

WIND FARM
Exhibition of
plans in the
village hall
3-8pm 19th July

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France honours Linton's pilot hero



Couragous: John Larcombe



Gratitude: The road sign put up in John's honour

Picture courtesy Marianne Larcombe

A SPECIAL ceremony took place recently in France, in honour of the widely respected Linton pilot John Larcombe, who tragically lost his life when his plane crashed while returning from a successful airshow in France in June 1990.

The aircraft, a P63 King Cobra, was the only one of its type still being displayed in Europe. It was built in the US with a rear-mounted Alison engine, and for some years had been entered in the Reno Air Races with the name Topsy Miss.

The 1990 air show at *La Ferte Alais* – a place famous for its collection of First and Second World War aircraft and the plane in which Louis Bleriot flew across the Channel in 1909 – passed without incident. However, on the way back to Duxford, John's engine failed and the plane crashed very close to the small town of Les Essarts le Roi some 40 miles south-west of Paris.

Eyewitnesses and crash investigations confirmed that the pilot used incredible skill and expertise to avoid crashing into the town, coming down instead in nearby fields. A tragedy of greater magnitude was avoided thanks to John's determination and bravery.

John joined the RAF in 1958 and most of his career was as a fighter instructor. He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his exceptional flying shortly before leaving in 1970.

Living in Linton with his wife Marianne meant he could focus a lot of time and energy at Duxford, being increasingly involved with the restoration and flying of historical aircraft.

Among the many planes he demonstrated were the Tiger Moth, Mitchell Bomber and Messerschmitt 109. History was made in May 1987 when he piloted the world's only Blenheim after its painstaking restoration at Duxford.

Now, Les Essarts le Roi has made a gesture of deep gratitude to John by naming a road close to the crash site in his honour and inviting his widow Marianne and her family to see the unveiling of Chemin John Larcombe. The sign, in a show of respect and solidarity, bore the crossed flags of France and Great Britain for the ceremony.

On an emotional day, many local people gathered there, including the firemen who had gone to the scene of the crash. A reception was then held in the town hall.

Marianne Larcombe will be known to some in Linton as president of our cricket club, sharing John's passion for sport. One of their daughters, Jane, is carrying on his work with the Fighter Collection at Duxford.

Linton can feel proud that the passing of an immensely skilful pilot and dedicated family man has been marked in this way. LNT

Sun shines on our wonderful festival

THE 40th anniversary Flower Festival and Fête got off to a wonderful start on a balmy Friday evening with a barbecue and outdoor barn dance enjoyed by 100 people at the infant school. In the church, the floral arrangements which were on display from Friday morning till Sunday evening showed both artistic flair and ingenuity in their interpretation of the theme, Women of the World.

Outside, the sun shone on an action-packed weekend. On Saturday, dogs of all shapes and sizes turned up in good numbers for the family dog show, judged by the village vet David Urwin, and the five-a-side football tournament in the afternoon was keenly contested.

Linton Jazz provided musical entertainment to an appreciative audience, many of whom also appreciated the barbecue. At the school were the traditional craft and plant stalls, with the village college student-run enterprise stall, with free games for younger children (and others who couldn't resist trying to 'splat the rat') provided in a shady part of the playground. Refreshments, including hot lunches, were served in the school hall.

Later, at the church, Linton's teddy bears showed up in good numbers for their leap from the tower, several of whom drifted gracefully in the afternoon sunshine into the trees fringing the churchyard.

Any fears of their owners were soon dispelled by Mr Jon Gibbs who gallantly climbed the trees and shook the bears from their temporary perches. Later, in the cool of the evening, a delightful entertainment of words and music was provided in the church by the Merely Players.

Sunday again saw stalls and refreshments in the infant school and the afternoon duck race took place on the Granta, though near the end of a long weekend the ducks showed little inclination to hurry. The festival drew to a close with a concert of festal music in the church.

At the time of writing, accounts are yet to be finalised but the weekend looks fair to have exceeded expectations in raising vital funds for Friends of St Mary's in their support of the church. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of local busi-



One of the Women of the World tributes in the church. Are they really Maggie's shoes?

Picture by Roger Lapwood

nesses and individuals who provided sponsorship for the flowers and raffle, and the time and energy of many people in organising and setting up attractions, running them and clearing away afterwards.

Particular thanks are due to the governors, headteacher and staff of the infant school for the use of the school during the weekend, and to Tracy and Bob of the Dog and Duck for the licence and beer tent staff. Thanks also to all those who came to support the festival and have a wonderful time. We look forward to welcoming you all again at next year's event.

Andrew King 897832

Alleluia!



The Bishop of Ely dedicates the new pavilion

Picture by Roger Lapwood

ST MARY'S in Linton has a new pavilion. Alleluia! The bells rang out as the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Rev Dr Anthony Russell, arrived to attend a service in the church followed by the dedication of the new building.

Since the floods of 2001 when the previous pavilion was destroyed, the congregation has been without a meeting place. In the years that followed, money has been raised, plans drawn up and a journey of endurance embarked upon as setbacks and disappointments followed.

Eventually the foundations were laid at the end of last year and today, standing proud on a brick plinth some four feet high, the new pavilion is above flood level. It isn't quite complete as money must be raised to fit out the interior but a valuable new asset is now part of St Mary's future.

Margaret Clark

Marathon magic ...

AGAINST the odds, we completed the whole 26.2 miles of the Edinburgh marathon. We started the race wearing dust-bin bags to keep warm and dry against driving rain and cold winds and ended in bright sunshine.

The atmosphere, worthy cause and fact that the first runner was a 96-year-old man were inspirational. It was a truly amazing (if somewhat painful) experience, especially crossing the finish line.

The scenery was stunning, starting in Princes Street with the castle and Arthur's seat in view, out through Leith, Portobello, along the coast by the sea and out to the turn at Gosforth House.

Finishing at Musselburgh racecourse was a special moment as we 'galloped' across the line for our banana and all important medal. We certainly didn't gallop again for a few days, but have been delighted with our rate of recovery. The Paula Radcliff tip of a cold bath then hot shower seems to have helped.

We will not repeat the mara-



Bin bag runners: from left, Diane Hughes, Rory Proctor, Lyn Ireland and Richard and Janet Rand

Picture courtesy of Janet and Richard Rand

thon experience, but would definitely consider shorter distances. The psychological and physical challenge was well worth it, as we can tick this off our list of top 10 things to achieve before we die.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to Stars children's bereavement support services for Cambridgeshire. The team hopes to have raised £4,500 by the end of July.

Lines are open for donations on www.justgiving.com/jantrand or www.justgiving.com/richardrand until 26th July.

Money raised allows Stars to run support groups for children this summer and replenish much needed resources to support others. For further details, please see the website www.ccbss.org.uk or call me. Lyn Ireland 815124

Not such a nuisance call

ALTHOUGH there were many excellent prizes including a free MOT for the St Mary's flower festival draw, many dads had stood dreamily in front of the stall admiring the '2-in-1 trailer and speed car with flashing lights and noise controls'.

I was much relieved when a man, Mark Green, was drawn as the winner and not one of the many lady pensioners who so willingly bought tickets. I was so pleased that when I phoned Mark to tell him, I couldn't believe it when the line went dead.

Then I realised - the lucky winner thought it was a nuisance call. Oops. So I tried again and left a suitably sober message on the answerphone. Ten minutes later, a rueful dad called me back to apologise for cutting me off.

Mark Green was subsequently delighted to get the toys out of the box and set the car racing round the floor with horn blaring and lights flashing, much to the admiration of his two young sons.

Kate France

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

AFTER reporting to the police that a wing mirror was kicked from my car the previous night, and that it wasn't the first time it had happened, the helpful lady in the control room asked if I had "considered buying a CCTV camera". Not being particularly enthused at the prospect of buying yet another mirror and then a security camera, I pointed out that I thought my property was *already* protected, having recently paid the above-inflation increase to our council tax bills for local policing.

So, what do we get for our money? We have one PC, which should be plenty, but we share him with Balsham, Bartlow, Carlton, Castle Camps, Hildersham, Horseheath, Shudy Camps, West Wickham, West Wrating and Weston Colville. Oh, and two police community support officers (PCSOs) who also cover a large swathe of the English countryside.

