

Friends of St Mary's
Coffee Morning
from 10.30am to 12
noon on Saturday
7th January at the
Village Hall see p5

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A Happy New Year to all our readers



Pictured below are many of the volunteers who produce and deliver the Linton News (Some were too shy to supply their pictures)



Help still needed

WE have a wonderful set of volunteers with all sorts of skills, from young ones who deliver the paper to older retired ones, like me, who edit the paper and put it onto our desktop publishing system InDesign.

However we are still looking for a volunteer to help our production manager take the edited paper from InDesign and convert it to a form that our printer Plumridges can use. In addition the paper needs to be uploaded onto the Linton.info website.

This would ideally suit someone with experience with computers and possibly desktop publishing – but training will be given. Could you be the one? If so, contact me on 891517 or email lneditor@linton.info.

Editor

New planning application for Cambridge Road

A PLANNING application has just arrived for the site of the old White Van Garage on Cambridge Road.

The application is to build a three-storey apartment development, containing 10 self-contained two and three bedroom units. There will be landscaped parking areas and amenity spaces. The previous application for the site was for an express supermarket, which would have had a great impact on the area – essentially due to the traffic problems it would have created.

The link for the plans is:

<http://plan.scamb.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/WPHAPP-DETAIL.DisplayUrl?theApnID=S/3076/16/FL&backURL=>
Please send your comments to APAS.Planning@scamb.gov.uk or write to SCDC Planning Dept. Please copy your comments to the Parish Council. Plans are also available in the Parish Office.

The Parish Council will be discussing this application at an extraordinary planning meeting in order to give this application sufficient time for evaluation.

Enid Bald

New Picture House in Balsham

THERE is a new non profit making venture in the village. The Picture House has been set up to show films in Balsham Church Institute with funding from SCDC Community Chest and Balsham Parish Council. It will provide high resolution AV projection facilities from Blu-ray discs with full multi speaker surround sound.

An induction loop system for hearing aid users has been installed courtesy of the Balsham Ploughmen.

We show newly released feature films on the first Saturday of each month. Annual membership costs just £24 for a family of four or £12 for a single person. Guest membership is also available for a single evening. Once annual membership is paid there is no extra charge to attend any film evening.

Wine and nibbles before the film are provided for a small donation and so far we have shown the 2016 version of Disney's Jungle Book, The Bridge of Spies and the musical Chicago.

Forthcoming film titles and info are circulated in advance to all members and notices are posted on the Picture House notice board at the Institute.

Our next film dates are Saturdays: 7th January (at 6pm), 4th February and 4th March (both at 7pm).

As we show modern films our screen licensing arrangement only allows us to advertise our films to members or on our premises. Hence I cannot provide you with an ad for the January film except to say that it is children oriented and features a large giant and James Bond drops by in February.

To register your interest or join the Picture House please email Nigel Clark at balshampicturehouse@gmail.com

Application forms can be emailed and brought along on any film evening.

We already have a few friends from Linton as members but hope that we will see more in future.

Dick Paden

Number 29 bus changes

Viceroy will no longer be providing service 29 from Linton to Saffron Walden from December 27th.

This will be replaced by the commercial service Essex and Suffolk DaRT 29 from January 3rd.

Customers need to pre-book onto the service by calling 01621 87 44 11. The vehicle used will be a smaller mini bus more suitable for the rural roads served.

For further information go to www.traveline.org or call 01621 87 44 11. Rachael Price, Area Review Manager (Uttlesford and Braintree)

Essex County Council

Please note

WOULD anyone who bought an olive wood candlestick from the Christmas market please contact Gemma at the Linton Kitchen with the utmost priority either by popping in or phoning 894949.

Editor

Too good for jumble...

ALL computer desks have been sold privately but I now have a request for one. Please contact me if you have one for sale.

Still available are the Pro Classic 300 exercise machine in good condition, the Writers Bureau Course in ten sections with a punctuation and spelling guide, a quantity of oak and white wooden Spur shelving 1m or 80cm x 2.5cm and a Dell printer.

The ladies' bicycle raised £50 and the ladder £45, both for St Mary's Church.

To buy any of the above or if you have an item to profit a charity, please contact Kate France on 891602 or email kfrance@profsoundconsult.com.

NB: The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.



The show must go on

IT just wouldn't be the run up to Christmas without the lower school productions. They unfailingly provide a generous helping of magic and sparkle to the festive season.

Mrs Faircloth and the Class 2 children write:

Classes 1 and 2 in Year 3 at Linton Heights put on a play called Countdown to Christmas. The children enjoyed singing all the songs, especially *The Holly and Mistletoe*, *He is Immanuel* and *Christmas Hit*.

They loved doing the dancing – Greek style – in the restaurant scene. One of the funniest parts is when the naughty little boy, who plays Joseph, wipes his nose on his sleeve.

The children wore the most wonderful costumes provided by the parents.

William Anderson and Libby Barnes write:

Year 4 have been working on their Christmas production of *Troy Story*. It's about Paris, Prince of Troy, who chooses Aphrodite as the fairest of the Goddesses. In return she gives him the love of a beautiful woman, Helen, who unfortunately is married to King Menelaus.

This causes calamitous chaos between Troy and Sparta and a series of bloody battles.

In revenge for the death of Achilles, the Spartan's brave leader, the Spartans build a massive wooden horse in order to sneak past the Trojan defences. A tale of love, death and glory: it's all here, it's called *Troy Story* and wow did the parents love it.

My thanks to the children who looked wonderful in their costumes, sang and danced magnificently and delivered their lines with great clarity.

This year's production has certainly confirmed that Linton Heights has got talent.

James Puxley, Headteacher

Linton and District Historical Society

IN November, Nigel Start explained how English Gardens had developed over the centuries.

Archaeology shows that Iron Age people grew food crops, such as cereals, beans, carrots, parsnips, kale and herbs.

The Romans had courtyard gardens, growing roses, box and onions, plus apples, walnuts and grapes.

During the Dark Ages, the expansion of religious communities was possibly accompanied by the development of medicinal herb gardens. Tudor aristocrats enjoyed pleasure grounds with knot gardens and mazes, stocked with the latest plants brought in by explorers.

In the early C17th John Tradescant grew exotic plants such as gladioli, poppies, phlox and lupins at Hatfield House and during Tulip Mania, a single bulb would cost a fortune.

A century later, William Kent, Capability Brown and Henry Repton transformed many large estates. Rolling landscapes replaced more formal gardens.

Plant knowledge spread with the establishment of the Horticultural Society (later Royal) in 1804. The potato's potential was at last understood and became a vital crop in cottage gardens.

The Victorian age saw the growth of seed companies, the development of pesticides, cylinder lawn mowers and glasshouses.

From the mid C20th gardening has been influenced by radio and TV personalities with the promotion of outdoor living. Chelsea's popular Flower Show gives us gardens to aspire to and many new plants to try.

The next meeting will be The Lost Princes. Chloë Cockerill will talk on the Royal heirs who never came to the throne.

This will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th January in the village hall.

Pat Faircloth, 893928

Local lives



A very talented young lady

Photograph by Sarah Hurcum

IT has been my pleasure to meet some of the talented young people who have grown up in Linton and Sophie Condie is one of them.

