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in Linton,
Hildersham,
Hadstock &
Bartlow

THE LINTON NEWS

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

April
2008

Vol. 22 No 1
Publication Date
Monday 7th April

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

Garth couldn't MBE happier



Picture by David Collard

THE deed has been done and here is the picture to prove it. On a cold but sunny day at the end of February, Garth received his MBE from the Queen who asked him about the location of Linton. He told her that this South Cambs village is where her son, Prince Charles, had dined frequently at the Bell Inn during his time at Trinity College.

Garth said, "You know it's over when she extends her hand" and added that it was, "a happy and relaxed occasion, not in the least stuffy." In true Ascot tradition, we must

report what his lady Elaine wore, which was a skirt and jacket in aubergine with a contrasting beribboned straw hat.

After the ceremony, their newly-married son David and daughter-in-law Nisha took them in a chauffeur driven car to dine at the Gordon Ramsay restaurant in Claridges. The verdict on the meal was "lovely."

Then came the return to normality with a train journey home leaving them to reflect on another historical day for the archive. **LNT**

Andrew inspires young poets

ON 5th March Linton was fortunate to have a visit from the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, who came at the invitation of the college principal to work with pupils and hold a public poetry reading session. He was impressed by his warm welcome at the school and by the creativity shown at his poetry workshop with year 8 pupils.

Andrew Motion grew up in the country at Stisted near Halstead when, he said, the countryside was more "ragged" and less organised than it is today. His interest in poetry was inspired by his English A level teacher; the first item he read was an excerpt from his autobiography *In the blood*, describing the first occasion on which he was motivated during one of these lessons.

The poem *Serenade* recalled his memories of watching the local blacksmith shoeing his mother's horse. It began as a seemingly evocative rural idyll, but ended on a much darker note when it revealed that this was the horse which threw his mother, causing a fall which eventually led to her death.

He spoke of losing his ability to write four years ago for no apparent reason, saying that maybe the pressure of his position as Poet Laureate had, "seized him up", and he needed to find a new way to write.

Sometimes he writes specially commissioned poems such as the one for BBC West about Harry Patch, at 109 years old the oldest surviving soldier of WW1. Andrew recounted meeting and talking with him, and read to us the resulting poem *Five acts of Harry Patch*, each part reflecting an aspect of Harry's long life. This poem was featured in *The Daily Telegraph* and read on the *Today* programme on 8th March – but we heard it in Linton first!

The final reading was from *The Wish List*, a poem about the poet's father, for which his inspiration came from the Egyptian custom of burying important artefacts with their Pharaohs. It was a memoir of his father, listing all the things which he remembered him by and might have been put in his grave.

In his role as Poet Laureate Andrew is not obliged to write about all major national events and feels that the poems he produces for them, such as the one written for the Queen's diamond wedding anniversary, must be authentic and not "just ditties". His job is to promote and protect poetry as well as writing it. He has invented a "doing" side to the job by visiting schools and has been involved in setting up the Poetry Archive.

It was a memorable and inspiring afternoon. **LNT**

Thieves claim to be policemen

AMAN has claimed to be a police officer to try and trick his way into the homes of two elderly women. The incidents happened on Monday 17th March. The first burglary took place in High Street, Chippenham when a man claiming to be an officer knocked at an elderly woman's door. She refused to let him in before noticing two other men in her home who let the man in and they all searched the property before leaving. Nothing was stolen.

The first man is described as white, 5'6", of medium build, aged between 21 and 40, wearing dark clothing, gloves and a woolly hat. The second man is described as white, 5'7", slim and wearing a grey hooded jumper and gloves. The third man is described as white, 5'6", slim and wearing dark clothing.

The second incident happened at a property in Mays Avenue, Balsham when a man claiming to be an officer knocked at an elderly woman's door. She then noticed two men in her home who let the third man in and they all searched the property, afterwards the woman noticed cash was missing.

The first man is described as white, slim, 5'6", aged 16 to 18 and wearing a hooded top. The second man is described as white, of large build

and around 50 years old. The third man is described as white, 5'7", stocky and aged between 30 and 40.

Detective Inspector Alan Page said, "These men are clearly targeting the elderly and vulnerable and have no thought for the stress they are putting their victims through. I would urge people to be vigilant and remain alert to the activities in their neighbourhood. If you notice any suspicious activity, particularly around the homes of elderly residents, please report it to police immediately."

"Officers would never just let themselves into a person's home if a burglary or similar incident had occurred next door. All police officers carry identification on them at all times and the public have a right to ask to see it."

"If anyone is concerned that someone trying to enter their home is not a genuine police officer they should call 999 immediately. In the meantime I would urge people to ensure their homes are kept locked and secure at all times."

Investigations are ongoing into these offences, which police believe may be connected.

Anyone with any information should contact DI Page at Parkside Police Station on 0845 456 456 4 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.
Zally Huseyin
PCSO Linton

Bowled over: a triumphant finish to the season



All smiles: Linton's junior cricketers show off their trophies

Picture by Paul Foster

ON 9th March Linton Junior Cricket Club held its presentation evening in the sports' pavilion. The event was organised to review the 2007 season and celebrate the success of all the players. Each age group from the under 9s to the under 15s was recognised.

Paul Foster and Andy Fosberry gave thanks to John Richardson for maintaining the pitch throughout the year, to all the other parents and individuals who support the club behind the scenes as well as to the parish council and other organisations for their financial backing. The individual coaches gave a summary of their teams' performances over the year and medals were presented by Dave Gleeson from the senior Linton cricket club to all the children who had played during the season.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the

Cambridge Youth Cricket Association Shield and trophies to the victorious U10 age group who finished top of their league. This was a particularly outstanding achievement for a team just starting out on its cricketing career, the first team to win a trophy since Linton Juniors were re-formed five years ago.

The club is now looking forward to the new season. Registration Day, when anyone from junior school age to 16 can sign up for the coming season, takes place from 11am – 1.30pm on Saturday 12th April in the pavilion.

Looking ahead, the club is holding a Race Night at 8pm on Friday 16th May at Linton Infant school to raise funds for the club. Tickets £10 and include a fish and chip supper. For more information contact me:

Esther Cox
891499

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

WHAT is going on in Linton? It really isn't good enough. Something must be done! Never mind the drunken teenage hooligans gearing up for their summer rampages. Never mind the parking on yellow lines and speeding in the village by drivers exempt from all forms of road laws. Never mind the hike in council tax to pay for a diminishing police service. Never mind the Stansted expansion and the ensuing traffic chaos and pollution. What on earth are we going to do about the weather?

There were times when you could set your watch by the weather. Every 21st March, we were guaranteed a decent shower of rain. Not the day before. Not the day after. There was a clear week of dry, windy weather from the south-east that gave ample time to prepare your vegetable garden. On the evening of the 20th your chitted potatoes could be planted in their regimental rows, safe in the knowledge that a good watering-in would arrive by the following daybreak. Having looked after them in egg trays for the best part of a month, *Solarnum tuberosums* are ready for this important day.

But, it seems, the weather no longer wishes to lend a hand. Instead we get a week of gales, frost and torrential downpours. The poor worms – what must they be thinking? The forecast for the 22nd tells me that snow is on the way, and an icy blast from Siberia will make sure we all notice. Along with all other gardeners, I'm wondering if anything will survive if I plant it now.

March is meant to be a windy month with the occasional drop of rain and the odd chilly night. I understand that the government like to change things, especially anything that demonstrates we are British, but some of us liked things the way they were. We don't want European weather. If we did, we'd be moving to Spain with the readers of the *Daily Mail*.

Only 25 years ago, we had seasons that were clearly defined. The spring was changeable, but mild. Summers were hot and had sudden thunderstorms – torrential downpours accompanied by booming thunderclaps. Autumn arrived on the last Tuesday in September, with an early frost turning the leaves to a glorious array of reds, yellows and browns. The winter would arrive all too soon. Heavy, dank skies, yielding endless precipitation, would herald the end of one year and the start of the next. During those dark months, there would be at least one week of bitterly cold north-easterlies bringing a generous blanket of pure, brilliant snow.

So what happened? Instead of snow, we get mild, dry winters. Our summers have become unbearably hot affairs without the occasional cooling breeze and refreshing showers of years gone by.

The regional weather forecasts promise summer rains, but it only falls in Cambridge, Saffron Walden, Haverhill and Newmarket. The beautiful winter snow and frosts now seem to avoid Linton in much the same way. My roses and fruit trees don't know what to make of it. Can we have our weather back, please?

