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HIGH STREET ONE WAY: YOU DECIDE NOW

[TOP](#)

VILLAGE SAYS WHAT IT WANTS IN MOST EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION EVER HELD

Read the survey results in the Linton News

Two pages of results and explanations will be published as soon as they are available
AND

a full version is also planned for www.linton.info, the community website organised and financed by the Linton News.

Further copies of the results will be available later through other outlets

SOME of Linton's most controversial questions - including whether there is to be a one-way system in the High Street and how much expansion the village should welcome - are being decided by residents now.

Other ideas, which could become village policy with enough support, include suggestions to move the Infants' School to a new site away from the High Street, build up the networks of "safe routes" to separate pedestrians and traffic, and make a renewed attempt to get a village swimming pool.

The possibilities for the future of the village are being put to residents in the most comprehensive test of grassroots views ever held in Linton.

The results will be used to produce a village plan for the next five years and, while many developments will ultimately be decided by outside authorities, that plan will have to be taken into account as a government requirement.

Two copies of the survey questionnaire, along with a 20- page colour brochure

setting out issues and options, are in the process of being delivered to each home in the village.

Every resident aged 16 or over is being invited to give views and additional questionnaires are available for households with more than two people wanting to take part.

The survey - the result of months of work by village people who have come together as a community group - is not associated with any council, company or other body with views on what we should do.

It is a community project producing our community's views to be built into the village plan. The results will also provide detailed views that can be consulted as new situations arise. In an additional section, it offers the opportunity to take part in the village plan process and many other aspects of village life.

"The survey is especially important at the moment," said Judy Rossiter, the project co-ordinator. "We face a period of pressure for change.

"The areas all around us are changing rapidly with extensive development of housing, fast-rising road traffic levels, a booming jobs' market associated with Cambridge and Stansted, and the prospect of expanding airports drawing in even more development and traffic."

The village plan will have far-reaching implications: it will have to be taken into account by the parish, district and county councils in any development; it will mean the parish council will be able to get more money for projects emerging from the survey and plan; and it will help the parish council get quality status, which will mean it can compete with other councils to perform tasks like repairing pavements and street lighting, now organised from outside.

The project, including the survey brochure and the data processing, has been mostly financed by grants from the Countryside Agency and Cambridge Acre but some parish money may be needed.

"We felt that a good brochure was essential -very few people are likely to have to hand the information across all the subjects without it," said Dr Rossiter.

"We also felt that the survey should focus on individuals rather than households to give villagers the best possible chance to express their views and wishes."

The completed forms will be processed by a specialist survey data processing company, which will quantify the answers and return them to the survey project organisers.

At that time, the results will be available generally along with analysis reports. That will trigger the next stage in the project: building the village plan. And you are all invited to be part of it. John Keeble

Photograph: page 5

VOTE FOR THE VOICE OF YOUR VILLAGE

TOP

AT the end of this month Linton will hold a by-election for two council positions that are currently vacant.

The Parish Council is extremely pleased to see that there are more residents willing to give up their time for the good of the community and is urging everyone in the village to turn up and vote for the people you would most like to represent you. Each candidate will be canvassing around the village over the coming month so keep an eye out for them. In the meantime the Linton News asked each candidate to provide a few words about themselves and why they would like to be elected.

Tony Smith

"As I have trundled around Linton in my wheelchair, many people have stopped to say 'Hello', and sometimes we talk about their ideas and concerns. It is with this in mind that I have shown an interest in joining the Parish Council. Obviously I am trying to help disabled people and elderly residents, but my main goal is to be able to talk to and try to help as many people as I can. If we can all work together, we can achieve much."

Bob Hammett

"I moved to the village 12 years ago and found it to be a very friendly place to live and I would like to give something back to the community. I am self-employed so my time is flexible. I participate in a number of projects and committees within the village.

I have a 9 year old daughter and am actively involved with the village schools. I am a member of the Friends of Linton Heights committee and look after the swimming pools at the Heights and Infants' schools. I am treasurer of the Fireworks Committee, a popular event that also raises funds for the three schools. Recently I qualified as a Community First Responder for Linton and Balsham."

Esther Cornell

"I was born in the village 32 years ago and I have lived here ever since. I have two children of 5 and 7 years. I am currently a member of the Access 1307 group and the Traffic Steering Group and have been involved with the three Linton schools' successful application to the Safer Routes to School programme.

Although I do take a keen interest with regard to the traffic situation within the village, I am also a member of the Out of School Club committee and attend meetings for the Swimming Pool project.

