

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bartlow  
Three Counties  
Charity Walk  
From 9.30am  
on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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## Tom's leap of faith to say thank you

**A**FTER 18 months' chemotherapy at Addenbrookes for a bone tumour. It was decided to stop the tumour from spreading further and the only option was to amputate my left leg. A week before this was due to happen, my parents found a hospital that could possibly save the leg by removing my femur bone and hip joint, and replacing them with a metal prosthesis (a false bone). This however had not been attempted on a child before. I was six at the time.

The operation was successful and this is where my story began with Birmingham.

Whilst growing up I had to have numerous operations to replace the prosthesis and fought off a number of infections, dislocations and a potentially life threatening blood clot (DVT). All in all this has lead to 48 operations and many years spent on ward 11.

Ward 11 is a place where children with tumours are treated. It is a place where their mission is to provide individual and personal care to patients with orthopaedic disorders (tumours) and to support them with education, teaching and resources (donated televisions, computer game consoles and pcs).

They are currently undergoing refurbishment and as such have lost the use of the playroom for the children to use.

So I am now planning to jump out of a plane, otherwise known as a sky dive, to raise money towards the building of Ward 11's new playroom. This will be taking place on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

Without Ward 11 and all that they offer to children and families alike, I and many others would not be here today. This is why, even though I am petrified of heights, I am taking up this challenge and am sure many of you would enjoy the sight of me jumping out of a plane. So please dig deep and donate now.

Please support my fund raising sky dive on 14<sup>th</sup> May. For more information and to donate please visit [www.justgiving.com/tmckenzie](http://www.justgiving.com/tmckenzie)

Thanks for your support.

Tom Mckenzie



Taking the plunge: Tom is fund-raising for ward 11's new playroom

Picture supplied by Tom Mckenzie

## Retuning your TV

THERE is much publicity about the digital switchover on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April but less on how to retune. The following is published by digitaluk.co.uk.

Viewers watching Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision will need to fully retune their equipment at both stages of switchover in order to continue receiving services. You should retune from time to time in order to keep your Freeview box up to date. Some channels move around – so if you should lose access to several channels, try retuning to restore them.

To do a full retune of your Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision equipment, follow these steps (these instructions are a guide only – each product works slightly differently).

Switch on your digital box or digital television.

Press menu on the remote control.

Select the set up or installation option.

Select first time installation option (sometimes called factory reset, full retune or default settings).

Press OK if your equipment

asks if you want to delete all your channels – don't worry, this is normal.

Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes, and your equipment may shut down and restart.

After a retune, if you are not receiving your preferred regional service, you are likely to find your preferred services further down the channel list. If you want to make your preferred services easier to find you can either use the favourites list or channel settings. See your instruction manual for more details.

If you find you are missing some channels or your equipment has stopped working, visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk/retuning](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/retuning) for more information. If you can't fix it yourself, you might want to consult friends or family who could do it for you, or otherwise call out an installer.

To watch a short video showing you how to retune and for specific retuning instructions for the most popular Freeview products, visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk/retuning](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/retuning).

Kate France

## Self sufficiency from your garden

THIS month's speaker Nigel Start has been self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables for the past 30 years, all from five plots of 30ft by 10ft on rotation. Given that all medieval villages would have been self-sufficient this should not have been surprising, however not many of our modern audience grow 300 leeks and 200 onions in their gardens each year.

Nigel came to impart tips on how to manage your vegetable bed to enjoy tasty, fresh and

convenient, pesticide-free vegetables and fruit year round for the whole family. He even manages to grow his own plant supports from hazel coppice while getting half a bucketfull of nuts to enjoy too, that is if he beats the squirrels to them. Squirrels seem to be the one pest no one knows how to deal with effectively.

The most essential thing to ensure a good crop is to feed the soil, preferably with either animal manure or compost as

the artificial fertilisers turn the soil acidic over time. A good rotation of potatoes, then onions and carrots, followed by peas and beans and finally brassicas, is aided by feeding the soil between each of the last two rotations.

Nigel also highlighted several ways of reducing pests, including avoiding overcrowding, using resistant varieties and timing plantings to avoid peak periods. For example, the carrot fly can be

avoided if carrots are planted in March, then again in mid-July as this misses their peak time of attack.

The Gardening club will next meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April in the Village hall, when Derek Archer of the Bury and Cambridge bonsai club will be enlightening us on the fascinating world of growing bonsai. All are most welcome.

Kirsten Newble, 892425  
[lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk)

## Negotiations bring about an exciting change

THE Pear Tree Inn in Hildersham has finally become a freehouse following more than a year's negotiation between the owners Paul and Sonya and Greene King, their brewery. Purchasing the freehold has long been the ambition of previous owners but a change in the market has meant that this was now possible.

The Pear Tree became a freehouse on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The inn now offers a range of real ales focusing on regional producers, with small and microbreweries included. This has given the opportunity for customers to sample beers that they may not ordinarily get the chance to try, and supports local businesses. The standard bitter is from

Adnams of Southwold.

Paul and Sonya are hoping to increase the drinking trade in addition to their already very successful food business. People have felt that in the past, The Pear Tree was more a restaurant than a traditional village pub. Paul and Sonya believe it is possible to be both. Although the inn is small, there is a very friendly, social atmosphere created by not having music, fruit machines or TV.

Customers are regularly updated by e-mail of forthcoming theme evenings held at the inn, new monthly menus and, now, new beers. "Hopefully there will be something for everyone" says Sonya Fisher, landlady.

Paul Fisher



Hildersham's new freehold pub

Picture by Paul Fisher



## Too good for jumble...

Camping out this year? New items include a porta potti as new and a tent for 3-4 people or play tent (with slight damage). There is also a Britax car seat for child 4-7 years; a cordless iron; golf clubs – assorted woods and putters and a brand new 17in wheeled toolbag. The black Sony TV 21in screen with remote is still available.

Wanted: a toy chest please.

The Epson picturemate sold for £20 for Help for Heroes; the walker made £25 for Arthur Rank hospice; the silver fishknife raised £7 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Linton Brownies and the computer console went for £20 for the British Heart Foundation.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone me. NB: The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

Kate France on 891602 or email:  
[kfrance@profsoundconsult.com](mailto:kfrance@profsoundconsult.com)

# Help the Rosie deliver the future

SINCE opening its doors in 1983, the Rosie hospital in Cambridge has delivered tens of thousands of babies and earned a reputation as one of the leading maternity hospitals in the country, with the Healthcare Commission rating it as top performing. Since that time, Cambridge has grown rapidly – which has placed increasing demands on the maternity and neonatal services. In 2008/9 almost 5,700 babies were born at the Rosie; 1,700 more than it was designed to cope with.

