

Brownies' Jumble Sale
Saturday 9th October
2pm
Village Hall

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Finding out what a life in the slums is like

THE Beacon Community Trust youth group, IMPACT, will be taking part in the Slum Survivor challenge from the 29th-31st October.

They will spend the weekend the way that one billion people spend a life-time – in temporary settlements or slums.

The young people will build their own slum huts for sleeping at night and they will live on just two meals of lentils and rice a day. They will leave behind all the trappings of modern day life – mobile phones, MP3 players, cosmetics etc experiencing various challenges throughout the weekend to simulate aspects of slum life.

This year the young people are inviting you to come and taste this slum life for yourselves in the Slum Cafe, where they will be serving up portions of lentils and rice.

The Slum Cafe will be open between 6pm and 7pm on Saturday 30th October in the United Reformed Church hall, Horn Lane.



Living rough: slum dwellers queue up to receive their meal of lentils and rice

Picture by Louise Rose

We hope to see you there.

You are welcome to come and look round the slums and chat to the slum dwellers anytime during the weekend in the grounds of the United Reformed

Church.

The young people are hoping to raise £2000 for Soul Action, a charity that supports some of the poorest communities worldwide. If you would like to

sponsor them, you can do so online at www.justgiving.com/lintonslum survivor

For further information please contact: Louise Rose 893289 or louise@adrian-rose.com

Enjoy this season with the gardening club



WELCOME to autumn. The new season's programme of events for the gardening club guarantees to make the most of nights as they draw in, preventing us from being out in the garden.

Not every AGM attracts bugs and their larvae but on 12th October ours will, as Bill Johnson promises to bring a few extra guests to show us as he talks about aquatics.

November blows in BBC meteorologist Jim Bacon to talk about the Weather Business. Look out for more details about this event in a separate article this month.

Our Christmas gathering welcomes Ron Pearson with his guidance on orchids for beginners.

The ever popular Barry Kaufmann-Wright starts the new year, joining us for our meeting on 11th January.

In February Jane Frost brings her practical expertise to demonstrate how she makes willow and other fibre structures for the garden.

In March inspiration for

planting seeds once more comes in the form of Chris Day from Buckingham Nursery with his talk on how to grow your five-a-day, the Good Life Garden.

We look forward to April when Derek Archer from the Bury and Cambridge Bonsai Club will explain the art of bonsai.

Our final meeting of the season will be in May when Stephen Poyser will speak to us about beekeeping and the gardener.

All meetings take place at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall. Everyone is welcome to join us as a visitor for £2 on the night, but for only £10 annual subscription you can become a member and entry to all the season's meetings is included. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Any donations of cakes, jams or produce for the sale at the AGM would be greatly appreciated on the night. Thank you.

Kirsten Newble 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Walter bounces into Linton



Animal magic: Walter is quite happy to see new visitors

Picture by Paul Ferguson

A new star is here

LINTON Zoo has a new star – Walter is a young male red kangaroo who came to the zoo from Belgium.

Life hasn't been easy for Walter after his mother rejected him as a baby and he had to be hand reared, but he has made it and is now ready to start a new life in the Cambridgeshire countryside.

For some years the zoo has been successfully working with the tiny Parma wallaby, once thought to be extinct, and we have always wanted to be involved with other marsupial species.

Only a couple of other parks hold and breed the red roo, so it is quite a privilege to have such a lovely animal at Linton zoo.

Soon he will be joined by some nice young females and will have a chance to head his own troop.

Walter is very friendly and has even allowed some of our visitors, participating in keeper experiences, to get close enough to feed him by hand.

For more information on Walter and other zoo news, visit the zoo website at www.lintonzoo.com

Kim Simmons



Brodie a young visitor, makes a new friend

Picture by Paul Ferguson

Too good for jumble

AVAILABLE this month is a Newhome electric sewing machine; offers please. Still available are the double twin Mothercare buggy (red and black with foot muffs), an Epson picturemate photolab and a Panasonic KX-FP205E fax machine, telephone and answerphone with instructions, a child's snooker table and accessories (for up to age 14) and the Logitech keyboard. The 28in television raised £30 for the British Red Cross.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone

Kate France 891602 or email katefrance@linton48.freeserve.co.uk

NB: The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

The regatta on the Cam is a perfect day out

WHEN my mobile phone rang at 10am on Sunday morning, I suddenly realised I was supposed to be at Coles Lane car park meeting with the Camera Club for the September away-day – a boat trip on the River Cam, which I had been looking forward to. I hadn't dressed nor eaten my breakfast but these were achieved in record time and I was in the car 25 minutes later.

I managed to arrive at the Plough at Fen Ditton with five minutes to spare and able to join other Camera club members on the boat Rosie for a 45 minute slow jaunt towards Cambridge. Once again we had ordered just enough sun with some photogenic clouds.

There was a regatta just downstream of the starting point, so we had to wait for a race to finish, but there was a mixture of sculls, pairs, fours



Rowing on the Cam in the sunshine; what a way to spend a Sunday!

Picture by Tracey Wilson

and eights on the river with plenty of spectators, although it was quite unnerving taking photographs of people when they were staring back so intently. There was a mixture of

boats moored along the banks, some of which were obviously lived in and well cared for and some in a dilapidated state. The ducks and swans performed on cue and we had a very relaxing time, followed by coffee at the Plough on our return.

Earlier in the week, some of our members attended the funeral of Mike Clay, who was one of the founding members of the club. He passed away in Addenbrooke's hospital on 30th August after a long illness. Mike will be remembered with fondness as an enthusiastic photographer who especially liked taking photographs of planes and cars, and occasionally turned up to an away-day in an open topped MG – we ladies would fight to see who would accompany him in the passenger seat.

