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## WACKY JUBILEE RACES RAISE £2000 FOR LOCAL CHARITIES [Top](#)



Wacky racers tackle the High Street...



and they're still smiling at the ford.

AN estimated £2,000 plus has been raised for two Linton Charities, The Fire Service (FSNBF) and Chestnut Playgroup, through the antics of the 36 teams (72 runners) entered in the Crown Inn Wacky Races held on Jubilee Bank Holiday Monday.

The Crown Inn were proud to be the organisers and main sponsor of the event and promise to make this an annual spectacle that the whole village can join in with to benefit Linton charities every year.

The race (loosely based on an old-fashioned pram race) took in all the pubs and clubs of Linton and proved a huge success with over 1,000 spectators lining the streets to squirt the contestants with water pistols and water and flour bombs. The Fire Service assisted professionally in the soaking with two pumps turned on the bedraggled chariots as they negotiated the ford in the heart of Linton. The High Street was closed for three hours to allow the event to take place, which gave everyone the freedom to wander freely around the village without the threat of traffic.

The standard of fancy dress and calibre of the chariots was exceptional - from an old bath on wheels to converted wheelchairs, wheelbarrows and go-carts, all of them barely recognisable such was the extent of modification. The hilarious start to the event was heralded by the Grand Prix soundtrack and as they hurtled down the hill to the strains of 'Wacky Races' the sight brought out spectators and supporters from all around the village. Some older spectators who remember the Coronation were even camped out on the pavement from midday to ensure they did not miss the celebrations.

There were ice-creams, flags and sideshow stalls for the children and plenty of photo opportunities for their parents.

'Team Platoon', Martin Head and Andy Dodd, won the one mile race in under 10 minutes. The Best Fancy Dress prize went to Simon Pettit and Andy Lines as The Boulder Brothers. Last past the post were Penelope Pit-Stop and Co (Katie Wiseman

and Jenny Price) who finished in just under an hour, pink PVC hotpants and crash helmets still intact.

This was an amazing turnout and show of support for the Queen's Golden Jubilee and an event that will be talked about for a long time to come in Linton.

If you have photos or anecdotes about the race to share, please contact Louise Gooden.

Louise Gooden.

## **STILL WAITING FOR THAT BUS?** [Top](#)

When three buses out of five failed to arrive in one week, Tracey Wilson tackled James Bradley of Stagecoach

IN February 2000, an article in the Linton News ('Why are we waiting? Misery on Linton's buses') recorded the disgruntlement of regular users of the service. The service improved for a while after seven new buses were purchased but since 'Citi' buses have appeared it seems rural routes are being neglected, and buses are missed out with alarming regularity. My own employers have been understanding, but I wonder how people cope when they are late for appointments, or cannot pick up their children from school on time.

I recently attended a Bus User's Surgery held at 10am on a working day, when most of the bus users were at work, and spoke to James Bradley, who was brought in to try to sort out Stagecoach's problems in Cambridge and the surrounding area. This is what he had to say.

TW: The Government is trying to promote the use of Public Transport. Is there no fund that can be accessed for extra, sturdier vehicles for longer routes?

JB: There are no Government subsidies available to bus companies to purchase any types of vehicle.

TW: Whilst waiting for late/non-existent buses, it is annoying to see so many 'Citi' buses going past. Why can't some of these buses be moved temporarily to the 113 route to pick up the slack?

JB: I appreciate that this must be frustrating to customers. However, we cannot just pull buses off one service to cover another. We really do have to put the problems right on the 113 service and then our customers won't be frustrated.

TW: Why were the new bus timetables not available until the actual day times changed?

JB: I can only apologise for this. It is not the way we should treat our customers and I will make sure that any future service changes are advertised well in advance.

TW: Who checked route timings? Some of the journeys are not achievable.

JB: The timings are tried and tested over a period of days to try and ensure that sufficient time is given. We will monitor these and if necessary input more time where necessary to ensure that the timetable is achievable.

TW: You recently acknowledged that there is a problem on the 113 route, but why is there no communication with passengers? Surely notices in the buses to let passengers know how you are addressing the problems would help?

JB: I think the customers would rather see the problems solved than posters saying

we are aware of problems. We are looking at them and our efforts have been concentrated in trying to find a longstanding solution.

