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Readers Write:, [Ban The Fair](#), [Attack the Fair](#), [Keep the Fair](#), [Clapper USA Stile](#), [Clapper Reply](#), [Stable Fire](#), [Alzheimers](#), [Recycling Holes](#)

## CLAPPED OUT why villages historic stile is falling apart



The clapper stile is in desperate need of repair. No one locally wanted to do it but now a volunteer is ready to fly over from America [See page 3](#)

## TARMAC SPORTS AREA OPENS ON THE REC [Top](#)

THE "Tarmac area on the recreation ground is now complete – with a basketball pitch one way and a five-a-side football pitch the other way."

The scheme also includes a Tarmac path around the far end of the ground from the small play area, round by the basketball area, along the river bank and back to the bridge near Palmers Close, with paths to the drop-in centre and the small play area, which has had a safety surface placed under all the equipment.

A new piece of equipment, a space net, has been provided and the aerial runway and a set of swings have been replaced.

There is still free tennis available at the LVC courts for children under 16 from 6-8pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Graham Potter

## FEARS FOR LINTON'S FUTURE [Top](#)

New town proposals on our boundary A1307 battle grows  
New town campaign and map, page 4

## A1307 organisation set up, page 4

### Parish Council report, page 2

LINTON'S future in a county growing ever more populous and developed has come under close scrutiny with the seemingly resolute refusal of the county council to act on A1307 concerns and the highlighting of plans for a new town, the size of Haverhill, on its boundary.

All the villages in the area – including Hadstock, Bartlow and especially Hildersham – are also affected by the prospect of expansion in homes and traffic.

As the two issues come to a head, the Stop Abington New Town campaigners have called for residents of Linton and other villages to join their fight and A1307 campaigners have formed a new joint action group to fight for safety measures.

Linton residents who have seen the map for the proposed new town at Abington – one of four sites being considered and voted the "preferred site" in a public survey that drew most of its response from other areas – have been shocked by the realisation that it could eventually stretch from Four Wentways to the Dalehead meat processing plant on the A1307, a short distance from the Linton Village College.

The county is under Government pressure to build thousands of homes to meet the demands of people being sucked into the area by the dynamic economic development in the Cambridge and Stansted areas.

Meanwhile, Haverhill continues to grow and this feeds into the A1307 traffic problem.

On 17th July, a core group of concerned residents from most of the villages between Four Wentways and Haverhill met in Linton and formed a joint action group. They voted in officers with the exception of a chairman – that post has yet to be filled.

The primary aim of the new alliance will be to pressure the county council into doing something about safety fears – which, judging from a recent meeting in Linton, it is not willing to do.

Linton News Team

## **ALL IS FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR** [Top](#)

What I really said plus more reaction, page 3

IT has been a bit of a merry-go-round but, like all good rides, this one seems to be coming to an end with thrills but no blood.

The fair, a tradition for the village, is safe: no one wants to ban it and many people have angrily supported it.

The merry-go-round started with a woman phoning the Parish Council about the fair: no one had told her about it before she bought her home, in Symonds Lane, which backs onto the recreation ground where the fair is sited during its annual visits.

That was duly reported to the Parish Council meeting – as happens with such contacts – and a local paper appears to have interpreted it as a demand for the fair to be banned. And that was when a flurry of calls, defending the fair and tradition, enlivened the working week at the Parish Council and some people brought their support of the fair to the Linton News.

The woman whose call started it, Sue Perkins, again telephoned – this time to complain she had been misrepresented in the press and state that she did not want the fair banned.

"No one wants the fair banned," said Gill Barker, the parish clerk. "There is no suggestion that it will be banned. The council considers it every January and, as far as I am aware, there has never been any complaint about it."

Now Mrs Perkins has written to the Linton News to suggest a quieter fair. So perhaps the ride isn't over yet

Linton News Team

## **LVC HEADS FOR STAFF CRISIS** [Top](#)

LINTON Village College has fought off the teacher shortages endemic in British schools for the start of next term but it faces a crisis by Christmas.

The Principal, Clive Bush, says fierce competition for available teachers led to the school recruiting in Australia — by email.  
Bush Telegraph, page 6

## **GREEN LIGHT FOR VILLAGE BOWLS** [Top](#)

THE firm responsible for the Bowls Club outdoor ‘green’ kept its promise and sent a gang from Dundee to restitch all the carpet seams, turn the carpet over for playing on what was the underside, and restretch and fasten it.

It has greatly improved the playing capabilities and looks great – all one colour again.

Steeple Bumpstead League and friendly matches continue, as do club fun games at 2pm on Wednesdays – all welcome.