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Responding to the Ranta

"WHO was the bright spark who decided a changing room with a bar in it should get watched over ahead of the houses and property of the villagers?" asked the Granta Ranta last month.

What does this person want – 2,500 CCTV cameras installed to cover every house in the village – or just a personal one?

As one of the few members of the public who regularly attends parish council meetings I can testify that:

a) When CCTV was first suggested as one of the options to help the policing of the village, our excellent Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Zally Huseyin and her colleagues supported the idea of cameras on the recreation ground and the parish council worked with the police to make this happen.

b) The aim is to prevent the consumption of drugs and alcohol, both related to crime – particularly theft and vandalism in Linton.

PCSO Huseyin advised councillors of regular patrols in the recreation ground and the Camping Close to check on drugs and under age drinking. She is authorised to confiscate the alcohol but when the youths split up, it is impossible for her to see everyone as they fade into the shadows.

At the parish council meeting on 1st November, Graham Potter told of two break-ins to the pavilion. The football club has repeatedly paid for repairs to this community facility but the damage to the windows and the arson attack will be a charge on the parish rate.

If the Granta Ranta had bothered to enquire further, I am sure either Graham or Roger Hickford (police liaison councillor) would have been only too pleased to detail the reasons for requesting CCTV cameras – and more lighting on the Camping Close.

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Uplifting experience: singers and musicians in harmony with David Parry-Smith
Picture by Julian Edwards

A MUFFLED peal of bells preceded the major contribution to the evening of Passion Sunday, when Bach's *St John Passion* was performed in Linton parish church on Sunday, 9th March.

The event took place due to the energy and drive of the musical director, David Parry-Smith, who, as conductor, gave the audience an uplifting musical experience. The church choir tackled the choruses with assurance and, al-

though relatively small numerically, produced a confident and full-bodied sound.

The excellent soloists were Kieran Cooper and Tristan Stocks with John Moorman in the exacting role of the Evangelist, while soprano and mezzo-soprano roles were beautifully sung by Sally Plummer and Val Tarrant.

Instrumental accompaniment was by a small chamber orchestra led by

Stephen Bingham with the important cello continuo sensitively played by James Halsey; the equally important organ accompaniment was in the hands of Edward Taylor.

A lot of hard work went into the preparation and presentation of this musical occasion and everyone involved is to be congratulated for an impressive performance given before an appreciative audience.

Michael Francis

Don't miss our fête and flower festival

MAKE a date in your diary for the Linton Fête and Flower Festival to be held from Friday to Sunday, the 6th-8th June.

The festivities will kick-off on the Friday evening with a barn-dance and barbecue at the infant school.

On Saturday, there will be stalls selling crafts, plants and gifts in the school (the craft and gift stalls will open on Sunday too).

Outside the fête will host family attractions including the traditional bouncy castle, train rides, barbecue, children's games, balloon race, etc.

In the afternoon, the great teddy-bear parachute jump will take place from the church tower.

Inside the church, this year's floral displays will be on the theme 'Love thy Neighbour' - anyone who hasn't taken part before and would like to prepare a display, please contact Rosemary Read 892005

The flowers can be viewed throughout the weekend, except while the church is hosting services or other events, and refreshments will also be available throughout the

weekend.

There will be a pre-flower festival coffee morning on Saturday 19th April from 10.30am-12 noon in the pavilion (next to the church).

There will be plants and cakes and a raffle. All welcome. For donations of plants etc, please contact Rosemary Read 892005

Further events and attractions both at the school and in the church will be advertised nearer the time – watch this space!

Andrew King 897832

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Readers write ... Readers write

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

Another response to the Granta Ranta’s rant about CCTV

See page 2 for the other response

Dear Editor,

Unlike the Granta Ranta, the Parish Council has to take a balanced approach. We are aware that there are two significant crime issues at the moment; criminal damage, often originating from antisocial behaviour, and burglary of elderly people’s homes which remain a major concern. The police are continuing to make these their two priorities. At the local neighbourhood police meeting on 18th March, they were able to report a significant drop in crime associated with antisocial behaviour over the last few months. The levels of other types of crime have been falling for some time now.

Putting up CCTV around the village is an emotive issue, about which local residents will have very differing views. So far as the pavilion on the recreation ground is concerned, it is important to remember that it belongs to the parish council, although leased to the football club for the benefit of the various sporting clubs which use it. Its construction and subsequent improvement was in part funded from parish council funds ie money from the pockets of local residents. There had been several break-ins during 2007, including an arson attack when significant damage was done. In the light of that, the parish council decided that protecting this public asset from further damage was a prudent course to take, just as a householder would take sensible steps to safeguard their own home.

The parish council does not simply put all its resources into one area of activity. For instance, spending on security is balanced by spending on the provision of facilities for young people. At a recent parish council meeting, one of our Police Community Support Officers expressed the view that some of the comments she had read on the village blog, for instance, about young people were not particularly helpful. The parish council is taking appropriate steps to protect the public interest whilst at the same time seeking to promote harmony, not division, within the local community.

Andrew Gore
Chair, Linton Parish Council

Irresponsible waste disposal

Dear Editor

Please can I ask that if people need to dispose of cooking fat or toilet roll tubes, that they do so in the correct manner. Its not difficult to work out that cardboard is recyclable and cooking fat turns hard once cold! My husband has spent too many days and evenings rodding the drains in the Heights area (and believe me this is not his profession; he is just a helpful man). We also have the main “run through” drain for Bawtree Crescent, Hollybush Way and surrounding houses. This means we are often asked to deal with the problem as sewage is rising in gardens and toilets. Please, please, please do not put down the lavatory anything other than what is meant to go down there!

Kate Wright

By e-mail

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor

Many thanks to all the people who sent donations or braved high winds to support the NSPCC coffee morning on 12th March, and helped to raise £460 for children in the Eastern region.

Susan Anderson
891623

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How the East End changed

THERE was a different format for the March meeting as our speaker had encountered heavy snow on his way from Epping Forest – so we started with his talk. The speaker was Peter Lawrence and his talk was entitled London Docklands past, present and future. He is a retired police officer, an historian and lecturer.

Peter started working in the centre of London over 35 years ago just as London docklands were becoming redundant and the new development began. He showed us slides from the early days of the docks and guided us through the huge changes that have occurred in this part of London. The docks were an important influence on the wealth and financial power of this country, starting with sugar and spice imports from the West Indies by the East India Company which owned the whole area for many years. Nowadays the river is used almost exclusively for leisure. Most of the old buildings have been modernised and revamped creating an exclusive and expensive place to live, so much so that former residents who were desperate to leave when the area was mostly run down and very poor cannot believe it has become so desirable.

An excellent speaker, we hope to book Peter again as he speaks on other subjects.

Refreshments were taken followed by the usual business. Brenda Smith is to look into lottery funding for Denman courses. Bel is arranging an outing to Elton Hall on 10th July. Coffee morning dates are 16th April, Tricia Lewis, 8 Barley Way and 8th May, Bel Griffiths, 38 Joiners Court.

Spring council meeting is on 28th April at Comberton and Group meeting on 12th May at Abington. The raffle prizes and the birthday posies were distributed. The next meeting is at 7.30 on 1st April and will be the Annual meeting plus entertainment. All are welcome to join us.

Tricia Lewis 893609

Moving to pastures new

IN 1950 Hildersham WI held its first meeting with approximately 36 members singing the well known anthem *Jerusalem*. Fifty-eight years and many cakes and jars of jam later things are changing. Members have displayed their thespian talents by putting on plays, entering competitions and demonstrating artistic skills with pride. On occasions they have entertained their visiting guests dressed as Bunny Girls, or in the traditional dress of Asian/Indian women, plus many other costumed events, making these both enjoyable and memorable to those who attended them.

Hildersham WI could always be relied upon to support village functions by supplying the appropriate refreshments and sometimes entertainment. Over the years there have been many guest speakers introducing the members to surprising and informative subjects, enjoyed by members and in latter years their husbands.

In February 12 members of Hildersham WI held their last meeting. They have now amalgamated with Abington WI.

In true Hildersham manner we did not go quietly. A farewell dinner was enjoyed by the members plus their husbands at the home of our long-standing and very much appreciated President, Diana Arkwright.

Sadly this is the last report I shall write for the Linton News on behalf of the Hildersham Womens’ Institute.

Pamela J Parris

A tour of Scotland in words and music

ON 7.30pm on Saturday, 5th April in the Linton Infant school hall, the McLintons will present a musical event to raise money towards the Linton choir *St John Passion* fund.

Everyone is welcome to join us on a tour of Scotland in words and music.