Encouraged by her mother, Sophie began sewing and making her own presents and cards at the age of three. After studying art, design and drama at Long Road she completed an art foundation course at Cambridge Regional College before going on to study fashion and textiles at Liverpool University. She graduated with first class honours followed by a master's degree from the London College of Fashion.

She took up an internship in a London fashion house, at the same time working freelance as a designer and funding herself by becoming a film extra, meeting Steven Spielberg and Bill Murray and even acting as a stand-in for Kirsten Stewart.

While travelling in Indonesia Sophie met Carla, a freelance machinist and the pair became friends. Two years ago they started their own fashion label called *The Youth London*. Their look is based on the traditional textiles and fabrics which they encountered in the Far East. They re-appropriate these and use them in a contemporary way, producing shirts, jackets, printed T-shirts and small leather goods.

Sophie wants to create a brand which is culturally conscious and eventually she would love to return to Indonesia to involve her company with the artisans there and to ensure that they receive fair payment for their goods. She is currently working on a promotional video for Gianna G and is making four bespoke outfits for the dancer, all of which are hand stitched and embroidered.

Sophie hopes that one day she will be able to earn her living from her business. Until then she works in a prestigious leather company five days a week and uses her weekends to go to her studio in London and create new designs. Her website is theyouthlondon.com.

We wish her every success.

Sarah Hurcum

PLODDING ALONG An update on police matters

OVERNIGHT on 8th December unknown offenders broke into metal storage containers belonging to a business on Cambridge Road and stole gardening machinery. Crime Number CF0573401216 refers.

In the early hours of Saturday 10th December offenders were disturbed breaking into a van in Crossways, Linton. They appear to have got away with some tools.

If anyone has any information regarding these crimes, saw anyone acting suspiciously around that time or prior to the crimes, please call 101 and quote the crime number.

Alternatively you can call crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Thank you for all your support and stay safe.

Alice PCSO
Sawston Police Station



Watch out the infants are about

HAPPY New Year to you all from the staff and children at Linton CE Infant School.

I am writing this before the Christmas performances have taken place but I am sure that the children delighted many with their singing, dancing and telling of the Christmas story. The stage we now have just adds to the excitement of performing for the children.

The children were served a delicious Christmas lunch. Many thanks to our kitchen staff who work hard all year round.

The PTFA kindly organised a pantomime for the children to enjoy and even Father Christmas made time in his busy schedule to visit the children, bringing gifts for each class.

So, 2017 has arrived and the school remains a hive of

activity.

Our topic for this term is *Who's that, trip-trapping over my bridge?* So be careful when you are out and about in Linton; keep an eye out for the creatures living under the bridges.

Thank you to those of you who sponsored our children to raise funds for new ipads in the school. We still have a way to go before reaching our target but the sponsored walk certainly got us off to a flying start.

It was lovely to meet so many parents who are considering Linton Infants as the school for their child to start with us in September 2017.

The admissions window closes on 15th January and any applications made after this date will not be processed until May 2017.

Kelly Harries
Headteacher

Reflections and adventures



AS 2016 draws to a close Chestnut Playgroup is looking back on a super year.

We have had lots of fun this year and enjoyed lots of exciting new experiences. We were fortunate to receive funding from the Anderson Trust and Parish Council which has enhanced our equipment and provided some fantastic learning opportunities.

We have been involved with the community with visits from local clergy, the police and trips to the library and church. We also loved creating our Stick Man display for the flower festival.

We bid a fond farewell to our class of 2016 who have all settled well into school and are building on the foundations of learning from playgroup. In recent months we have welcomed some new children and everyone is enjoying making new friendships.

The high point of the year was our Good Ofsted inspection. Our staff worked so hard to achieve this and we thank them for their commitment and dedication.

Looking ahead to 2017 we will be welcoming more children who will soon be turning two. We have lots of exciting things planned including an overhaul of our fantastic garden to provide more scope for play and investigation and the introduction of a take home bear to boost the home playgroup partnership.

We are open five days a week and have spaces on all days.

Please contact our administrator for details or to arrange a visit at admin@chestnutplaygroup.org.uk or on 07342 900120.

Wendy Hine on behalf of Chestnut Playgroup

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Eccentric Gardens

LAST month Steve Jones returned with his planned talk *Eccentric Gardens*. Once again we were entertained by his amazing photographs and amusing talk. It was interesting to see the breadth of possibilities we could introduce in our own gardens. Maybe next year we can have a change of scene and come up with some quirky ideas to refresh our gardening lives.

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th January at the Village Hall, a panel of local experts will be on hand to answer any garden related questions you may have. Questions beforehand would be welcome, sent to the email address below. Please feel free to bring along questions on the night.

We look forward to seeing both members and visitors.
Anita Daws, anitadaws@gmail.com, 892113

St Mary's Choir January – March 2017

PLEASE join us on:

- Sunday, 29th January at 6pm for a Candlemas Procession with St Mary's Choir and friends.
- Saturday, 25th February at 7.30pm for a concert given by the choir and friends.
- Saturday, 25th March 2-8pm Come and Sing – Stainer's Crucifixion.

If you would like to sing contact David as below. Come and Sing Rehearsals are from 2pm (tbc). There will be a performance of the Crucifixion at 6pm at St Mary's, Linton

If you would like to take part or would like more information, please contact David Parry-Smith on 894715 or david@parry-smith.co.uk

Note: The Come and Sing is an event open to all. There are rehearsals on the day of the work and then a performance. There will be tea between rehearsals and performance.

It is a great opportunity to get together and form a choir to sing a large-scale work without a huge time commitment. Usually the work chosen is reasonably well known, so many of the participants have sung the work previously. There will be copies of the work available to borrow on the day.

Stainer's Crucifixion is a sequence of choruses, solos and hymns that follow the Passiontide story. (in 2017, Passiontide begins on Sunday, 2nd April with Easter Day being Sunday, 16th April).

There will be a charge for singers and audience as this is also a fundraising event for The Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society (ACCMS) which will be celebrating its centenary next year. ACCMS put on a Choirs' Festival Evensong in King's College Chapel every two years. The next one is Saturday, 16th September 2017. Again, all singers very welcome to sing at the service.

Anne Parry-Smith

St Mary's News A new face for a new year

AS Rector of the Linton Team of churches (Linton, Bartlow, Castle Camps, Study Camps, Horseheath) I am delighted that a new colleague is joining us in January. The Reverend Dr Ian Fisher is coming from Essex with his wife, Katharine, to live in the vicarage at Castle Camps and work part-time with us.

Although his main focus will be in the Camps parishes and in Horseheath we intend to work very much as a team, so there will be services and occasions when people will see him in Linton.

Before he went into the ministry Ian's background was in science (Geology). He has many other interests including singing (tenor), darts, beer and cider making and allotment gardening.

As well as being a parish priest, Ian's career has included being a school and university chaplain. He enjoys leading services for pre-schoolers and their parents and services of prayer and anointing for healing. I am hoping that all this rich experience and interest will benefit all the churches of our team, as well as our local communities.