The next Monday night meeting will be featuring club member John Matthews, who will give a presentation on Action Photography and the theme for members' photos will be Signs, as well as away-day photographs.

Our Annual Exhibition is from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 16th October in the village hall. Entry is free, there will be refreshments, a sale table, raffle and a chance to win your favourite photograph from the exhibition. Your picture will be mounted in an A4 frame.

Please see posters for details, visit our website at www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk or telephone Roger Lapwood on 971797 or myself on 891988.

Tracey Wilson



Visitors or rowers: all enjoy the delights of the water

Picture by Maureen Williams

Open day for parents at LVC

FOR the second year running, the college has decided to open its doors to visitors on Thursday 7th October, during a normal working day.

"We know that what parents really want to see is what happens inside the classroom rather than coming to a stage managed event", says LVC principal Caroline Derbyshire. "We are proud of the outstanding teaching and learning that takes place at LVC and we invite all parents and year 6 pupils to come and see it for themselves".

Ms Derbyshire will give presentations in the school hall at 9.15 and 11.30am and there will be tours of the college led by student prefects. For those parents who are unable to visit during the day, there will be a further presentation at 7.30pm and tours can be arranged at a future date.

Tony Kelly, 891233

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

BETWEEN 1st and 9th September offender(s) entered a large wooden shed/barn on a driveway in Linton. A ride-on lawnmower and a garden strimmer were taken.

At 10.30pm on 3rd September a vehicle was stopped and searched on Mill Lane in Linton by local officers. Class B drugs were found and the offenders dealt with accordingly.

Between midnight and 6am on 5th September offender(s) smashed the outer pane of a window on the High Street in Linton. Enquiries have been made within the area, and CCTV was taken to be reviewed.

Between 9.30pm on 10th and 6am on 11th September offenders entered the scrapyards in Linton, broke into a number of outbuildings and stole a small amount of metal.

On 10th September the Linton Neighbourhood Policing Team executed a drugs warrant at an address in the neighbourhood. Several cannabis plants were found in a growing area and in the loft. A man was arrested for production of cannabis. The man was interviewed and released on bail pending further police enquiries.

Following the departure of our neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Rebecca Williams, we have been joined temporarily by Sergeant Nick Skipworth. Sergeant Skipworth has experience in crime and has spent the last few years working in departments such as the Murder Investigation Team and CID.

If you have anything to report to the police please call 0345456 4564 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

PC Rebecca Parkin
Linton Neighbourhood Team

Parking, the popular topic at the police panel meeting

FOLLOWING a relatively quiet summer period, motorists were the main focus of attention at September's police panel meeting held at Linton Heights school.

John Fuller, police community engagement manager, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the representatives from the police and county and district councils.

Inspector Chris Savage then detailed changes to local personnel. Sergeant Rebecca Williams has left her job to take up a teaching post and will be replaced in November by Sandra Davidson. Meanwhile, Nick Skipworth will be filling in, having recently been involved in the investigation into the Wisbech arson attacks.

Following the retirement of chief constable Julie Spence, Simon Parr is the new man in charge, transferring from the Hertfordshire force.

Details were then given about the work done to monitor the speed of vehicles passing through the villages. The meeting was told that a number of officers were being trained in the use of new speed detection equipment, and that recalibration of the old equipment was taking a long time. Villages wishing to take part in the

community speed watch program should contact John Fuller.

A question was raised about the legality of parking on pavements. It only becomes an offence when, for example, a pedestrian pushing a child's buggy cannot safely pass. It is not enough to simply say "if I was pushing a buggy, I'd be unable to pass."

Among the issues raised was the recent increase in late night fireworks noise, some as late as 2am. Inspector Savage said that although it was illegal to let off fireworks after 10pm, it was difficult to dedicate much manpower in that direction

because of the random nature of the incidents.

By far the biggest discussion of the evening was about dangerous and illegal parking along the High Street, and antisocial vehicle use in general. Some motorists have already been spoken to about their choice of parking space, but it was suggested a much tougher line was needed as the problem is not easing.

A tougher line is being taken with uninsured drivers, with several cars being towed away in recent months.

The next meeting will be held at the Fulbourn Centre at 7.30pm on December 14th.

La Pipelette (Chatterbox)

Une première fois

LE 7 août je suis allé voir jouer l'équipe de football de Tottenham contre la Fiorentina d'Italie.

Tout s'est passé comme cela.

La Fiorentina a mis un but au bout de quelques minutes et voilà 1-0 (un à zéro). Peu de temps après, Tottenham a inscrit un but 1-1 (un partout). Ils ont très bien joué en groupe. Après les joueurs de la Fiorentina ont encore marqué, 2-1 (deux à un). A nouveau Tottenham a égalisé 2-2 (deux partout). A la fin, un dernier but de Tottenham et ils ont gagné 3-2 (trois à deux). C'était super de voir le match dans le stade, c'était ma première fois.

C'est bien les premières fois où on fait quelque chose. A bientôt.

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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 team.

Optional support for melons

Dear Editor,
I have just read the gardening query concerning support for melons in last month's Linton News, and wonder if tights may be a less voyeuristic option for support!

Good luck,
Liz Webber
High Street

New digital trial for talking newspaper

THE Annual General Meeting of the Granta Grapevine will be held on Thursday 14th October at the Chalklands Community Centre.

The doors will be open at 7pm and the AGM proper will start at 7.30pm. Everyone with an interest in the group is very welcome to join us and afterwards there will be refreshments and time to meet the team behind the talking newspaper.