TW: Your drivers suffer a lot of abuse from irate passengers when the buses do not show. Why is there no communication between the drivers and between the drivers and the depot?

JB: The radio system is old and many vehicles are without radios. We are looking at new and different systems. Many drivers do help by carrying and using their own mobile phones, although these must not be used while the vehicle is in motion.

TW: Why are there no fuel gauges on the buses?

JB: Many bus manufacturers simply do not fit gauges to buses.

TW: The coach from Drummer Street at 15.25 is often full before it gets to Addenbrookes because there are two double deckers sent to Linton Village College. Is it necessary for both school time buses to be double deckers?

JB: The loadings from Linton College suggest that we do need to provide double decker vehicles for school time journeys.

TW: Whom should passengers contact, should the bus be very late or not turn up at all?

JB: Customers should contact % 01223 423578 with any problems they encounter. This number should be answered from 5am until midnight seven days per week.

TW: Do you have anything to add regarding the current problems and your plans to solve them?

JB: I can promise all of our customers that we will continue to try to solve all of the problems and improve service on the 113 to a level that our customers deserve. I am sure the odd letter to Mr Bradley will remind him that we are still waiting for a decent, reliable service!

## **‘HE HAS LEFT A LASTING MONUMENT TO LINTON’**

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THE obituaries in the national press of Jeremy Bray, who died on May 31st at his home in Horn Lane, Linton, spoke of an important figure in public life. They described his outstanding academic career, his years as an MP (from 1962-1970 and 1974-97), his time as a minister in the first Wilson government, and his major contribution to national science policy and the relationship between government and science over the last 40 years. They also referred to his rational and honest approach to politics, the very antithesis of modern spin.

However, those who knew him during his last years after he and wife Elizabeth had come to live in Linton saw the private figure. In particular, Jeremy Bray, a Methodist lay preacher for most of his adult life, played an important part in the life of St Mary’s church. As well as encouraging the development of lay ministry within the congregation, he sought to widen their understanding of the great issues of the day. He invited a key figure in the Human Genome project to speak about this work to the church and hoped to develop these activities, with a series of discussions about other great issues, such as the relationship between science, politics and religion. Sadly,

these hopes were frustrated by illness whose onset pre-dated his move to Linton. Yet Jeremy Bray may have left a lasting monument in Linton. With his awareness of the importance of science to the everyday world, he was responsible for interesting Cambridge University in the scientific issues raised by the Linton flood. The University has now received national funding for a detailed study of the Granta river system, which may yet lead to the discovery of ways to prevent such a flood happening again.

In combining academic study with steps to try and find practical solutions to problems affecting the lives of real people, this study illustrates Jeremy Bray's belief that science and research can make a fundamental difference to the lives of ordinary people.

Andrew and Lesley Gore

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL** Reported By GAHAM POTTER [Top](#)

### Parish Council's June meeting

THE meeting started off with a member of the public congratulating the council on its Golden Jubilee Bank Holiday Celebrations. The events on the recreation Ground included the official dedication of the Golden Jubilee Trees and memorial stone followed by various races and games, plus a bouncy castle and a hamburger stand and cake stall. This was also the reaction of several parishioners who had written to the Council offering their congratulations. Council also congratulated the Crown Public House on the successful Wacky Races.

Reports were given of unsatisfactory grass cutting at various points within the village, including the cemetery, and that County Council highways contractors had been spraying weeds in high winds, which had meant that spray drifted onto peoples' gardens. This is being investigated.

The two small swings on the venture playground are awaiting renewal.

The Council have been offered a draft lease for Paynes Meadow (at the top of Chalklands ) for five years. Council rejected this because of the level of rent in the fourth and fifth years and a time limit on opening times, making the conditions unworkable.

There is some doubt whether the Fair will return next year, following a break-in during their last visit.

Council are to investigate the feasibility of Wildlife and River Wardens. This will be discussed further at the July Meeting.

Linton council agreed to support Balsham council in requesting a traffic restriction order on the Roman Road from the County Council.

Council agreed to assist the Linton Rainbows with a Jubilee outing and to sponsor a floral arrangement at the Church Flower festival.