We could do with more support. The response to the open invitations to try out the game of bowls on five Thursday evenings was disappointing. Six persons turned up with the prospect of three becoming members.

Arthur Gore

## **WARDEN SCHEME A STEP CLOSER** [Top](#)

A SCHEME to help elderly Linton residents to stay in their own homes is close to getting under way – next month we hope to recruit Linton’s own mobile warden.

Thanks to the generosity of the Parish, District and County councils, we have funding to launch the scheme, and are now gathering a committee to run it as a charity and to continue fund-raising. Age Concern, the organisation providing the service, will advertise the post in local newspapers in September.

If you are interested in being our warden, look out for the adverts. To find out more about the mobile warden scheme, contact Age Concern on 01354 696650.

Enid Bald

## **EYES DOWN FOR NEW BINGO** [Top](#)

THERE will be a new monthly bingo evening starting on Tuesday, 21st August, with the hope that enough people will go along to make it a success.

Although most people attending are likely to be older members of the community, younger adults and children will be welcomed.

The evening can be as cheap or as dear as players wish, starting from £2.10 and up to £5.40 for the bingo books. Tea and coffee will be available and there will be a raffle. Prizes will depend on the number of players: all the money taken will be used for prizes after payment of the hall hire.

This attempt at getting bingo running follows the collapse of the regular sessions when too few people attended.

It is being held at the Social Centre, with the doors open at 7pm and eyes down at 7.30pm.

R Newman

## **The PARISH COUNCIL** Reported by **GRAHAM POTTER** [Top](#)

### **JULY MEETINGS**

FREE tennis sessions at the LVC are being used but not by many young people. The refurbishment of Horn Lane bridge is now taking place with the District and County councils meeting to assist in the finance. Work being carried out on the far end of the recreation ground is now complete with the Tarmac area, new swings and replacement of the aerial runway but problems still exist with stones and finishing

off the mound area.

The council has received reports of graves becoming overgrown – these will be brought in line with the graveyard rules and maintained by the grass contractors.

Air traffic over the village was discussed but no reply had been received from Stansted airport. A letter had been received from Hadstock with reference to traffic waiting to enter the Zoo but, as Linton Parish Council had not received any complaints, no action is being taken other than to advise Hadstock council. The police reported 50 calls for service and 12 crimes last month. Four crimes had been reported for July so far.

Councillor Bear reported that once again County Council had been looking at the Green Hill entry on to the A1307; various things were discussed including traffic lights, pedestrian crossing and speed cameras but the junction was still some way down the priorities list. The inaugural meeting of the A1307 action group has taken place.

The District councillor reported on the reorganisation of ward area size that is being discussed.

It was reported that the Social Centre redecorating was well under way and the Parish Council was thanked for its assistance; it was also reported that a change of name to Village Hall is being discussed.

The Clerk reported that since the "Green Bins" have been in use she has received many call from parishioners on their use and on ways to recycle other things like garden waste and cardboard. The council agreed to set up an environmental/recycling working party to investigate.

The Parish Office will be closed to public calls from the 13th August for two weeks.

## **GOING FOR BRONZE ... [Top](#)**

A GROUP of young people aged 13 to 16 have been working towards their bronze certificate in connection with Youth Achievement Awards. The award is nationally recognised and can form part of their Record of Achievement.

The Bronze award is made up of four challenges, each consisting of 15 hours of the young person's own time. Members of the group are doing different challenges, from getting fit and voluntary gardening to finding out about being on a committee.

Seven have completed one of their challenges, namely: Ross O'Callaghan, Kari Marlow, Sam Darling, Kerri Mellings, Jody Hodder, Amy Prest and Becca Malyon, and some are well on the way to completing their second and in some cases their third challenge. Bev Reynolds, LA4Y

Lacking In confidence?

Isolated? Help is at hand

## **HEALTH PROJECT EXPANDS INTO LINTON AND NEEDS WORKER AND VOLUNTEERS [Top](#)**

HEALTH for Life, a local community project that helps isolated and vulnerable people regain their confidence, health and independence, is expanding into Linton and surrounding villages.

It helps people by arranging for them to attend, with a voluntary companion, community education classes and village clubs. During their activities they meet new friends, gain skills and interests and start feeling better.

They are placed in activities by a project worker – after being referred by GPs and social or care workers – and they are driven to their activities by volunteers who stay with them, giving support and encouragement.

The project has been running, very successfully, in parts of east Cambridgeshire for the last five years. Its expansion into the Linton and Sawston areas means it needs to appoint a project worker and find volunteers.

