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Elise's rocking horse wins ... by a head

UP in the attic above my room, there is, or rather there was, a beautiful rocking horse; Ben's rocking horse. It was a beautiful horse. He had an amazingly dark brown mane, which matched his deep chestnut tail, and he always seemed to be swishing it!

His eyes were a glistening deep blue, outlined with long, flickering, golden lashes. His eyes always looked like they had a smile in them; it could have just been a cheeky glint. He had pure white hair, like untouched snow, and his nose was as black as coal, maybe even blacker.

Ben loved his rocking horse, he really did, he loved it to bits, so you

Last year, the Linton News sponsored a creative writing award for Year 6 pupils at Linton Heights school with £50 token for the winner.

In a close contest, 10-year-old Elise Fletcher has been awarded the prize for her stylish writing and imaginative language and use of colour in her short story about the mysterious disappearance of a rocking horse.

can probably imagine how he must have felt when it disappeared.

He was really confused, he just could not understand why his horse was gone, poor Ben. All

that was left of his horse was its ruby red saddle, the one with the little golden horses. They are embroidered all around the edges, stretched in full gallop, and dotted around as if they are running wild all over the saddle. His spotless emerald green stand was left behind too.

This is the bit I really don't understand. I don't understand why whoever stole him (if someone did) went to the effort of removing him from his stand. The horse doesn't even rock without it. It isn't worth any money without its stand so it's silly really.

I wonder if we will ever get him back.

LINTON FRIENDS MAKE FRONT-PAGE NEWS ... IN LINTON, INDIANA

THE first stop four Linton travellers made on their 3000-mile odyssey across America was ... LINTON!

That's Linton, Indiana, a small US town where the four Cambridgeshire men made front-page news ... and got a free lunch!

The four - Gary Donaldson, 34, Dominic Hannam, 24, Andy Harmer, 50, and Graham Wright, 46 - made their trip across the US last autumn after coming up with the idea during a casual conversation in the Crown pub one evening.

While planning their itinerary, they noticed that their route to the first planned stop, Nashville, went straight through a town called Linton.

So, last October after flying to Chicago to start their trip and picking up their Winnebago recreational vehicle that was to be their home for most of the next 18 days, they headed for Linton.

Arriving about 10pm, they spent the night in a car park and the next morning called in at Linton's own newspaper, the Linton Daily Citizen, to give the US Lintonians copies of our own Linton News and tell them about their Cambridgeshire "twin".

The editor was interested in their story and a reporter interviewed them on the spot, later making their story the front-page splash (see picture).

The four were then taken to meet Linton's mayor, a former miner called Tom Jones, who immediately cancelled all his appointments for the day and took the travellers out to lunch.

Gary said: "The mayor wanted us to stay and meet the police chief and the fire chief and take us out to see a historic



The front page story in the Linton Daily Citizen about the four UK Lintonians and their time in Indiana. Mayor Tom Jones is in the centre

bridge from the 1800s they were rebuilding but we didn't have time - we weren't sure how long it would take us to drive across the US and get to Las Vegas for our flight home."

Linton is a small town of about 6000 people, slightly bigger than our Linton and more spread out.

Lintonians are clearly proud of their town and to advertise its merits, there is a sign over a town centre car park telling visitors "You'll Like Linton".

The ever-present golden arches of McDonald's are prominent - the fast-food outlet is one of about a dozen such restaurants in the town.

Graham said that Linton has many churches, a crazy golf course and a water tower - but no zoo! However, they do have their own swimming pool, which was built in 1934.

There is also a 24-hour Walmart selling all the usual supermarket goods - plus something you won't find in our own Co-op - shotguns.

The four said Mayor Jones was delighted that they had stopped off to see their fellow Lintonians and added that he was keen to establish links with their Cambridgeshire "twin".

Gary added: "When this issue of the Linton News comes out, we are going to send some copies plus various photos of Linton to Mayor Jones."

After Linton, the four went on to visit Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, Dallas, Amarillo and Albuquerque.

They then drove across the Arizona and Nevada deserts and spent a couple of days seeing the "awesome" Grand Canyon, finally reaching their destination of Las Vegas after crossing 11 states and covering 3015 miles.

The biggest crisis of the whole trip came when the Winnebago's fridge broke down, threatening the prospect of warm beer. Fortunately, makeshift repairs saved the day.

LNT

LINTON DIARY

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

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

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

Weekly: Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays Village Hall
Weekly: Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays LVC
Weekly: Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays Village Hall
Weekly: WEA class, 10-11.30am, Tuesdays VH
Weekly: Story Time, 2.15-2.45pm, Tuesdays Library
Weekly: IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6-10pm, Wednesdays VH
Weekly: Tots in Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Rock Cafe, 1.30-3pm, Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Little Acorns, 10am-11.30am, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays Cathodeon Centre

March

5 Linton Guides' Jumble Sale, 2pm Linton Infants School
5 Farmers' Market, 10am-1pm LVC
6 **Camera Club Awayday, 9.30am** Coles Lane car park
8 VIP Club, 7.30pm Chalklands
8 **Garden Club, 7.30pm** Village Hall
9 SCDC Housing Surgery, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
9 Lent Lunch, 12pm 8 The Furrells
10 NSPCC Bring & Buy, 10.30-12pm Manor House, Green Lane
15 **Historical Society, 7.30pm** Village Hall
16 CAMTAD, Hearing Help, 9am-12noon Health Centre
16 Lent Lunch, 12pm 38 Symonds Lane
17 Linton Parish Council, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
19 Dads & Tots, 9.30-11am Village Hall
19 Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm S' Mary's Church
19 Scout Car Wash, 10am-2pm Dog and Duck, Linton
20 **Garden open day, 1-5pm** Balsham Manor
23 SCDC Housing Surgery, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
23 Citizens Advice Bureau, 1.30-2.30pm Village Hall
23 Lent Lunch, 12pm Chalklands Community Centre

Refuse collection: 7th, 21st.

Recycling collection: 14th, 29th

April

1 Blood Donor Session 1.30-3.30pm & 4.30-7pm Village Hall
2 Farmers' Market, 10am-1pm LVC
3 **Camera Club Awayday, 9.30am** Coles Lane car park
5 **WI, 7.30pm** Village Hall
6 SCDC Housing Surgery, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
7 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm The Crown
7 Linton Parish Council, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
12 VIP, 2pm Chalklands Community Centre
12 **Garden Club, 7.30pm** Village Hall
16 Skating (family sessions), 12-4pm Linton Heights
16 Linton Music Society (William Fong - Piano), 7.30pm LVC
19 Historical Society, 7.30pm Village Hall
20 SCDC Housing Surgery, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
21 Linton Parish Council, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
27 Citizens Advice Bureau, 1.30-2.30pm Village Hall

Library times: **Monday** Closed; **Tuesday** 10.30am-1pm, 2-5pm;
Wednesday 2-5pm, 6-8pm; **Thursday** Closed; **Friday** 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6-8pm; **Saturday** 10am-12noon.