The request for funding from Awards For All for skateboard equipment had failed but South Cambs. has agreed to 50% funding so the funding application can be resubmitted.

# **FAMILY FUN AND BLOOD LETTING**

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THE June meeting of the Camera Club was an informal presentation of photographs taken by Mike Crofts and John Keeble.

Mike showed conventional and digital prints that he took at the recent Oxfam Walk and at the Jubilee Wacky Races event. The photographs caught the spirit of the day.

Prints were chosen for use on the village website, [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info).

In contrast Mike showed a series of slides taken at Tollesbury and Maldon during the club's recent awayday. Mike's excellent slides captured the early morning atmosphere of the ships and buildings on the estuary and his Maldon slides gave an overview of the attraction of the town and the riverside walk.

John's slides were taken during a religious festival in southern Thailand in the monsoon season. They portrayed the participation by priests and local townspeople in the festival and the parade that followed.

Not for the squeamish, some slides showed the level of mutilation which the priests and others go through in the name of religion to purify themselves, their families and their community. The slides of the parade captured the frenzy of the people, the daredevil attitude of the firework squad and their complete disregard for health and safety at work. The slides are truly unique and were enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be at 11am on Sunday 14th July at the Social Centre. Just turn up.

Alex Todd

# **LOCAL ARTISTS OPEN THEIR STUDIOS**

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SEVERAL artists in the Linton area are opening their studios again this year in order to exhibit their recent work. They are taking part in Cambridge Open Studios, when 250 artists throughout the region open their doors for one weekend or more during July. This is an opportunity to have a look at the latest work in the studios where it has been created. Visitors come and go throughout the day between 11am and 6pm and are free to look around at leisure. All the studios are open free of charge.

Participating artists in our area include:

Neil Gardener, 18 Cambridge Road (behind Cambridge van centre). Studio open 13th-14th, 20th-21st and 27th-28th July. Neil specialises in seascapes and landscapes and architecture using watercolour and gouache techniques.

Katherine Fairey, The Grip Farm. Studio open 13th-14th and 20th-21st July.

Katherine produces brightly coloured acrylic and mixed media paintings largely inspired by themes of the sea and landscape.

Susan Jones, 11a Joiners Road. Studio open 6th-7th, 13th-14th and 20th-21st July.

Susan paints interior and exterior landscapes, abstract paintings and prints using acrylics and mixed media.

Philip Blakeley, 8a The Grip. Studio open 13th-14th and 20th-21st July. Philip paints people in a context which seeks to express their personality.

Sue Walker, Yew Trees Farmhouse, Linton Road, Hadstock. Studio open 20th-21st

and 27th-28th July. Sue produces colourful abstracts and landscapes inspired by nature and travel.

Look out for the yellow Cambridge Open Studio flags to help locate the studios.

## **WI MEETING IS A PICNIC** [Top](#)

LAST month, on a fine though chilly evening, over 20 members, complete with picnic chairs and baskets, met in the garden of WI President, Wendy Foster. Before the meal, Clare Neville led a small group on a walk down the High Street and Horn Lane, pointing out many interesting houses, giving information about their history and setting them in historical context.

Members later enjoyed looking round Wendy's garden, which provided such a pleasant setting for the picnic.

The next meeting takes place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd July in the Social Centre. The speaker on 'Pets as therapy' is Sandra Oliver, who will be bringing her dog. Visitors are welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES** [Top](#)

Dear Editor,

We hear a lot about 'rights' these days. Human rights, rights of men, rights of women, rights of children, animal rights, etc. We are all too familiar with this poignant subject. People seem to know their 'rights' and quite rightly so, after all access to such information needs to be a basic right! However, few people ever mention the responsibilities that come with these rights. We have the right to drive up and down the High Street but we are required to act responsibly in respect of the narrow footpaths. We have the right to take our beers down by the river, but we need to take responsibility for the empties too. We can barely imagine the appalling pain suffered by some small creatures as their cellular structures break down in alcoholic vapours stuck inside empty beer tins and bottles carelessly discarded, or the innocent bird, dog or walker gashing their ankles on such detritus.

Oh well! Just a thought! And isn't it nice to have the right to express our thoughts in the Linton News?

