

Wacky Fun Day
12noon 7th August
Recreation
Ground

Established 1987

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Hadstock &
Bartlow

THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info e-mail lneditor@linton.info

August
2011

Vol. 25 N°5

Publication date
Monday 1st August

E & E PLUMRIDGE
Design & Print
41 High Street
Linton
01223 891407



100 years
old: the
homes in
Symonds
Lane

Picture by
Ron Pitkin

Give a few hours a month and change someone's life ...



CAMBRIDGESHIRE Mencap is seeking vol-
unteers to support two people in Linton aged 18
and 25 with learning disabilities.

If you would enjoy helping someone to go
swimming, bowling, go to the cinema, walk round the village
or just watch a DVD in the young person's home for up to
four hours a month, then please get in touch.

Your support could help the young person develop their so-
cial skills, interests, independence and self-confidence, while
at the same time providing valuable respite time for parents
and carers.

If you could spare a few hours one evening of every
month, you could be doing something new, or something
you already do and enjoy, while making a big difference to a
young person and his family's lives.

If you are interested, you can find out more by contacting
Pat Scott, Mencap volunteers support co-ordinator on 883140
or email Pat@cambridgemencap.co.uk

... and scouts need some help



DO YOU have a child who is active in the Lin-
ton Scout group and/or are you interested in
helping youngsters develop in our community?

If so, would you be prepared to help the
group, either in weekly meetings of the Beavers, Cubs or
Scouts or in the organisation of the group's social and fund-
raising activities?

If you are interested in hearing more about these opportuni-
ties, please contact the group leader Barry Holman on 891961
or send an email from our website www.lintonscouts.co.uk

More volunteers needed: See Page 6

Have we come full circle on the housing front?

At the beginning of the
20th century Linton was
desperately short of houses,
with many described as mere
slums.

They were said to be not
only absolutely unfit but in
so dilapidated and unsound a
structural condition as to be
incapable of being made fit
for habitation.

Closure procedures had
not been pursued because of
the complete lack of alterna-
tive accommodation.

Two examples of the kind
of conditions that people had
to live in are:

**A cottage with two
bedrooms both on the ground
floor containing 11 people:
a man, his wife and nine
children aged between three
months and 19 years, let at a
rent of £3 a year;

**A cottage housing four
men and five women, all
sleeping in one bedroom
divided by a flimsy canvas
partition about five feet high.

The medical officer
was reported as being very
emphatic as to the difficulty
in dealing with illness and
especially with cases of
childbirth, with any regard to
decency in the cottages.

As private landlords
would not build, the only
way to provide houses for
the working class was if the
district council built them
with a government loan.

Linton rural district
council was the first in Cam-
bridgeshire to adopt Part
III of the Housing of the
Working Classes Act 1890 to
enable the council to build
houses to rent, and in 1906

was sanctioned to borrow
£1,500 from a government
scheme.

In 1907, the council
bought nearly three acres
from a Saffron Walden land-
owner for £160.

The council was not
stirred into further action
until 1910 when they re-
ceived a letter from the Local
Government Board asking
about progress on the build-
ing of homes for which the
loan had been approved.

Plans were passed to build
five pairs of council houses
– four pairs now Nos 14-28
Symonds Lane (then called
Union Lane) – and Nos 69
and 71 Back Road, each on
¼ acre of land. Rents were
fixed at 2/6d (25p) a week for
labourers and 3/6d a week
for people above the status of

labourers.

The first houses were oc-
cupied in March 1911 and
the rest during that year mak-
ing the houses just 100 years
old.

With the land purchase
costing approximately £200
and building work £1,550,
the first 10 council houses in
Linton, now 100 years old,
cost a total of £1,750. The
value of each house on the
open market today would
probably be at least £175,000,
beyond the reach of many
workers. Have we come a full
circle?

** This report comes
from *Housing in Linton,
Cambridgeshire, in the 19th
and 20th Centuries* by Frank
Jeffery and Iris Jeffery pub-
lished by Linton and district
historical society.

Remembering a stalwart

The
presentation
of the seat in
memory of
Barry Brewer

Picture by
Roger Lapwood



A CEREMONY took place in
July to unveil a bench at the
recreation ground in memory
of local football stalwart,
Barry Brewer, who sadly
died in 2010.

The bench was appropri-
ately placed close to the half-
way line of the football pitch
by the Aztecs and Linton
Granta teams.

Alan Norton thanked the
parish council for allowing
the siting of the bench which
would remind everyone of his
dedication to the village and
hard work in the community.

Linton Granta chairman
Robin Williams said his tire-
less work for teams of all ages
will always be remembered.

Peter Belsom said: "He
was a fantastic man to know
and work with – the heart
and soul of village football.
Thank you to everyone who
has attended this ceremony.
This tribute could not go to
someone more deserving."

Barry was heavily in-
volved with the Aztecs and
Linton Granta teams for
many years, and has been
integral to their success in

that time. Testament to his
standing in the game, the
unveiling was attended by
Phil Brasher, chairman of
Cambridgeshire FA, of which
Barry was a longtime mem-
ber, Mrs Brenda Ince MBE,
secretary and Roger Pawley,
vice chair.

It is hoped that a pre-
season memorial cup compe-
tition will take place for local
teams, with another, the Mick
North/Barry Brewer memo-
rial cup, arranged by the
Cambridgeshire FA.

LNT

Rosemary's Guiding award

GUIDING leader Rosemary
Turner has been presented
with Girlguiding UK's Laurel
Award for outstanding service
to the organisation for more
than 40 years.

Rosemary was presented with
the award by county commis-
sioner, Sue Carpenter and
region commissioner, Rosie
Spencer, at the annual straw-
berry evening organised by
guiding in Linton district.

Rosemary has been in-
volved with guiding since she
joined as a seven-year-old.
As a group leader for more
than 40 years, firstly in Essex
and since 1971 in Cam-
bridgeshire, she has inspired
hundreds of girls; encourag-
ing and supporting them to
take on challenges, make new
friends and reach for their
goals.

Former Guide Lucy, who
is now a young leader with
the Guides, said: "She al-
ways sees the good in people
and is genuinely a fun person
to be around, who is always
there for you to go to and is



Rosemary Turner,
who, quote "has
never, not been in
guiding".

Picture by
Wendy Foster

always able to help you with
anything."

