

Now in our fortieth year

DID Ron Amsden ever imagine that we would be going into our fortieth year as he typed the first issue of The Linton News on a daisy-wheel typewriter? To celebrate this milestone, we begin a series highlighting the charitable and volunteer organisations that enrich our village, starting with the publication itself.

What began as one man's vision has grown into a remarkable operation: with over 100 volunteers delivering 2,500 copies monthly across Linton, Hildersham, Hadstock Bartlow, and even to Bowsers End, all free to every door. Editor David Watts, who joined in January 2024, emphasises the team approach. "Most important for me is having a team I know and can rely on. I have wise folk I can go to on any issue. While the core tasks have remained unchanged since



Maureen and David with the Goldfinch, see page 2

Ron's day, technology has transformed them now that everything is online, so I can be on holiday and still edit the Linton News."

Maureen Williams responded to that very first issue's call for volunteers. She recalls that the editor wrote "This is your paper; it depends on you whether it succeeds." She first began by delivering the paper, then in June

1988 started illustrating the *Country Diary* column. "To copy my illustrations, I was using a hand scanner just 10 cm wide. Quite fiddly! Early scanners could not pick up much detail. Over the years I developed stronger lines that reproduced faithfully. Now the technology's so good, I know the details I add will still be there when the Linton News arrives at my door."

For newcomers like me, who had recently moved to the village, the publication has proved invaluable. "It was my window into the village: events, volunteering opportunities, council news, local businesses. Crucial insights for residents who care about their community."

As the Linton News begins its fortieth volume, Ron Amsden's founding spirit remains: *This is your paper; it depends on you whether it succeeds.*

Linton News Team

Bookfest releases more details

THE festival weekend is 16th-17th May at LVC, featuring an exciting range of free performances and hands-on activities.

For details go to www.lintonbookfest.org. Learn how to draw a dragon with John McCambridge! Discover fossils and dinosaurs with Kate Winter! Pick up top journalist tips from Cathy Reay; meet fantasy author/illustrator Jamie Littler; have a laugh with poet Jude Simpson (right) or author-comedians Helen Rutter and James Campbell. And there's much more – from detective mysteries to space exploration, dream-chasing to meeting real life animals.

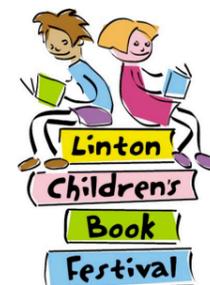
We're thrilled that this year's festival features professional local talent: Clea Godsill will present a dance performance of *Peter and the Wolf*, and there will be a drama workshop with Tom Murray and Layla Chowdhury. Clea and Tom both attended Linton schools. Jack Mackay, originally from Haverhill, introduces his award-winning novel, *Gloom*. Acclaimed musicians Siu Chui Li and Alex Reddington of Linton Music Series will play piano and violin while illustrator James Mayhew (right) draws to the music.

There'll also be a garden story time on Wednesday 13th May – follow mascot Brian the Lion from the Infants to the Free Church garden! Plus look out for a village trail of Bookfest clues in shop windows.

We strongly advise booking ahead as some events will fill up fast. Bookings via our website open 13th April. All events are free to attend, but donations are always appreciated.

Linton Bookfest needs lots of volunteer support. Can you help out during the weekend? Please contact info@lintonbookfest.org.

Anna McMahon



Artsmark award for College

LINTON Village College is delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Platinum Artsmark Award, the highest recognition from Arts Council England. This national accolade celebrates schools that embed exceptional arts, cultural and creative learning across their curriculum, and we are proud to share this achievement with our local community.

Over the past two years, staff and students have worked together to develop an ambitious and enriching arts offer. Supported by Goldsmiths, University of London through an immersive professional development programme, we have strengthened creative teaching across the College and expanded opportunities for students to lead and participate in the arts.

Artsmark Assessors commended LVC's "strong, long-term commitment to the transformative power of the arts", noting the impact our work is having not only within the school but across the wider area. Highlights included our thriving student leadership programmes, growing cross-curricular projects, and our successful arts and science partnership with the University of Cambridge. Cultural experiences, such as the Drama and History visit to Audley End were also praised as



examples of our rich offering.

We are extremely proud to have achieved the Artsmark Platinum Award. This recognition reflects the passion and creativity of our staff and the inclusive, enriching opportunities our students enjoy at LVC. The arts are central to our culture and educational experience.

We extend our congratulations to our students, whose enthusiasm and creativity have been instrumental in achieving this award.

Helena Marsh



Above and right: LVC students engaging with the Arts

The Anderson Trust

MORE formally, *The Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction*, is a local charity founded in February 1988, when, after his wife Mary's death, Professor Charles Anderson donated the proceeds from the sale of Church Cottage, next to the Guildhall, to set up a charity whose income is devoted to supporting local individuals and organisations.

Professor and Mrs Anderson (right) lived in Charleston, South Carolina and chose Linton as their summer home, buying Church Cottage in 1970. He was the professor of English at Duke University, writing several books on notable American authors, and she was a librarian. They initially visited Linton every summer, but after they retired, spent more time in England. Generations of Lintonians will

remember their beautiful garden, which they opened each summer, and seeing *Peter Rabbit* peeping out of the window as they walked to feed the ducks by the Lady Bridge. Professor Anderson spent three mornings a week in the garden, supporting their gardeners, firstly Jim Hill, then George Pearman and lastly Dennis Chapman. Ever the writer, Charles even wrote a book about his experiences – *Gardening for Fun in England*.

The trustees meet annually each spring to distribute the year's income from the original investment, in line with the founders' wishes to support charitable purposes in Linton. In the past few years just over £10,000 a year has been given as grants to individuals and organisations as



diverse as St Mary's Church, The Beacon Youth Trust, the four village schools, sports clubs and the Children's Book Festival.

Judith Tonry – Secretary, Anderson Trust

3 Counties Walk

GET your walking boots on, and get ready for this year's Bartlow 3 counties walk. We are raising money for three fabulous local charities: Bartlow St Mary's fabric fund, Addenbrooke's Cambridge Children's Hospital, and the wonderful Arthur Rank Hospice. This year we have a fun music theme for the 1 mile walk, and there will be great music throughout the day. Linton Jazz will be playing, plus the rock choir will be singing, and the wonderful Linton Belles too.

The usual (approx.) 13, 9 and 6 mile walks will be fully mapped and marshalled, with refreshments and toilets along the way. Dogs are welcome if well behaved and kept on leads. A great day out for all the family, with lots to entertain, plus good food and drink stalls to refresh you in the farmyard after your walks. Children's activities are available to ticket holders in the afternoon: crafts, face painting and a bouncy castle. and secure parking on site.