I am a great believer in consultation with the village and have been on the steering group for the Parish Plan project.

I do not have any political aims but I do think of Linton as a community rather than just a village and I think that the Parish Council needs to have members who reflect the wide range of residents that live within it."

The election will take place between 7am and 9pm on Thursday 24th July at the Social Centre. No poll cards will be sent out but the Parish Council will be putting up reminder posters nearer the day. Remember, councillors are your representatives and your vote does count! LNT

OUTSTANDING EFFORT REAPS OUTSTANDING AWARD TOP



Luke received a Diana Memorial award for his fund raising efforts AT the beginning of last month Linton Village College student Luke McKenna was presented with a very special award in recognition of his amazing fund-raising efforts in aid of Boepathutse School in Soshanguve, South Africa. Boepathutse is twinned with LVC and in 2001 Luke and his family agreed to host Tshepo, a student from Boepathutse, for 9 weeks. What Tshepo told them about his school and how they are often short of even basic equipment such as pens and paper, inspired Luke to begin his monumental fund- raising session over the next two years, during which he would get soaked to the skin during a sponsored cycle ride, collect large amounts of celebrity memorabilia for auction and even end up in custody in a Haverhill police cell! Due to his efforts Luke has personally raised over £3,000 for Boepathutse School and this money has been put towards improvements such as a marquee and turf to replace the gravel patch that was the assembly area, and electric security fencing round the school to prevent computer equipment from being stolen. During the recent ceremony at LVC Luke was presented with a Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award by the South African High Commissioner, Her Excellency Lindiwe Mabuza, and as an added thank you he was given two free return tickets to South Africa. Congratulations Luke! Somehow I think this may not be the last we hear of you! LN



Luke with South African student, Tshepo, who inspired Luke's achievements

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORTED BY GRAHAM POTTER

[TOP](#)

June Meeting:

THE path between Granta Leys and Kingfisher Walk is to have notices of resurfacing work at either end. The riverbanks are not being cut until July to allow wildlife to breed.

It was reported that bollard-style lighting for the churchyard would be inappropriate. Following the resignation of two councillors, a by-election has been called. If more than two candidates put their names forward, the election will be on 24th July. As this is a local election Council will have to pay the full cost of approximately £1500. The development of the old hostel site on Back Road was discussed during a public participation session, with interested parties and the council still in favour of the basic plan as proposed by the Parish Council rather than the developers' plan.

The police reported 14 incidents in Linton in the last month.

The District councillors reported that a disability panel has been set up.

The Broadband bid has been deferred until July.

A pamphlet on the delights of Linton has been produced and is given to new residents. This will now be available locally.

A flood management update is being given at County Hall. County Hall are also being made aware of local efforts for a swimming pool and the hopes of modifying the pool at the new school for local use as well.

A publicity campaign about introduction of the new wheelie bins is about to start. The Drop-in Centre is now open three nights a week and there will be a change of leader at the end of July.

Council also confirmed that although a leaflet has been delivered to properties in Linton stating that the Special Education Needs School planned to be built next to the Village College had the backing of Linton Parish Council, this was incorrect. Council have been made aware of the traffic problems associated with this project which cause them concern and they have not been consulted.

GUIDES HAVE GROWN

[TOP](#)

SO popular is Guiding in Linton that the 50 girls have now split and the 1st Linton Guide unit has re-opened. We need more leaders and should be glad to hear from anyone interested in helping on a Tuesday from 7.15 - 8.45 pm or a Wednesday from 7.30 - 9 pm. Full training is available.

If you'd like to find out more (without commitment) contact Rosemary Turner (Rosemary.t@btinternet.com) or Pam Richards TimlintR@aol.com Kate France

PLEASE SIR, CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?

[TOP](#)



Hannah Burns, Ali Wright and Kirsty Wright - looking forward to the production FROM Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th July the Corn Exchange in Cambridge will be the venue for a local production of 'Oliver!' a production by the youth drama group Dramawise. Many children and young people from Linton and surrounding villages across the Cambridge area are involved, including four talented Linton youngsters. Kirsty Wright (15) will be playing the part of Nancy at the Saturday matinee, Hannah Burns (15), Harry Morrison (17) and Ali Wright (12) form part of the chorus.

Dramawise is based at Sawston Youth Centre and is open from 4pm to 7pm every Friday to local youngsters aged from 8 to 18 years. There is a fee, and those wishing to join the group must first audition (those with a passion for acting are soon spotted by Frances Brownlie, who runs Dramawise and is directing 'Oliver!').

