

A Happy
New Year
to all our
readers

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Jamie's bares his legs for a chilly challenge



Look out for these legs this winter, as they raise money for the children of Belarus shown right.

Pictures supplied by Jamie

LINTON postman Jamie, Lhas taken on a chilly challenge this winter. He is going to wear shorts to deliver your post for the whole of the winter. Through rain, sleet and snow, Jamie is doing this to raise money for Linton-based charity Bridges to Belarus, that supports over 800 children in Belarus who are affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

The children supported by the charity all have a variety of cancers but are also affected by extreme poverty, with

most of the families trying to survive on £5 per month.

Many of the children do not have adequate clothing or shoes and the winter temperatures drop to -40°C.

If you would like to sponsor Jamie and support Bridges to Belarus, please either pop in to Linton Post Office or deliver donations to:

Rachel Furley, 4a Joiners Road, Linton.

For more information about Bridges to Belarus, please visit www.bridgestobelarus.org.uk



Senior citizens enjoy LVC party

STUDENTS at Linton Village College (LVC) welcomed 120 pensioners from local villages for their annual Christmas party on Friday 9th December.

The guests were picked up by coach from Abington, Balsham, Horseheath and Castle Camps and brought to the college, where they were served tea, coffee, mince pies and cake by students from year 9.

The LVC wind band and choir provided seasonal Christmas music and guests enjoyed singing along to carols before being taken on a tour of the new school building.

All of the funds for the event were raised by year 9 tutor groups, who held a fancy dress football match, cinema club and photo sessions to raise money for transport, food, drink and presents for the guests.

"This all started about 20 years ago and it has been growing ever since. I think this was the most successful yet and we even got a mention from Chris Evans on BBC Radio 2 this morning," said food technology teacher Jenny Pullin, "It is always a happy occasion which seems to bring Christmas closer and brings the different generations together".

"It was lovely to welcome so many members of our community and the students did a fantastic job of raising the funds," said LVC principal Caroline Derbyshire.

"There was a really good bond between the teenagers and the older people. It felt like the whole community coming together," said Matthew Organ, 13.

"I thought it was a really special occasion. One lady even told me she felt she was being treated like the Queen," said Jack Gregory, 13.

Tony Kelly, Linton Village College, 891233 Ext 158, email tony.kelly@lvc.org



An enthralled audience enjoys the LVC choir

Picture taken by Roger Lapwood

Fabulous festive wreaths



Manpower: Ron, Dan, Jim and Ralph wreathed in smiles after their success.

Picture taken by Kirsten Newble

AT the gardening club's meeting four gentlemen took to the floor to follow the instructions of a wreath demonstration, to create their own masterpieces. To start them off, their guides in this adventure, Lian Watkin and Jenny Purves, presented them with a pile of yellow willow prunings.

The intrepid four, Jim Forrest, Dan Johnson, Ron Pitkin and Ralph Robinson, began to wrestle the willow into a circle before wiring it into place. This resembled an ancient dance as the gentlemen held the willow aloft twisting and turning it and narrowly missing spearing each other with it as the odd piece pinged straight once more.

Once the framework for the wreath was secure they dived into the shrubbery, choosing from a wonderful selection of hedgerow greenery, ivy with a hint of gold spray, holly and other beautiful berries to bring in some colour. They wired some fir cones and the wreaths started to take shape remarkably quickly once the first handful was attached. The berries I am assured will disappear just as rapidly once the blackbirds have spotted them!

As the photo shows, all four volunteers produced the most wonderful professional wreaths thanks to the guidance of Lian and Jenny. Thank you to all six of them for treating us to a great evening!

The New Year brings us a little escapism, as our gardens look rather bare, in the form of the Gardens of New Zealand by Dr Steve Jones on 10th January. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and you are warmly invited to join us. Kirsten Newble, 892425, lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

It's business as usual at The Crown



Just a few of the fire engines attending the fire

Picture by Ron Pitkin

THE Crown Inn opened on Thursday night, 8th December as normal, just a couple of hours after seven fire engines attended a fire which started in a storage facility at the rear of the building. The damage was made ten times worse by the wind blowing back into the pub destroying the state-of-the-art kitchen. Joel Palmer, owner of the Crown with his family, does hope to have a mobile kitchen open but this may change, the rest of the pub is still open.

Joel, speaking just hours after the fire started, said: "We have lost the use of the kitchen, which bore the brunt of the fire but the pub itself is fine and will remain open".

He added it is too early to say how much the damage and the loss of Christmas bookings will cost.

LNT

Burns Night supper

FRIENDS of Linton Village College will be hosting a Burns Night supper from 7.15-11.30pm on Friday 27th January.

There will be a traditional three course meal (vegetarian option available) and bar.

Come and join the Ceilidh dancing to live music.

Tickets at £17.50 each are available from the college reception, 891233, or me:

Charlotte Foster, 890270

Linton and District Helping Hands need volunteer drivers

THE Linton and district Helping Hands service has been active in the community since 1985 but recently the number of drivers in the pool has fallen and new drivers are urgently needed. Drivers give their time free and are paid an allowance per mile to cover petrol costs.

Our co-ordinator organises lifts by allocating drivers to people who need help to get around, have mobility problems, or who are isolated. A minimum of 48 hours notice of journeys is generally required.

Passengers are conveyed by drivers to and from the destination. The service covers local hospital and medical centres, dental and optical appointments, shopping trips, etc.

If you are willing to help as a volunteer driver please contact:

Dr Bruce Conochie, co-ordinator, 894460 or me:

Alex Todd, deputy co-ordinator, 892979

Too good for jumble...

NEW items this month are a tower type PC computer system with screen (CRT), Office, CAD, internet, scanner etc. (old OS MS Millenium), a Degas framed print *Dancing Class* 18 in x 24 in (perfect condition), a set of 20 heat retaining hair rollers (Boots) and a Boots infra violet/infrared health lamp.

The Sharp portable electronic typewriter, Kiddicare space-saver cot for a baby, large collection of VHS tapes including Elizabeth, Highlander, Robin Hood, Wings of the dove, and the beech coloured computer workstation on wheels, three shelves (1 pull-out) are still available.

The patio heater raised £25 for Help for Heroes, £35 for the mini electric oven was donated to the Samaritans and a Vauxhall roof rack made £20 for Granta Grapevine.

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

NB The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA THANKA

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.

WITH the passing of another year in our history, which ended with more acrimony over the running of this great nation, I thought it would be good to take a few moments at the beginning of 2012 to dwell on the positive things being done to encourage confidence and happiness in future generations.

Linton is blessed with many opportunities for parents to give their young ones a brilliant start in life. Right from the word go, professionals and volunteers are on hand to offer help, advice or simply a listening ear to all parents, whether they have just had their first or fifth child.