A limited number of tickets are now on sale at www.bartlow3countieswalk.co.uk so buy yours soon! Prices are cheaper online than on the day. There is a new donation option on the website if you would like to support us but are unable to attend the event. See the website above for lots more information about the day.

Duncan Ogilvy (walk organiser)
duncan.ogilvy@btinternet.com
Hetty Findlay



Where to find your favourites in this special edition

Italics denote an article moved from its usual position. **Page 1** -Marsh Mail, Linton News, Anderson Trust, Bartlow Walk, Linton Bookfest. **Page 2** -Country Matters, Wandlebury Archaeology, 100 parishes, Graham Potter. **Page 3** -Linton Infants, Linton Heights, Granta Medical, Library, Linton Diary, Headscratcher, Publication information, bin collection dates. **Page 4** -Free Church, St Mary's, Camsight VIPs, Hildersham music night, Linton WI, Linton and District Historical Society. **Page 5** -Tools with a Mission collection, Linton Roots repair café, FROG AGM, Gardening Club, Stagecoach climate action, Hildersham lamb Sunday. **Page 6** -District and County Councillors report, Planning applications, Balsham singers, Stagecoach challenge to abuse goes nationwide, Not the Eurovision Song Contest quiz night. **Pages 7 and 8** -Parish Council matters and minutes.

Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



Goldfinches in the garden

MAUREEN told me no zebras, pandas or albino deer for this month. It had to be something in full colour. Solution, the goldfinches on our garden feeders. Numbers have increased, and I feel sure it has a lot to do with people keeping their sunflower or niger seed feeders stocked up so they can enjoy the cheery spectacle.

We can sit for hours at the breakfast table watching the finches tucking in to sunflower hearts, and staring straight at us between mouthfuls. Over the years, generation after generation, the garden finches all behave exactly as they always have. The greenfinches are bullies and get well stuck in, seeing off anything that may fancy a look in. The chaffinches hover about nervously on the nearby branches, and then drop to the ground to pick up anything carelessly tossed aside. The goldfinches are the more delicate. They come in twos and threes and stay on the feeder until a greenfinch sees them off. There are other types of finches such as bullfinches and hawfinches, and some that are finches but are not called finches, like linnets, crossbills and siskin. These last are rather more rare in gardens. Each one has a slightly different shaped bill.



The goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*, is a passerine, meaning it perches. It lives almost anywhere, as long as it can find seeds and the occasional insect. Favourite seeds are sunflower, niger, thistle, ragwort, dandelion and teasel, and far from declining like so many other species, there are now more than 1.7 million pairs, a 150% increase since the 1970s. Goldfinches stay in the UK all year round, though there are some that wisely clear off to Spain in the winter. They perch on the tops of trees, often in large flocks called charms. They are gingery brown on top, pale underneath, with a sort of fawn waistcoat that doesn't quite do up. They have striking black and yellow wings, white spots on the tail, a black crown, white cheeks, and an extraordinary red face.

They generally live for only two to three years, build nests in little colonies, and lay four to seven very pale eggs. The female incubates them for around 12 days, and when they hatch, both parents feed them. After only 14 days they are ready to fledge and join the noisy and lively flock to fend for themselves. Young goldfinches exhibit the yellow wing flash, but the red face comes only after the first moult.

On an otherwise grey day, a goldfinch just has to cheer you up.

Linton News Team

Mr Gold Standard

AS we begin the fortieth year of the Linton News, and promote the numerous volunteer organisations within the villages, we should take time to reflect on the significant contribution made by the late and much missed Graham Potter.

Graham joined the Linton News team from its second publication and remained for 32 years as the technical and production manager. Undeniably, the paper would have struggled to survive without his hard work and guidance.

As well as working full-time, Graham was for many years on the Parish Council. In this role, he joined the Committee of the Football Club and served at various times as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, and could often be seen doing maintenance and bar work at the Club. His other volunteer roles included helping to run the Linton IT Club, beekeeping, and generally fixing numerous devices. He unfailingly offered his time and knowledge free of charge, and it is fitting that as we acknowledge the success and longevity of The Linton News, our new website is dedicated to Graham. If medals were given out for volunteering, Graham would surely have won gold. Continuing the family tradition, his wife Maureen is a Linton News deliverer.

Signs of ancient horror

IN THE last issue of The Linton News, we reported the remarkable find, by Cambridge University archaeology students, of a 9th century Viking burial pit, or perhaps an execution pit, at Wandlebury Country Park. The pit contained the remains of at least ten individuals; unusually, as a mix of complete and dismembered remains. These remains tell the most intriguing stories.

Among the most interesting aspects of the latest find are the complete remains of a man aged 17-24, flung face down into the pit, who would have stood at around 6 ft 5 in. Initial radiocarbon work dates this skeleton to 772-891 AD, with further work ongoing to narrow this down.

This man's height may have been due to a growth condition; he would have towered over others at a time when the average male height was around 5 ft 6 in. He has a large oval hole in his skull, 3 cm in diameter, suggesting he underwent trepanation: an ancient surgical procedure in which a hole is bored through a living human's skull. The hole in the back left side of his skull has signs of healing.

Trepanned skulls have been found the world over, including in ancient Greek and Roman remains. Trepanning was thought to relieve symptoms of conditions such as migraines and seizures, along with disorders we now know to be psychological.

"The man may have had a tumour that caused his pituitary gland to produce an excess of growth hormones", said Dr Trish Biers, curator of the Duckworth Collections at the University of Cambridge, where these remains have been taken for further analysis. "We can see this in the unique characteristics in the long shafts of his limb bones and elsewhere on the skeleton. Such a condition would have led to increased pressure in the skull, causing headaches that the trepanning may have been an attempt to alleviate - not unlike head trauma today."

The inclusion of dismembered remains alongside fully articulated bodies is highly unusual, even for a mass grave, and has puzzled archaeologists. While one man was clearly beheaded - evident from chop marks on his jaw - and a few others have traces of trauma consistent with combat, their numbers are too few to suggest that these were victims of a battle, say archaeologists.

Nevertheless, to find severed heads, limbs and other remains - from ribs to pelvises - tossed in a pit, with body parts of the same type stacked together in some cases, all piled on top of four dead men (at least one apparently bound), suggests terrible violence and perhaps an execution, according to Cambridge Archaeological Unit's Dr Oscar Aldred. "Those buried could have been recipients of corporal punishment, and that may have been connected to Wandlebury as a sacred or well-known meeting place. It may be that some of the disarticulated body parts had previously been displayed as trophies, and were then gathered up and interred with the executed or otherwise slaughtered individuals. We don't see much evidence for the deliberate chopping up of some of these body parts, so they may have been in a state of decomposition and literally falling apart when they went into the pit."