By 2020 the figure is predicted to be 7,500, so expanding the local maternity

and neonatal services is essential.

Construction began on a new three storey extension to the Rosie in January 2011. Due to be completed in summer 2012, the new extension will house a purpose-built midwife-led birthing unit with 10 en-suite rooms each with its own birthing pool; expanded neonatal and special care baby units with separate overnight accommodation for parents to stay close to their babies; expanded fetal medicine facility and assessment unit offering diagnostic and monitoring tests for women with high risk pregnancies.

There will also be a dedicated MRI scanner for mother and baby imaging.

The extension is being funded by a combination of capital and charitable money, and thanks to the generous donations of local and national charities, businesses and individuals, almost half of the £7 million fundraising target has been pledged.

Many staff members, patients (past and present), and local businesses are getting involved by planning exciting fundraising activities in support of the Rosie campaign. I, along with many parents reading this, delivered my

son at the Rosie and, to help show support, have arranged a charity disco in aid of the campaign. It is being held in the pavilion on the recreation ground on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May (Bank holiday weekend) 7.30pm – 11.30pm. Tickets are £5 and available in advance by contacting [jo.duncan@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:jo.duncan@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

Be part of a once in a lifetime opportunity to help transform the Rosie and have fun while doing it.

For more information about the campaign please visit the website [www.therosiecampaign.org.uk](http://www.therosiecampaign.org.uk).

Jo Duncan

## Body Design Pilates

LINTON villager, Su Matthews, is all set to begin body control pilates courses in Linton and the surrounding area.

Qualified through the renowned Body Control Pilates school in London, also a qualified personal trainer, Su is setting up her own company Body Design Pilates.

Beginners' matwork courses are due to start after Easter with private one to one introductory sessions available now. Beginners' courses are planned for Great Chesterford on Tuesday mornings, Horseheath on Thursday mornings and Linton on Friday mornings. As well as Steeple Bumpstead on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Body control pilates is based on the work of the late Joseph Pilates, who created a series of exercises to balance strength and flexibility with movement.

These vital skills are taught step by step in a relaxed small group environment, or on a one to one basis. For further information, please contact Su on [su@bodydesignpilates.co.uk](mailto:su@bodydesignpilates.co.uk).

Su Matthews 891768 or 07986 692334

## Young Leaders keep pupils busy

AT Linton Heights there are a group of Year 6 pupils who spend their lunchtime organising activities for other pupils. They are called the Young Leaders. Our fourteen Young Leaders have access to a variety of equipment which they can use. This ranges from cones to skipping ropes, footballs to hurdles and more.

The Young Leaders organise many different activities making children's playtime as fun and enjoyable as possible. The children take part in a warm up which the play leaders have planned. Soon after, the Young Leaders lead their main game and, after about 15 minutes they ask the pupils to select a cool down activity.

We asked four pupils of the school what they enjoy about Young Leaders. Luke in Year 3 said that it is really fun and that he never gets bored. Freya in Year 3 said that all the games are really fun and the people who run the activities always have a smile on their face. Also, Izzie in Year 3 said that all the games are completely different from the ones held before and that there is nothing to be improved. Finally, Tom in Year 6 said that Young Leaders keep all of the children active. Overall, being one of the Young Leaders is a fun and enjoyable thing to be part of and we all love to do it.

Thomas D'costa and Holly Wheeler, Year 6 pupils

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## La Pipelette (Chatterbox)

## La terre tremble

APRÈS Haïti la dernière fois, je vais encore parler des dévastations, des tremblements de terre, raz-de-marée (tsunami) et tourbillons au Japon.

Première chose : les japonais sont toujours prêts pour des choses comme ça. Les maisons les plus proches du tremblement de terre et du raz-de-marée sont faites en bois pour s'assurer qu'à chaque fois qu'il y a un départ, ils sentent leur maison trembler et ils sont prêts à partir ou à courir. Mais aussi ils meurent parfois parce que le tremblement de terre frappe partout et le tsunami va très vite et ils n'ont pas le temps de partir.

C'est surprenant parce que le Japon c'est un des pays les plus riches du monde avec leur capital Tokyo qui n'a pas été touchée. Là, les maisons sont très solides pour les tremblements de terre.

Pensez à ceux qui apprennent à l'école et puis soudain le tremblement de terre frappe leur classe.

Deuxième chapitre sur le tsunami : les images. On pouvait voir toutes les voitures emportées par l'eau, les énormes bateaux sur la terre et celui qui s'est posé sur une maison. C'est terrible.

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## PLODDING ALONG

### An update on police matters

I WOULD just like to reassure you that we are stepping up our patrols in Linton with a view to nipping anti-social behaviour in the bud. Recently, we told you about a pedal cycle which had been stolen from Essex Gardens in Linton. I am pleased to report that we have located and seized the stolen cycle and it has been returned to the owner. We are dealing with the offenders, and they will also be questioned about a cycle stolen from the Dog & Duck. We also informed you of two males who had been charged with drug offences and appeared in court recently. One male was found guilty of production of cannabis and has been sentenced to community service and a fine. The second male will be appearing at crown court in the near future.

There have been a variety of crimes reported recently:

Thefts from vehicles, theft of a cycle, a Mazzone steam cleaner and a metal single axle trailer were stolen from a barn storage area and two Qualcast lawn mowers were taken from two locked garden sheds.

We have had an increase in calls from local residents regarding suspicious vehicles in and around your villages of late, and I would like to thank you for doing your bit. We have had some very useful information passed to us, and I would encourage you to keep an eye, and a ear out, for such vehicles.

PC 1881 Rebecca Parkin  
 Linton neighbourhood policing team

## Walking for cancer support

LAST year 430 walkers stepped out to complete the Macmillan Cancer support riverwalk and helped to raise £30,000 to improve the lives of those affected by cancer.

This year our riverwalk is taking place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May, and is suitable for both new and experienced walkers with a choice of three routes, seven miles from Cambridge to Waterbeach, 12 miles from Waterbeach to Ely and 19 miles from Cambridge to Ely. It is a terrific way to have fun with friends and family and support local people living with cancer at the same time.

For more information about the walk contact Michelle Pullen, fundraising manager for Cambridgeshire on 01480 408982 or register on [www.macmillan.org.uk/walking](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/walking)

Michelle Pullen

## Shopping for AsthmaUK

NOW in its thirteenth year, the annual House and Garden Fair in aid of Asthma UK will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at Chilford Hall, Linton from 10am until 4pm. Admission £3.50.

