

Easter Fayre and
Easter egg hunt
1-5pm on Saturday
7th April
at Symonds House

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Leslie is still singing at 90

LESLIE Allison celebrated her 90th birthday in February. The Australian themed party was organised by Janet Conochie and her fellow choir members. Leslie told me that it was absolutely wonderful and the first thing she noticed were all her old family photographs mounted on the walls of the Pavilion. These were provided by her cousins who had flown over from Melbourne.

There was Australian bunting everywhere and each table had an Australian animal holding its country's flag. The delicious food was provided by the choir with Leslie making 50 asparagus rolls herself. Eileen Impey made a wonderful birthday cake, which was iced by Pamela Richardson and topped with beautiful multi-coloured rosebuds. Robbie Barrett played old favourites on her keyboard throughout the party. The choir sang several Australian songs including Waltzing Matilda and Gordon Cummings read several poems by John Betjeman, Leslie's favourite poet.

Leslie was born in Melbourne, her father having been sent to Australia to be brought up by his uncle when his parents died. So after her party she and her cousins visited Truro in Cornwall to search for family roots. Leslie had already been in



Leslie Allison, an amazing lady, still going strong at 90

Picture by Ann Macer

touch with the Cornwall Family History Society who had provided her with a great deal of information. This enabled her to visit what she called her ancestral home in Kenwyn, Truro.

During the war Leslie worked for the Matron in Chief of the Australian Army Nursing Service, a job which she found very interesting. She met Norman, her future husband, when he and his wife used to visit their relations in Melbourne. After Norman's wife Doris died he continued to visit Australia and see Leslie and they eventually married there in 1997, after which they left Australia to live in Linton. She very quickly got involved in village

activities, joining the History Society, the Gardening Club and eventually becoming secretary of the WEA.

As she had sung in her church in Melbourne, Leslie joined the Linton church choir and is still an active member. The choir recently sang at Evensong in Ely Cathedral and are hoping to sing at St Alban's Cathedral sometime in the future. The weekend after I spoke to her, Leslie and a small group were going to Buxton in Derbyshire to sing.

It is difficult to imagine Leslie being the grand old age of 90 as she leads such an active life and has so many interests.

Georgina Page

Raising funds for the Village Hall

ORIGINAL art will be available from 10am on Saturday 21st April at the Spring Fair in the village hall where there will be a display of hundreds of paintings in oil and watercolours by Charles Ketteridge.

Charles was painting until just a few years ago—you may have seen him drawing and painting many of the cottages and churches in Linton and its environs.

Paintings are available in either watercolour (unmounted and unframed) or oil (unvarnished and unframed) each for a donation towards the village hall.

Charles, who was born in Ashdon in 1921, has lived in Linton since the early eighties. He has had paintings exhibited in the past in Cambridge, north-east



Picture of Charles Ketteridge as a young man supplied by his son, Malcolm Ketteridge

England and in Yorkshire. He has recently moved out of his house and is in Symonds House care home. He will be 91 this year and has become almost blind.

Charles has asked that his pictures be disposed of for the benefit of the community. The pictures are being made available by his son Malcolm, who has recently moved into the village. Some of his pictures are also being made available in the north-east by his daughter and son in law.

If you would like an original piece of art of subjects around Linton, Ashdon and Saffron Walden, come to Linton village hall on Saturday 21st April.

Put this date in your diary now so that you do not miss this unique opportunity.

Malcolm Ketteridge

The Spring Fair is in aid of the upkeep of the village hall, you can book tables by calling Sue Parry, the clerk, on 891001 and don't forget to come and buy on the day.

PLODDING ALONG: An update on police matters

Sadly we have several police articles which need to be reported this month. One is particularly unpleasant so I have decided to put them all on the front page. Editor

Not sure? Don't open the door. Ane appeal for witnesses

WE are appealing to anyone who may be able to give us any information regarding two males acting suspiciously in the Linton area.

On Tuesday 13th March at around 6.45pm two males attended a property in The Ridgeway. They knocked on the door and asked to see the electrician to the property saying that a neighbour was having problems and they needed to check them. The elderly occupant of the property let them in.

The first male is described as white, 16 to 20 years of age, 5ft tall with black curly short hair. He was wearing a navy jacket, navy trousers and black lace-up shoes. The second male is described as white, 41 to 60 years of age, with dyed black hair, 5ft 6ins tall and spoke with an Irish accent. He was wearing very dark clothing.

After letting the men into the property the victim noticed the older man come out of the bedroom and then both left the property. An amount of cash was taken together with two items of jewellery. It is not known whether these males were in a vehicle.

Were you around The Ridgeway/Bartlow Road area of Linton that evening? Did you see anyone matching the descriptions above? Were you subject to a knock on the door asking whether your electrician could be checked? Have you recently seen anyone matching the above descriptions, maybe cold calling in the area?

If you could help us with our enquiries, please telephone 101 and ask to leave your details with the Linton Safer Neighbourhood Team regarding a recent distraction burglary.

Please get the word around to your friends, neighbours and relatives regarding this incident and please continue to report any suspicious activity in your area. Your information is gratefully received.

Remember:- Legitimate callers will carry identification and relevant paperwork. Always check to see who it is through a spy hole or through a side window and always put your door chain on.

Most legitimate callers will wait patiently and will be willing to answer any questions—it is good practice among many organisations to call ahead and make an appointment beforehand rather than turning up on your doorstep unannounced.

Not sure? Don't open the door.

Leanne and Chris, PCSOs for the Linton Safer Neighbourhood Team

Phone scam warning

POLICE are warning people to be vigilant after reports of a telephone scam.

Several people have contacted police after receiving calls requesting their bank details. The scammers, who have the name, date of birth and address of the recipient, claimed they were entitled to a refund from their banks before asking for their details. When they refused to give the details, the caller threatened to black list their account.

A police spokesman said: "I would urge people to remain vigilant and never disclose personal information such as bank account details over the phone."

If you get a call offering you something that sounds too good to be true, it generally is.

Note on new 101 number

THE new 101 number was introduced on 21st September and at the end of March the old 0345 number will fall out of use. The number change is part of a national scheme to make 101 the single non-emergency number in England and Wales. The system has been designed to recognise where the caller is dialling from and connect them with the local police service.

If a caller does not want to speak to their local force they will be given the option to be connected to a different one.

People should continue to call 999 when an immediate response is needed because a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby or someone is in danger.

Police HQ, Hinchbrook Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6NP. Tel: 01480 422393, Fax: 01480 422674, E-mail: press.office@cambs.pnn.police.uk, Web: www.cambs.police.uk

Some important changes to Helping Hands

AFTER some 12 years of loyal service to the Association Alex Todd has resigned as chairman. Alex has served us faithfully over the years, both as administrator and driver and we are sorry to lose him. We are pleased to welcome Don Mulholland as his successor who will also act as my deputy.

All new clients requiring assistance should call the co-ordinator first and if he is not available then call the deputy. Please do not leave messages on an answering service as they may not be picked up for some time.

Don Mulholland, deputy 890444.
Bruce Conochie, co-ordinator, 894460

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: Mission to make new sweets



Willy Wonka approved sweets

Picture by Sue Morgan-Jones

ON Wednesday 29th February Willy Wonka set a challenge for Year 3 to make new sweets and boxes to go with them.