Meanwhile, with a focus more on Linton itself, please look out for advertisements for our *Murder Mystery Evening at St Mary's – a bit of fun at a dark time of year. Come and join us And, of course, you are always welcome to join us on Sundays and Thursdays for worship.*

Maggie Guite
Team Rector of the Linton Team Ministry

WEA at Linton

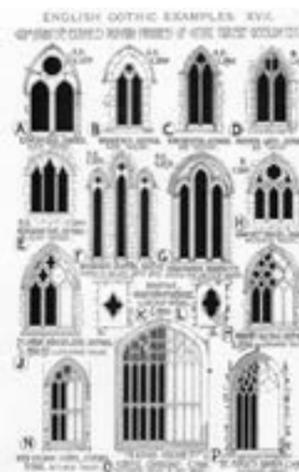
COLIN Canfield will be the speaker at a new 10 week WEA course on the building of the English Parish Church, starting at 10am on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 in the village hall. The fee is £52.50 with two free taster sessions and includes two field trips.

This is a completely fresh look at the building of the English Parish Church from its beginning with the Saxons up to the Victorians with the Gothic Revival and Pre-Raphaelites.

Within any parish, the local church is often the oldest building and is larger than any pre-19th century structure except perhaps a barn.

Churches are often built of the most durable local materials available, in this area with flint and rubble finished off with dressed ashlar stone or brick.

We look forward to you joining us in this exciting new course. The course number is C2223641 and you can now book ahead by phone on 0800 328 1060 or online at <https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/online/login.aspx>. For more information go to www.wea-linton.com/spring-course-2017.html or info@wea-linton.com
Andrew Westwood-Bate, 0787 546953



Gothic revival
Picture supplied by Andrew Westwood Bate

Venue correction

PLEASE note the Linton Granta Playgroup jumble sale is from 2pm until 4pm on Saturday 14th January in the Village Hall – not, as stated in the December issue, as being in Linton Granta school.

LGP contact 07806-744864

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THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 6th February 2017
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 16th January
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 18th January

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER
Limited space on waiting list for Linton businesses
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: Fran Armes email: ineditor@linton.info
phone 891517

For distribution queries contact: **Caroline Mulley**
07767 317709 or email carolinemulley@yahoo.co.uk

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office; failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here. You may also email your event details to diary@linton.info. Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News.

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

WEEKLY

Little stars SEN group, alternate Mondays 1.15-2.45pm	CC
Netball, Monday evenings, 6.30pm junior, 7.30pm adult	LVC
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays	Pavilion
Men's keep fit, 8-9.30pm Mondays	LVC sports centre
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, Tuesdays, 10am term-time	VH
Linton Air Cadets Mon and Thurs 7-9.30pm (07717801056)	LVC
Scrabble Club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	CP
Linton Granta playgrp, 9am-12noon Monday-Friday	LVC
Linton Granta Toddler grp, 9.30-11.30 Tuesdays term time	LVC
Linton Granta playgrp, 12.30-2.30pm Mon-Fri, NOT Tues	LVC
Storytime, 2-2.30pm Tuesdays, term-time	Library
Granta Bridge club, 2pm Tuesdays	VH
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
IT club-computer help, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (893509)	CC
Belleplate ringing, 7.45-9pm, Tuesdays (971057)	URC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time only	VH
Jelly Beans playgroup, 9-11.30am Thursdays	URC
Doodle Dots under 25s, Thursdays 10-11.30am,	CC
NewBeginnings (with Baby Sensory), 1.15-2.45pm, Thursdays	CC
Computer buddies, 2-4pm, Thursdays	Library
Crickets club, 6-8pm Thursdays	RG,LVC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
Stay and Play, Fridays 10am – 11.30am	CC
St Mary's church choir, 7-8.30pm, Fridays	CC
St Mary's Bridgeclub, 7pm, Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call LVC sports centre on 890248

JANUARY 2017

3 WI, 7.30pm	VH
3 WEA course, 10am	VH
4 Reading group, 8pm	Upstairs VH
5 Luncheon club, 12noon	Old Red Lion, Horseheath
7 Friends of St Mary's coffee morning, 10.30am to 12noon	VH
9 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
9 Whist Drive, 7.30pm	VH
10 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
10 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
11 Community navigator, 10 to 12noon	HC
14 Playgroup Jumble Sale, 2-4pm	VH
15 Walking group, 11am	Church Lane
15 Messy Church, 2.30pm	St Mary's
17 Historical Society, 7.30pm	VH
18 Cambs Hearing Help, 9.30am to 12noon	HC
19 Linton Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm	CC
20 Daylight readers, 10.30am	Library
29 Candlemas Procession, 6pm	St Mary's

FEBRUARY 2017

1 Reading Group, 8pm	Upstairs VH
2 Luncheon Club, 12 noon	Old Red Lion, Horseheath
3 Friends of LVC Quiz, 7.30pm	LVC
4 Farmers' Market, 9am	VH
6 Camera Club, 7.15pm	CC
7 WI, 7.30pm	VH
8 Communitynavigator, 10am to 12noon	HC
13 Whist Drive, 7.30pm	VH
14 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
14 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
15 Cambs Hearing Help, 9.30am to 12noon	HC
16 Linton Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm	CC
17 Daylight readers, 10.30am	Library
19 Walking group, 11am	Church Lane
19 Messy Church, 2.30pm	St Mary's

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LIS Linton Infant school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reformed church, VH village hall.
Library times: Mon closed; Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.
Linton refuse collection: Tues 3rd and Mondays 16th and 30th January
Linton blue and green bin collection: Monday 9th January
Linton blue only collection: Monday 23rd January

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No cold calling zones

I AM a Community Protection Officer from Cambridgeshire County Council and I am hoping to find some support for our No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZ) from the residents of Crabtree Croft and Tower View, Linton. (There are more NCCZ in Linton but these are where I haven't been able to find a community coordinator.)

The NCCZ were set up to discourage cold callers and to give residents the confidence to say no to uninvited sales people – helping to prevent people falling victim to distraction burglars and rogue traders. Whilst the zones were originally introduced by Cambridgeshire Trading Standards, it is recognised that community-led action is much more effective in protecting local people from unscrupulous tradespeople. Indeed, the best prevention and support for residents comes from within their own community.

We can offer a range of materials for your residents including door stickers, advice on how to spot a rogue trader and tips to prevent unwanted mail and phone calls but we do need a local coordinator to disseminate this information and look after the NCCZ on behalf of its residents.

The role is not demanding. Ideally we would like someone willing to be the eyes and ears on the ground, who knows the community and would be willing to be the contact person for us. If they would be happy to introduce themselves to the neighbours and let new residents know that they live in a NCCZ and what that means it would be great. Also (if possible) we'd like them to join E-Cops and alert residents to any scams or incident they feel might be relevant. Neighbours often know who the most vulnerable members of the community are and this role is really just being a good neighbour. If you are aware of anybody who might be interested, or a community group who might know the residents I would be delighted for some feedback.

Even if someone's time and ability is more limited, we would be very grateful for the support. A NCCZ can really be reinvigorated with a little community action; just a good neighbour keeping an eye out makes all the difference.

Elaine Mountfort, Community Protection Officer
Contact on 01954 286006 or 07810 153604 or elaine.mountfort@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Christmas Fair 2016

THE fair was a lively event with stalls for gifts, drinks and food, including our own Jigsaw Bakery and Organic Foods, doing a lively trade.

