

Merry
Christmas
to all
our readers

Established 1987

Over 2,350 copies
distributed
free in Linton,
Hildersham,
Hadstock &
Bartlow

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One year on at the King's Head, Hadstock

Georgina was going to do this article as one of the In your own time series but she quickly discovered that David and Dawn have no time to themselves!

MAX the huge nine month old German shepherd puppy greeted me when I arrived at the King's Head pub in Hadstock, which David and Dawn Taylor took over in January, since when they have achieved a massive turnover. David has a company called The Perfect Pint, which is dedicated to turning around under-achieving pubs. He has four other pubs, but he and Dawn run the King's Head.

It is a free house which is supplied by local breweries such as Saffron Brewery and Buntingford Brewery. David said that over the last nine months they have sampled 85 different ales. Their policy is that once the barrel is finished they will try a different ale and never have the same barrel twice, so customers always have an exciting new experience. The many pump clips on the pub's beams are testimony to this.

David, who is a trained chef, prides himself on using only top quality ingredients from local suppliers, some very local, as produce was brought in in the summer grown by people in Hadstock. All the food is homemade and there are theme nights, such as the weekly Fish Friday (which can also be a take-away), the extremely popular Seafood Heaven (a huge platter of seafood for two), which is booked up well in advance and Caribbean nights, which are all very popular.



David Taylor, the new landlord at the King's Head

Picture by Georgina Page

As the King's Head is very small with only 18 covers they won't be doing a Christmas menu, but a special Christmas meal can be ordered and a Christmas Beer Festival is planned for the last two weeks in December.

Georgina Page

The Rector's ramblings

Recently Rev Dr Steve Griffiths asked if he could do a regular column for the Linton News, Please let us know your thoughts on his first article. Editor

IF I had a penny for everyone who, in my 18 years of being a vicar, had said: "Oh Christmas is coming up – it's your busy time, eh?" I would be a very rich man by now.

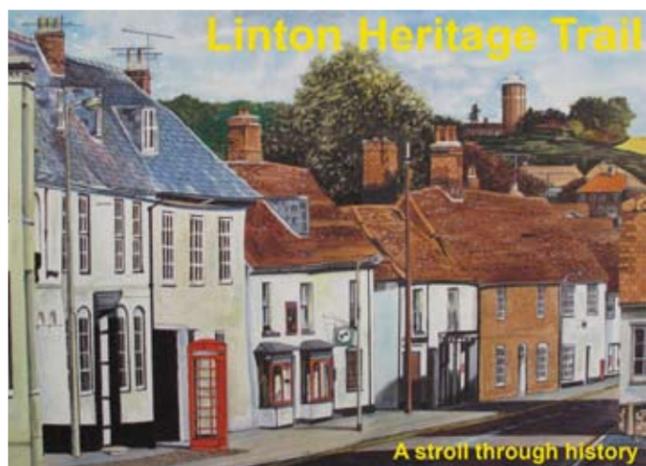
The truth is, Christmas is no busier than any other time of year for a vicar. It's just more public. There are more events and services to attend to than any other season. That's certainly true for me at St Mary's this year. Our Christmas Tree Festival is the weekend of 9th December, which I am sure will be a real highlight for the community. We have Christingle at 2pm on 18th December and our Carol Service at 6pm on the same day. At 5pm on Christmas Eve we have Carols and Family Fun and then at 11.30pm Holy Communion. Christmas Day we have services at 8am and 10am. Phew! That's a packed few days.

Christmas is such a beautiful season of the year for the village community to gather around. The message of Peace and Goodwill is timeless – but especially pertinent in these days of social and international turmoil. Christmas is a wonderful opportunity for us to focus on what is important in life – relationships and an eternal perspective.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Follow my ministry on Twitter @stmaryslinton
Rev Dr Steve Griffiths, Rector, St Mary's
07905 861234

Heritage at Christmas



The front of the Heritage Trail booklet showing the top of the High Street

NEED ideas for that unusual present? Something out of the ordinary and not too costly? Perhaps we have the answer – a guided tour of Linton's Heritage Trail.

We are offering a guided tour around the most historic part of our village, with a Heritage Trail booklet complete with a centrefold map of the route,

plus the charming DVD which includes extra information linked by the Civil War Battle of Linton.

All this for £14 for up to two adults, or £18 for a family group (up to five people).

Our guided walks earlier this year were a great success with over 100 walkers taking part in five tours. As a special treat,

Garth Collard gave a talk to set us off in the right spirit.

For your chance to join us on the latest Linton Heritage Trail guided tours please send a cheque made out to Linton Heritage Trail to:

7 Symond's Lane, Linton. For more information please contact Enid, 891069 or e-mail enidsmith@TalkTalk.net

Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address and your choice of walk from the dates below.

Walks are being held on Saturday 17th March and Sunday 18th March. Meet at the village sign at 11am.

The booklet and DVD are also available from the parish office, village shops, post office, zoo and other outlets. The signed lithograph of the heritage map is available from Darryl Nantais, the Gallery, Curwen Studio, or Enid Bald.

We hope the Heritage Trail helps us to appreciate our past and to enjoy our village.

Mike Gee

An important telephone number change

YOU can now contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 101 for all non-emergency calls. The 0345 456 456 4 number will remain in use alongside 101 for several months to allow people time to get used to the new number.

The change comes as part of a national programme to make 101 the single non-emergency number in England and Wales, giving residents an easy to remember number to contact local police wherever they are.

The call system is designed to recognise where you are calling from and connect you with the local police service. If you did not want to speak to your local force, or the force area you are in, you will be given the option to be connected to a different one.

The number change does not affect the way that calls are handled and we will continue to take non-emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Please continue to call 999 when an immediate response is needed because a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or someone is in danger.

For more information on this change go to www.police.uk/101

You can contact your neighbourhood policing team by email to Hayley.Cobb@cambs.pnn.police.uk We welcome your feedback and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible. Please be aware that responses may take longer at times of high demand. Alternatively, you can ring your neighbourhood team on 0345 456 456 4 now 101.

Superintendent
Mike Brown

Lucky sixpences

SPECIALLY packed lucky sixpences are on offer at Linton Village College for stocking fillers, Christmas puddings or just for luck.

To raise money for Linton Village College Trust fund two 13 year olds in Year 9, Andrew Webb Cornell and Oliver Rouse, will be selling the sixpences at £1 each at lunch times outside the dining hall. The profit will help pay for less fortunate pupils to go on school outings and support some college awards.

Lucky sixpences can also be bought from me.

Kate France, 891602



Linton News mystery

A FEW months after a deliverer had moved I realized the monthly consignment of papers was still being delivered to her address.

To discover what was happening I contacted a mutual friend of the old deliverer who laughingly suggested the Linton News round had been sold along with the house.

To my surprise, that is what had happened. To my delight the new owners had agreed to take on the round. A big thank you to them and all 62 deliverers in Linton, Bartlow, Hadstock and Hildersham.

Look out for the new planner/calendar which will be delivered with the January issue of the Linton News, it will be the 25th planner produced by the paper.

The little black apple on the planner indicates the monthly deadline for news items. Delivery dates are two weeks after the Saturday after the black apple.

Kate France

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais Illustrated by Maureen Williams

The robin and the Roman ...

SOME say on a crystal clear night, below a full moon, one may hear the clatter of Roman soldiers descending via Rivey Lane into the village and if lucky, glimpse the twinkling of polished armour.

