very complex and no one measure will solve them all." That statement is only correct if it is impossible to persuade motorists to use some common sense and drive within the law.

The road itself didn't claim more lives in 2007, did it? It's not the fault of the road that drivers speed and tailgate. Nor is it the fault of the road that so few drivers either employ their indicators or know when and how to use them. In the last few years, the roundabout has become a wheel of mystery to most drivers I see. How hard can it really be to signal your intentions to others, or to avoid meandering over both lanes? Just because the silly voice on the dashboard has told you where you're going, it's still worth remembering that it hasn't informed the rest of us.

If yet more time, money and brain strain has to be spent on the A1307, wouldn't it make sense to look into ways of easing congestion, rather than fight ignorance and incompetence? Perhaps some of us could then enjoy safe passage along the High Street in the mornings, instead of being caught in the increasing number of rat-runners using the village as a high speed detour to avoid traffic.

If you are a teacher, you may feel inclined to enrol your class with the Tufty Club. Your pupils are walking – not always on the pavement – on what is sometimes a race track, with their backs to the traffic. Is road safety still taught at school? It doesn't look like it.

Cycling can be a dangerous activity, so why does the Royal Mail send postmen out in Linton with no lights on their bicycles during hours of darkness? Those who enjoy pedal power are in enough danger already, without employers putting them in even greater peril. Cyclists could, of course, help themselves a bit by bearing in mind that most motorists won't be expecting to encounter them travelling in the wrong direction along the one-way system.

One more thing – why is it *de rigueur* to dazzle someone when thanking them for pulling in to allow clear passage?

Wouldn't it be wonderful to go through 2008 with no more awful carnage on our roads? It really is achievable if we all stop trying to blame planners, councillors and a piece of tarmac for our faults.

PLODDING ALONG

an update on police matters

IN recent weeks we have seen an increase in distraction burglaries in South Cambridgeshire. It is important that people, particularly the elderly, are extra vigilant in being aware of those masquerading as water officials or even neighbourhood watch representatives. We would like to give some advice to help make sure this despicable crime does not become commonplace in Linton. There are four easy things to remember to avoid being caught out in this way – **lock, stop, chain, and check.**

Lock:- make sure all downstairs doors and windows are kept locked, particularly the back door. Many burglaries happen without forced entry.

Stop:- if someone rings your doorbell, stop and think whether or not you are expecting anyone.

Chain :- put the door chain in place before opening the door, and instal a spyhole to see who is there.

Check :- ask for an ID card and look at it carefully. A genuine caller will not mind waiting on the doorstep while you phone to check their identity. **Never** use the number on the card they have given you – look the number up in the phone book.

We also ask that everybody keeps an eye open for anything suspicious or unusual going on in their neighbourhood. For example, there may be a parked car with one or more occupants apparently not doing anything. Why are they just sitting there? If in any doubt, jot down the vehicle's registration and report it. We can quickly find out if we need to follow up the information given.

* * * * *

At this time of year it is vitally important to check that your vehicle is roadworthy. Has the antifreeze been topped up recently and are the tyres inflated to the correct pressure? Are the brakes in good working order? The roads can be especially hazardous in the winter months, so watch your speed and keep your distance – you should always be able to pull up well within your range of vision.

Extra care must be taken when driving in fog. Never tailgate the vehicle in front as this gives a very false sense of security. Fog lamps should only be used when visibility is seriously reduced. Generally, that is a distance of less than 100 metres. Fog lamps must **never** be used simply because it is dark or misty.

* * * * *

To report any non-emergency crime, or to discuss any matter with the police (including security) please call 0845 4 564 564. For further information log on to the ecops site at:

www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops
Linton Neighbourhood Policing Team

Please also take note of a credit card scam, details of which are reported on page 8. Editor.

Home-grown for Christmas decorations

LAST month, as the weather turned wintry, the gardening club met for a demonstration of how to make the most of the natural materials our gardens still have to offer for making Christmas decorations.

Diane Wilson from the College of East Anglia created wonderful displays for us to try at home before members got into the swing of the festive season over mulled wine and mince pies.

The club will meet next at 7.30pm on 8th January in the village hall to hear from Richard Ayres MBE, the former head gardener at Anglesey Abbey. He will be sharing with us the secrets of his own garden, no doubt of interest to all those who have seen his work at Anglesey Abbey. We look forward to offering a warm welcome to members and visitors in the New Year.

Kirsten Newble 892425
email lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Regain your fitness at the Linton village college sports centre...

SPENT too much time at the table this festive season? Maybe enjoyed a tippie or two too many? Now may be the time to get your body back into tip top condition. Rather than thinking about it, phone us today, or call in to see how we could help you.

Fitness suite – come along and we can help you get back into action. We have a range of fitness activities that can help you achieve your goals:

- Get your heart back into beat by joining our fitness suite class
 - Fully supervised and coordinated sessions on Monday 10.45-11.45am or Wednesday 12.45-1.45pm.
 - **Fitness 4 Health** – our referral scheme that can help you recover from illness. Speak to your doctor, practice nurse or physiotherapist about being referred .
 - Personal trainer can help you achieve your fitness goals
 - Fitness suite available weekdays from 7.30am-10pm, and weekends from 9am-5pm.
 - Come and have a session with our holistic therapist who offers a range of treatments from back and neck massage, hopi ear candling to mud wraps.
- We also hold a range of aerobic classes continuing in January:
- Spinning: Monday 7-8pm (starts Monday 14th January for 5 weeks).
 - Boxercise: Tuesday 7-8pm (8th January for 10 weeks).
 - Thighs, tums and bums: Wednesday 7-8pm (9th January).
 - Salsa: Fridays 7-9pm (18th January for 10 weeks).
 - Trampolining for adults is now on Tuesday from 5.45-6.45pm.
 - Trampolining for children is now on Saturdays from 9 – 10am or 10-11am.
 - Athletics for children – Tuesdays: Secondary 3.15-4.15pm; Primary 4.15-5.15pm.
 - Basketball for children years 6, 7 and 8 is on Wednesday 6 – 8pm.
 - Junior badminton club is on Sundays 10am – 1pm.
 - Junior and senior tennis coaching available.

If you need any more information please call 890248 or email lintoncommunitysportscentre@hotmail.co.uk.

Mark Wilson

... and the men's Monday keep fit club

IT'S that time of year again; the aftermath of too much food, too much to drink and too much time slumped on the settee, of going to the January sales and finding you need a bigger size than last year, of dashing to a shop before it closes and finding yourself out of breath.

Fight back against lack of fitness. Join us at the Men's Monday Keep Fit Club.

Members come from a number of villages, not just Linton. The ages of the current membership varies from 30 to 60 and the emphasis is on getting and keeping fit in a friendly atmosphere, not on competition. We don't care who comes first or last, or who can do the most or fewest of an exercise.

Just trying to keep fit on your own can easily be dispiriting and unrewarding. That's

where being part of a group helps. Some people say they don't have the time, but you need to make time. Being fit means you have more energy so you can make more productive use of the rest of your time.