Darryl Nantais

## **WORTH POINTING OUT?** [Top](#)

Dear Editor,

In reply to the letter last month from Kate France about the facade of No 132 High Street ('The lost comfort of old dirt'), I have no problem with the asymmetry of the door as this can add interest where uniformity is sometimes uninspiring. However, I do feel that the contrasting bricks around the door and windows have not been

improved by the black paint on some of their mortar. It may be some time before this dulls down to a comfortable shade.

No doubt the new occupiers will be surprised by this interest in their home. I do hope that they will be very happy in it.

Name and address supplied

## **GREAT FUN: NOW LET'S DO IT AGAIN!**

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Dear Editor

I would like through the Linton News to express a 'big thank you' to all the organisers and competitors of the 'Wacky Races' held on Jubilee Day.

They had all gone to such trouble with their modes of transport and costumes and took their 'soakings' in such good part and in doing so gave us, the onlookers, a great deal of amusement. It was such fun and reminded some of us when the village got together for the Carnivals.

Please do it again - we all need laughter in this day and age.

Clare Neville

## **THEY MADE IT A DAY TO REMEMBER**

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Dear Editor,

I think that a big vote of thanks should go to the Linton Parish Council, to everyone at The Crown and The Dog and Duck and to all participants in the various events, for bringing such a sparkle to the village on Jubilee Monday.

It's nice to think that in years to come there'll be such special local memories of what nationally has been a memorable weekend.

Iris Jeffery

## **RACES WILL BE ANNUAL EVENT**

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Dear Editor

We are still feeling completely overwhelmed at the turnout and incredible support for the Wacky Races event we organised to help commemorate the Golden Jubilee. I have been in the village for eight years now and I don't think I have ever seen so many people of all ages out on the street enjoying themselves. It was a fantastic display of community spirit and reminded me why I choose to live in such a thriving village. What a response!

As well as the competitors, who made the most magnificent efforts with their 'chariots' and fancy dress, there were a number of others behind the scenes who helped enormously. Thanks go to Alec and Ann Lavery for their organisational skills, Highwood Florist for the winners' wreaths, McKenzie & Hayward for the use of their forecourt, Area Scaffolding, Andy Webb for the sound system, and especially to PC Andy Denzey for policing the event and helping to keep the road clear. We'd also



like to thank all our loyal and hardworking members of staff who all gave a lot of their time to ensure the event went smoothly.

Such has been the response that we are now planning to make this an annual event to benefit Linton-based charities every year. We have been pledged in excess of £2000 this year and hope to present a cheque to Chestnuts Playgroup and the Fire Service in July. Anyone who still has sponsorship money to hand in please bring it to The Crown or send a cheque as soon as possible.

Thank you to everybody who helped make this such a memorable event.

Louise and Joel

The Crown

## **Our thanks** [Top](#)

Dear Editor,

May I through your paper, thank all the good people for their good wishes, cards and gifts on my birthday last week. I really did enjoy it and their presence made it so much more enjoyable. So a big thank you to you all.

Win Swift

Dear Editor

We would like to thank everyone who came along and supported us on our Charity Walk. We raised £180 and £250 was given as a donation.

£51 was collected in coins which was given to sponsor a tree. It was a lovely evening and enjoyed by all who came along. Hope to see you all again next year.

Daphne Brazier

2nd Linton Brownies

## **K-CLUB JUNE WINNERS** [Top](#)

THE winners of the K-Club June monthly draw: 1st (£50) Catherine Powell (No. 199); 2nd (£25) Hazel Lunan (No. 352); 3rd (£10) Sarah Harrison (No. 137).

## **FLOWER FESTIVAL DELIGHTS** [Top](#)



The Brownies' magnificent Coronation coach

THE theme 'To everything there is a season' gave great scope for ideas at the Flower Festival at St Mary's last month, from the skilfully managed arrangement depicting the foot and mouth funeral pyres to ingenious depictions of the village before and after October's floods. The Guides' and Brownies' stunning tableaux of the Jubilee celebrations in the South Porch brought smiles of delight, while the touching personal tribute to Pat Maddison brought tears to the eyes. Several regular exhibitors were unable to take part this year but arrangements came from Haverhill (including a stunning High Altar piece) and the younger generation were strongly represented by the playgroups, Sunday School and Linton Action for Youth. More pictures can be seen on the Linton News website. LNT