Sue Carpenter said: "I am
delighted that Rosemary's
service to Girlguiding Cam-
bridgeshire East has been
recognised with this Laurel
Award.

"What makes Rosemary
special is not just the length
of her service to guiding but

the impact she has had on
so many girls and young
women. I am delighted we
have been able to recognise
and to thank Rosemary for
all her hard work and com-
mitment in guiding in Linton
and across the county".

Jess Bond, county PR
adviser Girlguiding
Cambridgeshire East

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

THE June meeting of the police panel was well attended, with some new issues emerging for our area.

An increase in metal thefts was recorded, including one at the village college. Residents and business owners were asked to be on their guard, and to report any sightings of people acting suspiciously.

Since the previous meeting, some 38 speed checks were carried out across the neighbourhood area, resulting in 28 fixed penalty notices and nearly 100 advisory letters. Further speed checks are to be carried out this year, along with patrols in illegal parking hotspots - outside the Co-op store, for example.

The police have invested some time in an apparent dispute between youths from Linton and Saffron Walden, and are keen to clamp down on any further unrest. It is hoped that a better quality CCTV will both deter the continuing vandalism of the skate ramp and positively identify the culprits.

Antisocial behaviour was again on the agenda. Several seizures of cannabis and alcohol from teenagers have taken place. Several cars have been witnessed driving at inappropriate speeds, and a search of one found a quantity of drugs and cash. One Linton resident reported watching what appeared to be a deal taking place close to the recreation ground.

One new problem is the growing number of mopeds travelling through the village, sometimes late at night, causing a noise nuisance. Also, it was noted that some riders are prepared to carry unhelmeted passengers, putting them at risk of serious injury.

The next meeting will be held at the Heights school at 7.30pm on 20th September.

LNT

POLICE in Cambridgeshire are asking how we would prefer to communicate with them. There are currently many ways to stay in contact with police in Cambridgeshire, including e-cops, the force website and local meetings. However, as part of an ongoing review, they are keen to know which of these methods of communication, or an alternative, people like the most.

The question is part of the fourth week of the Have your say forum. The online tool gives the public the chance to help shape the future of policing in Cambridgeshire. Kate Tonge, Head of Communications for Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said: "The views of local people and businesses are very important to us. We believe that we should listen as much as we speak. We have used methods such as e-cops, our website, beat meetings, Neighbourhood panels and forums for some time - but do they work for you or is there a better way for us to talk to and listen to you?" Each week a topic is being posted on the force website for people to comment on or post questions. All comments, questions and answers will be viewable and the forum will be live for at least the next three months on the website at <http://www.cambs.police.uk/newpolicingapproach/haveyoursay>

You can contact your neighbourhood policing team directly on linton.npt@cambs.pnn.police.uk. Alternatively, you can ring your neighbourhood team on 0345 456 456 4. For all non-emergencies, general enquiries and to report crime please call 0345 456 456 4. To give information anonymously about crime, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

FOGS

THE Friends of Granta school summer fête was a memorable day. £1,800 was raised, easily a record for a FOGS event. Jack Wilshire's boots and the holiday weekend both fetched large sums at the auction. FOGS are very grateful to Jack and the Granta parent who donated the cottage holiday. Some wonderful music was generously provided by the Linton Jazz band and the Linton Fire and Rescue service sent down a fire engine which was a great attraction for young and old alike.

All the money raised will be used to provide the Granta students with equipment and opportunities which otherwise would be unavailable to them. This year FOGS have donated funds to refurbish the design technology room, equipment for students to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, a variety of classroom and playground equipment, trips for all students at Christmas, many summertime outings, not forgetting taking the whole school to the pantomime at the Cambridge Arts theatre in January. There have been two discos for students and also this month a special Activity Day for all students was financed, with visits from the Raptor Foundation, Jezo's Magic, the Stardome Planetarium and David Jackson's Soundbeam.

Paul Ilott
Chair and treasurer, FOGS

In your own time

Nancy Arthur is the oldest Linton-born resident

NANCY Arthur was born in Linton on 28th June 1915 and recalls a happy childhood living in a cottage near the Old Court House in Symonds Lane. The long garden had an orchard and Nancy would collect apples, take them to school in her knickers (elasticated bloomers) and hand them out to friends at playtime. She enjoyed gleaning (gathering broken grain) and either bundling it up to sell or taking it home to feed the family's chickens. She remembers life was hard financially, her mother would earn 3d a week

to do someone's shopping and they had butter on Sundays and margarine the rest of the week.

Nancy went to the village school until she was 15 and then went to work at Sawston Paper Mill, but left because it was too noisy. She then went into service as a parlour maid earning £36 a year and often not having enough money to buy stockings. Nancy said her employers were often



rude to her and she had to ask permission to leave the house to even post a letter. Every other week she either had a short Sunday off (6pm to 10pm) or a long Sunday (2pm to 10pm).

Nancy married Fred in 1938 at Linton church and wore a beautiful long white dress which cost her 29/11d and carried five arum lilies at a cost of 9d each. In 1949 Nancy, Fred and their daughters Mary and Cynthia moved to a newly-built council house, where Nancy is still happily living. This had all mod cons and for the first time in her life she had an indoor lavatory.

Nancy is an amazing lady who, at the age of 96 years, regularly knits the most beautiful little dolls, animals and matinee jackets, which she gives to Arthur Rank, in memory of her daughter Mary who died last year, for them to sell to raise funds for their hospice.



Top right: A small collection of the toys made by Nancy
Above: Nancy enjoying a well earned rest after all her knitting

Pictures taken by Georgina Page

LNT

Bartlow three counties walk result

THE 2011 walk presentation evening on 30th June at The Three Hills coincided with the first of two days of rolling power cuts but the show did go on, we revealed what happened on the day, cheques were presented and appreciative comments delivered, despite the absence of the usual slide show and the kitchen being powerless to cook the advertised meal.

The weather on walk day, 1st May, was beautiful and the 470 walkers had a wonderful day, enhanced by great après-walk entertainment by Karen and the Linton Jazz Orchestra and a talented young group called Turkey Street. Marshalling around the route is always a challenge for us and this year we were supported by the young members of the Linton village college sports leaders course who did an excellent job for us. Over the years we have developed walk options that include 13½ miles, nine miles and most recently a five-mile choice that has proved most popular. The junior nature trail for the under-10s was, as always, a huge success. If only the weather would play ball, this is exactly how we would like it to turn out each year.