A greeting sign over Linton's downtown parking lot is an indication of the pride the citizens of the Indiana town take in their home

FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

THE odd spring-like days ahead give me hope that the season of Glummer is almost over. The garden beckons Sue and me to start planning to rectify the mistakes we made last year as we both are complete novices when it comes to knowing what will go where. Many of our shrubs and plants have grown well, despite our poor soil and we have to think carefully about the front garden this year in particular, as major changes are ahead for our part of Paynes Meadow because of the plans to build 20 new homes next to our bungalow.

It will mean that we lose our block-paved road and paths in favour of tarmac in order to withstand the large volume of traffic used in construction and in the coming years to serve the new estate. The plans look very good in general and I know much thought has been given to retain the hedgerows and minimise the effects of such a project on the Rivey path and surrounding area. One of the proposed properties is to be another specially adapted Papworth Trust bungalow, a mirror image of ours, and I have been working very hard to try to ensure that everyone involved in the project gives some thought to the special needs of the future occupants, a luxury we unfortunately never had ourselves.

It is always easy to be critical of those who are not in the same position as myself for not automatically knowing what troubles are lying in wait for the less able-bodied among us, but in so many cases since meeting and talking to people, the fact it does not affect the majority of us means that much of the time, little changes that have such a huge effect get overlooked by people who are not affected. The new bungalow, like ours and the one in Flaxfields, brings with it a few problems with access to the village which I am bringing up in the hope that we can effect changes so that they are in place around the time when the new estate is finished.

However, I must report that my efforts have not gone at all smoothly as there does seem to be a consensus that being disabled means that one has lost one's brain, and because I choose to smile a great deal, this is obviously seen an indication that I am quite bonkers, which you have to be where some people are concerned. I really feel in my experiences over the years that discrimination against disabled people is very much alive in the 21st century. But this has been somewhat tempered by the realisation that in general, people do not care, or simply are unaware as the problem does not affect them. So easily though, this can change as I have found to my cost.

This fact is the most difficult to convey but must be acknowledged, as our villages have a high proportion of people who cannot get around - elderly, disabled and mothers with prams and buggies represent quite a high percentage not a minority, and because one can walk today does not automatically guarantee that one will be able to next week. This is the lottery in which every one of us takes part - the lottery of life.

At a recent trip to hospital, I was talking to a lovely man in charge of hospital transport at Addenbrooke's. He has to arrange a total of 700 hospital cars a day, around 186,000 a year. A mind-boggling task which we only moan about when our car is 10 or 15 minutes late. No wonder!

Some other facts about Addenbrooke's make interesting reading. Addenbrooke's hospital first opened on 13th October 1766 with 20 beds and is nowadays the biggest employer in Cambridgeshire, employing more than 6000 staff. No wonder that I am always tired when coming home from Addenbrooke's as the length of all the corridors and walkways is more than six miles. Two more interesting facts ... the hospital uses enough toilet rolls in one week to last an average family more than 10 years, and the WRVS coffee shop in outpatients serves 5400 drinks a week. We take our hospital for granted and some decry it for being too large, but people travel from all parts of the country for treatment. How very glad I am to have to go only seven miles down the road.

Please take care of yourselves and one another, and I'll see you next month.

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This is not a full list - just a brief guide

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Women



Neighbours: Jack Noakes and Mary Wright outside their new homes in Flaxfields
Picture by Roger Lapwood

Lintonians in Flaxfields move out of the old and into the new

TWO Lintonians who moved into the brand new bungalows at Flaxfields on 15th December were born and brought up in two of Linton's oldest houses.

Jack Noakes, 85, was born in 1 Coles Lane, where he lived until he returned from the army after the second world war. A much sought-after 'des res' now, Jack tells of the Robert Coles' house when the privy was 20 paces across the yard, and the contents emptied into a trench or hole dug by his father each week, of boiling water in a big copper with a fire beneath for the weekly wash or for the big tin bath for a personal scrubdown.

After his marriage Jack and his wife Vera were offered one of the new houses built in Chalklands in 1954. They were delighted by the mod cons of running hot water heated by the boiler behind the open fire, an immersion heater in summer and an upstairs bathroom.

After his retirement in 1981, Jack and Vera moved again to a new bungalow at 32 Flaxfields. Now, almost 25 years later Jack is one of the first residents to move into the specially designed two-bedroom bungalows

in Flaxfields. He is particularly pleased with his new kitchen, which he says "is twice the size of No. 32," where he used to stand in the middle and touch both walls.

His neighbour, Mary Wright, 72, was born at No. 6 Maltings Cottages. She was only 18 when she married Tom and they moved to No. 4, where their two sons were born. "I loved it there. We didn't have any money but it was great fun," says Mary.

She moved to one of the new Wimpey-built houses in Chalklands to be near her mother who looked after the two boys while Mary was working.

Mary is also pleased with her new bungalow in Flaxfields. Having a corner plot with a south-facing living room, she enjoys a sunny aspect and has enough garden at the rear to be able to sit out without the work of a larger patch.

Both Jack and Mary are worried that their old homes in Flaxfields will remain empty like two nearby bungalows, vacant for more than two years. "It's a shame to leave those bungalows empty. They could still be good homes for someone."

Kate France 891602

Secrets of an EastEnders' scriptwriter

ALTHOUGH he is a scriptwriter for EastEnders and Holby City, Cambridge playwright Nick Warburton confessed that his real love is radio when he spoke to members of the Friends of S' Mary's recently.

With 35 plays for radio already under his belt, the most frequent question is "Where do you get your ideas from?" Using recorded excerpts from

the broadcasts, he explained how an idea may be suggested by other people, or something he had read or heard about, and then in the writing his personal feelings or experiences mould the finished script.

To explain further, he referred to David Copperfield as a character, but beside him stood Charles Dickens using Copperfield to write an autobiography.

Nick's next TV contribution will be three episodes of "Born and Bred", which the Corporation is planning to screen on BBC1 in the near future.

The afternoon raised £145 towards the Friends' funds which are devoted to the preservation of the church building.

Miss M Clark 892093

Dolls' houses through the ages

FEBRUARY is thought of as a dreary month but it's also a time for early flowers, and 'birthday posies' for last month's meeting were beautiful snowdrops from a member's garden. What a lovely way to welcome the new month.

Best wishes were sent to two members who were unwell but the lively chatter suggested everyone else was on good form.

Names were invited for the Denman College Bursary draw - the winner will be announced at the annual meeting.

Correspondence and outings were discussed, as was the purchase of a sound system to improve the quality of meetings for members no longer able to hear well.

President Tricia Lewis welcomed Philis Baptie, who had been quietly setting up a splendid array of dolls' houses and furniture, to speak on dolls' houses and miniatures.

Starting with probably the earliest recorded house, dating from 1558 in Bavaria, we went through picture records of incredibly elaborate specimens until people said "We had one just like that", which was the Triang's house (1940-50) and then the famous "Playmobil House".

The degree of craftsmanship in many cases was staggering and made us all appreciate how talented were those who made them.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March when the subject will be The Work of the RNLI.

Clare Neville

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Learn Spanish at home

WHETHER you are thinking of relocating to Spain, already own property there or just want a holiday off the tourist track, speaking even a little Spanish can enhance your stay enormously, opening doors closed to those without any knowledge of the language.


Many people have started to learn Spanish but have had to interrupt their studies. A new local service, offered by experienced Spanish teacher Susan Hodges is aimed primarily at those in this position who would now like to resume their studies, or feel they need to go back to basics to iron out the wrinkles accumulated during their previous efforts to learn the language.