We particularly

encourage our listeners to come and hear about our digital trial, as we will be bringing along one of the new players so you can try it out for yourselves and talk to one of our volunteers who has been using it.

We can provide transport for listeners who live near Linton, so if you would like to come and need help with transport to come to the meeting, please call me.

Mike Crofts 893619

Be green with home-made Christmas gifts?

SATURDAY 20th November is a date to put in your diary as Sawston village college is planning to run a selection of seasonal workshops on that day. They will take place between 10am and 4pm.

Workshops already planned and being considered include Christmas cookery for all, card making and Christmas decorations.

If you think this year you might want to personalise your Christmas gifts or be more green in your giving, then you may want to participate in some craft workshops.

Workshop ideas currently being investigated include screen printing on cotton shopping bags and candle making. Sugar craft illustrations and digital photography have also been

suggested.

Sue King at Sawston adult education is keen to ensure that the day will be a great success and so would like to know what would tempt you to college.

She says: "We want to offer workshops that people would be really interested in and so are keen to hear from everyone."

We would also like to hear from anyone who can offer a workshop on a seasonal theme."

Sue King can be contacted by phone on 712424 or by e-mail at sking@sawstonvc.org.

Alternatively, you can find her at the adult education reception at Sawston village college, from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday.

Lesley Morgan

Getting the needle may help



WE are very fortunate in Linton. We not only have an excellent health centre but also an excellent complementary health centre. Last month Peter White, a practitioner at the complementary centre, gave a talk on relieving pain with acupuncture. Peter is a graduate from The College of Oriental Medicine where he studied acupuncture and massage. He has also studied in China.

Acupuncture treatment consists of the insertion of fine needles into a few carefully selected points on the body, this rectifies the energy imbalances diagnosed and stimulates the body's healing energy. It balances our yin and yang. It can be used to treat arthritis, back pain, headaches, skin problems, insomnia – and more.

Acupuncture's origins in China are uncertain but it is said that some soldiers wound-

ed in battle by arrows were cured of chronic afflictions and its practice can be traced back to the Stone Age when sharpened bones and stones were used, but by the second century BC were replaced with metal.

Interesting acupuncture facts: Otzi, a 5000-year-old mummy found in the Alps, has tattoos on acupuncture points, and the first European text, *An essay on arthritis*, was written in 1683 by the Dutch physician, Willem ten Rhijne, who studied for two years in Japan. It was also practised in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries by Benedictine monks.

It will be an interesting evening on Tuesday 2nd November. Sue Hotchkiss will be talking about climbing Kilimanjaro.

This is one of our open meetings when we invite non-members, including gentlemen, to join us. We meet at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Trysha Hunt 894533

A new look at Designer Drapes



Owner Bill Richards and shop manager Lesley Williams outside the new look shop

Picture by Roger Lapwood

DESIGNER DRAPES, based in Hadstock for the past 30 years, has had a makeover.

A new shop front and spacious reception area welcome you in to browse through an extensive range of fabrics, in a relaxed atmosphere, with free design ideas and advice provided by owner Bill Richards and shop manager Lesley Williams.

Personal friendly service is matched by a fair price and work guarantee and ensures that you can have the high quality soft furnishings of your choice hand made by professionals.

Also offered is a leather restoration service, upholstery in traditional or modern techniques and a free in-home service where they will bring the shop to you if you are unable to visit.

Bill and Lesley can help with a large selection of cushions, voiles, tracks and poles to compliment your fabric and they can also match your headboard or bedspread.

For the month of October only they are offering a 25% discount off selected fabrics over 8 metres and 20% off named Prestigious Wallpaper on production of the Linton News advert below.

LNT

LINTON DIARY

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

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

Call 891104 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
Chestnut baby and toddler group, Mondays term time, 9.30-11.30am		CC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)		VH
WEA, 10am Tuesdays		VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	Church pavilion	
Linton Granta Toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays		LVC
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays		LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays		CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays		VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays	St Mary's	
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays		CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919		CC
Tots in Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only		VH
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays Apr-Oct	Bowls pavilion	
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays		VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays		VH
The Karate Club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays		VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP	
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Hadstock village green	
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays		CC

For sports centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248

OCTOBER

2	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
4	Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
5	WI, 7.30pm	VH
6	Linton reading group, 8pm	D&D
7	Open Day 9.15am to 7.30pm	LVC
7	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
7	Linton lunch club, 12 noon	D&D
9	Wednesday Brownies' jumble sale, 2pm	VH
10	Hearing dogs' walk, 10am	Milton country park
12	VIP meeting, 2pm	Chalklands
12	Gardening club AGM, 7.30pm	VH
14	Granta Grapevine AGM 7.30pm	Chalklands
14	Fairtrade wine tasting evening	CP
16	Camera club annual exhibition 10am	VH
16	Friend's of St Mary's quiz, 7pm	Infant school
21	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
28	ACE's lunch, 12 noon	CP
31	Fauré's Requiem, 6pm	St Mary's Church

NOVEMBER

2	WI, 7.30pm	VH
3	Linton reading group, 8pm	D&D
4	Linton lunch club, 12 noon	D&D
4	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
6	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
6	Gift fair, 10am	LVC
6	Mother's Union, nearly new toys etc, 11.30am	VH
9	VIP meeting, 2pm	Chalklands
9	Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH

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

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

Refuse collection: 11th, 25th October

Recycling collection: 4th, 18th October, 1st November.

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Don't delay call today

Bright skies over Linton with Jim Bacon

HAVE you ever thought our weather in Linton was quirky. Has it changed over the years? Well now is your chance to hear all about The Weather Business from the BBC's Jim Bacon and get your questions answered.