The project worker will work with local GPs and other health and social workers and will be paid to work for 10 hours a week, mainly in term time.

Volunteers will be offered help with their fuel costs and, in return for supporting people referred on to the project, they can stay and enjoy the classes and other activities free of charge. There is a minimal charge

to the person referred.

It is difficult to know exactly how widespread the problem of isolation and loss of confidence is but, in this area, GPs and other health workers say they have many people to refer.

If you want to know more about being a project worker or a volunteer, please contact Samara Philpott ☐01638 743658. Samara Philpott

## **DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR A CHILD? [Top](#)**

THE Link Scheme is intended for families who have a child with a disability in Cambridgeshire. The aim is that a family with such children can be linked to another family who can give them a break from the care. A break can be for just a few hours or an overnight stay once or twice a month, depending on the needs of the family and what the carer can offer.

All families have differing needs. Parents may find caring for their child rewarding, but also continual hard work. Time for everyday tasks such as going out shopping and giving quality time to brothers and sisters can be impossible. The Link Scheme can provide the opportunity for families to have this time. Parents can have a break while their child spends time in a different homely environment. Carers enjoy the scheme because it is like fostering without the full time commitment.

Linton resident, Barbara Marshall, has been a link carer for years. She has cared for eight children during this time and is currently offering young John Ord the opportunity of staying over for one night a month. She liaises closely with John's family . " I like the scheme because its very flexible, I decide how much time to commit myself to. It's so rewarding looking after children like John."

If like Barbara you have energy and enthusiasm, and can offer a warm and secure environment we would like to hear from you. We welcome all sorts of people. You could be working, retired, unemployed, with or without children, single or with a partner.

You do not need any particular experience or qualifications as training, support and a generous allowance to cover expenses are provided. There is a waiting list of 25 children needing a link family. If you are interested please call 0800 052 0078.

Nicole Wolfe Link Social Worker

## **I DON'T WANT TO BAN THE FAIR BUT DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO NOISY? [Top](#)**

Dear Editor

I am the 'new' resident who dared to phone the Parish Council about the funfair held in May.

Unfortunately, I was misquoted in that I did not say the fair should be stopped, nor disapproved the hours of 6pm till 9pm. My concerns were that I had no warning of how long it would go on for and the noise level was appalling.

The continuous noise was produced by huge generators, a big, moving, mechanical ride and loud music, all at the end of my garden, lasting for 15 hours over five evenings. It was miserable and unbearable and only a deaf person wouldn't mind. It was not an ordinary, little village fair. Perhaps, if any consideration is given to those who live nearby, the fair could be set up on the middle of the field, or perhaps a less noisy fair running for two or three evenings, instead of five?

I may be a 'new' resident, but I have the right to state the facts and I'm not surprised there have been complaints in the past. It's a shame, no-one listens to them.

Sue Perkins

## **ATTACKING THE FAIR IS SELFISH [Top](#)**

Dear Editor

In response to a letter in the July edition I was disgusted with [any suggestion of banning] the fair. As a former member of the college and a young adult living in Linton I have always enjoyed going to events

held in the village which everyone can enjoy. It seems that the only time the village gets together as a group is for the schools and the football clubs, as there are no longer festivals, floats, and fetes. To the individual in question, you have to ask yourself how miserable they really are. They are fortunate enough to live in a beautiful village, by the river in an area that is especially for recreational purposes. If they can enjoy it 365 days a year why is it that the younger generation cannot for the five days a year that the fair is on? To me that seems selfish and should not be tolerated.

Why should fair workers lose their trade and more importantly, a village loses its character and tradition because of an unhappy newcomer?

Name and address supplied

## **PLEASE KEEP THE FAIR** [Top](#)

### **Dear Editor**

I was delighted to read Mrs Margaret Borley's letter in the Linton News. Villages have traditions, and should be allowed to keep them. I delight to see the fair arrive – it is a sign of spring!

No, I am not a young person, older than Mrs Borley! And have known Linton for only 58 years.

Please keep the fair, and all that it means to the traditions of a lovely village.

Nora Joyce

### **Dear Editor**

On 29th June at around 7.30am, a fire was discovered at our stables, of which the cause remains a mystery. The fire burned everything to the ground. Fortunately because of prompt actions of those first on the scene the horses were set free to safety, for this we will always be grateful.

Thank you to Mr Bush (LVC Head) for quickly dialling 999 for the Fire Service, and thank you also to the passer-by who assisted before the fire crew arrived, and to Mr S Taylor for his assistance.