It seems that the time to deal with incidents just isn't there. When an open admission is made that an illegally-parked car on yellow lines outside the Co-op is not dealt with because there was nowhere for *them* to park, questions must surely be asked about their role in this busy village. How long have people been banned from driving on a bit and then walking? And who decided that PCs "should not attend council meetings"?

Various radio phone-ins have shown that rural policing is suffering under the present regime and the police themselves don't seem terribly optimistic that things will improve with Mr Brown.

While it is right that everyone does their bit to help our local service to combat local crime, it is also necessary that inadequacies and deficiencies are pointed out. We all know about the dope being smoked in the High Street in the early evening. We all know about the antisocial behaviour every weekend and often in between. And some of us will know that a few of the flashing signs on the A1307 have been tampered with. But, has anyone thought to report these things? If it's not urgent, the number you need is 0845 4564564. You won't get through to Parkside police station, but possibly the nice Geordie chap in a call centre in Huntingdon.

The more these things are reported, the greater the likelihood of Linton having a more effective service. Who knows, in years from now, we could be basking in the glory of having *two* PCs!

See the facts on wind farm plan

ENERTRAG UK Ltd has outlined its proposals to construct a wind farm south-west of Linton to the south of the A1307 and the silo complex.

The proposed development would consist of eight turbines, each with the capacity to generate up to 3MW of electricity, enough to meet the annual needs of more than 8000 homes. Each turbine would be a maximum of 85 metres high to the hub, with a maximum rotor diameter of 90 metres.

Enertrag hopes to submit the planning application to South Cambridgeshire council in October. Meanwhile, an environmental impact assessment will be implemented in consultation with the council and other groups.

This will include professional surveys to assess the potential impact of the wind farm. Matters addressed will include landscape, noise levels, wildlife and bird populations, soil and water, archaeological and cultural heritage, traffic and many other relevant factors. Where necessary, mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce potential impact will be identified.

Meanwhile, Enertrag will take the proposed development to public consultation. The information and consultation document should be distributed to local households or can be downloaded from Enertrag's website www.enertraguk.com. The document provides further information about the proposal and explains how members of the public can become involved with the planning application.

Public exhibitions will be held from 3pm-8pm on Thursday 19th July and Tuesday 25th September in Linton village hall and all members of the public are welcome to attend. The exhibitions are intended to provide a constructive forum to help allay any myths and answer any questions about wind farms, giving factual information verified by independent sources.

Staff from Enertrag UK Ltd and ecological consultants from Norfolk Wildlife Services will be on hand to answer queries and offer specialist knowledge.

Enertrag UK Ltd 01379 642564

Getting married? Be prepared!

"COUPLES" is a marriage preparation course run by Relate for anybody considering getting married.

Why has Relate designed this course? Not only because it is all too easy to get sidetracked by the practicalities of wedding plans and forget what is at the heart and soul of any wedding ceremony – the feelings that the individuals have for each other – but also to make sure that once the big day is over, couples can keep on track in their new life.

The course offers time away from the distractions of everyday life and the chance to talk to other couples in similar situations.

Some of the topics covered include: communication, patterns of families, what makes a good marriage/relationship, use of leisure time, how to disagree and stay friends, reasons for getting together/married, sex, expectations of marriage/relationship, pressure points, who does what, money and power.

What happens? Four to six couples work in pairs with some group discussion facilitated by a trained couples' counsellor. There are also plenty of handouts to take away for future reference.

Previous participants have said: "It was thought provoking. We will set aside more time to talk openly. The course brought up issues we might not have discussed otherwise. I thought I would feel uncomfortable but I didn't. I wasn't forced to talk or participate."

The course lasts two hours, on a weekday evening or Saturday and is run twice yearly currently in Cambridge – other venues will be considered.

As course facilitator, I would love to hear from you and hope to have the opportunity of welcoming you to one of our courses.

Interested in learning more? For further details and to book, contact Relate Cambridge on 357424 or email admin@relatecambridge.org.uk.

Elaine Taylor

Get your book signed on Woppapotamus day

HELEN Bonney will be signing her book, *The Woppapotamus from Titan*, at an all-day event that Waterstones is holding on Saturday 7th July. Waterstones thinks it is the best children's book in ages and while it doesn't usually do Saturday signings, it is making an exception in this case.

It wants to make it into a fun day and hopes to put on some children's activities based on the book. Helen is pinching herself and hopes it is not all a dream from which she may soon wake up. If any readers would like a signed copy, they can get one by contacting Helen at Tosca Cottage, 28 Horseheath Road, Linton, CB21 4LU or emailing helen.bonney@yahoo.co.uk

Churchyard history

DR COX is a member of various groups who care for St Mary's churchyard, its upkeep and restoration, and who are a key part of its future. He is also our next-door neighbour.

Having heard his talk on churchyards at the Friends of St Mary's AGM, I considered it too good to have only one hearing. He was therefore 'encouraged' to give the talk again to the ACEs meeting on 21st June, which he did with gentlemanly grace.

Dr Cox gave a comprehensive background to churchyards in general, then focused on St Mary's churchyard, past and present.

The history of the site and the background to its expansion – limited due to the potential to flood – were all fascinating. The special memorials of

local and national importance, the mysterious wooden grave marker found in the churchyard, and the broken stones were poignant. We are now looking for missing pieces of the wayside cross, moved to the churchyard and subsequently broken.

The next meeting (and I say this with trepidation, knowing ACEs' luck with the weather) is a garden party, from 2-4pm, on Monday 9th July at 7 Symonds Lane.

There will be a cream tea with strawberries, if still in season, bring-and-buy stall, raffle etc. There is space inside and we have plenty of umbrellas ...

All who are over 60 are most welcome. Contact Sue/Tina on 891001, or me, if transport is needed.

Enid Bald 891069

Celebrate with Rosie

ROSEMARY Digby of Hanchet End, Haverhill, is celebrating three landmarks in her life. Firstly, she has just turned 61 and secondly, she is beginning a new career as a Slimming World consultant.

Thirdly, she has lost a stunning four stone in one year by attending her local Slimming World group in Haverhill.

When her employer, Truck-lite, closed its Haverhill branch at the start of the year, Rosie and nearly 120 of her colleagues were made redundant. She decided to look into doing something that she was passionate about – healthy eating and helping others to lose their excess weight as easily as she had done.

In June, Rosie became Slimming World consultant at the Linton group, where meetings are held on Monday at

7pm in the Cathodeon Centre.

Rosie puts her success down to Slimming World's healthy eating plan and the amazing support she receives in image therapy from her consultant and fellow members.

She said: "It's fantastic. I can eat as much as I like of lots of great foods, never feel hungry or deprived but still lose weight."

Rosie is enjoying meeting new friends at the Linton group and is giving them all the support and help she can to make slimming enjoyable and simple.

"My husband was right," she said. "He wrote in my birthday card *Life begins at 61* and it certainly has for me."

Rosie can be contacted on 07814 267690, or email Rosie@SlimWith.Me.uk

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LEAVER'S BALL PHOTOGRAPHS

Julian's Photography are pleased to announce that LVC Leavers Ball photographs are now ready for viewing at: 38 The Grove, Linton. Please telephone for an appointment on 892056



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Can you help trace the Stock family?

LINTON man Frederick Stock emigrated to New Zealand in 1874. Now his descendants are appealing for help in tracing the family tree.

Frederick died in 1938 in his 80s, having fathered 13 children. The youngest grandchild, Sandra Stock, got in touch with me via the internet and Genes Reunited. Now we would like to trace as much of our family history as we can.

Frederick, of Green Lane, sailed from London with a fellow Linton man, William Day, on the sailing ship Berar which was carrying 346 people.

Soon after leaving port, scarlet fever and dysentery were discovered. Fred and William survived these and a great many dramatic storms and flat calms.

On arrival in Wellington, the Berar was put into quarantine as there were still some cases of illness on board.

Twenty passengers and one crew member died as a result of diseases.

By early February 1875, the passengers were dispersed to various provinces. It's not known what happened to William Day after he arrived.

Frederick, a 21-year-old farm labourer, walked to the town of Shannon in the North Island, arriving with just half a crown (12.5p) in his pocket.