As new, bewildered parents a little over eighteen months ago, my wife and I had tremendous support from so many different people that we were soon able to embrace the new family dynamic with complete confidence. We have been able to attend many different groups for parents and babies. All have shown the fun that can be had in the company of children of any age. Yes, as many already know, it is very stressful and frustrating at times but simply being able to talk to such understanding people has been fantastic.

I don't mind admitting we found the first few months very tough, so the kindness of so many of the willing group organisers was a real comfort. Some of them even took the time to call in and say hello when they were off duty.

We have been to all sorts of groups aimed at babies and toddlers and have made good friends at each of them. The camaraderie is great, and there is always a happy atmosphere. The Free Church on Horn Lane has a wonderful group that encourages singing and playing together. Sadly, I am usually unable to attend that one but my wife and daughter absolutely love it.

I get to go Fun at one at the new children's centre. We enjoy many activities at that one and get fed and watered too!

One of the best facilities is the Spotted Giraffe play centre at The Grip, where children can run, jump and slide to their hearts content while their parents can sit and enjoy a lovely cup of coffee and some tasty, freshly-prepared food.

So, to all the people that make bringing up a child in Linton so much easier and happier, we would like to say a massive thank you and Happy New Year.

Difficult decision for police

CAMBRIDGESHIRE police authority will face a difficult decision about council tax in the coming months.

The government is encouraging all local authorities not to increase their council tax in 2012-13. To offset this financial pressure it is offering local authorities a one-off additional government grant instead of raising council tax to fund services, including policing, in 2012-13. For the police authority the grant would be £1.5m. Ruth Rogers, chair of Cambridgeshire police authority, said: "On the face of it, this looks like an easy decision. After all, who would turn down the offer of additional money? However, this grant is for one year only whereas a council tax increase provides ongoing funding in future years. Unless this lost, ongoing funding can be recovered by a council tax increase in 2013-14, over and above the increase required to pay our increasing costs, then the police service in Cambridgeshire would need to find a further £1.5m per year in savings. This is the equivalent of 37 police officers.

This leaves the authority with a dilemma - raise the council tax from April 2012 or take the grant and leave the new Police and Crime Commissioner with the decision either to raise council tax significantly from April 2013 or accept a further £1.5m per year in cuts. For council tax payers the news might not be as good as it first appears because it could result in a bigger increase in council tax in 2013."

Comments can be left on the police authority website or you can email the police authority at police.authority@cambs.pnn.police.uk



Not such a silent night



Pupils show us how a giraffe can dance

Picture by Louise Clark

NOT such a silent night was had at Linton Infant school. That was the title of this year's Christmas production. Ollie the owl was finding it hard to sleep with all the noises in the stable and went off in search of the perfect solution so when the baby Jesus arrived he could sleep in heavenly peace. Each year group represented a different place around the world and created animal dances linked into our jaws and claws theme.

Foundation stage roared as majestic tigers and twirled as glittering peacocks when Ollie visited India. I learnt that the peacock is the national bird of India something I was previously unaware of.

Year one met Ollie the owl in the swamp lands of America where he watched crocodiles snap, being sure not to smile at them though, and frogs jump merrily to the *Frog Chorus* classic by Sir Paul McCartney.

Finally, Ollie flew to Africa where he stumbled upon giraffes holding a dance competition. This dance was inspired by the moves observed on a trip to *The Lion King* by Year two. Ollie returned to the stable with many suggestions about how to silence the animals but he also delivered three special messages to the special baby king.

All three messages reflected values which we promote within our school peace, love and hope. It was a truly fantastic show and I was incredibly proud of all the children. I would like to thank the parents for supporting with costumes and the staff who made this possible. As the show came to a close with *Silent Night* I shed a tear (nothing unusual there). I thought of 2012 and knew everyone at Linton Infant school would wish Linton peace, love and hope for the forthcoming year.

Louise Clark

Letters from the children of Nyakibete

LINTON Heights school is linked with a primary school in Nyakibete, Uganda. This link was set up so that we can learn about African culture and the children in Uganda can learn about England.

A few weeks ago we received letters from the children of this school. Like us, they have been learning about the environment and they sent us information texts about climate change and deforestation. The paper they wrote on was very thin and fragile.

In our music lessons, Mrs Taylor taught us to play African drums. We also learnt about the four different types of drums: the astimevu, the sogu, the kanganu and the talking drum. The talking drum is the favourite drum of most pupils. It has a lot of strings around it and you can change the pitch by squeezing the strings.

This week we sent samples of our work and letters to the children in Nyakibete. We hope to receive more letters from them in the future.

Isobel Cory, Lucy Wood, George Crooks and Ross Clark in Year 5

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

THERE have been very few crimes to report in Linton since November. One relates to criminal damage to a vehicle which happened between 16th and 19th November. Damage was caused by someone putting grit/salt on to the bonnet of a vehicle parked on a private driveway in Symonds Lane. This caused damage to the paintwork. The other crime was the theft of a child's scooter from Linton Heights Junior school which was taken between 8.30am and 3.30pm on 11th November. Enquiries are ongoing regarding these. Between 26th and 27th November offenders caused damage to two vehicles parked on the High Street in Linton.

Local PCSOs have been out on patrol during the peak times and carrying out crime enquiries surrounding these offences. If you need to get a message to myself, PCSO Chris Pulley or PC Rachael Mallender please telephone the new number 101 and ask for extension 7615, or ask to leave a message asking that we contact you. This number replaces the old non emergency 03454 564564 number. In an emergency please ring 999.

Traffic Officers Andrew Pulley and Dave Black were out on the A1307 in Linton between Linton Village College and the High Street junction on 21st November. Eleven tickets were issued for not wearing a seat belt, three tickets for illegal window tints and one ticket for driving whilst using a mobile phone.

Patrols will continue over the next few weeks by local officers and traffic officers which will include conducting speed checks in various villages.

Snow Queen a huge success



Gerda finding her way through the forest

Picture by Jenny Malone

PARENTS, grandparents and siblings all enjoyed a truly magical performance of Hans Christian Andersen's perennial classic *The Snow Queen* by Year 4 pupils of the Heights Junior school recently.

Gerda's journey to find her best friend, Kay, was told with such feeling. Kay had been taken by the Snow Queen, with the help of the ice sprites, to her palace in the north. The snowflakes showed us just how cold it really was. Kay was angry and unhappy. The village children begged Gerda to find him. On her long journey through the forest with beautiful music to help her on her way, Gerda meets up with the flower witch, the prince and princess, the robber maiden and her friends and the crows are always around. A lively reindeer and the witch of Finland help her on her way. She passes through a forest of flowers and eventually arrives at the Snow Queen's palace. Gerda cries when she finds Kay and her tears melt the ice so winter becomes summer and they can return home to granny.

