

Winning season for Linton Netball

LINTON Netball Club is celebrating back-to-back promotions after Linton 2 beat tough opposition in this year's play-offs to secure a place in Cambridge and District Netball League Division 3 next season. The promotion caps another strong season for the club. Linton 1 finished in the top half of the table in its first season in the Cambridgeshire County Premier Division, while Linton 3 improved its position and performance in Division 5.

The junior section also continues to grow, with the introduction of a new under-12 training session alongside existing under-14 and under-16 squads. This ensures more young people can enjoy netball and become part of the Linton Netball Club community.



Linton Netball 2nd team squad

In addition to its on-court success, the Club has been recognised by the Cambridgeshire County Netball Association (CCNA) during its celebrations marking the England Netball centenary. Linton was voted Cambs club of the century, and several club members received individual recognition as local heroes, as voted for by netball clubs across the region. The Club is incredibly proud of the award, which recognises everyone who has played for and supported Linton Netball Club over the past 21 years.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Linton Netball family you can find out more information on our website, lintonladiesnetball.weebly.com. We train on Monday evenings at Linton Village College.

Feel free to drop us a message at lintonnetball@gmail.com, check out our Instagram @lintonnetballclub, or come along to training one Monday evening.

Becca Free and Kim Free receiving the Club of the Century award from Liv Petherick from CCNA



Lisa Cooke

The ACE story

MORE than 20 years ago, Enid Bald set up the Linton Village Warden Scheme to help older residents to live independently, offering reassurance to families who may not live nearby. The scheme was established under Age Concern, now Age UK, with support from the District and Parish Councils. Enid also set up a committee to organise social activities creating ACE — Activities and Care for the Elderly.

ACE is self-funding and has always been about simple but important things: companionship, conversation, shared experiences, and sharing time together. Our committee organises four social events and two coach trips each year. We are grateful to the many regular friends who have joined us and helped keep ACE going for so long. Disappointingly, numbers attending some events have fallen, so we have decided not to hold our usual cream tea in August this year. We will still be enjoying our coach trip to Sheringham on 17th September, and our festive buffet will be on 26th November.

We encourage anyone who is interested to come along to a future ACE event. There is no membership fee and no obligation — just come on the day, enjoy the company and see if it is for you. Coach trips do need to be booked in advance. ACE is a relaxed way to meet new people and to feel more connected with village life. We would love to hear from anyone with interests, skills or ideas they might like to share with the group. We look forward to welcoming both familiar faces and new friends at our future events.

For questions about the Warden Scheme, please contact Kim, our Village Warden, on 07931 852019. For queries about ACE social activities, or to book a place on the Sheringham trip, please contact Jan on 01223 892420.

*Jan Sheppard
Chairman of ACE*

Cold water shock

IT'S every parent's worst nightmare: a phone call to say their child is missing in water. Sadly, this is what happened to the parents of Jack Lloyd in April 2025. Jack was with friends at Crown Lakes near Peterborough, but tragically struggled in the water after jumping in. His body went into cold water shock as soon as he hit the water. He went under the water and devastatingly, didn't resurface.

A film called *Cold Water Shock* tells his story, with his father Darren giving a heartbreaking account of the impact the incident has had on him and his family. Fire and police officers also talk about the impact of these incidents, as well as giving advice about what to do to stay safe around open water.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging parents to show the film to their children to highlight the dangers of open water and of cold water shock. The film is available on the Service's website: <https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/cold-water-shock-when-fun-turns-fatal/>.

Statistics show that child drowning deaths in England have doubled since 2019–20. Between April 2019 and March 2024, a total of 165 children lost their lives to drowning.

Our crews attended 38 water rescues last year (between April 2025 and March 2026), including the tragic incident involving Jack Lloyd. That compares with 32 the previous year and a 5-year average of 34. There were nine in-water deaths, compared with seven the previous year. Teenagers aged between 13 and 17 have the highest drowning rate of any age group.

For more information log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

Lent lunches update

IN June, Celia Fisher (Lent lunches organiser) and Anne Parry-Smith (administrative support) were invited to a thank you morning hosted by Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT). ACT explained to fundraisers how donations help with projects such as the newly planned children's hospital and cancer research hospital at the Addenbrooke's site.

The six lunches organised under the auspices of St Mary's Parish Church, Linton, raised £1,287. We are grateful to all those who opened their homes this year, the soup makers and the helpers at each lunch without whom this would have been impossible. Whilst we want to contribute to a chosen charity, equally important is helping people meet old and new friends, as we chat in comfort over a lunch of soup, bread and cheese.

Please look out for notices next February announcing Linton Lent Lunches 2027. The lunches are open to all and you will receive a warm welcome. There is no charge, but donations are invited for the chosen charity.

Celia Fisher and Anne Parry-Smith

Gallery goes wild



Swift by Maureen Williams

THE Flora & Fauna of East Anglia exhibition at the Gallery Above & Beyond is a delightful collaboration between local wildlife conservation groups and six local artists.

Discover what amazing creatures you can see locally, through the lens of photographer Paul Wier. Paul, who works for the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants, will be setting up a Wildlife Trust display with information of local nature reserves that you can visit.

See stunning images created by Ali Ginn, Sachiko Purser, Diana Catchpole, Darryl Nantais and Maureen Williams. as well as original paintings, prints and greetings cards.

Pick up information on how to order or make a swift box with the help of the Linton Swift Project, and find out about the amazing and award winning work of the Linton Friends of the River Granta.