As a meteorologist for 35 years Jim Bacon has gained experience in a wide range of weather forecasting areas, from aviation to marine and the media.

Jim joined the Met Office in 1968 and started work on East Anglian RAF stations. From 1971 to 1974 he was a computer programmer based at Bracknell and then started a degree course in meteorology at Reading university.

Since graduating in 1978 Jim has been one of the public faces of meteorology, appearing on national and regional TV. He was also weatherman on BBC 2's The Travel Show in its early years. In 1986 Jim joined the staff of Anglia Television where he became head of the weather department. He now also runs his own commercial weather company providing services for weather sensitive businesses or leisure activities.

Jim was once awarded a Noel



Presenter Jim Bacon providing us with an overview of the weather

Picture courtesy weatherquest

Edmonds' Golden Egg Award for meteorological optimism when he put sunshine symbols on a night time weather chart. When he manages to find a spare moment one of his other interests is organic gardening.

Jim will be speaking in the village hall on the 9th November at 7.30pm as a guest of the gardening club. Everyone is invited to come to hear him but entry is by ticket to ensure the hall does not overflow. They

only cost £2 and are available from myself. If you would like to book please call or email me, using the details below.

Kirsten Newble 892425
email lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

A magical return to school



IF you go down to the school today, you're sure of a big surprise... That was the situation for children and parents alike as they returned after the summer break. Over the summer the staff and volunteers helped transform the public areas in the school with a wild wood theme.

The children are reminded not to stray off the path as you may encounter a gruffalo, a wolf or even some wild things. At the end of wild wood corridor you enter a clearing and there you find Red Riding Hood's granny's cottage, complete with bed, rocking chair and fireplace.

My thanks go to Mr Robinson who helped construct a full size cottage out of timber and mdf. This area will be used for drama and writing.

From the cottage you enter the rose arches. Half way down there's a magical garden, where a pixie has problems with his numbers and needs the children to help out. Finally a left hand turn takes you down to our library but you need to be brave to creep through yet more wild woods. As you may have guessed our term's work focuses on books of stories in the wild woods.

Our school in Linton lends itself well to this theme and years one and two children have already explored the locality with a trip up to Rivey woods. Nothing beats first hand experiences; however, they couldn't find a gruffalo or a wolf on this occasion.

Our thanks go to Kevin a parent who has expertise in trees and was able to share his knowledge with the children. Later we will be holding an Autumn Watch evening on 21st October.

We are after other experts who may be able to support this event through talks or hands-on activities for the children to explore wildlife. If you would like an evening looking for bats or seeing what's around at dusk, please contact the school.

Louise Clark

Microsoft IT Academy

LAUNCHING a project new for this year, Sawston Village College is pleased to announce that it has become a Microsoft IT Academy Program Member and is now offering courses in Word 2007, Excel 2007 and Outlook 2007, all leading to Microsoft Office Specialist Certification.

Led by qualified tutors, courses comprise 30 hours, spread over 10 weeks. They can cater for individuals looking to improve their skills and can also be tailored for businesses aiming to ensure their employees are trained to a professional standard.

Wendy Worby, Adult Education Administrator responsible for co-ordinating the Microsoft IT Academy Program, says, "We're excited to be able to offer Microsoft accredited qualifications at the college and already have our training room set up ready to go. We'd therefore like to hear from anyone - individuals or businesses - who'd be interested in this qualification. I'm

very happy to visit businesses to discuss how we can meet people's needs, and anyone is welcome to come into the college to speak to me".

If you are interested in gaining a Microsoft Office Specialist qualification, then get in touch with Wendy today at the college from 9am - 1pm Monday to Thursday. You can call her on 712424 or email wworby@sawstonvc.org.

Lesley Morgan

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Remember your loved ones

LIFE, with all its joys and sorrows, can seem at times particularly unfair. Loved ones are taken from us in circumstances both swift and bewildering, perhaps in the prime of life. Others seem to be taken a little piece at a time with chronic degenerative illness. For those of us left behind, the effects of bereavement are immediately vivid and real.

Then comes the long, often painfully slow, journey of healing. Even after many months, often years, a small remembrance can trigger a startling and unexpected outpouring of grief. This is not something that works to a fixed timetable. Naturally, others may forget your grief, imagining that your life is getting back on track perhaps after a relatively short period. The truth is we never will forget but the burden will lighten.

At a recent funeral, we recalled the shortest verse in the Bible - "Jesus wept" at the

death of Lazarus. He wept with the mourners then and he weeps with us in our grief. At 6pm on Sunday 31st October at St Mary's, we remember Lazarus again in the final movement of the *Requiem* by Fauré, "In paradisum". You are welcome to come to the service, to light a candle, to hold your beloved departed in the presence of God, meditate during the music and share in refreshment at the close of the service.

If you would like to join the choir to sing the Fauré *Requiem* please contact the director of music on 894715. If there is anything you would like to discuss with clergy, please contact the team rector, The Rev Dr Steve Griffiths on 891291. St Mary's parish church is open every day during the week for the whole community from morning prayer at 9am until evening prayer at 5.45pm and between 8am and 7pm on Sundays.

David Parry-Smith
894715

Early Christmas present

AN appeal for photographs for the 2011 edition of the Linton Calendar has produced some marvellous snow scenes, enough for the next ten years. It has also provided some lovely scenes for the coming edition which will be available in October, in time for posting overseas.

Thank you to all those who have submitted photographs for publication, especially members of the Linton Camera club.

The calendar is produced by the Friends of St Mary's church in Linton to help raise funds for repairs. Funds are always needed to keep a mediaeval building in good repair and roughly £80,000 has been spent on the stonework of the church in the last two years.