In the next issue of The Linton News, we will look at the wider political environment of this region at the times when these unfortunate men ended up in this pit, and try to understand what events might have led to their ending up there.

For more information about this remarkable find, and the ongoing research to understand its significance, contact:

Fred Lewsey, Cambridge University communications office, Email: fred.lewsey@admin.cam.ac.uk

Chris Wakefield, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Email: cpw41@cam.ac.uk

Louise Palmer, Cambridge Past, Present and Future Email: marketing@cambridgeppf.org

Forges in The Hundred Parishes



HORSES were once very important in everyday life. This changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car.

Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts and buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float or the

coalman and rag-and-bone man.

There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages. We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weather vanes, tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care.

Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley.

The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes - a



name that probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a shoe. Today, dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.



Much Hadham Forge (above) is still in use, part of Much Hadham Forge Museum. The museum usually opens Friday to Sunday, April to December, 11am to 5pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days.

Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April to October from 2-5pm on Sundays and bank holidays and is well worth a visit.

Ken McDonald, The Hundred Parishes Society www.hundredparishes.org.uk

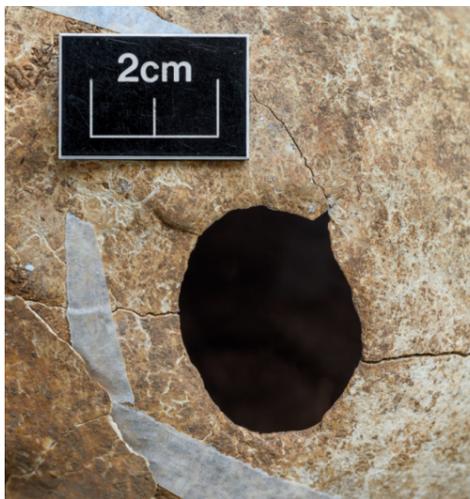
Left - Castle Camps - former forge, closed 1989



Above - students excavating human remains



Right - some of the disarticulated remains



Far right - the hole in the trepanned skull

News from the Heights

LINTON Heights Junior School was alive with colour, imagination, and creativity as pupils and staff celebrated World Book Day with a packed schedule of activities designed to inspire a love of reading. The event was made even more special this year as it takes place during the National Year of Reading.

Children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, filling the corridors with everything from classic heroes to modern storybook stars. The costumes sparked conversations, curiosity, and plenty of smiles as pupils shared the stories behind their characters.

One of the highlights of the day was the ever-popular *book swap*. Children brought in books they had already enjoyed and exchanged them for a 'new' story donated by someone else. The swap offered a sustainable way to refresh home bookshelves while encouraging pupils to explore authors and genres they may not have tried before.



Families also took part in a cosy *book and breakfast* session, where parents were invited into school to enjoy breakfast alongside their children while reading together. The shared experience created a calm, joyful atmosphere and reinforced the School's commitment to nurturing reading at home as well as in the classroom.

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for the Linton Bookfest in May. As part of the celebrations, the School will be welcoming a visiting illustrator — an opportunity pupils are eagerly anticipating.

Linton Heights Junior School's World Book Day proved once again that reading truly brings a community together.

Caroline Webb

Easter at the Library

THE librarians wish everyone a very Happy Easter. The library will hold Easter Crafts for children on Saturday 4th April from 10.30–11.30am. We will be closed on Friday 3rd April for Easter.

During the National Year of Reading (www.goallin.org.uk), the library is encouraging people of all ages to enjoy reading. Bring your children along to our free Rhythm & Rhyme, held regularly on a Tuesday morning.

Book groups are also a great way to make new friends and discover new authors. Two groups meet at Linton Library on the third Friday of each month, and the morning group welcomes new members.

Daylight Readers: Friday 17th, 10.30am and 2.30pm.

Rhythm and Rhyme sessions: Tuesdays 10.30–11am for children aged 0–4 (term-time only), followed by Duplo.

Knit and Natter: Every Tuesday, 2–4pm. Bring along any craft project.

IT Drop In: Every Wednesday, 5–7pm. Volunteers can help with IT queries.

Games Afternoon: Thursdays, 2–4pm. Board and card games provided, or bring your own.

Lego/Duplo: Fridays, 10–11am (first, second and fourth Friday of the month). Activities for children aged 0–4.

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King

Community Library Assistants, Linton Library

Headscratcher

Number 18
Powers (or exponents) of numbers raised to themselves are straightforward: $2^2 = 4$, $3^3 = 27$ and so on. What happens when you use numbers less than one for example $0.5^{0.5}$ or $0.1^{0.1}$?

Answer to 17
19! is equal to $1.216 \dots \times 10^{17}$. However if the number is less than 1 the expression becomes smaller. In this case 2.3×10^{-8}
Aspasia

News from the Infants

KINDNESS Week was a great success, raising over £300 for the school. However, more important than the amount raised is how many *acts of kindness* must have been carried out to raise that amount! Thank you to everyone for supporting this school value.

On 9th March 2026 an inspector visited the school to carry out a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). This is a very thorough inspection looking at the School's vision, 'Let your light shine', the provision the School makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all to flourish. We welcomed the opportunity to show what makes Linton Infants such a special place for our whole school community, and we look forward to sharing the Inspector's report in due course.

We celebrated World Book Day under the theme of 'Fairy Tales and Traditional Tales'. Thank you to the parents who organised these costumes. We also held a *book swap* where children donate books they no longer want and everyone gets the chance to take home a 'new' book.



Fairy Tales come to life

National Offer Day is 16th April, so if you have made an application to join our school, please do look out for an email from us a couple of days after this date.

Don't forget to join us for an afternoon of entertainment provided by Linton Jazz on Saturday 18th April. Tickets are now on sale from the school office during school hours: £10 for adults and £2.50 for under 16s.

Kelly Harries

Granta Medical opening hours

ALL practices will be closed on Friday 3rd April and Monday 6th April. Enhanced access pre-bookable appointments will be available at Royston Health Centre on Saturday 4th April from 9am–5pm.

Prescriptions ordered on Wednesday 1st April should be ready to collect on Tuesday 7th April. Those ordered on Thursday 2nd April can be collected on Wednesday 8th April.

Linton Village Pharmacy will be closed Friday 3rd and Monday 6th April, but will be open on Saturday 4th April.

While the practices are closed, please contact NHS 111 for urgent medical advice. For life-threatening emergencies, call 999.

Thank you and we wish you a lovely Easter weekend.
Holly Layzell

LINTON NEWS

Next publication: 4th May 2025

Deadline for submissions: Wednesday April 15th

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April bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 8th, 22nd

Blue: Wednesdays 1st, 15th, 29th

Green: Wednesday 1st, 15th, 29th

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

For entries, email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com

Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.