Tickets £3.50 adult, £1 child are available from Bruce Conochie on 894460, choir members, at the door or from me: Rosemary Williams 890703

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LINTON DIARY

To guarantee entry into this diary please ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

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

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

WEEKLY

Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays SC

Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141) SC

Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays VH

Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH

Men’s all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays SC

Ladies’ netball, 7-9pm Mondays SC

WEA, 10am Tuesdays VH

Linton Granta toddlers, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time LVC

Hadstock toddler group, 2-3.30pm Tuesdays term time Hadstock VH

Ladies’ football, 7-8pm Tuesdays LVC

Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesday CC

Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays SC

Ladies’ badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays SC

IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC

Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time Hildersham VH

Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time VH

Bowling roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays from 9th April Pavilion

Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH

Men’s keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays SC

Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076)

Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time VH

Music Matters, 9.45am & 11am Thursdays VH

LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays SC

Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH

Rhyme’n’rhythm tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 termtime URC hall

Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays SC

Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC

Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays VH

Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays SC

For Sports Centre courses please call 890248

APRIL

5 Farmers’ market, 9.30am LVC

5 Tour of Scotland in words and music, 7.30pm Infant school

7 Camera club meeting, 7.15pm CC

8 VIP Group, 2pm Chalklands

8 Gardening club, 7.30pm CC

9 Storytime, 2.15pm Library

12 Linton Junior cricket club, registration day, 11am Pavilion

12 The Late Risers, 9pm King’s Head, Hadstock

13 Camera club, 9.30am Coles Lane Car Park

15 Historical Society, 7.30pm VH

16 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon HC

17 Linton Granta Bowls club subs night, 6pm Pavilion

17 Meeting re distraction burglaries, 2pm VH

17 Parish Council meeting, 8pm CC

18 Women of Note, 7.30pm St Mary’s Pavilion

19 Dads and tots, 9.30am VH

19 Flower festival coffee morning, 10.30am St Mary’s Pavilion

19 Friends of guiding jumble sale, 2pm Infant school

24 Music Matters, 9.45 & 11am VH

24 ACE ploughmans lunch and quiz, 12noon Chalklands

27 Start of the Save the Children collection week

28 Trefoil guild, 7.45pm 25 The Woodlands

MAY

1 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm The Crown

1 Parish Council meeting, 8pm CC

2 Tony Black and Richard Partridge, 9pm King’s Head, Hadstock

3 Farmers’ market, 9.30am LVC

3-11 Children’s book festival, varying times and venues

4 Three Counties Charity Walk, 9.30am meet at Bartlow

4 Farmers’ market, 9.30am LVC

5 WI, 7.30pm VH

11 Oxfam Walk Wimpole Hall

13 Athma UK fair, 10am Chilford Hall

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

Refuse collection: 14th and 28th April.
Recycling collection: 7th and 21st April.

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.

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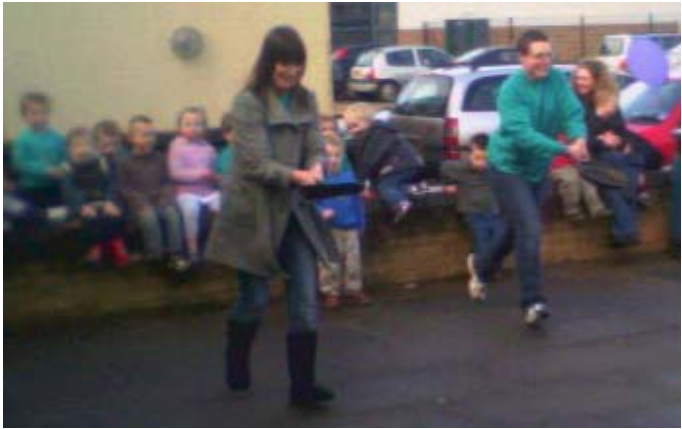
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A flipping good time



Trying to keep their pancakes steady

Picture by Ruth Tysoe

THE children of Granta Playgroup have had a fun start to 2008. There was an outing to visit the ducks, meeting some of you along the way I am sure. Thank you for your patience if we did meet you! Then a fun morning making and flipping pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. The children did the making and then eating (interrupted only by the school fire alarm!) and then moved outside to have pancake-flipping races. Not sure who had more fun that day, the children or the staff! The spring term ended on a high for the children with an Easter Parade and party. We look forward to more fun in the summer term; parents don't forget the sun hats and sunscreen! A big thank you to all who helped and shopped at the Playgroup nearly new clothes sale, around £150 was made for the group. Finally to all of those with toddlers, don't forget the groups on a Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11.30am in the playgroup building at the back of the village college, next to Granta school and the sports centre. Everyone is very welcome, especially new mums in need of a cup of tea and a chat!

Ruth Tysoe

Fair in aid of Asthma UK

THE tenth House and Garden Fair in aid of Asthma UK will take place from 10am until 4pm on Tuesday 13th May at Chilford Hall. This year's Fair promises to be a particularly special event with 60 stalls selling everything from stylish accessories for the home and parasols and rugs for the garden to shoes, jewellery, swimwear and food. Tom's cakes are making a celebratory cake and there are some fabulous raffle prizes including a £500 holiday voucher from Light Blue Travel. Please come and support this very worthwhile event. Over the last nine years, the Fair has raised over £70,000 for Asthma UK. This year the target is £12,000. Ten percent of each stallholder's profits go to Asthma UK as does the entry fee of £3.50, and the money raised by the raffle and the tombola. Ridgeons and Cheffins are the very generous sponsors this year. The Fair was started up ten years ago by Judy Fairey of Linton amongst others. It started out as a small event. Now about 900 people visit the Fair each year. The committee would like to thank everyone who has supported the Fair over the past nine years.

Jo Fairey

Looking ahead to June

LINTON Heights Junior school will be holding an 80s Disco on Saturday 7th June. Join us for a trip down memory lane, dancing to those old classics from Adam & The Ants, Bananarama, Erasure and many many more. (Dressing-up optional!). More about this and more events in next month's Linton News.

Vicky Lindsell

Report on the latest Police Panel meeting

THE third meeting of the Linton Neighbourhood police panel took place on 18th March at the junior school. It was attended by residents and community representatives from nearly all the villages in the area. As a result of the continuing series of distraction burglaries targetting elderly persons the following actions will be taken by all Linton NPT officers; Hi Visibility patrols, on foot/vehicle through villages by PCSO's, identifying potential vulnerable victims. Everyone was reminded to stay vigilant and report anything that appears at all suspicious. Antisocial behaviour in the areas of the High Street and recreation ground are also to be given priority attention. Due to continuing inconsiderate driving of some individuals through our villages, concerns have been quite rightly been raised by local residents. The police will, over the next few weeks, be popping up in known hotspots to carry out speed checks to help combat this anti-social and dangerous behaviour. The panel were informed of the imminent arrival of PC Rebecca Parkin. She will be taking over from PC Dyke in April and is excited to be joining the neighbouring policing team. Councillor Roger Hickford announced that he has arranged a meeting for anyone with concerns about the distraction burglaries, following similar successful meetings elsewhere in the neighbourhood. Representatives from the crime prevention unit, police and trading standards will be in attendance to look into any concerns residents may have. This extremely worthwhile meeting will take place on Thursday 17th April at Linton village hall. The doors will be open at 2pm for a 2.15pm start. For further information about Cambridgeshire police, visit www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops

LNT

Too good for jumble...