We started with making paper boxes to know what we wanted them to look like and measured them to make sure they would fit through a letter box.

At 2.10 pm we had Design and Technology. First we looked at other sweets to help us name our sweets. Then we designed a smaller version of our boxes in our sketchbooks to be ready for our design on

card the next day.

So on Thursday 1st March we put our design onto the card and started making our boxes. The next day we finished our boxes and made sweets to go in them.

We also wrote a letter to Willy Wonka to persuade him that he should sell and eat our sweets, and wrote instructions on paper of how to make our boxes.

Everyone in the class enjoyed doing it and Willy Wonka was very happy too!

By Cecelia and Sebastian

Too good for jumble...

Please could the owner of the collapsible dog basket call me again with your name, address and telephone number.

ON offer this month are a Little Tikes junior slide for in or outdoor use - 2ft high with three steps, in excellent condition and a foot controlled potters wheel on heavy metal frame with 10in turntable, an electric Flymo Model HC300 good working order, hand push lawnmower 16inch, similar condition, a Hayter Motif 41 petrol mower, needs new wheel/axle, engine working fine. The toner A30 cartridges for a Canon photocopy FC-1/2/3/5/22 or 6/7/11 and the Degas framed print Dancing class 18 in x 24 in (perfect condition) are still available.

The walking boots raised £5 for the British Heart Foundation, the breadmaker and the microwave made £30 for the Beacon Trust.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Kate France 891602 or email kfrance@profoundconsult.com

NB The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

Look out for colour in the future

After promising some colour in the Linton News this month you will notice that it is still in black and white. Unfortunately there were not many pictures sent in for this issue, so we have decided to print some colour pages when it is worthwhile.

In the meantime a message to our deliverers, a photographer will be contacting you sometime soon.

Editor

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the LN team.

Despite popular opinion, the ranta is NOT written by the same person each month. If you would like to rant in this paper please contact me at the address on page 3.

SOMETIMES I wonder if life would be simpler if there were not so many rules. Everywhere you look there are signs, notices and orders saying what you can and can't do. It can be so restricting at times, which often leads to people choosing to ignore certain rules, just to make life seem a little less regulated.

There are occasions when an apparently awkward piece of legislation only becomes clear when people start disobeying it. For example, parking outside the Co-op on the yellow lines is an offence punishable with a fine and yet many drivers are happy to do it, fairly safe in the knowledge that they won't be caught by anyone wearing a uniform.

It's easy to think that parking right outside the shop for just a few minutes will do no harm but there are only brief times during the day when the yellow lines are not being obstructed by others thinking the same thing. Sadly, when even this space is full, the yellow lines slightly further on are then also used.

A part of Linton causing concern is the junction of Balsham Road near the fire station. This was not a problem before the introduction of the one-way system. Now, however, a large number of those exiting Balsham Road do so without properly looking to check the road ahead. With traffic occasionally going round parked vehicles, several near-misses have been observed as drivers swing out in the Horseheath Road direction having barely slowed down. I saw a driver wishing to turn right out of Balsham Road recently actually waiting on the right hand side of the road to pull out. Don't we drive on the left any more?

Rule making and breaking is something the parish council has had to contend with recently. Repeated reminders that users of the pavilion on the recreation ground are not to drive on the footpath in order to get there have largely fallen on deaf ears, which is a shame as there are people involved in the running of the pavilion who are also parish councillors. It makes you wonder how and why the message has failed to get through.

It can be of little surprise that there is such a relaxed attitude towards general motoring within the village when its own parish council is setting the example.

For your information, when turning from a side road (Balsham Road) to a main road (High Street) the main road traffic has priority. The same applies from Back Road to Balsham Road. See the Highway Code. Editor

Help Linton Granta Playgroup find the Lost Boys

LINTON Granta playgroup will be celebrating spring in style on 29th April as they welcome families to explore the village and help them search for Peter Pan's Lost Boys.

The Peter Pan Neverland Adventure trail will be similar to last year's hugely successful Fairytale Trail and will involve an adventure trail around Linton, searching for clues and solving the mystery of where the Lost Boys can be found.

There will also be crafts and other fun activities, including songs from Tinkerbell, in the St Mary's church pavilion.

Please come along between

2pm and 4pm and collect your treasure map from the pavilion before setting off on your adventure. The cost will be £2.50 per child, which includes the treasure hunt, a craft activity and a prize. Fancy dress is positively encouraged but not compulsory. The event will hopefully raise much needed funds for Linton Granta playgroup and toddlers, as well as being a wonderful chance for all the family to enjoy a fun day out in our lovely village.

For information about places at Linton Granta playgroup please contact Kirsten Butler at Kirsten.butler@gmail.com or 890861.



Can many hands help us to make light work

WITH the classrooms finished and our new entrance, admin offices and group rooms very close to completion, the governors, staff and children would like to thank everyone, especially our neighbours, for their patience and tolerance during the building project.

Now we are enjoying an improved internal environment we are looking at how we can develop the outdoor space and we have big plans.

Firstly, we have sought funding to develop a peace garden which will have Daniel Meek's memorial flower bed at its heart.

In another space we will be adding a tyre park to develop the children's motor control. This is being funded by our very generous Parent Staff association.

In addition, to encourage free movement in limited play space we will introduce line drawings such as hopscotch or snakes and ladders.

We are grateful to the Parish Council who awarded us a grant last year. The school council and staff are busy selecting what they would like.

Parents from the school have volunteered to help with this development. However, many hands make light work. If you have a skill or expertise in building/carpentry, or are able to donate timber or building materials, or would like to sponsor a mini project within the larger one we would love to hear from you (office@linton-inf.cambs.sch.uk or 891421). We would love an outdoor stage, these cost in the region of £5,000, which is far beyond our means. If we could resource the materials ourselves and find some willing volunteers I am sure it's achievable for far less. It would be great if we could make this project a community one where old and young come together for positive effect.

Louise Clark

Linton Kumon study centre moves to Cathodeon Centre



Alyssa Pagulayan receiving her certificate from Daniel Smith
Picture supplied by Karen Tumber

ON Monday 20th February the Linton Kumon study centre held its first class at the Cathodeon Centre. Kumon instructor Karen Tumber welcomed students and their parents to the new venue which will provide extra space for the group. Karen said "I have been running the Linton Kumon Centre for the last 16 years and hope to provide the opportunity for students to study the Kumon maths and English programmes for many years to come. The Kumon method encourages students of all ages and abilities to become independent learners, giving them confidence to tackle new material by themselves. Work which was difficult becomes easier with practice and quicker too so the students are always working at a comfortable level while working towards their goals which are set and reviewed regularly."

One student from Haverhill, Alyssa Pagulayan, was presented with her English programme completion certificate by Daniel Smith from Kumon International UK Head Office. He congratulated her on her achievement, praising her diligence and perseverance and also recognized the support and encouragement given by her parents. He added "To have completed the English programme by the time you are 12 years of age is remarkable and a testament to your excellent study skills which will stand you in good stead for the rest of your life. I feel sure you will succeed academically and wish you well."

Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Mrs Tumber, 893578 or visit the website: www.kumon.co.uk

Linton playground upgrade project – an update

HELLO, I wanted to give an update on how things are progressing with the proposed upgrade of equipment for the under eights on the recreation ground. To recap, the aim of this Parish Council backed project is to raise funds to install some new, much needed play equipment.

After the last Linton News article I was really pleased with the interest in the project – thanks to those who got in touch. So, to date we have applied for two grants to raise money towards our total, with a third application due soon. Fingers crossed. If you feel like getting in touch or to email support please contact me on lintonplayground@gmail.com or call 892614. If you have a few minutes spare please fill in a survey on our Linton Playground Upgrade Facebook page (click on the Survey Monkey link).

Thanks

David Walker

Shoes on for the Wimpole Hooahh

CALLING all runners ... get your track shoes ready for the Wimpole 10k Hooahh.

The Hooahh, in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance, will be run over a multi-terrain course in the stunning grounds of the Wimpole Estate on 20th May, starting at 10am.

There are medals and goody bags on offer for all competitors in the 12 available categories.

Any runner raising more than £25 in sponsorship will also automatically be entered into a draw to win a prize donated by the National Trust.

There will be a grand prize for the runner who raises the highest amount of sponsorship cash over £300. A post-run massage is also on offer.

The Hooahh is open to anyone over 18 and you can register online at www.hooahh.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 18th May and no entries will be allowed on the day.

There will be a race limit of 550.

Hannah Hodgson

L	I	N	T	O	N
S	C	R	A	B	B
C	L	U	B		



LINTON scrabble club meets on alternate Tuesdays from 10am – 12noon in the church pavilion

Cost is just £2.

Dates for the summer sessions are as follows:

1st, 15th, 29th May, 12th, 26th June, 10th, 24th July, and 7th, 21st August

For more information please call 07827 966796



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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested

Dog fouling nuisance, a polite request

Dear Editor

As a relatively new Linton dog owner I am thoroughly enjoying the pleasant walks in and around such a lovely area. I am, however, quite disgusted at the number of irresponsible dog owners who don't clean up their dog's mess. One beleaguered resident has had so many problems it has been necessary to pin a warning note on their gate.

Surely if you are fit and able enough to take on feeding and exercising a dog, then you are able to bend down and clean up after it. It can't be the expense of poo bags, they are available as Nappy Bags from leading supermarkets for less than £1 per hundred. If the idea of completing a walk with one or two bags swinging from your fingers is the problem (these are the badge of a responsible owner) then invest a little at the next jumble sale or charity shop and get a bum bag. Plenty of room in there for a supply of clean bags and a few filled ones until you find a bin, or take it home as I hope you would with other litter.

Whilst on that subject, why is it mostly the people who use take-away food outlets that seem to be the throw-it-away anywhere brigade? Why spoil the area for the rest of us?

Come on Linton, don't be lazy and teach your children not to litter either.

And please non-dog owners don't tar all of us with the same brush. Happy walking.

Angela Bonner
Kingfisher Walk

Camgrain Granta Ranta, a response

Dear Editor

Having listened to well-justified praise at the parish council for Camgrain's help for the Village College during the snow, I was surprised that someone felt the need for the anonymity of Granta Ranta to make what appeared to be the same point, finally wrapping themselves in the local equivalent of the union flag by praising our beautiful and wonderful village. Except that the goal was not to praise Camgrain, but to have a dig at people complaining about minor issues. I don't know who these people might be, but my own concerns involve a major

issue – being kept awake all night for nights on end – even if it only affects people whose houses are not screened from the noise by other buildings. Camgrain has received millions in government grants, and has described its Linton site as the largest grain store in the country. Its activities are therefore a matter for public debate, and there is no good reason why this should be anonymous. In the meantime, we are waiting for the judgement of the local authority ombudsman, who has had the case for fourteen months. John Bald
Symonds Lane

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor

I want to say a thank you for all of you who very kindly collected tokens from the Cambridge News for the Cash in the Community Project on behalf of our new charity Petals.

Your efforts contributed to our award of £242.89 which will fund six counselling sessions for a parent who has suffered the trauma of loss in

pregnancy.

Petals is a new charity being piloted in Cambridgeshire for one year to provide a counselling service for trauma and loss in pregnancy and birth. We require £30k to run this one year project, which will then be rolled out regionally, then nationally to support the 12,000 parents who lose their pregnancies or suffer stillbirth

or neonatal loss, every year.

For more information or to support Petals, please visit our website www.petalscharity.org or contact Karen Burgess on 07855 013718.

Thanks again for your support and to the Editor of Linton News who very kindly squeezed in our item last month at short notice

Karen Burgess

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The life of a racehorse

theW
INSPIRING WOMEN

LIVING so close to Newmarket, many of us are familiar with the Racecourse and surrounding farms but perhaps not with the life of a racehorse.

From a very young age Geoff Evans worked with horses and, as our guest speaker, he gave us a very knowledgeable and explicit talk on the first four years of a racehorse from the time of conception, not a very private affair by any means. Slides were shown of the examination of the mare before the natural mating and the care taken during the pregnancy and then from the birth and arrival of the foal until it runs its first race.

Geoff explained so much that could happen and all the attention the mares received, as so much money changes hands. A champion horse can earn millions in prize money, but nothing compared to what it can make at stud.

When he wasn't tending the horses, the paddock and the hedges required attention and we saw him cooling down in the horse trough on a hot day after such work.

After the first two years a yearling is sold off at Tattersalls and then trained by its new owners for its first race. By then the mother may have already foaled twice and, if healthy, could go on foaling for the next 20 years, which in our years would be 100.

Geoff was an excellent down to earth speaker and was enjoyed by all. He would be donating his fee to his very worthy charity Riding for the Disabled (RDA).

On 1st May our speaker will be Mr Arthur Brookes who will be telling us about the American Cemetery.

Cynthia Norris

Linton's talking newspaper the Granta Grapevine

IN March 1990, a group was set up in the village to enable visually impaired people access to the text of the Linton News. That group is Granta Grapevine and a cassette tape with an audio version of the Linton News is distributed free of charge each month to the village's VIPs. In fact any person who has difficulty reading for whatever reason can receive a copy.

We are planning to distribute in a digital format soon but at present we are still tape based.

The team also records a magazine and is in need of help with its production, so if you are able to assist with this side of the process we would be pleased if you could make contact. We record conversations with local people about their activities and travels and interviews with village business people. This is all edited on a computer and then recorded onto tape.

If you don't have experience of this, then we can show you how and once mastered it can be very satisfying and fun. So, if you would like to receive the tape, or you know anyone who could benefit from the service and would like a copy each month, contact our distributor Roger Lapwood, telephone number 971797.

If you would like to help the group, you can get more information and contact us via our website www.granta-grapevine.org.uk or call me on 893619.

Mike Crofts

Found: a brooch

Dear Editor,

Whilst walking along the road near to the entrance to the Pocket Park on Sunday 3rd March, I found a brooch. The brooch has the word MIZPAH on it.

Would the owner like to contact me on 892314 so that I can return it.
Eunice Goodyear

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 2nd May 2012
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 16th April
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 18th April

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER

We currently have no advertising space

Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse

email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR

Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office

Editor: Wendy Foster email: lneditor@linton.info

phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office, failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here.