Susan offers Spanish lessons in clients' own homes within a 15-mile radius of Linton, at times to suit their schedules. "I tailor my teaching to the individual rather than adopting a "one size fits all approach", she says. "I find the best results are obtained either one-to-one or in very small groups, where people don't feel shy. Most of my students these days are 'false beginners', with some previous knowledge, or more advanced students who wish to practise their conversational skills; but complete beginners are also welcome."

If you are interested in improving your Spanish, contact Susan who offers an initial consultation/assessment free to those with some previous knowledge at:

891521 or e.mail: sjhmac2@yahoo.co.uk

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Marion: 897945 (school hours)
Jane: 503972 (at other times)

Focus for the future



Picture by Roger Lapwood

AS February's weather is normally inclement, we had chosen to have another in-house session at the village hall. Some members' pictures were shown, but the bulk of the time was taken up with deciding a programme for the coming year.

We also welcomed another lady member to our group, Julie Supcik.

Away-days up to June are as follows:

- 6th March, Milton Country Park.
- 3rd April, Marshall's motor retail site, Newmarket Road, Cambridge.
- 1st May, Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey.
- 5th June, Bressingham Railway museum and gardens, Diss.

For all of the above awaydays, we will meet in the car park, Coles Lane at 9.30am.

We also discussed our forthcoming photographic exhibition, which will be held in the village hall on Saturday 15th

October. Members will be able to display their best photographs for the general public to enjoy. There will also be a display area with old photographs supplied by Linton Historical Society and a corner dedicated to helping members of the public with digital photography problems. Refreshments will be available and there will also be a raffle. Details of times will be displayed throughout the village and in the Linton News nearer the time.

Linton Camera Club meets every first Sunday of the month and membership is very informal and friendly. Members can attend as many or as few meetings as they wish. Anyone can join, any age, any experience; you just need an interest in taking photographs.

Please contact Ron Pitkin on 891845 or Roger Lapwood on 891104 if you need any more details, or go to our website at www.camclub.info.

Tracey Wilson

One day in February ...

ONE day, early in February, "davidd" left an innocent message on Linton's discussion forum asking if anyone had any information about the one-way traffic trial.

Little did he know that not only was there a distinct lack of any further information, the fact that it was happening at all seemed to be alarming news to many.

It transpired, thanks to "AJ", that this piece of information had been printed in a Lib-Dem flyer that some forum contributors had actually read. Suddenly, all hell broke loose and,

despite the best efforts of "AgentLinton" to calm things down, accusations rained in; High Street residents were profiteering and parish councillors were promoting a scheme that would benefit them (in some undisclosed way).

On the 17th a number of residents, who had first met each other on our forum, joined together in making their feelings known to the parish council. It was an emotional meeting and you can read about it further in "Parish Matters". Keep in touch with www.linton.info

Website editor

Nearest the jack

AS spring arrives members are beginning to look forward to the new outdoor season. Having gained promotion to division 1, the club managed to stave off relegation, winning six of the nine home matches and gaining two away victories. We now hope to rise to the challenge of competing in the higher league again, trying to consolidate our position by improving away results on unfamiliar grass rinks.

The club winter outdoor pairs' competition is still progressing with a date for the final to be announced shortly.

Events to note in the club diary include:

Wednesday 13th April, start of afternoon roll-ups/drives on the recreation ground. These will continue every Wednesday for the rest of the season. New members will be especially welcome to come along at any time, experience not essential. Flat shoes will be required on the green and bowls are available for use.

On Wednesday 20th April, membership enrolment will start in the pavilion from 6.30pm.

Then on Friday 6th May, the first outdoor league match will be against Haverhill Town

In addition to playing in the Steeple Bumpstead league and knockout competitions, a fairly full programme of friendly mid-week matches against local clubs has been arranged so bowlers at all levels can enjoy the social and recreational aspects of the game. For more information about the club's activities contact club captain Bryan Beavis on 893391.

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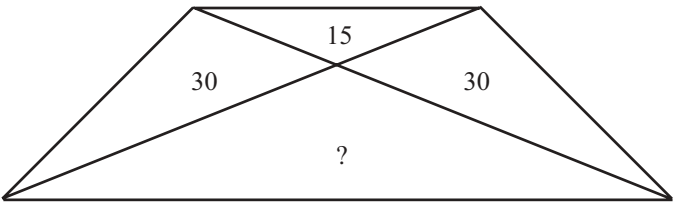
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POT POURRI (3)

A Trapezoidal Field

ONE definition of a trapezoid is a quadrilateral (4 sided figure) with 2 sides parallel. Should the 2 non-parallel sides be of equal length, the familiar trapezium is realised.

Consider a trapezoidal area which has been sub-divided into 4 fields (see diagram). The sides are of unequal length and the area of 3 fields are known. What is the area of the missing field?



Pot Pourri 2 – The missing house number.

Let the unknown house number on the odd side of the road be denoted by k and the last house number in the road be n.

The sum of odd numbers can be expressed by the formula: $[(k + 1)/2]^2$. Eg. $1+3+5+7+9 = [(9 + 1)/2]^2 = 25$.

Thus, the sum of the next house to the unknown to the last house in the road is expressed as $[(n + 1)/2]^2$.

What is required is the sum up to the unknown house and the sum from the next house to the last house + 1.

This may be stated as:-

(Sum of all odd houses) – (sum from first to unknown house) + 1 = (sum from first to unknown house)

Algebraically; $[(n + 1)/2]^2 + [(k + 1)/2]^2 = [(k + 1)/2]^2$

Which by re-arranging and substituting whole numbers for k gives the unknown house number 57, with the last house as 81.

Urania

IT problems solved

NOW that lighter nights are on the way, a visit to the IT club in the Cathodeon Centre between 7pm- 9pm will not be such a pain. Club regulars have continued to meet throughout the dark evenings and have been able to help a number of stalwarts who have ventured out.

The discussions have been largely focused on digital photography; advice on which camera to get for value and purpose. This is expected to go on through spring and summer. Anyone interested or wanting advice will be welcome. Complete novices, young and old will also be welcome ... and it costs nothing .

There is growing interest in website production, and the club is keen to help newcomers and attract those who might share their expertise.

Readers are reminded that the club, which was originally set up as a Millennium project to help older people to learn about computing, will assist both young and old with problems or advice without charge

whatsoever. We do not, however, offer detailed training in the use of specific software, e.g. Word Processing or Spreadsheets. The Village College and others run excellent courses of this kind.

The club deals mainly with hardware problems and advice about recent developments, upgrading etc., and e-mail and internet, as well as helping beginners. All advice is given by volunteers and no technical problem is too difficult for at least some help to be given, and no advice is too trivial for our volunteers.

The club is backed in principal by the Linton parish council but is, in essence, self supporting. It is always willing to offer help and will always welcome help from anyone who has expertise in specialist areas, such as setting up personal web sites.

Please do make use of this facility on Tuesday evenings, 7-9pm. The club is one of those things which help to make the village special.