Many copies of the calendar go to friends and relatives abroad. Copies costing just £6 will be available at the Friends quiz night on Saturday 16th October and, after that, from Monica Clarkson on 892988.

We also have a Cook Book for sale, which has sold very well at £8 available from the same number.

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Parent and toddler group has just opened



Toddlers at play having great fun

Picture by Karen Graveson

IT has been a very busy start to the term at Chestnut Playgroup with the successful opening of our Parent and Toddler Group on Monday 13th September. Children from the ages of 0-4 years enjoyed a variety of activities coinciding with our playgroup theme of the week which was *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

This included a tea party role play area and a teddy bear painting craft table for the toddlers, with a separate baby play area available for the youngest attendees.

Fortunately the bad weather held off until the afternoon, allowing us to open the garden and playground equipment for all to enjoy.

Many mums, dads and grandparents took the opportunity to sit down with a cup of coffee and a slice of cake whilst the children played and we all joined together to sing songs, led by our playgroup staff members, at the end of the session.

The parent and toddler group will now continue to

run every Monday during term time at the Cathode-on centre and families are welcome to drop in any time between 9.30 and 11.30am.

In the coming weeks we are hoping to offer something different for parents and carers to enjoy, such as a manicure given by a qualified beautician or craft activities (subject to additional cost being paid directly to the person offering the activity). We are therefore keen to hear from anyone qualified people interested in leading such an activity on an occasional basis during our Monday morning sessions.

For more information about the parent and toddler group, our breakfast club sessions or our playgroup sessions, please make an enquiry through our website at www.chestnutplaygroup.btk.com or contact our admissions officer.

Karen Graveson 891416
Playgroup Committee

Celebrating the Space hop



A few of the children collecting their awards

Picture by Linda Pearson

DURING the summer the Library has been running the Summer Reading Challenge for the children. This year it was all to do with space and aliens etc (there were also some meerkats not sure what they were up to) and it was entitled Space Hop.

The children had to read six books of their own choice during the holiday, and in return they were given a space log with stickers as they went along, and a Space Hop membership card. There was the promise of a medal and achievement certificate when they finished. 150 children signed up to the challenge and 93 finished all six books, which is a tremendous result. Nearly all of those who didn't finish read at least one book, often more.

Saturday 18th September was the day chosen for the presentation and we had a steady stream of children coming to collect their medals and certificates which were presented by Councillor John Batchelor. There were also chocolate brownies and squash for everyone. We are very grateful to Councillor Batchelor for spending so much of his Saturday morning presenting the prizes and generally encouraging everyone to keep on reading.

Some youngsters who completed the challenge were not able to be present, but we do keep the medals and certificates and if you speak to a member of staff next time you come in, we will give them to you but sadly, all the brownies have been eaten.

The staff at the Library have really enjoyed the enthusiasm shown by our young readers, and we are very proud of them. We also enjoyed keeping our Space Hop book display, containing anything from *Aliens Love Underpants* to *Dr Who* to non-fiction about the planets and space travel, up to date as the books were borrowed. It's amazing what you can find in your Library.

Linda Pearson, Supervisor, Linton Library

A dramatic party

THIS year SYD celebrates its 40th anniversary. As part of the celebrations it will be holding a special open day at Sawston Youth Centre on 30th October. The day will include performances by all of last year's casts including the 7s, Juniors, Seniors and the newly formed adult group, Sawston Theatre Company.

The event will also include photographs, displays, videos and other memorabilia from SYD's history. We hope that past members will visit the youth centre and see how much it has changed and for new members to see where they could be performing if they were to join the group. A schedule has been put together to cater for past, present and future members, their families and the wider public, so if you would like to come along we would love to see you there.

The event will start at 2.15pm and will be open to members of the public until 7pm. Thereafter it will be open to past and present SYD members only. For more details of the reunion, to see the full schedule for the day or to find out more about the group's forthcoming productions please visit www.sawstonyouthdrama.com or email reunion@sawstonyouthdrama.com.

Meghan Warth

POT POURRI (69)

How many sub-divisions?

A FARMER possesses a square field which he sub divides into nine equal blocks.

How many rearrangements of rectangular shapes can he make from the field?

Consider the field itself as one rectangular block.

Hint: draw a square and sub divide it into four equal parts and determine the number of rectangular shapes. Remember that square shapes can be assumed rectangular.

Solution to No 68 Where did the paths cross?

THE solution involves Pythagoras' theorem with the distance from the 50m edge to the path crossing being 52.54m.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF...

Keys found

I RECENTLY found a bunch of keys with a Linton Zoo fob and pictures of two young children in Cambridge Road, Little Abington.

There was also a memory stick attached. These have been taken to Sawston Police Station.

Please contact me for further information.

Derek Tunidge 891133

Christmas shoe box appeal

AS a presenter for Samaritans' Purse and Operation Christmas Child, I would welcome the opportunity to give a talk to any church, school, group or organisation about the work Operation Christmas Child is involved in.

Especially in the making up and sending of shoe boxes filled with gifts for children in poorer countries who have never before received a Christmas present. I am CRB checked and look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me on: kandpcook@talktalk.net

Penny Cook 892203

Turn out for the Brownies

THE Wednesday Brownies are holding a jumble sale at 2pm on Saturday 9th October.

Please note that the sale this year will take place in the village hall not the Infant school as in previous years. Sorry we cannot accept electrical items to sell.

Daphne Brazier 892276

College gift fair

ASPECIAL event at Linton Village College is going to be the Linton Christmas gift fair on Saturday 6th November.

More than 30 stalls will be on display, each with different items. With no duplication it will be a totally refreshing and unique fair for everyone.