Such folklore by default is self-perpetuating but I've never seen nor heard them, despite an inquisitive mind, wondering why I rub my forehead when trying to remember or scratch my temples when failing to understand.

The latter I found myself doing beneath our shining celestial neighbour on one such evening. The air still, stars strung like fairy lights and a moon bathing Linton in mysterious neonesque blue light. Amidst this



ethereal atmosphere a barn owl repeatedly screeched for several minutes. Suddenly, my eyes desperately flitted right and left attempting to track faint shadowy movements in the hedgerow. I was then surprised by the airy appearance of

a robin bursting into song! Now, in this looney lunar universe, one may be forgiven for feeling a slight bout of disorientation. Yet, the question remains! Why did our native bird perform its shrill chorus in the middle of the night? Was it the luminosity and power of that ancient silver cheese ball, the mild evening, a territorial act or a courtship ritual? It's certainly remarkable and if wild birds sang throughout the night we'd all have trouble sleeping. Still, Robin redbreast stood iconically semi-silhouetted against the moon and stars; a real live Christmas greetings card. The Emperor Augustus would have approved but may have called it a Saturnalia card.

Too good for jumble...

THIS month's new items include a Sharp portable electronic typewriter (with manual), a Mothercare travelcot, a Kiddicare spacesaver cot for a baby, a mini (tabletop) electric oven with grill and a collection of 30 VHS tapes including Battle of Britain, Braveheart, Saving Private Ryan, the Good the Bad and the Ugly and Where Eagles Dare. Also a tower type PC computer system with screen (CRT), Office, CAD, internet, scanner etc but old OS (MS Millenium) is available.

Still available: the patio heater; two matching easy chairs in green velvet-like fabric; the Dell full size keyboards and mouses (or mice) and the beech coloured computer work station on wheels, three shelves (one pull-out).

The sewing machine raised £25 for the British Heart Foundation, the kitchen table and office safe raised £45 for Help for Heroes. A cot was supplied as requested raising £20 for Save the Children.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Kate France 891602 or email kfrance@profoundsconsult.com

NB The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

THE opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the LN team.

Despite popular opinion, the Ranta is NOT written by the same person each month. If you would like to rant in this paper please contact me at the address on page 3.

Have a go heroes?

OFTEN I have wondered if I would have the ability to stand up for what is right when confronted by daunting odds. Then, today, I had the privilege of witnessing a true have a go hero and I realised I do not have what it takes.

On Sunday 30th October, whilst resting from a cycle ride at the foot of Parsonage Way, I witnessed a car screech to a halt at the junction, the elderly driver bravely abandoning the safety of her vehicle to tackle a serious threat to society. I was intrigued to see what dreadful deed could have encouraged a wizened senior citizen to take the drastic action of abandoning their vehicle in the centre of a busy junction.

Could it be – mass littering? Mischievous youths daubing their latest artistic creations? A gang beating? Robbery at knife-point?

Only when the question of: "Where is your mummy?" (why do people always assume that only mums look after children?) was raised did I realise to my horror that the object of our hero's fury was my own children (seven and two), and their crime? They had, as young children have for generations, chosen to play amongst the branches of a weeping willow. Unfortunately this particular specimen was not in the best of health and with the onset of autumn was lacking in leaves. Despite the rather obvious evidence to the contrary, our hero proceeded to explain in accusatory tones that the tree's poor health was entirely the children's fault,

Now I wouldn't claim that my children are angels but they are both caring individuals who love nature, wouldn't deliberately hurt anything and would be extremely upset at the thought that they might have. Having witnessed the entire game within the tree I tried to explain to our hero that the children were just playing and weren't damaging the tree. After a heated discussion, an admission was finally forthcoming that two children probably weren't responsible for the overall condition of the tree but that the problem with my generation is that we don't care what interfering senior citizens think, when they see fit to inform us. In this final accusation I'm afraid I am guilty as charged.

Eventually, having shared her views, our hero finally returned to her abandoned vehicle, presumably to tour the locality to confront other individuals with the sheer audacity to enjoy themselves in public, leaving me with two tearful children to console.

I am usually one to criticise the behaviour of some of our younger citizens with their lack of community spirit and general surly nature but as I cycled home it dawned on me, it is no wonder that by their mid-teens our youth have no respect for the older generation and feel that the world is against them when individuals such as our hero make such clearly unfair accusations to two young children.

I consoled my children with the knowledge that this lady was clearly out a day early and frustrated by the fact that someone had stolen her broomstick!

If this is what it takes to be a have a go hero, I am sincerely glad I am lacking.

The Xmas-factor

THIS is a reminder to all of you who took part in the Xmas-factor last year (and also to those who didn't) to come and sing, recite or play your instruments again this year and help us raise some funds for our society. The Xmas-factor takes place at 7pm on Sunday, 11th December at St Mary's Church. This is a competition and points mean prizes.

For an entry form contact Linda Bird at 141 High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JT, 893600 or lindabird@wait-rose.com

Linda Bird

Our open day harvest fun



Photo of a fruit face by Mr Everitt

ON Thursday 20th October, Linton Heights had an open day for parents and carers to come in and view the school and the fabulous work that the pupils present. We were celebrating the harvest festival that day.

In Year 3, we compared the harvesting of wheat in the fields around Linton to the harvesting of wheat in ancient Egyptian times. We discovered that it was easier to harvest wheat now because of all the machinery. Children helped to harvest the wheat in Egypt by collecting the grain from the ground. We

Painted pictures showing each stage of the Egyptian harvest.

In Year 4, we enjoyed making fruit faces. We tried drawing our own fruit faces in Arcimboldo style. The picture here shows an example of one of our fruit faces. Taylor said: "Harvest day was great!"

In Year 5, we examined the kwanzaa, which is based on the year-end harvest festivals that have taken place throughout Africa for thousands of years. Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase matunda ya kwanza, which means first fruits of the harvest. We celebrated this festival by making African masks.

In Year 6, we researched about the goddess Demeter. We discovered that she was the goddess of the harvest and that, when her daughter Persephone was taken, she wouldn't grow the crops for farmers until her daughter was safely returned. Also her symbol is a sheaf of wheat or barley, which we thought was great as our school is in Wheatshaf Way.

Clare, one of our parents, advised us that she loved being able to visit us as she could now picture her daughters, Lauren and Abigail, in school when they told her about their day.

Food donated by families on the Open Day was later taken to the Haverhill food bank.

Written by Alex, Maya, Rianna, Emily, Dorothy and Kaelie

Encouraging men to sing

SUPPORTED by a national music educational charity, this course is being run to encourage more men to take up singing. It is aimed at both newcomers and those who have not sung for a while. You will learn within a group, which makes it less daunting. Come along, it's free.

No experience is necessary and men of all ages are welcome.

There are many men who would love to sing. Most of them never get around to it, don't have the opportunity or maybe are too self-conscious to give it a go. The simple fact is that just about everyone can sing. This free course will help you to discover your voice. Also, there's no need to worry about reading music, the simple teaching methods will help you to learn a song quickly.

Maybe it's a few years since you have sung. If so, this course is the perfect way to ease your vocal chords back into action. If you are a regular singer, then come and try four part a cappella close harmony in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The course will cover vocal production, support, anchoring, resonance, sound matching and performance. All taught with top quality music educators in a simple way through singing songs.

The six week course starts on 19th January at the Institute, Abington.