Although illiterate, he got a job in a flax mill and after moving on from there and working on several farms, he married a local girl and eventually bought and ran a farm of his own.

If anyone would like to contact Sandra, who still lives in the North Island town of Bulls, about the Stock family, they can reach her through me by email at lestock@talktalk.net or by phone on 01440 705102.

Leslie Stock



Frederick Stock pictured when he was 80

A spy at Walberswick?

SPY or artist? Charles Rennie Mackintosh caused much concern when he walked on the beach at Walberswick. With his Glaswegian accent and searching for flowers at night by torchlight, locals thought he was a German spy and he was put in prison for several days before his identity was discovered.

This, and many other facts, came to light at the June meeting of the Linton Women's Institute, when the speaker, Dr Muriel Seaman, told us about

the life and times of CRM. He has left a significant impression on design, and many fine examples can be seen in his home town of Glasgow and at 78 Derngate in Northampton. His original designs are now copied on everything from jewellery to furniture.

This enjoyable talk was complemented with slides of some of his best known buildings. Muriel was thanked warmly by Anne Harmer. Ann Simpkin

Back to Tudor times

WE were taken back through the centuries by our guest speaker, Mrs Ridout, to the Tudor Re-creation, which happens every year at Kentwell Hall, Long Melford. With the help of slides, we were shown some of the places in the house like the kitchen, bakery, butter and cheese-making areas which are run as they would have been in Tudor times.

All the clothing worn by the men, women and children is created without using modern

materials or sewing machines. Shoes are still made by hand from pig skin or cow hide.

Our next meeting at 7.30pm on 16th July will be an evening of Spanish food and music with Alec Rainey playing his Spanish guitar.

* If you have been saving green milk bottle tops to help Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, the Cambridge WI office tells us they don't need any more. Thanks to all those who have helped. Pamela J. Parris

Readers write Readers write Readers write

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on Page 8. Please note: all letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited.

Have you got a conscience?

Dear Editor I'd just like to thank the person who so kindly scraped the offside front bumper of my car (a dark red Audi A3), parked in the lower car park of the Health Centre in Linton on the morning of Wednesday 6th June. It was so considerate of you simply to drive off, leaving your dirty white scrape as evidence. Obviously a note of apology with a name and address was too much to

expect. However, I am taking a little comfort in the fact that you must have a scrape on your car too. Perhaps the next time you do create this sort of damage – and I am sure you will – you will have the manners to own up and seek to make reparation. If your conscience pricks you then your details can be left at the Health Centre and I will contact you. Thank you. Janine Lawrence

Let's name this Linton symbol

Dear Editor I wonder if there has ever been any correspondence about the ancient (and long dead) oak tree next to the Camgrain entrance on the main road? I have always thought of it as a symbol of Linton, just as much as the Clapper Gate, or at least an "old favourite" that everyone remembers as they drive past. Sadly, one more branch has just fallen off,

and I think we should give it due recognition before it collapses altogether. For a start, how about naming it? Any ideas from readers? Everyone knows the old adage that an oak grows for 100 years, lives for 100 years and dies for 100 years. I think this one will take 100 years to bury! Henry Bennett, Mill Lane

LINTON DIARY

To guarantee entry into this diary please ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office. Details of items in **bold type** may be found elsewhere in this edition. You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info

WEEKLY

- Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays SC
- Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141) SC
- Slimming World, 7pm Mondays** CC
- Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays VH
- Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH
- Men's keep fit club, 8pm Mondays and Wednesdays SC
- Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays SC
- Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays CC
- Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays SC
- Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays SC
- IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC
- Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
- Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076) VH
- Tots-in-Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time Pavilion
- Bowling roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays until October SC
- LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays SC
- Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
- Rhyme'n'rhythm, totsmusicgroup, Fridays 10.30&1.30tertime, URC hall
- Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays SC
- Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
- Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays VH
- Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays SC
- Adult social tennis, 2-3pm Saturdays SC
- Boxercise/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days, call 890248 SC

JULY

- 2 Camera club, 7.15pm** VH (Upstairs)
- 3 WI, 7.30pm VH
- 4 Gardening club outing, 6pm VH
- 4 Reading group, 8pm Dog & Duck
- 5 Luncheon club, 12 noon The Crown
- 5 Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
- 6 Summer fair, 5-9pm Junior school
- 7 Farmers' and fine food fayre, 9.30am** LVC
- 7 Book signing, all day** Waterstones
- 8 Camera club outing, 9.30am** Coles Lane car park
- 9 ACEs garden party, 2pm** 7 Symonds Lane
- 10 SCDC housing surgery, 10-11.30am VH
- 10 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
- 13 Free recital by Katy Edgecombe, 7.30pm** Hadstock church
- 13 Quiz night, 7.30pm** Balsham school
- 14 Concert, Linton church choir, 7.30pm St Mary's
- 15 Art deco fair Chilford hall
- 16 WI, 7.30pm** Hildersham VH
- 18 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon HC
- 19 Public exhibition on proposed wind farm, 3-8pm** VH
- 19 Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
- 21 Leg wax, 2pm** Annette's Beauty Salon, High Street
- 21 Gardening club show, 2pm** VH
- 22 Camera club, 4.15pm** Coles Lane car park
- 24 SCDC housing surgery, 10-11.30am VH

AUGUST

- 2 Luncheon club, 12 noon The Crown
- 2 Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
- 4 Farmers' and fine food fayre, 9.30am LVC
- 6-10 Musical theatre workshop, 9.30am LVC
- 7 WI, 7.30pm VH

KEY: CC Cathodeon Centre, HC Health Centre, LVC Linton Village College, SC Sports Centre, URC United Reform Church, VH Village Hall,

Refuse collection: 9th, 23rd July, 6th August
Recycling collection: 2nd, 16th and 30th July

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.

Can anyone help the LN?

THE Linton News team is looking for someone with experience of InDesign and/or Pagemaker to help occasionally with making up and finalising pages. We also need occasional help, using the above programs and Illustrator, with making up adverts and possibly to prepare the Linton Directory. If you can help, please email the Editor at the address on Page 8.

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Boys get 'leg-up' for Africa

IN July 2008, two year 10 students at Linton village college, Luke Kinsey and Ben Johnson, will be part of a World Challenge Expedition team travelling to South Africa. This will be a challenging and rewarding opportunity involving trekking, wild camping and working in local communities.

The venture requires a lot of preparation and programme objectives leading up to the trip, for which the students have to raise the money themselves – a total of £2,650 each. The expedition has a community project built into the itinerary and this is often the most rewarding part: students will be giving something back to the local community and putting their new team skills to work for a worthwhile cause.

Examples of project work include teaching basic English in a school, building a playground for local children, clearing trails and making signs for nature trekking, helping local communities with their garden/vegetable plots, painting a classroom, mending a floor, building a netball court, helping in a local orphanage and teaching or playing games with the children.

Luke and Ben have decided to have their hairy legs waxed at 2pm on Saturday 21st July at Annette's Beauty and Well Being salon in the High Street to raise money towards the trip.

If you would like to know more or would like to sponsor the lads or make a donation, please contact Nicki (893441) or Tracey (892181), email nicola@kinsey13.wanadoo.co.uk or tj40@fsmail.net or visit www.world-challenge.co.uk for further information.

Thank you for your support.

Nicki Kinsey and Tracey Johnson



Luke and Ben with Annette at the salon

Picture by Nicki Kinsey



Chef's corner

with Joel

Grabbing a quick bite ...

ARE you finding it harder and harder to fit in a meal with all the pressure of modern life? Do you go to work holding your breakfast in your hand? Do you rush from place to place and have no time to eat? I think that most people have done all of these things at one time or another. So, without going down the fast food route, here are two recipes or two for meals that can be prepared and cooked in a few minutes? You may have the ingredients in your fridge, or grab them from the shops on your way home.

Recipes for meals in minutes

Peppered lamb steak with spring greens and Jersey potatoes

Ingredients, serves one.
Lamb leg steaks are a great cut for this meal or saddle fillets if you're feeling wealthy.

1 lamb leg steak, 3 or 4 Jersey royal potatoes, 1 portion of spring greens, 2 teaspoons of crushed peppercorns, 1 glass of red wine.