The choir got us into the mood of Christmas and the Jazz band cheered us up when it started to rain – just at the end.

Gemma of Linton Kitchen who organised the event said



Come to the fair
Photo by Roger Lapwood

"I would like to thank all the stallholders, helpers and all who came and made it a success".
I say "thank you Gemma".
Editor



Ducks design for Linton Christmas poster
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RSPB Snettisham, Norfolk

IF you are one of those people who write yourself a list of places to go or things to do on 1st January page of your new calendar, consider Snettisham. It might only appeal if you are interested in wildfowl but is worth a try even if you're not, or are not yet.

It takes an hour and a half from Linton and is between King's Lynn and Hunstanton. You have to choose your day and time very carefully as it is totally dependent on the tides and the season. At the moment vast numbers of pink footed geese roost each night on the mudflats, flying inland at dawn to feed. Vast numbers mean 40,000 or more. Widgeon, lapwing and goldeneye duck also gather on the lagoon and marsh harriers hunt along the banks. Last month three of us hauled ourselves out of bed at 4.30am and were in position on the beach at 6.30am armed with binoculars, flasks and an array of interesting headgear to protect against the north easterly wind.

There was something comical about meeting fellow enthusiasts in the car park in the pitch

black and walking along with them from Snettisham beach to the bird hides. Gradually daylight revealed a group of keen goose watchers, ably led by some telescope-toting RSPB volunteers who can reliably spot the difference between a pink footed goose and a white fronted goose at two miles off.

Over the space of about an hour, from a solid black line on the mudflat horizon, thousands and thousands of geese took to the air, flying in skeins and taking advantage of the slipstreams. One group after another set off, flying over us and around us, before settling down to feed a bit further inland on the Sandringham estate beet tops and turnip tops. It really was a magical experience and well worth the effort. The cacophony of geese, interspersed by the odd eery curlew call, was completely fabulous. So was thawing out with the fry up in the Snettisham garden centre afterwards.

We will be going again to watch other birds in different seasons. If you might like to join us let me know.

Oriel O'Loughlin, 891357.

Looking for something new to do in 2017?

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is looking for volunteers in our area to join their successful community champion scheme. Community champions encourage local residents to carry out fire safety checks in our homes, visit community groups and educate about fire safety and escape plans.

We will train you, give you

a uniform and provide you with a wide range of activities to choose from, all of which will help to keep our communities safe from the risk of fire. No previous qualifications or specific skills are needed to become a community champion as CFRS is always seeking people from diverse backgrounds.

The scheme is run by the charity *Groundwork* on behalf of CFRS. To find out more about this scheme contact Katie Dean on 01480 587140, mobile 07736 132870 or email katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk.

And don't forget to test your smoke alarm by pressing the test button on the device.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check please visit our website.

For the latest news and safety advice, or to contact us log on to www.cambsfire.org.uk or follow us on social media or call 01480 444500. CFRS

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An evening not to be missed

THE Music Society is very pleased to welcome to Linton the young prize winning French virtuoso pianist Patrick Hemmerle.

Taking a variation on Schumann as his theme, Patrick will play music by Brahms, Novak and Schumann.

Please come to Linton Village College on Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £12 (adult), £10 (concessions), £2 (students under 18) or £25 for a family of two adults and two children.

Tickets are available on the door or in advance from Sweet Talk News at 77 High Street, tel 893480.

Linda Bird

Do something special this New Year

CAMBRIDGESHIRE police are urging residents who want to give something back to their community to consider becoming a Special.

With the New Year what better time for people to consider doing something new, exciting and rewarding. Not only does joining the Special Constabulary allow you to do something really positive and worthwhile, it also gives you unique and valuable skills and experience.

Specials are volunteer police officers who wear the same uniform, carry the same equipment and have the same powers as police officers, including the power of arrest. They volunteer a minimum of just four hours a week and the constabulary can fit around their lifestyle.

Being a career Special is a vocation in its own right and there is a whole range of roles, including specialist areas such as road policing, the major crime unit and the rural crime action team (RCAT). You could be tackling anti-social behaviour, involved in crowd control at major events, going on foot or vehicle patrol, assisting at the scene of collisions, fights or fires or enforcing road safety initiatives.

You will get professional training, skills and experience that can be used in everyday

life and career progression. Training takes 10 weeks and consists of distance learning via online training packages that can be completed in your own time.

People often ask if being a Special could upset their employer. Our experience is that employers are usually extremely happy for staff to become Specials and many actually support them by giving paid time off while they're on duty. Some organisations actively encourage their staff to become Specials and work in partnership with the Special Constabulary.

For more information and an application form visit the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website www.cambs.pnn.police.uk

Email corporate.communications@cambs.pnn.police.uk

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LINTON COUNTRY MATTERS

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin and illustrated by Maureen Williams



Our Linton Mallards and Dr Bertram's goose

MOST of us in Linton have at some point crossed the bridge at the bottom of Horn Lane by the church and watched the ducks. If you're in a bad mood, just watch them chasing each other round, squawking loudly, tipping themselves upside down and wagging their bottoms. You can't fail to feel your spirits lift. They may be the most common duck in the UK but doesn't mean they are not beautiful, and comical.

Relative to other ducks they have long bodies and a long and broad bill. The male has a fabulous dark green head, a yellow bill, is mainly purple-brown on the breast and grey on the body. The female is mainly brown with an orange bill. They breed in all parts of the UK in summer, wherever there are suitable wetland habitats and are most common in the south. They are dabbling ducks, as against diving ducks and as such their feet are placed well back on their body, enabling them to walk easily on land and upturn themselves to see what's available down there. They eat water elm seeds, oak seeds and hackberry seeds, wild



rice, corn, wheat and barley, bulrushes, primrose and willow. Beetles, flies and dragonflies are tasty treats, along with molluscs, small fish and fish eggs. On the water's surface, they also feast on frogs, tadpoles, worms and snails. The amount of plant and animal matter a mallard eats depends on the time of year. During the breeding season, both males and females tend to eat more plants than animals.

At the bridge we sometimes get Dr Bertram's white goose coming to liven up proceedings and honk deafeningly. This same goose apparently takes care of the ducks when they are looking for nesting sites, and follows them solemnly to keep off predators. What better way to describe the scene than Kenneth Graham's poem, written by Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows* called the *Ducks Ditty* and ending in "up tails all".

Linton Village College Community Service Project



Carols and coffee start the Christmas spirit

Photo supplied by Tony Kelly

MRS Jenny Pullin, head of food technology, supported by Year 9 students again invited 140 older residents from the Village College catchment area to a Christmas coffee morning at the college on 8th December. Coaches toured the villages to transport many of the guests from Linton, Abington, Horseheath, Hildersham, Balsham and the Camps. The students welcomed and assisted the visitors from the moment they arrived. They were also welcomed by the Principal, Ms Helena Marsh, who donated a bottle of champagne to the winner of the lucky number ticket which was included with the invitation.

The guests enjoyed the musical entertainment led by the new director of music, Ms Helen Jeckes, who conducted the senior choir as well as the school wind orchestra in a variety of Christmas music with guests joining in the carols. Assistant director, Mrs Rachel Godsill, led the junior choir in a selection of different Christmas songs.