The exhibition can be seen 26th August to 26th September, at 94 High Street from Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Maureen Williams



*Ears of wheat 144 by
Sachiko Purser*



Pigeon by Diana Catchpole

Creativity at the Heights

OUR annual *Creative Arts Week* took place from 30th June to 3rd July, when our usual timetable was suspended so that every class could immerse themselves in a wide range of creative experiences. The week was made possible through the support of talented local artists from Cambridge Art Makers and other special visitors, who inspired pupils with their expertise and enthusiasm.

We also enjoyed our Year 6 performances of *Darwin Rocks* and our annual summer music concert.

The week began with watercolour artist Sunil Kalbandi, who demonstrated his painting techniques by creating a stunning landscape of the Canadian Rockies before the whole school. He spoke about his journey from mechanical engineer to artist, highlighting the importance of creativity alongside STEM subjects. Pupils then created their own watercolour paintings, while Year 5 also enjoyed a dance workshop with LVC students.

On day 2, woodwind maker Daniel Bangham shared his passion for craftsmanship, showing how a clarinet is made from scratch and encouraging pupils to value curiosity, creativity and sustainability.



Music was the focus of day 3 with a visit from Royal Philharmonic Orchestra flautist Jo Marsh. Pupils explored body percussion, composed soundscape poetry and worked alongside stained-glass artist Jill Fordham to create colourful artwork.

Our final day featured artist and illustrator Lisa Fretwell, who introduced pupils to Henri Matisse's 'drawing with scissors' technique. The week concluded with an open gallery, where families were invited to celebrate the children's impressive artwork.

Creative Arts Week was an inspiring celebration of imagination, creativity and the many exciting pathways the arts can offer.

Caroline Webb

Calling all Linton angels

THIS autumn, St Mary's, Linton will be crammed full of angels at a *Festival of Angels*, from Sunday 27th September (Michaelmas) to Sunday 4th October. Celebrating art, music and poetry inspired by angels, our ancient church will showcase wonderful artwork from local school pupils, alongside all sorts of angelic contributions from across Linton. A highlight will be an evening of music by a local performers, including the Linton Belles, on Friday 2nd October.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to make your own divine contribution to the Festival – whether art or poetry (perhaps a favourite by someone else) or sculpture. Please contact on rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk or 01223 455098. With contributions from across our community, everyone will be very welcome.

Revd Paul



The Marsh Mail

STUDENTS from LVC have showcased outstanding artistic talent both at home and abroad this July, celebrating a remarkable summer of achievement through music and dance.

Thirty musicians and singers from Years 7–11 recently embarked on a concert tour of Belgium as members of the Linton Symphonic Wind Orchestra and Linton Voices Choir. Following more than 30 hours of rehearsal, students performed in *De Panne* and *Ostend*. The programme featured classical, popular and film music alongside an original choral composition by Mia in year 11.

Closer to home, LVC students took part in *Voices of Hope and Compassion* at the Cambridge Corn Exchange, a concert celebrating the 80th birthday of acclaimed poet and author Michael Rosen, while highlighting the experiences of refugees. Lower and Upper School Dance Companies created and performed a moving piece inspired by one of Rosen's poems, reflecting on the tragic story of two of his relatives during the Second World War. The performance was enhanced by an original composition written and performed by Year 11 student Mia, which received considerable praise from Michael Rosen.

Dance students have also been sharing their skills with younger pupils. During the Year 6 induction day, Year 7 performed a dance showcase for incoming students, while five Year 8 dancers led a workshop for Year 5 pupils at Linton Heights as part of *Creativity Week*.

The school would like to thank Mrs Juckes, Head of Music, and Mrs Frost, Head of Dance, for their hard work and commitment in making these experiences possible.

Helena Marsh



Discover with your u3a

ARE you retired or semi-retired and looking to try something new, learn a skill or meet friendly local people? Your local u3a might be just what you're looking for. The Haverhill and District u3a brings together people who want to stay active in mind and body, share knowledge and enjoy new experiences. Run entirely by volunteers, its groups are friendly, informal and open to everyone in the 'third age' of life.

There is a wide range of interest groups where members learn from each other and enjoy shared activities. These include walking, gardening, history, book groups, creative writing, crafts, languages and more. New groups often start when members have an interest they would like to share.

As well as interest groups, regular speaker meetings take place, where members can socialise and hear engaging talks at the Haverhill Arts Centre.

If you would like to find out more, come along to the open morning on Tuesday 29th September 2026 between 10am and 12pm. You can meet group leaders, discover the activities on offer and sign up if you wish to join. It is a relaxed and friendly way to see what u3a is all about.

Whether you want to learn something new, share your knowledge, or simply meet new people, you'll receive a warm welcome. Please see our website for more information or email: vicechair@haverhillu3a.com.

Susan Dickinson

Summer at the library

THE 2026 **Summer Reading Challenge**, *Read to the Beat*, is here! To complete the challenge, children simply need to read six library books over the summer holidays and collect a sticker for each one.

Families can sign up in the library for free.

Drop-in Summer Craft Club: Saturdays in August: 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

With the holiday season upon us, make sure you stock up on some reading matter to take with you.

Travel guides, sci-fi, romance, audio books or large print—we have something for everyone (and if we don't, we can reserve an item for you for only 50p).

Blood pressure monitors: Cambridgeshire Libraries are offering blood pressure monitors to borrow from all our libraries and mobile libraries. Any library member aged 18 or over can borrow a monitor for three weeks without charge. Ask at the library for information.

Daylight Readers: Our book groups meet once a month on a Friday, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm.

Knit and Natter: Tuesdays 2–4pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

IT Drop-in: Wednesdays 5–7pm. Knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with information technology.

Games afternoon: Thursdays 2–4pm. Come and meet new people; board/card games are provided or bring your favourite to share.