Method

Firstly, wash and cut the potatoes into quarters. Now just cover them with lightly salted water and put on to a high heat. Rub the peppercorns on to the meat on both sides. Rub a little olive oil into the flesh.

Put a ribbed skillet or a dry frying pan on to a high heat. When the pan is hot, place the lamb into the pan for three to four minutes on either side (one turn only).

Place in a warm oven to keep warm. Chop the spring greens and place in a plastic bowl. Check the potatoes; they should now be nearly done.

Pour the water from the potatoes over the greens to barely cover and microwave for one minute on high. Take the lamb from the oven to a medium heat on the hob and splash on some red wine. Now everything is ready, put it on the plate ready to eat. This should have taken only about 10 to 15 minutes. Lovely.

Tiger prawn and sweet chilli pittas

This is a fantastic lunch-box filler or a rapid snack. Fills four small pitta breads.

Method

Mix about 200g of defrosted, cooked tiger prawns with one sliced spring onion, half a thinly sliced iceberg lettuce, three teaspoons of sweet chilli sauce, half a diced cucumber and the juice of one lime.

This can now be inserted into the pitta breads by slicing the soft thin side. Fabulous – and it's healthy.

Bullseye for the Crown!

THE Crown raised £400 for Retnoblasma eye cancer with their annual darts' tournament, which was organised by Marcus Prior. Also on the last washed-out bank holiday, the Crown held a disco for the old and sensible (plus one or two not so sensible, like me) and raised a further £500 for cancer research. This was organised by Tasha Angetter and Jo Turner.

Joel Palmer

Sandra's Great Wall challenge



Taking a break: Sandra stops for a breather

Picture courtesy Sandra Martin

SANDRA Martin from Linton, a beauty consultant, has returned to the comforts of her own home having left her make-up behind for 10 days and completed a gruelling 60-kilometre trek along the Great Wall of China.

Her blisters and sore feet were not in vain as the challenge was to raise £70,000 for CLIC Sargent (cancer and leukaemia in childhood), the UK's leading children's cancer charity.

Sandra was one of 31 consultants who took part in the ambitious challenge, along the wall.

Sandra said: "As well as holding parties selling cosmetics and jewellery, I've had to fit in a lot of training, but all the aches and pains have definitely been worth it."

"Trekking the Great Wall of China has been a great experience and is something that I will never forget. Being able to see such an incredible country, its scenery and people, has been fantastic."

"Once I heard about the great work CLIC Sargent does, I knew I wanted to get involved

more and taking part in my own challenge seemed the best way to do this."

CLIC Sargent has worked closely with beauty consultants, Virgin Vie at Home, for the past three years, and to date the company and its customers have helped raise an amazing £262,000 for the charity.

If you'd like to join Sandra's team, please call her on 892572 or visit www.virginvieathome.com.

Every day in the UK, 10 children and young people are diagnosed with cancer or leukaemia. CLIC Sargent acts as a lifeline keeping families together when the unimaginable happens.

They provide clinical, psychosocial, emotional and financial care and support to them and their families.

CLIC Sargent organises many challenges each year. If you are interested in taking up your own challenge, contact CLIC Sargent on 0845 124 1188 or get details of the charity's events programme by visiting www.clicsargent.org.uk.
Laura Wheeler

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Meet the team ...

THIS month, it's time to meet another new member of the Linton News team.

Owen Barnicoat, 36, who joined last year, has lived in Linton for more than 30 years, having moved here in May 1975 with his family from Watton in Norfolk.

He lives in Meadow Lane, is self-employed and works in horticulture, growing salad crops in Abington to supply the major supermarkets.

Owen says: "I have always had a keen interest in village life and what it has to offer, and also in newspapers and the media.

"When my partner saw an advert in the Linton News asking for volunteers to help pro-

duce the paper, I thought I would have a go, so now I'm a member of the proof reading team.

He adds: "Although aware of the way language is constantly changing, I'm very keen to avoid sloppy English and I can try to put this into practice with my proof reading work.

"I'm also enjoying being part of the LN team where some dozen or so people from all walks of life come together to show what can be achieved by a committee working together for the same aims.

"The end result of all this village co-operation is a very good local newspaper."

LNT

Proof positive: Owen Barnicoat will be keeping an eye on the English we use in the Linton News



POT POURRI (30)

The number target

IMAGINE a target comprising an inner and an outer circle. Further, partition the target into a quadrant (making eight sectors) with the numbers 1 to 8 placed in each sector. Thus there are four numbers in the inner circle quadrant and four in the outer circle quadrant.

How must the numbers be placed so that all four inner and outer quadrants have the same sum? Putting it another way, if a number is placed in the inner upper right quadrant, what is the number in the outer upper right quadrant so that all the quadrants have the same value?

Solution to No 29 – The number of pages

If odd numbers are added, then we always manage to derive a perfect square. For example, 1+3+5+7+9=25. Taking the square root and doubling the result provides the correct number of pages. So, square root of 64009=253 then x2 gives the number of pages, i.e. 506.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers' and Fine Food Fayre

THERE has been a change of name for our monthly market to Farmers' and Fine Food Fayre to reflect the number of very small local businesses supplying excellent produce not related to the farming industry. The sale of refreshments at the monthly market is now helping to fund the Challenge Expedition to South Africa 2008 by Linton Village College pupils.

Jan Lupton

Don't be superstitious ...

WHY not see if Friday 13th July is a lucky one for you and come along to the BURPS (Balsham's pantomime society) quiz night at 7.30pm at Balsham Meadow community primary school. There will be a ploughman's supper and bar, and a bundle of fun topics to tax and tease you.

Eleanor Whitfield

Christian Aid collects £2,270

THE 50th anniversary collection of Christian Aid week in May raised nearly £2,270. A special united service was held in the Free church on 20th May when Chris Emerson, manager for the East Anglia region, spoke of the difficulties faced by the poorest people in El Salvador.

Brenda Cole 892286

Time-travel disco at Chilford

CHILFORD Hall is hosting a Charity 60s, 70s and 80s disco in aid of Focus on Africa from 8pm-midnight on Saturday 18th August. Focus on Africa is a UK-based charity that seeks to provide practical support to those in need across Africa. Further information on this project can be found at www.focus-on-africa.co.uk

Annette Stockwell

LAPP stages band contest

THE Linton Area Pool Project (LAPP) is staging a Linton area band competition. If you are in a band, this could be just your thing. Plans are under way to stage the contest over the summer months culminating in a large outside gig. If you are interested in entering, helping out or just want some more info, drop us an email with a few details about yourself and your group to paula.martin@lapp.org.uk

Pampering session raises £500



Recipe for relaxation: Lisa Osborne gives an Indian head massage to a client at the charity fundraising pampering evening

LUXURY and charity were combined in an evening of pure indulgence when therapists Lisa Osborne, Nicola Hoskin and Geraldine Roberts combined their talents to raise money for Cam-Mind and the Samaritans.

The therapy room at the Linton community sports centre was host to an array of holistic therapies, fine wine, food and ultimate pampering.

Clients enjoyed relaxing with Indian head massage, back massage and reflexology while discovering how to be happy, healthy and stress-free.

Luxurious raffle prizes were donated by local businesses, and refreshments were generously given by the sports centre – the chocolate fountain was a particular attraction!

An impressive total of £500 was raised to support the work of Cam-Mind and the Samaritans.

Cam-Mind is a local charity for mental health; its informative display showed the range of services offering friendship and support to people with long-term mental health problems living in the community, who may be isolated from their family or find it difficult to make friends.

This wonderful evening

was brought together by Lisa, director of the therapy room, and Claire Hoskin, assistant sports centre manager, who are to be thanked for their time, money and effort.

Further donations would be most welcome and should be sent to: Cam-Mind, Barrere House, 100 Chesterton Road, Cambridge (311320), or the Samaritans at Felbridge House, 3 Trumpington Road, Cambridge.

To find out more about the wide variety of treatments on offer at the therapy room, contact Lisa on 07745 299405 or the sports centre on 890248.

Claire Hoskin

**** In May, the sports centre sent out 5,000 surveys to local villages and schools in the area to ask for opinions on the provision of after-school activities at the centre.**

If you received one of these surveys, please send it back to the sports centre by 20th July. Please label the envelopes:

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K-Club winners
JUNE'S K-Club winners are:
1st prize (£50) **Peter Mudge** (No. 259)
2nd prize (£25) **Judy Rossiter** (No. 234)
3rd prize (£10) **John Harpur** (No. 205)

Good result
ALEX and Carol Todd would like to thank everyone who helped at and attended the Alzheimer's coffee morning at their home. We raised £400.