One of the advantages of the Keep Fit club is that you don't have to give up a great chunk of your weekend. We start in the village college sports centre at 8pm every Monday except bank holidays, and some members don't turn up until nearer 8.30pm. We finish by 9.30pm; attendance at the bar afterwards is optional.

If I can find the time and energy to do it, so can you! Just turn up on a Monday evening or phone Bob Hammett on 891372 for details.

Andrew Gore
Keep Fit club regular

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Readers write ... Readers write ... Readers write ...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on Page 8. Please note: all letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited.

The nastiest crime for a very long time

Dear Editor
I realise that as a monthly paper many items of important local news are no longer relevant by the time publication date is reached, but I had hoped the December issue would have reported the serious robbery on the elderly resident in Hillway and the attack on the neighbours who came to his rescue. Many of us know the victim and were very upset when we heard about what had happened.

We have spent a lot of time being concerned about antisocial behaviour and criminal damage in the village over the last year, and reasonably so; its effect ranges from being a nuisance to being a real danger when fires have been started. However it is important that we keep a sense of proportion. There is a danger that in worrying about these issues, our senses will be blunted to the impact of far more serious crimes.

This robbery was the most serious crime to be perpetrated in the village for a long time. Not only must it have been a terrifying experience for the

victim at the time, but being attacked by a group of thugs in your own home in the day-time can lead to older people being unwilling to open their door, or even to go out, anymore: it affects them for the rest of their life. I hope that the February issue of the News will include advice from the police reminding older people about the steps they can take to be safe in their own homes. Since the attack in Linton there have been a number of other attacks on elderly people in South Cambridgeshire. I would urge residents, if they see anyone behaving suspiciously at any time during the day not to hesitate. Phone the police immediately and use the emergency number.

Andrew Gore
Parish Council Chair and Police Representative
I did consider reporting this but decided it may distress the victim. However, see Plodding Along on page 2 for advice. Editor

What happened to the parking space?

Dear Editor
Re the Parish Council Matters in the November issue. It is reported that councillors were hoping that part of the existing fire station site could be used for parking purposes.

During the parish plan questionnaire discussions, a representative of the county council confirmed that his council had discussed a scheme with the parish to use part of the fire station site for improving the

access from Balsham Road on to the High Street and leading to the A1307; funding was apparently approved. The existing arrangement was considered dangerous particularly with the increase in traffic that could result from the proposed one way system.

What happened to this proposal?
M R K Holden
High Street

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,
On Saturday 29th September the Whalley family invited friends to a party in the football pavilion. During the evening Peggy Chapman organised a collection for Cancer Research UK and the sum of £130 was donated to their headquarters in Cambridge. Thank you everyone, and especially Peggy.

We had a lovely evening catching up as well as good music, fun and food.
Helen, Michael and all the Whalley family.
Hempstead Road
Haverhill

Dear Editor,
May I through your paper say a most grateful thank you to the people of Linton and Hadstock. Due to their generosity I have banked £2,052.12 for the Royal British Legion poppy appeal 2007.

Also thank you to all the volunteers and establishments. Without their help this would not have been achieved.
Laurence Kidman
Bartlow Road

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Nothing but food and music

PARTY time is here again and Linton WI made the most of it. A large number of members gathered to celebrate Christmas, and what a marvellous time we had – good food, a bumper raffle, entertainment and music.

No business to deal with this month so it was on with the food – a wonderful spread provided by our catering sub-committee and members. All were warmly thanked by our president, Ann Simpkin. Guess the weight of the enormous cake made by Eileen Impey was won by Margaret Clark. The cake weighed 7lb 14oz. The lucky programme winner will be informed.

A musical medley was provided by Victoria Clifton on flute and alto saxophone and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We then had an amusing collection of readings by our members Margaret Clark, Marjorie Blackman, Tricia Lewis and Anne Harmer which created much hilarity.

Our next meeting, Holiday Howlers, will be at 7.30pm, 2nd January at the Cathodeon Centre. Please note the change of venue.

New members always welcome.
Tricia Lewis
893609

Please keep us informed

MANY of the entries in this month's diary were not in the diary in the post office. The luncheon club, farmers' market, CAMTAD, VIP club and the rail enthusiasts identifies most of them. CAMTAD does send me an official list of their dates but all the others are only in by luck.

One day one of them will be inadvertently left off the list, which will not be the fault of the LN team but I am sure it will be the most important meeting of the year!!!

Please, please, please put into the diary in the post office any events which you would like publicised in the Linton News diary; we are not clairvoyant!

Editor

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**
Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141) SC
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH
Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays SC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays VH
Linton Granta toddlers, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time LVC
Hadstock toddler group, 2.30pm Tuesdays term time Hadstock VH
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesday CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC
Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time VH
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076)
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time VH
Music Matters, 10am & 11am Thursdays VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
Rhyme'n'rythmtot's music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time URC hall
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays SC
Adult social tennis, 2-3pm Saturdays SC
Boxercise/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days, call 890248 SC

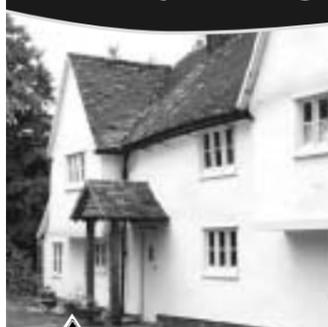
- DEC 07/JANUARY 08**
31 **New Year's Eve party, 9pm King's Head, Hadstock**
31 New Year's Eve masked ball, 7.30pm Chilford Hall
2 **WI, 7.30pm, Note day and venue change, Jan. only** CC
3 Luncheon Club, 12noon The Crown
3 Parish Council meeting, 8pm CC
4 Late Christmas party, 7.30pm Chilford Hall
5 **NO Farmers' market** this month
5 Friends of St Mary's, coffee and mince pies, 11am VH
5 Late, late Christmas party, 7.30pm Chilford Hall
7 **Camera Club meeting, 7.15pm(see p5)** CC
8 **Gardening Club 7.30pm** VH
8 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
12 **ACE bring & buy fundraiser, 10am-12noon** VH
13 **Camera Club outing, 9.30am Coles Lane car park** VH
15 **Historical Society, 7.30pm** VH
16 CAMTAD Hearing Help, 9am-12noon HC
17 **Rail Enthusiasts, 8pm Pear Tree, Hildersham** HC
17 Parish Council meeting, 8pm CC
24 **Talk in aid of First Responders, 8pm 42 High St, Balsham** CC
26 Dads and tots, 9.30am VH

- FEBRUARY**
2 Farmers' market, 9.30am LVC
4 **Camera club meeting, 7.15pm** CC
5 **WI, 7.30pm,** VH
6 Reading group, 8pm Dog & Duck
7 Parish Council meeting, 8pm CC
12 **Gardening Club 7.30pm** VH

KEY: CC Cathodeon Centre, HC Health Centre, LVC Linton Village College, SC Sports Centre, URC United Reform Church, VH Village Hall.

Refuse collection: 7th and 21st January, 4th February
Recycling collection: 14th and 28th January.

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.

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Diary of an ordinand

How life has changed for former teacher, Kathy Bishop

IT is a momentous decision when someone finally decides to train for the ministry, but this is what Kathy Bishop has set out to do, and she is allowing us to join her in the last stage of the journey towards her goal.