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King,
Community Library Assistants,
Linton Library opening: Tues 10am–5pm; Weds 4–7pm;
Thurs 2–5pm; Fri 10am–5pm; Sat 10am–1pm
Customer Services: 0345 045 5225

News from Chestnut Playgroup

AFTER a busy term, we said goodbye to our preschool children with a princess and superheroes party, as well as a graduation ceremony. The team will miss them all so much and would like to wish them the best of luck in their adventures at school. We'd also like to say thank you to our families for your amazing support this year. Have a wonderful summer!

Additionally, we are excited to meet our new Chestnuts in September and welcome back our current families. There are still places available for the next academic year, from September 2026 onwards.

For further details, please see our website: chestnutplaygroup.org.uk or contact administration: adm.chestnutpg@gmail.com.

Chestnut Playgroup



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Hundred Parishes

OVER the last 4 years, the Hundred Parishes society has been able to make financial contributions towards a number of worthwhile local initiatives. This has been possible because of the gradual increase in the number of society members and their generosity. The society is a registered charity and is able to recover Gift Aid in respect of subscriptions and donations received from people who are taxpayers. The society incurs only modest costs so is left with funds that can be usefully employed, making a difference to local communities.

It has become our practice once a year to invite applications for grants. The invitation has been sent to all organisations who have been members of the society for at least 3 years; most of these are parish councils. The latest round of applications was recently assessed by the society's trustees and they awarded four grants with a total value of £7,000. In assessing each application, we seek to ensure that it satisfies our charitable objectives, gives public benefit, has been thoroughly considered, is realistic and represents value for money.

Often, our grant enables a worthwhile project that would otherwise simply not happen. On other occasions, our grant triggers some match funding. Sometimes, the project is not straightforward and we don't see the outcome for some time; the Hundred Parishes Society retains sufficient funds to ensure the grants can be paid when appropriate. Where possible, we ask the beneficiary to acknowledge the society's financial assistance.

Projects that have already been completed with our financial help include new and refurbished village signs and information panels, churchyard improvements, community gardens with seating, refurbishment of a war memorial, an instructive video on pargetting, and digitisation of a photo archive. We look forward to adding to this list as other approved projects are completed.

Ken MacDonald

WI

EDWARD Gildea's talk, questioning the tune used for *Jerusalem*, told us the history behind this well-known hymn.

The poem, written by William Blake, was later set to music composed by Hubert Parry. The anthem was taken up by the Suffragettes, in their movement to win women the right to vote. Some of their members were later active in bringing the Women's Institute to Britain, and the inspiring song came with them.

By the late 18th century, London was a dirty and very overcrowded city. A population of over 400 per acre, mostly crammed into squalid housing. There were no proper water supplies nor sewage system, and hunger and sickness were rife. Conditions appeared ripe for revolution, as was already happening in France and the American colonies.

As for the tune, Edward had concluded no better alternative had been found, so I guess we'll carry on with the familiar, uplifting one that we know and love.

At our July meeting, we were joined by members of Balsham Institute. Over tea, and a lovely selection of true WI cakes, there was time to chat and exchange news.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Visitors £5, including a cup of tea and, sometimes, cake.

Pat Marshall



Afternoon tea to support Kyangala Trust

AN enjoyable afternoon of tea, homemade treats and an inspiring talk will take place at St Mary's Church, Linton, on Saturday 5th September at 3pm, raising funds for the Kyangala Trust.

The Kyangala Trust is a UK-registered charity working in the Kyangala area of Kenya. For more than 15 years, it has partnered with local communities to improve education, healthcare, access to clean water and sanitation, while supporting families through practical projects that help build a more secure and sustainable future.

The afternoon will include a talk about the charity's work and the difference it is making, followed by a traditional afternoon tea. Whether you are already familiar with the trust or would simply like to learn more while enjoying good company and delicious refreshments, you will be warmly welcomed.

Booking is essential. Tickets are £12.50 and are available from Sue Ellis on 01223 892257 or from Charlotte Dodd by emailing events@stmaryslinton.org.uk. For more information about the charity, visit www.kyangala-trust.com.

Charlotte Dodd

Macbeth comes to Hadstock

ALL-FEMALE Shakespeare company, The Whole Pack is returning to Hadstock and Saffron Walden in August. After the success of our previous tours of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*, we are thrilled to be touring two shows this summer.

Macbeth, an eerie, folk-horror-style production, will be performed in the atmospheric St Botolph's Church at 7pm on 15th August. With The Whole Pack's trademark haunting harmonies, this show explores the corrosive effects of power, viscerally embodied by an all-female company.

For those looking for something brighter, *As You Like It* will be performed at Fairycroft House, Saffron Walden at 4pm on 16th August. This joyfully chaotic production opened in London with "Cheers, gasps and laughter heard throughout." (*Adventures in Theatreland*).

For more information and tickets, see our website: <https://wholepack.wixsite.com/wholepack>.

Jessamy James

Summer at Linton Free Church

WE had a fun afternoon at our Summer Lighthouse in July. Forty children and their families attended for an afternoon of crafts and activities, based around different Bible stories. There was a bouncy castle, face painting, competitions and games, plus treats to enjoy.

Afterwards we presented prizes to the winners of the competitions. The theme was *finding treasure in the Bible* and as the children completed the activities they got stamps on their treasure map and all received a lucky dip prize.

We had a visit from puppets plus a Lego video, which helped us to see why the Bible is such an important book. As everyone left, many of them took a gift of a Bible so they could explore the stories for themselves. It was a wonderful afternoon of fun. Thank you to all the families who came along and took part. Do look out for details of the Light Party on 24th October.