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Summer exhibition

THIS is an extremely inspiring display of work at the Darryl Nantais gallery from four local artists, all showing new work. The exhibition until 31st July promises to be an exciting mixture of styles, textures and impressions. Below are samples of the work on display.

Nicola Collard's work features figures, using line and colour with a fresh and dynamic approach. An essence of fun and flair is felt in her work



Gail de Cordova's box canvases of colour are decorated with collage and mixed media, which achieve intensity and subtle movement

Darryl Nantais' series of Fenland landscapes bring a contemporary feel to his traditional oil paintings, with looser brush strokes and big dramatic skies



Sue Walker's paintings portray mood and colour; working in acrylics and mixed media, she includes the complex rhythms, textures and colour harmonies of nature

Your feet won't touch the ground if you join the Camera club

ON 2nd July, Ron Pitkin and Maureen Williams will be giving a presentation to the Camera club and promoting discussion on cartoons, art and photography upstairs at the village hall from 7.15- 9.15pm.

We visit the Flying Legends air show at Duxford on 8th July. This is described as the premier 'war birds' show, featuring the fighters and bombers of both world wars. Ground attractions include the new pavilion, the American pavilion and the ground warfare centre. Lunch is available there or take a picnic. Meet at Coles Lane car park at 9.30am.

On 22nd July, our outing will be to Manor Nursery, Saffron Walden. Stuart Lyall, who owns the nursery and whose flower photographs have been bought for magazine covers



Will we see this Sally B in flight at Duxford?

Picture by Roger Lapwood

and article illustrations, has invited us to spend the afternoon there (best for light and after the heat of the day), during which he will let members take any pictures they like.

Crucially, he will help us to

improve our choice of subjects, positioning them and using backgrounds, lighting and photographing them, covering such interesting topics as backlighting, making a reflector for front lighting, depth of

field and macro photography.

This will be excellent for beginners as well as more advanced members. Meet at Coles Lane car park at 4pm.

Don't forget the Linton Gardening club show on 21st July. Entries will be welcome for the photographic categories: flowers, winter, historic Linton, leisure and portrait – plus a new category of 'One A4 Print, photographer's own choice'.

Entry via the Gardening club's schedule, price 50p, and a small charge per entry. Show schedules are available from Alex Todd and Ron Pitkin.

For more information on club activities, please get in touch with Roger Lapwood (891104) or Tracey Wilson (891988) or visit our website – www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk. Maureen Williams

Wild tigers get £1,000 head start

THE sale of a stuffed tiger head at auction has raised more than £1,000 for Linton Zoo's Conservation Fund. The preserved head, belonging to an Indian tiger shot in 1934, recently fetched £1,150 at Mullucks Wells' auction rooms in Great Dunmow. Both the owner and the auctioneers donated the proceeds to the charity.

Kim Simmons explained: "We're thrilled that our charity has been selected to receive such a substantial sum. The money will help pay for rangers, equipment and anti-poaching patrols in Russia. Most importantly, every penny will go directly to the cause."

Linton Zoo currently has four tigers – breeding pair Deja and Mirko and 14-month-old cubs Katinka and Makari, both of whom will shortly be sent to another zoo as part of an international breeding programme.

Kim said: "We still have lots more work to do to secure a safe future for these magnificent animals." Linton Zoo's Conservation Fund is a registered charity.

For more information, go to www.lintonzoo



William Wells presents the cheque to Kim Simmons with the cub Katinka in the background

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Too good for jumble ...

AMONG the summer bargains this month are a Canon SC204 photocopier in good condition (requires new cartridge) and the brown Dexter golf shoes size 8, traditional green woven (synthetic) hammock, two collectors-style elegantly dressed dolls – 17in and 22in high, the Sega Mega Drive II with two games and a tan-coloured three-seater bed settee and swivel chair (buyer to collect).

The children's slide raised £15 for the Scouts and the Reversair tumble drier raised £10 for the Friends of St Mary's.

All profits go to a village or national charity chosen by the donor of the item.

All enquiries please to:

Kate France 891602, or email katefrance@linton48.freeseve.co.uk

Rainbows' birthday

TO celebrate the Girlguiding Rainbows' 20th birthday, Linton Rainbows joined girls from Sawston, Balsham, Trumpington and Whittlesford for a party afternoon at Wandlebury Education Centre on 10th June.

Fifteen six and seven-year-olds from Linton enjoyed an outdoor afternoon of fun activities starting by greeting each other with a handshake,

a 'high five' from America, a Japanese bow and other foreign greetings.

They joined in a picture trail around the park, made giant bubbles, collected items to fit into a matchbox, made friendship bracelets and looked for natural objects to make a collage before sharing tea and a specially made birthday cake. Rosemary Turner 891925

Hear Purcell, Schubert and a Joyful Noise

AT 7.30pm on Friday 13th July there will be a free concert in Hadstock church featuring Katy Edgecombe, mezzo-soprano, from Cambridge Voices and Ilga Pitkevica, piano.

The programme will include songs by Purcell, Schubert, Howells, Bernstein and Gershwin among others.

There will also be a performance Donald Swann's

Joyful Noise as performed by Joyce Grenfell. The retiring collection will be in aid of Friends of St Botolph's Hadstock.

Sue Walker

Parish council

THE parish council meetings this month are at 8pm on 5th and 19th July in the Cathodeon Centre.

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Best foot forward



Carrie Travers with Ewan Kellar at Chilford Hall during last year's walk

Picture by Mike Crofts

ON 20th May the Oxfam Walk celebrated its 40th anniversary with a walk starting and ending at Stourbridge Common in Cambridge. Participants had the choice of distances ranging from four miles to the full marathon distance of 26 miles.

The routes began by following the Cam and then returning by various routes. Up to 1,000 walkers took part and each was asked to raise a minimum of £50 in sponsorship money.

The start and finish point was a huge marquee on Stourbridge Common which smelled of newly mown damp grass. Walkers of all shapes, sizes, nationalities and ages came and went during the day, together with lots of children, some in pushchairs, and a wide assortment of dogs.

To coincide with the 40th anniversary, the Cambridge Oxfam Walk group has published a book called *Celebrating 40 years of the Oxfam Walk*.

The book includes routes and maps of a sample of 12 of the routes from various years that you may like to walk yourself, including two that pass through Linton. Carrie Travers, from Linton, who has helped the local group for many years, contributed to the book by walking them all covering 150 miles, checking that they were up to date and still possible to do. She and her husband Andy also provided many of the photographs.

If you would like to purchase a copy, you can obtain one for £7 from the Oxfam shops in Cambridge or via the Oxfam shop on ebay.

All the proceeds of the walk and the book will go to Oxfam's Emergencies Fund, to help those affected by disasters such as earthquakes, floods and famine.

Janet Crofts

The legal eagles ...

CONTINUING with our articles on local businesses, this month we focus on Stevens Solicitors

STEVENS is a modern, go-ahead firm of solicitors who pride themselves on their "unstuffy approach".

They provide advice on a range of legal issues including buying and selling houses, wills and probate, employment, licensing, commercial transactions, litigation, consumer problems, divorce and family problems and criminal and motoring matters.

With offices in both Saffron

Walden and Haverhill, the firm is well placed to serve the needs of the Linton community. Senior partner Alan Caldwell, who lives in Linton, said: "We aim to provide an approachable, friendly and professional service at highly competitive rates. We are a local firm and we are proud to have been associated with the Linton News for many years."

For further information, please call Stevens' Saffron Walden office on 01799 526849 or their Haverhill office on 01440 762511.

LNT

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

A tale of woodies and the lion's tooth

ON a recent ramble around the village between rain showers, I was happy to discover the return of the goats-beard in mighty numbers. I was also struck by the proliferation of dandelions, *taraxacum officinale*. As a young man in France, I was once surprised to find a 'lion's tooth' in my salad.