NEW this month is a golf trolley and bag with some clubs and a Royal Worcester Evesham fruit bowl, 10" dia with matching 5" high utensil pot. The ledged external door with letterbox 2'6" x 5'11 1/2", glass fronted teak display cabinet 32"h x 16"d x 17"w, Belswick hopper bike, JVC TV with remote control and a Toshiba music centre are all still available. The Encyclopaedia of Birds of Britain and Europe raised £20 for Cancer Research and the pump station iron made £5 for Great Ormond Street hospital. To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact me: Kate France 891602 or email katefrance@linton48.freemove.co.uk

Walk the dog and help raise funds

ON Sunday 4th May, the fifth Three Counties Walk will take place, centred round the three-counties point east of Castle Camps that is the confluence of Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. There will be three walks, all starting from the Paddock in Bartlow; the 13-mile route to the three counties point (registration 9.30am for 10am start) the eight mile family route (registration 9.30am for 10am start) and the two mile, off-road Junior Nature Trail (registration 10.30am for 11am start). Last year saw 140 walkers on the 13 and eight mile routes and 70 parents and children on the nature trail, raising a total of £9,000. This year we are hoping to increase the numbers to 200 each on the two longer routes and 150 parents and children on the nature trail, which also includes a nature quiz suitable for anyone wishing to obtain a Cub, Brownie or Beaver badge. It is set to be a fun day out with Mary Archer cutting the tape at the start of the walks and a band providing entertainment at the start and finish,

as well as parking, toilets, burger van, hot and cold drinks, beer tent and ice cream van. Dinner can also be obtained from The Three Hills pub in the evening. As always there will be safety marshals in attendance at all road crossings and Red Cross support throughout the event. There will also be support stations approximately every three miles along the walks. This is a dog-friendly event. We are looking for contributions from local businesses and walkers as our fundraising target for this year is £12,000-£15,000 which will be split equally between Linton Health Centre; Addenbrooke's Ward D10 (Infectious Diseases) and Bartlow St Mary's church restoration fund. Walkers can use sponsorship forms available from us (preferred) or can pay on the day. See if you can exceed last year's record sponsorship for a family group of £800! We are also looking for volunteers for organisational tasks and on-the-day roles so if you would like to help out please get in touch. Graham Howat, 891732

A walk in the park



Some of last year's walkers enjoy the scenery

Picture submitted by Oxfam, Cambridge

IN all the recent disasters – political unrest in Kenya, flooding in Mozambique, the Bangladesh cyclone, conflict in Somalia to name a few – Oxfam was there every time, responding as quickly and efficiently as possible to help the suffering of those worst hit. Just £50 raised by you could make a real difference – in fact it's enough to pay for a hygienic toilet; vital for preventing the spread of disease in an emergency. To help the victims of such disasters Oxfam needs your help. In Cambridge, on 11th May the annual Oxfam Walk takes place, which has over the years raised much-needed funds for the charity. The Oxfam Walk is your chance to raise funds for Oxfam's Emergencies Fund and have a great day out with your family or friends. You can choose a length of walk that suits you – from four to 26 miles – and raise your fitness level whilst raising funds. All routes begin and end at Wimpole Hall, near Cambridge. The routes will be well signed with marshals and checkpoints where refreshments will be provided. This year we are hoping to raise £50,000. Please help us maintain the tradition of Cambridge helping Oxfam. For registration forms or further information, visit www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/fundraise/walk, or email events@oxfam.org.uk or phone 0870 905 9060. Caroline Mead for Oxfam

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Horticultural history

PLANTS such as the cheerful aconites that greet us on a winter's morning and king cups that bring joy to our ponds may arrive in our gardens by way of the grower and garden centre but are actually native wild plants. Many others find their way to our gardens by much more exotic routes and it was these specimens that were the focus of the gardening club's talk last month.

Peter Walker presented a talk entitled Ancient Ancestors and Distant Cousins, about garden plants, their wild relatives and how they made the transition to our borders. We were treated to a whistle-stop tour of history through horticultural eyes from invaders in 45 BC, bringing things such as leeks, grapes and ground elder with them, via the Crusades, Columbus, the 7,000 plants that arrived due to the travels of Joseph Banks with Captain Cook, to the treats for which we must thank the many adventurous plant hunters.

Considering the distances these plants travelled under difficult conditions on long sea voyages, it is amazing so many of them survived to reach our shores. Peter gave us reason to look at our garden flora in a new light given their origins and the lengths to which people went to bring them here from the furthest reaches of the planet.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 8th April, when David Holmes will speak to us about garden antiques showing some of his examples. All are welcome to join us and to bring along any old tools or other items of interest from your gardens. Another date for your diary is the annual plant sale on 10th May for which contributions would be most welcome.

Kirsten Newble

Hundred Houses homes in on a double plus rating

THE Cambridgeshire housing association, Hundred Houses Society, has earned a double-plus rating from Cambridge city council. The high rating is thanks to its excellent standard of working relationships and skill in providing an effective housing management service.

A housing corporation online survey asked the city council to rate the five housing associations with the largest housing stock in the city. Feedback from local councils is used to assess how well associations manage their activities with local authority partners.

The society's chief executive, Chris Jackson, said: "We're delighted with the

double-plus rating. Our mission is to provide quality affordable housing in one of the country's fastest growing regions.

"In order to do this, we rely on building strong relationships with tenants, suppliers and local authorities. The rating testifies to the dedication and skill of our staff in doing that."

Hundred Houses took over the properties of another local housing association during 2007 and has since built more than 150 homes in Cambridgeshire. Current developments include Chesterton, Bottisham, Hardwick and Linton.

Joel Coppersmith

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Keep bowling along



**Winners:
Eric Ellam,
left,
Tony
Krarup
and Nell
Orriss**

Picture by
David Stone

LINTON Granta Bowls club members and friends sat down to a delicious meal provided by Poppies caterers on 16th February in Hildersham village hall. It proved to be an excellent evening with Vic Terry keeping us guessing with two quizzes.

Tony Krarup, our parish council representative, presented the cups for the inter-club games. Singles champion was Laurie Boniface. Nell Orriss and Eric Ellam won the Derek Dimmock trophy, and John Darling and Nell Orriss the 2006/7 winter pairs

competition. There was a bumper raffle and a good time was had by all.

We look forward to another good season of outdoor bowls. Anyone interested in joining the club please contact our chairman, Sam Agnew 892982, or the secretary, June Bunn. Alternatively just come down on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm sharp starting on 9th April (weather permitting). Flat shoes are the only requirement initially as bowls are available to borrow.

June Bunn
891442

Hope they're still clean!

ON Saturday 8th March, the crew at Linton fire station opened their doors and invited members of the public to get their cars washed.

The car washing started at 10am and the last car was washed at 4.10pm. Throughout the day the crew washed a total of 68 cars, ranging from small hatchbacks to big 4x4s, and managed to raise an astonishing £482.

While cars were being washed, the drivers could go into the station and get a cup of tea and hot food, which was

prepared by Mags Hill and Emma Welch and was most appreciated by everyone. All proceeds go to the firefighters charity, which helps sick and injured fire personnel and their families.

I would like to thank the Linton Co-op for providing tea and coffee, and C Hollands & Son for the bacon and sausages. Last, and by no means least, thank you to Annie, Lee, James, Charlie, Clarke, Garry, Wullie and Keith for all their efforts.

Mark Collins

Blow your own trumpet ...

WE like to give credit where credit is due in the Linton News but we cannot do this if the people who supply us with pictures and articles do not tell us who they are.

Many of the contributions we regularly receive come without any attribution at all, so all the hard work that the writer or photographer has put into his or her work goes unacknowledged.

The solution to this problem is simple: will all contributors to the newspaper please provide a name with their picture and a name and telephone number with their article and thus receive the credit they richly deserve.

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POT POURRI (39)

What part of the field?

CONSIDER a circular field of 100 metres diameter. Two goats are tethered diametrically opposite each other at the boundary of the field, each by a 50-metre line.

The goats can each roam and eat the grass only in a circular arc up to and including the boundary, and can only meet in the middle of the field. What percentage of the field's area do the goats leave untouched?

Solution to No 38 - How Much Water?
By simple geometry, the amount of water left in the tilted container is 71% (nearest %).

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Country music and bluegrass lead the way at King's Head

The increasingly successful series of acoustic country/bluegrass music nights at the King's Head, Hadstock, are continuing with three gigs in April and May.

On Saturday 12th April, the Late Risers, the popular Cambridge blues 'n' mountain music band, return with their rousing mixture of up-tempo banjo picking, wailing harmonica, original songs and classic covers.

On Friday 2nd May, Tony Black and Richard Partridge, two members of the Mounthoolies, deliver a selection of pop, folk and country songs from the 1920s to the present day, plus original songs.

Then on Saturday 31st May, Monroe's Revenge, one of Britain's top bluegrass bands, makes a welcome return with their hard-driving bluegrass, high-lonesome harmonies, blazing banjo, fiddle and mandolin hoedowns

Admission is from 9pm and free at all three gigs.

Entertaining women support L.I.F.E. in Linton ...

THE Women of Note singing group are coming to the new pavilion behind St Mary's church at 7.30pm on 18th April in support of Linton Initiative for the Elderly (L.I.F.E.)

This will be an enjoyable musical evening for all ages. Admission charges are £4 (concessions £2) Refreshments will be available.

For more information, please contact:
Miriam and Geoff Reynolds on 892645.

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Enraptured by Raptors



Club members capture raptors – on camera!

THE Raptor Foundation in Woodhurst, Cambs was where the Camera club chose to take their March away day, and once again the weather was kind, although the big March storm was only hours away.