For further details and registration phone Stephen Brown, 833725.

Stephen Brown, Vice Chairman, Cambridge Chord Company www.cambridgechordcompany.co.uk



Revolting recipes for children's charity



DURING the month of November the Infant School went all out to raise funds for three worthy charities. Firstly we held our annual Remembrance Service at the church on Friday 11th. Every child in the school wore a poppy in memory and celebration of the work our brave armed forces do to keep us safe. The service was well attended and Father Steve led the school community in a minute's silence. It was very moving and I was incredibly proud of the children who showed great respect for this special moment. A minute is an incredibly long time when you are four. The children sang a simple Remembrance song and we reflected on all our memories whether happy or sad.

During the first fortnight in November we were focussing on *The Enormous Crocodile* a short chapter book written by the legendary Roald Dahl. The children received a special parcel from a mystery storyteller who asked them to learn a simple story and then write their own versions. Part of this work included following revolting recipes to create some tasty morsels. These were sold to our lucky families in order to raise funds for both the Roald Dahl Foundation, which supports families of terminally ill children, and Children in Need. I am sure all the families enjoyed the tiger poo, crocodile claws and edible wormeries; it sounds like one of those bush tucker trials to me! In order to raise extra funds, I surprised the children by dressing as a crocodile and then invited them to decorate me with spots for a small donation. Our thanks go to everyone for giving so generously and the total amounts raised can be found on our website.

Louise Clark

Community Champion Scheme

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) works hard to make Cambridgeshire a safer place to live and work. To ensure we reach as many people as possible, we want to take our work right into the heart of local communities by using local people, who know their community best, to spread our safety messages.

We are looking for volunteer Community Champions who:

- Have good interpersonal skills and are able to communicate with a wide range of people.
- May have experience of working or volunteering with people in the community.
- May have established community links or a broad range of community contacts
- Can give us at least four hours commitment every month.

Specific days and times are flexible and you will discuss and agree these with our Community Champion Scheme Co-ordinator.

A driving licence is desirable but not essential.

Applications are invited from all sections of the community irrespective of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

To find out more contact Lynda Bubb email: Lynda.bubb@cambsacre.org.uk, Tel 01353 865037

Or go to www.cambsfire.gov.uk or www.cambsacre.org.uk

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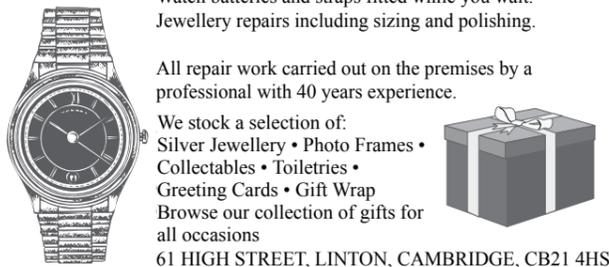


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Readers write...

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

Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested

To the dog lovers of Linton

Dear Editor

My name is Eddie, I'm the man with the two dogs, one beautiful black Labrador, Penny, and one very large beautiful gentle and mischievous blonde Retriever called Bonnie, both three years old. A few weeks ago Bonnie quickly became unwell, and was diagnosed with a rampant tumour. To save her the awful pain she was in we decided that after lots of TLC she should be put out of her discomfort. It has been very distressing, as all dog lovers will understand. Many people have asked where she is, as the two were inseparable. When I've tried to explain it's been very awkward for me as we are both still raw inside. People have been very kind, and sometimes shed a tear with us. This letter is a way of saying a big thank you. Many thanks to the village vet, David Urwin and his team who were very kind and caring.

Where we live is a lovely family with two little boys. One morning, I went past as they were getting into the car for school. One said: "where's the yellow one?" meaning Bonnie. I had to think quickly, and said: "she was very ill and I have lost her, she is in Heaven with Jesus." The elder of the two looked up at his mother and said: "that's good Mummy, Jesus makes everybody better." I will never forget this boy's innocent and honest comment, because it truly helped me to understand that, with all the trouble around us in the modern world, we have beautiful young children and families like this in our midst. Once again thank you all. May you and your pets be healthy and happy, and have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year
Eddie and Margaret Hazlewood, Parsonage Way

Re: Camgrain

Dear Editor

I can confirm that the noise emanating from the Camgrain site, especially in the late summer and early autumn months, forces us to keep our windows closed so that we are not kept awake. Even then, the noise generated is unacceptably loud and often still keeps us awake.

We are situated on Symonds Lane, some distance (c. 1/2 mile) away from the site. I have great sympathy with residents of this once peaceful village who live closer than us. For them, the noise must be almost unbearable.
Geoff and Merryl Bowen, Symonds Lane

Dear Editor

I have lived in Linton for 41 years, I have heard more of the lions roaring, the traffic on the A1307 and other adverse noise than the noise from Camgrain which has never bothered me or kept me awake at night. These are all part of daily life, one becomes immune to them.

Does Camgrain really keep people awake at night or do they have another underlying problem? Perhaps ear-muffs might help.

Lian Watkin, Chalklands

Health and Safety begins in Babylon for Linton WI



OUR speaker Mr Graham Higgins said that for 34 years he had been a WI husband and had great admiration for the organisation. His working life had been in Health and Safety, starting in agriculture and finishing as a factory inspector covering an area from Tower Hamlets to Haverhill.

Health and Safety was first recorded in Babylon—if a house fell down on someone then the builder was liable; or refer to the Book of Exodus Ch 21, v 33: *if a man digs a pit and an animal falls into it then the man is liable.*

We then whizzed through more recent history with the institution of coroners in 1194 to the first Factory Act 1833 where factory inspectors could levy an immediate fine which was used to fund the industrial schools. In 1895 came the

appointment of women factory inspectors (they immediately drew attention to employees dying from asbestos, but their report was ignored and in 1935 gas masks were being made containing asbestos).

Referring to his own career, Mr Higgins said he had trained in agriculture where accidents are very prevalent and this brought him later into horse racing (he was on the design team for a new starting stall after Lester Piggott almost lost an ear in an accident) and circuses.

Later he became a factory inspector, which brought contact with industrial sites where there could be horrific accidents, clothing factories and nursing homes.

Come and join us in January for a talk on Costa Rica by Trysha Hunt, everyone will be made welcome.

Margaret Clark, 892093

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all those people who so kindly sent me cards, flowers and messages when my dear husband Arthur died recently. They were a great source of strength and comfort to my family and me.

I would also like to thank the medical staff at the Linton Health Centre and at Addenbrookes for all their care and concern over the years. Also my thanks to the Fire Brigade and Mother's Union for all their help especially with the funeral.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who supported me and my family by coming to Arthur's funeral and thanks to Lesley Gore for conducting the service and Dr Steve Griffiths for his support.

Linda Read

Dear Editor

I recently celebrated my 95th birthday and would like to say a big thank you to all my family and friends who arranged a wonderful party for me, especially to Jacqueline and Ian, Charlotte and Alice and my neighbours in Chalklands. Instead of a present I had asked that anyone who wished might make a donation to Macmillan Cancer Care, and I am very pleased that a total of £300 was raised for this very worthy cause

Thank you for your generosity and for sharing my memorable birthday.

Mrs Elizabeth Chapman

Aztecs junior FC club secretary required

LINTON based Aztecs junior football club is currently recruiting for the elected voluntary position of club secretary, as a serving committee member reporting to the club committee

This position has a prominent role, acting as administrator for all correspondence and other communications and is the official contact be-

tween the club, the county FA and the competition organisers.