Sunday services continue as usual through the summer holidays and our midweek activities restart in September. These include:

- Monthly coffee morning – it is free, there are drinks, cakes, games, activities, a space to chat and a short talk. The next one will be Wednesday 9th September and then the second Wednesday every month.
- A new Alpha course begins on Monday 14th September, starting with a meal at 7pm followed by video and discussion from 7.30–8.30pm. The course will run weekly until the end of November.

Please do check out our website for details of services and for other information; Lintonfreechurch.org.uk.

Ian Burns

Britain's brainiest cemetery

A COUPLE of weeks ago I had a guided tour of the Ascension Burial Ground in Cambridge - one of Cambridge's best kept secrets. It has been nicknamed 'Britain's Brainiest Cemetery', since several great scientific and philosophical minds are laid to rest here. The ground is also home to plenty of wildlife, and there are over 200 species of plants, trees, and shrubs planted here.

Among those buried in the cemetery are Sir Clive Sinclair (1940–2021), who invented the C5 one-person battery electric recumbent tricycle; Lucy Slater (1922–2008), a computer pioneer who is buried in the in the same grave as her mother, Lucy Dalton Slater (1893–1975); and several members of Charles Darwin's family. The burial site was formally closed to new burials in 2020, except for a few reserved plots that remain to be used.

The Church of England is the owner and custodian of this burial ground, and it is cared for by Cambridge City Council and the Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground. The ground can be found at the end of All Souls Lane, between 145 and 147 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0EA, and it is open every day.

Stella Joyner



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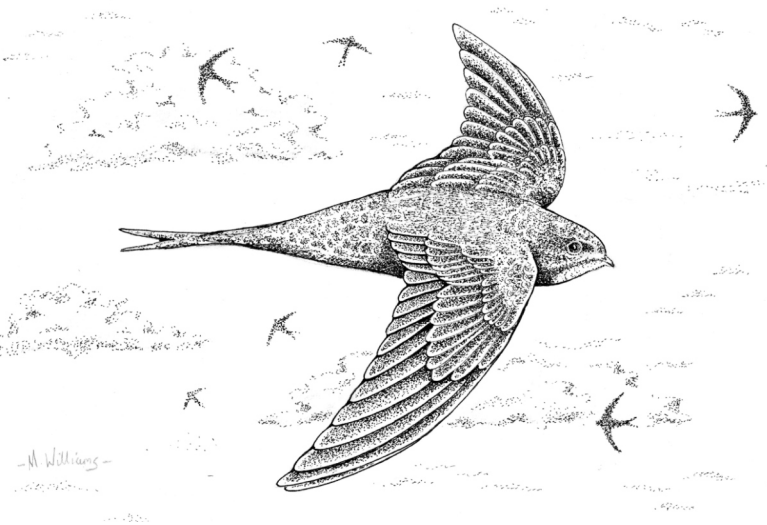
Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



Super bird needs swift help

IN early August, Africa beckons for our Linton swifts, and they set off on their epic journey to tropical latitudes. They will return to breed next spring, so there is plenty of time to buy and erect a swift box to encourage them to nest at your home. Or, if so inclined, self-builds are still popular!

Swifts are incredible birds that have been around since the Eocene Period, 50–60 million years ago. The swift is the fastest small bird in level flight, capable of reaching an astonishing 75 miles/hour. They spend almost their entire lives on the wing, even sleeping and mating in the air. They provide stunning aerial displays and engage in their exhilarating 'screaming parties' low over rooftops. Once they leave the nest, fledglings will undertake their first arduous migration to Africa without ever seeing their parents again, navigating thousands of miles purely by instinct and without guidance.



Despite these adaptations, swifts need our help right now to thrive. As we bid farewell to our swifts for another year, let's also look forward to their return next spring. By supporting the Linton Swifts Project and considering how we can all contribute to creating more swift-friendly environments, we can help ensure that the joyous screaming calls of these incredible birds continue to fill our skies for generations to come.

In late 2020, Rob McEwen and I started the Linton Swift Project, an initiative to increase local swift numbers. It was obvious from their own observations that numbers locally were plummeting and, by way of corroboration and to demonstrate this was not just a local problem, the swift has been placed on the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern Red List. There are many notions about this nosedive but a loss of nesting sites and a decline in insect populations seem to be the main drivers.

Rob McEwen and I introduced ourselves at a Parish Council meeting and soon afterwards wrote their first piece for the Linton News. Their initial efforts were to raise awareness and they invited local residents to get in touch. As a result, they sourced nearly 30 swift boxes and, of course, some people have erected their own. There are now boxes at the Infant School, in St Mary's Church tower, and on houses around the village.

You can learn more about swifts at the upcoming Flora & Fauna exhibition at The Gallery Above & Beyond at 94 High Street, Linton, from 26th August to 26th September. A sample nest box will be on display along with instructions to help you make your own, and leaflets with more information about swifts. Rob and I will be able to advise about siting swift boxes and put you in touch with someone who can help put it up, if necessary. We look forward to seeing you at the exhibition.

Alan Sanders

Get set for the gardening fair

OUR biggest event of the summer calendar is just a few weeks away: the Garden Club's own Gardening Fair on Saturday 12th September, at West Wickham Village Hall.

The highlight of last year's fair was Malcolm Cameron's Streetly End bees and their live hive. It's going to be a tough act to follow but we are going to give it a go! There will be plants and produce for sale, a raffle, a quiz, the photography competition winners, and a few surprises.

Of course, there will be tea and homemade cakes for you to enjoy while chatting to other visitors. Everyone is welcome so do come and join us, it will be an enjoyable occasion.