an extra on the web site

**GREAT KICK START FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS** [Top](#)

THANKS to everyone for joining the Parish Council Jubilee celebrations on the recreation ground and making it a day to remember. We began by gathering around the Jubilee Trees, each one boasting a golden bow, and cheered when children helped remove the golden cover from the commemorative stone. The cheering continued as the children joined in the various sports activities. The younger children hopped, skipped, jumped in sacks or ran with an egg and spoon to the finishing line. The finale was the hobby horse races. What a magnificent set of hobby horses we had lined up at the starting line. It was neck and neck most of the course and although there has to be a winner all the children did really well and should be congratulated. The older children put their football, basketball and bowling skills to the test with the winners having to fight off a lot of stiff competition.

Those not feeling energetic gathered in groups to enjoy their picnics and the tasty burgers and hotdogs expertly cooked by Peter Dixon and Judy Rossiter.

Our thanks go to Kay Storey for sewing the ribbon bows and golden shroud, Julie Stock for organising the younger children's races with Kay and to Ian Storey for organising the football.

Here are the results of the sporting events. Winners and runners up all received a special cup.

2-7 year old races: skipping/hopping: Jack Turner; bean bag obstacle: Amy Pleasant; sack race: James Paterson; egg & spoon: Rebecca Prevost; hobby horse: 2-4 year old Abi Dixon; 5-7 year old Jack Turner; best dressed hobby horse: 2-4 year old Kieran Donnolly; 5-7 year old Sam Clayton; bowling competition: girls' winner Natasha Taylor, runner-up Joanna Howe; boys' winner Fuad Musallam, runner-up Callum Jacobs; 8-11 penalty shoot out: winner Luke Kinsey, runner-up Samuel Simmons; 12-15 penalty shoot out: winner Luke Crzoska, runner-up David Stock; basketball shoot out: girls' winner Joanna Howe, runner-up Natasha Taylor; boys' winner Callum Jacobs, runner-up Dan Jacobs.

If you have not ordered golden jubilee coins for any child under 17 please fill in the form which was delivered with the June issue of the Linton News or contact the Parish clerk on % 891001. Val Urwin



8-11 penalty shoot out winner Luke Kinsey receives his cup from Val Urwin

## BOUNCY FUN AND WATER PISTOLS AT THE READY







THE rain held off and as Linton turned out in full for the Jubilee celebrations, it was clear that some had been preparing for the day well in advance. From the children's hobby horses to the Wacky Racers' chariots, the village was a lively spectacle of colour and noise. Here are some memories of the day captured by local photographers. Many more can be seen on [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info). From the top: Judy Rossiter preparing hamburgers and hotdogs (photograph by Peter Dixon); Vikings Neil Harmer and James Dobson attack the High Street (Linton News). Joe George and Sam Prior as Trotters Independent Traders (Linton News); cooling off the racers at the ford (Mike Crofts); residents enjoying the Rhugarve Gardens and Crossways garden party (Mike Crofts); LNT



Young hobby horse racers, ready for the off

WERE you one of the parents hastily looking for a broom handle to decorate for the hobby horse competition, or did you have your hands full repeatedly filling up their water pistols to squirt at the Wacky Racers? Here's what some younger villagers thought of the Jubilee fun.

'I had a really good time on the bouncy castle but I didn't like it when the fireman's hose drenched me.'

Charlotte Cornell Jones (age 6)

'I was next to my dad on the bridge while he soaked everybody. That was fun to

watch especially as I didn't get wet.'

Elise Fletcher

'I felt special because I won a cup for the best dressed hobby horse.'

Sam Clayton (age 6)

'I really enjoyed the scone that I bought from the Guides stall.'

Jessica West (age 10)

'I liked everything about that day at the park.'

Nathan Banks (age 5)

Tracey Russell

## **IN AT THE START: CORONATION MEMORIES**

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JUNE 2nd 1953 was declared a national holiday - hurrah, a day off school and a chance to see the Coronation on television. Our next-door-but-one neighbours, whom I thought must be very rich, had one of those new-fangled gadgets. They kindly invited the near neighbours to share in this momentous occasion and a lot of people crammed into their small front room. The curtains were drawn as this was necessary for viewing in those days and the very tiny screen was enhanced by an additional magnifying screen.