Last year the fair raised an amazing £12,000 for Asthma UK and we would love to match that this year. Ten percent of each stallholder's takings on the day, the entrance fees and the proceeds from the fabulous raffle and tombola go directly to Asthma UK.

From traditional toys to tablecloths and ceramics to cufflinks there will be something for everyone at this year's Fair. It will as always be the perfect place to buy gifts and stylish accessories for the home and garden. There will be about sixty stalls offering a delightful mix of the unusual and the practical, the contemporary and the vintage, including interior accessories from around the world including garden furniture, jewellery, shoes, clothes, toys and food.

Jo Fairey

## Flower festival and fete

IT'S Spring at last and with June seemingly just around the corner, preparations are well under way for the 2011 Linton St Mary's flower festival and fete.

This year's festival, will takes place over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, promises to be bigger and better than ever.

More details of all events to follow next month so watch this space.

Gill Powell 893664

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## Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

### Hedge planting complete

Dear Editor,

Due to weather conditions beyond our control the hedge planting around the fire station was later than hoped. It is now finished and I should like to thank Malcolm Coxall and his helpers from Linton Action for Youth for doing an excellent job. I hope that those who helped will take pride in seeing the hedge grow and enhance that area of Linton.

The hedging here, and along the north side of the A1307 from Dalehead Foods was provided by a grant from the Real Hedge Fund to whom we are very grateful.

Susan Anderson,  
Tree Warden 891623

## Murder in the WI

**theWI** **MURDER!** The WI women had to solve a terrible murder case during their March meeting. Vic Botterill, a retired police chief inspector, told us a story about a murder from medieval times. However, before we could decide who was responsible for this crime, we had to imagine it was set in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, putting our modern values and morals to the case. We split into six discussion groups and to help us we were given several modern day moral dilemmas. Then the fun started. Each moral dilemma produced a lively debate and good philosophical discussions ensued. The allegorical mediaeval characters represented all aspects of our current society and many differing opinions materialised. It was all very thought provoking, encouraging us to look carefully into human behaviour.

Eventually, we had to make a decision. We knew who had actually committed the crime, but we had to decide who had been ultimately responsible for the evil act. This is when our own sense of morality came into play. Were we about to make a decision according to police values? Would we be right? Vic discussed with us our final six answers – not all our groups came up with the same conclusion and, oh dear, the majority of the WI women came to the wrong answer. Many didn't agree with the police decision. Vic informed us that women are often very judgemental, and men, with this murder case, always come to a different conclusion. But he didn't say if they were always right!

Vic gave us an amusing, edifying and thought provoking evening. Perhaps we could start a debating society in Linton. Any one interested?

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding the annual meeting at the village hall. This will be followed by a talk on the past, present and future of Wicken Fen, an intriguing fenland area of Cambridgeshire.

Trysha Hunt 894533

## In your own time .....



June about to enjoy a meal with her husband

Picture supplied by Kate France

JUNE HALL considers she has a very happy and rewarding life, which has been full of different interests since she moved to Linton in 1945.

She started at the church school (now the infant school) and then moved on to Linton college, which she left when she was 15 years old and because Mr E W Morley asked her to start working at the post office where she says she received a good training and stayed for 17 years, eventually working for Mr Geoff Corker. June recalls that the post office was also the dole office, where people had to sign on three times a week. During this time, June married her husband Lee, who was in the RAF at Stradishall. They had two sons, and now have three grandchildren. She learned shorthand and typing at evening classes and eventually started work as a secretary at Crofton Engineering.

June then became interested in amateur dramatics and for 15 years also belonged to an Old Time Music Hall group, which gave performances at old folks' homes, hospitals and WI groups. When her sons left home, she helped out with functions for the Chalklands sheltered housing scheme, which she enjoyed so much that when she retired from work and was asked if she would like to take over as deputy warden from her friend Joyce Thompson, she was delighted to accept and stayed for six years until her husband retired.

Now June is a volunteer at Chalklands and is the chairperson for the Friendship club, which organises pub lunches, visiting entertainers, cheese and wine evenings and an excellent Christmas dinner. She says everyone gets on very well together at this club. June is also a volunteer and secretary for the Visually Impaired club (VIP club), which meets in the afternoon every second Tuesday of the month for quizzes, strawberry teas, various speakers and auctions.

June also manages to find some time for her hobbies like carpet bowls. Her club is now in the South Cambs first division. She also loves reading, belongs to the local historical society and also finds the time for fitness and aqua fitness classes. June certainly does lead a very full and rewarding life.

LNT

## LINTON DIARY

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

You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info.

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY	
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Pilates classes, 11.15 - 12.15pm, Mondays	VH
Chestnut baby/toddler group, Mondays term time, 9.30-11.30am	CC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	C P
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays	St Mary's
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only	VH
Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only)	Library
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays	VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Hadstock village green
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call Linton village college sports centre on 890248

### APRIL

2 Farmers' market	LVC
4 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
5 WI, 7.30pm	VH
6 Lent lunch, 12 noon	The Furrells
6 Linton reading group, 8pm	D&D
7 Chocolate evening, 7pm	LVC
7 Linton luncheon club, 12.30pm	D&D
7 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
8 Linton theatre workshop, 8pm	LVC
9 Linton theatre workshop, 8pm	LVC
10 Mozart's Requiem 6pm	St Mary's church
13 Lent lunch, 12noon	10 Symonds lane
14 Parish meeting, 7.30pm	VH
14 Linton Trefoil guild, 7.45pm	3 Cambridge road
16 Linton Music Society 7.30pm	LVC
18 Mothers union meditation	St Mary's church
19 Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
20 Lent lunch, 12 noon	CP
21 ACE lunch and speaker, 12 noon	CP

### MAY

3 WI, 7.30pm	VH
5 Linton lunch club, 12 noon	D&D
7 Farmers' market	LVC

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reform church, VH village hall

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

Refuse collection: 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Recycling collection: 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

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**THE LINTON NEWS** Next Publication 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

**DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER**

Priority is given to Linton businesses  
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## Families soon to enjoy new surroundings

LINTON children's centre is continuing to thrive this spring. We are getting increasingly excited by the prospect of building works at the Cathodeon centre to create our new premises. Part of the existing car park is being relocated to create space for the project. It's hoped the new centre will open in September.

Every part of the country has its own children's centre. They are based in towns and large villages nationwide; Cambridgeshire alone has 40. Most, including Linton's, are run by the county council. Various professionals such as health visitors, midwives, speech therapists, as well as family support staff, are there to help. The Linton centre serves Linton and all the surrounding villages, and some activities take place outside Linton.