For those who have never been, the Raptor Foundation is a bird of prey sanctuary and hospital that covers 30 acres with over 300 raptors (a type of bird often characterized by a hooked beak, sharp talons, and keen eyesight) and more than 44 species, many of them threatened or endangered.

We wandered around the pretty location and were allowed to photograph freely the birds on their perches, and we watched the staff going about their chores of feeding the birds and taking them for

their regular weigh-ins. The staff members were very happy to talk about the birds and also to pose for photographs. We were told that some of the owls had been used in the Harry Potter movies, although they did not supply Hedwig.

Then the flying display took place and our challenge was to capture the birds in flight with the correct camera settings. The staff also educated the audience with fascinating facts. For instance, I always thought that the tufts on the top of an owl's head were the ears, but these are located lower down on the head, one higher than the other, for asymmetric hearing (3D). They have very poor eyesight, indeed they even have trouble seeing as far as their own feet. Their feathers

are very soft, which helps them to maintain relative silence while they are flying and they often fly very close to the ground to conserve energy, unlike other birds of prey which use thermals to stay in the air.

First we saw Elmo, a Canadian great horned owl – we were told a tale of a man in Canada who was killed by an eagle owl, but he was wearing a raccoon hat at the time. Then Jill, a common buzzard was put through her paces. This species nearly died out at one time due to myxomatosis and DDT, but with a reintroduction programme, they are now common again.

The next flight display was by Blake and Brock, Harris Hawks, (a buzzard species). Sweep, the little owl, ended that part of the show; although he was very shy and refused to do as he was told; he was so sweet that we forgave him.

Our next meeting is from 7.15-9-15pm on Monday 7th April at the Cathodeon Centre, and the next away day is Hidden Cambridge on Sunday 13th April. Meet at Coles Lane car park at 9.30am. Visit: www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk or telephone Roger Lapwood on 891104 or me: Tracey Wilson 891988

Picture by James Cracknell

Womens' World Day of Prayer

ON Friday 7th March people from the churches of Linton and district joined over three million others worldwide in celebrating the inter-denominational annual Day of Prayer.

Services took place in over 170 countries, beginning at sunrise in Tonga and finishing at sunset in Western Samoa. In the British Isles well over 6,000 services were held.

Glorious sunshine after early showers graced our service, which took place at the URC, Horn Lane, Linton, with the theme God's Wisdom provides new understanding.

This year the material for the service had been prepared by Christian women of Guyana, which is a beautiful country on the north-east corner of South America. Our service was led by Linda Richardson, and the speaker was the Rev Dr Rachel Nicholls, a Cambridge tutor.

Rachel spoke about Job, and wisdom, which is not knowledge, power or control, but about asking questions and being open with God.

About 34 people from different congregations gathered for the enjoyable and uplifting service. Afterwards we chatted over refreshments. It is always good to meet and worship together!

The collection, which amounted to £100, will be sent to further the work of the Prayer Movement, for Christian literature societies, and for Christian educational projects.

Many thanks to all those who took part in the service, both in the planning and on the day itself.

If you are interested in helping in any way do please contact me, as without volunteers there may not be a WWDP service in Linton next year, which would be a great shame!

Ann King 897832

Chef's corner with Joel

Spring into Spring with a lamb dish

APRIL already and time to think of the wonderful offerings that lamb can give us. Lamb can be a gourmet meal served simply and quickly. The best end would be my favourite cut as it can be trimmed of any excess fat and will cook rapidly.

There is a slightly Italian quirk to this dish using olives and anchovies (don't be afraid to use the anchovies as you won't know they are even there).

Roasted loin of lamb with spiced red wine

Ingredients

- Take 1 trimmed lamb loin
- Cracked black pepper and sea salt
- 1 pinch of chilli flakes
- About 6-8 chopped black olives
- 4-5 finely chopped anchovy fillets
- A good pinch of thyme, rosemary and oregano (mixed together)
- 1 large glass of red wine 250ml

What to do

Place all the ingredients into a large freezer bag and gently massage everything into the lamb. Allow to marinade for 20 minutes or so.

Heat a pan with a little oil and sear the lamb for about 2 minutes on each side.

Transfer into a pre heated oven fat side up at 190°C/375°F/gas mark 5 for about 10-12 minutes. Allow to rest for a further 5 minutes (resting the meat is very important as it allows it to relax)

During the resting period put the pan back on the heat and reduce most of the wine (I always like a little for tasting purposes obviously).

This in turn will start to resemble a thin sauce with all the meat juices.

Slice the lamb into small medallions and arrange onto a plate, the sauce can then be dressed onto the lamb.

Serve with a few warm new potatoes with lots of butter and fresh spinach turned into them.

Fantastico!!

Primitivo classico will give a soft yet spicy red wine to compliment the gorgeous tender lamb with the spinach.

Don't forget you can access all of Joel's recipes at: www.chefs-corner.co.uk

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A GRAND DAY OUT

IN the 13th century, Stamford was one of the 10 largest towns in England. The historian WG Hopkins said: “If there is a more beautiful town in England, I have yet to see it.” Its prosperity in the 17th century lay in the fact that it was on the Great North Road main coaching route, but that trade ended with the advent of the railways which bypassed the town, and it declined in importance. That did mean, however, that it never became developed and so retained its character.

The presence of the Cecil family at nearby Burghley House and their relationship with the town ensured that its fabric was ‘pickled and preserved’ so well that in 1993 the BBC used it as the setting for their serialisation of George Eliot’s Middlemarch, and later Pride and Prejudice.

I had first seen Stamford when we drove through it on our way to a performance at Toleshorpe, just north of the town, where the Stamford Shakespeare Company holds an annual open air Shakespeare season each summer (well worth a visit). It had looked very interesting and I wanted to return to explore it more thoroughly.

We parked adjacent to the The George, by the town bridge, once a famous coaching inn and now an excellent hotel and a good place to go for a special lunch, but very popular so you need to book. We



Burghley House, Janet’s next place to visit while in Stamford

Picture by Des Scholes

walked across the water meadows down by the river Welland, from which you get a wonderful view of the town, taking time to watch the antics of the ducks.

We wandered through the old streets admiring the architecture of the Classical and Georgian houses built in local limestone which mellows to gold in sunlight, and the mansard and hipped roofs of Colleyweston slates.

There is lots to see for anyone interested in history. Some of the many buildings which survive from the time when Stamford was a town of significance include the early 12th century St Leonard’s Priory, a magnificent early 13th century tower at St Mary’s church and the rich 13th century arcades in All Saints. There are some fine

13th century stone-built hall houses and under crofts, and the 14th century gateway to the Grey Friary.

St John’s, St Martin’s and All Saints’ are fine examples of perpendicular gothic church architecture, and the almshouse built by Dr William Browne remains one of the best surviving mediaeval examples in England, with some excellent stained glass.

For retail therapy there are tempting shops of all kinds tucked away down small alleyways, and there are pubs and a variety of places to eat including a popular fish and chip shop and restaurant overlooking the river. A visit to Stamford can easily be combined with one to Burghley House, which is on the list for my next visit.

Janet Crofts

Calling all bookworms



PREPARATIONS continue apace for the Linton Children’s Book Festival which will take place between 3rd and 11th May. We are thrilled with our final line-up of speakers and events – there really is something for everyone – and we are looking forward to enthusing lots of local children about reading, writing and drawing.

New confirmed events include a Children’s History Walk with Garth Collard on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd May. Find out about the battle of Linton in 1648 and walk the route of the Roundhead soldiers as they engage the Royalist rebels (for ages 9+, please

bring a grown up). For the very youngest children (2+), there will be a performance by the music group Chalemina on the morning of Wednesday 7th May in the village hall, in collaboration with the Cambridge Summer Music Festival. Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and needs help from the young members of the audience if she is ever going to find them again. Don’t forget your teddies.

This year children of all ages are being invited to try their hand at illustration and invent their own Gruffalo. Thanks to publishers Biddles Ltd, nine winning designs will be made into bookmarks, and Linton Zoo owners have agreed that every winner can bring their family to the zoo. In addition

the overall winner will get to sponsor an animal at the zoo. So, let your imaginations run wild; we want to see some amazing fantasy animals with their names!

Prizes will be presented by the award-winning children’s illustrator Axel Scheffler in Linton on Saturday 10th May. Details of all events and competitions can be found at www.lintonbookfest.org.

Priority booking forms have been distributed at all the Linton schools – please hand them back by Friday 11th April or you may miss out. The general public may book their places (subject to availability) by calling Sawston Books on 837456 from Monday 21st April.