The excitement had been building up for weeks with much singing of patriotic songs and the drawing of union flags, always making sure that they were the right way up! Our school teachers had encouraged us to put information and our thoughts about the coming event into a scrap book (later called 'doing a project'!). I was particularly proud of a 3D cut-out model of the state coach which my father came across and contributed to my effort.

All school children received a book about the Coronation and a commemorative mug. My sister, who was at High School, had been given one which was a different shape from mine and I thought hers was much more interesting. We had heard the day before that Everest had been climbed by John Hunt's team members, Edmund Hillary and sherpa Tensing. This seemed to me such a wonderfully patriotic achievement, innocently believing that it had in fact happened on that day and blissfully unaware of the spin government advisors were capable of even then. So there we were at the eagerly awaited time, listening to the adults making disappointed comments about the rain, but I thought it was all wonderful even though the picture was in black and white and I really couldn't see things very clearly. I remember being surprised that it didn't go on all day and soon we were standing for the national anthem.

There were still other events to anticipate, and in contrast to that rainy day I remember a children's tea party which took place in a friend's garden in brilliant sunshine. It was surprising what a good spread our mothers managed even though many treats were still rationed: or were we just easily impressed? Gloria Fidler

# SKATEBOARDERS' FUNDING SUCCESS

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Local skateboarders look to the future

FOLLOWING a meeting with the Parish Council in April, we are pleased to report that South Cambs District Council have agreed to fund 50% of the proposed cost of a skateboarding facility in Linton. An application for Sport England funding will be made on 17th July.

A skateboarding facility has been the dream of a number of enthusiastic teenagers for over three years and this funding success is a tribute to their perseverance.

We would like to express sincere thanks to the local business community who have generously offered financial support. The fund now stands at well over £500.

Plans are being drawn up to site a ramp for beginners and expert users close to the Drop-In Centre on the recreation ground. Orientation, location and design are being given special consideration to minimise impact on local residents.

Many residents will benefit indirectly from the project, with the prospect of safer roads and pavements in the village.

Support has been given by PC Andy Denzey, Community Education Officer Colin Thomas, Linton Sports Centre manager Mark Wilson and manager of the Drop-In Centre Liz Govier, together with a number of local residents.

Queries relating to this project should be addressed to the project coordinator, John Creedy, or Gill Barker, clerk to the Parish Council % 891001.

John Creedy

[john.creedy@btinternet.com](mailto:john.creedy@btinternet.com)

## READING AT THE LIBRARY

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THE next meeting of the reading group will take place at 7.15pm on Wednesday 3rd July in the Library.

Members choose a book from a list drawn up at each meeting. If you are interested, there are copies of this month's books behind the counter at the Library. The four books are: Waterland by Graham Swift, Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne, Emma by Jane Austen and Down Under by Bill Bryson.

For further details contact Linda Pearson.

## BUSINESSES REOPEN IN HIGH STREET

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THE Village Pharmacy, closed since October's floods, is to reopen on 22nd July. Deepa Bhachoo, Linton's pharmacist, told the Linton News: 'The High Street is buzzing with a lot of activity and positiveness, quite a contrast to the despondency we felt only a few months ago. Closure of the pharmacy has caused frustration to the customers and us alike. We look forward to seeing properties in the High Street reoccupied and life returning to normality once more. See you all soon.' LNT

## **'THANKS TO ALL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PATIENCE'** [Top](#)

BY the time you read this, we hope that the electrical shop will be back in business. It seems a very long time since the village was devastated by floods, but since then there has been an enormous amount of work done to the various properties affected, especially in the last two months. It has been a very long, and at times frustrating, business, but we are very glad to be nearing the end of it. We would like to thank Colin Watkins and all the other local craftsmen who have worked so hard to make the reopening possible. We would also like to thank the village and the Parish Council for their support and patience.

We look forward to seeing you again, now the shop and workshop are open.  
John, Lorna & Andre Tournant

## **GOOD NEWS BUT STILL NO FENCING FOR INFANTS** [Top](#)

WHEN OFSTED inspected the Infants' School four years ago, inspectors were appalled at the open aspect of the site. Although it is delightful, the children's safety has to be a priority. Since then the fence has been a regular item at governors' meetings. Planning permission was granted in Autumn 2001, but there are unresolved legal issues regarding access rights across the playground. The school is not involved in the legal debates, but the site is not secure and the school continues to suffer vandalism and littering during evenings and weekends.