See <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/events-calendar> for more details of village events.

APRIL		
Thu 2	Linton Roots Meeting, 6–7.30pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Thu 2	Wylde Sky Beer Festival, 4–10.30pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Thu 2	Maundy Thursday Service, 6–9pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 3	Good Friday Service, 10.30pm	Linton Free Church
Fri 3	Messy Church, 10am	St Mary's Church
Fri 3	Good Friday Music and Readings, 3pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 3	Healing Service, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 3	Wylde Sky Beer Festival, 4–11pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Sat 4	Farmers Market, 9–11.30am	Village Hall
Sat 4	Family Fun Day, 2–4.30pm	Linton Free Church
Sat 4	Wylde Sky Beer Festival, 12–10.30pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Sat 4	The Choral, (12A) 7.30pm	Balsham Church Institute
Sun 5	Sunrise Service, 7am, BT Exchange.	Rivey Hill
Sun 5	Easter Service (Traditional), 8am	St Mary's Church
Sun 5	Easter Service, 10.00am	St Mary's Church
Sun 5	Easter Celebration, 10.30am	Linton Free Church
Sun 5	Wylde Sky Beer Festival, 12–10pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Tue 7	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Wed 8	Coffee Morning 10–12pm	Linton Free Church
Sun 12	Lamb Sunday, 1.30–3.30pm	Hildersham Hall
Tue 14	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 14	Camsight Meeting, 2pm	Chalklands Centre
Fri 17	Mary's Community Kitchen, 12–2pm	Village Hall
Fri 17	Daylight Readers, 10.30 & 2.30pm	Library
Sat 18	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 18	Summer Fair	Infants School
Mon 20	West Wickham Gardening Club, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 21	Linton Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 23	ACE Outing	Springfield Gardens
Sat 25	TWAM Tool Collection, 9–12.30pm	Abington School
Mon 27	Talk on <i>The Royal Ballet</i> , 7.30pm	Holy Trinity Church, Hilderham
Tue 28	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 28	FROG AGM/Lecture, 7.30pm	Village Hall
MAY		
Sun 3	Bartlow Walk, from 9.30am	Hills Farm, Bartlow
Tue 5	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
WEEKLY		
Mon	Mini Movers, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30–11am, (term times)	Library
Tue	Granta Bridge Club, 2–4pm	Village Hall
Tue	Knit and Natter, 2–4pm	Library
Tue	Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7–8pm	LVC
Wed	Tots in Tow, 9.30–11am (term times)	Village Hall
Wed	Warm Hub, 1–4pm	Sports Pavilion
Wed	IT Drop In, 5–7pm	Library
Wed	Let's Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1–2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2–4pm	Library
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10–11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7–9pm	Comm. Sports Centre, LVC
Sun	Church Service 10.30am	Linton Free Church
Sun	Church Service 8am and 10am	St Mary's Church

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Free Church this Easter

HERE is what is planned at Linton Free Church to celebrate Easter.

Fun for children and families

On Saturday 4th April from 2-4.30pm, we will be hosting an Easter family fun day. At 2.30pm there will be a showing of the animated film *King of Kings* (PG). This will be shown simultaneously in the Church and the hall. There will be refreshments, crafts and an Easter trail too. All primary-age children and their parents are welcome. Entry is free!

Holy Week

You are invited to join us as we prepare for the most important date in the Christian Calendar, and in the life of our Church:

- Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday Baptism Service, 10.30am.
- Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April – Easter Reflections, 8pm.
- Tuesday 31st March and Thursday 2nd April – Easter Reflections at Old Independent, Haverhill, 8pm.
- Friday 3rd April – Good Friday Service, 10.30am.

Easter Sunday – Sunday 5th April

Join us as we celebrate this special day for all Christians.

- Sunrise service. Join us at 7am at the old BT Exchange on Back Road to walk to the top of Rivey Hill, followed by a short service at 7.30am beside the bench overlooking Linton.
- Easter Celebration, 10.30am. An all-age family service.

More details of these and other events can be found on our website: www.lintonfreechurch.org.uk

Ian Burns

Easter at St Mary's

COME and celebrate the hope and the new life of Easter at St Mary's. Your parish church is open every day of the year for everyone, but you'd be especially welcome on Maundy Thursday (2nd April) 6-9pm for a reflective service and vigil – drop by if you can – and Good Friday (3rd April) at 10am at the village hall for Messy Church, or 3pm at church for Music and Readings for the Passion. That evening, our night prayer at 6pm will offer prayer for healing (with anointing) for those who wish.

Easter morning (5th April) has always been a time when people come together as a community, so before the eggs are opened there's a quiet traditional service at 8am and an Easter morning service at 10am. You and your family are very welcome.

Don't forget Mary's Community Kitchen will be at the village hall again this month, on Friday 17th April, 12-2pm; no charge and everyone is invited.

Revd Paul

Camsight VIPs

WE were delighted to welcome Oriel McLaughlin, our Linton News Nature columnist, to our meeting in March. Oriel gave us a fascinating talk on the Antarctic, mainly on the work of the early pioneers who ventured there to stay for long periods. Enduring unbelievably hostile conditions, Oriel described permanent darkness, freezing temperatures, melting ice from icebergs for water, killing seals to eat, and growing watercress on the boat to avoid scurvy. She also talked about the penguins and read a beautiful poem, which everyone enjoyed. This was followed by afternoon tea and our raffle.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th April, at 2pm at the Chalklands Centre when Adrian Cosgrove, the Camsight resources manager, will be bringing news and demonstrating any new aids and personal or household devices that can help visually impaired people.

If you would like any further information about our group, please contact us in the Cambridge office number, 01223 420033, or on 01223 893595.

Jean Mannion

Hildersham music night

ON Monday 27th April, at 7.30pm, in Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham, ballet and opera specialist Sarah Lenton will be giving a talk illustrated by audio clips called *Everything You Need To Know About The Royal Ballet In 75 Minutes*. Sarah has spent most of her working life in the theatre, and the last 30 years at The Royal Opera House. She has written and directed over twenty shows, writes programme articles and websites and can also be heard regularly on Radio 3 and 4.



Tickets are £12, including refreshments from Eventbrite or at the door <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-royal-ballet-in-75-minutes-tickets-1983388271712?aff=oddtcreator>
In support of the Friends of Holy Trinity, Hildersham.
Contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

Athene Hunt

Linton WI

THE speaker at our February meeting was Alan Osborne talking about the discovery of DNA and the controversy around it. Rosalind Franklin's contribution to the discovery was largely unrecognised during her lifetime. Alan gave us a glimpse of the woman behind the scientist. Although she is now most well known for her DNA work, Rosalind Franklin also did valuable research into coal during World War 2, and later on, she researched viruses.