A huge thank you also to all the firemen, who worked so hard to prevent the fire from spreading, for putting it out, for saving equipment from the metal container and also for the coffee that helped calm some very distressed horse owners.

And last but far from least, thank you to PC Bean, for his calm handling of the situation and his patience. Any further information anyone may have we would be very grateful for.

The Norman family and the Redhead family

### **Dear Editor**

Fine weather helped to ensure a good attendance at the coffee morning at the home of Joan Pollock on Thursday 28th June. A total of £527.24 was raised for Alzheimer's Research Trust and thanks are due to the people of Linton for their generosity in again supporting this worthwhile cause.

Joan D Pollock

## **THERE ARE HOLES IN THE RECYCLING PLANS** [Top](#)

### **Dear Editor**

I was very pleased to hear that we were to get recycling boxes in Linton, but quite dismayed when the 'object' arrived.

At first I thought that the garden centre was trying to boost sales by providing free planters! Complete with drainage holes! Get rid of your garden waste by making compost, fill the bin, come to see us and buy some plants!

Then reality dawned – no lid, so can't be kept outside in this climate, holes in bottom, so can't be kept in. I could go on etc. but did anyone think about this?

I would love to recycle, but the legs are getting a bit dodgy, so will have to resort to clogging up the traffic on my way to the garden centre, anyone coming?

No, decided after all to do the right thing, not many takers for the garden centre, so... saved all the junk mail and

newspapers ( not the Linton News ) and left a month's worth of very heavy paper out-side the door, in a

prominent position, to be collected. Two weeks later it is still there, despite three phone calls and assurances as to its removal.

What can I say, bleached by the sun (no chlorine involved ) and washed by the rain, half the recycling process done already, before collection. I wonder what Thursday will bring? A result maybe? But then again, when is the football season?

Penny Chapman

Road runners, page 5

## **I'LL FLY TO ENGLAND TO REBUILD THE CLAPPER STILE**

[Top](#)

Dear Editor



In 1940 my brother Victor and I were evacuated to Linton where we spent the next four and a half years being raised and cared for by two wonderful people, Fred and Edith Mallyon. Some of my fondest memories are of the time spent at Little Linton Farm which meant going over or around the clapper stile.

During trips back to England I always found time to visit Linton and the clapper stile. It saddens me greatly to have witnessed over the years its run down and uncared for condition, especially when it's a piece of English history and knowing there are only seven left in the UK.

The photograph [above] shows how much the stile means to me: I spent time measuring it and what I have built in my garden is a true replica which I show off proudly.

It was pure coincidence while looking up Linton on the internet that a meeting by your parish council brought up the subject of the clapper stile. Mr Ron Hatfield is hoping to secure a conservation grant to repair "our" stile. Please keep me informed on this issue. I would feel honoured to come back to England and build a new stile for Linton.

Robert Elsey  
USA

## **WHAT IS BEING DONE** [Top](#)

Parish councillor Ron Hatfield explains: The clapper stile has been deteriorating for some years and it was decided by the Parish Council to have it repaired and renovated.

Another problem is that it does not have good fencing next to it and this adds to its look of dereliction.

We have £1,000 for the work and spent some time trying to find someone who could do the work and who wanted to do it.

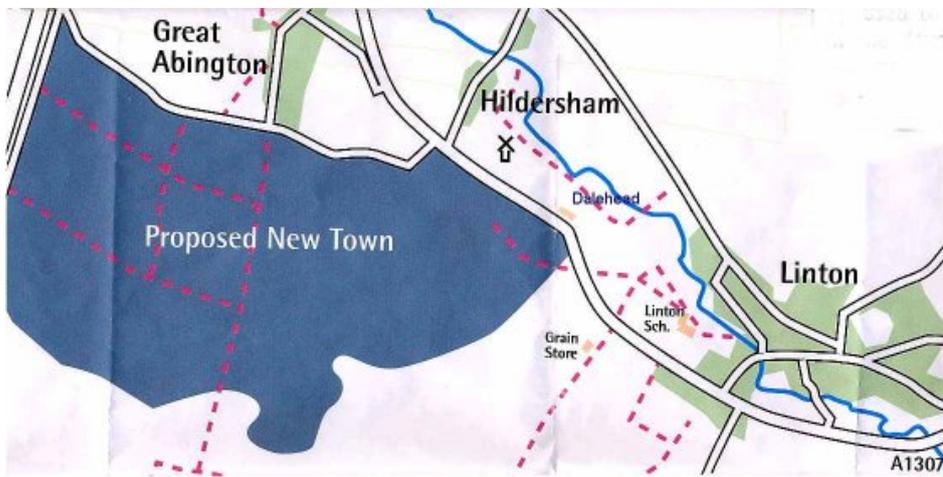
Eventually, we found a craftsman willing to take on the work and he should have started last February.