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

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY

Conkers children's centre, 9am-12noon, Mon-Thurs call 07768 008919 CC
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH
Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Monday/termtime CC
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays Pavilion
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701) VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30-11.30am Tuesdays LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (349 314) CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays VH
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only VH
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm, Wednesdays until October Pavilion
Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only) Library
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays CP
Buff bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays Ashdon Baptist church
St Mary's church choir trebles, 6.30-7.15pm Fridays St Mary's
Full choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays St Mary's
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
For sports centre courses please call LVC sports centre on 890248

APRIL

7 Farmers' market, 9.30am LVC
8 Easter Fayre and egg hunt, 1pm Symonds House
8 Easter service, 10.30am URC
10 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
10 Gardening Club, 7.30pm VH
14 Music Society concert, 7.30pm LVC
15 Cafe church, 10.15am URC
15 Rob's challenge Paris
17 History Society, 7.30pm VH
17 Storytime, 2pm Library
17 Public meeting about pavilion and rec. 7.30pm LVC
18 CAMTAD, hearing help, 9.30-12noon Health centre
19 Parish Council meeting, 8pm CC
21 Spring Fair, 10am VH
21 Linton Jazz, 7.30pm LVC
22 London Marathon
22 Church tour, 2.30pm Inside Church
28 Tennis Academy play day 9.30am LVC
29 Linton Granta playgroup adventure trail, 2pm CP

MAY

1 Scrabble club, 10am CP
1 Storytime, 2pm Library
1 WL, 7.30pm VH
2 AGM Friends of Linton library, 7.30pm CC
3 Lunch club, 12.30pm White Horse, Withersfield
3 Parish Council AGM, 8pm CC
5 Farmers' market, 9.30am LVC
5 Book Festival begins, see article Various
6 Bartlow Walk, 9am Bartlow
7 ACE outing to Spalding, contact Enid Bald 891069

For Cathodeon Centre bookings contact Sue Mudge, 07765 369266

Library times: Mon closed; Tues 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.

Refuse collection: 10th, 23rd April & 8th May

Recycling collection: 2nd, 16th & 30th April

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reform church, VH village hall

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Slugs prefer Guinness



MARK Ekin from the College of West Anglia provided a comprehensive tour of things sent to bug gardeners and ways to discourage them from visiting your patch in his talk entitled Organic vs Chemical control: An Integrated Approach.

Good housekeeping seemed to be the name of the game when it comes to preventing pests and diseases, with pruning and mulching high on the agenda.

Mark informed us how to get rid of pests without using chemicals. For example, when making a cup of tea, consider boiling a full kettle and using the spare hot water to pour on the weeds in your patio. They will be dead within hours without the need to spray.

Slugs and snails are picky about their beer apparently so do not be tempted to pour cheap beer into your traps. Rather, to catch many more treat them to a good send off with some Guinness! Another tip is to grow marigolds as companion planting to gain their protection and to use the leaves soaked in water for a few hours as a drench that will get rid of spider mite and whitefly.

Margaret Waddy will talk about fragrance in the garden during our next meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th April in the village hall. Do come and join us to be inspired to add extra fragrance to the layers of interest in your garden.

Village photographers are reminded that the show categories are a flower or flowers, sport for 2012, fruit and/or vegetables. A maximum of three unmounted photographs are permitted per category, each of not greater than 40 square inches. An additional category is for a single entry of a black and white A4 borderless photo of any subject.

Kirsten Newble, 892425, lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Meet the team...



Heather joins the team

Picture by Mike Judge

MEET the team takes a look this month at another new member of our team of helpers.

Heather Kendle came forward as a result of one of the editor's appeals for help a few months ago. "I believe in all the benefits that working together can bring to our community,"

Heather said.

"So when Wendy asked for volunteers to help with such a useful newspaper as the Linton News, I thought I can do that".

Heather works as a manager in a high-tech Cambridge company and has lived in Linton since 1990 after moving here from Saffron Walden.

Heather and her husband Alan Baker now live in Back Road in a house they designed and built for themselves on land behind the Post House in Symond's Lane.

Alan, an architect and a retained fireman at Linton, and Heather call the house an ongoing project. They moved in about seven years ago and it is still work in progress.

Heather has an interest in local history and she and Alan enjoy ballroom dancing, although they still have a lot to learn.

LNT

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The 14th Asthma Fair at Chilford Hall



Just two of the interesting items available

Pictures supplied by Jo Fairry



THIS year the Asthma Fair, as it is fondly known, will take place on Tuesday 15th May at Chilford Hall. Entry costs £4 and the fair is open from 10am until 4pm.

Linton's own Rebecca Ilett will be selling her striking and beautiful jewellery at the fair this year. Working from home Rebecca produces silver earrings, bracelets and necklaces. All are very individual and sculptural pieces inspired by her childhood near the beach in Suffolk.

At the fair, now in its 14th year, there will be a wide and exciting range of goods for the home and garden, including cookware, garden accessories, food, clothing, gifts, jewellery, shoes or artwork.

For example there will be botanical watercolours, swimwear, classic children's clothes,

cashmere ponchos, tree seats, handmade journals and tomato chilli jam.

The raffle promises to be the best yet with fabulous prizes donated by local businesses including a limited edition print by Darryl Nantais, a champagne punt tour for eight people from Scudamore's Punting Company, a beautiful pearl necklace from Cellini, a voucher for two people for a day at the races (including a visit to the commentary box) donated by Derek Thompson Races and a £500 holiday voucher from Light Blue Travel.

All the money taken on the door and raised from the raffle and tombola, along with 10% of stallholder takings, goes directly to Asthma UK. We are hoping to beat or match last year's total of £13,000.

Jo Fairry

Cathodeon thanks to Linda



The Cathodeon trustees with Linda, from left: Lynda Martin, Sue Mudge, Andrew Gore (chairman), Linda Pearson, Theresa Bateman, Val Urwin and Jackie Wilson.

Picture by Roger Lapwood

TRUSTEES of the Cathodeon Centre presented Linda Pearson with an inscribed crystal vase to thank her for her work and support over 22 years, during which they acquired the Cathodeon canteen building, re-designed, organised construction and set up the centre and library; through the years of community activities and the past two of building the children's centre.

Kate France

News from the Library Friends

LINTON Library Friends held their inaugural meeting at the library on 24th February. We adopted a constitution and received useful information from Lynda Martin of the library service, on possible activities and arrangements for volunteering.

The proposed new library hours (increased from 20 to 23 per week) are: Mon: closed, Tues: 10am to 5pm, Weds: 4 to 7pm, Thurs: 2 to 5pm, Fri: 10am to 5pm, Sat: 10am to 1pm.

The Friends will hold their first AGM in the library at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 2nd May. If you're interested and haven't yet made contact, please come to the AGM, or email johnbald@talktalk.net.

John Bald

So much going on at the book festival



THE Linton Children's Book Festival will have so much going on you won't be able to choose.

On Saturday 5th May, Windmill House will host a display of competition entries from the schools. Then on Sunday 6th May, history comes alive on Camping Close. Experience the 1648 Linton Rebellion for yourself, alongside Matthew Ward from Horrible Histories.