Derek Birch

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Scotland in Linton



A resplendent John McCafferty pipes in the haggis

Picture by Ian Coulson

SCOTLAND came to Linton last month as more than 80 people gathered at the Village College to celebrate Burns' Night and at the same time raise much-needed funds for the Friends of Linton Heights Junior School.

Burns' Night is the traditional annual celebration of the life of Robert Burns (1759-96), Scotland's national poet. The rituals of a Burns' night supper have changed little in 200 years and the event was marked in time-honoured style. First, Ewen Kellar read the Selkirk Grace:

*Some hae meat and cannot eat
Some cannot eat that want it
But we hae meat and we can eat
Sae let the Lord be thankit.*

After a starter of smoked salmon, the haggis was piped in by John McCafferty, resplendent in kilt and sporrans. This was followed by Ewen Kellar's rendition of Burns' famous ode *Tae A Haggis*, an essential feature of any Burns' Night supper. As he waxed lyrical over the 'gushing entrails' of this 'great chieftain of the pudding-race', you could see some people wishing they had chosen the vegetarian option.

The haggis was toasted with glasses of malt whisky then served with neeps (mashed swede), tatties (mashed potatoes), carrots, peas and gravy. This was followed by a selection of home-made puddings provided by supporters of the Friends of Linton Heights. After the meal, Ewen returned to the microphone to propose one final toast 'to the lassies'. As he pointed out, this is also a tradition of Burns' Night, as Burns himself was something of a ladies' man. It led to a round of applause for the women in the kitchen, led by Ruth Coals, who had worked hard to produce such a splendid meal. The rest of the evening was spent dancing to the Friday Folk ceilidh band.

The evening raised more than £900 which takes the Friends much closer to their target of providing interactive whiteboards for every class in the school.

Tony Kelly

Long service award



Clare Neville receives her award from Janet Conochie

Picture by Mike Crofts

CLARE Neville had a pleasant surprise waiting for her at the recent committee meeting of Granta Grapevine. Janet Conochie presented her with a TNAUK long service certificate, commemorating 15 years working for talking newspapers.

The Talking Newspaper Association of the UK to give it the full title, is the umbrella organisation set up in 1974 that now supports 520 local talking newspaper groups across the country. In April it is to be renamed the Talking News Federation.

Granta Grapevine, the talking newspaper for visually

impaired people in and around Linton, produced its first edition in March 1990 and both Clare and Janet were involved in its production that year. Clare has been chairman for many years and Janet is now President.

The group is always looking for help in the production of the monthly tape and for suitable written or recorded material. Those thinking of a career with media organisations might find they have something to offer Granta Grapevine. If you think you can help, contact Clare on 893251.

Mike Crofts 893619

How Cambridge got its library

CHRIS Jakes from the Cambridge Collection, returned with more slides of Old Cambridge. He gave a brief history of the library service as this year the Public Library in Cambridge celebrates 150 years.

In 1850 there were only free libraries with funding only for the buildings. Two years later the lending library service began with Cambridge being the first. This was housed in the Friends' Meeting House in Jesus Lane, then in 1860 it moved to the back of the Guild Hall where the Tourist Information Centre is now.

Papers were read while standing but there were tables to sit at to read books, with special tables for ladies. Thirty years ago, the library moved to Lion Yard. It is now threatened with a further move after the new developments, and probable closure during the proceedings, but it is proposed that the new building will also house the Record Office contents from Shire Hall and the Cambridge Collection and Archives.

We saw slides of old glass negatives from old Cambridge studios when it was fashionable to have portraits taken, including those of many famous people, students, and wartime American service men. All these are being put on a website so they will be more accessible in the future.

We progressed through Cambridge from the 1830s to 1930s noting all the changes with old buildings being demolished and new ones built. After travelling along the Backs and outskirts of Cambridge, slides of the demolition and rebuilding of Petty Cury revealed some interesting views of the old buildings and churches. Now it is all happening again with more demolition and rebuilding in the city centre.

The next meeting on 15th March sees Rosemary Wheeler present personal memories of Lavenham. All are welcome.

An outing to Renaissance Birmingham is arranged for Wednesday 3rd August where we will go on a canal cruise and visit the jewellery quarter. If interested in joining us please contact:

Joan Pearman 890746

Winning news

THE awards for the best Linton News article and picture of 2004 have been decided,

Prizes of £50 have been given to Darryl Nantais for his April 2004 country diary, and to Graham Potter for his 2am picture last October of the ram-raider on the Co-op.

K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of the February K-Club monthly draw:

1st prize (£50) **Henry Batchelor** (No. 078)

2nd prize (£25) **Ros Markham** (No. 182)

3rd prize (£10) **Bernard Richardson** (No. 176)

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Your chance to join the local health debate

DO you care about local health issues? Are you concerned about the performance of the NHS in your area? Or do you feel your views go unheard?

The largest users of our health services are the very young or the very old. The consequence of this is that many people are apathetic when it comes to taking an interest in NHS performance, unless something goes wrong. However it is worth remembering that we all have an interest in improving standards throughout the NHS and can play our part in achieving it.

PPI FORUMS

Patient and Public Involvement in Health (PPI) Forums have been set up to help you have a much greater input into

decisions that affect your health and the health of your local community. Each Forum is independent and works with, but is not governed by, one of your local NHS Trusts. This means that whichever service you or your family may be using, there will be an independent Forum keen to hear your views.

The PPI Forum for South Cambridgeshire monitors the performance standard of the local Primary Care Trust which manages doctors' surgeries, NHS dentists, opticians, and pharmacists. It also has the power to look at the wider health implications of any issues in the local community, e.g. those connected with social care, transport or housing. Where an issue crosses the

boundaries between two trusts e.g. primary care and mental health, the two Forums liaise and act jointly. All Trusts are legally obliged to listen to the Forum and provide a satisfactory response.

Your PPI Forum is made up of a group of volunteers from South Cambridgeshire who are enthusiastic about helping patients and the public influence the way that local healthcare is organised and delivered. The current member for Linton is Enid Bald.

The members are currently looking at issues including care in the community, mental health services, GP inspections, and older people's services. Your Forum has regular meetings and anyone may attend. The next public meeting is at 7pm on 12th

April at the Cathodeon Centre, Linton.

Alternatively if you have any concerns or issues you would like to raise please contact PPI Forum South Cambridgeshire, c/o Cambridge CVS Forum Support Organisation, 91 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 7BS. Tel. 713011

Better still, if you would like to make an ongoing contribution, why not join the Forum? Currently there are vacancies and the work can be very rewarding. Simply contact the Forum Support Organisation at the above address/telephone number and they will be happy to explain what is involved.

For more information, go to www.cppi.org, and click on 'Find my local Forum'.

Full article on LNT website



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You too can benefit from zoo poo

SPRING is now well on its way! It is so nice to see the first flowers of the year adding some colour to the gardens after the drab winter months. The hundreds of hyacinths planted in November will provide a stunning and highly perfumed display for several weeks.

If you have ever wondered how we achieve such beautiful gardens at the zoo the secret is in our special home-made compost. Every autumn a mulch of our special mixture is placed on the flower beds and around the shrubs. As we dig new beds lots of well rotted compost is worked into the ground. Our soil, like the rest of Linton is either very chalky or clay so the compost is essential to give new trees and shrubs a fair chance of survival. The result is fantastic.