The children learned their lines so well and sang their songs with great enthusiasm. Obviously much practising and hard work had been done by everyone. The costumes were gorgeous and, at the end of the performance, the audience clapped until their hands hurt. What a wonderful story, beautifully portrayed by the pupils helped so much, as we know, by their teachers and parents.

We were sent away knowing that *Buns, buns toasted buns, buns are liked by everyone. Know what can't be beat my son, a little bit of butter on a toasted bun.*

LNT

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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

Dear Editor,
With parking prices rising in Cambridge, more people are deciding to travel by bus. However, waiting at the bus stop, wondering if and when the bus will appear can be a cold and sometimes frustrating experience. Readers may be interested to know that a local company is now providing free live bus information direct to your smart-phone. It shows exactly when buses will arrive and covers every bus stop within 20 miles of Cambridge. Visiting the website www.wonow.co.uk from a smart-phone will find your nearest bus stops along with their route numbers and destinations. It is quick and easy to use and buses can be checked before leaving home and at the stop. Live bus information is part of a new city guide for the Cambridge area and can be found under its travel section. The free guide also includes listings and reviews for cinemas, theatres, music events, and restaurants. Michelle Gibson
Atlas Live Ltd

Dear Editor,
I wonder if anybody can assist me? I am looking for information concerning the Linton Chalk and Whitening Co Ltd particularly during the 1920s. I have a friend who has restored a Sentinel Steam lorry which we believe was used by the above company. The registration was AW 7502. We would dearly like to hear from anyone who can recall this vehicle and would be overjoyed if anybody could furnish a picture of it! Michael Giles
01767 650227, mavisgiles@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Editor,
I refer to the letter printed in the December issue where Mrs Lian Watkin refers to my previously published article re Camgrain noise and in particular her comment: Does Camgrain really keep people awake at night or do they have another underlying problem? Perhaps ear-muffs may help. Yes, Mrs Watkin, the noise pollution emanating from the Camgrain site does indeed keep me, and other Linton residents, awake at night and on occasion, all night. In our 41 years in Linton, and indeed since the very first grain silos were operational, my family has suffered with the noise from Camgrain. Speaking for myself, I am of course delighted to hear that you are not personally affected by this noise. However, for those of us that are affected, it is an intolerable situation that we are acting upon. If you are not personally affected, then I fully expect you to have little sympathy with those that are but it is neither helpful nor in the spirit of a village community to suggest that those encountering the noise are suffering other underlying problems. Covering up pollution of whatever type with whatever inventions

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you care to list, ear muffs, heavy duty curtains, triple glazing, eye shades does not tackle the root cause of this or any other problem any one of us may encounter in day to day life. Leave it then, Mrs Watkin, to those of us who are willing to put the time and effort into researching and understanding the root cause of this noise problem, with courtesy and professionalism. Jane Larcombe
Please note: there will be no further letters published on this topic unless or until there is some news to report. Editor

Allotment support

Recently the pages of the Linton News have featured articles regarding the efforts of the Parish Council to find land for allotments within the village. Concerns have been expressed regarding the suitability of the proposed site and suggestions made that alternative sites would be more appropriate. As members of the Allotments Association, we would like to provide our perspectives.

The Allotments Association consists of a number of volunteers of local residents who have already expressed an interest in allotments. Our role is to represent the interests of potential allotment holders and is currently focussed on providing input to the council on the requirements for the site. We are extremely excited about the prospect of having allotments in Linton. It is remarkable that a rural village of this size does not already have allotments and we are entirely committed to the allotments being a resource that brings together people from throughout the village.

Aside from the obvious point that allotments provide a means for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables, there are wider benefits to the environment and community that should not be understated. We understand that potential neighbours to the site may have concerns. We also understand that the local farmers and landowners are running businesses and that they have every right to farm and manage their land as they see fit. Considering the community intent of the allotments, the last thing we wish to do is cause conflict or disruption. However, we strongly believe that all of the issues that have been raised can be addressed, provided that all concerned are prepared to look beyond narrow self-interest and work together.

At present, the only issue that is of significant concern to the Allotment Association is that of access, since the inability to negotiate suitable access to the site would be extremely damaging to our aim of making the site inclusive by allowing access to allotment holders of all ages and physical abilities.

We believe that there is a silent majority within the village who would support allotments even if they are not interested in becoming allotment holders and would encourage everyone to make their views known to the council, so that a more balanced debate can be had in future which reflects the potential benefits as well as the potential challenges.

The Allotments Association

This will be the final article published in the main part of the Linton News, until there is more news from the Parish Council. Editor

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,
Many thanks to the following groups for helping again this year with Operation Christmas Child in packing shoeboxes with toys and gifts for under privileged children. From Linton: Corerstone Community Church, URC Church, Impact Youth Group, and Nichols Court. From Balsham: Mays Avenue Coffee Club, Carpet Bowls Club, Mothers Union and Girl Guides. Altogether from the above groups we collected 389 completed boxes this year, a wonderful effort. The shoeboxes were first taken to a warehouse at Bar Hill where they were processed and packed into large cartons by volunteers, then the army came from Waterbeach to load the cartons into the lorries (making short work of a big job). The lorries are now on the long journey to Kyrgyzstan and Serbia where 389 underprivileged children will have a Christmas present for the first time, but more importantly they will know someone cares about them. So thank you for making Christmas special for these children and as you have blessed these children I pray God will bless you especially as you celebrate Christmas. Penny Cook by email

Dear Editor,
Mays Avenue Coffee Club would like to say a special thank you to all staff and students at Linton Village College for the lovely Christmas concert and refreshments. We all look forward to this annual event for which you all work so hard. The standard of music and singing is so very good and the care given to all the visitors is also great. We returned home feeling thoroughly pampered, many thanks to all concerned. Penny Cook by email

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NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 18th January

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We currently have no advertising space
Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse
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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

Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Pilates classes, 11.15 - 12.15pm, Mondays	VH
Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Monday term time	CC
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays	Pavilion
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	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
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only	VH
Children's Centre office, 9am-12noon Wednesdays & Thursdays	CC
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
Buffy 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 Linton Village College sports centre on 890248

JANUARY

3	WI, Costa Rica talk, 7.30pm	VH
5	Linton lunch club, 12noon	D&D
5	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
5	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
7	Friend's of St Mary's coffee and mince pies, 11am	VH
8	Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
10	WEA, 9.30am	VH
10	Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
10	VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
14	ACE ciffie morning, 10.30am	VH
17	Alzheimer's support, 10am	Health Centre
17	History Society, 7.30pm	VH
18	CAMTAD, hearing help, 9 - 10 noon	Health Centre
19	Singing for men	Institute Abington
19	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
27	Burns Night supper and ceilidh, 7.15pm	LVC
28	Friend's of St Mary's lunch, 12noon	CP
28	Liberal Democrat's annual jumble sale, 2pm	LVC

FEBRUARY

2	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
4	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
6	Camera Club, 7.15	CC
7	WI, 7.30pm	VH
11	Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm	LVC

Library times: Monday Closed; Tuesday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; Wednesday 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Thursday Closed; Friday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon. Closed 5th - 11th January.