If that wasn't enough, we also have a talk on Monday 21st September by David Hinkley on the subject of *Soil Science: the hidden world beneath our feet*. We'll be using the Club's new state-of-the-art projector for the first time, so we hope you won't miss what we hope will be a most enjoyable evening.

Contact:

Sally Collins on wwdgc@westwickham.org for further information about the Club.

Janet Morris on jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com for information about the Club's Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits.

Alice and Andy Mitchell on photo@westwickham.org for information about our summer photo competition and to send your entries.

Sally Collins
West Wickham and District Gardening Club

Linton Roots

IT was a full house for the screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing*, organised by Linton Roots at St Mary's Church on the 2nd July.

This is part of a UK programme helping communities engage with the climate and nature crisis, supported by naturalist Chris Packham who said "...This new film creates exactly the kind of honest local conversation we now urgently need, both about the threat ... but also about what we can do, together with our politicians, to build a better future."

The goal was to start a national conversation through a televised briefing. Discussion afterwards focused on concern for future generations, that change was happening faster than expected, but realisation that more could still be done, including each of us raising awareness and registering concerns with local elected representatives.

Kirsten, Chair of Linton Roots, said: "What stood out was how quickly the discussion moved from concern into practical questions about what people here may be able to do together."

There was strong interest in continued engagement, including how to support Pippa Heylings MP in backing the Parliamentary Call for a televised emergency briefing (on the climate and nature crisis).

There are further screenings in Cambridge on 26th August and Great Wilbraham on the 1st September. Details here: <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>.

Contact Linton Roots to continue the discussion and take part in local environment, sustainability and nature-based events supporting a better future for all in Linton linton-roots@outlook.com.

Yannick Auckland

Photo competition

HIGH summer is giving different opportunities for photos, with some beautiful sunsets, and harvest underway in the fields. Together with holidays, that's plenty of scope for entries in the 2026 photo competition. It's open to everyone living in the area, or with some connection, so do give it a go.

The categories this year are: **Lovely leaves**
Sky's the limit
Along the path

The closing date is **4th September**. The winners will be announced at the Gardening Fair on Saturday 12th September and all entries will be on display.

The rules are simple: photos must have been taken after 1st October 2025. Two entries for each category are allowed, and it's 50p per entry.

The email address for entries and any questions is photo@westwickham.org. Payment is by bank transfer to the West Wickham & District Gardening Club account 30-93-99, 00394794, or if you'd rather pay by cash, please email for details.

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District and County councillors' report – July 2026

Kingsway Solar Farm
LAST month Kingsway Solar had submitted their application to the government's planning inspectorate (PINS) for assessment. Before they will consider it PINS has to make sure that all the information they need to make a decision is there. PINS replied to Kingsway with a list of changes that they'd need to make before it was in an acceptable state for examination – the letter stretched to some 11 pages! As a result of this, Kingsway has withdrawn the application to make the required improvements before resubmitting. Whilst this hasn't gone away entirely it does show that the government is committed to scrutinising this proposal seriously, rather than waving it through.

Forest city
More good news (in our opinion) – you may have seen that Matthew Pennycook, the minister for Housing and Planning, recently announced in parliament that the Forest City idea wasn't in the government's New Towns plan. This means it doesn't have any mechanism for gaining approval. Given the size of the proposal, it would have to be a government-led scheme, which is now ruled out for the time being. I know a lot of us are breathing a sigh of relief even though nothing is impossible when it comes to planning and development. The local authorities in our area had jointly written to the government condemning the proposal and outlining why they think the plan was unsuitable and why they don't support it. This was pivotal since these are the local planning authorities in our area. For clarity, the authorities that penned the letter were South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambs District Council and West Suffolk District Council. Suffolk County Council opted not to sign, the reasons for which are unclear.

Local Plan
The District and City Councils' Local Plan is moving forward. The councils are due to start another round of consultation on the final draft. This is very important as it's the last opportunity to comment on the proposals before they're submitted for examination to a government inspector. Any comments made at this stage will be seen by the inspector. The big-ticket item in our area is the Grange Farm new town proposal. The original proposal was to build a 6,000 house development to the north of Abington. There were over 1,000 representations received on this proposal alone, so thank you to all those who engaged with the process. We will wait to see what changes, if any, the council has made based on the feedback they received. Although we think that it's unlikely that they will have removed the site from the plan, they may have altered the layout/density, etc. Whatever the final proposal is, please do use the opportunity to comment on it – positively or negatively – as it will be the largest settlement in our area, larger than Linton.

Local government reorganisation
At time of writing, we are expecting an imminent announcement from government outlining their preferred geographies for the new unitary authorities in Cambridgeshire. Once this announcement is made, it'll be all hands on deck for the local authorities to get themselves in order for the first elections of the new councils in May 2027.

*John Batchelor, johndbatchelor23@gmail.com
Henry Batchelor, henrybatchelor89@gmail.com*

New trees for Grantchester meadows

VISITORS to Grantchester Meadows may have noticed new wooden tree guards appearing along the riverside. They're the first visible sign of an exciting new conservation project that will see a new generation of willow and native black poplar trees established along the River Cam this autumn and winter. As the existing veteran trees age, new planting will establish the next generation to safeguard the distinctive riverside landscape and the wildlife that depends upon it.

As part of the DiversiTree and River Cam CAN projects, Cambridge Past, Present & Future (CPPF), alongside King's College Cambridge and Cambridge City Council, has started installing tree guards to protect the young trees from grazing cattle while they become established. Volunteers and wardens have been trained to build and install the guards, helping to share practical conservation skills and support future planting projects.