Key responsibilities include co-ordinating all guidelines laid down by the club and the FA; maintaining club records; attending and organising meetings to represent the club eg league meetings, regional meetings, club/AGM and recording minutes

as appropriate; and affiliating the club to a county league and the FA. No experience is necessary, however previous involvement with a football club would be beneficial.

The successful candidate for this stimulating role will need to demonstrate good organisational, communication and record keeping skills and be able to build sound re-

lationships with both internal and external members of the football and local community.

Details about the club can be found at www.aztecsjfc.co.uk.

Interested applicants can email info@aztecsjfc.co.uk or call 07860 863723 for further information.

Malcolm Peters,
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Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
Editor: Wendy Foster email: lneditor@linton.info
phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office, failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here.

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

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY

Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Pilates classes, 11.15 - 12.15pm, Mondays	VH
Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Monday term time	CC
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays	Pavilion
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only	VH
Children's Centre office, 9am-12noon Wednesdays & Thursdays	CC
Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only)	Library
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays	VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Ashdon Baptist church
St Mary's church choir trebles, 6.30-7.15pm Fridays	St Mary's
Full choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays	St Mary's
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call Linton Village College sports centre on 890248

DECEMBER

3 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
3 Granta Playgroup Christmas fair, 2pm	Infant School
5 1 st Brownies Christmas party, 6-7.30pm	Infant School
7 Reading Group, 8pm	D&D
9-11 Christmas tree festival	St Mary's
11 Xmas Factor, 7pm	St Mary's
12 Camera Club, 7.15pm	CC
13 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
13 Fitness suite re-opens	LVC
13 Garden Club Christmas party, 7.30pm	VH
18 Christingle service, 2pm	St Mary's
18 Carol service 6pm	St Mary's
19 Mother's Union carol service, 12noon	Balsham Church
20 Historical Society, 7.30pm	VH
21 CAMTAD, hearing help, 9am-12noon	Health Centre
24 Carols and family fun, 5pm	St Mary's
24 Holy Communion, 11.30pm	St Mary's
25 Services, 8am and 10am	St Mary's

JANUARY

3 WI, 7.30pm	VH
5 Linton lunch club, 12noon	D&D
5 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
7 NO Farmers' market	
7 Friend's of St Mary's coffee and mince pies, 11am	VH

Library times: Monday Closed; Tuesday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; Wednesday 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Thursday Closed; Friday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon. Closed 5th - 11th January.

Refuse collection: 5th, 19th December & 4th January

Recycling collection: 12th & 28th December

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

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We remembered them



Special service of remembrance

Picture by Roger Lapwood

STUDENTS and staff at Linton Village College marked Armistice Day by observing a two minute silence in remembrance of the victims of two World Wars and more recent conflicts.



Matthew Organ plays the Last Post at LVC

Picture by Tony Kelly

Classes came to a halt and the entire school fell silent as Matthew Organ, 13, climbed onto the roof of the new library to play the Last Post on his trumpet. Many of the students wore poppies as they stood in silent respect for the generations before them who had made the ultimate sacrifice on their behalf.

Earlier a group of year 9 students led a special assembly of remembrance following their recent visit to the World War One battlefields of Belgium and northern France.

Tony Kelly
tony.kelly@lvc.org

150 + 32 + 38 = 45000 Beyond belief?

DURING the October half term, I was part of the Beyond Belief initiative in Cambridge, where 150 young people came from all over the UK and delivered 32 community projects, working with 38 partnership churches to deliver 45000 hours of kindness.

On Saturday 22nd October the young people arrived at Impington Village College from around the UK. On the Sunday they met with their partner church(es) and set up their projects. Later that day we all visited the Grafton Centre to celebrate Beyond Belief in Cambridge, when Bishop David commissioned the young people and their projects. He said: "I'm chuffed to bits to be here in the Grafton Centre tonight to commission the young people who are doing great things in Cambridge. This is one of the best things that has happened in my time in Cambridgeshire."

Monday to Thursday started with worship. The young people would then head off to two of their projects. Each group ran one project in the afternoon and another in the evening. They included children's holiday clubs, free bike repairs, gardening, decorating, clearing litter and graffiti, community sports and games, cage football, cafes, youth clubs and drop-ins.

I feel so privileged to have taken part in these six days. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have had as a result of volunteering with the amazing youth here in Linton and the encouragement given by the leaders. So next time you hear news headlines talking about the youth of today, I hope you will remember how 150 young people gave up their half term, to sleep on classroom floors, whilst serving others and demonstrating the kindness of God in their own words and actions.

Sue Filby

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

WE have had four crimes recorded in our neighbourhood since the last ecops update and I have listed them below:

Between 5.30pm on 3rd November and 7am on 4th November, unknown offenders entered an agricultural premises on Cambridge Road, Linton. They ripped out electrical cable to a diesel pump and forced the door and lock on the pump.

On 4th November between 7.30pm and 7.45pm the window of a residential property on High Street, Linton was smashed. PCSOs are carrying out enquiries regarding this crime and are appealing for the witness who chased the offender to come forward.

Please call PCSO 7239 Fisher

on 3454 564564. We are carrying out house to house enquiries and are keen to follow up any further information.

On 12th November between 1.45pm and 6.55pm a brand new car was damaged on Balsham Road. Both wings and doors have been keyed back down to the metal.

As you are aware there have been a number of criminal damage to motor vehicle incidents in the Linton area. Leanne Fisher and I are keen to resolve these.

We are carrying out proactive patrols during peak times, but would urge anybody with information to call us on the above number. Sandra.Davidson@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Keep well keep warm

YOUR top six tips for keeping warm and well:

1. Heat your home well. By setting your heating to the right temperature, 21°C during the day and 18°C at night, you can keep your home warm and your bills as low as possible

2. Get financial support. There are grants, benefits and sources of advice available to make your home more energy efficient, improve your heating or help with bills. It's worthwhile claiming all the benefits you are entitled to.

3. Eat well. Food is a vital source of energy, which helps to keep your body warm. Try to make sure that you have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day.

4. Get a flu jab. You can get a free jab from your GP to protect against seasonal flu if you are over 65, have a long-term health condition or are pregnant.

5. Look after yourself. Keeping active is important for your health. But if you do go out in cold weather, it is important that you wear extra clothes to make sure that you are wrapped up warmly. During very cold and icy weather conditions it is safer for older people, very

young children and anyone with health problems to avoid going out.

6. Look after your family and neighbours. If you have an older relative or neighbour, look out for them during the winter to ensure that they are well, warm and able to have hot meals and drinks.

Further information about how to heat your home can be found on the Home Heat helpline website at www.homeheathelpline.org.uk or call 0800 33 66 99

For information about services call NHS Cambridgeshire's Patient Advice & Liaison Service on 01223 725588 or freephone 0800 279 2535

The wonders of the season

SOMETIMES when the weather turns dreary we can all find it difficult to extol the virtues of the autumn and winter months. Fortunately for members of the Gardening Club Peter Walker was on hand just when we needed a boost after days of drizzle. He brought the season back to its full glory, reminding us of what visual treats were just outside our doors with his beautiful slides of local woods



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and countryside.

Peter treated us to a whistle-stop tour of the highlights of the season from fungi to fireworks, overwintering birds to strings of dewy cobweb pearls, mounds of snowdrops to a snowman goalie. This was smoothly combined with artwork from across the centuries to mark the festivals that cheer us along in the coming months. He closed by quoting Billy Connolly: "There is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing!"