Our walkers and sponsors raised a net total of £9,000 - £3,000 for each of our three causes - Addenbrooke's Paediatric Gastroenterology Department, Linton health centre and Bartlow church restoration. Top Fundraisers were Joy Potter of West Wickham

(£211) and Grace Launchbury (aged four) (£133.50), her small self living proof, if we ever needed it, of the important and excellent work done by the Paediatric Gastroenterology unit.

We plan that next year's Addenbrooke's cause will relate to Dementia treatment and research.

Graham Howat
Walk organiser



Grace Lamb, one of the youngest walkers

Picture by Graham Howat

Linton Granta Football Club
Sat 20th August at the Pavilion
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8 till late - £3 admission
Tickets available from Sweet Talk
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Proceeds to Pavilion improvements

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Free Estimates

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.

Take your litter home

Dear Editor,
We do indeed live in a wonderfully kind and caring village. I am blessed almost every day when I return to my humble home on Symonds Lane. There, I find a series of almost endless donations made by the kindly residents of Linton and no doubt, other visitors to our village.

These wonderful souls supply me with a steady stream of used sweet wrappers, soft drink and beer cans, cigarette packets and other assorted gifts. You wouldn't believe it, but the generosity doesn't end there either - all of these things are left discreetly outside my home or in the street nearby for free. Yes, for free - isn't it incredible?

Now, I don't wish to appear ungrateful, but the problem I have is that when added to similar things produced by my own family during the working week, we're finding ourselves simply inundated compared to others. This seems a little unfair. Therefore, via The Linton News, a plea to my anonymous benefactors: please re-direct your kindness elsewhere in future!
Name and address supplied

Welcome back, Darryl

Dear Editor,
How good it is to have Darryl back at the Linton News with his nature rambles (or do I mean ramblings?).

When I was a proof reader on the paper I had to make fairly frequent calls to him for clarification of his musings. However, I always felt I knew what he was getting at, we always reached a compromise and we always finished up laughing.

Welcome back Darryl.
Gloria Fidler (address supplied)

The WI's visit to Norfolk



WITHIN forty minutes we had a whirlwind tour of Secret Norfolk. Our guest speaker Robert Smith began the history and tour with a slide of a replica of the earliest castles made of timber, followed by many of the stone constructed castles and abbeys. The Peddars Way took us through the pretty villages of Great Massingham and Castle Acre, to the coastal path of Hunstanton, Blakeney Point and Wells-next-the-Sea. Cley with its windmill, now surrounded by marshland famous for their reeds for thatching, and onwards to Sheringham and Cromer, with views from the tower of St Peter and St Paul church. Walsingham, which was one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the world from 1061 until the Reformation. Then in 1931 came a modern reconstruction of the shrine, bringing thousands of pilgrims to the site. For steam enthusiasts a train runs from Wells-next-the-Sea to Walsingham.

We then followed many of the rivers and towns which years ago were so vital for the importing and exporting of goods. Now, like the Norfolk Broads, they are very much a tourist attraction, with boats, welcoming pubs, some with ghost stories and quaint tea shops, all with so much history. Robert's last slide was of the vibrant yellow marsh lily.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd August in the village hall when the speaker will be Gillian McClure on writing and illustrating children's picture books. We welcome visitors.
Cynthia Norris

Sky blue theatre

AN opportunity for young people aged six to 16 to appear on the Corn Exchange stage, the biggest theatre venue in East Anglia.

There will be a workshop to have fun and gain in confidence, with acting, singing and dancing, with professionals from the world of theatre taking the sessions between 10am and 4pm from 15th to 19th August. Phone the Corn Exchange on 357851 to secure a place. There is also the possibility of being one of the orphans in the musical *Pollyanna* going on at the Corn Exchange on 10th and 11th September.
Frances Brownlie

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,
I was much moved and helped by the many thoughtful messages I received from Linton friends and acquaintances after my recent bereavement. I regret I was unable to thank each kind sender individually, as most had signed with just their first name, and I could not recognise the handwriting of many. May I express my gratitude through your columns Anna Newton (address supplied)

Dear Editor,
We would like to say a big thank you to everyone at Linton Heights junior school who was involved in the excellent production of the musical *Oliver!* performed by year five pupils for local senior citizens on Friday morning 8th July. Our warmest congratulations go to all the cast whose acting and singing was of such a high standard, and gave great pleasure to us all. We especially appreciated the warm welcome we received on arrival and the refreshments which were served after the performance by the children, who also conducted a short questionnaire, most politely, asking our opinion of the show.

After this most enjoyable morning we feel we are very fortunate to be living here in Linton, where young people in our schools are encouraged to include us older members of the community in some of their activities. They deserve our gratitude and support. Jo, with Jean and Joy, (address supplied)

Dear Editor,
The Alzheimer's Research UK coffee morning held at 29 Hollybush Way Linton on 1st June raised in excess of £650. Carol and Alex Todd thank all who attended and donated to the charity.
Carol Todd, Hollybush Way

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THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 5th September 2011
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NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 17th August

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER
We currently have no advertising space
Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse
email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR
Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
Editor: Wendy Foster email: lneditor@linton.info
phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

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LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

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
Chestnut baby/toddler group, Mondays term time, 9.30-11.30am CC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701) CC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays LVC
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays St Mary's
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919 CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only VH
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays Apr-Oct Bowls pavilion
Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only) Library
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays CP
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays Ashdon Baptist church
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
For sports centre courses please call Linton village college sports centre on 890248

AUGUST

1 Camera club, 7.15pm	Black Bull, Balsham
2 WI, 7.30pm	VH
3 Linton reading group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
4 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
6 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
6 A thousand years of history, 3pm	St Mary's Church
7 Wacky Wild West parade, 2pm	The Crown
10 Tots in tow extra session, 10am	VH
11 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
12/13 Linton theatre workshop, 8pm	Castle Camps VH
15-19 Sky blue theatre, 10am	Corn Exchange

SEPTEMBER

1 Linton lunch club, 12noon	Dog & Duck
1 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
3 Race the sun	Lake District
4 Aztecs Funday, 9.30am	LVC
6 WI, 7.30pm	VH
8 ACE outing	VH
8 Talk on allotments, 7.30pm	VH

Important announcement for 7th August

DUE to lack of space the morning car boot sale is cancelled. Come along and join in the fun from 12noon at the recreation ground. Crazy golf, big slide, quad bikes, stocks, slippery poles, face painting, Pimms bar, barbecue and lots more to do and see. Please come along and support us.