Many of the willows that define the landscape are already ancient. While fallen or partially collapsed willows can appear

untidy, they remain some of the richest wildlife habitats in the landscape, supporting fungi, invertebrates, birds and bats. Willows are second only to oaks in the diversity of wildlife they support, making succession planting an important investment in the future of the River Cam's ecology.

The project will establish a mixture of locally sourced willow species and native black poplars. Both are suited to riverside environments, helping to stabilise riverbanks while creating diverse wildlife habitats. Community involvement will continue throughout the project, with volunteers helping to take cuttings from existing willows and plant them on the meadows during the dormant season.

Natalie Lambert, Biodiversity Projects Officer at Cambridge City Council, said, "Succession planting is about thinking ahead. Today's magnificent willows won't be here forever, so we're planting the next generation now."

*Lou Palmer-Masterton
Engagement & Communications Lead*

Planning applications

From 18th June to 15th July

26/00157/FUL & 26/00157/CONDA Submission of details required by condition 5 (Ecology - Enhancement) of planning permission. 12 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Tuesday 14th July 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
26/02557/HFUL Rear extension flat to pitched roof. 7 Joiners Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4NP. Validated: Friday 10th July 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
26/02349/HFUL Remove existing rear garden shed and replace with a summerhouse. 13 Green Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JZ. Validated: Monday 29th June 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
26/02436/CL2PD Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for single storey rear extension. The Chestnuts Granta Vale Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4LB. Validated: Friday 26th June 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
26/02429/OUT Outline planning application for the erection of up to 65 dwellings with public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access. All matters to be reserved except for means of access. Land Off Balsham Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4LW. Validated: Friday 26th June 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
25/04808/LBC & 25/04808/CONDC Submission of details required by condition 6a, b, c, d, e, f & h (details of works) of listed building consent. Fulwells 97 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Friday 26th June 2026. Status: Awaiting decision
26/02417/FUL Erection of 2no. self-build units to replace plot 2 approved under S/0821/09/F. 44 Back Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JF. Validated: Thursday 25th June 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
26/02322/HFUL & 26/02323/LBC Replacement of windows, repair and installation of secondary glazing to older windows, infill of two window openings and replacement pentice boards. The Kyles Long Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4NS. Validated: Wednesday 24th June 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.
26/0624/TTCA Walnut (previously pollarded) – Reduce canopy by up to 2m all round by reducing longer branches back to near previous pollard points and leaving smaller growth. Lift canopy over road to up to 5m. 40 Symonds Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HY. Validated: Thursday 18th June 2026.

Shudy Camps needs a Parish Council Clerk

SHUDY Camps Parish Council seeks a motivated, organised, community-focused individual for the role of Parish Council Clerk.
Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience, in accordance with the National Joint Council pay scales. Hours: 5 hours per week (including evening meetings). Hybrid/flexible working.
Location: Shudy Camps Parish Council, Cambridgeshire.
As the council's principal officer, you will: provide professional advice and administrative support to councillors; ensure the council operates within legal requirements, and manage its finances.
Key responsibilities:
• Acting as the council's Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.
• Preparing agendas, reports and minutes for council meetings.
• Providing legal and procedural advice to the council.
• Managing the council's finances, including budgeting, accounting, paying invoices, administering bank account, and annual audit requirements.
• Implementing council decisions and managing day-to-day administration.
• Liaising with residents, local authorities, contractors and partner organisations.
• Supporting the delivery of community

projects and council services.
The successful candidate will have:
• Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
• Strong written and verbal communication skills.
• Good financial management and bookkeeping abilities.
• The ability to work independently and manage competing priorities.
• Competence with Microsoft Office and digital communication.
• Commitment to excellent public service and supporting the local community.
Previous experience in local government or administration desirable but not essential. Training and support provided.
What we offer
• Flexible working arrangements.
• A supportive and friendly council.
• Training and professional development opportunities.
• A varied and rewarding role making a real difference to the community.
For further information and to express your interest, please contact: Sharon Deveson Kell, Vice Chair, Shudy Camps Parish Council, sharon.kell@shudycamps.org.uk, 07970 746186.
Closing Date: 24th August 2026.
The Parish Council is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates.

Andrew Webb

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Parish Council matters

LINTON
PARISH COUNCIL

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

Flood plan – Update & appeal

MANY residents will remember the torrential rain in July 2021, when flooding caused serious disruption across Linton and several families had to leave their homes. Thankfully, events of this scale are rare, but when they do happen, the impact on homes, families and everyday life can be devastating.



Linton has a Community Flood Plan, which has recently been reviewed. The review has made one thing clear: the plan needs urgent action if it is to be effective when the village needs it most.

The main concern is the current shortage of volunteers who could help in an emergency. This is a direct appeal to parishioners: if you could lend a hand, however small, please consider joining the Community Flood Group. With localised flooding, it is not really a question of 'if, but when'.

We have been fortunate not to have had a major flood incident in the village for 5 years, but recent weather conditions are a reminder of why preparation matters. Prolonged heat and very dry ground can increase the risk of rainwater running off the land rather than soaking into it. In a village surrounded by hills, water will naturally find the easiest route to the lowest point, placing some homes and roads at greater risk.

We cannot control the weather, but as a community we can make sure we are better prepared.

If you can help in any way, please contact the Linton Parish Council Office. You do not need specialist knowledge to get involved — just a willingness to support your neighbours when it matters most.

Volunteers are especially needed in the following areas of the village:

The Woodlands and Kingfisher Walk
Chalklands & Paynes Meadow
Balsham Road & Bartlow Road
Rivey Way and Rivey Close
Wheatsheaf Way
High Street - Fire Station area
High Street & Meadow Lane - Dog & Duck
Church Lane
Mill Lane
Hadstock Road

Once volunteers have come forward, the Parish Council will arrange a Community Flood Group meeting to discuss the plan, local risks and how residents can help safely and effectively.