Members engage in various aspects of the performing arts, including dance, acting, singing and make-up techniques. They also enter for the English Speaking Board exams and travel around East Anglia with festival plays. Well-known productions are adapted for performance but the group also produces original plays.

Experience gained in the group could lead to auditions for films or documentaries; Kirsty has been to three TV auditions, Hannah has also auditioned for TV and Harry has auditioned for 'The Bill' and a film, and also for several jobs as an extra.

Around 50-60 members regularly attend Dramawise, but the production of 'Oliver!' called for young actors from across East Anglia. Around 120 were lucky enough to obtain a role in the play, with three different teams working in rotation.

All four girls were to be seen in Cambridge on Saturday 21st June singing to the shoppers (in their red 'Oliver!' T-shirts) to publicise the production. If you 'consider yourself one of us' tickets are still available from the Box Office at the Corn

Exchange, but do hurry, they are selling fast! LNT

ST JOHN'S DUMMY IS A HIT

[TOP](#)

ANNE Simpkin, Vice President, welcomed members to the June meeting. Marjorie Blackman reported on the Group Meeting at Abington in May at which the guest speaker, Mike Petty had related stories and events of 'Vanishing Cambridgeshire', the good old days! Many of the old cottages shown were very small for the larger families and very dark with no water, not quite the romantic scene of years gone by.

Marjorie and Claire Neville composed an Heraldic Shield depicting Linton which they brought along to show members. The shield will be on show in the Linton Library.

Val Spencer has invited members to a tea party on Friday 20th June, as a thank you for winning the bursary to Denman College. There will be a raffle and bring & buy. Craft exhibits are requested for the East of England Show and CFWI November Exhibition at Cottenham.

A combined WI and Linton Theatre Group outing to the pantomime 'Aladdin' at Milton Keynes on Thursday 8th January 2004 was proposed; phone for details. Our speaker for the evening was David Cunningham. A member of the St. John Ambulance, he brought along a demonstration dummy he named Annie and gave an excellent demonstration on what to do when presented with certain emergencies. Wendy Foster volunteered to be the unconscious victim to be placed in the recovery position.

Many of us had not realised that 112 is the emergency number to use on a mobile phone. Although this was a very serious subject, David made the talk very amusing. After refreshments, a discussion on wheelie bins took place and this is to be researched in the near future.

At the 1st July meeting the speaker will be Rosalind Bubb, houseplant doctor. Plants are requested for the Trading Stall please. Visitors welcome.

Cynthia Norris

THE SOUND OF LEATHER ON WILLOW

[TOP](#)

LVCC President's XI will be playing against V. Chairman's XI at 2pm on Sunday 3rd August on Linton Meadow.

This year the attractions include; face painting, tombola, coin rolling, putting contest and the wine game.

As usual there will be a bar, barbecue, tea stall and Gren and Nikki's famous Pimms Bar.

It is a great day out for all the family so come along and support your local cricket team. LNT

DRINK TO INDEPENDENCE

[TOP](#)

A COFFEE morning will be held from 10.30 - 12.00 on Wednesday 9th July at The Old Guildhall, 4 Church Lane, Linton in aid of The Cherryhomes Trust.

The Trust is a local charity which aims to help those who are severely physically disabled to lead as full and independent a life as possible within their own homes.

Judith White ☐

TO BIN, OR NOT TO BIN?

[TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

I fully support the opinions expressed by Jim Foster in his letter about wheelie bins in the June issue of the Linton News and so do several other people to whom I have spoken on this subject. As he says, the present system seems to work perfectly well, and the introduction of these bins would cause difficulties for many households, not the least being where to keep them.

What if there is no access to the rear of the house other than through the garage, as is the case with many properties in Linton? Even if there is a garage, either the bins would have to play "box & cox" with the car, which would be highly inconvenient, or they would have to be kept out on the pavement, which would be both hazardous and unsightly. If a house fronts directly onto the street there would seem to be no alternative to the latter: this would hardly increase pedestrian safety in the High Street!

John Sharman

.. THAT IS THE QUESTION

[TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

Regarding J. Foster's letter about wheelie bins, I cannot agree with any of it. I for one think the so-called simple black plastic bags should have been made obsolete years ago. I cannot wait for the change to take place. Being elderly myself (and having used wheelie bins before moving here) I am quite sure it will be much easier for me to push a bin some 50ft than carry bags and boxes, which even when only left a few hours are torn apart by cats, etc.