However, we are still waiting. We are determined to put the stile right.

Our thanks ...

## **LINTON: A SUBURB OF ABINGTON NEW TOWN?**

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If you want to join these campaigns, contact: Valerie Matthews for A1307 Action Group  
 Dave Taylor for Stop Abington New Town ([davidjtaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:davidjtaylor@btinternet.com))  
 UP TO 10,000 new homes – a town the size of Haverhill with all the facilities needed for a likely population of 25,000 – is being proposed for Great Abington. This would have a seriously detrimental effect on all the villages in the area, overwhelming the 650

homes in Great Abington, Little Abington and Hildersham, and changing life forever for the other villages.

Linton, the largest village in this area, would see the new town come up to its borders: the plans show the proposed new town creeping along the south side of the A1307 as far as the Dalehead meat processing factory.

The extent of local people's alarm can be gauged from the attendance at a Stop Abington New Town public meeting on July 24th when so many people arrived that it had to be moved to the cricket pitch. There they shouted "rubbish" at the would-be developers and grilled planners and politicians. The meeting was resolutely determined to fight the plans and appealed for everyone in the area to join them. Chestertons plc produced the plan on behalf of some of the landowners who would stand to make millions of pounds if the development is approved by the County Council and the Government during the current round of discussions on where to place the new town. The Government is insisting that Cambridgeshire meets the huge demand for housing and economic growth by building 4,000 new homes a year into the next decade.

It had been known for some time that a proposal was being put together to build on The Land Settlement at Great Abington but the local community has only recently obtained copies of Chestertons' plans. It is clear to us that the development would be nothing short of disastrous for the area's way of life and would hopelessly overburden the dangerously crowded A1307.

Locating the town next to the A11 would mean it would become a dormitory town for those commuting to Stansted and London, and would do nothing to relieve pressure on Cambridge.

This part of Cambridgeshire is a tranquil environment, with excellent local sport and rural activities. A densely populated development would destroy this.

A group of residents has formed Stop Abington New Town (SANT) to fight these proposals.

There is still time, as the decision will not be made for a year or more. But with Abington already shortlisted, and the District Council due to recommend its favoured site in the autumn, it is vital that we make our voice heard now.

Dave Taylor, SANT

## WHY THERE IS A DEMAND FOR MORE HOMES

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## TERRY BEAR, LINTON'S COUNTY COUNCILLOR, SETS OUT THE BACKGROUND TO THE DECISIONS ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

The Cambridge Evening News recently reported that a council house in the middle of the city has been valued at £250,000. House prices in our area are going through the roof and it is largely because of a shortage of building land. It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people in particular to buy a new house and even rented accommodation is expensive. Cambridge is a world-class centre for hi-tech businesses, and jobs are expanding faster than houses can be built for the people who want to work here.

Someone in the county council has compared the need for expansion around Cambridge over the next 20 years as equivalent to having to plan and build a new Milton Keynes.

Most people now agree that it is sensible to build homes close to jobs so as to reduce the need for commuting. The problems of the A1307 show what happens if homes and jobs are far apart. Up to now, the expansion of Cambridge has been limited by the Green Belt, but the Government says that this now has to change. One possible solution to the housing crisis is to build a new town close to the city.

For the past year, consultants have been working for the county and district councils to identify possible sites for a new town. All areas around the Cambridge have been considered, but the consultants have drawn up a short-list of 4 possible sites. They are the ex-airfields at Oakington and Waterbeach to the north of the city, Childerley Gate to the west (between Cambridge and the new town of Cambourne) and Gt Abington on the Land Settlement. All other possibilities such as Six Mile Bottom have been rejected at this stage as being too environmentally harmful or far from Cambridge.

Each of the four sites has advantages and disadvantages. The old airfield sites are the largest pre-used 'brown field' land close to Cambridge. However, Waterbeach is close to sea-level and traffic from Oakington may have to use the A14. Commuters from Childerley Gate to Cambridge would have to use the congested Madingley Road to get into the city. However, the University has plans to expand to the west of the city so a new settlement there would be well placed. Gt Abington would be close to many of the large job centers south of Cambridge - Granta Park, Babraham Institute, Addenbrookes, the Genome Centre, Peterhouse Science Park to name but a few. However, its location on the A11 also means that many of the homes would be bought by commuters to Stansted or London.