We are seeing a wave of new families coming along to the Bumps to Babies group with their babies, who are just a few weeks old. It is these families, and others with children under five, who will benefit from having a children's centre on their doorstep. Once the construction work is complete, we'll be able to offer a wider range of information and activities for families.

If you have a baby or child under five, we welcome you to join us on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30 to 7.30pm (with or without your children) for our parents' information evening. This will be your opportunity to let us know what you would like to see at the children's centre and to find out all that it can offer you. This children's centre is being provided to help you cope with the daily pressures that parenting can bring and we are very keen to have your involvement.

In the meantime, we continue to run our regular groups such as Chatter-tots, Bumps to Babies and Fun at One. A couple of new items - from 24<sup>th</sup> March, a breastfeeding counsellor will be at the Cathodeon centre every Thursday (term-time) from 12.45 to 2.15pm to give guidance on breastfeeding and weaning issues. We have a special event at Easter, called Leaps and Bounds, in Castle Camps village hall on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April from 10:00 to 11:00am for all children under five. This is a session designed by Tumble-tots - it promises to be great fun and is free of charge, but bookings are essential (please call Debby to book your place).

As you read this, we are working hard to produce our summer term brochure which will be sent out shortly. We look forward to meeting you at one of our activities.

If you would like further information, then please do not hesitate to contact Debby Jepps on debby.jepps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call her on 893594.

If you'd like to know more about how the children's centre will fit in with other activities at the Cathodeon centre, contact the centre manager, Theresa Bateman, on 0771 7542 663, or go to the website: www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk and follow the link to Linton.

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If you want to know more about the building programme, contact the trust's honorary secretary Sue Mudge, on 07765 369266.  
Debby Jepps and Andrew Gore  
Linton Cathodeon community trust

## History in the digital age

LINTON has a fascinating history and interest in it is growing. We have recently seen the film of the archaeological dig at LVC, and the establishment of the Heritage Trail (booklets, DVD and map are available). A surprising amount of history has been captured in photographs, and the ACEs had a splendid overview of the Linton archives at their March meeting.

Garth Collard's wide ranging collection of photographs, maps and other illustrations is now on DVD and in an interactive format. In his talk Linton in Pictures, Hugo Brown showed us how much there is to see and how to use the format. So, with a click of the mouse, we can retrieve detailed information from historic maps and photographs of any part of the village. Of course, we zoom to our own homes first! The village and many of its people are captured, and the changes drew many comments - some areas have hardly changed, whilst

others are only remembered in road names.

Hugo has compiled collections for other places, such as Cottenham and Ely. However, many local collections have been absorbed into the Cambridge Collection and are not available to be put onto disc and enjoyed in this way.

Before the talk we had soup for lunch, hand-made by Jan Lupton. The soups range is sold through the farmers' market, which she organises - we like to keep things local.

The next event will be on 21<sup>st</sup> April, at the church pavilion, starting at 12.30pm. The talk will be about Holiday Resorts from 1750 to the present day. We remember the speaker, Tony Kirby, from his previous talk on railways, including the story of the legendary Charlie the shunt horse. We are eager to welcome him back, and at his request we are having fish and chips - we aim to please!

Enid Bald

## Wacky races raised £2000

A STAGGERING £2,000 was raised in August last year from the Wacky Races. Organiser Joel Palmer from the Crown Inn said there would be £1000 to go to Cancer Research UK and £1000 to the Linton pavilion improvement fund.

The race started at the Crown and whizzed up and down the High Street taking on beer provided by the Dog and Duck and the Wagon and Horses. All in fancy dress the teams came in having been hosed down at the ford by the local fire crew.

The race was won by team Top Gear (Gary Donaldson and James Paintin) in a breathtaking 15 minutes and it all finished with a fun day at the meadow with a barbeques, raffles, fairground and entertainment for all the family topped off with the annual cricket match supplied by Linton cricket club versus the President's 11.

Joel Palmer would like to thank all those who gave up their time and money and, more importantly for taking part. Also thanks to the main sponsors for their generous donations making it possible to put the show on.

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## Chef's corner

### Slow cooked lamb shanks in red wine

Serves 4

- 4 x large lamb shanks
- 2 large carrots, roughly chopped
- 1 onion, sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- 1 bottle of fullbodied red wine
- 2 cups beef stock
- 1 tbsp soft brown sugar
- 1-2 teaspoons cornflour
- Olive oil for cooking
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F, 170C, Gas 3.  
Season the lamb shanks with salt and pepper.

Fry the shanks in a large frying pan with the olive oil until sealed on all sides. Then remove and place in a large casserole dish. In the same pan put the carrots, onions, bay leaves and rosemary and cook until they have started to colour.

Pour in the red wine, beef stock and brown sugar and stir gently bringing to a low boil. Then pour the wine mixture over the lamb shanks. Cover and put in the oven to cook for 2½ - 3 hours until very tender.

Remove the shanks and keep warm. Skim off any fat from the red wine juices.

Mix together the cornflour with a little cold water and whisk this into the red wine juices until reaching the desired consistency, adding a little boiling water if necessary.

Tip the vegetables and sauce over the shanks and serve with mashed potatoes and fresh green vegetables.

## Funds needed for festival goers

A FUNDRAISING event is to be held to raise money to take young Dramawise students to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the new musical Pollyanna.

An international clairvoyant, Donna Fallon has offered to present a psychic evening at 7.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April at Whittlesford memorial hall. Donna is featured in

Spirit and Destiny Magazine and is wellknown for her tarot card reading. This will be a one night only performance. If you have never been to one of these evenings, now is the time.

Tickets are only £15 and are obtainable from Frances on 529541 or email frances@skybluetheatre.com.

Frances Brownlie

## Chocaholics to help supply hospital equipment

THE Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust has been set up to raise funds for Addenbrooke's hospital. Any department of the hospital can apply to the trust for funding to buy extra equipment or items which are not funded by the hospital budget.

We are holding a Chocolate evening to raise funds. This will take place at 7pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April at Linton village college.

A lady will demonstrate how to work with chocolate, make decorations for cakes etc, and for anyone interested in cooking it will provide lots of information and ideas. Afterwards, all items will be raffled and the proceeds will go to the trust.

A glass of wine or soft drink and home made cake is included in the ticket price. Tickets are available from Linda Acton on 892710 or by emailing Lindaacton@tiscali.co.uk

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# News from the Sunday club

THE Sunday club is aimed for children aged between five and 12. It meets on the second Sunday of every month. Registration is at 10.15am and the sessions finish at 12noon. The Sunday club activities mornings take place at Linton Free church on Horn Lane.