On a more exciting note, we were delighted to learn that the school has won a School Achievement Award. The Minister of State for School Standards said that it was for substantially improved results between 1998 and 2001. The award takes the form of a small financial bonus for members of staff employed in the 2000/2001 school year. It is good to have the hard work of all the staff acknowledged in this way.

The whole school celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a picnic before half term. Everyone was invited to wear red, white and blue and Miss Greenhalgh, the Headteacher, amused the children by arriving dressed as the Queen!

Sue Mudge

## **VILLAGE WEBSITE GOES ONLINE** [Top](#)

THE Linton village website, [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info), now offers a wider range of information and photographs for your use and enjoyment. There is a search facility if you want to pull together all the information on any subject and the site is growing all the time.

The website is split into four sections at the moment.

**Village Diary:** This section covers the entire year and is updated regularly as more material comes in. You can search it for events - or for dates, if you are organising your own event and do not want a clash. If you want to add your event to the diary (which is also printed monthly in the Linton News in a shorter version), just call Andrea Harrison on email from the diary web page. It is worth having a chat with Andrea because we can now offer more options for promoting your event at no cost to you.

In the diary section, you will also find the first version of a venues page which will eventually list all the places you can use and the information you will need.

**Linton News:** Each issue of the Linton News goes on the web and the old issues are archived. The archive, covering more than two years, is valuable for background information on whatever interests you in the village.

In this section, there is also an In Full section, where we publish articles in full after the paper has edited them for space reasons. We can also use additional photographs in this section and link to other sites. Last month's In Full and Linton News articles on broadband web links have drawn together a group of people in the village with this need and may lead to cooperation in finding an answer. What could it do for you?

**Village directory:** The first of the village directory sections has gone live - Open Hours, which shows the times for shops and offices, including the library and the parish council office. Sport and education are expected to be next.

**Special reports:** There are many interesting aspects that can be covered by reports and photographs prepared for the website - subjects that need a little length, colour photos and maybe website links. The first of these can be seen now: pictures from last autumn's floods (use Search to get all the reports too), the Oxfam Walk and, just put on, Jubilee celebrations and the Flower Festival. This is open to all: call John Keeble if you have a project in mind.

In addition: we are developing a village links page, with helpful contacts and information on ways of getting people into your club or organisation - and sites on any subject being run by local people (at the moment, they include radio telescopes and wine, pictures of local villages, on the road in South East Asia and local art). Get yours on now so that we can all admire and use it.

Don't forget that you can contact the website editor and the editor of the Linton News through the website. We welcome your comments about the web pages and your suggestions for new sections and links, and improvements to the appearance and contents of pages. John Keeble

**THE BUSH TELEGRAPH** [Top](#)

It has not been a good year for teaching Religious Studies. These days the subject

encompasses much more than it did when I was at school. We explore comparative religions, we cover ethics and morality, nationalism and patriotism, we look at justice, human rights, equality, racism, and all the things that make us human; all this within an understanding of the moral codes that underpin most religions.

As we know, September presented some appalling challenges, another war was waged in Afghanistan and violence continued in the Middle East. At home racism reared its head in Oldham and Burnley and M Le Pen did his best to destabilise France. Through all this pupils must continue to be led to an understanding of events that goes beyond the headlines, one that offers insight into the struggles facing humans all over the world. They must be shown that this will soon be their world and what they think and do will have a profound effect on the future they in turn create for their children: a pretty formidable task.