You see the word dandelion is derived from old French 'dent de lion' meaning quite literally 'tooth of lion' and referring to the shape of the leaves. It's interesting inasmuch as it defies the rule of thumb taught to me at school that 'any plant with milky sap is likely to be toxic'.

Far from being a pesky weed, most herbalists consider it valuable. Even the Pilgrims took dandelions to America (now much to their annoyance) as insurance against starvation. In fact, there is not one part of it that isn't edible.

The leaves may be cooked like spinach or added to salads, especially early in the year for

the warmer weather brings about a more bitter taste. A cool tip is to collect those that grow in the shade. The roots may be prepared as you would parsnips or carrots or even parched and ground to make a coffee-like drink, and the flower heads can be used to make wine.

It is said to have many medicinal qualities but I suspect this may be due to its very high iron content. The sap was thought to help eradicate warts, and blowing the fluffy seeds is the stuff of romance and time.

In a lush green holly tree, close to a wall just a little off the ground, live the woodies. They have quietly toiled to build a home fit to raise a family in the most unlikely place. But, then

again, knowing the very kind and charitable couple who live in the house nearby, perhaps it's not surprising, for in my experience our wildlife is keen to share the environment once trust is established.

This pair of wood pigeons, *columba palumbus*, feed themselves largely on fruits and seeds, but especially like the home gardeners' succulent new bean and pea shoots. However, careful observation reveals a diet supplement of an occasional invertebrate. I can testify to



having seen adult pigeons cleverly plucking newts from the muddy edge of a pond.

Soon, if all goes well with both mum and dad sitting on the nest, the two small white eggs

will hatch into squabs. The woodies will then feed these young on a kind of regurgitated substance known as 'pigeon milk'. With estimates of between 20-40 million of these creatures in the UK alone, they are often regarded as pest. Perhaps, in these times of plenty we can easily forget to appreciate their magnificent beauty.

The range of blue and grey plumage, dusky pink breast and black and white markings did not deter Mrs Beeton from creating an Epsom grandstand recipe of pigeon pie, albeit made, I believe, largely from rump steak and ham. The feet, cleaned and glazed, were stuck into the pastry to identify the dish.

Squabbing, or rearing pigeons, appears to be on the increase. Many years ago, our ancestors knew it was a valuable source of nutrients before the commercial production and popularity of poultry. At least until next month, I'm sticking to my chicken salad, with the odd bit of lion's tooth thrown in.

Team spirit picks up

WITH the season now almost a third of the way through, it is really pleasing to be able to report a dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of Linton village cricket club's (LVCC) first eleven.

After a couple of successive relegations, culminating last season in the loss of senior league status at the club, it looks as though a corner has been turned. An injection of a couple of new players has reinvigorated some of the Old Boys to such an extent that the team has lost only once in six League and Cup outings this season, having been a little unlucky when their game against Bottisham-Lode became the only tie in the division so far this season to have been lost to the weather. As I write this on a wet Friday afternoon, I don't think that statement will remain true for even another 24 hours.

There seems to be a much-improved team spirit, with less reliance on one or two individuals for performances. There have been seven scores of 50 or more, with only two men's names featuring twice.

The bowlers, too, have been sharing the rewards, with four wicket hauls for the two Davids, Larcombe and Gleeson, and three wicket hauls for Dean Chipps, Mark Liles and new recruit Biju Anthony. The promotion push is on!

While the turnaround in fortunes has not been as dramatic, there are signs that this success is rubbing off on the second eleven, too. Consistency is the key issue, but if we can have more days like our victory against Cherry Hinton II, there are brighter times around the corner. While other results haven't gone the team's way, there have been performances to savour, even your correspondent has knocked over one or two opposing batsmen.

Here's to the rest of the season.

Hans Pinkard

Raisin' funds for children

WHAT have an aduki bean, an eyelash, vermiculite and pre-historic chalk got in common? Very little, you may think. In fact, all these items can fit inside a raisin box.

The children and staff of Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers were set a fund raisin' challenge by the chair, Kate Kell, to see how many different items they could find to put into a raisin box.

The children first had to devour the original contents which were most welcome to feed their brain cells. Parents and staff took the challenge extremely seriously with the playgroup leader Jo Stokes a runaway winner with 111 items. Taylor Polley and Fred Chafer were the most impressive young participants.

After last year's success, the children toddled, walked or ran round a half-mile course to raise funds when the Barnados' Big Toddle took place in the recreation ground

on 19th June. The last event on 19th July will be a party to say goodbye to the children who leave to start school in September.

Playgroup will be busier than ever over the summer holiday when we move into our temporary home, a Portacabin in the grounds of the village college.

It is an exciting time as a purpose-built facility is being constructed for the children. No doubt there will be plenty of spectators when the current building is demolished.

Please remember our toddler groups continue to run in term time for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11.30am. For further information please visit our website www.lintongranta-playgroup.co.uk or contact Kate Kell on 894970.

Fiona Tideswell

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The Derbyshire Post

SOME years go by at a school without a single retirement and then you have others, like this one, when a large and influential group retires at once. It is going to feel very much like the end of an era at Linton village college when term finishes this July, because five colleagues have decided to change the pace of their lives and draw long teaching careers to a close.

John and Pam Coombes, for example, have been part of the fabric of the place. John joined the school as head of Humanities in January 1982. Four years later, his wife Pam gained a temporary post as teacher of home economics, as it was then called – nowadays ‘food’ is a technology subject. The couple lived in Linton for many years. They are retiring to be close to children and grandchildren in the north-west.

Jenny Harris, deputy headteacher, has served the college since April 1989. Jenny was appointed to her current post by Christine Barbara, and in recent years has been the architect of the school’s curriculum by writing the timetable – not a job that anyone in a school envies very much, but nevertheless an incredibly important one.

Judith Hodgson has taught in the modern languages department since September 1988 and has been the kind of exemplary teacher and loyal servant that any school would feel fortunate to have retained for so long.

Bob Snape, year leader and head of Personal, Social and Health Education, joined the college in September 1974. During his time at LVC, he has influenced decision-making both as a teacher and a staff governor.

Each one of these members of staff has taught whole generations (in some cases children and their parents too) in this village college and they have seen two or three headteachers come and go. They can describe the very many initiatives and changes that have occurred in education over the past three decades, and have witnessed the way in which the college has grown and flourished into the excellent institution it is today. The professional commitment that each has shown to the college is something we should celebrate.

We will very much miss them, but I have a strong suspicion that it isn’t going to be long before we see them back in the college in some capacity or other!

Caroline Derbyshire, principal

The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Flood, heat and drought - it's Linton's weather

THE weather has always been unpredictable and the variations in the climate in 2007 led me to examine the local archives to see if Linton had suffered extreme conditions in the past.

In March 1845, heavy rains in Linton and the thawing of the snow caused the river to rise to an unusual height and it was scarcely possible to pass over the old footbridge. Several houses in the immediate locality were flooded. Yet only a year later, in June 1846 vegetation dried up due to a heatwave and temperatures averaged 94-100F.

The next month a huge hail-storm with stones more than 3in-wide hit the village and smashed hundreds of glass panes in the greenhouses of market gardener, Mr Gimson (located in present day Granta Vale).

In August 1876, a tempest blasted the village and lightning destroyed a large thatched hurdle shed at Lamb Fair Close,



The flood in Mill Lane in November 1987

today’s Fincham’s estate. In September 1877, a whirlwind hit the southern part of the county and overturned waggons at Little Linton farm.

The flooding in August 1879 was the worst in memory with the river Cam rising eight feet in two hours, and Parker’s Piece became a lake. In Linton, children were carried across the bridge in farm waggons to

reach school. More floods followed in 1894, 1918, 1923, 1947 and 1948. In June 1948, the river rose four feet in a few hours after a cloudburst and flooded the main street. Floodwaters swept earth from the surrounding fields into the streets and the Hadstock and Balsham roads were blocked by 6ft-high mounds of earth.

Heatwaves and droughts

were also a problem. For three weeks in September 1894, the Linton temperature was more than 90F in the shade and 114F in the sun. In July 1921 and again in 1923 and 1925, a heat-wave hit the local area and most village wells dried up. Water carts from Linton had to supply many of the local villages; the water tower was only built in 1936. At the National School (infants today), the classroom temperature averaged more than 93F and lessons were held under the shade of the trees where it was only 88F.