Tea and coffee were served by the students, who had made cakes, biscuits and mince pies for refreshments. Each guest received a Christmas cracker and a gold or silver mini Christmas tree table decoration. The students had organised different projects to raise funds for the event and held an enormous raffle with seasonal gifts for the many winners. Other prizes were donated by families and the teachers.

Judging by the happy hum of voices and cheerful greetings by the students, the morning was a great success.

Kate France 891602

Hildersham News

It's Teatime

HAPPY New Year. The next Village Tea will take place on 5th January in the Village Hall from 3pm to 4.30 p.m.

Parish Nursing Event

Dr Ros Moore, chief executive officer of Parish Nursing uk, and Reverend Professor Alasdair Coles, Adviser to the Bishop on health and wholeness, will speak on *What could parish nursing offer your church?* The event is at 7.30pm on 18th January 2017 at Holy Trinity Church Hildersham. To book your free place please email mission.events@elydiocese.org

Cathy Myer, 892848

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

LLAMADRAMA presents the story based on the book by L Frank Baum at Townley Memorial Hall, Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn. CB21 5BS on Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th January at 7.30pm and Saturday 14th January at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. NB: No performance on Thursday 12th January.

Tickets can be reserved online at www.llamadrama.org.uk or telephone the Box Office on 01354 694782 or you can email the Box Office at: boxoffice@llamadrama.org.uk. Unreserved seats can be bought on the door.

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Is planning a party or club on your 'To Do' List?

Did you know?

Linton Heights Junior School are now hiring out there hall and facilities

If you are planning a party or club then please get in contact with the School Bursar, Rebecca McKenzie; office@lintonheights.cambs.sch.uk where she can offer you a fantastic hourly hire rate.



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POT POURRI 141

Pot Pourri 141 - What did we spend?

I HAD to remember how much my three (a,b,c) purchases were. All I can recall is each was a different price and came to an exact number of pounds. The total came to £28. The purchases obeyed the following formulae:-

$$a + b + c = 28 \text{ and } a/b = b/c$$

What were the values?

Solution to 140 - How many days?

For six days I gave £4, five days £3, four days £2 and £1 for 13 days.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Macmillan mammoth quiz

Calling all quizzers

ON 24th February 2017 take part in Macmillan's nationwide quiz and help raise vital funds for people affected by cancer.

Macmillan is looking for individuals, groups and businesses to host their nationwide quiz. Everything is provided for you including questions, answer sheets, invitations and posters. For more information go to www.macmillan.org.uk/mammoth or email fundraising@macmillan.org.uk

Pauline Craig

Warming up to 2017

THE Friends of St Mary's are holding a Coffee Morning from 10.30am to 12 noon on Saturday 7th January at the village hall. Savouries and mince pies will be served and there will be a Bring and Buy stall and a raffle. All are welcome and it will be an occasion for a social get-together in the often flat time after a hectic Christmas. The Quiz Night that the Friends organised in November was a great success, enjoyed by everyone and making almost £400 for funds to keep our Grade 1 Listed Parish Church in good repair.

Margaret Cox, 891231

Murder Mystery Evening

COME along to St Mary's Linton on Saturday 21st January for an evening of great entertainment and help solve the Murder Mystery. Tickets £12 and include a three course meal. Bring your own drink. Why not book a table for six?

Please contact Pam Richardson 890921 or Hilary Angetter 892305 to book.

Balsham community market

AS there is no farmers' market in Linton this month, come over to Balsham's second community market at 2pm to 4.30pm on the 14th January in the Church Institute. There will be a range of meats, cheese, bread, savoury food, preserves, chocolates and cakes. The cafe will be open selling cream teas, cakes and biscuits. Find out more on Facebook: www.facebook.com/balshammarket or www.balshammarket.wordpress.com

Debbie Paton 291932

Friends of Linton Village College quiz

GET your team together for the annual LVC Quiz night on Friday 3rd February at 7.30pm. There will be a fish and chip supper cooked on site. For tickets priced £8.50 contact LVC reception on 891233 or emailfriends@lvc.org

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The Marsh mail



THE advent of a new calendar year brings opportunities for reflection and ambition, two of the core Linton Learner values. For me, the date holds particular significance as it marks a year since I started as Principal of Linton Village College and Executive Principal of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.

A recent piece of research into leadership styles published in the Harvard Business Review identified five types of head teachers: philosophers, surgeons, accountants, soldiers and architects. Each has their own characteristics; some enact immediate, short-term change, others take a long-term strategic view. I recognise myself as a philosophising architect.

I recall a question posed to me by the student panel at interview: "What has been your proudest achievement to date?" I expect that they were expecting me to share a specific, impressive accomplishment; my answer was "lots of little things".

In my inaugural Marsh Mail, I challenged the notion that effective leadership had to involve bold, resolute change and asserted my intention to maintain what is great about LVC, do more of what works well and reduce less successful elements. Reflecting on 2016 at LVC and across the Trust, there has been a great deal of refining and re-defining – my first year has definitely been more of an evolution than a revolution.

Our Year 11 students are currently in the process of submitting applications for post-16 study. A key element has been writing personal statements including their motivations, achievements, skills and ambitions for the future. Despite belonging to a selfie generation, many of our young people have found this kind of self-promotion uncomfortable.

2016 was an interesting year in terms of leadership role models for them. While at school we promote the virtues of hard graft and grit, our students have witnessed the power of personality and popularity on the world's stage. Although charisma and entertainment value may encourage a following, let's hope that our young people recognise that substance is more important than style.

John Dunford's 4 Hs make for a very helpful blueprint for leadership and wider success in life: hope, humanity, humility and humour.

Helena Marsh
Executive Principal

Sawston Adult Education

HAPPY New Year to you all.

We hope you have enjoyed your Christmas break and are ready for 2017.

Here at Sawston Village College we are busy preparing for our courses. The majority are due to start the week commencing 16th January.

Our next Saturday workshops are on 4th February. We have: Award in CPR & AED (De Fib) (certificated), Creative Writing – Creating Rounded Characters, How to Apply Make Up and Mindfulness.

There are places available on all four of these workshops, so if you would like to book your place, please let us know. More information can be found on our website.

All our new and usual courses are on our website www.sawstonadulted.org. We are sure you will find something of interest.

If you wish to make a booking you will find a booking form on our website or alternatively, please feel free to pop in at the main reception here at Sawston Village College.

The Adult Learning team will be available Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm from Wednesday 4th January.

Our contact details are 712424 or email community@sawstonvc.org

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Building the water tower

GARTH Collard's notes cover events leading to the decision by the first meeting of the newly formed South Cambs Rural District Council (SCRDC) in late June 1934.

It appeared that in January 1934 there had been a serious water shortage in Horseheath and Shudy Camps and wagons from Haverhill were used to carry 500 gallons a day for the 51 families affected. By March carrying water to the two villages was costing £37 a day, SCRDC having spent £94.4s since January.

Sidney Taylor of Linton had argued that the hill villages were starved of water and recently there was no water to wash a new born baby. He said eight villages were desperately short of water and in Linton he had to go to a friend's house or an hotel if he wanted a bath. He was supported by Canon Thornton who added that ponds in Shudy Camps were drying up, the wells were so low they had gone off so the water was unfit for consumption and the farmers were in real trouble.