Please contact the LPC Office on 01223 891001 or by email enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk.

Linton Parish Council

Summer at the pavilion

THE SPORTS and Social Pavilion will be open to everyone during the summer holidays.

Linton Parish Council has also arranged for the ice cream van to visit on warm and sunny days, look out for updates on social media. Many of you know Nathan's Ices who visit the village regularly, they are looking forward to seeing familiar faces over the holidays. Let's hope the weather stays fine!

Summer Holiday Opening
@ The Pavilion

The Sports and Social Pavilion
will be open for hot and cold
drinks, crisps and chocolate.
Toilets will be open.

The Meadow Recreation Ground

Mondays - Fridays
20th July - 28th August
11.00am - 3.00pm

Linton Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Robin Williams for volunteering to host the opening of the facilities. Please support him by popping along to say hello and buying refreshments.

Cash and cards are accepted for purchases, prices have been kept as low as possible, and water bottle refills are free of charge to help everyone stay hydrated.

If you have any queries please contact the LPC Office via email at enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk or by telephoning us on 01223 891001.

Linton Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan survey

PLEASE look out for the Linton and Hildersham Neighbourhood Plan survey, which will be delivered to every household in late August and which we are asking all parishioners to complete and return by the end of September 2026.

The completed surveys will provide essential information to support the Neighbourhood Plan allowing all residents to contribute to the future of the villages.

We are also appealing for volunteers to assist with hand delivering the survey to every home in Linton and Hildersham, please contact the Parish Council office if you are able to help on 01223 891001 or by emailing us at enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk.

Linton Parish Council

Community support in Linton

AGE UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough supports the Community Warden Scheme in Linton, helping older residents stay connected, cared for and able to live independently in their own community for longer.



Linton Parish Council is pleased to support the scheme for 2026–2027 with a contribution of £8,000. Together with funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council, this helps to keep fees as low as possible.

The Community Warden, Kim Davidson, provides daily telephone calls and weekly support with day-to-day tasks, tailored to each person's needs. The scheme currently costs £92 per month, which works out at just over £3 per day. For families, particularly those who do not live locally, it offers valuable reassurance that someone is regularly checking in on their loved one.

Alongside the Community Warden Scheme, Linton is also fortunate to have Activities and Care for the Elderly, the local charity better known as Linton ACEs. Linton ACEs holds four social gatherings each year, including a ploughman's lunch and a festive buffet. Events are charged at cost, offering excellent value for an afternoon of good food, friendly conversation and welcoming company.

In a recent conversation with the chairman of Linton ACEs, we reflected on independence and the importance of keeping social and supportive safety nets in place. Many older people are understandably keen to manage on their own, and often do so very well. However, when someone needs a listening ear, a friendly face or a little extra help, it can make all the difference to have people nearby to call on. These safety nets are built through everyday connections, and residents are warmly encouraged to go along to ACEs events, meet others and make new friends.

There is an article from ACEs in this month's main paper, which includes contact details for both the Community Warden Scheme and Linton ACEs. If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more, please do get in touch.

In addition to the ACE's events and outings, the Community Hub opens every other week throughout the summer and weekly throughout the winter at the Pavilion, on Wednesday afternoons from 1–4pm, starting from 10th June.

The community hub helps provide information and support to individuals. It is a great way to socialise with other parishioners, whilst enjoying light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend, please just pop along on the day.

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Parish Council minutes

LINTON
PARISH COUNCIL

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

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council (LPC) meeting held on Thursday 18th June at the Cathodeon Centre.

Open forum for public participation.
The Chairman invited members of the public to address the council.
Participant one requested to address the item concerning Rivey Close and parking.
The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would be considering the draft responses provided by the Clerk to enable formal responses to be sent to the parishioner.
Participant two spoke about the newly launched Villio website and how they became aware there was a need for publication of a website/app of events being held locally. The participant encouraged members to look at the website, which is free to view, and requested support from the council with raising awareness in the village to adopt the website.

External and internal meetings
Report of the meeting held on 14th May focusing on Community Safety. *Written report available on the LPC website.*
Report of the meeting held on 1st June between LPC and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) in relation to the bollard at Church Lane. *Written report available on the LPC website.*
Report of the meeting held on 2nd June with Talk, Listen, Change charity in relation to funding and support in Linton. *Written report available on the LPC website.*
Report of the meeting held on 8th June with CCC Principal Planning Officer and representatives for Education to discuss potential facilities in Linton. *Written report available on the LPC website.*
Report from the recreation ground working group meeting held on 11th June to discuss the proposal of an outdoor gym/adult trim trail at the recreation ground. *Written report available on the LPC website.*
Report from the community buildings working group meeting held on 11th June to discuss the future of the pavilion building. *Written report available on the LPC website.*