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.
Refuse collection: 4th, 18th July, 1st August
Recycling collection: 11th, 25th July
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

Directory corrections

BUFFY Bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays, now goes to Ashdon Baptist church not Hadstock village green.

LINTON VILLAGE MOTORS
(situated in Great Abington opposite Granta Park)
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Oliver Twist with a cup of tea

YOUNG and old came together at Linton Heights for the amazing performance of the musical Oliver!, sharing the experience of singing along to some of the well known tunes together.



The actors put on a brilliant show

Picture by Marian Smelik

On the 8th July, 32 elderly residents of Linton visited Linton Heights to view Year 5's very exciting production of Oliver Twist.

The visitors were assisted down the drive by Year 6 pupils and assembled in the main hall to watch the performance. The Year 5 pupils gave a lively performance and our guests very much enjoyed it. After it had been performed, a few Year 6 pupils went to interview some of the visitors. Many comments were given about the performance, all very kind and helpful. Here are a few:

"The performance was wonderful – very much worth the car journey!"

"What a smashing performance! 11/10!"

"The singing was beautiful; I especially liked the performance of Oom Pah Pah at the end."

"The costumes were fantastic: they really captured a Victorian essence."

"I loved *Where is Love*. Very touching."

After the performance, some Year 6 volunteers gave out tea and biscuits to our visitors. These volunteers and the interviewers took advantage of the leftover biscuits at the end.

It was an altogether very enjoyable morning for all involved and we are very keen to do it again at Christmas.

Daisy Drieu, Max Walker and Shannon Morris-Oldfield

The camera club has been BUZZZZZZZZZZ

AS a club, we have visited Cambridge Botanic Gardens a few times, but with the changing seasons, there is always something different to see. Saying that, the glasshouses were not as colourful as they usually are; the orchids seemed to be missing. However, there were some interesting exotically shaped plants like the zingiber spectabile (beehive ginger) and clerodendrum schweinfurthii (otherwise known as eyeballs).

Most of us were dying to try out our new macro skills covered by a previous club night and the best place to do this was the scented garden, which attracted a huge amount of honey bees. However, trying to persuade bees to stay still while you focus for the

perfect picture is very frustrating, but luckily, with digital photography, you can afford to discard not quite so perfect photographs for that one special one where everything goes to plan and all the focusing is spot-on.

Our August club night will be in Balsham, where members will take part in a photographic treasure hunt. In early August we will be travelling to Walsingham and Wells for our re-scheduled awayday.

Members are now adding to their portfolios in preparation for our annual exhibition, this year to be held on 15th October in the village hall. Once again entrance will be free and visitors will be able to see all new photographs never before exhibited; we have

many new members this year so the subject matter should be very wide. Put the date on your calendar.

Tracey Wilson
891988



A very busy bee indeed

Picture by Les Stock

Before you know it...

...THE combine harvesters will have hummed their way around the village and we'll be amazed at how fast the summer has slipped by. In case you were wondering what to do as the nights think of drawing in again, here is a taste of what is to come in the new season of gardening club events.

The AGM on 11th October will feature a fun quiz

prepared by Ron Pitkin and the camera club using photographs of members' gardens to ask "Whose garden?" The picture featured with this article gives you one to ponder between now and then!

November brings a talk on winter wonders and December delights from Peter Walker to highlight ways we can make our gardens fabulous throughout

this challenging time. The 13th December promises an entertaining evening as Lian Watkin and Jenny Purves bravely try to demonstrate how to make wreaths and sprays for Christmas, with our volunteer novices following their instructions to make their own alongside.

Dr Steve Jones kick starts the New Year for us with a tour of the Gardens of New Zealand on 10th January. February 14th brings a year of colour in the garden with Barry Gayton to brighten our evening. An integrated approach to organic versus chemical control in the garden will be the theme for Mark Ekin on 13th March. Margaret Waddy gives us thoughts on ways to introduce fragrance into the garden as we start to enjoy spring on 10th April.

The season's final meeting on 8th May will be Robin Crouchman talking about what show judges are looking for to give us tips for preparing our show entries! We look forward to welcoming both members and visitors in October to join us for another interesting season.

Kirsten Newble, 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk



Whose garden? One of the gardens which may feature in the quiz at the October meeting

Picture by Ron Pitkin

Racing the sun to raise funds for children's charity

VERY early on a, hopefully, warm and sunny Saturday in September, myself and three other intrepid Lintonites will put our best limbs forward and set off with over 80 other teams on a mad dash around the northern Lake District. The aim is to start from just outside Penrith, cycle to the head of Thirlmere, dash up and down Helvellyn (on foot), canoe two miles around Thirlmere and then cycle back again via Keswick in as fast a time as possible. This all adds up to about 60 miles of effort which has been done in under seven hours by some, though over 10 hours is more common, hence the event name 'Race the Sun' which this year is on 3rd Sept.

This will be the third time for me and the second for John Kell who has now convinced his wife, Kate, and work colleague, Nigel Whittle, to come on board and form a new team, Lintonite Legwork. Our team has two challenges – completing the course and raising a total of £2,000 for the charity Action Medical Research (www.action.org.uk). is dedicated to helping babies and children and has helped in many areas including linking folic acid to spina bifida, development of the polio and

rubella vaccines and ultrasound scanning in pregnancy. In view of this we would be extremely grateful if you would consider sponsoring us. This can be done very easily online through our fundraising page www.action.org.uk/sponsor/lintonitelegwork or you can contact me if you wish to donate directly.

So when you see us out in all weathers, either on our bikes or on foot, going up and down Rivey Hill you will now know why!

Ewen Kellar, 894364



John Kell, Ewan Kellar and two friends on last years adventure

Picture supplied by Ewen Kellar

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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams

The needle of turquoise and flame

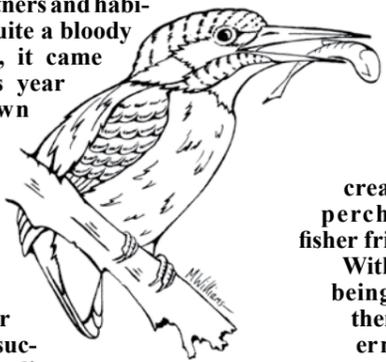
WHO would suffer the pangs of the mosquito's sword for a few moments of paradise? To sit and dismiss any thoughts of gun, trap or rod and observe life from the riverbank.