If people do not have much space they can ask for small bins. Also regarding fortnightly collection, if disinfectant is used with lids shut, I don't really see a problem. Perhaps the other bin will be for items that I and others have no means of taking to a tip?

D Pearson

OUR THANKS

[TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

I would like to say thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the raffle and table top sale at the Social Centre on 7th June to support my effort for the children of Chernobyl.

A total of £118 was reached and the winner of the set of Ukranian dolls was Julia Hilliard. Being so pleased with the result, I gave in two small dolls, which were won by Ian Hayes.

In conjunction with this, Joy Button and myself would like to thank everyone who has given wool to our daily knitting group for blankets, etc., for the children of Chernobyl.

Jean Whitby

A NOVEL USE FOR THE CRIMINAL MIND

[TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

I don't condone crime, but I can understand the concept. If you are going to steal the Crown Jewels you balance risk versus reward, and either end up sitting in the Costa del Sol sipping margaritas, or doing porridge in Wormwood Scrubs . It's wrong, cannot be excused, but you can understand why crimes where there is the potential for vast personal gain take place.

What I cannot understand is why someone would indiscriminately vandalise someone else's property, or to be more specific key a series of cars throughout Linton as happened on 14th June.

It is my opinion that whoever carried out these pathetic worthless acts of attrition, should not be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure but instead confined to a laboratory where scientists carry out tests, hoping that against all the odds they may actually find a solitary brain cell in the vast space that occupies the area in between their ears. It could revolutionise the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries. Out go tests on anything fluffy, and for once in their sad lives they will actually fulfil a purpose.

Name and address supplied

PARKING THOUGHTLESSLY

[TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

We always knew that access to our gateway which opens onto the public highway alongside the Infant School playground would be inconvenient once the school's security fencing had been erected, as it goes across our long-established right of way and makes turning into the yard more difficult. We can live with this, but we now find that cars are parked alongside the fence in such a way as to make it almost impossible to drive into or occasionally out of our gateway. Recently a car was parked directly across our gateway for well over an hour, blocking it completely.

We understand the frustration felt now that cars are no longer allowed to park in the school playground – especially since we attend meetings and functions in a dozen schools in the area, at all of which we park on the premises – but would ask that

people show a little more consideration when parking.

Kathleen Greenwood

SITTING TARGETS? [TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

We would be interested to know if any other dog owner has had a letter telling them not to let their dogs foul grassed areas in the village, even if they are cleaning up behind them, or is South Cambs. District Council just picking on us? There are quite a few dog walkers around here whose dogs foul the green, but most of them clear up afterwards. We would like anyone else who has had a letter to write to the Linton News.

Name and address

WACKY RACERS RAISE OVER £1500 [TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

Another fantastic turn-out, both from Wacky Competitors and spectators. We were absolutely amazed at the levels of support and encouragement from everyone involved in this year's Wacky Races.

We would especially like to thank all of our staff and friends at The Crown, without whose extremely hard work and enthusiasm we could not hope to stage such a successful event. Special thanks go to PC Dave Hall, who kept the High Street safe and free of cars and to the Waggon & Horses, Football Club and the Dog & Duck for running the drink stations on the day.

So far we have collected well over £1500 which included almost £400 in coins on the day from spectators and sponsorship from STS Tyres, as well as some of the individual money collected. We would very much like to present cheques to the two charities (Cystic Fibrosis & Linton 1st Scout Group) by the end of July and would remind anyone who still has money outstanding to bring it in to The Crown as soon as possible.

Once again, a huge thank you to all the fantastic competitors for making this such a great and worthwhile event. See you all again next year.

Joel & Louise

The Crown

LOCAL BOBBY PINNED [TOP](#)

Dear Editor,

People may not have seen me around in the last few weeks, and for a not-so-good reason.

I went on leave at the end of May and had a bad start to my week in the south of France when I turned up at Stansted Airport only to find a national strike in France

and our flight cancelled. We never made it so that was this year's holiday scuppered. I then went with The Lost Bods Motorcycle Club for 4 days touring around Devon on my Triumph. All was going well until the early hours of a Sunday morning when I fell six feet from a top bunk onto my knees (no, I wasn't drunk). To cut a long saga short, I have a fracture in my left knee. I am currently in a splint and on crutches and awaiting a visit to the fracture clinic. I could be off for some time.