Josephine Paterson

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

Billy blackbird and the doomed deer

THERE were some classic examples of English country tracks running through fields and woods behind the house where I once lived, frequently described as a kind of Thomas Hardy land of bridleways and coppiced hazel hedgerows. One day, many years ago whilst out on my bicycle over rough terrain, not far from Linton, I sighted a daddy of a deer. He was mighty and proud with huge deciduous antlers hung with velvet, his years told by their complexity. This red bastion of the wilderness among crowned Kings of England’s woodlands had survived to live to a ripe old age! How? I did not know, but there he was in all his prime and glory, neither of dream nor novel.

On my return home and in my excitement I explained this wonderful sight to a neighbour, who incidentally worked upon the local farm, and who I’d always presumed had a love of nature. His sullen eyes came to life and sparkled. His face used almost forgotten muscles to smile and bare his pipe-worn teeth. His interest was strikingly enthused, enquiring as to the precise location of the beast. I told him, with all my passion for our land blessed with such gifts, and then he was gone, Land Rover, cap and dog.

Twenty minutes later I heard shots ring out and echo upon the walls of my house, and the King was dead. What had I done? The farmer returned with his trophy, having unsuccessfully tracked this animal for years, now stealing the pride with his gun. How powerful was he? My passion had killed the beast! Now, many locations of my wildlife sightings remain secret. In expiation, the death of the deer saved many creatures from my once innocently candid loose tongue, and I learned this lesson well.

You see there’s an ancestral North American Indian inside me keeping the natural world close to my heart. The lizards, snakes, trout, foxes and all manner of creatures in and around

our village are the real heartbeat of life. We cannot afford to be complacent, for without even the bee and the fly, all will die! We are the gardeners of earth’s garden and we need to listen to the land and hear what it needs, for it’s not just food we feed on!

Tracking can be fun but familiarise yourself with tracks, trails and droppings of the animal, known as spoor. A tiny fragment of primrose petal may be a clue to spotting that muntjac. Early morning or evening when the shadows are long make footprints more obvious. A good tracker knows the pattern of undisturbed nature in order to recognise tiny signs of disturbance. To observe new things we must not prejudice the mind with what we want to see! Many of our wild animals such as deer, fox, hedgehogs and badgers use networks of pathways unchanged for generations. Discovering these and watching the wildlife without intervention is the key to many natural treasures. If you spot a deer or fox and want to follow it successfully, you must stay down wind or he’ll have your scent and be off!

Billy blackbird arrived in the hands of Emma, like the statue of *L’Oiseau Blessé* only in a small cardboard box. I reached into its paper cage, cupping the bird gently in my palms, but even so it squawked earsplittingly loud, in pain. Its right wing hung limp and mangled and we didn’t expect Billy to be alive in the morning. Nevertheless, my new luxury glass fronted cage donated by Keith Toft was ready with a log perch, fresh water, meal and earth worms.

Next day, I woke early, fully prepared for the worst, but there was Billy, wide-eyed and pecking away at the goodies. Three weeks on, she’s still pecking away and is slightly less terrified of my great hairy hands each time I inspect the slowly improving wing. Billy has had to suffer the excruciating pain of watching me restore the village sign, depicting elements of Linton as it is now. As a community we urgently need to pull out all the stops and secure the land around the place we call home, or the next village sign will only depict memories, and Billy will have turned into paint.

Play facility – lock it or lose it!

LAST year the trustees of the Cathodeon Centre, responding to requests from parents, decided to keep the play area in front of the building open at weekends. We asked for volunteers to help with the closing of the gates in the evenings. Sadly, only one parent volunteered, and the trustees decided it would be an unfair burden to impose on just one person. So since then the trustees have taken on the duty themselves and kept the play

area open on Saturdays until the end of the year, and Sundays until the Easter holiday.

However, if this is to continue we must have some more volunteers. It’s not an onerous task. The library staff open the gate on Saturday mornings and the Cornerstone church open it on Sundays, so all the volunteers have to do is to go to the building on Saturday and Sunday around 6pm and lock the pedestrian gate. The trustees are willing to continue to play

their part, so if three or four volunteers came forward it would be possible to put together a rota where no one does it more than once a month. It would always be possible to swap duties with other people on the rota.

The trustees do want to make these facilities available to small children accompanied by adults, especially with the summer approaching, but if we are to do so, we do need your help. Andrew Gore

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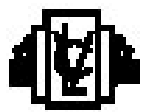
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The Derbyshire Post

WE have had an action packed month at the college, one way and another. This term is even shorter than the usual spring term because of the early Easter, but we seem to have done just as much as we normally do. Let me tell you about one particular highlight.

At the beginning of the month, Andrew Motion, the poet Laureate spent a day with us. He read his poetry to our Year 8s. The poetry was quite challenging for them, but they sensed the importance of the occasion and listened intently. Andrew then spent a session working with a group of budding poets from the school, helping them to develop their own ideas and to offer advice on improvements. It was a considerable privilege for these students to work in this way with a significant literary figure and I am sure that his comments of praise on their work will stay with them for the rest of their lives. At the end of this session there was a moment of complete serendipity; Katy Ensich in Year 8 had just read out her excellent composition and Andrew was clearly impressed by her clever use of words. Katy then announced that she had met Andrew's late father on a number of occasions through a family connection to the Motions. Andrew's father is the subject of much of his writing and the coincidence clearly moved him.

In the afternoon, Andrew gave a poetry reading to members of our community in the college hall. He took the trouble to dedicate some of his poems to teachers he had spoken to earlier. To me he dedicated a poem called 'Serenade', a particular favourite of mine about the horse his mother had ridden. He was skilled at making every person he spoke to feel special – quite a gift. Afterwards, he answered audience questions and allowed us insights into what it is like for him to be telephoned by the Prime Minister's office or Buckingham Palace about the need to write a poem for a special occasion – a royal birthday or wedding, the death of a famous person and how difficult it is to refuse when Dame Judi Dench, for example, has already been hired to do the official reading! He told us that he manages these very public poems by focussing on the private and the personal dimension.

We all very much enjoyed the visit and the photos of the day are now up on the viewing screen in our reception area.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Lovely jumbly!

THE Linton Guides' Jumble Sale raised £380, making a substantial contribution to funds for our annual capitation fees. Many thanks for turning out your unwanted items and for supporting us on the day.

Friends of Guiding support all Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior section units in Linton and the surrounding villages. We maintain the Guide hut in Balsham Road, recently re-roofed and a new door installed, help to encourage new leaders by contributing toward uniform costs as well as paying for coaches to take the girls to our annual Thinking Day celebrations.

The Friends' annual jumble sale starts at 2pm on 19th April at the Infant school and again we would appreciate your support. Gifts of jumble will be gratefully received in the hall from 10am. Please phone 891715 or 891602 to arrange for jumble to be collected.

Kate France

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by Fiona Harrison

The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

How Cromwell's Roundheads crushed the Linton 16th-17th June rebellion of 1648

TWO hundred and sixty years ago the Linton Rising almost changed the course of history. King Charles I had lost the English Civil War by 1645 but continued to play off the Parliamentary victors in order to reassert his authority. By January 1648 he was a prisoner of the roundhead New Model Army (NMA), commanded by generals Thomas Fairfax, and Oliver Cromwell who virtually ruled the country. The NMA was universally unpopular. High taxation, the abolition of Christmas, local army rule imposed on civilians and disputes over religion all helped to alienate the general populace.

A co-ordinated royalist uprising was organised for the late spring of 1648 and was designed to divide the NMA and then crush it piecemeal. From April royalist rebels in South Wales tied down half the army led by Oliver Cromwell, and in May the Kentish royalists engaged the remaining army units led by Thomas Fairfax. Although the Kentish

rebels were soon defeated, around 3,000 soldiers escaped across the Thames estuary and occupied the fortified town of Colchester on 11th June. Cromwell was powerless to intervene since he now had to rush to the north of England to face an invading Scottish army of 10,000 men. Scotland had now joined the royalist side.

There was a very real chance that the royalists might win. Fairfax left his headquarters at Saffron Walden on 13th June and marched off to besiege the royalist rebels in Colchester some 30 miles away. However, his supply lines ran through our region and were very vulnerable to any rebel attack. Local royalists immediately seized Walden and Audley End, and a rebel force of 500 infantry and cavalry assembled at Linton ready to move on Colchester and raise the siege. Fairfax's army was really quite small and the Linton rebels might easily have recruited several thousand loyalists during their three day march to Colchester. If the town had

been saved and Fairfax defeated who knows what might have happened in the rest of the country.