Although a new town will be slow to get going, because of the length of time it takes to plan, eventually it must be capable of expansion to 20,000 homes - the size of Huntingdon. If Gt Abington were chosen, then within 50 years Linton could simply be a suburb of a large town.

Cambridge City Council is studying the possibility of expanding Cambridge to the east, perhaps with Marshalls moving to Alconbury or another nearby airfield. If the study shows that this would be an environmentally sustainable option, then it is possible that no new town is needed at all.

The county council is studying all the options over the next few months with the district councils, and at the end of this year will have to decide where, if anywhere, to build a new town. There will then have to be a long consultation, public enquiry and further study as to how to provide a new town with adequate roads, schools and other essential services.

In about 3 years time there will be a final decision by the Government as to where a new town should go, if anywhere. It is unlikely that there would be development in it before 2009.

## **A1307 FIGHT OR LOOSE**

[Top](#)

IT was clear from a very well attended public meeting on the problems of the A1307 that the county council did not consider our concerns be a high priority and, if we are to make progress, we need to get organised.

The first steps were taken on 17th July when about 30 people representing most of the villages between the Four Wentways and Haverhill got together to form the A1307 Action Group.

The meeting identified accessing the A1307 and a safe way for pedestrians to cross as priorities.

On 25th July, the action group's 10-member committee elected its first officers: Jim Powell as vice-chairman, Valerie Matthews as secretary and Esther Cornell as treasurer. A decision on the chairman was left open for discussions with a candidate.

If you want to be a part of the action or want to be on the mailing list get in touch with Valerie Matthews , to leave your name and address.

If we are to make a difference we have to work together otherwise we simply will not be heard. We need your support.

John Batchelor

## **TIME & PLACE**

[Top](#)

John Batchelor fills in the details for the decision making on Abington

The government decided we needed a new settlement

The District Council opposed that decision

There are four short listed sites, Oakington, Waterbeach, Childerley Gate and Abington

No other sites are currently being considered

The size of the settlement is an initial 6,000 houses with the possibility of going to 10,000 houses later

That is a town the size of Ely (6,000) or Haverhill (10,000)

In a County Council public survey earlier in the year Abington was narrowly shown as the preferred site. About 2,000 questionnaires were returned; the result is unlikely to carry much weight

The County Council is expected to make a decision about the site in December for publication in February 2002.

It is unlikely that any plan will be adopted as policy before the end of 2003.

A further round of public consultations and inquiries will follow

A site is unlikely to be confirmed before the end of 2003

The government wants work to start on the site by 2006

All sites have significant disadvantages

The site most likely to go ahead is Oakington because of its closeness to major transport routes, A14 and Cambridge/St Ives public transport corridor, and much of the land is owned by the Ministry of Defence.

## **WI GOES TO WAR AGAIN** [Top](#)

THERE were 36 members and two visitors at the July WI meeting. Birthday posies were made by Brenda Smith and distributed by Wendy Foster.

Tricia Lewis gave a report on the Intermediate General Meeting held at Cardiff in June; and Jean Goodwin reported on the East of England Show where she assisted with stewarding in the WI marquee. Val Spencer was thanked for organising a very successful visit for several members and their families to Kentwell Hall.

We welcomed the return of our speaker, Michael Bentinck, for a talk on Wartime Women. He explained his book of that title arose from a radio programme, when he asked for World War II stories. He passed on amusing, sad and touching stories he had been told and also read a poem by one of his correspondents. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 7th August. Body Shop Direct's Bridget Dore will be speaking on skin care and makeovers. All are welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith

## **ROAD RUNNERS GETTING RECYCLING UP TO SPEED** [Top](#)



Fast worker ... one of the recycling collectors who have impressed the village with the fast and careful collections

THE recycling scheme got off to a good start with about 70% of households participating – and now the parish council is setting up a working party to look for ways to recycle other materials, including green waste.

Don Haymes, county council waste officer, said the crews working in the Linton area have been collecting an average of 3.5 tonnes of paper per collection.

Our community's income per tonne is £5.71 – £520 a year – just on paper. The income for glass, cans and textiles will add significantly to this.

In all of South Cambs, there has generally been a very good start to the scheme, with nearly 90% of households participating. Linton's total is expected to rise as householders get accustomed to the collections.

There have been a few teething troubles, but the collectors are learning each time they come around – any problems can be sorted out by phoning ☐01353 863971 between 7.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday (or leave a message outside these hours).

Cardboard and plastic are not collected at present and bins will not be touched if they have any domestic rubbish in them. Black bags, even with recycling items

in them, may be mistaken for rubbish and not collected.