We recycle as much of our organic waste as possible and our exotic herbivores such as the tapir and zebra make quite a large contribution to our ever increasing compost heap, so much so that we now have a surplus. If anyone is interested in taking some of this exotic zoo poo off our hands, all you need to do is provide us with a trailer for a few days and you can collect it loaded with organic waste ready for composting. You too can have beautiful flowers like ours! Please telephone 891308 to discuss.

Spring of course is the time of the year when most of the zoo babies are born.

We are waiting for our next tapir calf and we expect the happy event to be around Easter. Tapir are pregnant for 13 months, so predicting the exact due date is sometimes difficult. This will be Shannon and Tanya's eighth baby.

The tiger cubs are still as cute as ever; they are very mischievous and are giving their mum Deja quite a hard time as she tries to keep the three of them in order. The cubs have recently discovered that they can now see through the observation window and this has become quite a source of amusement for them as they interact with visitors through the glass (not to mention how thrilled our visitors are to get so close to the cubs).

The cotton-top tamarin



Zebras are a major contributor to the zoo poo mountain that is accumulating at Linton

Pictures by Kim Simmons

twins are now six months old, about half grown, and now spend lots of time on their own. They already eat an adult diet of fruit, vegetables and cooked eggs and meat and are more or less weaned. Their father, older brother and sisters still help with their daily care but are beginning to find them a bit too heavy to carry around; it seems that mum has got off lightly.

Our pair of mongoose lemurs Michael and Catherine recently made the news as a nice Valentine story. Eighteen-year-old Michael was born in America and six-year-old Catherine is the oldest daughter of an established group here at Linton. As lemur daughters often do, Catherine had a fall-out with her mother and had to leave the family group.

Michael is genetically quite important in the mongoose lemur breeding programme so he was brought to Linton to see if he would pair with Catherine and as he is quite old for a lemur, still be able to breed.

It seemed that Catherine obviously thought that experience is more important than age and Michael's leaping and acrobatic skills somewhat impressed her. Their relationship has strengthened too and we believe that any time now we may hear the patter of tiny lemur feet.

Mongoose lemurs are threatened with extinction in their native Madagascar due to habitat destruction and alteration. The European captive breeding programme is managed by Linton Zoo. Four spe-

cies of lemur, red-ruffed, red-bellied, sclaters and white-collared, have now been moved into the free-range lemur area. Visitors will be able to see the lemurs for a very close encounter as part of our "special experience days". The lemur keepers will give guided tours in the lemur enclosure to people wishing to find out more about these wonderful creatures.

Easter and weekend activities

As part of our commitment to environmental education we will continue with an exciting and interactive programme of events and activities aimed at both adults and children. (Also available for pre-booked school visits).

12 pm Tapir feed and keeper talk.

12.30pm Owl encounter.

1.30pm Tiger conservation talk.

2.30pm Snakes, bugs and little beasts.

3.15pm Bird flying display.

Visit our website: www.lintonzoo.com for more details of activities. Phone on the day of your visit to check that the event you wish to attend will take place, as some activities may not be daily and may be affected by the weather. Kim Simmons 891308



Who is playing with whom?

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A ticket to history, based on a wartime ration book

Invitation to share

If you remember ration books like the one above, or are interested in fairly recent history, you are sure to be interested in the 'Oral History Experience' to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war.

Several well-known local speakers will be there, including Mike Petty and Michael Bentinck, to act as catalysts to get members of the audience, who served in the Armed Forces, carried out the vital roles at home or simply lived through these terrible war years, to share their experi-

ences and stories. This will entertain us on the day and ultimately many others around the country via the internet. It is hoped that this will lead, with the storyteller's permission, to the memories being recorded in the BBC's People's War archive.

If you would like to be there on Saturday 16th April at the joint ex-services social club, Barnwell Road, Cambridge please contact:

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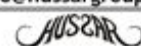
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Volunteers make a difference



Some of the helpers (plus toddler) at work on a little light ‘housework’ in the Pocket Park.

THE response to the plea to come and work hard in the Pocket Park with the Linton Woodland, Water, Wildlife Group on Sunday 13th February was excellent with around 14 hardy souls turning up with a fine array of tools to tackle the jobs. We even had a toddler helping out so it proves there’s no age barrier and there’s nothing like starting young.

Work concentrated on clearing branches overhanging the pond and clearing ditches to help keep them free of the general sludge that stops the water flow. While the Pocket Park

needs to stay ‘natural’ it does need a little light housekeeping to encourage a wider variety of species and to discourage the reeds and brambles from smothering choicer wild plants. The pond for instance could very easily become completely overgrown with reeds and eventually be invisible, likewise some of the water courses.

So on Sunday good head-work was made and those of you who regularly enjoy walking around the Pocket Park will notice the difference. The opportunity was also taken to



Pictures by John Shambrook

plant some primroses. Only native species will be introduced as and when stock plants and suitable sites are available.

There is a list of all the species found growing in the area when it was first given to the village but many of these have since died out.

Another Sunday is planned so please keep an eye open for the date and come along and help. It was very rewarding and we also all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. A big thank-you to all who helped.

Any enquiries to:
Judy Rossiter 891383

Forever green

THE “Sherry and Short cake” fundraising event on 29th January was a great success, raising well over £400. It was a jolly event, not all due to the sherry....in fact, there is still some remaining, so I reckon we might have to have another next year!

This event was for the work of the mobile warden, but neither Venetia nor Lynne could make it as they were victims of “Nurses’ Back”, poor souls, so Age Concern, who organises our warden service, was represented by Pam Nicholas. The library service, the family resource centre and S’ Mary’s put on displays of their work, Margaret Clark sold cards, etc. and the raffle, “bring and buy” and tombola were a great success. Our grateful thanks to all who have supported us.

The Evergreens, who have done such sterling work over many years have now closed; a great loss to Linton. They have passed on the balance of their funds to ACE; we will make good use of it. Many thanks to Dot Pedder, John Linsdell and the committee for their kindness. We hope that all of the Evergreens will be part of the ACE events; you are always most welcome.

We have also had an award of £1000 from the Co-op group. This is much appreciated—guess where we will be buying all of our supplies in future!

On Thursday, 14th April there will be a coach trip around Cambridge, then on to the Fitzwilliam Museum, leaving the Village Hall at 10.30, back at 3.30. Names to Gill/Dawn on 891001 as usual.

Enid Bald 891069

Oxfam walk 2005



Last year’s walkers enjoying the sunshine en route.

Picture by Mike Crofts

WHY not spend an enjoyable day walking in the Cambridgeshire countryside with your family and friends to raise money for Oxfam’s Emergencies Fund. This year, we aim to raise £50,000 for the fund which helps communities affected by natural and man-made disasters. Your sponsorship money could help people suffering from the tsunami in Asia as well as the other continuing crises around the world.

We have an exciting new look to our walk at Wimpole Hall. There are three circular routes which can be combined to create your own marathon challenge. Walkers can choose either a marathon walk (26 miles), a half marathon walk (13 miles) or a mini-marathon walk (four miles). A 22mile walk is also available. All walks encounter the delights of rural countryside, are well marshalled and have checkpoints en route with refreshments available.