In May 1935 chair of Hildersham PC, the Rev Philip Richard Phillips of the Rectory, wrote to SCRDC that LRDC had placed a brass plate over the village well two years earlier stating that water was unsuitable for drinking purposes unless it was boiled. An inspector of nuisances had discovered a dead mouse floating on the surface of the water and a live frog staring at it.

There were 40 wells in Hildersham but they were all private and 12 of them belonged to the rector and his family. Mr Phillips suggested, tongue in cheek, that SCRDC should erect a monument over the public well in memory of the dead mouse as being instrumental in extending the new water supply to the village.

The smaller of two water schemes (leaving out Carlton) proposed by Linton Rural District Council (LRDC), costing £46,000, was approved in 1934.



Scaffolding around the tower in 1935
Picture from Garth's collection

The scheme would take 18 months to complete and cover 1,550 properties. There would be an 87,500 gallon cylindrical water tank supported by steel girders, enclosed in a red brick tower on Rivey Hill. The Ministry rejected a £14,000 sewerage scheme but gave £8,000 towards the water scheme.

Tenders were invited for five contracts in November 1934 – the first for iron founders for 1,700 tons of cast iron pipes 3in–8in diameter, pipes delivered to site with 32 tons of 7ft 6in cast iron well cylinders; the second was for main laying contractors to cart, excavate and lay 34.5 miles of pipe; the third was to build the brickwork of the tower, (from wooden scaffolding), sink and line a 60ft deep well and build a pumping station near Hildersham; the fourth for steel work of the 90ft high tower with a 87,500 gallon cylindrical tank inside and the fifth for machinery: borehole and booster pumps of 15,000 gallon per hour capacity to lift water 360 feet by electric or oil motors. One and half acres of land were purchased on Rivey Hill from WJ Taylor for £80.

Contracts were approved and signed in late December 1934 totalling nearer £41,000 than the budgeted £46,000. The tower itself was built by Paintin's of Linton for £3,788.

A watchman had to be stationed on the site in June 1935 to stop local youths from climbing up the steel framework. On 12th July SCRDC reported that Linton boys were climbing onto the roof of the new water tower and contractors said boys had got to the top using the iron staircase. The project was completed by June 1936 finally costing £42,623 8s 2d, well under the original tender price. Locals called the tower The Pepperpot. Water was available to 5,360 people in Linton and the nearby villages and was officially opened on 7th October 1936. Castle Camps received the first supplies in September 1936 with Linton following a week later and Horseheath and Bartlow on 12th November.

Kate France, 891602

Linton Adult Community Learning

New courses and Saturday workshops for the spring term

I WOULD like to introduce myself to the local community. My name is Margaret Kiddy and I am the new Adult Education and Letting Manager at Linton Village College. I started in July and you may well have seen the new look glossy programme that was delivered through letter boxes in the local area in September.

I have been busy working on recruiting new tutors so that we are able to offer you a much wider and exciting choice of courses.

Therefore, for the spring term, there are lots of new and interesting evening classes and Saturday workshops. These include mindfulness, first aid courses, introduction to accountancy, fabric design, felt making, Indian cookery and computer courses.

A full list of courses and workshops plus enrolment forms can be found on our website www.lvc.org/pages/Adult_Community_Learning.php

If you would like further details of any course please email adult.education@lvc.org

Margaret.kiddy@lvc.org or Jane.carpenter@lvc.org or telephone 891233 ext 303.

Or pop into the college to pick up a copy of our brochure.

Please note: we need new tutors for the summer term. If you have a skill or talent that you would like to share with others and enjoy meeting new people and are interested in being a tutor at the college, get in touch with me.

Margaret Kiddy

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/3062/16/DC, Mr Nader Zanjani, Unit 10D & 10E, The Grip Industrial Estate. Discharge of Condition 4 (Contamination) and Condition 6 (surface water) and Condition 7 (piling) of Planning Application S1305/16/FL.

S/3076/16/FL, Trafalgar Homes (Cambridge) Limited, 20 Cambridge Road. The demolition of an existing sales/workshop building and the construction of a three storey apartment development, containing 10 self-contained two and three bedroom units. The provision of landscaped parking areas and amenity spaces, with dedicated cycle and bin storage.

S/3171/16/FL, Mr Dennis Cooper, 2 The Grip Industrial Estate. Change of use with installation of spray booth discharge stack.

S/3195/16/FL, Mr & Mrs Keith Mannion, 1 The Furrells. Proposed two-storey side extension to form garage, utility room, lobby, cloakroom and entrance hall with large bedroom with en-suite shower room over and single storey rear extension to form kitchen extension.

S/3262/16/TC, Mr Ben Alper, 83B High Street. Lime - clear utility wires by up to a metre, where possible, keeping pruning wounds to less than 50mm.

S/3296/16/TP, Mr Knight, 4 Essex Gardens. Lime tree- TPO-1285-sc Located in the rear garden along the fence line that backs onto the meadows. Fell tree. Large area of decay on main stem, considered high risk of failure during adverse weather conditions, high risk location next to the meadows with public access. No plan to replant due to size of garden, will lead to overcrowding.

S/3312/16/PA, Mr & Mrs Symonds, 21 Emsons Close. Prior approval of demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

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Parish Council Matters

Happy New Year to all residents - some suggested resolutions!

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

LINTON parish council (LPC) wishes all residents a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year in 2017. LPC would especially like to thank all those villagers who in the past year have made the many valuable and varied contributions to village life that make Linton such a great place to live. These include the dozens of volunteers who help run an amazing variety of clubs and societies from bowls to badminton, pilates to photography and also helped many good causes. If you have made a New Year's resolution to get fitter, faster, to become more creative, learn about the past, philosophise with a pint, get slimmer (always popular after Christmas), play bridge, get green fingers, explore the beautiful countryside or do voluntary work then there is a club or group for you somewhere in Linton. You can find information (or a link) to most of these on the official parish council website at www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk and additional news and comments on our increasingly popular Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lintonpc

All residents are urged to become regular users of these online

platforms as they are now updated very quickly to report events as they happen - especially planning applications, consultations and Neighbourhood Planning updates. The Neighbourhood Plan is now due to go to public consultation in early 2017. At the time of writing this LPC is expecting one and possibly two major planning applications to go to South Cambridgeshire district council in early 2017 - so please check the website.

Lastly, 2016 has been a year of considerable change and challenge for LPC. The council has had to deal with many important issues while saying goodbye to Mrs Marilyn Strand our outstanding clerk. Luckily we found a very good replacement in Ms Kate Wiseman and as ever Mrs Anne Meeks, now assistant clerk, did a brilliant job in the interim. If YOU would like to help in the village in what is a challenging but very rewarding role then find out more about becoming a parish councillor by visiting the website, contacting a parish councillor or the parish council office.

Cllr Paul Poulter
Parish council chairman



The Hundred Parishes Society

THIS is a great time of year to walk off the Christmas excesses and enjoy our unique part of the country. With crisp, bright days, we can all enjoy the countryside in its winter clothes. Here are a few tips to help you maximise the enjoyment.