The club next meets on 13th December, when four brave gentlemen will attempt to follow the instructions given in the wreaths and sprays for novices demonstration to simultaneously create their own masterpieces. The Christmas meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are warmly invited to join us. Please remember to bring a glass with you if you would like some mulled wine. All donations of mince pies gratefully received.

Kirsten Newble, 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Camera Club goes wild



Ladybird and larva

Picture by Mike Crofts

AUTUMN is normally a time for beautiful changing leaves creating a blanket on the ground, so it seemed a good time to go to Wandlebury with the Camera Club.

Unfortunately, with the strange weather we have been having, it was still very mild and we should have waited an extra two or three weeks; the leaves were not quite as picturesque as we would have liked, but there was still plenty to see and it made for a very pleasant morning.

We discovered that we could just about see Ely Cathedral across the fields (with binoculars, as it was a little hazy) and discovered a small herd of highland cows, who were very disinterested in us.

We searched around for insects for our macro lenses and one of our members discovered some ladybird larvae, something I had never seen before.

Afterwards we met at the George at Babraham for a leisurely Sunday lunch.

At our last club night, full members were invited to submit one A4 photograph depicting still life, a subject we had covered a few months ago. There were nearly 20 entries and the winner was Alan Lawley.

Our next meeting will be our AGM, which will incorporate a small pre-Christmas buffet.

Please watch our website www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk for the calendar for next year.

Tracey Wilson 891988

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Where a child can be safe and have fun

THE Meadow Out of School Club (MOOSC) in Balsham provides a safe and fun environment for children aged four-11 during term-time, and holiday clubs.

MOOSC has received a good Ofsted report and during the holidays extends the care to children who do not usually attend the Meadow school.

Do you need a bit of extra time for Christmas shopping or last-minute preparations? MOOSC is open from 8.45am-5.45pm on 19th and 20th December. Please contact Emma Appleby at emmaappleby3@btinternet.com for more details.

The children will be making Christmas tree decorations which will be on display at the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity church in Balsham during 10th and 11th December.

As MOOSC is run by a voluntary management committee, funds need to be raised to ensure that the club stays open. A Christmas raffle to help with this will take place on Tuesday 13th December, tickets are 50p and can be bought from the school and any committee or staff member.

The first prize is a hamper and there are numerous other prizes, including bottles of wine, a home-made Christmas cake, box of chocolates etc. Ideas for fund-raising or donations to MOOSC will be welcome. Thank you for your support.

Emma Appleby

Conkers Centre latest

VISITORS to our new rooms for sessions on Bumps to Babies, Chattertots, Fun@One, etc have been very pleased with the lovely space, kitchen, and children's resources. We also have a large new buggy shelter.

The centre welcomes families from all the villages surrounding Linton.

As a result of the Rosie maternity hospital's reorganisation of community midwifery, the Sienna Midwife team is now based at our centre (phone 349314).

Our office is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am - 12pm. Any families with children under five can call in, especially if they have any enquiries about local groups, health services, childcare and returning to work, education or family issues. You can often find us there at other times too, and we are available by phone from Monday to Friday 9am-5pm on 893594 or 475921.

If you would like further information call us on 893594 or 475921, or email lintonchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Theresa Bateman

Lighting-up time



Student Graeme Beck captures the brilliance of the display

THANKFULLY the weather stayed dry at the start of November for Linton's annual fireworks night, which took place on Camping Close and brought out a record crowd all eager to enjoy the fantastic bonfire and display.

The fireworks, the 22nd year they have been held, were accompanied by a soundtrack of favourite movie themes, which produced several highlights – including a James Bond segment set to fizzing firecrackers and the Circle of Life represented by a catherine wheel.

Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped make it possible. Special mention should also be made of our principal sponsor, Camgrain, for its generous donation for the loan of specialist vehicles and personnel to set up the field.

We are not yet able to reveal the total amount raised, but we are confident it will be a substantial sum to be split equally between the local PTAs.

Andrew Clark

Re-ablement

Being independent following an operation or illness

IF you or someone you care for requires social care support following an illness or operation, this would traditionally have been provided by a care assistant providing direct care to the person in need.

Since September 2010 a new service, re-ablement, has been providing support to enable older people who have poor physical or mental health following illness or an operation to live in their own homes.

Re-ablement programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally don't exceed six weeks. The ethos of re-ablement is to encourage people to do things for themselves rather than done for them. There is no charge as long as the individual is participating in the programme.

Re-ablement is now being offered to a wider client group including new service users with a physical disability and new occupational therapy referrals. Future development of the service will look at assisting older people who already have a care package but due to illness or physical issues may now require a higher level of support.

You can find out more about re-ablement at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social or by contacting Catherine Gleadow, Re-ablement Project Lead at Cambridgeshire County Council on 699858 or email: catherine.gleadow@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Catherine Gleadow

A lump to a brick ...

Richard has offered to do different local articles like this each month. Let us know what you think. Editor

BARELY 10 miles North East of Cambridge lies the village of Burwell where a small brickworks is situated ... bricks are rarely the subject of conversation unless one is dropped.

Unsung as it is, the brick's history covers at least 7,000 years. Bricks were first used in Mesopotamia, but they were simply sun-dried and only years later were they kiln-baked. Little has changed to this day. The only major concession is the use of electricity for power.

On arriving at the Burwell Brick Company one Thursday morning, I could see Jerry, the manager, explaining to a young lad how he required certain bricks stacking.

Jerry later took me through the whole brick process, which starts with a large heap of clay at the back of a shed.

The predominantly grey/blue gault clay comes from a clay pit two fields away. This particular clay which fires into a buff/white colour is broken up along a conveyor with a hopper and roller.

It is then screw fed into a flattened form, water is added and then it is broken into many pieces and formed into layers and passed through a rag mill. It becomes rough warp (stiff and plastic). A wooden mould is used to form the bricks or tiles. Sand may be applied at this stage.

The bricks are cooked at 980°C for 47 hours, after which there is a cooling-down period for three to four days.

Customers are mostly builders and the end user is often not known by the brick-maker. However, I was told that Princess Diana had used them for a brick floor.

A number of Cambridge colleges have been supplied, as well as some shipments to Ireland. There was one order for a Scottish castle.

Richard Read

POT POURRI (81)

Can a broken stick make a triangle?

WHAT probability is there for a stick broken at random into three pieces to make a complete triangle? (A little thought will help when realising where the breaks must lie).

Solution to 80 - How many books?

THE practical solution to the book overhang is a delicate balancing act. Using mathematical reasoning, it would require four books for one book to overhang the edge of the table without toppling over the edge when each is placed over the one below.

The first book overhangs by half, the second by a quarter, the third by a sixth and finally the fourth book overhangs the third book by an eighth. Thus the fourth book overhangs the edge completely ($1/2 + 1/4 + 1/6 + 1/8 = 25/24$ i.e. more than the book length over the table's edge).

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Facelift for fitness centre

DATES for work to start on refurbishing the new fitness suite at Linton sports centre (LSC) have been confirmed, with work starting on Friday 2nd and finishing on Monday 12th December. The suite will reopen on Tuesday 13th December.