They dart in straight lines as if guided by wires, then hover like hummingbirds in a slow motion film. With splendour belying the bitter truth for one of the most superbly designed flying-killing machines; the riverside show presents-The Kingfisher! Not the first king j'accuse of ruthless predation for selfish gain and neither for adorning such wealth of beauty, and one cannot help, after such patient observation, admire the swordsmanship.

What better description as in the song by Steve O'Kane, *A needle of turquoise and flame*. However, these exotic birds are vulnerable to harsh

winter and intervention by man to control the flow of rivers. Our kingfishers (Alcedo atthis) mainly nest in burrows or tunnels excavated in the riverbank. Like robins, the fight for partners and habitat can be quite a bloody battle. Now, it came to pass this year on a known stretch, a male shared his territory with a neighbouring female thus increasing their chances of success by extending their pantry, largely made up of bullheads. Surprisingly, kingfishers tend to build their nests in steep banks away from the undergrowth, presumably to give a clear view

of any approaching predator. Next time you are out to see them during breeding season look for just such a place. An encouraging stick set at an angle into the riverbed, protruding by an arms length from the waters surface creates a fine perch for our fisher friend. With turquoise being a colour theme, another magnificent creature worthy of note is the banded agrion damselfly. The female has none of these markings suggested in the name but splendid in its own way as if made of polished bronze.



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With turquoise being a colour theme, another magnificent creature worthy of note is the banded agrion damselfly. The female has none of these markings suggested in the name but splendid in its own way as if made of polished bronze.

With their delicate lacy wings they are much smaller than the dragonfly and far more patient for the photographer.

The river bank offers a wealth of interesting life forms. Amongst the rose bay willow herb, knap weed and fool's cress a billion creatures thrive and mostly hide. Our chalky stretch of the Granta though diminishing in depth year by year is still a place by which to enjoy a stroll or picnic. On a warm evening the splash of a trout or the cluck of a moorhen can be enjoyed and there's no finer tonic after a hard day than to hear the bird song mingle with the sounds of the river. And remember, the waters we see passing by are the clouds in the sky of tomorrow, but not too many just yet! Until next time, happy picnics.

POT POURRI (77)

Pythagorean triples

A PRIMITIVE pythagorean triple consist of numbers all coprime, (x,y,z) such that $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$. Is the sum $x + y$ divisible by 3? (Means no remainder!)

Solution to No.76 – How to Divide a Field?

AN old problem that has been unsolved for over two millennia. It involves trisecting an angle. Cannot be done using compass and straight edge only.

Urania

Vacancies at Dramawise

OUR new one-hour class for four to six year-olds has been so successful, with the children already gaining confidence to present a little concert for parents at the last session of term, we will be starting another new class in September. This first class has learnt to be members of the team, talk in discussions and present poems to an audience and have fun. If you're interested in your child joining please contact us.

There are vacancies in older ages up to 18 years, with the students being able to participate in shows. Tom Sawyer the musical, was presented at the Junction Theatre in Cambridge to great acclaim. Children may also to enter the Haverhill speech and drama festival and LAMDA examinations, thus gaining tremendous confidence and, above all, having fun while learning. Our tutors are professionals from all branches of theatre, one running his own theatre group on Shakespeare, one leaving us for a while to enter the cast of a West End musical, another writing plays. As it is the start of the year, classes for eight years to 18 years will have one vacancy. If you would like more information, please get in touch with me at frances.wyse@btinternet.com

Frances Brownlie

Know your church

A THOUSAND years of history in an afternoon! The Friends of St Mary's, the oldest building in our village, invite you to join them at 3pm on Saturday 6th August at the church to discover more about our parish church together.

Did you know we once had a Doom; that Nicholas is under the carpet; that the church spire fell through the roof 300 years ago; that 10 out of 11 of Squire Millicent's children died young; that we have a Jesse Tree and a leper window (or two); or that someone took a hammer and chisel to Philip Paris' Memorial ledger in the nave?

A tour led by Alan Clarkson will reveal all, or as much as time will allow and will be followed by tea and cakes. Admission – £4 to help keep St Mary's in good repair. All are most welcome.

Alan Clarkson



One of the beautiful stained glass windows

Picture supplied by Alan Clarkson

Tots in tow

ARE you new to Linton? Are you at home with a new baby or a testing toddler? Do you want to make new friends?

Tots In Tow has now been running for 20 years, providing a safe and welcoming place for those caring for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. There will be an extra session during the summer holidays. This will be on Wednesday 10th August. All carers and little ones are welcome to join us from 10am till 11.30am at the village hall, Coles Lane.

Our new term starts on Wednesday 14th September, when we will be open from 9.30am to 11.30am. The charge is £1.50 per family per session, and this includes snacks and drinks, a craft to make with your tot and access to our parenting books lending library.

If you need more information, please contact Sarah on 891952.

Sarah Thorne

Life is worth exploring

LINTON Free church will be running the Alpha course in September. The Alpha course is open to everyone interested in discovering what Christianity is all about. It is a place where people can come and relax, eat, share thoughts and explore the meaning of life. The Alpha course will run for 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings starting from the 20th September with a break at half term. Each session begins with a meal, then a short talk looking at a

different aspect of the Christian faith each week. This is followed by a time of discussion in small groups where guests can ask questions and contribute their own opinions. The course is designed primarily for people who are not churchgoers and is open to anyone who would like to attend. There is no charge to attend the course. If you are interested in taking part in this course or just want to know more, please contact John and Jill on 892991.

John Hardaker

Linton theatre goes beyond

AFTER the success of *A Comedy Buffet* at Linton village college in April, Linton Theatre Workshop will be presenting *A Man Called Turd* and Other Plays at Castle Camps village hall on 12th and 13th August. The evening features the work of award winning local playwright Ross Howard.

Since sharing the evening with some of Alan Ayckbourn's short plays back in April, a lot has happened for Ross. As a result of footage from the night in Linton being circulated online, Ross is now represented by The Gersh Agency in New York City and his play *The Viewing* will be performed at Riverside Studios in London this September!