Kathy attended the Baptist church in Gloucester from the age of three, but when she reached 11 she decided to explore new avenues, so joined the Church of England. The Girls' Friendly Society, a local Christian organisation, also opened her mind to other teachings and influences. As she got older Kathy's faith, of which she had always been very aware, became "a living thing". Her belief in the words of the Creed which she said every week sustained her, and through the years she has been able to pass this strength on to others who have been going through difficult times.

On leaving school, however, Kathy trained to be a teacher, while still feeling that service to God would feature in her life plan. The intervening years have not been wasted, as all her experiences have been a preparation for what she knew would eventually be her vocation. Learning computer skills while working in Saffron Walden library, involvement with parish groups and assistance at church services have all been steps in the right direction.

By October 2004 the decision was made, so interviews with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands and the Bishop of Huntingdon were on the agenda. Kathy had to wait while it was decided whether her personality matched the submitted reports, but all was well and having handled every interview successfully, her training began in August 2005. The course lasts for three years so for Kathy the big day is only months away.

Residential teaching weekends and a summer school have given Kathy the confidence to conduct services, from which the infant school children have been benefiting in their weekly worship.

This month Kathy will have another weekend away where she will present essays on her recent placements at St Martin's Church in Basildon and the Arthur Rank Hospice. She will then be preparing more essays on ethics and Christian doctrine.

We will catch up with Kathy in a couple of month's time to learn how these were received, so watch this space.

LNT

Music Matters apology

THE Linton News would like to apologise for the inadvertent loss of the contact details for Music Matters last month. We are unsure just how they came to be missing but we are very glad they have been found and reunited with owner Emma, who has been very understanding.

Music does matter so look out for further information on these fun music classes in next month's edition. Just to be safe here are the contact details again 893140.

Graham and his proud mum Maureen with his MBE.



Picture supplied by Graham Moore

Well done, Graham!

LINTON News readers will no doubt recall our article about Graham Moore in the August 2007 issue. Graham, now living in Abington and in charge of the maintenance hangar for the C130 Hercules at Marshalls Aerospace, was shocked to learn that he had been nominated to receive an MBE.

The award is in recognition

of his work in the defence industry and also the considerable amount raised for several charities during his marathon running exploits (so far in excess of £17,000).

Graham was accompanied by his family as he received the award at a ceremony at the Palace in October.

LNT

Make 2008 a record year

ARE you a budding radio journalist? Can you handle audio recording equipment? Have you got an outgoing personality or do you wish you had? Would you like us to show you how? Have you got spare time to help a Linton charity?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you may be the person we are looking for. Every month in Linton, a 90 minute cassette tape is produced and distributed to those who have difficulty reading the Linton News in print. They may be blind, partially sighted or have other reasons why they are not able to read it for themselves.

The tape is produced by the Granta Grapevine talking newspaper team with the text of the Linton News recorded on one side, on the reverse is a magazine of general interest items. It is this magazine side that you may be able to help us with.

The material we produce for this side is mainly of an interview nature with people who have an interesting story to tell - it could be about their holidays or perhaps newsworthy items that may have featured in the Linton News. You don't

necessarily have to be good at interviewing - you may be able to handle our recording equipment for someone else to do the talking, as we have a number in the team who are comfortable with a microphone but we find that once you gain confidence with the procedure the rest comes naturally.

We have a mix of recording techniques and equipment; some items belong to individuals themselves and some to Granta Grapevine, ranging from cassette tape and minidisk recorders to high quality digital audio recorders, which output to computer for editing.

Similarly, some of the editing is done manually and some by computer. We are particularly keen to promote the computer method, so if you have skills in this area that would be helpful too. We have a website that has a sample of the sort of material we produce for the magazine side of the tape at www.grantagrapevine.org.uk

If you think you may be able to help us please contact either our president and magazine editor Janet Conochie on 894460 or myself.

Mike Crofts
893619

Training to help hearing impaired people

A TRAINING course for new volunteers to help the hearing impaired starts on Tuesday 1st April. It will run on Tuesday mornings for six weeks.

CAMTAD (Cambridge campaign for tackling acquired deafness), runs hearing help sessions where volunteers clean, check and re-tube NHS hearing aids and advise on regular maintenance and best listening conditions. They also loan out equipment. They can

help with hearing doorbells, telephone, television and household alarms. Training courses cover such subjects as the ear, types and causes of deafness, NHS hearing aids, procedures for assessment, communication methods and so on.

If you are interested in the training course or would like to discuss it further please phone or fax Sue Hempstead or Sue Magee on 416141 or write to

Sue Hempstead at 8A Romsey Terrace, Cambridge, CB1 3NH. We welcome hearing impaired volunteers on the course: a loop system is provided.

Training is compulsory for our volunteers but there is no obligation to volunteer at the end of the course. Most of our volunteers help at monthly sessions but many help in other ways.

Sue Hempstead, organiser

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Calling all train enthusiasts



THERE are two new railways being built in Europe and both are in the UK. One has just been completed and will take Eurostar across Kent at speeds of up to 150mph terminating at St Pancras. In North Wales the Welsh Highland Railway is being reconstructed by volunteers and civil engineers on an international scale.

The vision for this project has vast appeal and is recognised worldwide. Eventually, trains, mostly steam, will run between Caernarvon and Portmadoc, a distance of 25 miles. Add to this the Ffestiniog Railway (the parent company), and the length increases to 40 miles terminating at Blaeneau Ffestiniog all on two feet gauge track. Many of the locos are Beyer Garretts. The Welsh Highland Railway opened in 1923. Minor lines in the 1860s carrying slate formed part of the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway (NWNGR) and Porthmadoc, Beddegelert and South Snowdon Railway (PB & SSR), from which the WHR was born.

Passenger services began in 1878 and by 1881 the NWNGR had extended south to Rhyd Dhu. Work by the PB & SSR proceeded northwards but this was abandoned in 1908. Slate traffic diminished and the line ceased operation in 1916. After the first war, partly to reduce the region's unemployment, the connecting link between the two companies was made and the

WHR reopened with sufficient business in 1923, before decline in usage set in from 1925. By 1936 the line (now under the Ffestiniog Railway's control) closed to passengers and later goods traffic.

In 1961 the first moves were made to revive the WHR. The Ffestiniog Railway was empowered to reinstate the line starting from Caernarvon to Dinas. This section was opened in 1997. The rebuilding is being carried out in four phases.

In 2003 HRH The Prince of Wales opened the line to South Snowdon, the halfway point on the WHR. Progress is now rapid with Phase 4 underway and completion of the line is within sight. The line will carry passengers through some of the most beautiful country in the British Isles and will appeal to people of all ages and will also help reduce reliance on cars through the national park. If North Wales seems a world away from Cambridge, you can join our East Anglian branch which meets every third Thursday of the month. There is usually a guest speaker and an opportunity to chat and find out more and enjoy films of several of the impressive Beyer Garrett locomotives in action.