To add to this exciting

event, there will be live music, children’s entertainment and further sales of refreshment at Wimpole Hall.

There will be a free shuttle bus service from Cambridge and free car parking at Wimpole Hall. The first 1,000 walkers receive a complimentary bottle of water and bar of Fair Trade chocolate courtesy of the Co-operative group. Pay in your sponsorship money by 31st July 2005 and you will receive a complimentary two-day pass from Greens Health and Fitness.

For an entry form, please phone 502798 or email oxfamwalk@btopenworld.com or visit our website at www.oxfam.org.uk/walk

If you would like to volunteer to marshal or steward please contact Carrie on 891921 or email caroline.travers@amherst3hl.fsnet.co.uk Marshals and stewards also receive a free Greens’ Health and Fitness two-day pass.

Cecilia Hollick

An amazing day-out in Balsham

BALSHAM Manor is having an open garden day from 1pm-5pm on 20th March in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. Refreshments will be available and there is a new garden area to see - plus, of course, the wonderful maze. More information from:

Hilary Potter on 891211

A diary from India

IN January’s LNT you may remember the report about the money raised by Gary Dixon at a Christmas Party in December. As a follow-up to this the editor asked Gary if he would keep us up to date with his venture in India.

On 21st January, Gary flew out to undertake a year’s voluntary work at a children’s orphanage in Chennai. The following has been taken from his emails, outlining his first impressions of the place that will be his home for the next 12 months:

“It’s not like they said in the brochure!

It’s hot here but not uncomfortable - yet Chennai (or Madras as it used to be called) is a pretty amazing place, but it does take some getting use to. It’s filthy and there is poverty evident on every street corner, and if you allowed yourself to dwell on it you would go crazy, but its people are the friendliest and most helpful you could

wish to meet. And the food is really nice, particularly if you can stomach curry morning, noon and night.

The rickshaws are good fun and very cheap too, but with no TV or other distractions, and without the need to be anywhere at any particular time, it is nice to take a walk along the back streets and get a real feel of the atmosphere and the people.

They don’t see many westerners and they all stare or come up and make conversation. It was a very strange experience at first, but never unnerving as all looks and offers of a chat are accompanied with wide smiles and welcoming gestures.

The orphanage/school is huge and sits in 28 acres. The building must have been quite something, but now it seems all it can do is just about remain standing - I can see I’ve got my work cut out.

The children are really spe-

cial and even if this were a charmless pit of a place (which it is not) I would still feel compelled to stay. When I first arrived I inherited instantly more than a hundred new friends and I know they will play a large part in getting me through the rough times that are bound to be ahead. I’ll tell you more about them as individuals as I get to know them better.

My room at the orphanage is basic but not unpleasant, and I’ll be able to brighten it up with photos from home. I’ve been lent a guitar which I think will prove invaluable for evening entertainment (for myself anyway).

Anyhow, I had better head back to my digs as it’s just gone 11pm here. (It’s a race against time in these Internet cafes; and why they’re called ‘cafes’ I don’t know, as I’ve not been offered a single drink yet.) I’ll email again soon and keep you all up-to-date on the India experience.”

Garv Dixon

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Enterprising college students set their sights on the City



Dhiren Vekaria, Megan Hill, Matt Fiddy, Anna Mudge and Jamie Harris at their stall in the Grafton Centre.

As part of LVC's activities as a Business and Enterprise College, nine students from years 10 and 11 have been taking part in the Young Enterprise Challenge. This involves setting up and running a small business. The LVC team is currently in competition with other local schools and colleges and the aim is to run the most successful business. Success is judged on product originality, quality, customer satisfaction and overall effectiveness in running the company.

LVC's company, VEX, produces customised etched glassware. The team has produced a range of original designs and can also reproduce items such as sporting logos. Products include both standard items and customised articles made to order. Since starting the project, the team has established the company, identified specific roles for each of the team members, produced the designs and set up a facility to manufacture the etched glasses. Production started in November and the highlight of the project so far was taking part in a trade exhibition, along with the other Cambridgeshire schools on 5th and 6th February, in the Grafton Centre. The LVC team was awarded the prize for the best product and took over £200 during the weekend. The performance was especially good as all the other teams were sixth formers and LVC were the only contestants under 16.

The team is now looking forward to competing in the local heats of the competition in April. If successful, they will move on to the regional finals. In the meantime, VEX is continuing to produce items. These will be on sale at the Farmers' markets held at Linton Village College on 5th March and 2nd April. VEX is also happy to take orders for personalised designs, and more information may be obtained from Anna Mudge, e-mail: muges.linton@btinternet.com or 892737.

The team is: Matt Fiddy, Anna Mudge, Emily Kenzie, Dhiren Vekaria, Sophie Jones, Peter Robinson, Lee Chillingworth, Jamie Harris and Megan Hill

Thanks are also due to M^r Tom Minnock at LVC and our business advisor, M^r Alan Wheeler at Redback Designs.

Anna Mudge

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/0141/05/F Hundred Houses Society, Phase 2 Chalklands, Linton, Erection of 20 affordable dwellings.

S/0150/05/F M^r & M^s D L'Angellier, 28A The Grip Linton. Extension.

S/0189/05/F M Taylor, 30 Brinkman Road, Linton. Extension.

S/0227/05/LB M^{rs} C Connell, Middle Swan Cottage, 67A High Street, Linton. Installation of flexible flue liner to chimney in lounge and extension of hearth.

S/0245/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Hadaway, 76 High Street, Linton. Extension.

S/0274/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Buckton, Priors End, 36 The Grip, Linton. Alterations - conversion of lean-to porch/utility to entrance hall with resited doorway, conversion of larder to utility room with resited boiler, relocation of larder and extension of bathroom to form new shower room with entrance lobby, replacement of corrugated roof with natural slate, conversion of first floor bedroom to bathroom. Changes to outbuilding to form studio with altered fenestration and new natural slate roof replacing corrugated material, enlargement of garage and re-roofing in natural slate.

S/0275/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Buckton, Priors End, 36 The Grip, Linton. Extensions to dwelling and alterations to outbuildings.

A bolt from the blue

DID you know that a bundle of cut willow is called a bolt? From eel-catchers to the frames of Guardsman's bearskins, Sandra Barker, a member of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers will make anything from anything that can be woven including rush, cane, brambles and straw as well as willow.

Wearing a pretty blue-trimmed straw hat of her own creation, she showed how to make the bases of baskets and the strong weave required to stabilise our garden plant supports, also allowing us to handle the many examples of her work which she had brought along.

Sandra became a basket maker 30 years ago starting with miniatures for which she earned 10p each. Her enthusiasm for her job shone through as she told of the uses of woven materials in the Far East and of tightly woven baskets in ancient Egypt which were so strong that they could hold water. In England, rushes have been used to make roads in the Fens and even the mighty British Navy uses wicker fenders to berth its destroyers.

Unfortunately Sandra played to a rather small audience, but several dextrous members joined her during the refreshment break to try their hands at her craft, with varying degrees of success!

Further to the list of photo subjects which appeared in last month's column, may I add that prints must be unmounted, no larger than 8" x 6" or equivalent area, first time entries in the Linton Club's Show and limited to four per adult category.