Refuse collection: 4th, 16th, 30th, January

Recycling collection: 10th, 23rd January & 8th February

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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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams

To spy an owl

IT'S a kind of auto-suggestion, each time I spy an owl I think of wisdom. No, not the late dear Norman Wisdom but the wisdom in philosophy! Plato and Socrates saw it as Philo-Sophia or 'the love of wisdom' and Confucius claimed three ways to acquire it by reflection, imitation or experience! The mélange of myth, magic and witchcraft at least in the western world leads to more than a hint of respect for these adorable creatures. Some years ago a cardboard box arrived at my house, on opening it I was faced with a mass of downy feathers. Suddenly, ten radiant orange eyes gazed knowingly with a plea for food. The five innocent owlets huddled snugly in tranquil bemusement whilst day by day getting bigger and bigger with each spoonful of my secret formula. Owls hoot and screech and

stare you out! They sit quietly turning their heads slowly, with an ability to pick up ultra violet light reflected from secretions, and that dish shaped face most likely helps capture and direct sound to their odd ears. These asymmetrical auditorial openings have probably



evolved to receive and distinguish different frequencies. The amazing silent flight is due to

the grace of specific feather types and of course their markings make them masters of disguise and feared predators. The lovely onomatopoeic word owl appears in Old English as *ule* and other variations such as *hoole*, and more latterly *owle* until we finally dropped the *e*. Why they stare, according to legend is the result of a contest which went badly wrong against the pigeons who overwhelmed the owls, leaving them only to fly at night whilst pigeons sleep but still keeping up a keen watch! And watch they do from many a tall tree in Linton, and perhaps their eerie hootings remind us to reflect and acquire some of that illusive wisdom; for I can't imagine our village without owls, trees and the wise people with whom we are blessed.

In your own time...

GRAHAM Potter, Linton News's Production Manager, was born near Castle Camps and, after finishing school at the college in Linton, he got an apprenticeship with BT, where he stayed for 42 years. He started by repairing home phones and eventually became an Exchange Engineer. He then moved on to become the union secretary for CWU, taking early retirement in 2010, which gave him more time to pursue his various interests.

The Linton News was set up by the late Ron Amsden nearly 25 years ago and Graham joined issue two as a volunteer. When the LN went digital and acquired a computer with a loan from the Parish Council, Graham became more involved as the Production Manager and he now manages the technical side of the six computers belonging to members of the team.

Graham is also a keen beekeeper, even though he says he doesn't like honey, he is just fascinated by bees. At the moment he has four hives overwintering at Shudy Camps, where he first became an apiarist. He visits the hives only occasionally in the winter and feeds the bees on fondant icing so they have enough food for the winter. In the summer he spends about half a day a week with them and says he is now immune to bee stings. He is also on the committee of the Beekeeper's Association.

Among Graham's other interests are extensive DIY; he is a Parish Councillor with interests in the social side of the sports pavilion and upkeep of the play



Our Hero, Graham with one of his beehives

Picture by Georgina Page

equipment on the recreation ground and he is also on the civilian committee of the Air Training Corps, who man the car parking on flying days at Duxford. Graham said his greatest thrill was to be allowed to sit in an old Lancaster. He certainly has a very busy retirement.

Georgina Page

As far as the LN team is concerned Graham really is our hero. Editor

Heralding the WEA spring term



WE are all looking forward to welcoming a new, but local, speaker and expert Chloe Cockerill at Linton WEA next spring. This term we are going to once again look back in time, but this time with a modern twist – as our subject title is *Helms, Hatchments and Hedgehogs - Heraldry: it's all around us*. An introduction to heraldry including local examples; at first look this might seem to be a bit of a dry subject, but literally heraldry is still all around us and new examples are being produced all the time. William and Kate had a new grant of arms after the Royal Wedding. This required a very interesting new coat of arms for Kate's family.

This course is a straightforward introduction to what is often dismissed as an esoteric subject. It will trace the history of heraldry from the 12th to the 21st centuries from chivalry, jousting and tournaments to the arms of a supermarket. Many examples from local churches, Cambridge schools and colleges will be included. For our course visit we hope to go to Windsor Castle and Chapel.

See www.lintonwea.org.uk/courses2.htm for more details.

We start our 10 week term at 10am on Tuesday 10th January at Linton Village Hall. Each session lasts until 11.45am, with a break for a cup of tea and a chance to catch up on the local news halfway through. We are a very friendly group and you will be more than welcome to come and join our truly happy Tuesday mornings. The fee for the 10 week course is just £45 and there is help for people on benefits and low family incomes. For all enquiries about the course please contact the branch secretary on 290420. Andrew Westwood-Bate

ACEs learn about Ely Cathedral

THE last meeting of ACEs for 2011 saw the welcome return of Dr Lynne Broughton, eminent theologian and historian. She had previously shown us how to read a church and find the special things hidden there. This time she spoke on Ely Cathedral, interpreting its structure and decorations. Lynne clearly loves this special place, the history and faith that shaped it. For example, the story of St Etheldreda illustrated on the corbels – once so clear to our ancestors who could not read. This remarkable story of a brave lady, with miracles and a commentary on virtue, show how much ideals have changed. The maze, at the entrance is not merely a puzzle but a journey through life – and who really appreciated the significance of the central Octagon? Now we will view it in a different light.

The fish and chips survived the trip from Sawston but their delay gave us time to catch up on village happenings and to chat – the main reason for our meetings!

To raise funds for our Mobile Warden, we have our annual coffee morning from 10.30am to 1pm on Saturday 14th January in the Village Hall. There will be stalls, Bring and Buy, a raffle and information on services available. Once known as Sherry and Shortbread, the name has changed but we still provide warming beverages!

You are all most welcome to join us to start the year – meanwhile, ACEs wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Enid Bald 891069

Last meeting for Linda



Thirty years later: Linda Bird is presented with a crystal vase to mark her retirement

Picture by Sarah Carter

AFTER serving for 16 years with the 1st Linton Brownies and 14 years with other units, Linda Bird has retired from Guiding.

At the Brownies' Christmas party on 6th December, Mrs Bird was presented with a silver trefoil brooch by district commissioner Edith Osborn.

She was also given a splendid Dartington crystal

vase and a lovely bouquet of flowers by Brownie sixer Sophie Smart.