Gill Barker, the Parish Clerk, reported to the council's meeting on 19th July that she had been "inundated with phone calls regarding the recycling" and that at least two residents, including Dr Clair Preston, were willing to be co-opted on to a Working Party to look at environment/recycling issues.

"They would like to see Linton being pro-active in this direction," she wrote in a report that led to the council setting up a working party. "The Parish Council has long been aware that numerous residents, particularly elderly ones, have difficulty coping with the current lack of any 'garden waste' recycling scheme. The most recent complaints highlight the need for some type of cardboard and possibly plastics recycling."

Ms Barker has requested details on the St Edmunds bury and Uttlesford schemes for garden waste, cardboard and plastic, and Stapleford's more locally based green waste initiative. They will be considered by the working party. "It is possible that on a localised basis this village could initiate its own recycling scheme for garden waste," she added .LNT

## **K-CLUB'S TOP PRIZES WORTH £1,300** [Top](#)

LINTON'S own lottery will soon be entering its 4th year and now is the time to think about joining if you are not already a member. The K-Club was launched in 1998 to raise funds for Linton Action for Youth. It began with 329 members and by last year numbers had increased to 367 – it has raised £5,500 so far and this year we plan to expand the club still further.

It costs £12 for a year's membership, from 1st October to 30th September, with over a half the 'take' given as prizes. (This year's star prizes will amount to no less than £1,300, to be drawn at the Infants' School Barn Dance in September.)

You should find a K-Club application form in this copy of the Linton News, but they can also be obtained from either of the village newsagents or the Post Office. Failing that, you can obtain forms from me. Please help us with this fund-raising initiative – it helps maintain facilities for youth activities. Few would argue that they are not needed, and the K-Club will help pay for running costs and the professional help to maximise their effectiveness.

Peter Dixon, email: [Peter@peterdixon.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Peter@peterdixon.freeserve.co.uk)

July winners: 1st (£50) (No. 227); 2nd (£25) (399); 3rd (£10) (259)

## News in Brief [Top](#)

\* Use of the play area at the Cathodeon Centre will be restricted during the school holidays to evenings when the library is open and Saturdays between 10am and noon because of problems with the grassed area. Westbury's, the original contractors, is carrying out remedial work at the insistence of the Parish Council. Information: Gill Barker ☐891001

\* Linton Granta Football Club's fun run from Wandlebury Park to Linton along the Roman Road raised £950 for Cystic Fibrosis Research and a similar amount for their new kit and equipment. A cricket match between the Football Club and the Cricket Club added £1,090 for each cause. Harriet Goodman

\* Linton Workers' Educational Association's autumn course is called From Impressionism to Post-Impressionism: Painters of Modern Life. The course, lasting 10 weeks, starts on Tuesday 18th September at 10am at the Social Centre. Information: Frances Angus on ☐01638 507251

\* A Domestic Violence Co-ordinator has started work on the problem and promoting initiatives to help victims. A leaflet for victims has been produced. Information and help: Women's Aid on ☐(01223) 460947.

## THE BUSH TELEGRAPH [Top](#)

AM told there was a time when the end of term meant a chance to look back over the successes of the year and forward to a long and seemingly endless summer. Perhaps it's still like that for pupils. For the rest of us though, planning is already under way in detail for next year because the changes continue to come thick and fast.

It is also amazing how much you can get done in a school when there are no children there! Now don't get me wrong, planning is almost always a good thing but it does work best when there is a pause, however slight, between one set of initiatives and the next, particularly when the year, as it is in schools, is so obviously divided by the summer break.

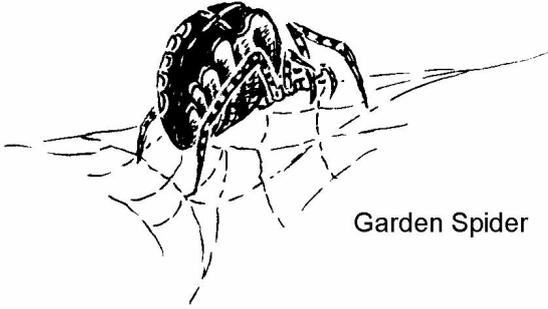
These days though, we rarely have the time to pause and reflect and this tendency to keep piling on the initiatives is one which has tripped up this Government's education policies on a number of occasions. Take the pay reforms for example. Rapid implementation with very little preparation time has led to a very patchy response and probably a huge waste of money. The curriculum never settles down, nor do assessment arrangements and it comes as no surprise that a recent national survey has found unprecedented numbers of young teachers leaving the profession because they feel reform is poorly planned and schools are becoming exam factories. Generally speaking we are not of course, but you can see what they mean.