Finally, a unique event: on Saturday 21st August 1870, meteors were seen all over Britain. One passed over Scotland around 9.25pm and was so bright that it lit up the countryside around. It was at its zenith over Linton where it was vertical to the east of the village and about eight miles high. The brilliant light emitted could be seen at Woodstock some 75 miles away.

Friends from Soshanguve visit LVC

SATURDAY 16th of June was a very special day for Linton village college as this was the day that we welcomed a group of 12 ‘learners’ and two ‘educators’ from our partner school in South Africa.

Our link with Boepathutse junior secondary school in the township of Soshanguve outside Pretoria, began more than 10 years ago, and we were one of the first schools in the country to develop a link of this type.

Since 1997 we have raised funds to help with projects at the school, exchanged letters, had a number of teacher exchanges, hosted four of their students in 1999 and taken a party of 15 Linton students there in 2004.

This, however, is the first time we have run a full exchange, with our students returning to Soshanguve next summer.

The visitors are all being

hosted by students from Years 9 and 10, and during their stay they will be involved in a number of lessons and activities, and also have the opportunity to visit London, Cambridge and other places of interest.

We value the friendships and knowledge we have gained from this link over the years, and look forward to it continuing to be an important part of life at Linton village college. We hope to be able to report back on the exchange in later editions.

Pam Coombes



Students and teachers from Boepathutse junior secondary school in South Africa

Picture courtesy of LVC

Play area weekend trial

THE Cathodeon trustees have decided to keep the play area at the front of the Cathodeon building open until 6pm at weekends during the coming school holidays. The play area is only for children aged under 10 and supervised by a responsible adult.

The gates will open at 10am on Saturday and Sunday. The main gates will be closed at lunchtime on Sunday and we need volunteers to close the pedestrian gate at 6pm. If you would like to help, please contact Sue Parry at the parish office (891001). In September, the trustees will review how afternoon opening has worked and decide whether to continue.

We have also agreed to consider adding a small goal at the end of the tarmac play space, and obtain estimates for gradually renewing the worn parts of the grassed areas with better drainage and new top soil.

Andrew Gore

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/1010/07/F Mrs & Mrs M Taylor 3 Granta Vale, Linton.

Extension.

S/1012/07/F Mr & Mrs Burleigh, 9 Hollybush Way, Linton.

Extension.

S/1116/07/F R Perry, 5 The Ridgeway, Linton. Extensions,

erection of garage and garden chalet.

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Parish Council Matters

Community First Responders

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



Bob Hammett, our local Community First Responder

Could someone find your house in an emergency at night? This is a question you should ask yourself. When you are out walking around the village have a look and see how many houses have their house numbers on the gates. When you are trying to find a house, in the dark and the house name or number is on the front door it is often difficult to see that number from the road, which could cause delay in responding to someone who is having a heart attack.

This is one of the frustrating things that happen when, as a Community First Responder, you are trying to find a house with no number or name clearly visible and you know that someone wants your help.

If you have reason to call the emergency service make sure that you put the lights on so you are clearly visible or get someone to look out for someone to arrive, as it may not be the ambulance that arrives first, but someone in a private car because we as Community First Responders use our own cars without blue lights and sirens.

What is a Community First Responder?

They are local volunteers who agree to undertake training in order to be able to provide life saving treatment to those people within the local community who are critically injured or ill in the few minutes prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

Why do we need Community First Responders?

We know that in many medical emergencies, people can die within the first few minutes. We also know that, if certain simple but critical interventions can be performed within those first few minutes, life can be saved and disability reduced. This is especially the case for heart attacks, choking and injuries that cause someone to lose consciousness.

Even the best ambulance service in the world cannot get to every 999 call within the first few minutes. In fact, the East Anglian Ambulance Service gets to most calls very quickly. But it may not be quick enough - especially in countryside areas or large commercial complexes. There is a period of time between the 999 call being made and the ambulance arriving in which little or no emergency care takes place. This time period has been called the 'therapeutic vacuum'. We know that community based responders can fill this vacuum and provide essential simple

treatment in those crucial first few minutes.

In recent years, advances in technology have made many interventions which were previously performed only by highly trained individuals available to people with much less training. These include small, easy to operate 'automatic external defibrillators' (AEDs) and lightweight oxygen delivery systems.

MAGPAS believes that with the right training, equipment and support, Community

First Responders in Cambridgeshire can work alongside the Ambulance Service and provide the best pre-hospital care that is possible. Working closely with the East Anglian Ambulance Service, MAGPAS is providing the organisational framework within which volunteers in the community can be trained and equipped to become MAGPAS Community First Responders.

How will a First Responder be trained?

All MAGPAS Community First Responders will have previously undertaken some sort of first aid training. MAGPAS will then provide specific first responder training over a two day period which will cover all the skills and knowledge that a Community First Responder will need. This training is provided by experienced trainers and will reflect the best of current first aid and emergency care practice in the UK. Each Community First Responder will have to prove that they are up to the standard by completing written and practical tests at the end of the training. They will also undergo refresher training every three months and full refresher once a year.

How are First Responders organised?

MAGPAS aims to support Community First Responder schemes in every community in Cambridgeshire. These schemes are locally managed groups of volunteers who elect a local co-ordinator and plan their own 'on-call' rota to cover their own community. Ideally, each community will have 24 hour cover, 365 days a year but it may not be possible if there are only a few volunteers. A minimum of five volunteers are required in order to set up a scheme. The MAGPAS Community First Responder Scheme Co-ordinator will keep in close contact with the local co-ordinator and provide training, equipment and administrative support.

But how will the First Responder get to the patient?

Whenever the Ambulance Service receives a 999 call from that community which indicates a situation that is considered immediately life threatening, the duty Community First Responder will be contacted directly. The 999 caller will be told that the Community First Responder is on the way and that they will also be backed by an ambulance as soon as possible. In some circumstances, a specialist MAGPAS Doctor may also be activated.

The Community First Responder will either walk or drive to the scene. In most cases, they will be very local and there will be minimal driving. If driving is involved, it will be under the Highway Code in the volunteer's own car and no special dispensation will be made for breaking the law. On arrival, the Community First Responder will have all the training and equipment necessary to manage the patient in those first few critical minutes before the ambulance arrives. In many cases, the Community First Responder may not actually be required to do anything other than reassure the patient and make sure that the ambulance is able to find the location. In some circumstances however, we believe that the Community First Responder can save lives. This may be as a result of simple airway manoeuvres, defibrillation or treating choking. The Community First Responder will always be backed up by an ambulance.

What about the cost of all this?

MAGPAS is a registered charity which provided specialist training and equipment for volunteer doctors within Cambridgeshire since 1971. Although the doctors have been fantastic and have provided a great deal of care throughout the county, we are now providing similar training and equipment for Community First Responders. MAGPAS has therefore channelled some of its funds towards the setting up of the Community First Responder Scheme. The bulk of MAGPAS' income comes from charitable donations by the people of Cambridgeshire. It costs approximately £5000 to train and equip a group of volunteers and there are at least thirty communities in Cambridgeshire who we believe are benefiting from having Community First Responders. Individual volunteers and local schemes will not be charged for the equipment or training that they receive, nor will they receive any payment. Fundraising efforts will therefore need to continue in order to support the First Responder Scheme but we are confident that individual communities will be able to raise funds.

Your local Community First Responder Scheme has raised funds at the Balsham Feast and from the Wacky Races. The pictures show my successful ascent of Mont Blanc in aid of MAGPAS.



Helping to raise funds for the Community First Responders

Pictures supplied by Bob Hammett

If you would like more information about becoming a Community First Responder and be able to help the local community contact Hilary Potter on 891211 or call me on 891372 for more details.

Cllr Bob Hammett

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the meeting of Linton parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 3rd May 2007.

Present: G Potter - Chair, A Gore - Vice Chair, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, M Gee, B Hammett, T Krarup, J Linsdell, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, D Willingham, Mrs K France - Press, Mrs S Parry - Clerk and one member of the public.

Public Forum: Mr Baker asked if there is any further information on Flaxfields. Cllr Gore replied that a meeting has been arranged for later in the month. Mrs France asked if there is any progress on a path at the back of Granta Leys. This is in hand. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr White.