Throughout January we will be offering new members a free bodystat fitness test plus personalised programme worth £30. For further information, visit our website at www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk. You can follow the LSC on Facebook and find us on Twitter @Lintoncommsports

Party time for cherubs

STUCK for something to do with your cherubs on their birthday? Well, we have relaunched our children's party facility. It now includes a greater variety of activities to choose from plus we are including goodies within the package. For further details, please visit our website, www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk or email lcsc@lvc.org.

Learn something new

ENROLMENT for the spring term of adult education courses will take place from 5th-16th December and then again for the first week back after Christmas from 3rd-6th January. To download our course programme, please visit www.lvc.org, click on Adult Education and select the course programme in the far right column. To enrol on any courses, please email adulteducation@lvc.org or call 891233 and select Option 4.

In memory of Jess ...

GLYNIS Hanlon who makes refreshments for the Farmers' market is going to donate £100 of her takings to the Teenage Cancer Trust through LVC. Glynis and her daughter Katherine were both very touched by the death of Jess, who was a pupil at the college and who died last year from cancer.

Jan Lupton

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The Derbyshire Post



WE took possession of the new Linton Village College building on 31st October. The move was remarkably undisruptive, we had timed it to coincide with the half-term holiday and a training day, so no school days were lost during the building time or the move.

Everyone is startled by the amount of space and the beauty of the design. The first thing you notice is the attractive reception area with its rotating doors, balcony area and the school logo embossed in the floor. This is a space for adults only, kept separate from the children for proper, child-protection reasons as visitors sign-in. Next comes a two tiered corridor housing offices and a Board Room for meetings, a central space for a student café, and two huge circular spaces which are the East and West student common rooms.

Beyond these indoor social spaces, is a staff room and work station and the cylindrical library with mezzanine study area. The library is divided into zones: a soft area for comfortable reading, a computer work zone and upstairs areas for independent study. It is the best school library I have seen. Almost every area in the school is now connected by internal corridors, movement around the buildings is quicker and teachers feel less isolated. Best of all we all remain dry when it rains.

We are going to add these new buildings to our portfolio of lettings, so if you are interested in booking part of the college for an event, or wish to have a look around, contact Steve Austin (steve.austin@lvc.org), our community business manager. We want the community to enjoy these new spaces too.

Caroline Derbyshire



View of the new entrance to Linton Village College

Picture taken by Tony Kelly

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/1254/11 Mrs Dorothy Anderson, 18 High Street, Listed building addition or extension. Alterations and repair of boundary wall.
- S/1255/11 Mrs Dorothy Anderson, 18 High Street, Listed building addition or extension. Alterations – Partial rebuild of garden wall to lower height.
- S/1774/11 Mr Donnan, The Rectory, 5 Church Lane, Proposed additional front window and dormer projection, weatherboard cladding to existing walls and open front porch.
- S/2089/11 Mrs Moore, The Lindens, Hadstock Road, Single storey side extension.
- S/2187/11 Mr Crosbee, 5A Green Lane, Single storey extension.
- S/2235/11 Mr & Mrs Thomas McKenzie, 17 Granta Vale, Installation of 3 roof lights in the south-west elevation of the proposed single storey rear extension (Non-material amendment).



The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

Church Cottage and how it became the Anderson Trust

THE cottage at the bottom of Church Lane was only called Church Cottage in the early 20th century. Built in the 16/17th century, the thatched property, which has recently been extended, was named for its owners, Barnhams in 1600, Shelfords then Bartons in the 18th century.

Early in the 19th century it was occupied in turn by two families, the Whiffins and the Hills and was used for their haulage businesses.

In 1815 Abraham Whiffin was paid four old pence for carrying coal to the church from Cambridge.

In August 1846 the cottage was burgled whilst Abraham Whiffin was in church. The thieves stole two silver watches and a silver snuff box. A year later one of the thieves foolishly tried to sell



Church Cottage, Church Lane taken around 1910

Picture courtesy the late Mr William Willis

son-in-law John Hill and wife Mary, nee Whiffin, provided they cooked and cared for him for the rest of his life.

The cottage was almost burnt down in October 1920 when a boy threw a firework onto the thatch. Fortunately the local Church Lads Brigade was nearby ready for an inspection. Two lads climbed onto the roof and pulled off the burning straw. Others fetched pails of water from the nearby river. They saved the cottage and were rewarded by cancellation of their inspection.

The cottage was bought for £8,250 in 1970 by Professor Charles Anderson and his wife Mary. It was left to the church as a gift. When sold in 2006 it raised around £350,000 invested in the Anderson Trust, a village charity.

the stolen goods to an undercover policeman. Abraham, who was deaf, so amused everyone in court that the case

became a farce. The thieves were acquitted.

At 85 Abraham bequeathed the property to his

A trip down memory lane



George Hunt with some of the present pupils at LVC

Picture taken by Tony Kelly

ONE of the very first students to attend Linton Village College returned to the college to share his memories with the current generation of students.

George Valentine Hunt, 85, was among the first group of students to start at the college when it opened in 1937. His favourite subject was woodwork, taught by Mr Frost, so it was no surprise that he left school at the age of 14 to become a carpenter in his father's business. Later he served with distinction in the Second World War, being awarded the Burma Star for his service in India and Burma.

Mr Hunt, who has two daughters and five grandchildren, was taken on a tour of the college by year 10 students Lucy Baker and Ross Smithson. The students, both aged 14, enjoyed hearing his stories of how life had changed since he was their age. He described how he was born in the old post office at West Wrattling and lived in a small cottage opposite the site of today's Linton Zoo, where a family of 13 occupied two rooms without running water, electricity or indoor toilets with an air-raid shelter in the back garden.

Mr Hunt was very impressed with his tour of the college. "Today's students are so lucky to have so many opportunities to study different subjects and such wonderful facilities," he said. Tony Kelly

Applications invited for the Anderson Trust

THE Trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2012. The aims of the charity are as follows:

To support the work of St Mary's Church

To promote education and any other charitable purpose for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton.

In 2011, five grants were made ranging in value from £100 to £4,500 covering varied activities supporting all ages across the community.

Applicants need to complete the 2012 application form, which contains further details on the application process. The form is available from David Parry-Smith, Chairman of the Trustees, on 894715 or by email from the address below.

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David Parry-Smith, 894715

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Parish Council Matters

Strategic housing land availability assessment

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

TO plan for the predicted growth in the Cambridgeshire economy and population over the next 20 years, South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) asked landowners to suggest sites for housing development. Previously our 'village envelope' has protected us from expansion, but these proposals take no account of this defensive boundary. The map (shown below) and lists of potential sites meeting the initial criteria of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), are on the SCDC website at www.scams.gov.uk/ldf/shlaa

These identify 14 sites around Linton, including a crescent of land to the east of Linton, off Balsham Road and south of Horseheath Road, previously discussed with Linton parish council when we pointed out the impracticality of the proposals. Also, land on Horseheath Road, for which recent plans were withdrawn. New sites include areas off Back Road, The Grip Meadow, around the Grip, either side of Long Lane, and east of Station Road. It does not include the site of the police houses (already discussed for social housing) and other village sites, as their development would be under current planning rules. The field that Linton has been offered for allotments is not part of these proposals for de-

velopment, but the field beyond Paynes Meadow is now included. Some of the SHLAA sites include potential for open spaces and recreation (a site for up to 750 houses includes allotments), but perhaps these would not be of much benefit to the current housing areas and residents.