What do we do? Each Sunday club meeting has its own theme and activities are loosely based around this. We begin with registration. The children then have an opening activity such as a puzzle, colouring or a quiz. There is usually a bible story, presented through drama, a puppet show or a film clip. This is followed by games, snack time and a choice of craft activities. Careful consideration is given to safety as well as fun. All leaders and helpers are CRB checked and the majority of them are trained teachers or teaching assistants.

There is no charge for Sunday club and everyone is welcome. To help with planning, we prefer to know children's names and ages in advance. The first time a child attends, we ask the parent to complete a registration form with emergency contact details. Children are welcome to attend as many Sunday club meetings as they wish. To book a place for your child/children or if you require further information, please contact us by e-mail at amandajacob5@aol.com.

Forthcoming Sunday club meetings are:

10<sup>th</sup> April – Easter special

8<sup>th</sup> May – Fruit fiesta

12<sup>th</sup> June – House on the rock

10<sup>th</sup> July – Ready, steady, go

Mandy 892274 or Liz 890358

## New bridge players welcome

WE ARE a friendly club and meet on Friday evenings at the Cathodeon Centre at 7pm.

New players of any standard will be made to feel welcome and it may be possible to find a partner if needed.

Please phone Tony Mannion on 893595 or just come along. Tony Mannion

# Away-day to historic Thaxted

LINTON Camera club's first away-day of 2011 was to the historic town of Thaxted. We started our photographic tour with the iconic medieval Guildhall, as it said in the brochure, although it isn't open to the public on a Sunday till Easter. This building was built 600 years ago and is still in active use today.

Not far from here is the renowned John Webb's windmill, a Grade II listed brick tower which is over 200 years old and still working. This is probably the structure that most people look for when they visit.

The Parish Church, within a stone's throw, was once described by Sir John Betjeman as "One of the finest parish churches in the country" with its many gargoyles and carvings jostling for position both inside and out.

Once inside the church, we found it brighter than expected due to the huge plain glass windows – a local man told me that this was thanks to Mr Cromwell who had all of the stained glass broken during the reformation. This seemed to create a more friendly and uplifting atmosphere with the



Thaxted's renowned windmill

Picture by Tracey Wilson

sunlight showing up the curls of smoke from the recently burned incense.

Outside in the graveyard, the spring flowers were just appearing amongst the gravestones.

We then drove to Finchingfield, only 12 minutes away, for a delicious Sunday lunch at The Fox, a picturesque inn situated by the duck pond.

Our next club night is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April when our

own Guildhall, some 100 years younger than the one in Thaxted, will be the subject of a competition for our club members. Theme for the evening will be 'ruins'.

The next Sunday away-day will be in May to Bury St Edmunds. Please see the website www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk for further details nearer the time.

Tracey Wilson 891988

# Easter crafts

CORNERSTONE community church invites you to an Easter craft morning at the Cathodeon centre from 10am-12 noon on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. All ages are welcome to come along and have fun, refreshments will be served. For more details and to book your place please ring Clare West on 892668.

Clare West

## Changes to Stagecoach bus times

ON 17<sup>th</sup> April Stagecoach will be making a number of changes to bus routes across Cambridgeshire. Many of the changes are minor alterations to timetables, and a number of contracts currently held with the council are either discontinued by, or are being surrendered by, Stagecoach. Please go to the following website for information <http://www.stagecoach-bus.com/serviceupdates.aspx> Passenger Transport 0345 045 0675 [passenger.transport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Ian Storey

Drawing by Maureen Williams



APRIL is a month of hope, in anticipation of a glorious summer ahead. We usually have a few nice days when the sun shines and we all wish that this summer will be better than the last, or at least the weeks off work that we have are the best days of summer. This is rarely the case, but with spring in the air, the thought of warmer, longer days conjures up romantic

thoughts of the months ahead. The wildlife in Linton doesn't need any reminders that spring is here. The trees are noisier than before, thanks to the song-birds and the river has suddenly burst into life. The river Granta that dissects the village was a feature of the landscape long before the area around here was populated, probably a result of the ice age

10,000 years ago, so plenty of water has flowed under the bridge since then. Every spring since, the ducks and geese have done, what ducks and geese do and made more ducks and geese. I've notice we have a wide variety of ducks, with some very exotic looking species by the ford between Horn Lane and Church Lane.

might be a little early yet for the tadpoles.

It is quite common to see the heron around the edge of the village. You never really realise how big they are until you startle one and you see it fly off from a few feet away. It is such a stunning creature with that beautiful blue plumage. It is a shame they are so timid and don't hang around like the swans so we could admire them for longer. Technically though, they are grey herons in the UK, but can look blue in bright sunlight. Watch out for them this time of year if you have a fishpond, as they will have between two and seven chicks to feed and will tackle the largest fish you have, as I have found out to my cost. Both parents will incubate the eggs and feed the young birds and, as the adults will need four to six fish or amphibians per day, they have to find them somewhere.



If you wander further upstream, you'll see an abundance of pond life in Pocket Park. This is an amazing place to see nature at work, especially in the spring. The pond will be heavy with frog spawn but it

## Save the children

THE annual house to house collection for Save the Children will take place between 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. Your support for this worthy cause is always appreciated.

Bernadette Milner, Linton & district branch

## Linton loves to hear strings

CELLOPHONY who are performing on 16<sup>th</sup> April are a vibrant and exciting yet sonorous octet of cellists, whose unconventional line-up means that their music simply isn't played by anyone else. On the other hand, nobody gets to the final of the Royal Overseas League competition or gets invited to join the Park Lane Group of Young Artists without playing music of truly exceptional quality. All in all, Cellophony are a great mix of originality and conventionality combined with totally fantastic musicianship. The programme features the group's arrangements of works by JS Bach, Schubert and many others.

Another date for the diary is 21<sup>st</sup> May, when the much loved string trio, Kos-



The circle of musical life

Picture supplied by the group

mos will be entertaining us. Cellophony will be performing at Linton village college at 7.30pm on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets are available on the door or in advance from Sweet Talk News on the High Street, tel 893480.

Nina, Carl and Laura welcome you to

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# The Derbyshire Post



## The Way We Were by Garth Collard

WE raise a considerable amount of money for charity at Linton village college and some people might argue that we do too much of this. This year alone we have raised £4,002.17 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, £722.06 during a Jeans for Genes day, £494.64 for Diabetes UK, £1,185.62 for Children in Need and £1,871.20 for our partner school in Soshanguve township. We are expecting to bring in a princely sum for Comic Relief too. I wouldn't be at all surprised if the dreaded compassion fatigue is beginning to set in as far as some in our community are concerned. However, the students and staff remain really proud of our efforts and we also believe that charity fund-raising has an important educational dimension. Let me explain...