The Gardening Club's next meeting on 8th March will feature a talk by Susan Lindsell entitled "From wheat to vine". This tale tells the story of her family's efforts to turn part of a local arable farm into a vineyard. There is a rumour that there may be samples....

Gloria Fidler 891800

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

Serious village fire destroys two thatched cottages



Linton ladies doing their best to put out the fire.

TWO fires in 1909 and 1910 changed the appearance of the village as you approached it from Cambridge and Horseheath. This month I will deal with the fire at the corner of the Balsham Road on Monday, 10th May 1909.

Around mid-day, one of M^{rs} Creek's ten children ran into his mother's kitchen and shouted, "Look mother, there's a bonfire on the roof." She ran outside and saw smoke coming from under the eaves. She rushed next door to warn her neighbour, M^{rs} Norden and she called out the Linton fire engine.

The Napoleonic engine was housed in the old Market House, now the cobbled area opposite North's bakers' shop. Captain Gimson and three firemen raced to the scene, but by the time they arrived flames were bursting through the thatch of M^{rs} Creek's cottage.

The two cottages could not be saved. The old engine only had a manual pump and its tank had to be filled with buckets. Superintendent Stapleton and Constable Brooks arrived from the police station in Workhouse Lane (Symonds Lane today) and ordered the soaking of surrounding properties to stop

sparks spreading the fire. Many men were at work so "the weaker sex" came from their washtubs and saved as much of the furniture as they could. They organised themselves into lines to pass water buckets from the nearest well, 100 yards away.

Some men assembled and watched the women at work, but did little else. One man is reported to have commented that, "the women were only in the way and might as well return to their washtubs!"

The men and boys remained as idle spectators until a chauffeured car drew up carrying M^{rs} Brocklehurst, the formidable wife of the wealthy vicar of Bartlow. She immediately took control of the chaotic situation and reprimanded the lazy male

onlookers. She shouted, "If you are too lazy to lend a hand, I will" and seized a bucket and joined the female line. Her comments shamed the men into action and they rushed, somewhat late, to join the bucket line.

Water was still in short supply and the local children watched the fire rather than returning to school for their afternoon lessons. By 8pm the cottages were a heap of smouldering rubble, but all the surrounding properties had been saved. Damage amounted to £200 which was all covered by insurance.

The owners were the Oddfellows Friendly Society and they rebuilt on the same site the present day white brick semi-detached houses which front the High Street.

M^r William Norden had conducted his farrier, blacksmith and tyresmith's business on this site and he later moved his premises to the rear of the Bell Inn.

A second disastrous fire in 1910 convinced the Linton Parish Council that they needed to replace their antiquated fire engine with a more modern appliance. I will cover the 1910 fire next month.



The view before the fire in 1909, looking along the High Street with Balsham Road going off on the right

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THE LINTON NEWS

Next Publication Date 4th April 2005

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Parish Council Matters

TRIAL ONE-WAY SYSTEM UPDATE

FOR some years now, many residents have felt that introducing a one-way system for the High Street could help alleviate traffic problems in the centre of the village. Of course, not everyone takes that view, reflecting the fact that like most changes to the road network, a one-way system has potential disadvantages as well as benefits.

This was born out by residents' responses to the questions and options in the Parish Plan questionnaire. There was a clear majority in favour of a one-way system in principle, as long as there was a trial period first, to properly assess the effect on the village as a whole. The Parish Council adopted the Parish Plan in April 2004, including the proposal to test a one-way system. In November 2004 the County Council indicated that they hoped to secure sufficient funds to include the one-way trial in their schemes for the financial year 2005-6.

On January 25th the County Council presented a proposed trial one-way system to the Linton Steering Group, on which the Parish Council has two representatives. The Steering Group was asked to comment on the scheme presented, though it was clear the County Council were not anticipating major alterations. As one of the organisations the County Council is required to consult, the Parish Council was notified of the proposal on 8th February and its own Traffic Working Party met on the 10th to review it. Some changes had been made to the original design presented to the Steering Group which reflected views expressed at that meeting. It is possible that there may be further modifications to the proposed trial reflecting com-

ments from other organisations and the wider public. The plan notified to the Parish Council includes the following proposals:

- 1) To make the High Street one-way- from east to west- from Balsham Road to Coles Lane.
- 2) To make no changes to Coles Lane.
- 3) To maintain existing two-way traffic in all other areas.
- 4) To introduce four protective parking bay build-outs along the High Street maintaining a minimum road width of 3.4m.
- 5) To introduce temporary parking prohibition (double yellow lines) -for the duration of the trial only- on both sides of Back Road at its junction

Detail of traffic flows and High Street parking bollards

with Balsham Road, extending round to the north and south along Balsham Road, and on the east side of Balsham Road opposite the Back Road junction.

- 6) To alter the pavement/grassed area on the north side of Back Road at the Balsham Road junction to allow large vehicles to negotiate the bend safely.



Temporary proposal for Back Road/Balsham Road

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

ii) There should be no loss of parking space in the High Street to accommodate the parking bay build-outs.

iii) The County Council should consult the ten businesses on the High Street and the Post Office before any decision is taken to proceed with the trial.

iv) There should be continuing consultation with all residents during the trial, and any acute problems which emerge should be dealt with immediately.

The proposed timescale is:

1. March 7th The Area Joint Committee, made up of representatives of the County and District Councils, meets to decide whether to authorise the experimental system.

2. End April likely commencement of proposed trial.

3. End August likely completion of proposed trial.

4. 12th September The Area Joint Committee meets to consider the trial results and decide whether to adopt a one-way system permanently.

Anyone wanting further details or all written comments should contact the Parish Office, The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB1 6JS, or by email on: clerk@lintonpc.org.uk, or tele: C.891001.

Traffic Working Party (LPC)

The Parish Council's Traffic Working Party has asked that:

- i) Alternative parking for residents on Back Road should be investigated - both temporary, and also long term in case the trial is later made permanent

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
Cambridge, CB1 6JS. Tel: C. 891001
www.lintonpc.org.uk
Clerk to the Council M^{rs} Gill Barker,
Email: clerk@lintonpc.org.uk
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& 4-6pm, Tuesday-Friday 9am- 12noon
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View from the chair

WE ARE very well served by the societies of Linton – music, history, sport and games, theatre, IT, environmental work, photography – almost all tastes and enthusiasms are covered. I was so impressed by the sheer exuberance and joy of life of Sandra Barker, who demonstrated her work with Willow, the plants and what can be done with them, at the Gardening

Club. This club has really blossomed and covers so much more than horticulture – it deserves wider support. I now know at least one person who could not only dance “strip the willow” but can now do this with a willow tree or any other green wood.....

These societies, like the Parish Council, only exist due to the hard work of volunteers who give up their time, skills and energy for no reward. We all work together to enhance village life and make living more fulfilling and comfort-

able for the community. It is reward in itself when an event, like the ACES meetings, works well and brings pleasure to others. Thank you to all the volunteers in the village – without you, life would be much the poorer.

Linton has, though, many long-standing and well-documented needs that take hard work and can lead us into controversy. Volunteers spend hours on public meetings, discussions with Council departments and interest groups. They spent days writing, dis-

tributing, collecting and analysing the data for the Parish Plan, to identify and gather opinion on the best way to handle the problems of the village. Linton is finally to see action to address some problems. The working groups have already acknowledged difficulties that might arise and are addressing them. What is wanted by the majority might affect some residents, but the aim is to bring the best results for all. What is important is that residents have had input and that all opinion is heard.