Meetings are held in the Pear Tree, Hildersham. Contacts are Mark Neilson, Chairman on 894058 or 07801042504, neilsongroup@btinternet.com and Richard Read (Secretary) 892005, roserichread@btinternet.com. Richard Read

Get your skates on ... or should that be wellies



Santa's workshop in the Grafton Centre

Picture by John Bowyer



Skating in the rain, shouldn't that be snow? Inset: some of the boots for hire.

Pictures by Tracey Wilson

WINTER awaydays for the camera club are always a bit chancy as the weather can turn at the drop of a hat, and December's trip was no exception. Just a few hardy members set out to take pictures of Christmas in Cambridge and we managed to have a few minutes' photography time at the skating rink on Parker's Piece,

giving us the chance to capture a few hardy souls skating in the rain before it set in for the day. We then walked to the Grafton Centre to get some photographs of the charming grotto, complete with Santa's workshop.

This month also saw the club holding the AGM, when several of the officers swapped jobs and subs were paid. We

listened to the Chairman's comments regarding the success of our annual exhibition, and were reminded to start looking for more photo opportunities to display at next year's event, which will take place on 11th October in the village hall.

We then had some drinks and nibbles while we enjoyed a slide show of pictures provided by members.

This is the last Monday meeting that will be held in the village hall – due to an increase in membership; Monday club nights will now be relocated to the room at the back of the Cathodeon Centre from 7th January, 7.15–9.15pm. Our first awayday of 2008

will be to Welney wetland centre. The wildlife reserve covers 1,000 acres and plays host each winter to thousands of swans that have migrated from Iceland and Arctic Russia, along with tens of thousands of other wildfowl.

We will be meeting at Linton car park at 9.30am – feeding is at noon for birds (and a bit later for photographers!).

For details of what Linton camera club is about and information on the programme for the coming year, why not look at our website on www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk or phone Roger Lapwood on 891104 or me. Tracey Wilson, 891988

POT POURRI (36)

What is the greater number?

RECENTLY I came across a child who had learnt to count and she did not seem to stop!

- This made me think of the following number sequences;
 i) 999999 x (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 +999999 + 1000000)
 ii) 1000000 x (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 +999998 + 999999)
 Which series has the greater value? (i) or (ii)?

Solution to No.35 – The distance to the water tower

THIS is a straightforward use of triangles and transversals. It is a method used when one cannot measure the distance to an object due to an obstruction.

The distance is 1040m. The method is interesting insofar that only simple arithmetic is involved with no trigonometry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hadstock toddler group

ARE you the parent or carer of a baby or toddler? Are you looking for something to do on a Tuesday afternoon? Come along to Hadstock toddler group for a chat and a play.

We are a small friendly group from Hadstock, Linton and the surrounding villages who meet from 2 - 3.30pm every Tuesday in term time in Hadstock village hall (next to the church).

We would love to see some new faces so come along and give us a try.

For more information please contact me:
 Isabel Fish 890924

ACEs go shopping and enjoy a treat

LINTON ACEs had their annual garden centre visit on 22nd November to Van Hage's at Ware. They have everything – clothes, housewares, books, a farm shop – and an excellent restaurant. They even sold plants, bulbs and seeds!

Christmas had been in full swing for weeks, so decorations, trees (black is the new green) and "Santa's" grotto were prominent, although no one admitted to sitting on his knee! Many found the zoo to be the most fascinating area, but the rather well-fed turkeys were looking understandably nervous....

At ACEs AGM we were updated on the Mobile Warden scheme, and how it helps maintain the quality of life and independence of so many. Relationships with the health centre and Addenbrookes are strengthening, as the work of the warden supplements that of the health services. We bought small gifts for the clients, many of whom cannot participate in the social activities of ACEs;

these will be distributed by the warden nearer to Christmas. We know there are 28 people on the scheme, but as there is total confidentiality we do not know who they are, so cannot deliver the gifts personally. We hope you enjoy the small token of friendship – we are thinking of you.

What was *our* Christmas treat? Soup and rolls lunch with mince pies, to be festive. Best of all we had Garth Collard speaking on "Linton – Greenhill to Granta" a jolly and informative talk on the buildings, the people and their lives. Garth's fund of stories brightens even the most gloomy day and cheers us all.

Next is the fundraiser for the work of the mobile warden, from 10am - 2pm on Saturday 12th January at the village hall, with a raffle, bring and buy, stalls, warming drinks and refreshments. More stalls welcome – call me on 891069. See you there – Happy New Year to everyone!

Enid Bald

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 Bob, Tracy & Carole have moved from the Dog & Duck to the Bull at Balsham. We will continue our 'Top'n'Tail' special of free starter and dessert with every main meal on Tuesdays from 29th November. Around the World Supper evenings continuing from January 2008
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Father Christmas pays a visit to Linton



Father Christmas chats to several of the children who are eager to delve into his bag.

Picture by Roger Lapwood

ST. Mary's church held its annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday 24th November, raising funds for the church and offering an enjoyable afternoon for the children and adults alike.

The event raised £1,200 for the church, and provided 19 stall holders with an opportunity to sell their goods in the early stages of the Christmas season.

Father Christmas was visited by over 80 children who each took their turn at searching through his bran-tub for a gift of their choice. Two young people organised their own stalls, with support from their parents; Martha Cassells selling her handmade jewellery and Sam Clayton "Stuff 4 Christians." Refreshments were plentiful thanks in large part to Pam Richardson and family, and a team of able assistants.

New stalls this year included "Nearly New Accessories" from Rosemary Read, Chris-

tian books and CDs from Adrian and Louise Rose and ceramics from Susan Van Valkenburg. Jean Wheeler offered a huge and beautiful array of Traidcraft goods for sale, and the Friends of St Mary's brought their excellent catalogue of gifts and cards, displaying images of our parish church.

The raffle, ably organised by Kate France and Ruth Franks, offered over 70 prizes. Kate was particularly pleased that the prizes were "given so generously and cheerfully, not only by members of the congregation but also local businesses."

Co-chairs of the event were Tereza Webb, Lydia Collinge and Dana Mills-Powell who together wish to thank all who participated in and attended the Christmas bazaar this year.

This year's event will take place on Saturday 29th November.

Dana Mills-Powell

All the fun of the fair...

CHRISTMAS fair that is! Linton Granta playgroup and toddlers held their annual event on Saturday 1st December at the village hall.

Fun was had by all, especially the children, with a craft table, lucky dip, tombola and games. Father Christmas also paid a visit to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hand out gifts. Home-made cakes and biscuits were enjoyed with cups of tea and squash.

An amazing £745 was made with your support; thank you. A big thank you to those of you who helped to organise the event, to those who helped on the day, to the sponsor Russells Estate Agents and to the donors of the amazing raffle prizes.

A bustling event for the Linton Granta playgroup and toddlers

Picture by Mary Robinson



...and don't forget to toddle down to toddlers!

REMEMBER that Linton Granta playgroup also runs a lovely toddler group. This month the group will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11.30am at a small cost per family. Unfortunately the Monday group has been cancelled due to lack of support.

The group is located on the Linton village college site opposite the sports centre and Granta school. Look out for the Playgroup and Toddlers sign.

We have lots of toys for children from birth to pre-school age to play with, and craft activities for the older children. Tea and coffee is provided for the mums and dads, and healthy snacks for the children. A warm welcome is extended to all.