The evening in Castle Camps will consist of two audience favourites from April, *Relinquish* and *Rules of Assortment*, as well as the new half-hour comic romp *A Man Called Turd*. It is 11pm on *The Day of the Dead* and Roger Wagstaff and his wife visit a Florentine graveyard late at night to pay tribute to an ancestor only to find that the body has been recently replaced. But by whom and why? And can they be switched back? And before midnight?

There is also the poignant



Ross Howard has really made a name for himself

Picture supplied by Ross Howard

and amusing *Ever Since We Put Our Picture In A Frame*, by US stage and screen writer Cody Tucker. The cast includes Ann Boustead, Hannah Gosling, Angela Stansall, Keith Osborne, Lawrence Cohen, and Annie Gourlay. With curtain up 8pm, beer, wine, cheese boards and a raffle available, the evening offers excellent value for money and promises to be a highly entertaining night out. Phone the box office now on 891930 or email lintontheatreworkshop@gmail.com to book your tickets online. You can also check facebook.com/lintontheatreworkshop for more information.

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The Derbyshire Post



THE Year 11 Ball at LVC is now a maturely developed tradition in the college and has been on the school calendar for 16 years as the pinnacle celebration for students of their five years here.

When the ball first began, it was held in the school hall and although it was a really enjoyable experience, over time students decided that they wanted the venue to be more special and unschooly.

Year by year, we held the ball at different outside venues but for the last three we have returned to the site but with a difference – a marquee appears on the front lawn which a team led by Amanda Clay now decorates according to a theme.

This has a number of fantastic advantages: it helps us to keep costs down for the students, is convenient for the purposes of preparation, it doesn't feel like a school building and it enables a piece of magic to occur: the grand arrivals, viewed by our local community: friends, parents, siblings and frankly anyone who enjoys a spectacle.

In many ways the arrivals is the most delightful part of the evening. This year the community came down to watch it in their hundreds and the atmosphere was lovely. The girls looked stunning in their dresses, the boys scrubbed up nicely in tuxedos and the parade of vehicles and carriages was a particular treat.

We had vintage cars, sports cars, a horse, a tractor with trailer, a fleet of mods on Vespa scooters, a monster truck, a fire engine and perhaps most dramatically of all, a helicopter then landed on the field.

All of this free entertainment was given a beautiful soundtrack by Karen Sanderson's lovely singing to the music of Linton Jazz.

The behaviour of the young people was impeccable throughout the evening, and if you will excuse the cliché, a good time was had by all.

Caroline Derbyshire, principal

LVC student scoops fantasy prize

THOMAS Wrenn, 15, an LVC student, has scooped first prize in the East Anglia region of the Schools Fantasy Football league. Schools Fantasy League was set up in 1999 to promote ICT and maths skills by encouraging students and teachers to play the role of a football manager throughout the season. More than 1,400 schools and 47,000 students took part during the 2010-11 season. Thomas' team, Abbey Superstars, finished in 28th place in the UK with a total of 442 points.

LVC students also achieved success in the Junior Maths Challenge, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust, for students in years 6, 7 and 8. More than 235,000 pupils from across the UK sat the exam in May, testing their mathematical ability, logic and thinking skills. Jonah Munday, 13, was the top placed LVC student and one of 1,200 students nationally to be put through to the next round, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/0944/11 Mr Richard Howes, 7 The Woodlands. Conversion of outbuilding from acupuncture clinic (approved under planning consent S/1808/04/F) to domestic use and erection of conservatory.

S/1188/11 Mrs Louisa Clarke, Infants school, Church Lane. Single storey extension to existing building.

S/1263/11 Mrs Valerie Manning, Queens House, 16 High Street. Gates.

S/1266/11 Mr & Mrs Thomas McKenzie, 17 Granta Vale. Single storey side and rear extensions.

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Anyone for cricket? Yes, lots ...

LITTLE did Linton village cricket coaches Dean Chippis and Ian Martin realise that their taster session at Linton CE infant school in April on the fun of cricket, would so inspire the children that 40 under-nines would sign up to join the club.

Every Monday evening, 32 boys and eight girls aged seven and eight have experienced training sessions designed by fully qualified England and Wales Cricket Board Level 2 Coaches Dean and Ian, and John Fairclough and David Rouse to introduce them to the

game of cricket.

Dean says: "It has been a lot of work but it is so enjoyable to see such enthusiasm for cricket at such a young age."

Above is a picture taken by Tom Pursar, of most of the new intake looking very smart in their training shirts, along

with their four coaches, helper Alex Flynn and Ben, Will and Luke, who are hoping to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award for LVC.

To see them in action come to the recreation ground on the morning of the Wild West Wacky Walk on the 7th August.

Do you speak Chinese, Spanish or Italian?

FORMER Education Secretary, Estelle Morris, visited Linton village college in June to learn about the school's Language Futures initiative.

In this programme, students are given the opportunity to choose a language which is most useful and relevant to them.

Instead of being taught the language, they are taught how to learn a language and apply those skills to teaching themselves their language of choice.

In the two years since the programme was introduced, students have studied languages from Italian, Spanish and German to Mandarin Chinese.

Following its success at LVC, Castle Manor college Haverhill and Swavesey village college have joined the programme as new field trial centres.

Language Futures is part of Learning Futures, an initiative of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to find new teaching and learning

approaches that motivate young people.

Estelle Morris, a trustee of the Foundation, said: "Language Futures is one of the most innovative ways of teaching modern foreign languages that I have seen."

"It is very encouraging to see students taking responsibility for their own learning and making such good use of technology."

"I was very impressed by the role played by mentors from outside the school and the help, support and encouragement that they give the young people."

She added: "It is important, as a nation, that we find new ways of motivating young people to study languages and listening to the students at Linton village college makes you realise that progress is being made."

If you are interested in being a voluntary mentor and are able to speak Spanish, Italian or Mandarin, please contact Tina Rice on tina.rice@lvc.org

Tony Kelly

A football tournament and a real fun day

AZTECS will be holding their annual football tournament from 9.30am on Sunday 4th September at Linton village college.

As well as the tournament, there will also be a barbecue, side stalls and games for all of the family to enjoy throughout the day.

All teams from U6 to U16s are involved in Mini-soccer, 9 v 9 Youth and Colts formats making this one an unmissable event.