Mrs Bird said she had really enjoyed her time with the Brownies and would miss the weekly meetings.

Assistant, Mrs Kate Huntsman, will become leader of 1st Linton Brownies with assistants Jessica West and Susan Anderson.

Kate France

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Granta playgroup celebrates



Linton Granta playgroup children with the staff and helpers

LINTON Granta Playgroup is celebrating the excellent results of their recent Ofsted inspection.

The playgroup, based within Linton village college campus, achieved a Good rating which recognised the staff's commitment to the development of the children.

Playgroup Leader Karen Thompson, said: "It is a fantastic outcome which recognises our hard work and commitment in working with both the parents and their children."

"I am very proud of the staff team for their excellent work. On behalf of the staff,

Picture by Siobhan Godwood
I would like to thank those who have supported us. It is appreciated by us all."

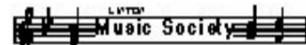
For information about Linton Granta playgroup and to ask about spaces, please e-mail info@linton-grantaplaygroup.org.uk or call me:

Kirsten Butler, 890861

Linton Music Society welcomes local talent



Picture of Rachel Godsill supplied by Linda Bird



WE have pleasure in welcoming Linton resident Rachel Godsill, soprano, and her piano accompanist, Marie-Noelle Kendall, in a performance of songs, arias and cabaret songs by composers including Purcell, Elgar, Quilter and Gershwin. A feast of song to warm a winter's night!

The concert will take place at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 11th February at Linton Village College.

Tickets £10 on the door, or in advance from Sweettalk News, 893480.

Linda Bird

Storytime at the library

STORYTIME for all under fives is held from 2.15-2.45pm on Wednesdays during term-time in the library at the Cathedral Centre.

All children are welcome. There is no charge and no need to book.

Parents/carers must stay with the children.

Dates are as follows:
January 11th, 18th, and 25th.
February 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th.
March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

For more information please go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/. Or you can call 0345 045 5225.

Anne Worthington

POT POURRI 82

What size parcel?

THE dimensions of a parcel that could be sent in the post is expressed as follows; the length (l) cannot exceed 1.5m and the girth plus the length cannot exceed 3m. ($g = 2 \times \text{width} + 2 \times \text{height}$). If I send a cane, what is the maximum length it can be bearing in mind the parcel's maximum dimensions?

Solution to 81 - Can a broken stick make a triangle?

The triangle can only be formed if there is a break either side of the stick's middle. After one break, the probability of a break on the other side is 1 in 2.

There is a rule (self evident) that states that the length of any two sides of a triangle must be either equal or greater than the third side. This tells us that the breaks must be less than half the length apart. This condition has a probability of 1:2. Thus, multiplying the probabilities together gives 1:4 i.e. there is a one in four chance of a three-piece stick forming a triangle when broken at random.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Help for Alzheimer's

THE Alzheimer's Society works with anyone who is confused and forgetful, their carers and families, not just people with Alzheimers disease.

We are here to provide information, to help people to understand confusion, to provide friendship and opportunities to meet other people in a similar situation.

We will be at Linton Health Centre from 10am-1pm on Tuesday 17th January when staff will be present to help you.

We can help with financial issues and carers assessments, as well as providing information and support. We will have a confidential area where we can chat if needed. Carers and people with dementia can meet up and chat over coffee.

If we can help in any way or you would like to find out more about our groups, please call our office on 863854. Daniel Schaffer, Support Group Facilitator

A welcome from Friends

THERE will be an all-you-can-eat-and-drink of coffee, mince pies and savouries, from 11am-12.30pm on Saturday 7th January, in the village hall, a bargain at £3 a head. There will also be a raffle, bring and buy and second-hand book stall. Proceeds to the Friends of St. Mary's. A warm welcome awaits you.

Margaret Clark

New faces at the market

THE New Year brings a few new faces to the Linton Farmers' market. We have a local lady farmer joining us to sell her rare breed pork and there will be hand-made soups available to warm you up once you get home. All the regulars will be around including our superb fresh fish from Lowestoft. There are exceptional hand-made pork pies from West Wickham that are hard to surpass and local shallots and pickles which will just make a perfect snack.

Jan Lupton

Post Office handy tips

IF your internet shopping is being returned by post, the Linton post office can send it free if you have a pre-paid label on it, plus you get a specific manufacturer, time and weight receipt to show you have posted it. Look out for the free returns labels with your order paperwork. Or, if you don't get one, why not ask the company you bought from to send you one - not all will do this but some do.

Just for fun for those of you who like a challenge with a small cash prize

AS we have a very small space available, we thought it would be fun to see if you can identify some of the pictures that we did not publish.

We would like you to tell us which month they would have gone into the Linton News and in which story.

They are all from the past 12 months.

Answers to the editor, email address on page 3.



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The Derbyshire Post



HAPPY New Year to everyone from the college! Have you heard that we have a brand new, state-of-the-art fitness suite? If you haven't, you might like to pop down to Linton Community Sports Centre and take a look.

We have been aware that our fitness suite has been looking a little tired and that our loyal customers have been hoping for an upgrade for a while. Well, we do listen carefully to the views of the user group so we decided that new facilities were a priority if we were to retain our customers and recruit new members too. The special feature of our membership scheme is that we do not hold our members to a contract, so if you find that you have no future use for the gym you don't keep paying the fees. This is a member-friendly policy that other rival gyms do not offer. Getting out of a gym contract with some is virtually impossible and our way is much kinder on your pocket and your blood pressure. We do, however, request that members give us one month's notice prior to cancelling their membership. Why not drop by the Sports Centre and take a look at what we can offer?

We have been delighted to see the revival of the Friends of LVC group in recent months. First there was the summer pub quiz, then the huge success of the whole school sponsored walk and the third event they are running is a Burns Night on 27th January. Once more, this an opportunity to meet up with friends in the community and enjoy an evening of fun together. Tickets for the event are available from the college reception. The price of the ticket includes a three course meal and ceilidh.

On the very same day, we are holding the opening ceremony and plaque unveiling for our new building. Our guest for this auspicious occasion is Sir David Hemery. David was a gold medallist at the Mexico Olympics and in recent years has been involved in a project with young people, linked to London 2012, called The Best You Can Be. Our Year 7 students are completing the project this year. My memories of David are from my own childhood in the 1970s when he was a regular contestant on *Superstars*, one of my favourite shows. It is fitting that in an Olympic year, a great Olympian is our guest of honour. The opening is just one of the events at LVC in 2012 which will have an Olympic flavour.

Caroline Derbyshire

LVC Sports Centre update

JANUARY is upon us and we have just the thing at Linton Community Sports Centre to help shift those festive pounds. Our new fitness suite has all the latest equipment housed in a spacious, friendly environment. In January we are offering new members a free Body Stat fitness test and personalised programme worth £30. We do not ask that you sign a contract, our motto is, No contracts, no hassle – or pay as you go. We offer a variety of fitness classes; new for January is Belly Dancing on a Friday evening from 7pm so come along to get fit and have fun.