The speaker at our March meeting was Kate Armstrong, whose mother had kept a diary when she accompanied her husband to various sub-Saharan postings in the 1950s. Kate illustrated her talk with slides and excerpts from the diary. She amused and horrified us with tales of wildlife, insects, and basic foods and medicine.

We recently celebrated our member Pat Marshall's 90th birthday with tea and cakes. Pat joined the WI in Hadstock in 1970 when she moved there from East London. A real 'townie', she was out of her comfort zone so joined to make friends. From 1985 onwards she moved around the country, finally settling in Linton. She says "the local WI is a great way to make friends and learn about the local area. I strongly recommend it".

Next month, Neil Callan will be giving a talk on the making of his Fenland Garden. This is an open meeting so everyone is welcome. Visitors: £5.
Enquiries: 07963 796744.

Liz Cox

Linton and District Historical Society

AT February's meeting Duncan Bickley, now a retired pilot, took us on some of his helicopter adventures during his fascinating career. From ferrying guests and landing 'in style' at hotels and wedding receptions to transporting celebrities to their next venue, travelling along the River Thames, going from the Isle of Wight to Paris, and around Mount Blanc, we were able to share a 'bird's eye view' of just some of the locations Duncan has enjoyed over the years before arriving safely back at Cambridge Airport. A brief demonstration of 'how to fly a helicopter', with the aid of a long handled dustpan and brush, and of course remembering to use the foot pedals, all added to a most enjoyable evening, which ended with an equally entertaining question and answer session.

Join us for another popular evening on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. On what promises to be an interesting evening our speaker Phillip Stott, will be telling us all about *The Darwin family and Cambridge*. Refreshments and Raffle on arrival.

For further details of the LDHS please email ldhscams@gmail.com or phone 01223 893915 or 01223 678835.

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New life for old tools

UNWANTED tools of any kind are being collected on the 25th April between 9am-12.30pm at Abington School by the Saffron Walden Rotary, which will then be delivered to the Ipswich charity Tools With A Mission (TWAM). The tools will be refurbished and made into trade kits for people living in extreme poverty mainly in African countries. The tools, combined with training, help individuals start sustainable businesses and build long-term livelihoods for themselves and their families. Tools needed are agricultural, builders, carpenters, electrical, gardening, haberdashery, mechanical, plumbers, power, sewing and knitting.

Heavy bulk items can be collected by prior arrangement with Tony Collett between 10-11.30am on 25th April from Lewis Crescent, Mortlock Gardens, Magna Close, High Street, Linton Rd, Larkfield, Lodge Close and Church Lane, Church Crescent, Westfield and High Street Little Abington. Contact Tony regarding any query: tony.collett3112@gmail.com or 01223 893447.

In addition to helping individuals to completely transform their lives and communities, the charity prevents over 200 tonnes of tools going to landfills annually. I hope we receive a similar level of wonderful support as we do for our collections for Ukraine.

Tony Collett

FROG in April

FRIENDS of the River Granta (FROG) is delighted to announce the AGM and Guest Lecture on the river is on Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm at Linton Village Hall.

Come and find out who we are, what we've been doing this year and the multitude of events we are planning for next year. Everybody's welcome and refreshments will be provided. Our local landowner Tim Breitmeyer, who farms the Bartlow Estate, will speak to us and answer our questions about how the community and local landowners can work together in restoring and preserving ecologically important habitats, such as the River Granta. The upper reaches of the river are entirely on Tim's land, and he is both an engaging and highly knowledgeable speaker. Tim was elected President of the Country Land and Business Association in November 2017 and has represented 30,000 farmers, landowners and rural businesses across England and Wales. He also farms 1,600 acres in Cambridgeshire.

FROG is a volunteer group that runs litter picks, conservation and citizen science monitoring tasks, and events to promote a love of our natural world. Everyone is welcome to join. If you're interested, or would like more information about this event, please contact us at lintonfrog@gmail.com or visit us at https://www.facebook.com/LintonFROG/?locale=en_GB.

Jonathan Silverman

Linton Roots

THE Repair Café in February was successful in several ways: 55 people came with 47 items. Of the items brought in 66% were repaired successfully, thus preventing an estimated 333 kg of CO₂ emissions, and 46 kg of waste ending up at the tip. At the same time local repairers learnt from eight experienced repairers. All this prompted the question "when is the next one?" We are very grateful to all the volunteers and folk of Linton for helping make this first event possible.

"The aim of Linton Roots is to raise awareness of sustainability and environmental matters locally, facilitate effective action and encourage more sustainable lifestyles." To this end (with support and encouragement from the Parish Council), 12 bird boxes have been put up, and we are planning some wildflower areas. We will be planting yellow rattle plug plants for these on Saturday, 25th April. Do come and join in. Look out for further details soon.

Ian Walters gave an inspiring talk on the biodiversity vision for Duxford at our last meeting, and showed what their group had achieved over the past four years. Ideas for future action in Linton stemming from his talk include: establishing a 'dead hedge'; an audit of village hedgerows and encouraging areas in village gardens to establish wildlife corridors.

We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month 6-7.30pm in St Mary's Pavilion. All welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith

Global experts recognise Stagecoach achievement

STAGECOACH, parent company of Cambridgeshire's biggest bus operator Stagecoach East, has been recognised by global environmental experts, the Carbon Disclosure Project, for its consistently strong transparency on climate impact and sustainability.

Out of over 22,100 companies that reported data, Stagecoach was awarded an A- rating for climate change and B for water security, maintaining its ratings for a second consecutive year.

CDP rigorously evaluates disclosure quality, risk awareness, environmental management, and evidence of best practice. Scores range from A to D-, reflecting the degree of ambition, target-setting and action.

Greg Ritt, Group Head of Sustainability at Stagecoach, added, "Maintaining our A- and B ratings over 2 years is a fantastic result, and reminds us we're on the right path. We are well positioned to reach our Science Based Target for 2032 and a zero-emissions fleet commitment in 2035."

For more information on Stagecoach's sustainability activity, visit: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/corporate/sustainability>.

Stephen Kiely

Welcoming spring

ALICE and Andy Mitchell write "With preparations for our spring plant sale on Saturday 16th May by our supportive members and friends, our photography team are on hand to offer a welcome distraction,

The early spring has given some lovely opportunities for photos and it feels like a good time for a reminder of the Club's annual photo competition. It's open to everyone living in the area and their families, with a closing date of 1st September. All entries will be displayed at our Summer Gardening Fair on Saturday 12th September. We're aiming to be inclusive - a phone and an eye for the opportunity are all it needs.