To reassure you, I would say that I have spoken to the duty sergeant at Sawston, and Linton is still getting attention in relation to the antisocial behaviour and driving which seems to have crept back into the village.

I would still ask that you phone in (01358966) and report any such driving, remembering to give times, dates, registration numbers, details of the driving and, where possible, a description of the driver.

I will be checking those calls and the persistent offenders and action will be taken.
PC 489 Dave Hall

AUDREY AND REG SHARE THEIR GOLDEN YEARS [TOP](#)



A quieter moment during the Laws' robust celebrations

IT was a golden anniversary celebration last month for Audrey and Reg Law of Balsham Road who partied with family and friends during a disco evening at the Social Centre.

The couple met in 1952 when Reg, from a large family in Ashdon, was helping to lay mains sewerage pipes in Linton where Audrey has lived all her life. They married at the Shire Hall in Cambridge on 13th June 1953; a quiet event which prompted more robust celebrations after 50 years together.

Their seven children, all but one of whom still live locally, joined them for the occasion. They are Roger, Ivan, Alan, Michael, Valerie, Sally and Julie who between them have provided 17 grandchildren for Audrey and Reg to enjoy. Luckily, one son is a chef who took charge of the refreshments for the event.

The years have been happy ones although early times were spent living in cramped conditions, but the ups and downs have been worked out through "give and take". They have each pursued hobbies such as bingo and horse racing but in recent years they have embraced the adventure of holidays in Europe. A trip to Majorca, however, found Reg still in his slippers on the way to Stansted airport!

They now spend time working in their charming garden which sports some unusual features installed by Reg, and shrubs given as presents to Audrey by Linton residents for whom she has worked. Audrey likes to go on bus trips with a friend while rumour has it that Reg stays home snoozing.

A reminder of their wedding day still remains in the shape of some sherry glasses, which were given to them by Scorchner and his sister Annie Kidman, landlords of the former Dolphin pub in Bartlow Road. A durable gift which heralded an enduring and successful marriage for Audrey and Reg. LNT



The way we were... Audrey and Reg on their wedding day in 1953

DON'T LOSE THE NEWS

[TOP](#)

ALAN Norton, distributor of the Linton News, is retiring. For 13 years Alan has delivered the paper every month to the band of volunteers who see that a copy is posted to every house on their patch. To the certain knowledge of the committee,

Alan has had to delegate the task only once during this time—an extraordinary level of commitment.

We now need to recruit someone (or two) to take over from Alan. Like all the jobs on the Linton News, this is a voluntary position but petrol expenses are paid. If you are a driver, with your own car, and two hours or so to spare a month, and if you would like to become involved with this unique village resource, we want to hear from you. Alan's departure highlights a period of change at the Linton News. As regular readers know, we have said goodbye to several longstanding committee members over the past 18 months. Although we have advertised for further volunteers, the response has been disappointing—and the need for new faces on the committee more pressing. Like most organisations that depend on volunteers, the Linton News is feeling the effects of the demands put on people's free time. Working on a local paper is a unique entrée into village life; it's fun and worthwhile and an excellent way to learn and apply new skills. We need to hear from you if you have time, energy and enthusiasm to spare. Don't lose the Linton News. Telephone the editor, Hazel Olway or email LNeditor@linton.info LNT

BEAT A SAFE PATH TO SCHOOL

[TOP](#)

NATIONAL Walk to School Week was 19th - 23rd May. Linton residents and parents of school children are only too aware of the difficulties and dangers facing their children every day when they walk to school. So on 23rd May parents and children from Linton Infants' School walked to school with bright banners, flags and armbands. The children also played musical instruments to make as much noise as possible to let drivers know that they were walking along the High Street pavement, which in some places is barely 18 inches wide. The roads are also very narrow. Cars, vans, HGVs and buses mount the pavements and use them as part of the road.

The walk was organised by Pavements are for People, which was formed in November 2002 to address issues of pedestrian safety in Linton. For more information about Pavements are for People, contact Rachel Cornell and Alan Jones,

rjcornell@iee.org

Rachel Cornell

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES

[TOP](#)

THERE were some highly original displays at this year's Flower Festival, although there was some indication that exhibitors found the theme, "Count your Blessings", more challenging than those of previous years. The Guides' and Brownies' tableau of the seasons (pictured above) was particularly noteworthy. LNT



Photograph: Mike Crofts.