Most teenagers in 2011 do not enjoy the freedoms that we once enjoyed. There may be a visible minority of young people, who seem to come and go as they please at all hours of the day and night, that we sometimes wonder if child-shaped cat flaps have been installed in their homes. Most of our young people have cautious and sensible parents who wouldn't dream of allowing their children such liberties. In fact, rather the opposite is true. Teenage children are often deliberately kept at home away from friends, risk and temptation. It is small wonder that virtual friendships on Facebook are so popular, the crowd you hang out with is now on screen, rather than around the park bench.

In a world with so many restrictions, so little real control or responsibility, the prospect of actually making a difference to the lives of other people is an attractive one. Fund-raising gives young people power, control, responsibility and a sense of purpose. Students at LVC often choose the charities that we support, they devise the way in which we raise the money and they are always keen to know how much we have raised. They come up with far more ideas and plans than we are ever able to put into action. Almost every week a student comes to my office to sound me out over some scheme or other. The other thing that it teaches them, of course, is about the charities themselves and the struggles and suffering that many people experience. Fundamentally, actively raising funds for charity makes us all a little less self centred.

But is self-interest always such a bad thing? This year schools in Cambridgeshire have taken an 80% cut in the fund we receive to maintain or equip our buildings. At the end of October we gain a shiny new building with a library, student social areas, a staff room and offices in it. We haven't got a single penny to spend on the books, computers or furniture that we need to go into it. Charity may need to begin at home in the foreseeable future. I am already looking for more details and information about how you can get involved with the project.

# We must save Linton library

RUMOUR has it that when news of my last month's article on Borley Wood reached 10 Downing Street via WikiLeaks the Coalition immediately backed off on proposals to sell the forests!

This month I am writing about the library service in the hope that the coalition might ponder how the Big Society can take off if essential local support services are lost. The first county library books were sent to the head teacher at Linton mixed school, on the present Infants' site, in the early 1870s.

The Victorians were eventually convinced that society would only improve if the masses were given free access to books. Sadly, nowadays in some houses there is hardly a book to be seen and children rely on school and public libraries to supply books to fire their imaginations and extend their knowledge. Schools and public libraries have been seriously run down in the last 30 years. As an Ofsted inspector, I invariably took on the brief for examining library use and the range of books available. Government ring-fenced computer expenditure but failed to stock library books.



Eyes down in the library at the village college

Picture supplied by Garth Collard

Today's beautifully illustrated volumes inspire children and encourage them to find things out for themselves. Reading standards are improved when the library stock is wide ranging.

Much computer data in my subject, history, is inaccurate because there are few restrictions on who can submit an article. In 40 to 50 inspections of all types of schools, I regularly found that children using library and class text books worked at twice the pace of a class using computers and were much more enthusiastic about

the topic under study.

Books are costly and disadvantaged households are supported by books they can borrow or study at school. The county library service supplies study kits of useful books which schools, especially in the seven to 11 year age group, rely on to complete their topic studies.

When Linton village college was built in 1937 an adult library was attached to the school in order to gain benefits for the old and the young to study together, and for parents to become involved in their child's learning. The Linton

library eventually moved to the Cathodeon centre and is an important focal point in the community. Village children are already disadvantaged because they lack access to the wide choice of books available to city children.

The closure or downsizing of the Linton library will place yet another barrier to improve the lot of the underprivileged.

I am certain that all our councillors will oppose any attempt to close our library. The exertion of mass local pressure through letter writing and petitions seems to be a way to make councils and governments think again when they make hasty decisions about services.

## You can help

A SUCCESSFUL launch meeting of the Friends of Linton Library was held in March. The next meeting is provisionally fixed for 8pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Library. The library is in the Cathodeon Centre, in front of the Copperfields estate and near the fire station. We look forward to meeting anyone with an interest in helping to retain this very important service.

Andrew Gore

### Mozart's Requiem at St Mary's

THE choir of St Mary's, Linton will be performing Mozart's *Requiem*, with a team of soloists, as part of the evening service in the parish church at 6pm on Passion Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. This is an act of worship to set the scene for the two weeks leading up to Easter day and admission is free and open to all.

If you would like to take part in the performance, please contact David Parry-Smith, director of music.

David Parry-Smith 894715 david@parry-smith.co.uk

## Eat, drink and have a laugh with Linton theatre workshop

ON the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April, Linton Theatre Workshop will be presenting a collection of short plays in *A Comedy Buffet* at Linton Village College. The evening features work from Alan Ayckbourn's *Confusions* as well as from award winning local playwright Ross Howard. Ross was described in the Las Vegas Review Journal as having a "demented vision of life that's worth experiencing".

Among the plays on show are Ayckbourn's *Mother Figure*, which sees Lucy spending so much time at home with the kids, that

she's started to treat everyone - even the next-door neighbours - like children. In Ross Howard's *Rules of Assortment*, a new employee's ambivalence to the confectionery around the office at a bank raises suspicion of his commitment to the company.

While in *After Rupert*, young widow Jane learns that she has been omitted from Margaret and Alan's progressive social circle on the grounds of being too Caucasian. The cast includes Angela Stansall, Keith Osborne and Hannah Gosling.

With tickets at £12.50 each

including supper, or £7.50 each without supper, the evening offers excellent value for money and promises to be a highly entertaining night out. A bar and raffle are also available.

So, don't delay, phone the box office now on 891930 or email lintontheatreworkshop@gmail.com to book your tickets. Curtain up 8 pm.

This evening replaces the scheduled March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> production. We regret any inconvenience caused by its postponement.

Angela Stansall  
Linton theatre workshop

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- S/0144/11 Mr Webb, **24 Cambridge Road, Linton**. Erection of dwelling together with alterations to existing access.
- S/0387/11 Mr & Mrs G Clark, **10 Bawtree Crescent, Linton**. Extensions and alterations.
- S/0519/11 Mr & Mrs T Lamb, **Land to the north of Back Road, Linton**. Erection of dwelling and formation of new vehicular access.
- S/2256/10 **Nichols Court, Flaxfields, Linton**. External lighting on and around the existing building/site consisting of lighting columns, bollards and wall mounted fittings.