Throughout the week there will be storytimes in gardens, at the Spotted Giraffe and the Library. An illustrators' show at the Darryl Nantais Gallery and a Potion Trail treasure hunt.

On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May, at Linton Village College, there will be over 25 free events for all ages. A drumming workshop, storytelling, hands-on science experiments,

origami, illustration workshops and for the younger children, they can meet Mog! Some highlights from the programme include: Nick Arnold of Horrible Science fame; Andy Cope and Spy Dog; cooking with Nick Coffey; and Jeremy Strong on Sunday afternoon! Finally, on Saturday 19th May, Tom Palmer will be hosting his popular Football Reading Game – half reading quiz and half penalty shoot out.

For full details, visit the website at www.lintonbookfest.org. Programmes and booking forms will be in every child's book bag in all Linton schools and surrounding villages on 28th March. Many events have limited capacity, so book ahead from 3rd April. We will keep the website updated with availability.

Josephine Paterson, 893582

More on the Bartlow Walk

FOLLOWING the dementia and delirium information last month it is now time to talk about causes nearer to home. For the past five years Linton Health Centre Community Care Fund has received one third of the money raised by the walk. In the early years various equipment was purchased for one of the new minor surgery operating theatres and the three new treatment rooms. We also funded more nebulisers for loan to patients with breathing problems.

In 2011 we helped to purchase a dermatoscope and a new portable ECG. Continuing this theme in 2012, personal 24-hour blood pressure monitors are a target and new equipment for patients to monitor basic parameters, such as BP, in the waiting room.

And the final good cause which the walk supports is the restoration of Bartlow's historic church, where we are virtually at the end of a restoration programme that has lasted over a decade. In that time we have re-roofed the bell tower, installed internal rainwater pipes and new timber louvres in the tower; to name a few. The final work will be the replacement of all the broken and missing glass in the windows. Now we are turning our attention to the conservation of our three wall paintings and in this part of the project we have arranged to involve art and history students from Linton Village College. A true community endeavour.

For more information please go to www.bartlow.org.uk

Graham Howat, 891732, Walk Organiser

Celebrate the Diamond

Jubilee at the Waggon & Horses

THE Waggon is a fun pub with lots of character. It's noted for live entertainment, sports and a friendly local atmosphere. What better way to celebrate the Queen's 60th Jubilee than with some food and fun?

We are planning a rock and roll party, with a hog roast for good measure. Come along between 4pm and 6pm on Saturday 2nd June, for a hog roast and outdoor performance by Jason Bruce and the Rocknauts. At 8pm you can boogie away to a 50s style hop disco in the pub. Regulars love the Waggon and Horses for its community spirit. Your local British boozier is the perfect place to celebrate Queen and Country.

Remember to come along for plenty of fun and cheer!

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Thurs	9-7 pm	Wednesday & Thursday
Fri	9-5 pm	
Sat	9-3 pm	



Linton Country Diary by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams



Tiny miracle in a pile of rubbish

DOWN by the river towards Little Linton, I had a mini epiphany. No, it wasn't an exotic chocolate bar, it was more of an *Auguries of Innocence* moment ... "to see a World in a Grain of Sand and a Heaven in a Wild Flower".

Just as my left foot came to rest on the first step of the bridge, something flickered above. I froze, but for the slow tilting of my head, to view with the least amount of movement – and there was the smallest bird I'd ever seen.

Its body was no larger than the end of my thumb, a sort of overgrown bumble bee with beak and feathers. The excitement was better than any sugar rush as I tracked the course of this fascinating, almost mythical tiny creature. It would rest

but a few seconds before flitting to the next twig, highlighting my limited camera skills.

I'm afraid it eluded the technical age by slipping away during that annoying digital space between click and capture leaving only the beautiful images locked in my mind. However, be assured the little bird was, according to its markings, a firecrest, albeit an exceptionally small one.

Linton is not without legend. For longer than the written word, birds have often been portrayed as the bridge be-

tween humans and worlds beyond our normal experiences. They are depicted as symbols of wisdom, love or war, yet for a bird like the firecrest to be seen by our humble vil-

lage rekindles my belief and hopes to tend with care our precious countryside.

Winter is a great time to spot a firecrest, with trees denuded and the grasses sleeping, the bareness exposes all sorts of surprises.

I've always been proud of our village with its special geological aspects, great community spirit, amazing health centre and ever watchful and hard-working parish council! Yet, stopping to chat by that

bridge with two lovely retired women from another village filled me with absolute shame. They sat hoping to spot a kingfisher, surrounded by piles of litter.

The more I described the intricacies of the local wildlife, the more demoralised I became as it seemed in almost every corner lay old bottles, tins, plastic bags and general rubbish.

Two days ago I took a cycle ride, which confirmed I'm no Polyanna or mini-moaner, but the shameful mess we are now living in exists. True, the spring growth will hide a little but it's still there.

So, citizens of Linton, lend me your ears, eyes, hands and rubble sacks for the sake of a firecrest – and let's clean up.



Williams

Linton tennis academy begins

WITH the summer sport season upon us, a brand new exciting tennis academy based on the four floodlit courts at Linton Village College, opens in April. It will be headed by Lawn Tennis Association licensed senior performance coach Paul Harms, who is new to the area but with 12 year's experience of coaching juniors from scratch to national level.

The programme offers regular weekly coaching and a competition schedule in Linton catering for all ages and abilities.

Assisted by Level 2 coach, Suzanne Pattinson, he will offer after school sessions modelled on the LTA Mini Tennis programme as well as advanced

coaching for older juniors. The details and times are to be found on the website.

The official launch will be on Saturday morning, 28th April with a free Come along and Play Day from 9.30am to 12.30pm on the LVC tennis courts. Please feel free to bring your children along on the day. It will be a great day packed full with games and activities for all ages and abilities.

Even if you can't make the day, please get in touch to organise a free initial session. For more details, visit www.lintontennisacademy.co.uk, phone 07970 701068 or email lintontennisacademy@gmail.com.

Steve Austin

Roll up for the start of a new bowls season

THE new year is well under way and it's time for the Linton Granta Bowls club to begin thinking about the start of their new season.

Bowls roll-ups begin at 2pm on Wednesday 4th April and we would welcome any new members, no matter what age, to try their hand at the game.

The bowling green is situated in the recreation ground at the rear of the football pavilion and we have an agreement with the football club to share the facilities in the pavilion.

The green is an all weather

carpet and is easier to bowl on than the usual grass. We have a regular bowls roll-up every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm-4pm.

Bowls are available for use and there is no strict dress code, just flat shoes or trainers. Members may also use the bowls green at any other time.

If anyone is interested in playing, or learning to play, they can either come to the weekly roll-up or contact me on 890047 or Bryan Beavis on 893391.

Laurie Boniface, secretary

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POT POURRI 85

The next number is ...?

CONSIDER a series: $S_n = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, \dots\}$

Now divide each series value by its number position;
eg. $S(n)/n = \{1/1, 2/2, 4/3, 5/4, 7/5, \dots, 25/15, \dots\}$ etc. Does
this ratio keep growing or reach a limit?

Solution to 84: What are the three digits?