FREE CHURCH EXCHANGE [TOP](#)

THIS month, my family and I are travelling to Adelaide for two months and the Rev. Dr Robert Iles is travelling from Adelaide to work with Linton Free Church. This exchange programme is well-established within the wider church and seeks to give church leaders and congregations an opportunity to learn from other churches' national and cultural life. Linton Free Church already has four strong mission links with church groups in Asia, Latin America, Jordan and Haverhill!

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the church and to gain new insights. I am sure that Linton Free Church and the community will be greatly enriched by the ministry of Robert Iles. Robert is a lovely Christian leader who has much to share with us.

Robert will be leading a number of events over the summer – his first Sunday sermon at Linton Free Church (Horn Lane) will be at 10.30am on 13th July – a warm welcome awaits you!

Rev'd Alex Jacobs

LOCAL STUDIOS OPEN [TOP](#)

THIS year eight painters, printmakers, potters and sculptors in Linton, Hadstock, Bartlow and Hildersham will be waiting to welcome you to their studios over the four weekends in July as part of Cambridge Open Studios.

If you would like to visit painters at work at their easels, find out more about making prints or look for an original ornament for your house or garden, then this is your chance.

A free colour guide giving full details of studio locations and opening dates is available from Linton Post Office and library.

Sue Walker

AN IDEAL WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER'S DAY [TOP](#)



"Owl you doing?" Meeting and greeting feathered friends

CROWDS turned out in force for the Hadstock fete last month to linger on the village green and in the church grounds in the beautiful sunshine. There was such a rush when it opened that a queue formed into the car parking area and some motorists found themselves leaving their cars hundreds of yards from the entrance. The joy of the fete was, as usual, in the simple pleasures of a traditional village event, the plant and book stalls, the band, the chance to throw hard balls at brittle china. There were also less traditional aspects like a thoroughly interesting veteran cars display - complete with the E Type many of us have spent our entire adult life dreaming about - as well as the chance to try metal detecting and stroke a variety of owls. Plus, an aerobatic display for good measure. Perfect! LNT

JUMP FOR GYMNASTS [TOP](#)

DYNAMICS Gymnastics – Linton is a brand new club for children and young people. The club will open in September on Monday evenings at LVC. Classes will run from 4.15 – 5.15pm for beginners aged 5-7 years old and 5.15 - 6.15pm for older beginners and intermediate gymnasts.

Gymnasts will learn and refine basic gymnastics skills from various disciplines. The overall aim is to develop components of skill and health-related fitness including flexibility, balance, co-ordination and agility. Achievements will be recognised using the British Gymnastics Award Scheme.

The club will be run by Diane Clark and Nikki Davis. Diane is a former high standard Artistic Gymnast who has extensive experience in coaching and running General Gymnastics clubs. She holds club coaching qualifications in General Gymnastics and Trampolining and has recently qualified as a Sports Acrobatics judge. Later this year, Diane, a Linton resident, will complete the Sports Acrobatics Club Coaching course.

Nikki is a former Head of Physical Education at Parkside Community College. She has coached gymnastics for 15 years and holds an assistant qualification in General Gymnastics, a club coach qualification in Sports Acrobatics, a Level 1 Trampoline coaching certificate, a Gymnastics Teacher's Award and a First Aid in the workplace certificate. Nikki is a former British University Sports Acrobatics Trio Champion who captained the Brighton University team to win the competition in 1997.

Diane and Nikki also own City of Cambridge Gymnastics Club which opened in September 2002. In less than 12 months the CCGC membership has risen to around 130. As with Dynamics Gymnastics – Saffron Walden, Diane and Nikki hope that the Linton club will provide new talent for the successful CCGC Sports Acrobatics competition squad.

For further information including fees and registration procedures please e-mail Nikki info@dynamicsgymnastics.co.uk or call Diane .

Nikki Davis

A PERFECT PORTRAIT [TOP](#)

THE proof of the photography is in the showing and Camera Club members spent half their June meeting demonstrating that their earlier awaydays had produced good pictures as well as enjoyable outings.

We met at the Social Centre to look at prints, digital images and projected transparencies: a fascinating 90 minutes examining the different ways that members see the same kind of subjects.

The second half of our meeting gave an opportunity for photography at St Mary's Church flower festival.

New member Janet Shambrook was welcomed, doubling the number of female members and raising hopes - along with other possible recruits - of a ladies' section developing.

The club is back on the road for its 13th July meeting: A Partners' Day at the Tudor re-creation at Kentwell Hall, followed by dinner. This is the event where many members take their partners or anyone else and the day is part photography and part social. It will be marked this time by the club's first competition: portraits taken during the day.