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# Parish Council Matters

## An introduction

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

LAST June I contacted the parish council office about a change of date for a meeting. I mentioned to the clerk, that I had noticed that four volunteers were required to make up the numbers for the parish council. I said, "Could I help out?" Mrs Parry replied "Yes." I submitted my application and was co-opted to the parish council.

I have lived in Linton since 1996 having previously lived in Enfield, Middlesex. I am a retired metropolitan police officer having spent the majority of my service with the traffic department. For several years I was an elected police federation representative and specialised in discipline procedures. I was also involved with welfare matters including being a member of the traffic department orphan's benevolent fund and the treasurer of two social clubs.

I thought that my police background might come in useful as during my service I had to deal with many varied and different types of incidents. Dealing with fatal accidents was the most traumatic. One had to search the dead body to establish their identity and then inform their next of kin, this was difficult as the relative's reaction was unpredictable. I found that asking a neighbour about the relative was helpful. Invariably when the door was opened they would say "You've got bad news." There was not a right or wrong way to deliver the bad news. Once the relative had got over the initial shock I was then required to take them to the mortuary to formally identify the victim. Later I would attend the post mortem and identify the body to the pathologist for continuity of evidence. I must confess sometimes after dealing with some of the accidents where the body had been badly mutilated I had a few sleepless nights. If the driver responsible was prosecuted for causing the death by dangerous driving, it was of some small comfort to the relatives when the jury returned a guilty verdict. I have attended accidents where cars have hit bridges and been damaged beyond repair and also ones where the driver had fallen asleep and gone down a steep embankment, expecting the worst,

to find the drivers had only suffered minor injuries. Other times there were accidents with minor damage to the car and the driver had been fatally injured.

I would recommend to everyone whether a pedestrian or a driver especially if they are not driving their own car that they carry some form of identification. In the event of being involved in an accident the next of kin can be traced more quickly.

One incident I still smile about, I had stopped a young motorcyclist and asked to see his documents, he could not produce them or verify his name and address but told me he lived round the corner and could show them to me. I followed him and we stopped outside a house, he got off his motorcycle and we went to the door. He knocked on the door, a lady opened the door and he walked past her saying, "Wait there, I'll get everything for you." The lady looked somewhat perplexed and I said to her, "Do you know him?" She said, "No." Fortunately the back door was locked and he could not make his escape. The motorcycle was stolen and he was also wanted for a number of handbag snatches. He was 15 years old.

On a lighter side, it was always pleasing to receive a letter of thanks from the parents of a baby or young child who had survived after a long road journey in an ambulance that we had escorted from the motorway to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Another duty was the escorting of long and wide loads to the next police boundary. On one occasion we were escorting a very wide load that straddled over the centre line marking reducing the width of the road to oncoming traffic. I was about 300metres ahead of the load waving traffic over to their left as the load could not be seen, it was about to come over a humped back bridge, when a driver stopped level with me wound down his window and said, "Officer, do you realise you are on my side of the road?" His face was a picture when he looked up and saw the load descending on him.

Cllr David Champion

## Annual parish meeting

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011

AS chairman of the parish council I have called the annual parish meeting for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in the village hall. The annual parish meeting is not a council meeting, it is a meeting of the parish electorate. The purpose of this meeting is for the parish council to communicate and explain its various involvements over the last year. It also enables the electors to have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of Linton. The council will review its activities from the previous twelve months, and will also present its audited and unaudited accounts for the year.

As before, we will be inviting all those local groups who received a charitable grant from the parish council in 2010, so that they can report on what they used the money for. We will also be inviting the suc-

cessful applicants who have been awarded grants in 2011, (these are due to be agreed by council on the 7<sup>th</sup> April) and cheques will be presented at the meeting. Any other organisations are welcome to report on their activities.

We would also like residents to come and tell us what we do well, what we don't do well, what annoys them, what they would like the parish council to concentrate on, or improve, for the benefit of our community. It would be helpful if you could please register questions before the meeting, although you are also welcome to just come and ask. The parish council works for the benefit of its electorate, and this really is your meeting to come and see what we do, find out where the parish funding goes, as well as give your views.

Cllr Esther Cornell

## My tour of the Granta School as a community governor

AS a new community governor to the Granta School I was recently given a tour of the school by the headteacher, Simon Bainbridge. This is a special school dedicated to teaching children with special needs for whom mainstream education would not be suitable. The school opened in

September 2006 and currently has 117 pupils aged between 3 and 19. I was impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of all the staff. More importantly all the students were happy and appeared to be content. The school has had two Ofsted inspections and achieved very good reports.

The school is built round a quadrangle. This is the play area for the younger children (see picture below left). In the corridors there is a continuous white line in the centre of the carpet, this helps children using electrically powered wheelchairs to negotiate the corridors when they change rooms for different classes. During my visit there were children dancing in one of the halls having a wonderful time. The hall also doubles as the dining room. About 27 children have cooked lunches, the remainder take packed lunches. The school has two excellent catering staff to prepare all the meals including catering for children with special diets and some foods have to be liquidised for children who cannot chew. By the serving hatch there is a daily menu. This has pictures of the food in colour, black and white

and symbols, the actual name of the dish is also written on cards which are attached with velcro to the board. Pupils can take the

picture of the meal they want and show it to the catering staff. Whoever invented this visual menu board should be commended. Something so simple is a very helpful aid for the children.

On the walls in the corridors there are some fantastic works of art. There are also many murals made in the art classes and a couple of stunning collages with an Egyptian theme. The picture I have taken (see over-

**Menu board: simple and very helpful**

Pictures by David Champion

leaf) does not do them justice.

I was surprised to learn that all the national curriculum subjects are taught at Granta and adapted to each child's degree of learning need. There is a science laboratory and a food technology room. During my visit I saw children mixing the ingredients to make cakes, flour was going everywhere, and the children were having a wonderful time, the teachers were happy to clear up the spillage. The expressions on the children's faces were full of pleasure and they were enjoying the experience. Some children attend classes in the village college for GCSE subjects. Students from the village college also spend time at Granta if they need specific support for their learning, or to take part in specific, curriculum focus sessions or days.

Continued overleaf



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# Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**Present:** Ms E Cornell (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with six members of the public. Christine May, acting head of libraries, archives and information and Lynda Martin, partnership manager, were also in attendance.

**Apologies** were received from councillors Wilson and Linsdell.

**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** Cllr Potter requested clarification on the possible awarding of funding to the cricket club. The chair responded that this matter had been passed to the finance committee for a recommendation based on available budget and would be brought back to full council for a decision.

Cllr Hickford asked that another reminder be sent to South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) regarding traffic issues in respect of the wind farm.