Using simple algebra the three digit numbers are 135, 175, 518, 598.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Learn all about our church

LAST summer Alan Clarkson outlined, in a very informative tour of the building, the 900-year history of St Mary's, our parish church. Not everyone could make the date so Alan has offered to repeat the programme on Sunday, 22nd April at 2.30pm. Meet inside the church – it's an opportunity not to be missed. Admission £4, to include tea and cake in the church pavilion afterwards.

Margaret Clark

Join the Easter egg hunt

THIS year a new Easter event is taking place – a Fayre and Easter egg hunt from 1pm-5pm on Saturday 7th April at Symond's House in Linton. Pitches are available at £5 each. For more information, please contact Shani or Natalie on 891237.

A recital not to miss ...

DESCRIBED as a remarkable talent, viola player Rosalind Ventris performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician around the country. On Saturday, 14th April at 7.30pm, she and pianist Lara Dodds Eden will be playing at Linton Village College. They will perform Brahms' *Sonata in E♭ major*, Hindemith's *Sonata Op11 No 4* and Bowen's *Romance*. Tickets (£10 adult, £2 student and £20 family) are available on the door or in advance from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street, or phone 893480. For more information, please call Linda Bird on 893600.

Come along for storytime

The new storytime dates for the under fives at Linton library are: alternate Tuesdays during term-time only, from 2-2.30pm on 17th April and the following dates: 1st May, 15th May, 29th May, 12th June, 26th June and 10th July. Parent/carers must stay with children. Storytime is organised by library volunteers with the support of Cambridgeshire Libraries.

Anne Worthington, Librarian, Children's Team

Free church welcomes you

THE Linton Free Church will give a warm welcome to you and your family at a friendly service starting at 10.30am on Easter Sunday, 8th April. Afterwards there will be bouncy castle, egg hunt, balloons, bunting, refreshments and posies for the ladies.

Julia Burdett

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The Derbyshire Post



SPRING is here at the College. Daffodils on the verges are in bloom and children are playing outside on the grass. The exams are not yet pinning the children to their desks and the world feels full of possibilities.

Recently I have been thinking about our next steps as a school. I have been in post for six years and I feel that chapter one of my improvement plan is over and a new chapter is opening. We now have the right team of teachers, an incredible pastoral system and a new learning environment, but there are still ways in which we can improve. Our parents, staff and our student council have been asked to share their ideas for improvement with us.

We should all like to see a renovation of our school hall. It is used for school dinners, assemblies and some large group teaching, but it is also the best community and performance space in the area, being used by the Music Society, Drama groups, Jazz Evenings, Aztec Presentation evenings, discos and adult education classes. It is a real hub for community activity but it needs a facelift. The school will find what money it can and the Friends of LVC are already committed to a number of events to raise money for this project, but that may not be enough. It will need re-plastering and decorating, a re-sanded and polished floor, work on the windows, new curtains for windows and the stage plus a re-working of the backstage area and sound system. The cost of this is likely to exceed £50K. A project of this kind requires the involvement and commitment of all the community users so after Easter we will be inviting them to a fund-raising launch event.

In the meantime, if you use our hall with your community group, you might like to start thinking about ways in which you can contribute to the project.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

A night at the races

LINTON Village Cricket Club saddles up for its Race Night on Friday 11th May. Alongside the racing action, there will be a licensed bar and silent auction. Here is a chance to bid for tickets to a match at Lords and a tour of the ground, a signed cricket bat from Nottinghamshire, an MOT from McKenzie and Hayward and much more.

Horses will be under starter's orders at 8pm at Linton Infant School.

Come and have a flutter and raise money towards youth development within the club and much needed kit. It is an odds-on favourite to be a fantastic evening. Tickets cost £10 to include fish and chips (other meal options are available) and a free bet. Please contact Esther Cox for tickets or more information on 891499 or e-mail: esthercox01@gmail.com

Lindsay Levine



The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Gearing up for work at Chilford Hall farm

IN Saxon times counties were divided into Hundreds of about 100 families and Linton was in Chilford Hundred. Before enclosure in 1840 Linton had three large open fields divided into strips, one of which was called Chilford and this encompassed the later Chilford farm. Chilford Hall farm of about 500 - 600 acres, was let for £500 a year. The farmer employed 50 men and 12 boys. The farmhouse was built in the 1840s.

When the Linton estate was sold by the Keene family in 1904 the new tenant of Chilford Hall was Frank Smith, who bought the farm in 1950 for £12,500.

On August 9th 1912 a newspaper reported an amusing story about a troop of Linton scouts who camped in a large tent in Chilford garden. A Guide company camped in Balsham at the same time planned an attack on the rival camp. At 4.30am the boys were rudely



Ready for the working day

Picture from Garth's collection

awakened when their tent collapsed on them.

The girls had marched from Balsham in the dark and removed all the tent pegs. This attack by stealth outraged the boys but the girls made amends by cooking them breakfast.

Mr Sam Alper, a caravan manufacturer in Newmarket, bought the farm in 1966 and enlarged the farmhouse.

In 1971 he planted one acre of vines to start his vineyard and in 1974 Chilford Hundred white wine was first marketed.

By 1975 14,000 bottles of wine were produced and in 2008 the wine won the East Anglian Wine Growers trophy. A sparkling rose wine was introduced in 2003.

Sam Alper was a great benefactor of the village, a county councillor and a generous supporter of the Village College. In 1984 he sold off the main farmland but retained the vineyard, house and barns. He established a successful banqueting and exhibition facility in the barns.

Sponsor a Linton Strider



Al, Bridget, Keith and Stephane ready to run

Picture supplied by Stephane

LINTON with its lovely scenery seems to suit runners and with London Marathon looming, some of them would appreciate your support and donations towards their fund-

raising targets. They are, in no particular order:

Alistair Cooke who will run for the local charity MEDICS and aims to raise £900 for their coffers. MEDICS is an



S/0064/12/FL Mr Joe George, Unit 12A, The Grip Industrial Estate. Change of use of Unit 12a from light industrial (Class B1c) and storage (Class B8) to a gym (Class D2).

S/0311/12/FL Mr Peter Watson, Station House, The Old Station, Station Road, Change of use of Nursery and D1 (Non Residential Institution) and C3 (Dwelling) to B1 (Office).

S/0372/12/FL Pembroke College, Cambridge, Greenditch Farm, Balsham Road. Replacement dwelling.

London to Paris Challenge for charity

MY name is Rob Evans. I'm 22 years old and have been a resident in Linton all my life. After completing my first marathon last year in Paris, I decided to push myself even further this year and have organised the Paris to London Challenge. This will involve me running the Paris marathon on the 15th April and then running the distance back to London to then complete the London marathon the following weekend. I will be covering a distance of 216 miles in eight days.

As well as being a test of my physical fitness, it will be

a test of my mental endurance. I have been training tirelessly over the last few months and have been lucky enough to gain support from Fit for Sport Injury and Therapy Clinic (www.fitforsportclinic.com/) who have been working hard to prepare me for this challenge. They are the same team that helped Eddie Izzard on his famous run around Great Britain a few years ago.

I am doing all this to raise money for the charity Barnardo's whose work for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK is

invaluable.

I invite you to visit my website www.paristolondonchallenge.co.uk where more information on my challenge can be found and a link to my online sponsor form where any donations would be gratefully received.