Through the History Society and Garth, we know that the background to some issues is exceeding long - we have had problems with traffic speed, pollution and congestion for centuries. I have just seen a pony trotting through the High Street – this is the traffic that Linton was designed for. Youths on galloping horses are replaced by boy racers, manure by fumes. Nothing really changes.

Linton News donated several large, expensive trees for the Recreation ground to en-

hance the area, provide shade and gladden the heart. What has happened to them and many trees planted by the Tree Warden? Ripped up, broken, trashed. What sort of brute does this? One who thinks that no one can stop them, and they have had too much reason in recent years to believe this. In the future, these selfish pests will no doubt moan that the village is boring and ugly, with nowhere for their children to play in the shade.
Enid Bald
Chairman

Council minutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilmin

AT THE meeting held on 3rd February, 13 members heard C^{llr} Hammett declare an interest with regard Correspondence Item 37.

C^{llr} Hammett further queried from the previous Minutes where exactly Linton Infants School were requesting more street lighting. The Chairman reported that this was within the ‘triangle’ at the entrance in Church Lane. It was further noted that this item had been added to the Council Wishlist.

In Reports from Co-ordinators:- C^{llr} Clay noted that a number of road surfaces in Linton were in a bad state of repair. He reported that the Open Spaces co-ordinators would survey and list the areas of concern and these would be passed on the CC/Highways.

C^{llr} Kenyon reported serious concern over moles on the Westrope Meadows end of the Recreation Ground. There was also some evidence of them on the Football pitch itself. The Clerk was to organise their humane removal. C^{llr} Kenyon further noted some shrub cuttings had been dumped in the Recreation Ground bank. The Clerk was to organise their removal. C^{llr} Kenyon also reported that one of the new trees donated by Linton News, recently planted at the junction of Stantons Lane and the College, had been broken. The Clerk reported difficulty in obtaining repairs to the two streetlights leading to the Drop-in Centre. She was organising to meet with the County Maintenance engineer to rectify the problem.

C^{llr} Rossiter had issued a written report regarding Rights of Way noting that she was to ‘serve’ on the Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum. Discus-

sion the took place regarding Furze Hill, designated as Heath Land and owned by Pampisford Estates. C^{llr} Rossiter noted that the Ramblers Association (RA) were expressing an interest in obtaining access to this land.

C^{llr} Rossiter then reported that she had now collated all the responses to the recent consultation on alterations to some rights-of-way. There had been an extensive reply from a local resident, John Whittle, who organised local walks. C^{llr} Rossiter suggested a letter should be sent to thank him for his input, suggesting he may like to come to the meeting where these comments will be reviewed. This was agreed by the meeting. It was further agreed that this item would be placed on the next Agenda.

C^{llr} Rossiter had issued a written report regarding the Parish Plan with specific regard to the Linton Area Pool Project. It was noted by the meeting that detailed plans and costings were now necessary to further the project. The meeting noted some £3,650 available funds from the £5,000 originally set aside to further this aim. C^{llr} Gore proposed that £500 from the LAPP fund be given toward the detailed plans and costings. This was seconded by C^{llr} Urwin and

agreed unanimously by the meeting. C^{llr} Batchelor reported that Clive Bush, at a recent Governors meeting, had reported that the Governors of the Granta School (SEN) were also in full support of the Pool project. C^{llr} Rossiter then reported that it would be extremely useful to Clive Bush to have recent documented support from the Council regarding the Pool. It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded.

C^{llr} Rossiter then noted that the Linton Steering Group had met recently regarding the proposed trial of a ‘One-Way’ system in the High Street. She stated that the detailed plan showing the ‘trial’ was the one favoured by residents of the High Street and Back Road from all the variations offered in the Parish Plan.

C^{llr} Urwin then noted that all Councillors had received Notes of the Steering Group meeting this evening, including a copy of the plans. It was proposed to hold a Traffic Working Party meeting on Thursday 10th February at the Village Hall at 8pm, to make recommendations regarding the proposals to the next Full Council meeting. Any councillor who wished to express views or concerns should do so either to a TWP member or come to the meeting.

C^{llr} Rossiter reported that the

Linton 3W’s are now members of an organisation called ‘Rivercare’. They will be tidying up this area prior to the ducks nesting time. C^{llr} Kenyon queried whether a sign could be put up stating that the wild flowers were ‘protected’ and should not be picked. Discussion took place regarding this, and the ducks nesting time and it was agreed an article should



newly acquired Glebe Land

be placed in the Linton News advising residents.

The payments due were then considered and agreed with C^{llr}s Bald and Batchelor signing the cheques.

From the correspondence received the following were of particular note:-

Item 29 – M^r Harris – Request for Fair on Recreation Ground 18-21 May. Discussion took place and it was agreed this could proceed at the usual cost.

Item 31 – Quotation for tree works in Cemetery – It was agreed the works should be carried out @ £265. Finance Committee to consider which budget.

Item 33 – Moore Stephens – Council auditors required more information. This had been dealt with.

Item 37 – Magpas First Responder Unit – Request for donation. Council discussed this request and it was agreed that clarification of proportional benefit to cost would be required. Finance Committee was requested to ascertain residue in Section 137 budget and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Item 26 – SCDC – Letter of



reply to resident regarding allotment land. C^{llr} Batchelor reported that both Hildersham and Balsham had available allotments at this time.

The Chairman then reported a late item of post. The Clerk, Gill Barker, had tendered her resignation. It was with great regret that this had been received; the council agreed and was unanimous in wishing her well in the future. She would be greatly missed. A copy of the letter was circulated. It stated that she wished to leave at the end of May. The Chairman noted that a Staff Committee meeting would be held immediately after Finance Committee today to discuss the way forward. All Councillors who wished to, should attend. C^{llr} Gore stated that as the Chairman at the time of M^{rs}

Barker’s commencement as Clerk, it was with regret that he had heard this news. M^{rs} Barker was Clerk throughout the Cathodeon project and was steering Council through Quality Parish status.

C^{llr} Urwin reminded the meeting that the Traffic Working Party would meet on Thursday 10th February at the Village Hall at 8pm to discuss the CCC proposals for a trial one-way system in full and make recommendations to the next Full Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that the distributor for the Linton News had recently reported damage to his vehicle whilst delivering the paper through a pothole in the road. The County Council had been unwilling to entertain any claim. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would assist the distributor with furthering his complaint to the County.

The Clerk also reported concerns raised in the office with regard High Street parking around the Bakers, funeral directors and printers. It was unknown why there was a sudden increase in traffic requiring parking space in this area. The Clerk had asked the local shopkeepers and residents to keep a list of registration numbers. This was discussed by the meeting and agreed that Traffic Working Party should investigate whether a ‘day-time’ waiting restriction would ease the problem.

C^{llr} Urwin reported problems, again, with collection of the plastics recycling banks. The Clerk was asked to organise an article in the Linton News requesting residents not to drop off bags of plastic if the banks are full.

The meeting closed at 21.16.

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