Linton needs some extra houses, especially social housing for those with links to Linton, but if all the SHLAA proposed sites are developed, this could be an increase of 1,500-2,300 homes – do we need so many? It is obvious that Linton does not have the infrastructure, water, schools, medical and other resources, for so much expansion. Would current facilities be expanded or would new ones have to be built, with impact on the current ones? Building south of the village would mean that the railway could never be re-instated. Many suggested sites are on floodplain. We chose to live in a village, not a commuter town; there are no proposals for jobs and workplaces for all the extra people. Also, there is the minor matter of the A1307 ... overlooked in the St Edmundsbury expansion plans and insufficient for current needs, let alone any expansion.

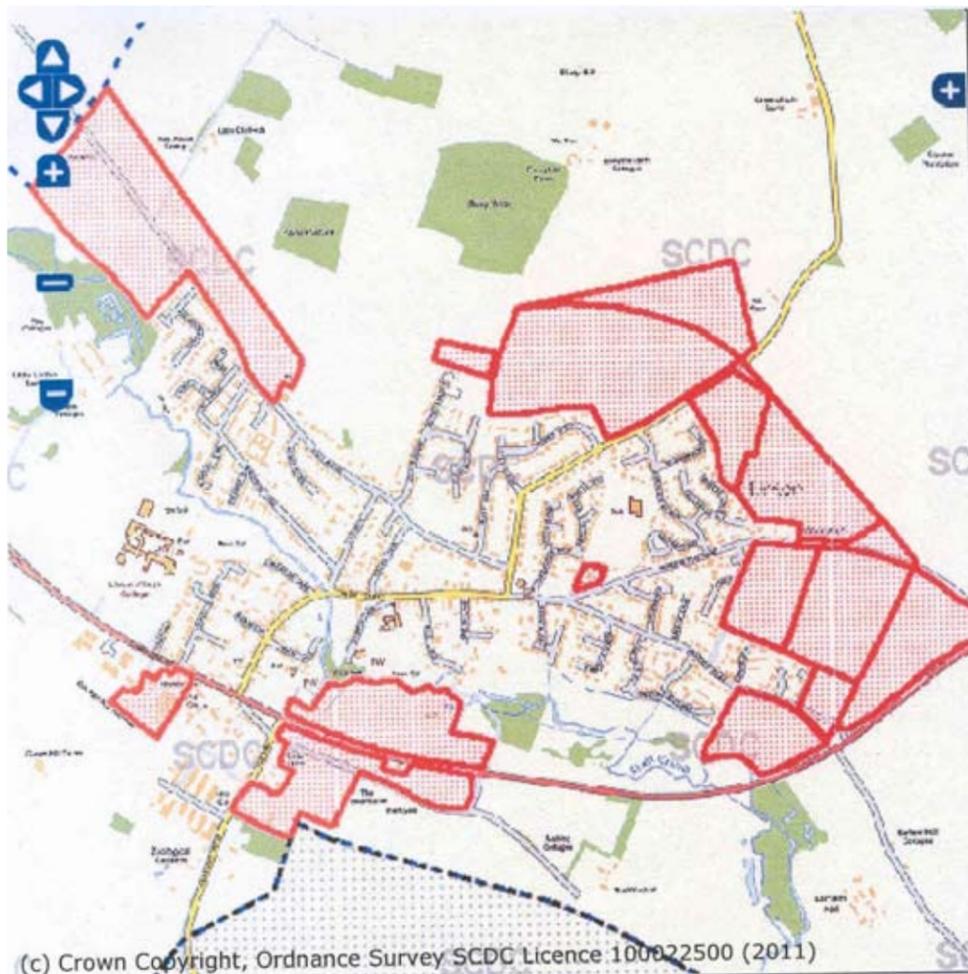
Linton is a very historic village, centred on the conservation

area and with around 150 listed buildings; the character of the village is worth protecting. There are probably Roman, Anglo-Saxon and earlier remains on the SHLAA sites and around us are sites of special scenic and scientific interest; many could be compromised by development, which is why some planning applications have been rejected in the past. Even some road verges are special and to be protected. Our historic and special features must surely have some weight when considering the extent of housing our village can take.

Various options for development are mooted – to expand Cambridge, build a new town (four sites have been suggested), to extend the villages, or a mixture of these. SCDC has already filtered out some development areas, and those suggested will next have to pass a technical assessment of viability. There will be public consultation, as usual, before any decision is made. I suspect that Linton parish council will have a lot of hard work to do to help SCDC present their case to the government and to reach a solution suitable for Linton.

Please send us your comments and thoughts on the proposed SHLAA sites and development.

Cllr Enid Bald



Map showing sites suggested for housing development which will be assessed by the district council for their potential suitability, availability and achievability

Map courtesy of South Cambridgeshire district council

How will the A1307 cope?

AS previously mentioned, South Cambridgeshire district council are currently considering sites for substantial building and development in Linton. As in common with many other villages, Linton does have problems with infrastructure and facilities, such as the sewage system, or the lack of recreational land for a village of its size. However these days most of these problems are surmountable.

The A1307 is the biggest constraint on the village, and the parish council have already made representations of this to the district council. Improvement to the village accesses via a £1.5 million roundabout at the Bartlow Road crossroads has already been refused, as modelling showed congestion issues and queuing. Therefore any developer monies will not automatically provide the necessary improvements we would like. At the present time, the village has no safe access onto the A1307. It is pointless increasing the population of our village until safe accesses are built. Major plans for growth have been passed by the government for Haverhill, which will mean that there will be at

least another 300 vehicles on the A1307 per hour, and this will make the access problems for the residents of the villages that surround the road more severe.

Building in some parts of the village will drive more vehicles through the High Street, which can barely cope at the present time. Our historic buildings are already suffering. It is now a common site to see the bus held up in the village trying to access the A1307. With delays such as this to the number 13 service, it may mean that the service provision for the village interior is reduced, in favour of the express service that just stops at the old police houses.

So the parish council's first comment to the housing was that the whole infrastructure of the village must be considered, and not just the local areas of proposed development.

Other news on the road ... following the latest fatal accident at the Dene Road crossroads, the county council have initiated an A1307 steering group. The group will be tasked with influencing and informing the work programme of the road and will be encouraged to actively support elements

of work such as road safety campaigns to maximise their impact along the corridor and in neighbouring areas. The steering group will comprise relevant county and district councillors and parish councils adjacent and neighbouring the corridor. At the present time, county council officers are reviewing the earlier work undertaken to improve safety as well as considering new initiatives. The county council envisage undertaking highway audits at selected sites along the route to assess the potential for future highway improvements. As we could not have a million pound plus roundabout at the Bartlow Road crossroads because of the congestion, it means major funding from the government will be required for any improvements to help access.

To date the county council have never asked for government funding, and the parish council will continue to pressurise them to do this. Haverhill has been allowed to grow without building and investing in road infrastructure to support it, and it is time our residents stop paying the price.

Cllr Esther Cornell

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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 20th October 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, J Linsdell, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, Mrs A Walker and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with ten members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Wilson.

Welcome: Dan Penfold was welcomed to the council and the declaration of acceptance of office form was signed.

Disclosure of interest: Under allotments and the report on meeting with Steve Hampson, Cllr Walker declared personal interests as an employee of Camgrain Ltd. Under the report on meeting with Steve Hampson Cllr Hickford declared a personal interest due to association with an employee at Camgrain.