The Friends at the college are joining in with a Father Christmas grotto, cakes and refreshments.

The event starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm.

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Camping Close will remain a public space

ON 3rd September the parish council received notification that its application for Village Green status for the Camping Close had been approved. Originally, following an objection by the Education Department, it was thought that the matter would go to Public Inquiry; the objection was later withdrawn.

The application was made in order to stop the fencing of part of the Close by the Infant school, which would have meant that the land north of the path would have been unavailable for recreational use. The Infant school had already been provided with a safe play area when an earlier fence was erected and the children can continue to use the Camping Close as they always have.

In 2008 the parish council met with the young people, police and youth workers

at the village college in an attempt to reduce antisocial behaviour.

The parish council agreed to provide benches and goalposts, not only for the young people, but for the whole community to enjoy at the far end of the Camping Close near the church.

The county council was quite happy for the goal post and benches idea to proceed and they were not concerned about the lack of playing field space. However the Infant school took the opportunity to put forward a plan to fence off some of the Close.

Due to the lack of recreation land in the village, and the fact that this area had been used by village residents for games, picnics, etc for as long as anyone could remember, the parish council submitted an application to Cambridgeshire county

council for it to be given Village Green status.

With help from the Open Spaces Society, a large number of questionnaires completed by village residents, a petition and thorough historical research, the parish council was able to substantiate its application with considerable evidence – this included minutes of parish council meetings from 1946 where the council had recommended that it be preserved as an open space for additional recreation land for all the village.

We thank everyone who helped by completing questionnaires and providing written and photographic evidence.

The parish council believes that its application must relate to one of the oldest greens, being documented since 1674 and used for

village sports since ancient times.

The Camping Close gets its name from the medieval football game – camping, which was popular in East Anglia. It was a particularly rough form of football played after church on Sundays, which is why many of the fields are next to churchyards.

The Camping Close has been shown on village maps since the 1600s and there are not many greens that have been preserved and are still used for recreation over 400 years later.

The parish council is pleased to announce that our Member of Parliament, Jim Paice, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, will be attending the official opening ceremony at 11.30am on Saturday, 16th October.

Esther Cornell, Parish Council Chairman



Chef's corner

Blackberry and Pear Crumble

Serves 4 (Recipe by James Martin)

Ingredients:

100g golden granulated sugar
250g blackberries
200g plain flour
100g unsalted butter, cold, cut into small pieces
85g shelled pistachios, roughly chopped
100g demerara sugar
700g (or 4 large) ripe English pears, peeled and cubed

Method

Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5. Place the pears in a pan, add the granulated sugar and cook on a medium heat until the fruit starts to soften and releases its juices, about 10 mins. Add the blackberries, bring back to the boil, then remove from the heat. Spoon the fruity mixture into 4 individual ovenproof ramekins, or 1 large baking dish.

Place the flour, butter and a pinch of salt in a large bowl and rub together with your fingers until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add the pistachios and demerara sugar, then stir to combine.

Sprinkle crumble evenly over the cooked fruit. This can be done up to a day ahead, or frozen for up to 1 month. Bake for 20-25 mins if small, 40 mins if large, until golden. If baking from frozen, add 15 mins cooking time. Remove from the oven, cool slightly, then serve with ice cream, if you like.

There are green fingers in Ashdon too

WHETHER you're an expert or a total novice, there is something for everyone at the Ashdon gardening club, so why not join us.

You'll be made very welcome, enjoy talks from our excellent speakers and have a fun evening rounded off by a cuppa, biscuits and a chance to chat.

The club meets on the third Thursday of the month from September to May with special garden visits in the summer and an annual barbecue.

We invite new members and guests to join us for a warm welcome and refreshments. All meetings are held at Ashdon village hall at 7.45pm for a question and answer session.

Diary dates include on 21st October, Pests and Diseases a talk by Peter Jackson, Scotsdales' horticultural director who has been with the nursery for over 40 years.

Organic Gardening, a talk by Mike Thurlow who is head gardener at Audley End's organic kitchen garden, is also on the agenda.

For more details on dates and meetings or subscriptions please contact the gardening club secretary, Lisa Swan on 01799 584144 or e-mail her at lisaswan2@msn.com.

Lisa Swan

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"WHAT spare time?" says this month's subject – Dr Brian Cox.

What do I do in my spare time in order to while away the long hours during my semi-retirement? (I am still involved in medical research and am also an Officer of a Cambridge College, so semi-retired). The reply, as for many people in my situation, is "what spare time?"

The problem is trying to find time to take part in recreational activities. My principal interests are music (now playing intermittently in a traditional jazz band and other groups), genealogy and restoration of systems and artefacts associated with old buildings (in one of which I happen to live and in which there is a problem determining what is restoration and what necessary maintenance), the Monday Gang in the churchyard and the parish council.

Firstly music; from the age of 15 I ran a small dance band, playing saxophones at weddings, socials and dances. This activity led me to be able to spend one year of my National Service as a full-time musician with the Headquarters Fighter Command Orchestra. The opportunity arose to turn professional when I completed my National Service. However, my career interests were principally scientific research and I was fortunate in being able to join a research team at Guy's hospital and so music became a recreational activity. My principal instrument now is the double bass (which requires less practice than maintaining a high standard on saxophone).

I first became interested in genealogy whilst at Guy's, checking out family fables (most of which were just that!). These led me to pursue my family background. At that time this activity required visits to Somerset House and various rural parishes dotted about the country in order to persuade the incumbent priests to open the Parish Chest and search through the original parish registers.