If you would like to find

out more about the club, there will be Aztecs representatives available throughout the day to talk to. The U13 and U16 teams are now looking for new players to join their squad for the 2011/2012 season.

However, we regularly have opportunities to join most of our teams so please contact the club by calling Malcolm on 07860 863723 or by using the contact form on the club web page www.aztecsjfc.co.uk

Mick Linsdell

Aztecs Annual Famous Football Fun Day Sunday 4th Sept.
Barbecue, stalls and lots more.
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Parish Council Matters

Who and why I am

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

ALL of my working life I have been involved in engineering and manufacturing. I originally studied aeronautical engineering at Imperial College, London and ended up working as an engineer in the defence industry. I had wanted to be an astronaut but opportunities were somewhat limited in the early '80s, unless you were American or Russian. After a fellowship in manufacturing management at Cranfield Institute of Science and Technology, I moved into management roles and worked for various companies in different industry sectors, from making contact lenses to telecoms, from repairing computers to, latterly, being a director of a specialist sub-contractor in the construction industry (structural steelwork & architectural metalwork), Crofton Engineering.

As an amazing coincidence, my mother's family comes from this part of the country. Her grandmother was a Whittaker and apparently taught as a pupil teacher at Balsham primary school. Her mother's twin brother was killed after falling off and being run over by a cart, when a young lad, on the bridge by the Dog and Duck, sometime early last century.

I feel lucky to live in such a viable community and was honoured to be co-opted onto the parish council last August. I am still trying to find out how best to serve in this role, time taken by work and family being a major constraint - but I do know about managing a business and have a real affinity with animals as pets in the home or as wildlife in our surroundings.

As a child I was bought up with a positive menagerie of animals including goats, sheep, bantams, ducks, geese, a pony, a cow and

calves, a parrot, dogs and always cats, that at one stage numbered 13. All of them were pets as my mother was not terribly practical - even the goats got in the house sometimes. It was a wonderful childhood, which I thought was entirely normal. (For those who know me well - this might explain a lot!)

Four years ago I moved to Linton permanently, as opposed to commuting around the M25 to Reading, as I had done for the previous 13 years. However, what has changed my life most in the last three years has been my dog Jack. I got him from a no-kill rescue, Poplar Farm Rescue Kennels, at Sutton Gault, near Ely. He was 10+ years old but still very strong and active, and had never been walked on a lead.

His requirements for at least three walks a day has meant I see how much this village has in terms of animals, both pets and wildlife. In the quiet of early morning one can hear the woodpecker in the churchyard even if it is almost impossible to spot: one hears the weird noise squirrels make that occupy the trees along Rivey Lane or the squawk a heron makes when it is disturbed from the Granta by Camping Close. I have seen live deer on the recreation ground and belting through the churchyard and partridges running round the bushes by the fire station. And I have talked to lots of tail-wagging dogs, enthusiastic puppies and laid back cats. I have to admit, I can usually greet the cat or dog by name but don't always know the owner. (I promise I will get better at this.)

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

Please microchip your beloved pet - it doesn't take long and could save you, and your pet, heartache

THERE has been a very recent case in the village of a dog that got out and fortunately was found and taken to the local vets. By luck the dog owners network managed to locate the owner but it would have been so much quicker, and more certain, had the dog been microchipped as it also didn't have a collar and name-tag, having apparently lost it at some point.

If that isn't reason enough - read the following poem.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

Nobody's Dog by Trudie Jame

Today is the death day of nobody's dog
Nothing will mark it but a note in the log
I'm faceless and nameless and no tears will fall
For I know in your world I have no worth at all

To you, my sweet someone, I'm a friend and a dear
We ran the wind daily and you held me so near
But the gate was left open - I chanced a walk on my own
I'd have cowered in fear if only I'd known

I know how you cried on the night that I strayed
I know how you searched, I know how you prayed
But I went to a pound far from our home
Where I crouched in despair in my kennel alone

I know that you phoned for I heard your dear voice
And I hoped you would hear me so I barked myself hoarse
Although I'm a Lab cross with stockings all white
On their form I'm a Staff cross - the description's not right

So they said I'm not here and I sank to my bed
My kennel cough's worse and I can't raise my head
The rescue came yesterday but they hadn't a place
For an un-neutered cross breed with his mucus-streaked face

If only you'd come to search for me here
You would have known me at once, you would have sensed I was near
You would have sorted my ills, you would have carried me home
And I promise our God no more would I roam

Now my eyes plead for mercy for my seven days are done
And I am waiting with dread for the final vet run
No arms will caress me as they inject me to death
No words will comfort me as I take my last breath

When the body man comes, it is fitting I'm found
In a bin bag in the freezer in the depths of the pound
Thrown away like the rubbish - no respect and no shame
Denied even the time to find you again

My loyalty and devotion they did cruelly betray
Without microchip or nametag, I am just a dispensable stray
Once waggy-tailed, once proud, beloved and free
Oh Dad look with pain, what mankind's done to me

Notice to dog guardians



More effective than fines for fouling?

PERHAPS if we put the above notice up around the village, dogs would remind their owners to pick up their poo. Mostly I have observed responsible owners doing the right thing and clearing up their dog's mess but it could still be better; for example, the walk on the far side of Camping Close along the edge of the Granta or on the path up to the water tower.

Perhaps we need a few more dog waste bins around the village so where best could they be located? I would be happy to raise and champion the issue at a parish council meeting if enough people think it matters. However, we could all be a bit braver about challenging people when they let their dog foul.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

Leptospirosis

PROBABLY everyone knows you can catch leptospirosis or weill's disease from a rat or more accurately, rat's urine, found in canals and rivers.

However, did you know you could also catch this disease from your dog? If your dog gets infected then you are also at risk. And did you know that, in a human, the initial symptoms are flu-like and can easily be missed by your GP? It is only when you start to go yellow (jaundiced) that it becomes obvious it is something different and even then diagnosis can be delayed. The problem is, if treatment is delayed too long, this disease can be fatal.

Andy Holmes, the British champion rower died from leptospirosis last November - you may remember it being reported in the national papers. He probably caught it directly from contaminated water whilst racing. However, there has been an incident recently, in the local area, of someone being infected, having caught it from their pet. I hadn't realised the full import of this until I took my dog Jack for his annual check-up and inoculation at the vets (I have always had him inoculated but I didn't really know why).