For more information please go to the website www.lintongrantaplaygroup.co.uk or contact Kate Kell (chair) on 894970.

Ruth Tysoe

Grant boost funds for 2008 children's book festival

IT is full steam ahead for the 2008 Linton children's book festival after news that we have been given a substantial grant from the National Lottery's "Awards for All" programme.

The committee is now busy putting together an exciting programme of events and activities for the weekend of 10/11th May with a chance to meet well-known authors and illustrators.

More details can be found at www.lintonbookfest.org where you can subscribe to our Bookfest blog and be kept up to date with the latest developments.

This is very much a community event, so we would welcome any ideas or suggestions to make the festival even more special. Please call Josephine Paterson (Chair) on 893582, or e-mail chair@lintonbookfest.org. We would love to hear from you!

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Chef's corner with Joel

A warming soup for winter

KEEPING to the seasonal theme I thought this would be one for the more adventurous among us, and if you can get past the "pet rabbit" issues then this is a fantastic meal that can be made and enjoyed any time of the day served with toasted bread.

Rabbit has been enjoyed by generations before us so I urge you to give it a go. If you would prefer, ask your butcher to take all the meat from the rabbit as it will resemble chicken.

Roasted rabbit and orange soup (serves 6/8)

Ingredients

- 2 fresh rabbits (ask your butcher to clean and cut the rabbits into 6 pieces)
- 2 medium sized carrots
- 1/2 head of celery
- 1 large onion
- 1/2 leek
- 2 bay leaves and sprig of fresh thyme
- 2.5 litres good chicken stock
- 50 gms plain flour
- 1/4 jar thick-cut orange marmalade
- 1 tablespoon butter

Method

First of all turn your oven on to 175°C / gas mark 4. Place the rabbits into a roasting tin and roast until golden brown. You may use a little oil to help this process along. It takes about 25-30 minutes.

While these are cooking; the vegetables can be roughly chopped.

Remove the rabbits from the oven and allow to cool. Take a large cooking pot (one that can take 3.5 litres).

With the butter, cook the vegetables in the pot until golden brown.

Remove the vegetables and add the flour, enough to make a paste.

Cook until the flour and butter (roux) is golden brown. Very gradually add the stock to the pot keeping a low heat. Finely chop the cooked vegetables (or blitz) and add to the stock.

Pick the rabbit meat from the bones and add to the stock. Stir in the marmalade, as little or as much as you wish.

Now add the herbs and correct the seasoning.

This can be served straight away or cooled and kept in the fridge for up to three days.

Apply for your national bus pass now

TRAVEL by bus after 9.30am anywhere in England for free, be it to Ely cathedral or Durham cathedral, is coming soon.

The government's 2006 Budget statement announced that a new national Concessionary Bus Travel scheme would be introduced in April 2008.

For the first time, eligible residents (over 60s and people with certain disabilities) will be able to use their bus pass after 9.30am until the last bus on Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and bank holidays in any part of England.

Everyone will need to apply for a new bus pass. To receive your pass on time, complete an application form today. Contact your district council for more information or phone 718779.

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CAN YOUR MECHANIC SAY THAT?

Our village through other eyes on the latest WEA course

AN item from the Social Pages of the Linton & Sawston Express from 170 years ago in January 1838:

"Linton looks forward to the arrival of the well-known Mr Samuel Pickwick and his fellow Pickwickians, Mr Nathaniel Winkle, Mr Augustus Snodgrass and Mr Tracy Tupman; they will be staying at the Red Lion Coaching Inn for a period of around 10 weeks.

It is also rumoured that a certain Mr Alfred Jingle might be staying at the Pear Tree Inn, in nearby Hildersham"

If you would like to join the members of Linton WEA, 170 years later on, at 10am on Tuesday 8th January, you will be able to find out exactly what Samuel Pickwick and his fellow Pickwickians might have found happening in and around Linton during their 10 week stay.

Who the main characters were in village life, what shops were here and what happened at both ends of the social spectrum; the whole gamut of life in 1838.

To guide us through this fascinating adventure into both social and family history will be Cambridgeshire's local history expert, Mike Petty, but there will also be opportunities for you to look through the Parish records and census returns of the day of both Linton and the surrounding villages, not just in 1838, but also for the whole period between 1801 and 1901.

This will be a great introduction into family and local history research, plus all the other history resources available both locally, and increasingly on the internet, and there will be village experts there as well to guide you along the very local path.

So why not come and join us. Each session lasts until around 11.45am and we have a break for coffee and a chat. The course lasts 10 weeks and we try to have a course visit.

If you would like to join us please either just come along or preferably ring our secretary, Leslie Allison on 891154 or email info@lintonwea.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you.

Andrew Westward-Bate

A repeat warning

The Linton News published this warning in November 2007 but thought it was worth repeating as the con is still catching people. Please do not be fooled. Editor.

CONMEN are still targeting homes in Cambridgeshire with a postal scam. Police are warning homeowners to watch out for the fraud, which has seen thousands of "missed delivery" messages put through letterboxes in the county.

The card, from a company called Parcel Delivery Service, claims it was unable to deliver a parcel and that

you should contact them on a telephone number beginning with 0906, which is a premium rate number.

If you do so you will hear a recorded message. You will be billed £15 for this call.

Police and trading standards are asking people who receive a card from the Belize-based scam to call Royal Mail's fraud team on 020 7239 6655. LNT

Reminiscences of a medic for the history buffs

LINTON and district historical society will meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th January when Dr Neville Silverston will give us a fascinating talk about his 30 Years as a Country Doctor.

After spending two years working in a medical centre in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr Silverston began work in 1958 as a general practitioner in Bottisham, where he remained until his retirement in 1986.

In 1968 he set up Cambridge Medical Answering Services to provide a long range paging service for local GPs, nurses and midwives. It was later extended for use at road accidents and other emergencies. He founded MAGPAS and was awarded an MBE in recognition of this.

In 1974 he set up a vocational training scheme for general practitioners at Addenbrooke's and was awarded a Fellowship of the College of General Practitioners.

In 1993, he created the Cambridge Doctors' Co-operative to provide out-of-hours GP services to people in Cambridge and district. Since retirement he has devoted his time to his communications company which employs 40 people and deals with a thousand calls a day. We all probably know someone or a family that owes their life to the MAGPAS service.

Andrew Westward-Bate

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY

by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

The lost mammoth of Linton

LET me begin by wishing you all a grand and happy New Year! It's a sleepy season for some, but much of life is silently being wound like a giant clock spring ready to, well, spring! In spring! However, look beneath the oak and beech trees for a variety of toadstools merrily growing, gills shyly hidden from the sun. Look out for *Ganoderma applanatum* otherwise known as the Artist's Bracket. They grow outwards, light on the underside and have a hard woody texture which, when scratched, creates lines that darken with a kind of natural shading. Fascinating stuff, but inedible!