The club is informal, friendly and helpful: anyone interested in any form of photography, at any level, is welcome. Why not come to the Kentwell Hall awayday?

For details, telephone or email jkeeble@clara.net

John Keeble

K-CLUB WINNERS [TOP](#)

THE winners of June's K-Club monthly draw:

1st (£50) K Madden (No. 311); 2nd (£25) S R Petter (No. 351); 3rd (£10) T C Blackmore (No. 346).

BROADBAND - ARE WE NEARLY THERE?

TOP

ENTRIES for the EEDA "Connecting Communities" have now closed and our region has submitted two bids.

South Cambs has submitted an entry to cover the up to 101 communities within its district which are without broadband. This will be based on a voucher system for each community to purchase a solution from a number of preferred suppliers and then relying on market forces to determine demand and set-up fees. From initial discussions there is not much allowance for social inclusion or community service developments and initially it will rely on those really wanting broadband to pay higher set-up fees.

CRSE/Linton Broadband submitted a bid covering 13 local villages and aimed to develop a level playing field where local subscribers only pay what consumers in existing broadband areas would pay. We now have the backing of all the local communities. The chosen supplier will provide the community association managing the project with a community dividend to reinvest in local community broadband projects and support.

If our community bid is successful, we will need to set up a not-for-profit community association with a more distinctive name. A draft constitution has been written but we need to have volunteers willing to act as trustees to represent local communities and organizations. Ideally, at least one person from each community to be nominated and at least 12 elected members once the service is up and running.

Anyone interested in keeping up with developments can subscribe to

Lintonbroadband-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

If anyone has any interest in becoming a trustee or has any other query please contact Adrian.Winckles@computer.org . Adrian Winckles

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

TOP



Linton residents marking their homes on a map at the village survey 'workshop day'

at the social centre -more than one in 10 households in the village were represented at this stage of the project and most gave their time and views to help refine the survey documents.

"We have had a magnificent response to the long process of organising the survey," said Judy Rossiter, the project coordinator. "There has been a large team of people working on the project and we were delighted with the enormous amount of help given by those who attended our 'workshop day'."

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH [TOP](#)

IF you can recall last month's Bush Telegraph, you may remember that we were awaiting a visit from the South African High Commissioner in celebration of our link with Boepathutse School and the remarkable fund raising efforts of one of our pupils. On 4th June she came and stayed for more than two hours, in spite of certain expectations that she should be in London to meet the wife of ex-president, Nelson Mandela! We talked about our work, she met several pupils and attended a special assembly where she spoke to the whole college and gave Luke his award accompanied by two free return flights to South Africa. Everyone enjoyed the event tremendously but we all thought that was that. However, two days later, an email arrived from her office asking if a delegation of our pupils could travel to the High Commission to take part in an international youth forum arranged for the following Monday. Enjoying a challenge, we set about organising this and our international links coordinator, Anna Stearn led the delegation. As I hope you would expect, our pupils did superbly well, even though all the other delegations were from sixth forms and universities. Things did not end there because we have now been invited to take part in a major international conference in October on global citizenship organised by the South African government. Unfortunately it is to be held in London rather than Pretoria! Being involved with international development at this level provides a tremendous experience for all our pupils and gives a great boost to our work as a school.

Speaking of boosts, South Cambridgeshire District Council has agreed to fund the redevelopment of our sports facilities to the tune of £300,000 which means we are now only waiting for the Football Foundation grant as the last piece in the funding jigsaw. The total project, worth £800,000 will include a full sized Astro pitch, a greatly enlarged and improved fitness suite and fully refurbished changing rooms. We hope to begin work on the project in the autumn, well before the work on the new special school has to begin.

We are now also in negotiation with the LEA on another ambitious project for the College; the replacement of the central part of the building with a completely new structure. This will remove what has become an outdated and inadequate building and replace it with a new, state of the art one which will provide all the specialist and non-specialist accommodation a school of this size needs. Exciting times! Clive Bush, Principal

THROWING THE BOOT OUT [TOP](#)

A GREAT way to turn out the semi-treasures that are too good for jumble would be to have a stand at Linton Guides Boot Sale. We're raising money for two girls to go to International Camp in August by holding a Boot Sale at Linton Heights School on the morning of Saturday 19th July. There is a fee for stands and the sale starts at 9am for early bargain hunters but of course you can come when you wish. It's fun, it's friendly and we look forward to seeing you there. Kate France

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW LINTON? [TOP](#)