One essential I would recommend is an Ordnance Survey map, ideally the orange Explorer map which has a scale of 1 to 25,000 and shows many detailed features including footpaths and field boundaries. They can be purchased from good stationers or online from www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/leisure

Investment in a good pair of walking boots, probably for less than £100, will be paid back over many years and hundreds of miles, especially if you look after them. If you don't like walking about in socks, please pack a pair of slip-on boot covers - or plastic bags - to wear as overshoes in churches or pubs.

Our area has an extensive network of generally well-maintained public rights of way - footpaths for walkers and bridleways that may also be used by horse riders and cyclists. Do try out new routes, planning before you set off. Bear in mind that a path that runs beside a field edge is less likely to get muddy than one that crosses a field.

Plan your route so that the sun follows you. This is good practice at any time of the year, but especially so in winter with the low sun. For a lengthy, circular walk, try to start near the southeast corner and head clockwise. The sun will follow you, keeping the glare from your eyes and giving you the best views. Most of the walks on the Hundred Parishes website follow this principle.

Do check that your intended lunch stop will be open - phone numbers appear in the parish introductions online: www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Finally, be sure to wrap up warm with double-thickness woolly hat and gloves, a scarf and layers of clothing ... and enjoy!

Almost every walk will pass a church. I encourage you to take a look inside, leaving muddy boots outside, of course. Some are kept locked, but around two-thirds are usually open during the day. The Hundred Parishes has an exceptional collection of ancient churches. Most are listed buildings, with no less than 58 listed at Grade 1. Each church is individual and most are rewarding places to visit, not just in a spiritual sense but also for their diverse architecture, decoration and memorials.

With the turn of the year comes the anticipation of fresh growth and renewed optimism to help us meet the opportunities and challenges of 2017.

Ken McDonald, secretary

Forest schools at Granta

GRANTA is an all age school for pupils with complex learning difficulties. Many of our pupils have additional needs such as being visually or hearing impaired or being wheelchair users. Despite the challenges that they face, we offer a school experience that involves a considerable amount of physical activity, being outside and learning in the community. We are very proud that many of our older students go on to achieve Bronze, Silver and even Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. Forest schools is seen as part of our pathway through primary school years towards Outward Bound residential trips and Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The benefits our primary pupils receive is a growing wonder at the diversity and beauty of the natural world (many pupils come to Granta on transport and are not fortunate enough to live in a rural setting with natural 'wild' places to visit): learning how to enjoy safe adventure: learning about plants, insects and small mammals: learning how to make and use tools: learning how to

play away from the internet!

We have already invested in staff training so that we have a qualified forest schools teacher. We are purchasing and sourcing small items for the sessions. We have produced literature and guidance to share with families and have started some taster events. A local farmer has provided rent free use of land which is adjacent to the school so that access to it can be controlled via the school grounds. This will reduce the risk of misuse and ensure that parties of school children will be properly managed and supervised.

In order to access the land adjacent to the school we need to build a bridge over a ditch and install a gate into the back fence. A builder has agreed to provide the bridge for free. There are other costs involved and no school reserves for this project, therefore we would be extremely grateful for any donations.

Cllr David Champion
Vice-chair of Governors

Current appointed council and committee representatives

Committee Representatives:

Planning Committee - Cllrs Bald (chair), Champion, Poulter, Smith (vice chair), Walker and Ward.

Finance Committee - Cllrs Cox, Manley, Potter (chair) and Poulter (vice chair).

Personnel Committee - Cllrs Bald, Champion (chair), Mannassi, Poulter and Walker (vice chair).

Council Representatives:

Allotment Association (Frederick Langford) - Cllr Hill.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) - vacancy.

Cathodeon Trust Trustees - PC trustees Cllrs Champion and Walker. Mr Andrew Gore & Dr Val Urwin continue in office.

Charles & Mary Anderson Trust - Cllr Cox.

Linton Granta Bowls Club - Cllr Manley.

Linton Granta Football Sports & Social Club - Cllrs Manley and Potter.

Linton Parish Publications Directors - Cllrs Bald and Cox.

Parish Charities Trustees - Cllr Potter, Mr John Linsdell, Ms Esther Cornell and Mrs Anne Meeks.

Police Liaison - Cllrs Champion and Walker.

Public Transport - Cllr Hill.

Tree Warden - Cllr Ward.

Village Hall - Cllr Mannassi (Cllr Bald - reserve).

Youth (Lee Nash) - Cllrs Manley and Ward.

Working Groups (Advisory Committees):

Allotment - Cllrs Bald, Hill and Ward.

Churchyard - Cllrs Bald and Cox (maximum of 3).

Open Spaces, Cemetery, Environment & Glebe Land - Cllrs Bald, Cox, Hill and Ward.

Planning - Cllrs Bald, Smith and Ward (Dr Judy Rossiter co-opted).

Procedures Review - All councillors to be invited to meetings.

Recreation Ground, Venture Playground & CCTV - Cllrs Bald, Manley, Potter, Poulter and Ward.

River, Wildlife, Leadwell Meadows & Rights of Way - Cllrs Bald, Cox and Ward (Dr Judy Rossiter and Ms Jan Bumstead co-opted for Rights of Way).

S106 - All councillors to be invited to meetings.

Traffic (A1307, traffic & parking) - Cllrs Bald, Champion, Manley, Poulter and Ward.

Website/Social Media - Cllrs Potter, Poulter, Walker and Ward.

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton parish council (LPC/PC) meeting held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 17th November 2016.

Present: Cllr Paul Poulter (chairman); Cllr Brian Manley (vice-chair); Cllr Enid Bald; Cllr David Champion; Cllr Simon Hill, Cllr Merrie Mannassi; Cllr Graham Potter; Cllr Dr Beatrice Ward. Clerk: Ms Kathryn Wiseman. Members of the public: two.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Dr Brian Cox; Cllr Amy Smith; Cllr Alison Walker. County Cllr Roger Hickford, District Cllr Henry Batchelor and District Cllr John Batchelor.

Councillors' declarations of interest: Cllr Paul Poulter expressed a non-pecuniary interest in the Horseheath Road planning application update item. Cllrs David Champion and Merrie Mannassi expressed non-pecuniary interests in the Village Hall Trustees transfer of funds request item.

Councillor vacancies: There are currently four councillor vacancies and it was noted that as there should be 15 councillors this affects the quorum.

Chairman's comment: Cllr Poulter welcomed the members of the public and advised them they were welcome to speak regarding any issues.

Open forum for public participation: It was raised by a resident that the issue of traffic is becoming more and more prominent within the village. Council advised that it was aware of the situation, especially issues revolving parking, however due to the lack of viable options, has yet to reach a resolution to this issue. LPC advised that the traffic working group were continuously working towards ways to improve the traffic and parking throughout the village.

Planning matters: South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) response to complaint letter regarding the planning decision for Bartlow Road, application reference S/1963/15/OL: LPC expressed concern in the way that the hearing was handled with a lack of consultation and concerns regarding the procedures. It was noted that council felt the response did not address the complaints raised. A suitable response is being considered by council.

Update on the Bartlow Road planning application S/1963/15/OL: Outline application for up to 55 residential dwellings. Council noted that it felt that the application and LPC's comments were not judged on its own merits. The 'Call In' to the Secretary of State was declined, however the response suggests that there is a concern from the Secretary of State as to the lack of environmental impact assessment carried out on the site.