This year's categories are *Along the Path*, *Lovely Leaves* and *Sky's the Limit*, all open to interpretation when you're out and about, on holiday or in your garden. Photos must have been taken after 1st October 2025, up to two entries per category, and 50p per entry. The email address for entries and questions is photo@westwickham.org.



Fern unfurling by Andy Mitchell

And finally, you won't want to miss this month's talk, on Monday 20th April at 7:30pm, Hawk Honey will be telling us all about *Wasps and their role in our gardens*.

West Wickham & District Gardening Club membership is £8 with new members welcome to join throughout the year. Please contact:

Sally Collins wwdgc@westwickham.org for further information about the Club.

Janet Morris jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com for information about our Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits.

Sally Collins

Hildersham lamb Sunday

ON Sunday 12th April from 1.30-3.30pm, Hildersham Hall will open the lambing barn for visitors to come and see lambing in action!

Entry is £4 for per adult and £1 per child, including tea and cake. Cash payments only. All money raised will go to the UK Sepsis Trust and Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham. Entry will be opposite Hildersham Village Hall.

Please note this is not advisable for pregnant women. Dogs will not be allowed. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Jeanette Long

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District and County Councillors' Report

Housing growth and the Cambridge Growth Company

THE government has identified Cambridge as a priority area for economic growth, and is proposing that up to 100,000 additional homes may be needed across the wider region to support it. This would be on top of housing already planned locally, such as the Grange Farm development in Abington.

To oversee this growth, the government has established a development corporation called the Cambridge Growth Company. It is expected to take planning decisions on larger development sites away from local councils. Representatives have raised concerns that removing planning responsibility from one of the highest-performing planning services in the country could cause significant harm to the local area. Whether those concerns will be reflected in the final arrangements remains to be seen.

A public consultation on the Cambridge Growth Company is open now and closes on 1st April. It focuses specifically on what scale of development should qualify as a 'strategic site', and therefore fall outside local council control. This is a direct opportunity for residents to have their say on how much influence local authorities retain. Please engage with it.

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge

Council tax

Both the District and County councils set their budgets in February. Both have increased council tax by the maximum permitted amount. For a Band D property, this means the following weekly increases:

County Council: £1.63 per week
District Council: 10p per week

Other bodies, including the Combined Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner, have also set their precepts, and these will appear as separate lines on your council tax bill.

Local government reorganisation

Councils across Cambridgeshire have submitted their proposals to central government for how the county might be reorganised into new unitary authorities, larger single-tier councils that would replace the current two-tier structure of district and county councils.

The government is now considering those proposals. One practical question still to be resolved is whether District Council elections will go ahead as scheduled this May, given that the District Council itself may be absorbed into a new authority the following year. The latest indications are that elections will proceed as planned in May.

20 mph funding: Application window now open

Parish councils can apply for funding to introduce 20 mph speed limits on some or all of their roads. The application window is open until the end of March. Several parishes in our area have already benefited from previous rounds.

Full details and how to apply: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/applying-for-20mph-funding

Forest city proposal

A proposal to build a new city for up to one million people between Haverhill and Newmarket has received some media attention. It has no planning status and remains a speculative idea at this stage.

District Council, John Batchelor: johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

District and County Council, Henry Batchelor: henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Buses and businesses against abuse: Scheme rolls out nationally

A GROUNDBREAKING scheme to prevent violence against women and girls in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire has helped set a standard that is now being rolled out to other parts of the country.

Speaking at a Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce event to mark International Women's Day, Ian de Chastelain, Training Manager of Stagecoach East, explained that the Buses and Businesses Against Abuse (BAA) scheme, which was first launched in our region in 2024, is now inspiring three other police forces and Stagecoach companies to launch similar schemes. Many BAA/Stagecoach training materials and best-practice examples have helped to shape the government's national training programme for bus drivers.

The BAA scheme is run in partnership with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Police Authority and the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Centre. As part of the scheme, Stagecoach East's buses are officially places of refuge for people fearing abusive behaviour. If a driver recognises that a woman or girl may be in fear of abuse on the street or on the bus, they are authorised to pull over, ask if they need assistance and, if need be, take them to a safe place on route.

Ian said, "The BAA scheme has been a huge success. Since its launch, we have helped with several major incidents, and one of our drivers has received a compliment from the Superintendent of Police for his actions. We have always taken these issues seriously, but the BAA partnership has driven further cultural changes of enhanced safeguarding and awareness."

All Stagecoach East buses now have BAA buttons on their ticket machines and display BAA stickers with QR codes by their doors, designating them as safe spaces. All buses have multiple cameras, so abuse is recorded and reported.

Stephen Kiely

Planning Applications from 11th February to 11th March

26/0244/TTCA T1 Transparent gage - fell tree and replant. 38 Symonds Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HY. Validated: Monday 9th March 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/00502/CL2PD Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for partial conversion of existing detached double garage into a home office, including window and rooflight to side elevation. 8 Barley Way Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4YN. Validated: Monday 9th March 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/04808/CONDA Submission of details required by condition 6 (details of works) of listed building consent 25/04808/LBC. Fulwells 97 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Monday 2nd March 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/00707/S73 S73 to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 25/00998/HFUL (Single storey side and rear extension and conversion of an existing passage into a habitable space) to amend roof design and height and addition of rooflight window. 1A Bartlow Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4LY. Validated: Tuesday 24th February 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/0147/TTCA T1, T2 - Sycamores - Fell both the trees. 14 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Thursday 12th February 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

Balsham Singers' spring concert

TICKETS go on sale on 1st April for our Spring Concert on Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. They will be available online at Balsham Post Office, from choir members or from <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers>.

The programme includes music by Parry, Wood, the Beatles, and the Carpenters and is both reflective and uplifting. We are very grateful to our loyal audiences. Secure your seat early to avoid disappointment.

Jo Stinton

Not the Eurovision Song Contest quiz

OUR annual quiz will take place on the evening of Saturday 16th May at 7pm in the Free Church Hall on Horn Lane.

This Linton base event, now in its 15th year, will be a fundraiser for the Beacon Youth Trust, the provider of youth work in the local area. Tickets are priced at £15 each (including a fish and chip meal, or equivalent).

Questions range across various topics and the winners get to hold the prestigious Silk Cup for 12 months. It always proves to be an entertaining,



some say riotous, evening for people of all ages and all levels of quiz knowledge.

In order to secure a ticket (or ideally enter a team), please contact the Quiz Master, Steve Munday, on Munday5@aol.com. Communications should indicate the number of people attending and the food choice for the evening. Participants are

welcome to bring their own drinks and snacks.

Steve Munday, Chair of Trustees, Beacon Youth Trust

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Parish Council matters



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Parish Council elections - 7th May 2026

STANDING as a Parish Councillor can make a real difference to the community that you live in. Residents often ask what this entails; what sort of a commitment is required; and what qualifications you need to become a Councillor.