IF you do, you could be in with a chance to win a cash prize of £75. Linton Infants' School PSA has issued a photograph-based challenge. The aim of the challenge is to try and identify the location of 75 different pictures taken around the village. All photos are unique and have been taken from the main roads/through routes in Linton so there are no obscure locations down dead ends or little used paths. The successful entries will be put in a hat and the winner will be drawn at the School's AGM in September. There will also be a prize for the fastest correct entry. The quiz is on sale in Linton newsagents during the summer so there is plenty of time to join in and take a new look at your village. Ewen Kellar

SEARCHING FOR TREASURER [TOP](#)

THE Gardening Club will be needing a Treasurer from 1st October. If you think you can help, please could you contact me on Gloria Fidler

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



Illustrated by Maureen Williams

WE don't hear much about quantum mechanics, parallel worlds and the like these days! However, July's diary began life on a table by the garden pond. I was sharing company with a frog displaying a determined desire to investigate my potted plant. And just as I was thinking, "go on, jump!" it did. At that precise moment I received a call from the Dominican Republic. The voice on the line said enthusiastically "Darryl, I have just watched the most beautiful frog jump off a table and into the hotel swimming pool". What can I say?

The next afternoon I noticed a few perennials shaking where there was no wind. So I took the time to stand and stare. Eventually a young *Turdus philomelos*, a local song thrush, with snail in beak emerged to find himself an anvil and began his task of smashing the shell. After a couple of tries he held it with a tilted head while whipping off the remaining shell still dangling on the meat. Before gobbling down his catch and disappearing into the flowerbeds he looked at me as if to say "How's that for skill?"

Later that evening whilst driving up Coles Lane I stopped the car in the middle of the road to investigate another young thrush who was standing motionless with eyes closed. I approached slowly, crawling on my hands and knees. I began to tap with my fingers upon the tarmac. The bird remained still and silent as my hands slowly cupped his delicate body. Bundles of feathers floated away and to the ground and yet I could not see nor feel any damage. I reached to turn off the car engine and for a few seconds there was absolute silence. As I held the bird I breathed warm breath upon its head. To my surprise it opened its eyes and began squawking. Suddenly, a philharmonic orchestra of blackbirds and thrushes gathered to play a symphony of warning calls with all the might of their little lungs. What a deafening crescendo! I scoured the bushes and trees in the hope of spotting the anxious parents. Seeing a golden flash in the tree to my right I took a chance and lifted the bird into the air, half

expecting it to fall like a stone, but it flew to a large high bough and the blackbirds became silent as the thrush looked down.

The following day I was invited to a secluded area where amongst the wild thyme, lemon mint and daisies grew the lovely bee orchid. This variety of orchid not only has a labellum which looks incredibly like a female bee's abdomen but (and trust me on this one) it also mimics the smell secreted from a female bee's abdominal gland. Yes, Linton is full of wonderful little mysteries and surprises, but someone, somewhere else, perhaps in another dimension thinks the same of their little village, and they've probably never even heard of Linton!

FOOD FOR FUNDS [TOP](#)

FAMILY and friends of Abington Playgroup enjoyed a culinary evening on 10th June to raise money for new equipment and toys. Denise Hall from the Pampered Chef cooked up some delicious food for all the guests. The evening was highly successful and raised £400.

Abington Playgroup is a friendly village playgroup run by fully qualified staff, has been Ofsted inspected and is able to accept nursery vouchers for 3 and 4 year olds. We take preschool children from the age of two and a half. We are open Monday to Friday and can offer flexible sessions between 9am and 2.45pm. We have vacancies for entry in September 2003. For more information contact Kate McDowell ☐ or Paula Harper ☐

. Antonia Kilcommons

ADVANCING WITH THE TIMES [TOP](#)

LINTON IT Club was set up in the Cathodeon Centre in 1999 as a Millennium project with the express purpose of introducing the use of computers to those who had not had the opportunity to learn about them at school. There was a significant response to this and as the demand from elderly people declined, the club's facilities were opened to all, irrespective of age and completely free.

Since the club opened, other aspects of IT have come to the fore: text messaging, digital cameras, and Broadband for example. The club is anxious to move with the times and offer help and advice with these new developments in addition to basic computer problems.

Linton IT Club is not a club which has to be attended regularly; it is a facility for help and advice with IT related problems. There is no charge, it is informal and help is offered on a one-to-one basis. We are there between 7 and 9pm on Tuesday evenings. Why not drop in and have a chat with us? Derek Birch

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