There is however, a real need to take stock. To look at the literacy and numeracy hour, the changes to GCSEs and vocational education and to ask those awkward fundamental questions about education. What is it for? Is the 'if it moves measure it' approach the best one? Where are creativity and imagination in all this? What kind of people do we want to produce?

The other big issue we face nationally is an acute shortage of teachers. Here at LVC we have just about got enough, but only until Christmas. We have achieved this by including in our recruitment, a teacher from Australia. We did it by email! In September though all over the country, schools will be opening up with teaching posts unfilled and children will be sent home. We have a crisis and it will get worse before it gets better. It all sounds a bit gloomy again – but at least we can plan to cope. Clive Bush, Principal

# LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Olwen

Wednesday July 18th 2001 *Illustrated by Maureen Williams*



Garden Spider

THE highlight of my month has been a trip to Madagascar, where the chief objective was to see a solar eclipse. I returned to find a green speckled bush cricket in my kitchen! As these are wingless, I assumed it had come in on some vegetation.

This female had a sword-shaped ovipositor half the length of the body and I released her onto the roses in the hope that she would appreciate greenfly. Being wingless, they also lack the ability to 'sing', but in some Mediterranean countries, winged crickets are kept instead of canaries for their song.

I also found a spider spinning its web in a window box and watched for about 20 minutes, absolutely fascinated. Each round took about 35 seconds, at a carefully measured distance from the previous one.

The end result had a total of about 25 circuits, with a fuzzy bit in the centre to hide behind. At one point, it reversed direction for no apparent reason - perhaps just getting dizzy. Next time you go to sweep away a cobweb, remember all that hard work!

The glorious red poppies are in full bloom and some fields above the back road have a fine show. Their tiny seeds can lie dormant for up to 40 years until conditions are suitable, so they are (fortunately) difficult to eradicate. Another flower you will see is the pineapple mayweed, with feathered leaves and daisy heads without petals. It is common along paths and pavements and when crushed, smells strongly of pineapple. It originates from north-east Asia, colonising Europe via North America.

An experiment in 1968 demonstrated how easily it could be spread — a car with tyres washed clean was driven for 65 miles along roads, but turned into gateways and stopping places along the way.

Culture of the sediments collected in the tyres yielded 13 species of flowers, including 220 pineappleweed seedlings.



What better way to enjoy the Linton countryside than to walk through it during this time of the year.

If you do not have a copy of the Linton Walks booklet, produced by the Linton News last year, a copy can be bought at the Post Office, Sweet Talk News or Hale and Jacobs - and the money goes to support Linton Action for Youth.

## **CAN YOU FIX IT FOR THE AZTECS? [Top](#)**

AZTECS JFC are looking for a Fixtures Secretary for the Colts league games. After many years of hard work our current fixtures secretary Len Smith is hanging up his boots. We are looking for someone to fill them.

Basically the job entails making sure that all the fixtures are played and all the teams know when and where they should be. When the weather is fine this is an easy job but when it disrupts fixtures this can be a 'fun' job. The job is suitable for anyone interested in Football and/or helping our local youngsters. All that is needed is a telephone although a computer as well would be very handy. If anyone is interested please contact Dawn Creek, the Club Secretary.

Our summer dance at Linton Village College on 14th July was a great success. Elvis came to town and wiggled his hips in an alarming manner.

Sally Dew took the 60s and 70s to the extreme. She had her head shaved and went a punk. Sally was sponsored for this and should raise £700 which will be split between Arthur Rank

House Hospice and the club, so many thanks to Sally and to Sue at Salon One for doing Sally's hair. Dawn Creek

## **250 ENJOY BROWNIES FUN DAY [Top](#)**

LINTON District Friends of Guiding had a perfect summer's evening for a strawberry event in the gardens of Linton House on 4th July by kind permission of Dr and Mrs Roger Bertram.

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from Abington, Balsham, Burrough Green, Brinkley, Horseheath and Linton were among more than 250 people who enjoyed this fun day – and raised £328.45 for the Friends.

Kate France

## **CHILDREN SPRING TO SUCCESS [Top](#)**

LINTON Trampoline Club at the Sports Centre has been awarding certificates of attainment to children recently.

The trampoline club runs every Monday from 4-5pm, & 5- 6pm. The 4-5pm session on a Monday are now for toddlers and mothers.

The centre is running a full summer holiday activity programme. For details ask Mark or Lucy at the centre or phone.

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