For further details visit our website at www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk, give us a call on 890248 or email us at lsc@lvc.org

We are currently accepting enrolments for our adult education programme, whether you want to master the art of sugar craft or learn basic computer skills we have something for you. 50 plus yoga sessions take place on a Thursday morning 10.30am – 11.30am. Ideal for anyone over 50 with existing health problems, or just wanting to get fitter. For further information on these and other courses please email adulteducation@lvc.org or call us on 891233 and select option 4.



The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Murder in Linton

THERE were very few Linton murders until the 18th century and at that time there were only about 300 annually recorded in the whole of the UK. Murders in Linton were largely within the family, usually committed by the husband.

In December 1786 John Moore of Linton was imprisoned in Cambridge Castle for the wilful murder of his 30-year-old wife Mary. Mary had just given birth to her first child, born within three months of their marriage. Whilst lying in Mary employed the services of another woman. About midnight on 13th December Mary cried out, "Murder – Lord have mercy on me John. I shall never live after what you've done to me." She died the next day. The



The Grip with the White Hart in the background

Picture from Garth's collection

surgeon, Mr Prince of Millicent House in Mill Lane, conducted an autopsy and found a large discolouration and quantity of dark blood serum in Mary's lungs and bruises on her neck, breasts and face. This condition was caused by her husband's

blows and several witnesses related that the assaults had been taking place for some time. John was hanged at the castle.

In 1813 Mary Philips of Linton, aged 19, was tried for concealing the body of her bastard child born two years previously. She concealed the body in the privy by her cottage in The Grip. She was released because she had a miscarriage of the seven month old foetus occasioned by a fight. Her actions were condemned and public opinion led to her re-arrest and trial for manslaughter but the jury acquitted her.

Most of the female murderers were tried for infanticide but in the 1820s this was no longer a capital offence.

Why pay when you don't have to

EACH month at Trading Standards we receive enquiries about things people have paid for but could have got free. Here is advice on where you may be able to save unnecessary expense.

Warranties and Guarantees

When you buy goods, whether on their own or as part of a larger piece of work, by law those goods must be of satisfactory quality, be fit for purpose, and of a standard that you would expect bearing in mind the cost, be free from minor defects, be as described and last a reasonable time for a product of that type. So if the normal life of a washing machine is five years and yours stops working after two years, you may be able to claim for a repair or replacement from the business you bought it from, regardless of whether you bought a warranty or guarantee. So consider carefully whether a warranty gives you anything extra.

Claiming from your debit card or credit card

If you are in dispute with a trader, instead of taking them to court, see if your bank can help you. If you paid on a debit card and there are problems with the purchase, many banks offer a chargeback scheme where they refund you. If you pay for something worth over £100 and at least some of it is on your credit card, the credit card company is equally as responsible as the business that breaks its contract with you. So, if your new table arrives damaged, or your new TV breaks down soon after purchase, you can insist that your credit card provider helps you if the shop won't. This applies even if you have paid off the amount on your credit card.

Personal Protection Insurance

Some companies are offering to claim compensation for the mis-selling of personal protection insurance on residents' behalf, whether in relation to a loan, mortgage or credit card. This is something you can do yourself. The Financial Ombudsman has produced a leaflet on how to make the complaint available on www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk. Or contact the Financial Ombudsman on 0800 0234567.

European Health Insurance cards

You can obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) free of charge entitling you to medical treatment at a reduced cost or sometimes free, when visiting a country in the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This is limited to treatment provided under the state scheme and you will need to produce your EHIC card. Find out more and apply at www.ehic.org.uk

Legal advice

There are many sources of free legal advice available. Trading Standards, in partnership with Consumer Direct, offers advice on issues with businesses. Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/consumer or call us on 0845 4040506. The Citizens Advice Bureaux offer advice on a range of issues including debt, benefits, employment, housing and family issues. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call 08444 111 444. Many people can get free legal advice under their home insurance policies; check yours to see if you can get help.

Enterprise challenge sponsored by Dalehead Foods

STUDENTS at Linton Village College have been cooking up Olympic-themed meals for an enterprise challenge sponsored by local employer Dalehead Foods as part of their commitment to the Business in the Community Business Class programme which links businesses with local schools.



The winning team with judges from Dalehead Foods

Pictures taken by Tony Kelly

The company produces chilled pork products for Waitrose supermarkets, and the challenge for the 32 year 9 students was to design a ready-made meal on the theme of the Olympic Games 2012. As well as cooking the product for a panel of tasting experts

from Dalehead Foods, the students had to do market research, budgeting, packaging and product design tasks and produce advertising materials. Ideas included sausages in the shape of the Olympic rings, and burgers flavoured with masala, barbecue sauce and Guinness to

represent the different countries taking part.

The winning team of Eve Cameron, Chris Carpenter, Heather Charlesworth and Kylem Davis impressed the judges with their Olympic meatballs with rice. They were presented with certificates, goody bags and a shield by Seamus Rooney, the incoming managing director of Dalehead Foods: "The costings, product design, recipes and ideas were all very professionally presented and the foods actually tasted good," he said.

Tony Kelly, Tony.Kelly@lvc.org

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S/2343/11 Mr Peter Watson, Station House, Station Road Conversion and change of use of existing station waiting room to open plan office (Use Class B1a)

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Parish Council Matters

The parish council 40 years ago

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

THIS is the story of Linton parish council in 1971, its people and its decisions.

For the benefit of old Linton residents I list the councillors of 1971. The chairman was Frank Kitteridge and vice-chairman John Franklin. The rest of the council was Mrs Carr, Mrs Massy, Mrs Swannell, Karl Chapman, Chris Fairey, Harold Fairey, Jock Head, Edgar Morley, Kenneth Paintin, Ian Seeley, Peter Taylor and George Wass. The clerk was Mrs Jean Runham.

A precept (budget) for the year commencing April 1971, proposed by the finance committee, was set at £1300. A brochure of suitable gates for the cemetery extension had been received and was being considered. Both South Cambridgeshire rural district council (RDC) and Cambridgeshire county council refused to pay for street lights in Rivey Close and the council agreed to seek quotations for supply and erection of three lights. A planning application for an office to be changed to light industry in Bartlow Road was not supported by the council.

A letter of sincere thanks was received from Mr and Mrs Bullman after a presentation to Mr Bullman on 4th December 1970 recognising his many years of service to the parish council. The clerk reported that at a managers meeting at the church-aided school a proposition was to be sent to the county council that the present school should cater for juniors and an infants school be built on the school playing field (Camping Close).