Rob Evans

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Parish Council Matters

Recreation ground access and parking issues

The parish council invites you to a public meeting to discuss access and parking issues at the recreation ground and pavilion to be held at Linton village college main hall on Tuesday 17th April at 7.30pm - all welcome

LINTON has less recreational space for its population than recommended by South Cambridgeshire district council. Sport is very important to this village, but a safe place to play away from traffic is of equal importance. Linton's recreation ground is a multi-functional site and it is used by many for both recreational and sporting purposes. The pavilion is in the middle of the recreation ground with no dedicated access road and no parking provision, although the area outside the front has been used for parking. The vehicular access used is via the Meadow Lane entrance, and along a designated footpath. Guidance has been received from the county council that footpaths can be used by vehicles to access property and land, as long as they have a 'right to access' over the footpath. There has been a long-standing agreement with Linton village college that vehicles for the recreation ground and the pavilion can use their parking areas. There is now a well-lit disabled access from the village college to the recreation ground as part of the new-build. For security reasons the village college must shut and lock their gates, and part of recent negotiations is an agreement that the college gates will be shut at 10pm on

weekdays, and 6pm at weekends. Although this will accommodate most needs, it will not suit party-goers that leave the pavilion late in the evening. There are plans for the pavilion to be refurbished, and this is likely to attract more users than at present.

The questions that must be answered are which non-emergency vehicles, if any, should be allowed to drive along the footpath to gain access to the pavilion, and where should there be parking provision. At recent parish council meetings there has been much debate on the issue, with arguments both for and against allowing non-emergency vehicles onto the recreation ground.

The parish council wishes to consult the community via a public meeting and consultation.

All users of the pavilion will be specifically invited, as will all nearby residents, but the meeting will be open to all, as this is Linton's largest and most used recreational space.

Please come along and let us have your views. If you are unable to attend this meeting please let us have your comments in writing by Tuesday 10th April.

Parish council

Planning and enlightenment

IT was sad to read the letter from a relative of a resident of Nichols Court, and perplexing that the situation has been misunderstood. Certainly, Linton parish council always welcomed the idea of a higher care unit, and it is pleasing that the community has developed so well. The "comments, policies and procedures" making residents unhappy have not come from us.

Sanctuary Housing has not taken a constructive attitude nor responded properly to the many problems caused by this development, and had declined to attend meetings. Nichols Court now has new management and parish councillors have now had constructive talks with them. Indeed, it is a result of negotiations with the parish council that curtains have been placed on corridor windows and are closed at night, timing of motion sensitive lights has been reduced, car park lights

minimised, and outside lights will now be switched off at 10 pm, so that neighbours can sleep. These measures lower the impact of the illumination, and reduce costs to residents due to unnecessary lighting.

The design and size of the development was always out of keeping with its setting and village needs. Indeed, fewer than half of the flats are occupied by those with Linton connections, whilst there are parishioners needing the facilities Nichols Court provides. Despite many justifiable objections, plans were approved; South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) demolished extra bungalows, gave Sanctuary the land and an extra provision of around £500K. Had our district councillor attended his housing committee meeting, an objection could have been made, and a request for re-consideration of the design. This did not happen, and we were stuck with this

intrusive building.

Seeing Nichols Court from surrounding gardens confirms that neighbours have lost their privacy, are overlooked and can no longer enjoy their homes (which many have worked all their lives to buy) in peace. This is a basic human right that this building has taken away. An oversight by SCDC allowed an electric cable to be installed at the southern boundary, preventing the conditioned planting scheme. There was no lighting plan (another SCDC error) and the parish council has had to fight long and hard to reduce the overbearing amount of lights - who really needs their gardens to be lit all night? The change to reduced and better directed lights has still not been fully enforced at time of writing, and we are still working on that.

The complaints of neighbours are not minor, but serious and well-founded. They have their origins in planning and

other errors at SCDC, which the parish council has worked to minimise. Yes, residents, come outside and look at the building from your neighbours' viewpoint - you might be shocked. Check the facts rather than hearsay. We value the facilities that Nichols Court brings - it is the building that has caused problems, not the residents. The problems are yet to be resolved and SCDC has lessons to learn.

The next big planning issue is potential development following the strategic housing land availability assessment - part of this is possible housing off Horseheath Road.

We know we need some housing (particularly smaller homes) for the village, and there are potential sites for these. We need to do what is right for the whole village, to secure the best future for Linton - for everyone.

Cllr Enid Bald

Annual parish meeting

Tuesday 24th April 2012

THE annual parish meeting is to take place on Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the village hall. The annual parish meeting is not a council meeting, it is a meeting of the parish electorate.

The purpose of this meeting is for the parish council to communicate and explain its various involvements over the last year. It also enables the electors to have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of Linton. The council will review its activities from the previous twelve months, and will also present its audited and unaudited accounts for the year.

As before, we will be inviting all those local groups who received a charitable grant from the parish council in 2011, so that they can report on what they used the money for. We will also be inviting the suc-

cessful applicants who have been awarded grants in 2012, (these are due to be agreed by council on the 19th April) and cheques will be presented at the meeting. Any other organisations are welcome to report on their activities.

We would also like residents to come and tell us what we do well, what we don't do well, what annoys them, what they would like the parish council to concentrate on, or improve, for the benefit of our community. It would be helpful if you could please register suggestions before the meeting, although you are also welcome to just come and ask. The parish council works for the benefit of its electorate, and this really is your meeting to come and see what we do, find out where the parish funding goes, as well as give your views.

Parish council

Noise issues

YOU may have read in the parish council minutes that a dedicated phone number is available to report any noise issues in Linton.

South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) are to carry out 10 random noise readings in the village between now and October. If you wish to report a noise issue please phone 07534 698737 with the date and time so that SCDC can be informed.

Parish council

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001

Clerk to the council - Mrs Sue Parry

Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

Office hours: Monday 9am-12noon and 4-5.30pm, Tuesday-Friday 9am-12noon

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Free Estimates

Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 16th February 2012.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, P Poulter, Mrs A Walker, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). District councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with five members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mannassi and Batchelor.

Disclosure of interest: Under the allotments item Cllr Walker disclosed a personal interest as an employee of Camgrain. Under the access issues to the recreation ground item Cllrs Hickford and Wilson declared personal interests due to living close by.

Chairman's comment: The chair praised a local business, Camgrain, for clearing snow to enable the village college to open.

Public participation: Mr David Walker gave an update on the funding situation regarding the proposed play equipment. Good feedback had been received following his article in the Linton News. He had applied to the Tesco Community Fund and Anderson Trust for funding. He had also earmarked three further funding opportunities. Local businesses and schools would also be contacted. He was again thanked for all his hard work on this project.

Mr Bob Hammett, referring to the allotments statement issued by the parish council, commented that there were discrepancies. He referred to the paragraph regarding the acquisition of land by the county council in 2004 for sports pitches adjacent to the village college. The chair responded that if he (Mr Hammett) believed that something untoward had taken place then he should report the members of the parish council, at that time, to the monitoring officer. Mr Hammett continued to speak however the time limit for public participation had been exceeded and he was asked to stop, but refused. Cllr Cox proposed that Mr Hammett be allowed a further three minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion. A vote took place with six votes in favour and six votes against. With the chair having the casting vote the proposal was defeated.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February: Cllr Bald reported that she had applied for a grant of up to £2000 for hedging and trees for the public open space at Paynes Meadow.