Events moved swiftly. Hearing of the Linton rising Fairfax despatched 600 roundhead soldiers under Major Sparrow who promptly recaptured Walden and pursued the rebels towards Linton via Little Walden, Bartlow, Chalky Road and Long Lane (now blocked off). The royalists led by Major Muschamp blocked the narrow road in Long Lane with carts but their efforts were to no avail.

The roundhead soldiers then passed through the Grip and advanced down the High Street to the river. They seized the royalist armoury located at present day Richmonds and advanced on the remaining rebel force, now desperately defending the narrow lanes leading to the Church. After a brief skirmish involving several hundred soldiers the rebels agreed to a truce, laid down their arms and dispersed. The royalist leaders were taken to

the Griffin / Crown Inn (at that time located at 35, High Street) where the roundhead victors celebrated their triumph.

The failure of the Linton rebellion demoralised the Colchester garrison which surrendered in late August after a 75-day siege. Two of the leaders were executed and King Charles I was tried and beheaded in January 1649.

All of the local events described above are well documented and there is a lot more detail available. On Saturday 3rd May I will be inaugurating the Linton Children's Book Festival with a special Children's History Walk recreating the battle of Linton. We will follow the route of the roundhead soldiers as they engage the royalist rebels and meet some colourful characters along the way. The walk is suitable for children from nine years upwards – please bring an adult and starts at 2pm – duration one hour. Meet at the top of the Grip. Details from the Bookfest website www.lintonbookfest.org

Well, that's one way to live the life you want...

HAVE you ever wondered about the lives your ancestors led? Or felt that you were born into the wrong time or situation? It seems that someone did – she rewrote her history, changed her name and became involved in the lives of some of the most influential people of her day. That person was the aunt of Margaret Clark, who entertained us at our last ACEs event, a Soup and Rolls lunch on 21st February.

Margaret spoke amusingly

and sympathetically on "The secret life of my Aunt". Born into a humble family in London, her several siblings and that life were soon left behind. Through her work and marriage she moved into a wider social circle, an artistic and cultured group. She was accepted as part of this set, seemed to fit in quite naturally, and was obviously comfortable in her new persona.

Stories of a childhood in a country house in Ireland were

taken to be her own history, and were passed on by her children. Her relatives never knew what became of her, but Margaret found her when researching her family tree, so solving the mystery. How nice to find such an interesting character in your family, rather than having to hide rogues and vagabonds!

By the time you read this, we will have had our coach trip to Anglesey Abbey, and be preparing for our next lunchtime meeting. This will

be at 12 for 12.30pm on April 24th, at the Chalklands Room. Being close to St George's Day, we will have a ploughman's lunch and a quiz with an English theme. Bring your flags and learn the words of *Jerusalem* – maybe Margaret's aunt knew the author...

Call me, or Sue/Tina on 891001 if you need transport. Everyone welcome!

Enid Bald

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THE LINTON NEWS

Next Publication Date 5th May 2008

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Parish Council Matters

Linton parish council and the churchyard of St. Mary's

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

Just a few years ago the parochial church council (PCC) of St. Mary's made an application to the parish council asking that the parish council take over the maintenance of the churchyard. In 1882 the churchyard was formally declared "closed" following an application to the Government by the PCC. This means that the churchyard is full for normal burials, and is closed to further burials, other than those of close relatives, where the grave is owned by the family of the person(s) currently buried therein. Interment of ashes can be permitted by the PCC. The request by the PCC for maintenance of the churchyard to be taken over by a local authority is a statutory provision under the 1972 Local Government Act.

Prior to the request by the PCC to the parish council, the general maintenance was undertaken by a group of volunteers known as the "Monday Gang". Although they have been able to keep the grass and graves in good order they are unable to undertake major works such as the felling of diseased trees and the rebuilding of the deteriorating flint boundary walls of the churchyard.



Southern boundary wall in need of repair

Thus the parish council have set up a churchyard maintenance working group, consisting of members of the parish council and representatives

nominated by the PCC. The remit of the group is to facilitate the major maintenance of our historic churchyard. Major maintenance projects such as paths, walls and trees are funded principally by the parish council, but also by donations from various local charities such as the "Friends of St. Mary's" and the "Anderson Trust". For major projects it is hoped to obtain grants from the local conservation authorities and heritage organisations. It must be emphasised that "new" developments, such as the provision of a path from the new pavilion to the south porch of the church are still the responsibility of the PCC. The parish council can take over maintenance of these new developments once they are in place.

Historical Background

Linton churchyard has been in existence as long as the church, which in part dates back to the Norman times (AD 1066+). We are fortunate that there exists at least two fairly



detailed maps of the area from around AD 1600, and a composite map using information from both principal maps is shown above. This was included in an article on the church by Dr William Mortlock-Palmer, a famous local doctor and antiquarian who lived in Linton from 1900 - 1939. You will note that the church has a tower, which was

destroyed in the great storm of 1703, and that the vicarage was located where the modern church pavilion now stands. It must have been subject to constant flooding, and resulted in the vicarage being first relocated to the building next to the Chinese-takeaway, and then to the large building next to the Infant's School, and finally to the current site (which also was flooded in 2001). The eastern boundary of the churchyard in 1600 is now marked by the line of lime trees, which are to the east of the path to the river. The current churchyard may not appear to be full, but the undulations in the ground indicate where burials have previously taken place. Before the reformation, most churchyards contained few gravestones - some temporary markers perhaps, and a handful of chest tombs for notables unable to secure a tomb inside the church. In the 17th and 18th centuries marker stones became more common, although still only for the relatively well to do. By the mid-19th century most classes of people, however, were commemorated by stones. During Queen Victoria's reign the churchyard became effectively filled, and so an extension into part of Camping Close was made. The iron railings now bound this later part of the churchyard.

The Way Forward

It may seem that action to improve the paths, walls and trees in the churchyard is progressing exceedingly slowly. However, there are several major constraints. Firstly there is the question of financing the activities. The parish council has set aside money for maintenance tasks, but the funds available are limited because of other demands made on the council's budget. So there is a long-term rolling programme of activities to bring the churchyard up to the standard

that both the parish council and the PCC wish to see. Secondly there are the organisations that have to be consulted and give authorisation before any work can take place. As the churchyard is in a conservation area and surrounds a Grade I listed building, many of the following have to be consulted - the parish council, the parochial church council, the diocesan advisory committee, the church architect, English Heritage, South Cambridgeshire planning office, South Cambridgeshire conservation office and the South Cambridgeshire tree officer. To get all to agree on the measures to be taken takes time.

Progress So Far

The eastern boundary iron railings have been repaired and replaced where necessary. It was fortunate that a set of almost identical wrought iron railings were found in Solopark instead of having to have panels constructed out of modern materials, which unlike wrought iron were very much more likely to rust. Once wrought iron develops an oxidised coating it is very resistant to further decay. We have also been fortunate that donations from the Anderson Trust and the Friends of St. Mary's covered the cost of this renovation.

The flint southern boundary wall, which had fallen into very poor state of repair, with some sections collapsed, has been restored at the eastern end up to the pavilion access. Fortunately, where a tree had grown



Gate posts to Church Lane

up in the line of the wall, and where it was not possible to rebuild the wall as the decaying roots of the tree would have made the foundations unstable, it has been possible to place the reclaimed oak gate from the south porch of the church (see photograph below). This



gives access to the maintenance shed in the rectory grounds together with an emergency escape route from the pavilion. In the near future it is planned to remove the sucker limes that have grown up on the base of the wall between the pavilion access and Church Lane and rebuild the flint wall if the base of the old wall is still sound.

The low western boundary wall suffered in many places from the effects of the tree roots of the line of pollarded limes. The first action to be undertaken is the reinstatement to the vertical of the gate posts to Church Lane and the repair of the adjacent part of the wall which has

suffered from the effects of one of the limes (now removed as diseased and rotten). This will enable the re-hanging of the gate to the churchyard (and possibly dissuade the cyclists from hurtling through the churchyard).

Some of the trees in the churchyard are healthy and some are slowly decaying, such as the pollarded limes along the west boundary wall. Many of these are now hollow and if not pollarded would not withstand a strong wind. It is planned to replace these tree with native species, but away from the wall, to prevent further damage. Permission for replanting and the species used must be obtained from the diocese.

The paths are in a poor state and it is planned that these will be resurfaced this year. But once again, the various authorities must approve the type of resurfacing materials.

The Monday Gang continue to keep the churchyard and the graves tidy, and from Christmas onwards the churchyard is carpeted with a mass of snowdrops, aconites, anemones, daffodils and later bluebells which makes a walk through the churchyard a very pleasing experience.

Photos supplied by Cllr Cox.