At the February meeting Mrs Runham said the electricity board would provide three streetlights in Rivey Close at a cost of £159.15. A decision was deferred on the provision of modern globes for all Linton's streetlights. The parish council passed a resolution (contrary to the church-aided school managers decision) that the new school should be built for juniors and the present building cater for infants. Although no objections had been raised to three planning applications received, John Franklin was asked to complain about insufficient information being included on forms submitted. A suggestion of a car park in Meadow Lane was turned down by South Cambs RDC but a site in Coles Lane was being considered.

At the March meeting it was recommended that iron gates be ordered for the cemetery extension from Ironcrafts (Stotfold) Ltd at a cost of £105. Red brick pillars should support the gates and all fencing and gates to be painted dark green. Croftons were asked to cost shot blasting and zinc spraying of the new gates. Local builders would be asked to quote for the work. The county council asked that a letter be sent to the education secretary with the parish council proposals for two schools to cover the 5-11 age groups.

The formal resignation of E W Bullman was received by the council - held up for two months by the postal strike. Ray Dobson was asked to fill the vacancy and was welcomed at the April meeting. A charge of £15 to shot blast and zinc spray the new cemetery extension gates was approved. An increase in street lighting charges was received from the electricity board and a full check was to be made by councillors before signature. The social centre committee were given permission to hold a fete on the recreation ground during week 14-19 June. Michael O'Loughlin reported that plans had been submitted to South Cambs RDC to build 166 houses on land off Symonds Lane/Back Road (now Linton Park) - councillors described plans as 'too high a density for that area'.

The council were to inspect the recreation ground following work on the pumping station. At a meeting of 6th May the contrac-



Cemetery extension gates

Picture by Sue Parry

tors agreed to return the spoiled areas. At the same meeting the football club was informed that no matches would be allowed after 30th April and only one match per week played and the goal areas repaired immediately.

At the May meeting Messrs Kitteridge and Franklin were re-elected to their posts. The government acknowledged the parish council proposals for a new school in Linton. The county surveyor was looking into a turning area at the closed end of Meadow Lane with possible use of parish land. The football club had written to the council seeking a meeting to discuss limits on pitch use during the next season. The clerk was asked to seek advice on parish council powers over the use of the recreation ground. No positive action by the contractors to repair the surface of the recreation ground appeared to be forthcoming so South Cambs RDC were to be informed. A suitable site for public conveniences in Linton was to be reviewed by councillors Kitteridge, Franklin and Seeley.

Karl Chapman promised to inspect all parish council streetlights before the agreement with the electricity board was signed at the June meeting. The clerk confirmed that as owners of the recreation ground they had the powers to limit use of the football pitch. It was agreed to meet representatives of all involved. The contractors of the pumping station work said it was not yet finished. A draft map of the village conservation area had been received from the county council. A suggestion that public conveniences be placed between the transformer and the riverbank opposite the Swan was passed to South Cambs RDC.

A meeting in July chaired by R A Taylor with football representatives appeared to resolve issues about use of the pitch with advice given about maintenance and the use of a 13cwt cutter roller. An inspection of the pavilion took place and a number of points were raised. Children's playground equipment was also checked. Karl Chapman reported on four lights no longer in use and subject to these being deleted from the bill, the agreement could be signed. The proposed conservation area in Linton was approved by the council.

The September meeting attended by the police confirmed that

the Bartlow Road/by-pass junction was being monitored for accidents following recent incidents. The department of education and science had approved proposals for a new school in Linton. South Cambs RDC were asked to seek sites in Linton for public parking. The development of the site off Symonds Lane/Back Road had been approved. County council planning officials attended a parish council meeting of 29th October to outline the plans which involved two entrances and a three acre flood plain at the bottom of the site.

The clerk said the obsolete streetlights would have to be removed by the council - a scrap metal merchant would have to be sought. The new cemetery gates had been received, installed and payment approved. The church-aided school managers agreed that their school should cater for infants when the new school was built. The village college informed the council that a charge of £1 plus care-taking fees would be charged for meetings backdated to September. The clerk was to enquire if the council could be charged.

At the November meeting the street lighting agreement was signed by the chairman. The electricity board was to quote for the removal of obsolete equipment. Approval was given to changes to the Bartlow Road junction with the by-pass but work could not start until 1973. The pumping station contractors asked that newly seeded areas be allowed to grow before the council's inspection to confirm re-installment. A date in Spring 1972 was suggested. The clerk said she had been advised that the village college could not charge for council meetings but could ask for out-of-pocket expenses. New road names for the proposed estate were suggested with The Grove, Primrose Way and The Woodlands among suggestions. The council countered complaints by the football club about the state of the pavilion by quoting the costs the council incurred - information was exchanged by both parties. A county council official had queried the council's ownership of the recreation ground but the clerk produced a solicitors letter of 1922 confirming the council had bought the land.

At a December meeting the finance committee recommended a precept for April 1972 of £1900 - an increase of £600!

Cllr John Linsdell

Dog fouling

THERE have been a number of complaints made recently regarding dog fouling on our village pavements and verges.

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is generally an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to allow it to foul unless they clear it up. If there is a persistent problem with dog fouling in your area there are a number of options:

South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) can:

- investigate, issue warnings, fixed penalty notices or even

prosecute persons in charge who fail to clear up after their dog, providing you know who that person is, have witnessed the incident and are prepared to give a statement and possibly go to court.

- assess whether there are adequate facilities for the disposal of dog mess in the vicinity.

- arrange for ad-hoc clearances of heavily fouled areas.

Contact the SCDC environmental health department on 03450 450 063.

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 17th November 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, Mrs A Walker, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with 13 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mannassi, Linsdell, county & district councillor Batchelor and district councillor Bear.

Chairman's comments: The chair reported that the Remembrance Sunday service had been very well attended. The Guides, Scouts, Beavers and ATC had led the procession to the cemetery. Mr Laurence Kidman was thanked for organising the event for the past 15 years.

The personal statement issued by Cllr Cox at the previous meeting was illegal as the subject was deemed to be confidential by this council at that time. However, there were some points that council had made public via its allotment statement, that were mentioned by Cllr Cox, where council had already stated it had concerns regarding the proposed site. The chair reiterated that financial matters with the owners of the land were in the initial stages, and that heads of terms were months away from being agreed, and all this was providing the major issue of the access could be resolved. He also reiterated that the parish council was available to open discussions with any other landowner regarding an allotment site.

Disclosure of interest: Under the allotments item Cllr Walker declared a personal interest as an employee of Camgrain Ltd.

Public participation: Ms J Larcombe spoke of her disturbance by the noise levels from Camgrain and asked if they could do anything to alleviate the noise, starting with the 4am alarm and creaking of the conveyors. The parish council would pass this comment on to Camgrain.