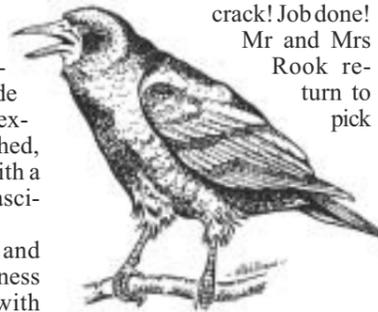
Allow me to soothe and counterbalance any headiness from recent festivities with some astounding numbers. With such a deep slough of global environmental items concerning our 5,972 sextillion (5,972 followed by eighteen zeros) ton planet cropping up in the news with ever increasing urgent terminology, one can't easily drown in complacency. Yet, I feel someone (me) should emphasise our big-tiny world is continually experiencing gargantuan change beyond man's influence, yet, because of our concept of time, we barely flinch.

Even so, it's true to say since the introduction of the motor vehicle, superficial destruction has been of widespread note.

During the last 100 years birds have obviously been watching us from on high, and just off the A1307 the rooks are no exception. They have observed the comings and goings at Dalehead Foods and noticed

the potential of giant nutcrackers rumbling past the gates.

Having outwitted the squirrels' 7.6 g brain, my favourite black birds, commonly flapping about on roadside currents of air like burnt newspaper, have decided to swoop down, depositing their walnuts and acorns carefully in the line of the waggon wheels. Lorry moves off, and crack! Job done!



Mr and Mrs Rook return to pick up the tasty morsels.

Grateful for the provision of these laboursaving devices, it seems rook-word has spread throughout the land. Some corvine copycats apparently now follow the cracking code at the traffic lights. Red - place nut on road. Green - watch nut cracked by moving vehicle. Red again - pick up pieces of kernel. Drivers who avoid the nuts may experience a surprise, misguided nut-bomb or a messy displeased reprisal upon the bonnet!

Now I haven't managed to weigh the brain of a rook (yet) but I do know the average goldfish brain weighs just 0.097grams and an owl's is 2.2grams. Interesting? Well compare that to a human's weighing in at 1,400grams or even a sperm whale at a staggering 7,200 grams! Without profound analysis of these

figures it occurred to me - we humans have a disproportionately large brain in relation to body size.

Could this excess grey matter simply exist ready and waiting to help adapt to a changing climate and environment? The rook has a great propensity to adopt new methods of feeding, and man, thankful for not wiping them out during the plague, doesn't seem to mind this symbiotic relationship with our unpaid road cleaners. Whilst I squeezed and cracked two walnuts in the palm of my hand, extracting the fruit whole, I couldn't help but notice how brain-like they looked! But then, I'm disappointed at my lack of wings, an evolutionary step that would have surely cut down on CO2 emissions!

The summer days of foxgloves and campion are far behind, and with winter fields and footpaths all but naked 'tis a great time to spot an exposed unusual item. Since November's diary, more finds are fueling interest in local palaeontology. Belemnites, (pointed stones) once called thunderstones believed to be formed where lightning struck the ground, but are really the fossilised remains of a kind of squid, have come to light. Also discovered was a devil's toenail. These were once prized to ease the pain of arthritic joints and are the remnants of an ancient bivalve.

Oh' Linton rich in vale and rill, from wood and hill fine treasures spill! Until next month, keep warm! Now, where is that woolly mammoth hiding?

A letter about last month's Country Diary

Dear Editor, Darryl Nantais ("A celestial season") is quite right that a Linton museum would be great, but don't forget that Cambridge has some excellent museums, including the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, where the museum staff are always happy to identify any geological finds, extraterrestrial or otherwise. The museum displays include fossils, rocks and minerals, and although there may not be much from Linton on display (yet), you can see mammoth teeth, hyena bones and a fine fossil hippo skeleton found only

a few miles away.

Admission is free, and the museum is on Downing Street, just round the corner from the new John Lewis - you can find out more at www.sedgwickmuseum.org or ring them on 333456.

I fear, however, that Darryl's meteorite may be a nodule of marcasite, an iron sulphide mineral often found on chalky hills such as Linton's. But you never know....

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The Derbyshire Post

THERE is a scene in the last Harry Potter film, The Order of the Phoenix, that reminds me of what has been happening in our local schools recently. Harry and his odious cousin Dudley Dursley are in a recreation ground, when suddenly the sky darkens, the clouds swirl in violent shades of black and are broken by the swoop of shadowy *dementors*, who pin Harry and Dudley to the ground and attempt to suck out the very soul from their lungs.

Yes, we have been descended on by Ofsted once more; LVC, the Granta school, the Infant school and the Meadow school at Balsham have all been inspected.

Actually, our Ofsted *dementor* turned out to be a bright and pleasant chap who had a lovely manner with the students. Last month, I promised to tell you the outcome of his inspection. Now that the report has gone public I can do so.

He judged the college to be an outstanding school. It joins a short list of such prestigious secondary schools nationally.

The full report will appear on the Ofsted website shortly, but here are some of the highlights:

- Linton Village College is an outstanding school in which students prosper. The vast majority of parents speak highly of it
- Students make outstanding progress
- The curriculum is outstanding because it caters so well for students of different aptitudes and interests
- The excellence of the school's provision is a result of outstanding leadership and management
- Students' personal development and well-being are outstanding, encouraged by the rich range of opportunities the school provides
- Behaviour is good and students know how to stay safe
- Teaching and learning are at least good and in some cases outstanding
- The care, guidance and support which students receive is outstanding
- The governing body plays an important part in the school's development.

Twenty three out of the 26 judgements made were graded outstanding, three were good. Of course, we are delighted to have our work validated so powerfully, but now we are even more determined to make it 26 out of 26 when the *dementors* return in three years' time!

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Order of Shepherds', social centre, cinema, Masons and crystals all contributed to give the Shepherds' Hall its present day character.

AS you walk along Market Lane towards Joiners Road you have probably noticed a most unusual building on the left hand side which has the name Shepherds' Hall engraved on the roofline. The Shepherds' Hall was built here in 1921-1922 by the local firm of Paintin at a cost of £1,750. The dilapidated British School building formerly occupying the site was promptly demolished by the Essex Order of the Shepherds' Friendly Society after it acquired the property for a meagre £225 in 1920.

The new hall was constructed in memory of the 329 brethren of the Essex and Linton areas who had sacrificed their lives in the recent war. On 11th February 1922 a large procession of members marched from the Greenhill through the village with their full regalia and banners, led by the Hadstock Band. Later on that day the Chief Shepherd of the Manchester Order formally opened the building which



A view of Shepherds' Hall taken in April 2002

Picture by Garth Collard

comprised two offices at the front, a large 50 foot by 25 foot hall and an upper room used for meetings.

The Linton Vine Lodge of the Shepherds' had been founded in 1869, and was now headed by Herbert Titmarsh who was an energetic Linton Labour councillor determined to make the hall the centre of village activities. He was successful and the hall remained the main venue for Linton's social events until the outbreak of World War II.

The front section was enlarged in 1934 and the former balcony area used as a projection room for weekly village cinema shows. The Linton parish council met here until the late 1940s, and boycotted the village college as a meeting venue because they felt members had been "snubbed" at the college opening ceremony in 1937 by Henry Morris and the county councillors.