District and County councillors report. *Written report available on the LPC website.*
In addition to the written report, the following points were added:
County & District Councillor Henry Batchelor.
Kingsway Solar Farm – Application withdrawn. Cllr Batchelor advised that following recommendations for improvements it is likely the application will be re-submitted.
Forest city (Suffolk). Cllr Henry Batchelor advised that all local authorities have now contributed to and submitted a joint letter opposing the proposal.
Emerging Local Plan – it was advised that South Cambs District Council (SCDC) are in the process of making amendments following the public consultation and it was noted that the Grange Farm proposal at Abington is being revisited on number of dwellings, potentially for a reduction to improve housing density with a revised application pending, which will invite new comments from all parties.
Speculative development. Cllr Batchelor spoke about developers arguing the 5-year land supply, which currently sits at 5.6 years, with an appeal pending in August, relating to a proposal in Abington for 30 dwellings, which will highlight the status of land supply in South Cambridgeshire, potentially setting a benchmark for future appeals.
It was noted to check the status of the village boundary in the emerging Local Plan following requests from LPC that this be re-instated to the original position and not moved to incorporate the new developments in Linton.
District Councillor John Batchelor.
Cambridgeshire Development Corporation (CDC). Cllr Batchelor advised the thresholds being set for

intervention by the CDC are much lower than is realistic, expressing concern in relation to the low numbers cited. He advised of the appointment of a Chief Operating Officer and a Director of Planning has already been confirmed and the risk of undermining the South Cambridgeshire Authority with a potential loss of income would not be sustainable for GCSP.

Local government reorganisation. Cllr Batchelor advised that decisions are expected in July 2026.

Planning
Consideration of the recommendation from the Planning Committee for additional comments to be submitted on planning application 25/04541/OUT (Land North of Cambridge Road, Linton - Outline planning application for the erection of up to 230 dwellings including affordable and self/custom build plots, along with a new site for a doctors surgery, open space, allotments and associated infrastructure, with all matters reserved except access. Decision Required.
Cllr Smith proposed the Parish Council submit the comments as per the recommendation from the Planning Committee and continue to strongly object to the application with referral to the SCDC Planning Committee. Cllr Campbell seconded. All Agreed.
Update in relation to the provision of bus shelters on Bartlow Road by Abbey Developments. Decision required.
Cllr Smith proposed to accept the funding contribution of £16,766.96 for the ongoing maintenance of two bus stops on Bartlow Road, providing a suitable location can be secured on the outgoing route. Cllr Campbell seconded. All Agreed.

Finance
Consideration and approval of the Internal Audit Report. Decision required.
Cllr Gardner proposed that all points raised on the internal audit be noted with the response that LPC agree and accept the conclusions of the Internal Audit. Cllr Smith seconded. All Agreed.
Confirmation of the submission date for the external audit as Wednesday 1st July 2026 following further consideration. For information. Noted.

Quotes and contracts
Consideration of the recommendation from the recreation ground working group for the quotations received to supply and install an outdoor trim trail at the recreation ground. Decision required.
Cllr Smith proposed to approach Granta School to ensure equipment from Fresh Air Fitness is suitable for specific needs and defer the decision to the next full council meeting. Cllr Cox seconded. All Agreed.
Cllr Cox left and returned during agenda item 45/26/27(f)(ii).
Consideration of the recommendation from the working group in relation to the allocation of the Bowls Club funds recently transferred to LPC and the suggestion to fund additional benches at the Recreation Ground and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Decision required.
Cllr Smith proposed the funds from the Bowls Club be used to purchase and install additional benches in this location as an appropriate acknowledgment to the club. Cllr Campbell seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Open spaces & environment
Recreation ground
Request for the Parish Council to fund pitch maintenance and improvements at the recreation ground. Decision required.
Cllr Kell proposed Linton Granta Football Club apply for a grant from the Parish Council to contribute to the cost of pitch maintenance with all relevant documentation, including quotations, to be submitted in time for the additional full council meeting scheduled to be held on 09.07.2026. Cllr Smith seconded. All Agreed.

Biodiversity
Consideration of the Nature Workbook designed by the Linton Friends of the River Granta (FROG) for pupils at the local schools to participate in activities in the summer holidays. Decision required.
Cllr Smith proposed the Nature Workbook be approved. Cllr Campbell seconded. All Agreed.

Community flood plan
Review and delegation of the update required to the Community Flood Plan as requested by SCDC. Decision required.
Cllr Gardner proposed to delegate to Cllr Kell for the review and update of the Community Flood Plan. Cllr Smith seconded. All Agreed.

Village enhancement
Consideration of the proposal for bulb planting by Linton Roots in key locations of Linton and to set a budget for purchasing native bulbs. Decision required.
Cllr Kell proposed a budget of £260.00 be delegated to the Clerk for the procurement of native bulbs for the volunteer project led by Linton Roots for planting in the Autumn 2026. Cllr Campbell seconded. All Agreed.

Community buildings
The Pavilion
Confirmation of the dates and times for the summer opening of the Pavilion. For Information.
The Clerk recommended advertising the opening times from 11am–3pm with the option to stay open later if required and confirmed the opening will be featured in the main pages of the Linton News.
Notification of the completion of DBS checks for the summer opening of the pavilion. For information. Noted.
Request for a budget for provision of refreshments for the summer opening of the pavilion.
Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Williams for his kind offer to man the facilities.

The Cathodeon Centre
Consideration of the request for approval of the replacement kitchen at the Cathodeon Centre. Decision required.
Cllr Mannassi proposed the Cathodeon Trust progress, and on completion of the project the Parish Council to consider a financial contribution on the understanding that the Parish Council are not to be involved in the contract due to the works being requested and authorised by the Cathodeon Trust. Cllr Campbell seconded. Agreed with one abstention. Motion carried.

Introduction of Villio events application.
Cllr Mannassi proposed LPC support the new venture and encourage existing contributors to the Linton Village Directory calendar to switch to the Villio app which would lessen the costs and workload for LPC.
The office team to add a link to the Parish Council website and help promote the new service.
The existing calendar on the Linton Village Directory to be placed into a state of dormancy and the subscription paused. Cllr Williams seconded. All Agreed. Clerk

Full minutes and written reports are available on the Linton Parish Council website.

Linton Parish Council
The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton. CB21 4JS.

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