Sometimes things do come right, though, and in the unlikeliest of ways. Not so long ago much of football was also gloomy; on a different scale of course but still pretty depressing. Many in our national team were less than inspiring, over indulged playboys who thought they could do no wrong. Similarly, some supporters put their country to shame through their appalling behaviour. There was nothing there that a Religious Studies teacher, searching for examples of the best of the human spirit, like optimism, fortitude, an open hearted embracing of others for a common cause, could build on. How things have changed. We may or may not still be 'in' when you read this but we can look back and be pleased with what we have done. Our players have stood out as young, positive role models. Our supporters, more multi-racial than they have ever been, have behaved superbly well and a sense of the global village and the human family has pervaded our TV screens and newspapers. We have shown the early morning matches on big screens here at LVC and we've all celebrated together. A couple of children summed it up for me when they said, 'We don't really like football Mr Bush but thanks for putting this on, it felt really good to be part of it.' Nicely put, but honestly, football – who'd have thought it! Clive Bush, Principal

## **THIRD TIME UNLUCKY** [Top](#)

THIEVES are on the rampage with local tradesmen their targets. In the early hours of Friday 14th June, several vans containing work tools and equipment were broken into in Linton . For Kevin Meeks it is the third time he has had to replace all his tools—the last theft happened less than six weeks previously. Kevin's Discovery Land Rover only just escaped being taken after Kevin, alerted by his dog growling, shouted at the culprits and went after them. Kevin has featured in two Linton News articles recently for his generosity to both our local playgroups, so it is a pity that his third appearance is not on the same positive note . We hope the police will be able to track down these unscrupulous thieves. Tracey Russell

## **BIKING FOR MONEY** [Top](#)

TWO young people, Claire Fisher and Chloe Green, who attend the Drop In Centre

on a regular basis, are working towards their Bronze Youth Achievement Award. As part of one of their challenges (a Community Challenge which is made up of several parts) they decided to help organise a sponsored bike ride and the money they raised from it they have decided will be donated to Symonds House in Linton.

The bike ride took place on 28th March and was about 12 miles. Both Claire and Chloe have not ridden a bike for a while and both of them did very well, not only to help organise it, but to complete it too.

Jim Kimber & Bev Reynolds

## LINTON COUNTRY DIARY By Darryl Nantais

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Illustrated by Maureen Williams

I SAT on the grass with my picnic and felt the banks of the Granta tremble with royal celebrations. I thought how bower birds are renowned for their artistic endeavours, often creating decorative avenues and archways using twigs, stones, flowers and other colourful objects. The satin bower even makes paint from fruit, daubing the mixture with a leaf upon their creations. The bower bird is not a native of Linton but I was fortunate to observe another species with similar attributes. They are perhaps one of the most amazing and adaptable mammals on the planet. Periodically they gather at locations prepared years ahead by an advance party, arriving in their hundreds to feed and drink. Some boast incredible thirst, often consuming several pints of liquid during one day. I witnessed how basic yet remarkably complex activities preceded a variety of jubilant displays and courtship rituals, with most of the mammals adorned with brightly coloured materials. Many of these social bipeds finally dispersed before the next sunrise although I noted that some dispersed as pseudo-quadropeds.

Similar to the bower bird these mammals had decorated an area of the village recreation grounds with a crescent of attractive small trees (river birch, aspen and golden ash) and a large beautiful stone. It is believed this rare and fascinating display celebrated 50 years' reign by the queen of the colony. One aspect still baffles me. Some adults were putting their young into large bags and encouraging them to struggle their way awkwardly towards the stone. Does the stone hold infinite wisdom

or was this a mammalian re-enactment of their time in the womb?  
It was wonderful to watch such strange and elaborate activities but all this energetic rumbling plays havoc with the fish in the Granta. Fish have something called a lateral line, a collection of mechanoreceptive patches or neuromasts that runs laterally down the length of their bodies, beneath which is a sensory organ believed to alert the fish to potential predators or water turbulence. It seems the monarchy truly permeates the very fabric of life in England, and remember, the diamond jubilee is now less than ten years away. Now there's a subject!

## **CHESTNUTS PRODUCE ACORNS** [Top](#)

FROM 11th July, Chestnuts Playgroup will be starting a new mother and toddler group, which will be run in addition to the normal playgroup sessions, Little Acorns will take place at the Linton Social Centre. Sessions for children from birth to 18 months will be run from 10-11.30 every Thursday morning. Older brother and sisters are also welcome to attend.

There will be various activities for the babies/children and coffee or tea for the parents.

We will be arranging for outside speakers to come in every few weeks, to cover a range of topics from weaning to nail care! No prior booking is needed for Little Acorns. We hope you will just drop in. Sarah Bowie

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