The chair reported that he and Cllr Potter had met with representatives of Camgrain that day. The meeting had been very positive. A report would be issued.

Mr J Bald endorsed Ms Larcombe's comments but added that nobody was suggesting that Camgrain were the only noise nuisance in the village. He added that the night-long noise from Camgrain frequently ceased around 6am, when cheaper rate electricity ceased.

Mr R Hammett asked why the parish council was negotiating 21 acres when the allotments association only required seven acres. The chair replied that as set out in the statement, the village was lacking in recreational space. He also asked why the parish council was considering a community orchard on the site. Cllr Bald replied that DEFRA and the tree council were encouraging all councils to plant orchards and five trees constituted an orchard. Finally he asked how the parish council was planning to fund the provision of allotments. The chair replied that as the heads of terms had not been agreed the actual cost was unknown however the parish council might use the precept, grant funding or reserves. Mr Hammett handed out a plan of the village showing a field edged in red which he stated was an offer of land. The chair thanked him for this.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November: Cllr Bald proposed that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gee. Cllr Cox objected to the fact that his personal statement had not been included in the minutes. The chair replied that advice had been sought from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) who had advised that it should not be included. The chair offered Cllr Cox the opportunity to withdraw his personal statement and re-issue it under confidential. The offer was declined.

Cllr Cornell commented that much work was done at the initial stages of the allotment process and this was reported to council. Cllr Cornell reiterated the information received in December 2010 from South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) which explained that it was not the responsibility of the parish council to decide if the price of the land being offered was a reasonable price.

It would be for the parish council's surveyor/valuer to guide the parish council on what they considered to be a reasonable price to pay. If the price of the land was considered unreasonable, section 125 of the Local Government Act 1972 dealt with compulsory purchase powers for anywhere in the village if the parish council was unable to acquire by agreement land on reasonable terms. She also reiterated the parish council had a statutory and absolute duty to provide allotments.

A vote to accept the minutes took place with 12 votes in favour and one abstention. Proposal carried.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November: Under the Cathodeon Centre sign item, Cllr Champion proposed that as there was no requirement for the address to be displayed on the sign it should not be included. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved by the meeting.

Under the blue recycling bin item the clerk reported that SCDC conservation department would not give permission for it to be placed at the bottom of Coles Lane. They had suggested it be placed outside the village hall. However the clerk had reiterated that Parsonage Way would be the preferred site.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: Cllr Champion reported that the new countrywide non-emergency number for the police was 101. Complaints had been made about inconsiderate parking outside schools by parents collecting their children. If this continued fixed £30 penalty notices would be issued. The police were still actively engaged in issuing tickets for road traffic offences on A1307. Residents were asked to be vigilant for thefts of heating oil. Criminal damage had occurred to a new car in Balsham Road and a window in a house in the High Street had been broken. Cllr Bald asked that PCSOs should take action on cyclists riding on pavements and without lights.

Report from the county councillor: Cllr Batchelor had issued a written report. Cllr Cornell reported that the county council had issued a press release on 4th November regarding the A1307. A steering group of local parish councils and Access 1307 would discuss the A1307, however improvements would rely on county council budgets. Cllr Cornell was preparing a report on local authority cross border co-operation which would be sent to the government. Cllr Cornell also reported that the BBC2 programme *Britain's Killer Roads* shown that day had featured the A1307.

Report from the district councillors: No report had been received. Following the determination of the Nichols Court lighting plan application it had been confirmed that Cllr Batchelor and Cllr Bear had not objected to it, and Cllr Batchelor had actually supported it. Mr Hampson from SCDC had offered to set up a meeting with the parish council and Sanctuary.

To consider the confidentiality and security of emails between the parish clerk and councillors: Following advice from CPALC, the chair reported that no confidential items should be sent via email or posted out to councillors. They should only be discussed at council under 'confidential items' and be agreed after reading out. A hard copy should be kept in the office for councillors to refer to, until such time that council felt that they should be made public. It was not necessary to provide secure email addresses, and CPALC had advised against this as securing emails was actually very difficult. The clerk reminded councillors that they had a duty to respond to her emails if requested to do so.

To consider the document 'Agreement to Occupy' between LA4Y and the parish council: Cllr Hunt proposed that the draft agreement be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox and resolved by the meeting. Cllr Hunt asked that if an alternative user wished to take over the building if it was no longer required by LA4Y, that this should be allowed. It was decided that in this situation common sense should prevail. However, any new user would need council's approval, apply for planning permission and a new agreement would need to be drawn up.

Allotments: This item was declared confidential and discussed at the end of the meeting.

Reports from councillors (for information only): Cllr Bald reported that the allocation of trees from SCDC had been received

and planted mostly in the eastern corner of the recreation ground. An oak to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee had been planted near to the Golden Jubilee stone.

Cllr Cox reported that following a meeting with the environmental agency it was decided not to remove the weirs from the Dog and Duck public house to the recreation ground. Removing the weirs would have reduced the number of fish and invertebrates as the river bed was not sound. However, one weir could be removed as an experiment. Cllr Bald noted that gravel may need to be put back into the river and it may be possible to remove part of the mounds, increasing the size of the sports field and re-forming the dog walking path.

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

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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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
Or by appointment

Dates for full council meetings:
5th and 19th January, 2nd and 16th February 2012
All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre commencing at 8pm

South Cambridgeshire district council disability forum

DID you know that South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) have set up a group to focus on disability issues?

It looks at how we deal with these issues across all the services we provide to our tenants and leaseholders.

In late 2009 SCDC carried out a tenants survey, results showed a high level of disability reported by residents in our homes. Because of this SCDC decided to set up a disability forum.

Our disability forum aims to involve any tenants or leaseholders of SCDC that are interested in helping to improve the quality of life for people with disability or members of their household who are disabled.

The forum is a way of harnessing your thoughts, experience, enthusiasm and ideas to help improve our awareness of the issues you face and modify our services accordingly.

The forum intends to:

Represent all our residents and members of their household who consider themselves to be disabled.

Act on behalf of tenants in relation to housing policy and to participate and consult disabled tenants.

Promote the rights and needs of people with disabilities in the planning of new homes and in the maintenance or improvement of existing properties.

Promote a greater awareness and focus on the interests of people with disabilities in relation to our decision-making.

Promote and encourage recreational and social activities involving people with disabilities and their families.

Act as representatives of the wider community and lobby the service providers and policy makers on issues of community interest.

If you are an SCDC tenant or leaseholder, carer or service provider and would like to get involved please contact: The chair, Chris Maitland at chris.chairSCDCDF@live.co.uk mobile 07870 372290 or SCDC's resident involvement officer Gill Anderton on 01954 713377 or gill.anderton@scambs.gov.uk

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