In 1938 college pupils assembled here to have their gas masks fitted at the time of the

Munich crisis. During the war from 1939 until 1945 the hall was requisitioned by the army although the upper room was still used for meetings. After 1945 the hall was used by the Masons for their local meetings but ceased to be used for other social functions. The empty building was acquired by Pye of Cambridge in 1950. They used it for storage and research work in connection with their crystal chip electronics business.

In 1953 Cathodeon Crystals (part of the Pye Group) commenced production here under the late Norman Rolfe who told me that the workforce numbered around thirty people. The factory area was too small for expansion, so the business made a phased move between 1957 and 1960 to a new factory site in the Horseheath Road (Copperfields today).

The old Shepherds' Hall site was eventually sold off in 1973 and converted into four self-contained residential units by 1977.

Watch out for this scam; it could cost you a lot of money

You are provided with all the information, except the one piece they want.

CALLER says: 'This is A N Other, and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA (or Mastercard). My badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £497.99 from a marketing company based in London?' When you say 'no', the caller continues with: 'Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from £297 to £497; just under the £500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?'

You say 'yes'. The caller continues: 'I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card (0800-VISA) and ask for Security.'

You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a six digit number. 'Do you need me to read it again?'

Here's the important part, the caller then says: 'I need to verify you are in possession of your card.' He'll ask you to 'turn your card over and look for some numbers.' There are seven numbers; the first four are part of your card number, the next three are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor

of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the three numbers to him. After you tell the caller the three numbers, he'll say: 'That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?' After you say, 'no,' the caller then thanks you and states, 'Don't hesitate to call back if you do', and hangs up.

They never ask for or tell you the card number. The author of this report called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. The real VISA Security Department told them it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of £497.99 had been charged to the card.

A real fraud report was made and the VISA account closed. VISA is issuing a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. **Don't give it to them.** Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or MasterCard directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA confirms that they will never ask for any details on the card as they already have the information since they issued the card! The police said they are receiving several of these reports daily!

Please pass this on to all your family and friends. By informing each other, we protect each other. LNT

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Parish Council Matters

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

Which way will the wind blow?

THE new year may well see a planning application for the proposed wind farm. As with all planning applications the parish council would be consulted, and required to express its views to the district council, which will then make the decision.

That's why, until we get to that point, neither the parish council as a whole, nor any councillor involved in the process, can express opinions for or against the wind farm. If the council did so now, it would amount to what the courts call "pre-determination" – or, in plain English, having a closed mind, and the district council would then have to disregard the parish council's views. So if you ask a councillor for their opinion now, please understand why we have to say "no comment."

When the time comes to express a view the council must take into account all the "material considerations". The courts have laid down over many years what those can include. So, for instance, the appearance of the turbines in the landscape would be material. Whether they would make a profit, is not.

In the light of past experience, the parish council has formulated policies to make sure we can establish the views of all residents when it comes to major planning applications. At the moment this is how we intend to deal with a wind farm application.

At the outset, we will ask the district council for a longer than usual consultation period and make sure all the documents submitted with the application can be properly inspected by residents.

We will be looking to deliver a questionnaire to all residents, to try and establish what you think, probably about two or three weeks after we receive the application. Only a handful of people will be involved in analysing the replies and they will be sworn to secrecy, so you can be sure that your views will not be broadcast around the village. If you want to express your views publicly that will be up to you.

It is likely that organisations with views about the wind farm will be distributing leaflets for and against the proposal. You may find them helpful in coming to a view. There could also be a role for a public meeting. If we hold one, we will make sure that organisations on both sides of the debate are given a fair time to put their views forward and that you then have plenty of time to ask questions.

The closing date for return of the questionnaires will be a few days after that, and once all the questionnaires have been analysed, a full council meeting will be held. That's when we will decide on what comments and recommendations to submit to the district council.

If you have any queries about the procedure, please contact me or Esther Cornell, chair of the council's planning committee. In the meantime, the parish council wishes you a happy New Year. It will certainly be an interesting one.

Andrew Gore
Chair of the council

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: C. 891001
www.lintonpc.org.uk

Clerk to the Council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon
and 4–5.45pm

Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon
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Dates for full Council meetings:
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Fly Tipping

BAGS of household waste are being put into the village litter bins. Please note that this is classed as fly tipping and as such you could be fined £1000. Please report any incidents to South Cambs district council, Environmental Health Department on 08450 450063.



War Memorial in Linton Cemetery

Picture by Graham Potter

Tell us what you think

THE cemetery is a rare, green, tranquil space in the middle of our busy village – could we use this asset more effectively, for greater general benefit?

Over the summer you might have noticed trees being pruned and re-shaped. This was the initial round of work to improve the area, and mainly for safety. There are several trees (mainly conifers and non-native species) that are past their prime, are no longer a "thing of beauty", nor a home to wildlife. These could be removed to leave space to plant more suitable trees and bushes, for shelter, to benefit wildlife and to please the eye for years to come.

Linton parish council is considering making maps of the burial areas, and boards recording the history and interesting facts

of each section. Those who were too poor to have a headstone deserve to be remembered. Perhaps the grave numbers, no longer in their places, could be made into a fitting memorial artwork?

A memorial garden could be planted – perhaps to help the younger people to remember their friends and relatives? More seating could be added for all to enjoy peaceful contemplation and remembrance. Do we need a better area to inter ashes, or a better memorial site? For example, we could consider a memorial wall for the plaques, rather than have them inset into the ground.

The row of lime trees is a major issue – take advantage of their leafless state to note just how big and overpowering they have become. These trees have irritated many

families for years – the fluid dripping from them stains the gravestones beneath. This is honeydew produced by aphid infestation. The trees could be reduced in size, crowns thinned to improve airflow, to reduce the number of aphids and the amount of honeydew dripping onto the graves. How would you feel if the trees were reduced in number? Initially every other one could be removed and replaced with smaller native species. Eventually all the limes could be replaced without the area looking bleak in the meantime.

The War Memorial is a vital reminder of those whose sacrifice in two world wars gave us our freedom. More than twenty men of Linton are not recorded on the stone; we would like to add these

names and those who died in more recent conflicts. Let us know of any who have been omitted. Could we do more to remind ourselves that lessons of history are there to be learned, not repeated?

Of course, we also have more practical issues to address – water supply, waste removal, replacement soil, litter bins, etc. Can these be improved?

Remember that the cemetery is place for respect, peace and contemplation, not a play area. Your thoughts on how to improve the area for wider benefit are welcome.

CLlr Enid Bald

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

Parish plan progress and where does it go from here

FOUR years ago a great many of you took the trouble to fill in a lengthy questionnaire about life in Linton and maybe many of you feel that not much has changed as a result!

This, in fact, fairly represents your responses, most of you being well content with things as they were and not wanting changes.

However, don't suppose, therefore, that the time you spent answering questions was wasted. Quite the contrary; the report based on your opinions was adopted by the parish council. It has provided an invaluable guide to them and is referred to frequently.

The parish plan group felt it was time to update the Action Plan that followed the report especially since there is now a new procedure in place at Cambridge district council for parish plans to be reviewed by the so-called Local Strategic Partnership which has the task of feeding relevant aspects of them into the new Local Area Agreement; all jargon to most of us I'm afraid

but it's how local government works, or not, as the case may be!