Public participation: Two residents of Paynes Meadow spoke of their concerns regarding imminent development of the site. The chair responded that an area to the north of Paynes Meadow had been added to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). However no decision as to its suitability would be made until after the public consultation next year. Concerns were also raised that Paynes Meadow was attracting anti-social behaviour.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October: Carter Jonas had written confirming their clients, the Diocese of Ely, proposal to develop land between Horseheath Road and Bartlow Road and had offered information.

Cllr Cornell confirmed that the parish council's submission to the St Edmundsbury concept statement public inquiry had been forwarded to South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) for information.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: Cllr Champion reported that the main areas of concern in Linton were criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. An appeal had been made for information relating to the identification of the four skateramp arsonists. He would alert the police to the anti-social behaviour taking place in Paynes Meadow.

Report from the county councillor: Cllr Batchelor reported that the threat of closure to libraries had been lifted. The withdrawal of subsidised bus services had been delayed until the results of the public consultation were known.

A resident asked Cllr Batchelor if a crossing could be installed at the top of Coles Lane and outside Sweet Talk News. He was concerned for the safety of children crossing. Cllr Batchelor responded this had been investigated when the crossing patrol had been lost but it was unlikely that one would be permitted outside Sweet Talk News due to visibility problems. Cllr Bald alerted everyone to the safer routes to school scheme, however clearer signage would be beneficial.

Reports from the district councillors: Cllr Bear confirmed that SCDC housing surgeries were no longer taking place in the village hall or Chalklands community centre. However Liz Berridge was willing to make house calls if required.

Cllr Batchelor commenting on the SHLAA stated that it was very unlikely any development would be allowed outside the existing village envelope.

A member of the public, Paul Poulter, was amazed that Carter Jonas gave the impression they had entered into financial discussions with developers and considered their letter to be forceful and misleading.

Recreation ground play equipment: The swings had been taken out of action for safety reasons.

David Walker's business proposal for new play equipment on the Recreation ground was considered. Mr Walker confirmed that he had met with Kompan to discuss possible ideas for new play equipment and a quotation had since been received. Cllr Potter was concerned that the item 'climby shifter' was possibly for older children and was not suitable for this area. Mr Walker agreed to source new swings as an addition to the current proposals as these had been highlighted in Wicksteed's report as needing to

be replaced within the next 12 months.

Cllr Cornell proposed that £2000 be set aside for new play equipment to assist with obtaining grant funding. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bald and resolved by the meeting.

The chair thanked Mr Walker for his work on this project.

Written reports from council representatives: Meeting with Steve Hampson, SCDC on 12th October. Discussion took place regarding the lack of enforcement particularly in respect of Nichols Court and Camgrain. Cllr Hickford reported that residents had raised complaints about recent excessive noise from Camgrain. Cllr Hickford stated that during the summer months some noise was expected, and even then it caused concern to some residents. Now it was autumn residents needed to know why Camgrain was reported as emitting more noise than the summer months.

To consider correspondence received: Invitation to county council heavy commercial vehicles strategy meeting on 29th November. Cllr Cornell reported that this meeting was for smaller villages with access problems. She had previously highlighted concerns regarding the safety of children at the village college who were only protected by a fence against lorries speeding along the dual carriageway. No response had been received and she asked Cllr Batchelor to look into this issue.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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1st December 2011, 5th and 19th January 2012

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commencing at 8pm

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 3rd November 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, J Linsdell, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, Mrs A Walker, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with eight members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Mannassi.

Disclosure of interest: Under the correspondence item relating to Camgrain Cllr Walker declared a personal interest as an employee of Camgrain Ltd, Cllr Hickford declared a personal interest due to an association with an employee of Camgrain and Cllr Bald declared a personal interest being a household who suffers from their excessive noise. Under the allotments item Cllr Walker declared a personal interest as an employee of Camgrain Ltd.

Chairman's comment: The chair congratulated councillors Bald, Champion, Dew, Hunt, Potter and Wilson on completing their recent training. The chair reported that unless any councillor had a confidential matter to discuss eg financial or concerning an offer of land under allotments, he would declare that item non confidential. Cllr Walker reported that she did have a confidential matter to discuss and therefore it was agreed to keep the allotments agenda item confidential.

Public participation: A resident and employee of Camgrain asked that the council be more supportive of Camgrain. The chair replied that it was the duty of the parish council to support businesses and residents alike.

A resident was concerned with the speed and number of vehicles travelling to the pavilion particularly on a Monday evening. The chair replied that only authorised vehicles should be using the access. It was reiterated that cars should park at the village col-

lege and use the route via Stantons Lane to the pavilion, which is suitable for disabled access as well.

A resident and employee of Camgrain reported that when he arrived at work at 7am the only noise that could be heard was from fans from other factory sites. Cllr Bald disputed this.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October: A transport statement had been received from Carter Jonas. Cllr Cornell reported that this was seriously flawed as it assumed that all vehicles would use Horseheath Road and not the High Street to access the A1307.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open spaces and environment: The clerk reported that South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) had advised that they would be placing a blue recycling bin adjacent to the litter bin at the bottom of Coles Lane. This was to encourage recycling when 'on the go' and was for a three month trial period only and not a permanent fixture. SCDC had given assurances that the bin would be emptied and the area tidied every two weeks or more frequently if found to be necessary. It was agreed to request that the bin be placed adjacent to the litter bin on Parsonage Way instead.

Recreation ground: Cllr Manley had issued a report regarding the pavilion extension and refurbishment following his meeting with Jim Hill, Cambs Football development manager and Alan Lamb, a surveyor, who had been involved with various projects relating to football facilities in Cambridgeshire and was recommended by the Football Association. It was agreed that Mr Lamb would project manage this development as it was anticipated that his fees would be considerably less than other professional bodies. The chair thanked Cllr Manley for his work on the project.

Churchyard: Cllr Cox confirmed that the flint wall had been finished up to the capping bricks. The conservation officer had requested that new bricks be used which should be in keeping with the old capping bricks, some of which had been reclaimed. Cllr Cox had brought in a sample brick. Other small sections of wall to the east had also been repaired.

A1307, traffic and recreation ground parking: A meeting had taken place to discuss installing a car parking area by the Meadow Lane gate. Cllrs Gee and Bald had measured this up and had drawn out a possible plan with new gates. It was hoped that this would prevent unauthorised vehicles from driving to and from the pavilion. This plan would be circulated for comment to all interested parties and pavilion users including the water board, funfair and county council.

Written reports from council representatives: The signage proposal for the Cathodeon Centre issued by the Cathodeon trustees was considered. It was requested that the full address, including the postcode, be included as previously requested by the emergency services.

To consider correspondence received: Mrs T Coston had requested answers to questions relating to the allotments. Most of these questions had been answered by the statement that the council had issued. However it was reiterated that the council had a statutory duty to provide allotments and any financial discussions were considered confidential at this stage.

Mrs D Creek had concerns regarding the allotments proposal and the costs that would be incurred. The chair stated that any proposed financial implications were subject to heads of terms being agreed, and these still were not near completion. They were not in the public domain. He referred to the statement issued by the council on allotments.

Reports from councillors (for information only): Cllr Champion reported that the Conkers Children's Centre was up and running.

The traffic police had been very active on the A1307 between 17th and 18th October, issuing four tickets for excessive speed, 36 tickets for not wearing a seat belt and eight tickets for using a mobile phone.

Cllr Cox read out a personal statement the subject of which was deemed confidential by council.

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

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