The sight of one's ancestor's signature on ancient documents gives a thrill, which the access to the information on the Internet cannot replace. One family story which did turn out to be

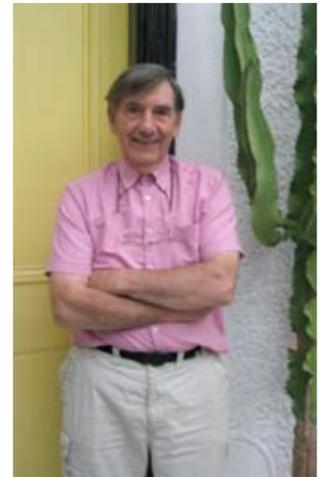
true, was the fact that in the late 19th century my grandmother was an artist's model operating out of the Royal Academy. Subsequent to her marriage and seven children, in order to earn some money she became a model again, but was by then somewhat increased in size, which was just what was needed for statues of the late Queen Victoria. So in front of Buckingham Palace is my grandmother from the neck down.

Living in a relatively old house (circa 170 years) there is the satisfaction of returning to their original state, wells and pumps, stables and mechanical bell systems (to alert the now non-existent servants).

The Monday Gang carries out general maintenance in the churchyard, grass cutting, tidying up graves and trying to keep the churchyard as an attractive village feature.

The parish council used to be fun – with limited powers but having some influence on the way Linton developed. However, now with two meetings a month and more than 50 pages of papers at each meeting (when I first joined more than 25 years ago, the total year's minutes amounted to less than 50 pages) it is becoming more of a chore, and the increasing bureaucracy is a disincentive to anyone wishing to take part in their spare time. However, I carry on because I feel that there needs to be some continuity within the Council and John Linsdell and I, as the longest serving members, act as living archives and are able to answer queries as to how decisions were made affecting the village in the last three decades.

LNT



Brian relaxing in his conservatory

Picture by Georgina Page

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The beautiful bullfinch

THIS month I am providing information on the bullfinch. I have not seen any recently but as they are such beautiful birds and we had a family of them feeding in the garden last month I thought that I would find them in the book and pass the information on to you.

“Crown, throat, plumage round the bill, wings and tail lustrous purple-black; upper part of the back bluish ash; cheeks, neck, breast and flanks red (in the female reddish brown); rump and abdomen pure white; a broad buff and grey band across the wings. Length six and a quarter inches. Eggs light greenish blue, speckled and streaked with light red and dark purple.

‘The Bullfinch’, said Macgillivray, usually so accurate an observer, ‘is not very common anywhere.’ From this last remark I infer that the author in question was never either proprietor or occupant of a fruit-garden in a wooded district or he would have re-

ported very differently of the frequency of the Bullfinch. During winter the food of these birds consists exclusively of berries of various kinds and seeds, especially of such weeds as thistles, rag-wort, duckweed, plantains etc., either picked up from the ground or gathered from herbs and shrubs. In spring, unfortunately for the gardener, their taste alters. And nothing will satisfy them but the blossom-buds of fruit-trees, especially those which are cultivated. They attack, indeed, the buds of the sloe and hawthorn as well; but of these, being valueless, no one takes note. Still keeping together in small family parties, all uninvited, they pay most unwelcome visits to gooseberries, plums, and cherries. And, if undisturbed, continue to haunt the same trees until all hope of a crop is destroyed. Gooseberry-bushes are left denuded of flower-buds, which have been deliberately picked off and crushed between their strong mandibles, while

the leaf-buds, situated principally at the extremities of the branches, are neglected. Plum and cherry trees are treated in like manner, the ground being strewn with the bud-scales and rudiments of flowers. Some persons endeavour to deter them by whitewashing the trees, and are said to find this plan effectual. Others wind a straw rope round the gooseberry-bushes, so disguising their natural appearance. This plan I found perfectly successful one year, but the next it was entirely without effect. A new one which I have adopted this year is somewhat more complex. In addition to the straw bands, I have stretched long strings, with feathers attached here and there, so as to resemble the tail of a paper kite; and, by way of offering them an inducement to stay away, I have sprinkled peas on the ground in an adjoining lane, in the hope that they will partially, at least, satisfy their hunger on these. Accordingly, I find my peas disappearing, but the parchment-like rind is left on the ground. This bird has, however, justly many friends, who assert that the buds he attacks are infested with concealed insects, and that the tree he strips one season will be heavily laden the following year. When not occupied in dis-budding fruit-trees, Bullfinches are most frequently observed in tall and thick hedges, either in small flocks as described above, or in pairs. They are rarely met with singly, and yet less frequently associated with birds of another species. Occasionally a pair may be seen feeding with Sparrows and Chaffinches in the farmyard; but this society seems one of accident rather than of choice. When disturbed in a hedge they are singularly methodical in their movements: first one flies out, bounds, as it were through the air in a direction away from the spectator, perches on a twig in the thick part of the hedge, and is followed by the rest of the party in single file. When the passenger has approached within what the bird considers a safe distance the same manoeuvre is repeated, each bird following, with dipping flight, the line marked out by its predecessor”.

Wendy Foster

News from the tower

AT 3pm on Sunday 26th September we rang a quarter peal to celebrate the recent marriage of Kaili Clackson and Ben Wright.

In all the excitement of ringing quarter peals and taking part in striking competitions, it is easy to lose sight of the real reason behind what we do in the tower.

Bells have been part of the English way of life for many years. Horses had them on their harness to herald their approach and they announced the hours to those without a clock of their own. Churches used them (and still do) to call the faithful to worship and to remind others that a service was about to take place.

Church bells were used to call people to the fields. There was a Seeding Bell, a Harvest Bell and a Gleaning Bell to warn that it was time to start or finish work. A Pancake Bell was rung to remind of Lent and an Oven Bell to warn that the Lord of the Manor’s ovens were hot and folk could bake their bread.