Cllr B Cox

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council - Mrs Sue Parry

Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Office hours : Monday 9am-12noon, & 4-5.30pm, Tuesday-Friday 9am-12noon

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Dates for full Council meetings:

April 3rd, 17th and May 1st and 15th 2008

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AGM Tues 22nd April 8pm in Village Hall

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

Meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 7th February 2008 commencing at 8pm. Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White; Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cox, Daly and Gee.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January not already listed

- Item 184 - Clarification regarding the appointment of a grass contractor. It was confirmed that the invitation to tender had been advertised in accordance with the council’s financial regulations.

Item 185 - Regarding the issue of recycling bins. It was agreed to: pursue the disused lay-by/former road on Bartlow Road as a possible site for the recycling bins in place of Coles Lane car park; write to Linton Village College, in conjunction with Cambridgeshire county council, to suggest the College as another possible site for the recycling bins. Contact South Cambs district council to ascertain the need for all current recycling bins.

Reports from Co-ordinators

Recreation Ground - Item 35 Quotation from Anglian Playgrounds - The council gave retrospective approval for expenditure on urgent safety works to items of play equipment on the recreation ground. Cllr Gore had circulated a report regarding the meeting with pavilion users. It was agreed that there was a need for a designated car park for users of the recreation ground and pavilion. Councillors wishing to join a sub committee to investigate the matter were asked to contact the clerk. It was agreed to take further steps to obtain a quotation for works required to address the problem of flooding at the Meadow Lane entrance.

Cemetery - Cllr Bald reported that a working party would be tidying up the cemetery on the morning of Saturday 8th March, with Saturday 22nd March as a reserve day in the event of adverse weather. She was still pursuing grant funding.

Rights of Way - Cllr Rossiter reported that she had walked the majority of footpaths and trimmed hedges as necessary.

Venture Playground - Cllr Hammett reported that the repair of the cargo net was in hand and two swing seats had been replaced.

Leadwell Meadows - Item 38 Quotation from L Westlake - The council gave retrospective approval for expenditure on urgent health and safety work to replace hinges on the Pocket Park gate and other related work. Cllr White reported that the gate had been very well repaired. Item 46 Quotation from Herald re bark chippings. It was agreed not to proceed further with the matter.

Glebe Land - Item 45 M Holden request for notice board on Glebe land. It was agreed that the clerk should advise Mr Holden that as the lease of the land was determinable on six months notice the council did not consider it appropriate to put up a notice board.

Churchyard - The clerk reported that planning permission had been received for the new path.

A1307 - Cllr Cornell had circulated a written report. The county council intended to reduce the speed limit between Hadstock Road and the dual carriageway near Horseheath to 50 mph. No immediate steps to reduce speed limits on other sections of the road were anticipated.

Allotments - Item 34 Letter from P W Balaam regarding the use of land for allotments - It was agreed that Cllr Gore should write to Mr Balaam. Cllr Cornell reported that a meeting of the allotment working party had taken place, attended by herself, Cllrs Potter and Rossiter and several residents. The residents had been asked to identify sites, which would be suitable for allotments and report back in six weeks. She explained the process for the compulsory purchase of land for use as allotments but advised that this would only be used as a last resort.

Correspondence list for discussion

Item 21 - V Harris request for use of recreation ground for fun fair. Cllr Bald proposed that the council should grant permission

for Mr Harris to use the recreation ground from 14th to 17th May at a cost of £110 on the same terms and conditions as in previous years. The proposal was agreed.

Item 32 - Dept of Communities and Local Government - Consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of LA members in England. The letter was noted.

Item 37 - J Cobb - letter regarding quotations. It was agreed that the matter would be pursued with the parochial church council and the diocese.

Item 39 - Quotation for £85.00 from L Westlake to install a dog bin in Paynes Meadow was accepted. It was agreed that the cost would be met from the Paynes Meadow budget. The clerk confirmed that the costs would be recharged to South Cambridgeshire district council. Quotation for £415.00 from L Westlake to pave shingle area in Paynes Meadow was accepted. It was agreed that the cost would be met from the Paynes Meadow budget. Quotations for £240.00 and £250.00 from L Westlake to lay gravel at Horn Lane bridge and to install a retaining board to combat erosion at Horn Lane bridge was accepted. It was agreed that the costs would be met from the repairs and maintenance budget.

Replacement of damaged and missing litter bins.

The clerk reported that the litter bin on the recreation ground by the picnic table needed to be replaced following vandalism. Liners were also missing from a bin on Camping Close and one in Horn Lane. Cllr Hickford proposed that a new bin and liner be purchased for the recreation ground at a cost of £182 + VAT and it was agreed by the meeting. Cllr Rossiter proposed that two liners be purchased at a cost of £49 + VAT each and it was agreed by the meeting. Cllr Potter agreed to arrange for all three liners to be padlocked in.

Reports from Councillors

It was reported that following the arson attack and break-in at the pavilion a youth had been given a four month referral notice and ordered to pay court costs and compensation to the Football Club.

Meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 21st February 2008 commencing at 8pm. Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, S Daly, M Gee, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White; Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear, Mrs K France (press), PCSO Z Huseyin and PCSO L Allan were in attendance. There were no apologies for absence.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2008 not already listed

Item 196 xi: Cllr Cornell stated that following advice from South Cambridgeshire district council a form had been sent to all prospective allotment holders asking for confirmation of their interest. The district council had also advised that a meeting should be held with Mr Balaam to ascertain his detailed proposals. She would not be attending meetings of the allotments working party pending clarification of whether she might have a prejudicial interest. Cllr Gore agreed to circulate a note clarifying the nature of declarable interests.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues

PCSO Zally Huseyin advised the meeting that she and her fellow PCSOs were still employed on high visibility patrols following the spate of burglaries. There had been engagement with young people from the village who were keen to meet to discuss issues of anti-social behaviour. The police in conjunction with the village college had drafted a letter to be sent to any parent of a child found illegally drinking. She reiterated the importance of reporting incidents involving illegal drinking and anti social behaviour. Cllr Gore thanked PCSOs Huseyin

and Allan for their attendance and report.

Reports from county councillor

County councillor Batchelor reported that the county council’s council tax was set to rise by 5% in the coming year. It was anticipated that each county councillor would be allocated £10,000 from the budget for 2009/10 for local distribution.

Concerns were raised as to the effectiveness of the neighbourhood panels.

Cllr Batchelor was asked to investigate the problem of buses clipping the ‘give way’ sign at the junction of the High Street and Coles Lane.

Discussion took place and concerns were raised as to how highway repairs were prioritised under the recently awarded long term contract between the county council and Atkins.

Report from the district councillors

Cllr Batchelor reported that the audit commission report was due on 20th March and that plastic kerbside recycling was back on the agenda the district council’s council tax was likely to rise by 4.9% in the coming year.

Cllr Bald commented that council housing refurbishment was taking too long resulting in loss of revenue and housing available for those in need.

Pavements - update on condition

Cllr Gore thanked councillors who had submitted their reports and urged others to report back as soon as possible. The clerk reported that Keith Faunch, county council highways, had confirmed that the pavements in Tower View would be resurfaced.

Risk assessments and assets register

A report from Cllr Gore had been circulated. A format for the risk assessment form has been agreed and forms should be distributed to lead co-ordinators by the end of next week. All

risk assessments should be carried out before the 20th March meeting. A computer assets register program had been identified and was currently being used on a free trial. It was agreed to buy our own copy.

Written reports from Council representatives

Cllr Rossiter had submitted reports on: CPALC Assembly meeting on 19th January, Cambridge council for voluntary services meeting on 29th January, CPALC AGM on 2nd February and a report on the launch of the participation inquiry on ‘strengthening the role of local councils’ by the commission for rural comities on 31st January in Westminster. Councillors should give feedback direct to Cllr Rossiter.

Correspondence received and for discussion

Item 14 - C Preston - Request for information regarding her boundary with the recreation ground and permission to erect a boundary fence. It was agreed Cllr Gore should seek a meeting with Ms Preston.

Item 30 - Linton Co-op - Request for permission to site two wheelie bins on side wall - As this was a highways matter, it had been referred to Cllr Batchelor to arrange a meeting with interested parties.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Gee reported that information regarding the flight path changes for Stansted Airport can be found on www.nats.co.uk.

Cllr Cox reported that a tree in the churchyard was unsafe. Cllr Bald reported that she and Mrs Anderson, the tree warden, had viewed possible places for further planting on the recreation ground and trimmed the hedge around the pumping station.

Note: copies of reports and documents referred to in these minutes can be inspected at the council office.

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