Co-ordinators Reports

Recreation Ground - It was reported that the damage to the grass on the recreation ground was caused by vehicles undertaking the bridge work. The cricket pitch is in very good condition. Cllr Gore had a sample of golden gravel. Although costly this would be an ideal surface for the path to the Clapper stile and it may be possible to obtain a grant.

Cemetery (M Gee) - The recent tree work has improved the appearance of the cemetery. Complaints have been received regarding the over-zealous weed killing. It was felt that due to the dry weather the situation had been exacerbated. The situation will be reviewed when the current grass contract expires next year. It was agreed to contact the contractors who have been involved with Coles Lane car park and John Cobb to obtain quotes to resurface the tarmac paths from the main gate on the east to the junction on the west side. It was also agreed to request a quote for the path behind Granta Leys.

Rights of Way (Dr J Rossiter) - Mr Fairey wants to establish that the belt of trees he has planted from Balsham Road north of Linton towards footpath No. 25 is not a public footpath. Cllr Willingham is very dissatisfied with National Grid Plc over their procedures for closing footpaths over a six month period and will be submitting a motion to the Parish Council.

The hedge pack, partly funded by the SCDC, has been planted, mostly in gaps along the A1307 footpath. The 3W volunteers have planted a hedge behind No.1 Paynes Meadow, the original field entrance, and collected a lot of litter from the Paynes Meadow area including a great quantity of "bagged" dog waste from the footpath at the bottom of the new grass area of Paynes Meadow. It was agreed to seek permission to install a dog bin at the entrance to the open space.

Venture Playground (B Hammett) - A missing pole has been reported to Anglian Playgrounds asking them to carry out any necessary repairs.

Leadwell Meadows (Dr J Rossiter) - During the winter Herald carried out some much appreciated maintenance work which has been a big improvement. The group have met on several occasions and have stacked the resulting debris as wildlife habitats. They have done some more tree planting by the river in Hogs Holme Meadow and are currently working on removing the branches from the fallen willow in Reed Meadow which are obstructing the river. It is not thought necessary to remove any more of the tree. The marsh marigolds have been cleared of debris and are responding to the care over the past couple of years by spreading.

Glebe Land (Dr J Rossiter) - The 3W Group have planted shrubs and hawthorn from the hedge pack partly funded by the SCDC, species designed to attract butterflies. Some shrubs have been donated by a resident, and another made a gift of £10 to the group. The area has been cut.

Churchyard (Dr B Cox) - Mr Jackson has very nearly completed the flint wall. Trees have been felled and a stump has been ground out.

A1307 (E Cornell) - Complaints have been received regarding a yellow slow moving vehicle, apparently surveying the road, at 8.30am resulting in long delays. Cambridgeshire county council has no knowledge of this work. Please can we note registration number etc to help to identify the vehicle. It was

reported that the Babraham Institute will be installing a roundabout and traffic lights at their new site entrance.

Full details of payments agreed are available from the parish clerk.

Clarification of the Council's response to:
Uttlesford DCs request for assistance re appeal for proposed expansion of Stansted Airport. Reference was made to supporting the Stop Stansted expansion and being against the expansion of Stansted Airport. The Chairman was unhappy with the agreement that was made under that agenda item and his understanding of the decision taken was unclear as to the Parish Council Policy on Stansted Airports expansion. He therefore made a ruling whereby the decision taken on 15th June 2006 regarding our position on the expansion of Stansted Airport is unclear and did not state this Council policy as being against the Expansion of Stansted Airport.

It was agreed to have an agenda item at the next meeting to make the Councils policy clear. Agenda item to be 'Linton Parish Council is against the expansion of Stansted Airport'. Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign - Road and rail issues relating to a second runway, Cllr Willingham will report at the next meeting.

Matters arising from the Minutes of 19th April not already listed:

With reference to the anticipation of a Neighbourhood Police Panel in September/October 2007 it was decided that we write to neighbouring Parish Councils who are already included in a scheme to ask their views on its effectiveness and in what way it is an improvement on the traditional liaison between the Police and Parish Councils as statistics in the last report were bizarre.

CCC Highway issues. Cllr Urwin reported that the pole outside the Village Hall has been replaced and another has been removed. A signage meeting has been arranged for 9.30am on Thursday 10th May. A report will follow.

It was confirmed that the allotments in Hildersham are only available to Hildersham residents.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

It was agreed to hold a written record of all policy decisions made by the council.

Residents in Palmers Close have reported a large tree branch which has fallen down close to the garages. This is on District council property and not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

There is a problem with rats along the riverbank by Horn bridge. The Environment Agency and/or Environmental Health to be contacted for advice and/or action.

Minutes of the meeting of the Linton parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 17th May 2007.

Present: Councillors Mrs E Bald, Ms E Cornell, M Gee, A Gore, B Hammett, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin and D Willingham; Mrs S Parry - Clerk. DC/CC J Batchelor and DC Mrs T Bear were also in attendance together with Mrs K France - Press.

Election of Chairman and signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Urwin proposed that Cllr Gore be elected as Chairman of the Council. The proposal was seconded and with there being no other nominations, Cllr Gore was duly elected unopposed and thereupon signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dr Cox and Dr White.

Election of Vice-chairman. Cllr Bald proposed that Cllr Cornell be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council. The proposal was seconded and with there being no other nominations, Cllr Cornell was duly elected unopposed.

A list of the appointments of Council representatives can be seen in the Parish council office.

It was agreed that a quotation be sought from the Environmental Health Officer regarding rats on the riverbank at the Glebe

land and recreation ground.

Cllr Willingham had spoken to the police, who would be undertaking speed checks on Horseheath Road subject to staff and equipment availability. They would also check on the use of seat belts and mobile phones.

Report from County Councillor

Cllr Batchelor reported that resurfacing of the A1307 was due to start on 21st May. Resurfacing of Coles Lane and Back Road was hoped to take place in August. Depending on the availability of funds, the work on Back Road might be extended as far west as The Woodlands. Some pavements would be resurfaced and a bus stop sited by the cemetery. Councillors expressed concerns over the effect of possible road closures during the period of the works.

Progress was being made regarding S106 payments relating to developments in Haverhill being applied towards improvements to the A1307. It was anticipated that the developer of the multiplex cinema in Haverhill would be required to make a payment of £50k towards improvements in transport infrastructure on the A1307 as part of the planning agreement.

It was not anticipated that any planning application for the possible wind farm between Camgrain and Catley Park would be submitted earlier than May 2008.

Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Batchelor reported that following the recent elections the Conservative Party now held majority control of the District council. Cllr Batchelor continued to be leader of the Liberal Democrat opposition.

Cllr Bear reported that the problems experienced with the regular emptying of the plastic recycling container were caused by the contractor only having one operator and vehicle. The contractor was accordingly only being given a six month extension of the contract, after which it might go out to tender. A new council website 'envirocrime' was now available, which would name and shame environmental crime offenders, and could be used by the public to report such problems as graffiti and fly tipping.

Cllr Batchelor confirmed that the Council should renew its support for, or objection to, the various proposals affecting Linton in the forthcoming independent examination of the site-specific element of the Local Development Framework for South Cambridgeshire. He would check that the office had received the correct documentation.

Reports from Councillors

Resolution on notice, proposed by Cllr Willingham: "That Linton parish council is against the expansion of Stansted Airport." Cllr Willingham sought to limit the ambit of the resolution by adding the words "where proposals connected with the expansion might be to the detriment to the quality of life in Linton." It was agreed that the resolution be so limited and approved.

Response to road and rail issues relating to a second runway at Stansted Airport. Councillors approved Cllr Willingham's draft replies to the BAA's Surface Access Consultation, as there is a bias towards Stansted to London traffic. No provision is made for improving the M11 or other roads towards Cambridge and the north, and there appears to be a possible reduction of train service from Cambridge to improve services from Stansted to London.

A report from Cllr Rossiter regarding Linton Area Pool Project and the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils had been circulated. She explained that as she would be attending important CALC meetings on 7th and 21st June she would be unable to attend the parish council meetings on those days.

There was an update on the one way system, full details of which can be read at the Parish council office.

Cllr Gore reported that George Glover would be retiring as Caretaker from the Cathodeon Centre and Village Hall in August.

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