What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is a democratically elected body that makes decisions on behalf of the parish. It is the first tier of local government and has a range of statutory powers and duties and following the Localism Act 2011 the Parish Council has more flexibility to make a difference to its community – however small. Parish Councils have a statutory power to precept (tax) the local electors in the parish to manage community services and represent the parishioners following decisions made by the Parish Council. A Parish Council does not have statutory responsibility for services such as waste collection, street parking, traffic regulation, planning, licensing and education – these responsibilities lie with the unitary authority, but the Parish Council is consulted when changes to services are proposed, or for planning applications affecting the village.

What is the role of a parish councillor?

A parish councillor is the holder of a public office, not a volunteer (although the role is unpaid). A councillor does not have any authority to make decisions about Parish Council business on his/her own. The main job of a parish councillor is to actively participate in the collective decision-making processes of his/her council. A councillor's normal term of office, when elected by a general ballot is for four years. Anyone over the age of 18 who is a UK citizen, lives or works in the parish, or lives/works within three miles of the parish may put themselves forward to be a candidate.

What commitment is required of a parish councillor?

A parish councillor in Linton is required to attend meetings of the Parish Council – held on the third Thursday of every month, usually in the Cathodeon Centre, starting at 7.30pm. They are expected to attend the meeting having read the agenda and all the accompanying papers, which are circulated approximately one week in advance of the meeting. They are also expected to participate in the debates and decision-making processes.

Linton Parish Council currently has three committees. Individual councillors can opt to be selected to join any that hold a particular interest, or for which they have a particular skill set which would aid the Parish Council. Committees are in place to make recommendations to the Parish Council on specific topics including planning, finance and personnel. Committees meet regularly – planning and finance, once per month and personnel on a quarterly basis.

Linton Parish Council also has multiple working groups that discuss many aspects of village life, from traffic matters to youth. Councillors are encouraged to attend working group meetings in areas of interest and expertise. Working group meetings are usually open to members of the public. Respectful debate and discussion are welcomed to assist the Parish Council with overall decision making. Working group meetings

take place as required to discuss specific projects/ activities and make recommendations to the Parish Council for consideration.

What qualifications do I need to become a councillor?

Apart from the residence and age qualifications referred to above, you don't need any formal qualifications. Each new councillor is required to attend a training course for new councillors, to fully understand the expectations of the role. They should be computer literate and able to communicate by email. Councillors are given their own Parish Council email address which they must use for all official business in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. Otherwise all that is required is a genuine interest in what happens in the village – to retain its character, its facilities etc., but at the same time to be part of the process of planning for the future.

It is really important that the Parish Council has a range of different ages and demographic profiles to ensure that we truly represent the majority of the village. If you would like to stand as a candidate for the elections taking place on the 7th May 2026 you must submit your nomination papers by Thursday 9th April 2026. If you require further information or guidance please contact the Parish Council office on 01223 891001 or by email at enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk.

Linton Parish Council

Fostering in Cambridgeshire

ACROSS Cambridgeshire, hundreds of children and young people need safe, nurturing homes where they can grow, thrive and feel secure. As of recent reports, there are approximately 700 children and young people in care across Cambridgeshire. The county has experienced a notable increase in these numbers over the past year, with many children requiring placements outside of the local area due to a shortage of local foster carers.

These children come into care for many reasons — from family breakdown, neglect, or abuse, to situations where their birth families can no longer provide the support they need. For many, foster carers are the lifeline that offers stability, encouragement and a sense of belonging at a time when they need it most.

Yet there simply aren't enough foster carers. There is a need for foster carers to support children of all ages, especially sibling groups, teenagers and parent and child arrangements. Nexus Fostering provides full training and dedicated support to help carers succeed in helping create positive outcomes.

Becoming a foster carer isn't about having a perfect background — it's about offering patience, compassion, and a safe home. Carers can be single, rent their home, and you don't have to have had your own children, what matters most is a commitment to making a positive impact on a child's life.

If you've ever thought about fostering, now is the time to act. Every child deserves a home where they can feel valued, supported and safe and you could be the person who helps them get there.

To get in touch
Call: 0800 3890143
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Visit: www.nexusfostering.co.uk to find out more or start your journey today.

Nexus Fostering

Is Linton under siege?

MANY have shared with me that they feel like they are under siege by powerful property developers. Linton is facing significant development on three sides. Two sites have already applied for outline planning permission (The Little Linton Development planning reference 25/04541/OUT and a further site on Horseheath Road 26/00415/OUT), and we are expecting an application from Gladman for the Land off Back Road to be submitted around Easter.

It is concerning that none of these sites are allocated in the Local Plan or the emerging Local Plan, yet these developers are considering spending a lot of money to move their plans forward. I've seen quite a few comments on social media and it's a bit disheartening to hear some people say there's no point in commenting on a consultation because their individual views won't be taken seriously. While residents may not always feel heard, a lack of public comments is often cited as a reason that an application is not put before a democratically elected planning committee. The developer of the proposed warehouse on Station Road pointed out at appeal that the additional traffic on the A1307 couldn't have been of too great a concern to residents because only one member of the public had submitted a comment (the application was refused by Highways). By contrast, when the application to develop the green at Dolphin Close was considered by the planners, the Parish Council was the only statutory consultee to object, but we were joined by 66 residents offering overwhelming objection and the application was refused.

Every Linton resident has the right to comment on planning applications, and contrary to what some might think, it's quite a straightforward process. I encourage anyone who is interested in the future development of Linton to have their say by logging onto the planning portal, reading what others have already said and adding your comments, no matter what they may be.

The Parish Council has submitted objections providing clear arguments why these developments should not be approved. A lot of thought and work has gone into these submissions – please use these to inform your comments if you are not sure where to start.

It's best to submit comments as early as you can in the process, but you can comment (or add further comments) right up to the day before the planning committee meet to consider the application. It is important to remember that Greater Cambridge Shared Planning have "material planning considerations", these are circumstances that they must take into account when making a planning decision: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/how-to-view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/what-we-consider-when-making-a-planning-decision>

If you have photographic evidence of issues that you refer to when making your comments – this could include flooding, road safety concerns, evidence of wildlife on the sites, etc. – you can use these images to illustrate your points.

If you need further help or advice on submitting your views please contact the Parish Office preferably by email: enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk or you can telephone on 01223 891001.

Linton Parish Council
Planning Committee

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Parish Council minutes



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

ABBREVIATED draft minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th January 2026 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Open forum for public participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the Parish Council.

Participant 1: spoke regarding the state of the roads in Cambridgeshire stating that the road conditions are extremely poor and requesting the issues be addressed. The Chair advised that all highways are the responsibility of CCC and the matter would be raised to the County Councillor Henry Batchelor.