**The future of Linton library following the library service review:** Christine May reported that the review of the library services had been agreed. The library service was in a very difficult situation having to save £3.2m over five years, 48% of its total budget. She outlined the following options – to move the whole service into a charitable trust; redefine the library service and move into cluster groups to reduce the number of staff and to consider sharing order facilities and sharing library buildings with other services by approaching communities where it was possible for them to run their own libraries. She reported there were 13 areas with relatively less community need. It was a question of consulting with communities for community hubs to run their own library services. A full community consultation would be held with a meeting in Linton, the date to be arranged.

Mr J Bald spoke vehemently of the impact on the community, especially on children, if services were cut. Mr A Gore, chair of the Cathodeon trustees, reported that building work should commence on the children's centre by the end of the month, therefore the best was being done to provide a community hub by building this centre. He confirmed that the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Linton library would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 8pm in the Cathodeon centre. Mr Gore would liaise with Mr A Westwood Bate, of Cambs archives & local studies group and Hildersham parish council, regarding the structure of the Cathodeon trust.

**Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues:** To discuss the skate ramp following further vandalism. Mr S Crook spoke passionately about the need to encourage skate users to take ownership of the skate ramp and to use community labour for any repairs. He would be willing to design and lead a project. Cllr Bald confirmed that she was able

to harness the skills from the community payback team. Cllr Potter was concerned that if bona fide companies were not used to carry out repairs etc then the council may not be covered in the event of an insurance claim. Cllr Potter reported that contrary to popular belief only £3355 had been spent on the skate ramp since 2006. It was agreed to place this item back on the agenda for 3<sup>rd</sup> March meeting to discuss all options including repair, dismantling and replacement. All parties were requested to submit a report outlining their ideas.

Cllr Bald alerted everyone present to the spate of vehicle break-ins and vandalism in Symond's Lane and other parts of the village.

**Report from the county councillor:** Cllr Batchelor reported that the budget had been passed which would see £160m of cuts over five years weighted over the first two years. This represented a 36% cut. The main areas to be cut would be highway maintenance, bus subsidies and libraries. These were the areas, following consultation, that the public wished to be protected. £423k would be cut from the library book buying fund in the first year.

**Reports from the district councillors:** Cllr Bear reported that a request for a sign for Dodgers Lane should be sent to Mrs Duncan at SCDC although she would be happy to progress this on council's behalf.

Cllr Batchelor had responded regarding the 'right of way' north of Nichols Court. Discussion took place and it was agreed to write to the planning department asking why the footpath shown on the planning application was no longer available for public use. Further investigations were required.

Cllr Batchelor reported that fortunately most of the spending cuts had taken place in this year. However from April 2012 the government required SCDC to buy back the housing stock; at a cost of £200m, SCDC would retain the rights but would have to borrow the funding for this.

Under the new homes bonus there will be government funding available for every house built in the district.

**Consideration of tenders and awarding of cemetery grass maintenance contract 2011-2014:** Cllr Gee proposed that the cemetery grass maintenance contract 2011-2014 be awarded to CGM Ltd for the sum of £4625.50pa. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mannassi. A vote took place with eight votes in favour and two abstentions. Proposal carried. Cllr Potter requested that the Cemetery committee report any problems or failings within the contract to the clerk.

**Correspondence received, for discussion and decision:** The Cathodeon trustees had requested a contribution towards solicitors fees in respect of the children's centre lease and to meet the cost of tree works outside of the perimeter fence. It was agreed to request the accounts from the trust and to confirm the amount of their request. The tree officers would be asked for their opinion on the proposed tree works.

The Bidwells public consultation on a new neighbourhood in

north east Haverhill was noted.

The clerk informed council that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough association of local councils (CPALC) was unwilling to assist with an independent inquiry regarding Linton action for youth. Cllr Gee proposed that the SCDC monitoring officers be asked if they would consider carrying out an independent inquiry, as agreed in the minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> January, and provide an estimate of cost, if any, for the inquiry. If they were not able to carry out the inquiry, then they would be asked who they would recommend for such an investigation. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion and resolved by the meeting.

**Written reports from council representatives:** The notes on the allotment association meeting had been circulated. In house training from the national society of allotment and leisure gardeners would be required. Cllr Bald proposed that up to £500 be earmarked for training. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox and resolved by the meeting.

Cllr Bald had issued an open spaces report including proposals to 1) Purchase bench and materials to install beside path leading from Balsham Road to Parsonage Way. Purchase and install heritage style waste bin beside bench. It was agreed to seek confirmation that neighbours, police, fire authority and October Systems had no objections to these proposals. 2) Provide paving and materials for two existing benches at corner of Back Road/Balsham Road and in front of the green on Parsonage Way. This was agreed. 3) Purchase paving, seating and materials to install between trees and bank bordering village college on the recreation ground. A plan or design of the proposals for the area was required.

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

## LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001

Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry  
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

**Office hours: Monday 9am–12noon and 4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon**

*Or by appointment*

Dates for full council meetings:  
7<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011

All meetings held at the Cathodeon centre following the public forum commencing at 8pm



**Egyptian theme: stunning collage on one of the walls**

Picture by David Champion

*Continued from previous page*

At present there are 10 students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. In May some students will be joining students from the village college on an activity and team building week in Derbyshire, one of the outings will be to Alton Towers. This is an annual event and has been very successful.

The school has links with a school in Mozambique. There have been exchanges between the schools. These visits have been partially financed with an indirect grant from the youth

sports trust who gave money to the British Council who in turn set up the International Inspiration. Their objective is to set up links with schools in third world countries to encourage sports and help provide them with opportunities they have never experienced. The grant is spread over three years and also helps finance the teachers and children from Mozambique to travel to Linton. Other fund raising events help to provide sports equipment for the linked school. No school funds are used towards this venture.

As a result of an anonymous

benefactor the whole school was able to go to the Arts Theatre to see the pantomime *Aladdin*. Five coaches and a school bus were required to transport all the children to the theatre. The local police were very helpful and closed the road to facilitate the coaches. The children had the theatre to themselves and had a wonderful time. The day before the Dame (Brad Pitt, not to be confused with Brad Pitt), in full costume, visited the school with Jess Woodward from the theatre. They went to all the classrooms and introduced themselves to

the children. Everyone had an enjoyable experience.

With all the cutbacks the school has to raise funds.

The Friends of Granta School are having a Summer Fete on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 4pm to raise funds for the school. It would be very encouraging to the teachers and staff if the residents of Linton could attend this function and give their support to a school doing such a worthwhile job under very trying circumstances.

Cllr David Champion  
Community governor

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