Update on Horseheath Road planning application, S/2553/16/OL: Outline for up to 50 residential dwellings and between 24- 28 allotments. It was noted that retrospective approval for the additional comments was not required as the information submitted was supporting evidence of points already noted in the formal extraordinary planning committee meeting on the 14th October. Council requested the clerk check to confirm if residents can continue to submit comments following the deadline for comments by LPC.

Planning working group's report from meeting held on 3rd November 2016: Council noted that a report had been sent from LPC's independent planning consultant regarding the Horseheath Road planning application and await a response from SCDC. The planning working group have been attempting to open communication with the developers, however, have yet to receive a response. LPC have been advised that they will be unable to speak at the South Cambs Local Plan meeting relating to policy H5, houses south of the A1307, despite the fact that Linton is a key topic. As a result, a letter has been drafted which will be submitted in advance requesting that the key issues are taken into consideration. Social housing is the only condition under which LPC would support this policy, with SCDC deciding to also object, if passed, a lot of land would be available for potential development.

District and County Councillors' reports & business: The district councillors' report was noted. The county councillor's report was noted.

Update on the Beacon Trust: Cllr Ward advised that a meeting was held with Maggie Guite and Steve Munday, however

contracts were not discussed and the meeting focused upon the nature of the work by the Beacon Trust. The Beacon Community Trust has been renamed The Beacon Youth Trust following an internal review of the contracts.

The chair of the finance committee advised that LPC has now received legal proof of the transfer of assets from the old trust to the new trust. So the legal basis is firmly established to allow LPC to start making payments. The payment breakdown will need to be discussed and it was recommended by the chair of the finance committee that LPC look at an installment plan for payment, paying it on a three monthly basis.

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Poulter advised that a meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Plan would be held on the coming Friday with LPC's independent planning consultant. The consultation plan is complete, with the exception of the site specific allocations.

This was a change from the previous policy where sites didn't have to have individual strategic housing land availability assessments (SHLAA), which they do now. Consultation documents should be ready January, once SCDC has reviewed this document it will confirm a date for the public consultation to progress. There is a requirement for this to be robust and water tight as any weaknesses can be exploited by future developers. Cllr Poulter noted that this project has been very much led by LPC's independent planning consultant.

South Cambs Local Plan: There is to be a South Cambs Local Plan hearing on 30th November 2016 regarding houses south of the A1307 and Linton village. Council approved the submission of a written statement. Cllrs Bald and Cllr Ward are to attend.

Section 106: It was noted by finance committee that previously the S106 fund has been put into the general reserve, going forward this will be separated to allow a more precise way of monitoring S106 spend. Proposed by Cllr Bald, Seconded by Cllr Champion. All agreed.

Council meeting dates for 2017: The meeting date listing was noted. Full council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, with the exception of December in 2017 when it will be held on the second Thursday of the month, at the Cathodeon Centre commencing at 7.30pm.

Finance committee meetings are held during the afternoon of full council meeting days and planning committee meetings are held immediately before full council meetings - with extraordinary meetings held when the need arises.

Traffic matters: Update on the Minor Highways Improvement Initiative grant application: The request for the installation of a footpath down Back Road was to be submitted, however, this will be deferred in the hope this would come from S106 funding should a planning application for Back Road be received as expected. A grant request is to be submitted for a footpath opposite the Community Orchard, connecting Symonds Lane and Back Road.

Update regarding a meeting with Nicola Burdon of Cambridgeshire county council (CCC): A meeting is arranged for the following Monday and will focus upon replacing white lines and double yellow lines as well as any other major improvements to footpaths and highways. Photos have been taken down Meadow Lane where double yellow lines have been requested by residents which will be reviewed.

St Mary's Church PCC signage request: Council noted that this may come under CCC and highways, a communication will be put out to establish responsibility. The clerk was advised to contact David Lines at CCC and district councillor Roger Hickford.

SCDC working with young people seminar on 8th November 2016 update: This was noted.

Grounds maintenance contracts - update on tender: Cllr Bald was thanked for the improved maps as these have proved helpful.

Recreation ground: Skate Park design update: Cllr Manley advised that he has emailed and spoken to a number of local councils to get advice, however it had not been very forthcoming. It has been advised by CCC that Declan O'Callaghan may be able to assist. Cllr Manley has emailed to arrange a meeting and is awaiting a response.

Tree matters: Cllr Ward advised that the issue revolving the Limes on the recreation ground has been acted upon and contact from the residents is awaited. The tree warden, Cllr Ward, advised that there would be no further planting on the recreation ground until the new grass cutting contracts come into effect on 1st April 2017.

It was also noted that a resident on Parsonage Way has donated a Cherry tree to be replanted by LPC. The community orchard is now under control following recent works and if it continues to be a success then LPC can look at planting more trees in the orchard. The clerk was requested to contact an arboriculturalist to review and price the work required for the Paintings Oak strimming.

Leadwell Meadows: Cllr Bald noted that there has been a lot of positive feedback from residents and the leisure aspect of the meadows is now a focus. LPC will be consulting with the fire service and drawing plans up regarding recreational ground use and wildlife, focusing upon designing information boards for wildlife surveys. It was advised that LPC cannot do the grass cuts until spring due to the wet ground. Cllr Bald is to draw up a report with Cllr Ward. Proposed by Cllr Mannassi, seconded by Cllr Ward. Agreed.

Village Hall Trustees - request to amend terms of grant: There was an S137 grant provided to the Village Hall Trustees from LPC and it was requested that as the refurbishment came in under budget, the remaining funds be used to purchase acoustic panels for the hall. Proposed by Cllr Potter, seconded by Cllr Manley. Agreed.

Councillor training - planning and S106 training from SCDC: It was noted that, if permitted by SCDC, the clerk will attend. Any councillors wishing to attend should contact the clerk to book places.

Post Office relocation consultation: It was noted that LPC would prepare an official statement to reflect the residents' responses and submit this to Lucy Frazer's MP office.

Confirmation of working groups: It was suggested that these would remain the same, with the addition of the planning working group. All agreed. (See overleaf for full current information).

Cemetery report: Cllr Bald noted concerns that there are weeds pushing through the new path in the Back Road cemetery and requested the clerk contact the contractor to discuss. It was noted that some of the unattended graves may require turfing over.

Consideration of correspondence received: CCC regarding winter gritting routes: Noted. Mr C Filby, village custodian, is to attend the gritting training if possible.

Mr J Davies regarding Duke of Edinburgh Award request for voluntary work: Council advised that there were concerns relating to insurance and a lack of supervisory capacity. It was recommended that the clerk contact Lee Nash, the youth worker for the Beacon Youth Trust to confirm if it is something they are able to accommodate.

Ms L O'Brien regarding Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living, Partnership Boards. Further information to be requested by the clerk.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding electoral review of South Cambs - final recommendations: Noted.

Ms L Frazer MP regarding provision of updates to local parish magazine: Referred to The Linton News team.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils regarding maintenance and repairs to church buildings: Noted. Council assigned the task of exploring funding for the churchyard walls to Cllr Brian Cox due to his involvement in the churchyard working group.

Information Commissioner's Office regarding Data Protection Registration renewal: Agreed.

Resident regarding possible misuse of cemetery water supply: Noted.

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


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