It was pleasing to find that we could write 'done' beside several of the plan's objectives, the most significant clearly being the one-way system. Whether you like it or not, it was installed on the basis of the overwhelming vote in favour of such a system from the options chosen by the county council from the parish plan questionnaire.

The problem of traffic congestion in the High Street was addressed in the questionnaire following a very active campaign by residents. Do you remember all those posters "Linton High Street Do Something Now"? Well something was done and the county council spent over £250,000 implementing the scheme you chose.

The parish plan group was able to seek such widespread village views due to the grant specifically available for such a task. It would be beyond the resources of the parish council to use such an approach

for every controversial issue to affect the village.

The current scoping inquiry for a wind farm is a case in point. Sadly, four years ago the parish plan group did not have the foresight to include a question on wind farms, although we did ask a more general question on the importance of rural setting and surrounding countryside, which proved to be 'highly valued' by most of you. Without knowing the views of the whole village the parish council must keep an open mind until such time as a planning application is submitted, but inevitably it will be influenced by active campaigners in the village either for or against such a venture.

Whilst the arguments about the reality of global warming are a very recent concern, many of the old problems in Linton are still very hot chestnuts! Despite minor safety improvements on the A1307 there are still appalling tragedies far too often and more studies are in progress. The A1307 group constantly

champions this cause and we all benefit from the pressure they bring to bear on the county council with the help of our MP.

The question on the provision of a swimming pool in Linton had overwhelming support from residents but none of this has been reflected in the support given to the newly formed LAPP group who are trying so hard to fund raise for this project. Without evidence of local support, no large scale fund provider will allocate resources. Whilst one might reasonably think that having the Olympics in London might help to promote locally based sporting facilities the reverse seems to be the case, with local funding capped whilst funds continue to be poured into the big schemes.

On sporting issues quite a few of you favoured snooker and tennis but there has been no pressure on the parish council to explore the provision of appropriate facilities. However, it looks as if all that energy will be put to use by the

group pressing for allotments. Following an article in parish matters enough of you have asked for an allotment to support the parish council in searching for suitable land. Have you noticed how the fresh veg stalls are always the first to sell out at the Farmers' markets? Maybe some of these allotments will produce an excess for local sale – the vagaries of global warming permitting!

Sadly the parish council no longer has governor representatives at any of our local schools or the (Broadening Education) BE group so it can no longer pass on residents' views on these issues. However, there are still parent governors, some of whom may live in the village. Its good to see that the BE programme is still offering some 'hobby' based courses as well as the more studious exam related variety. The parish council regrets that funding for youth centred activities is constantly eroded but gives equal support to the young and the elderly in the village.

Since the parish plan was produced, broadband has become available in Linton so now many of you can read the new action plan for yourselves on www.linton.info. This has also enabled several of the plan's proposals to be implemented on line, the village directory, village views and so on.

Not all of us are computer literate! Did you know that children who have grown up with computers are referred to as 'computer natives' whilst those of you who have learnt since leaving school are known as 'computer immigrants'. That puts me in a group which hasn't arrived yet (computer asylum seeker, perhaps?) but apparently I am part of a bigger group than I realised since 70% of the over 60s are in the same boat, so rest assured I shall be watching out for our interests! I wrote this in pen and must thank Tina, our admin assistant, very much for typing it out!!

Cllr Judy Rossiter

MINUTES of the meeting of the Linton parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 1st November. **Present:** Councillors A Gore (Chair), Ms E Cornell (Vice Chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, S Daly, B Hammett, R Hickford, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin; Mrs S Parry, clerk. Mrs K France (press) was in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gee, Krarup and White.

Public Forum: Mrs France thanked Cllr Potter for cutting the hedge opposite the Post Office.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October

Cllr Potter proposed that the draft minutes be subject to the following amendment, namely that item 128 should read: 'Further discussion regarding the pavilion lease'. A written report from Cllr Gore had been circulated. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with all core users of the pavilion to outline the council's concerns, including the increase in the number of vehicles driving across the recreation ground, their speed, and the leaving open of the open, and to remind users of the terms and conditions of the lease. It was agreed that there should be a limit on the number of key holders and on the number of vehicles using the recreation ground, and that a suitable notice to drivers should be installed at the Meadow Lane gate.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October not already listed

Item 120: Cllr Bald reported that she had met with Philip Darke of Camgrain who had confirmed that the noise from the site was caused by cooling fans. Cllr Bald had requested that Camgrain should carry out regular acoustic tests and fund extra tree planting; permission would be required from Mr Taylor for

planting along the edge of the A1307. It was agreed to write to Camgrain concerning these matters.

Reports from Co-ordinators

Open spaces – It was reported that the green netting had been removed from Granta Vale. The fire damage to the Camping Close footpath had been reported to the county council.

Recreation ground – Cllr Krarup had distributed a report on the Bowls Club meeting. Cllr Potter reported that there had been a break in at the pavilion over the weekend; two of four youths allegedly captured on CCTV had been questioned by the police. Cllr Potter reported that a quotation had been requested to resolve the problem with flooding at the Meadow Lane entrance to the recreation ground. Cllrs Hickford and Potter had cut down and removed the tree overhanging the path by the river. It was agreed to contact the county council to see if there was any progress regarding the drains in Stantons Lane.

Churchyard – Cllr Cox reported that Mr Cahill had finished section 2 of the wall and the reconstruction of the pier at the end of section 1; the gate could be hung soon. Cllr Cox was pleased with the standard of workmanship. Concerns were expressed regarding safe access to the small bridge leading to the Grip Meadows from the churchyard and Camping Close. Cllr Rossiter agreed to contact the county council.

A1307 – Cllr Cornell reported that a further letter had been sent to the county council regarding the re-routing of HGVs through the village.

Cllr Urwin reported on the suggestions received for the Minor Highway Improvement Scheme Bids. Written reports on:

- A disability access and safety project and
- A safe crossing point on Balsham Road

had been previously circulated.

There were also requests for:

- Extra signage to Little Linton on the A1307 and
- Provision of a footpath on the south side of Back Road from Symonds Lane to The Woodlands.

Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to submit bids for schemes a) and b). Cllrs Bald and Urwin agreed to formulate the bid submissions.

Cllr Potter explained that a reprint of the Linton Directory was planned by the Linton News Team. Costs would be in the region of £1400. It was agreed to support this venture in principle.

Correspondence list for discussion

Item 45 – SCDC – Litter and dog bins – result of consultation. The report from the district council on its future policy following the consultation exercise was discussed. It was agreed to ask the district council to clarify the meaning of the words 'or other relevant land as defined by statute' in the report, the procedure for the installation of new bins, and the likely costs of emptying them and the design of bins to be used in conservation areas.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Hickford reported that he and Cllr Potter had met with the Police community support officers and the community safety unit regarding the feasibility of installing CCTV cameras on the recreation ground and Camping Close. A report would be circulated for consideration at the next meeting of the council.

Cllr Cornell distributed a report on the planned Heritage Centre Project.

The minutes of the 15th November will appear in the February issue along with those of 6th December.

All documents can be seen at the parish council office.

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