Dogs pick up the bacteria by licking the urine of an infected animal (rat, mouse etc) off the grass or soil or by drinking from a contaminated water source. The types of habitats most likely to carry these infective bacteria are muddy riverbanks, ditches and muddy livestock rearing areas where there is regular passage of either wild or farm animals. The more rain the more likelihood of transmission. Humans become infected through contact with water, food or soil containing urine from these infected animals, through the mucous membranes or by open cuts.

My Jack is forever eating grass or drinking out of the Granta. So in taking him for his annual inoculation I am not only protecting him from possible liver or kidney damage or even death, but I am also protecting myself and any other adult or child who comes into contact with him.

Something to think about!

I would like to thank David Irwin for the above explanation.
Cllr Merrie Mannassi

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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 16th June 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, J Linsdell, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs A Meeks (assistant to the clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with three members of the public. Linda Browne was also present.

Public forum: Linda Browne, community liaison support assistant at South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC), spoke about her role as a link between the district council and parish councils. She also liaises with PCSOs and on crime prevention, as well as undertaking mini projects. Linda advised that she was available to attend meetings and events with her information stand. The chair thanked Linda for attending the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Cox and Manley and Mrs S Parry (clerk).

Declaration of interests from members: Cllr Champion declared a personal interest under the Granta school item. Cllr Hickford declared a personal interest under the LA4Y item.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June: The siting plan for the Benn Joyce memorial bench by the Drop-in centre was agreed.

On the environment agency response to levelling a small part of river bank it was agreed to write back to the Cricket club asking them to progress their request by contacting the development and flood risk officer and the tree officer.

On the library service review of opening hours consultation the clerk was asked to respond that Linton library should remain open for two evenings per week even if this meant it would have fewer daytime openings.



Library and construction of new Children's Centre

Picture by Sue Parry

Cllr Bald reported that comments on the review of planning services at SCDC had been collated and sent.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: As the quotation for upgrading the CCTV had still not been received from Briar Security it was agreed that the CCTV control group should contact another security firm and report back to council.

Cllr Bald reported that a scooter had been driven through the churchyard on the footpath to Camping Close and asked that registration number plates be noted if seen.

Report from the county councillor: Cllr Batchelor advised that the main change to special educational needs transport was that withdrawing it in restricted areas would apply unless the child was a wheelchair user. The review was to make transport as efficient as possible. The situation will be reviewed in September on the intake of 20 new children at the Granta school.

Cllr Batchelor advised that Rivey Lane was a complicated matter with the county council having ownership of the path only and rights-of-way saying the side land with trees was the responsibility

of the owner of the land, who is not known. However rights-of-way, using the probation service team, would tidy the area up and remove one small dead tree. They would also clear Footpath 25 as a farmer was having difficulty with access.

Cllr Batchelor said that more Government money to highways for potholes had freed up other money, and resurfacing the A1307 outside the village college had been agreed. Cllr Batchelor said he hoped the top end of the High Street would also be included. He advised that the policy was not to use a low noise surface due to cost but council requested he pursued this.

Regarding a 20mph speed limit in the High Street Cllr Batchelor advised the policy had changed from parish councils paying if criteria was met to county council paying, with parish councils paying if criteria was not met. Council asked Cllr Batchelor again to find out if previous collated data qualified Linton.

Reports from the district councillors: Cllr Bear spoke about the ecology officer, Rob Mungovan, who had been visiting district conservation schemes. She advised that the environment agency had completed a biodiversity survey on the River Granta with not good results at Linton, although better at Hildersham. Mrs Saint, from the environment agency, would be willing to come and speak to help improve things and Rob Mungovan could also give advice.

Report on the meeting with Ian Dewar of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC): A report had been issued by the clerk. Council agreed the following:

With respect to Linton Action 4 Youth (LA4Y) specifically; Any future payments to LA4Y would be subject to a service level agreement (SLA) or service delivery plan (SDP) and any such payments would only be made at 'trigger' points.

To search council archives for formal written agreement that LA4Y could occupy land on the Recreation ground. For the future, the parish council would issue a renewable licence agreement to formalise the agreement.

With respect to the accusation against Cllr Hickford, where the trustees of LA4Y accused Cllr Hickford of abusing his position as a parish councillor, the parish council advised the trustees of LA4Y at the time to direct their accusation to the monitoring officer at SCDC. As it had been well over a year since the accusation, and as there had been no official complaint made against Cllr Hickford to the monitoring officer at SCDC, the parish council now took the view that the accusation was unsubstantiated. Cllr Hickford thanked the council for the personal support he had received from council members and said that he would now be considering his personal decision on any legal action, but that any gain was being weighed against expense and potential adverse publicity for the village.

Request a copy of LA4Y's constitution. If none was forthcoming request one from the Charity Commission.

The onus was not on the parish council to police LA4Y, and that the parish council had done everything necessary to try to remedy the situation with respect to the partnership that never happened. The fact that LA4Y did not apply for funding for this financial year allowed the parish council to put this whole situation behind them and move forward.

With respect to all organisations;

All requests should be made on the Linton parish council application form and include the latest annual report and/or a current bank statement.

For any funding under £500 no feedback as to how the funding was spent would be required other than to give a report at the annual parish meeting.

For amounts over £500 a SLA or SDP should be set up, ask what their core funding covers and ask what parish council funding will cover specifically, and make payments in stages, usually quarterly or half-yearly. Also, ask the group concerned to look for alternative funding and the parish council try to agree to match funding up to a certain amount, or agree to fund in return for services around the village.

There should be emphasis on 'seed' funding to start groups/ organisations.

Any funding for a 'service' such as the wardens scheme should be minuted as such, and that as a service to the community the parish council considers this an ongoing commitment on a yearly basis.

Written reports from council representatives: A report from Cllr Bald had been issued with an update on dropped kerbs for disability access. This was noted.

Correspondence received for discussion and decision: Cllr Potter proposed that council did not take up the SCDC wheelie bin speed sticker initiative. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by the meeting.

A resident had sent in suggestions and costings for new play equipment. It was agreed to thank the resident and ask him to liaise with the clerk as to whether it should replace current play equipment or be in addition to what was already there. He would be asked if he was willing to assist in obtaining grants or attending a future meeting.

It was noted that a recent claim by a third party on Zurich Insurance in respect of the Recreation ground play equipment had been repudiated and not pursued.

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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Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk
Office hours: Monday 9am–12noon and 4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon

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