Participant 2: raised parking on the verge at the junction of Rivey Way on Balsam Road and requested the grass and hedges be maintained to allow access to the bench and footpath. The participant agreed to send photographs to the LPC office to assist the reporting of the issue to CCC.

Participant 3: queried the vacancies in the Parish Council and suggested that the Parish Council promote inclusion from interested parties by inviting members of the public to join working groups. The Chairman confirmed working groups are open to members of the public.

External and internal meetings

Consideration for the written report following the Cemetery Working Group meeting held on 14.01.2026. Written report available. Noted.

Consideration for the written report following the Quarterly Review (Yr1 Qtr3) meeting between LPC and Beacon Youth Trust (BYT). Written report available. Noted.

Consideration for the written report following the Environment & Open Spaces Working Group meeting held on 21.01.2026. Written report available. Noted.

Consideration for the written report following the Assets Management Course attended on 28.01.2026. Written report available. Noted.

Consideration for the written report following the meeting held with LPC and the Linton schools on 29.01.2026. Written report available. Noted.

Consideration for the written report following the S106 Contribution Working Group meeting held on 12.02.2026. Written report available. Noted.

Consideration for the written report following the Internal Pavilion Working Group meeting held on 12.02.2026. Written report available. Noted.

District and County Councillors report for February 2026. Written report available.

In addition to the written report District Councillor John Batchelor spoke about the consultations for Local Government Reorganisation and advised of an online seminar being held on 25.02.2026.

He also spoke about the proposal of a Development Corporation which would oversee the process of strategic planning and advised that SCDC are working to ensure this is scrutinised.

Cllr Batchelor also congratulated the Linton FROGs who had received a special award from parliament for their commitment to the preservation and conservation of the River Granta.

Planning

Consideration for the recommendation of additional comments to be submitted for Planning Application 25/04541/OUT Land North of Cambridge Road. Decision Required.

Cllr Kell summarised the recommended comments to be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council and the recommendation that the Parish Council continue to object to the application:

Cllr Smith proposed the comments be submitted and that LPC object to the application. Cllr Hine seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Consideration for the recommendation from the

Planning Committee for the initial comments on Planning Application 26/00415/OUT, Land off Horseheath Road. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed the Parish Council object to the application with comments to be submitted: Cllr Mannassi seconded. All Agreed.

Finance

Quotes and contracts

Consideration for the revised quotation for street lighting in Linton following the reduction to one MPAN. Decision required.

Cllr Sanderson proposed the quotation for a three-year agreement with Valda Energy be accepted. Cllr Smith seconded. All Agreed.

Grants and funding

Consideration for the application of an S137 grant from the Chestnut Playgroup following receipt of additional information. Decision required.

Cllr Hine proposed the grant be awarded for £1,000.00 to the Chestnut Playgroup. Cllr Campbell seconded. Agreed with four abstentions.

Consideration for the application of an S137 grant from the Friends of Linton Village College. Decision required.

Cllr Sanderson proposed a grant be awarded for the sum of £2,300.00 to the Friends of Linton Village College. Cllr Cox seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Consideration for the request of a budget to purchase native wildflower plants for various locations in Linton on behalf of Linton Roots. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed a budget of £300.00 be delegated to the Clerk for the purchase of yellow rattle plug plants only and that the area of Camping Close be excluded. Cllr Gardner seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Consideration for the request from Linton Roots to install a maximum of 12 bird boxes at Leadwell Meadows. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed to agree the placement of a maximum of twelve bird boxes in Leadwell Meadows. Cllr Campbell seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Compliance and risk compliance

Consideration for the adoption of the LPC Memorial Management Policy in relation to the Cemetery and St Mary's Churchyard. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed the Memorial Management Policy be adopted with the changes as agreed.

Cllr Gardner seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Risk

Consideration for the request from a parishioner to remove the lock from the maintenance gate at the Under 8's play area. Decision required.

Cllr Gardner proposed that the recommendations, as advised by the Play Area Risk Assessors, be followed and the maintenance gate remain locked. Cllr Campbell seconded. 10 in favour with one against. Motion carried.

The Chairman requested that an additional access gate be added to a future agenda for consideration.

Traffic and highways

Update on outstanding Highways projects including LHI 23/24, 20 mph zones in Linton and the reinstatement of the village sign on Bartlow Road. For information.

The Clerk provided an update and suggested the village boundary sign be relocated by LHS to the left of the carriageway on entering the village due to the changes to the verges at the original location.

Cllr Gardner proposed to relocate the sign as outlined by the Clerk. Cllr Cox seconded. All Agreed.

Charities and local organisations

Consideration for the update from Linton Parish Charities and request for clarification of Parish Council representatives.

The Clerk was requested to confirm the date of the

AGM with the Linton Parish Charities. Cllrs Gardner and Hine confirmed they would attend if available to do so.

St Mary's churchyard

Consideration for the request to apply for tree works in St Mary's Churchyard for re-pollarding of the Limes in Autumn 2026. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed an assessment take place and advice be given to the office on the application, with St Mary's Church being informed. Cllr Mannassi seconded. All Agreed.

Recreation ground

Notification of the continuing issue with moles on the recreation ground. For information.

The Clerk advised that a second schedule of mole trapping had been requested by the contractor. Consideration for the request from Victor Harris to hold the Funfair on the Recreation Ground from the 14th-19th of May 2026. Decision required.

Cllr Hine proposed permission be granted to hold the Fun Fair on the Recreation Ground as requested with a charge of £150.00, as per last year, providing the relevant insurances and risk assessments are in place and that the organiser be advised of LPC management of the venue in relation to the supply of electricity. Cllr Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

Community buildings

The Pavilion

Consideration for retrospective agreement of the statement issued by LPC in relation to dogs being excluded from the venue. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed the retrospective agreement of the statement in relation to dogs being excluded from the Pavilion following the approval via email. Cllr Gardner seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Consideration of the exclusion list as provided by LGFC in relation to the fixtures and fittings available for purchase by LPC. Decision required.

This item was deferred due to lack of clarity of ownership and the proposed use of equipment. Clarification is required for all equipment due to be transferred to the ownership of LPC to be checked and confirmed to be in good working order/condition prior to purchase, and confirmation of equipment use by third parties and related liability to be clarified. The Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting with LGFC to discuss the matter further.

Matters for future consideration

The Chairman requested the following items be added for Future Consideration:

- Multi-Use Games Area lighting to encourage use of the facilities
- Promotion of the Pavilion building as a venue available to hire
- Additional gate for the Under 8's Play Area to be investigated.

Full minutes and written reports are available on the Linton Parish Council website.

Linton Parish Council
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