On allotments, the clerk reported that of the 68 letters sent, 40 had so far been returned with 32 people still wanting an allotment and 8 no longer wanting an allotment.

Cllr Champion reported that the Cathodeon Centre trustees were supportive of the centre being designated as a Community Hub. New signage would read 'Linton Cathodeon Centre, Linton Community Hub' followed by the list of main partners.

Cllr Dew reported that remedial work to the lighting scheme at Nichols Court had not yet taken place.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: Following a request it was agreed to invite the fire service to the annual parish meeting on 24th April to talk about recruitment.

Consideration of funding options for Linton youth club for 2012: The chair and Cllr Penfold had met with Rev Steve Griffiths, St Mary's Church, and the chair had met with Caroline Derbyshire, principal at Linton village college, to discuss the provision of youth work to be delivered through partnership. Mrs Derbyshire had pledged college facilities for a further three years and was very positive on the idea of a partnership.

Cllr Cornell proposed that Linton parish council provides funding of £6307 to buy into the partnership for detached youth work with St Mary's Church (incorporating the Beacon Trust) and Sawston and Linton Locality. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion and resolved by the council.

Consideration of access issues and a replacement padlock for the Meadow Lane gate: The chair had contacted Karen Champion, rights of way officer at the county council. She

had confirmed that the public had a right to walk on the public footpath. Prams and disabled buggies etc were included in the right to walk. The Road Traffic Act made it illegal to drive on a footpath but as landowner with private vehicular rights over the land, the PC may allow certain vehicles to access their land by invitation. She advised council to check that the council had private vehicular rights over the land carrying the footpath by checking the deeds. Consequently evidence had been requested from council's solicitors. The chair reported that in discussions with Caroline Derbyshire, principle of the village college, it was agreed that the college was happy to allow parking at the college as long as it did not interfere with college business. The gates would be open until 10pm during the week. The chair had agreed that at weekends the gates would be shut at 6pm, and not 5.30pm as previously reported to council.

The general consensus of opinion was that much thought should be given to overall access, the parking situation at the village college including communication with the caretaker, access for emergency and utility vehicles, access for the disabled, reduction in speed, and most importantly public consultation.

Cllr Potter proposed that council purchases three identical padlocks with a master key facility along with approximately 30 numbered keys, there will be no limit on the numbers issued, each key must be signed for with the understanding that key holders must always lock the gate after them and council can take them back at any time if misused. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by council.

Report on meeting with South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) regarding potential noise from Camgrain: The chair reported that he had met with Mike Hill and Brian Hefnerman from SCDC environmental health for a frank and honest discussion on noise issues in Linton. It was evident that noise was a problem but the source(s) had not been determined. It was agreed that SCDC would carry out 10 random noise readings between now and October. The chair had been given a contact number to phone when there was an excessive noise issue. He would provide a dedicated number for residents to contact him so that he could inform SCDC and they would come out the next day (at the same time) to investigate. All readings would be in the public domain.

Correspondence received for discussion and decision: The county council had indicated that the parish council's offer to fund the whole 20mph scheme might well influence the members' decision on funding from the minor highways improvements budget. Much discussion took place and it was felt that the parish council were unlikely to receive any help with funding. Consequently Cllr Champion proposed that to speed up the process the parish council progresses and self funds the whole project. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cornell. A vote took place with eleven votes in favour and one abstention. Proposal carried.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 1st March 2012.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Mrs S Dew, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, P Poulter, Mrs A Walker and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with seven members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cox, Mannassi and Wilson.

Disclosure of interest: Under the allotments item Cllr Walker declared a personal interest as an employee of Camgrain of which Mr C Fairley is a director.

Chairman's comment: Carter Jonas had held a consultation to develop land adjacent to Lonsdale on Horseheath Road. Residents had commented they thought the consultation had been disappointing and the questionnaires had run out very early in the evening.

It was reported that Linda Pearson had retired as Linton librarian after 22 years of service, she was sent good wishes and thanks for all her help.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February: Cllr Hickford gave out the following telephone number to report noise issues from now until the end of October - 07534 698737. This period could be extended if required.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open spaces and environment: Cllr Bald reported that the remit for the planting scheme at Paynes Meadow had changed and two of the three quotes for the work had been received. However the order for the bare root trees needed to be sent by mid-March. Cllr Bald proposed that the council accepts in principle the planting scheme and the anticipated costs of £1000 for the trees for which a grant had been sought. Council would consider the quotations when the final one had been received. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by the meeting.

Recreation ground: Cllr Cornell proposed that the quotation for £398.10+VAT to purchase three padlocks and 26 numbered keys be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Potter and resolved by the meeting.

A1307, traffic and recreation ground parking: Cllr Champion proposed that the village college hall be hired on 17th April for a 7.30pm start to hold the public consultation on safe access and parking for the pavilion and recreation ground. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved by the meeting.

It was agreed that invitations should be sent to the residents of Meadow Lane, Joiners Road, Dovehouse Close, Stantons and Palmers Close. All users would also be invited to attend and it would be advertised in Parish Council Matters.

Allotments: Mr Wilson, a member of the public, reported that he was very pleased that the council were discussing a second site. In his opinion, this site was much more suitable having no access problems, it would not affect the area of best landscape and the Icknield Way, the soil was better quality and there was not the expense of resurfacing the bridleway.

Simon Hotchin on behalf of the allotments association reiterated that they were a very keen group anxious to help and take on some of the work load of the parish council where possible.

Regarding a letter from Tees Solicitors, Cllr Poulter proposed that the council negotiates directly with the landowner to keep costs to a minimum. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion and resolved by the meeting.

Correspondence received for discussion and decision: A grit bin had been requested by residents of Paynes Meadow. The clerk explained that any grit bin had to be sited on county council land not impeding any footways. However if the parish council was willing to purchase the bin the county council would arrange for it to be sited and filled. Cllr Cornell proposed that a bin be bought at a cost of approximately £150. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Dew and resolved by the meeting.

The county council summer reading challenge at the library had requested a donation. Cllr Cornell proposed that £200 be awarded to support the summer reading challenge. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bald and resolved by the meeting.

Further to suggestions from Mr Moss to improve the Co-op parking and unloading area, and safety concerns at the junction of High Street and Green Lane from Mr and Mrs R Chandler, council agreed that illegal parking outside the Co-op was a cause for concern and especially dangerous for those vehicles accessing and exiting Green Lane. Many thought that the police should take more action regarding illegal parking. It was agreed to forward the letters of concern to the county council highways department and request an urgent site visit to find out what could be done either by the county council or the parish council. It would also be helpful if residents could take photos to highlight the problems there.

Matters for future consideration: Following the public consultation held by Carter Jonas it was agreed to contact them to ask for feedback on the questionnaires. Residents should be encouraged to contact Carter Jonas, South Cambridgeshire district council and the Diocese of Ely with their comments.

Note: Copies of the full minutes, reports and documents referred to above can be inspected at the parish council office.

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