Curfew bells were also sounded and in wartime, the tolling of church bells would warn a

community of imminent attack or invasion.

This very practical use of the bells led on to the formation of the art of change ringing developed in England during the 17th century. With only six notes available to us in Linton, (and only 16 in the biggest UK tower) bellringing definitely owes more to mathematics than to music. By a series of permutations it is possible to find the maximum number of unique changes, without any one being repeated.

Bellringing is a complex, rich and rewarding subject and we enjoy it enormously, but we must never forget that all our practice and endeavour leads to one end – the call of the faithful to worship on Sunday morning, which in Linton means ringing from 9.15 to 9.45am when the service begins.

If you are interested in learning to ring, or would like to discuss any issues around bells or bellringing, please call me or just come along at 7.30pm on any Wednesday evening.

Jackie Latham
890898

Students break the record

THE class of 2010 at LVC achieved the best results the school has ever had: 90% gained five A* to C grades at GCSE. Overall 99% of all grades were GCSE passes and some of our most able students also achieved top grades in some fast track AS levels in History, Critical Thinking and General Studies.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal of LVC, commented: “This year we have broken through the 90% five A* to C ceiling and have got the best

results the college has ever had. So many students have gained better results than they or we dreamed of”.

Individual stories include:- Three students who gained straight A and A* grades in all eleven subjects.

Peter Oldfield who achieved grade A in three AS levels (usually taken a year later) as well as a string of A and A* grades at GCSE

Boy/girl twins Alasdair and Kerenza Kerslake who both achieved excellent results

including several A grades at GCSE and a grade A at AS level.

The students collected their results on 24th August and enjoyed celebrating with their friends. They received their certificates a few days later through the post.

These excellent results mean that all students who have been offered places at sixth form colleges had obtained high enough grades to take up their places.

Tony Kelly



Happy students at LVC after learning their results

Picture by Tony Kelly



The Bullfinch showing off his red plumed glory

Picture courtesy the RSPB

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The Way We Were by Garth Collard

IT'S typical isn't it! It rained throughout the summer holiday and as soon as there was the prospect of a new school term beginning again the clouds parted and the sun came out. I do feel sorry for the young people. Many returned from their vacation with tales of being stuck indoors for much of the time and then, when they did get away for a spell at the seaside, their tents practically blew away with the rain and wind. Many looked quite pleased to be back when school started again this morning.

They returned to be greeted with our good news. The college got the best exam results in its history with 99% of our students gaining five passes and 90% gaining five or more A*-C grades. A number of students also gained good grades in the A/S levels they had taken a year early. It is with great pleasure that I reflect on how these results have continued to improve. At the end of my first year at the school the A*-C stood at a worthy 76% and, at the time, we considered it a steep challenge to break the 80% ceiling.

Four years on and we added a 14% improvement to those results. This has not come about because the students are any brighter year on year, but I do think we now offer a really good range of courses and our staff work exceptionally hard to make sure that individuals do achieve. This involves endless mentoring, chasing, encouraging and actual toughness. We don't give up.

By the time you read this we will just have said goodbye to some important visitors. Sara Seroka, the principal of our link school in Soshanguve township, South Africa visited us with her daughter Phetile and fellow educator Dorothy Mkhabele. This visit precedes a trip back to South Africa for our Year 11 students next July. This time we are taking 15 young sports leaders to the township to coach their young south African counterparts and to introduce the sports leadership programme to their school.

When I last visited our link school I was conscious of how keen the students were to learn new sporting skills and how frustrated the students were that the PE teacher had been on maternity leave for a year. No cover had been provided for the duration, so PE teaching had disappeared from the curriculum.

If we can develop young sports leaders at Boepathutse then the students can coach and teach each other if such a situation arises again.

The Linton village college students can't wait to take up that challenge.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

From tannery to school to guest house

THE Springfield site once included numbers 14 to 16 and 18 to 20 Horn Lane as well as part of the Congregational church site.

For 300 years this was the main tannery site in Linton. The first tanner before 1600 was John Williams who obtained his tree bark from Borley Wood. The skins were coloured at 100 High Street and were largely sold at Cambridge market. The last tanner was John Eve who died in 1817. A fire in 1819 destroyed most of the buildings.

Calf skins were very valuable and hung out to dry near the stream which used to run from The Grip to the main River Granta near the church. In July 1822 a labourer called Edward Gibson stole a calf skin valued at 9s 0d (45p). Gibson claimed that he had seen a dog gnawing the skin near the river bank and he did not know who it belonged to. At the Cambridge Assizes Gibson, then aged 20, was imprisoned for one year with hard labour. Had he been over 20 he would have been transported.



The east side of Springfield House facing the river

Picture by Roger Lapwood

The tanning industry moved from Linton to Sawston where it still remains.

The deserted site was sold to John Dorrington a non-conformist schoolmaster who rented Amherst the house opposite. He needed more space for his expanding school called Linton Classical and Commercial Academy. This was Linton's first academy beating the village college's assumption of that status.

Most of the sons of the rich and con-conformist businessmen in the Cambridge area attended the academy where the fees were up to 34 guineas a year. Dorrington bought the site in 1844 and decided to build himself a brand new Victorian house. The present house was built in 1847. In spite of the high fees the school went bankrupt since Dorrington spent far too much money on the house and a new school room. This was

one of the two cottages at 18 to 20 Horn Lane.

Several attempts were made to revive the school and the new master in 1855 was called Josiah Selwin Brewer. Even head teachers can be corrupt as Brewer received books and equipment from Cambridge shops with no intention of paying. He was found guilty in court and released on a technicality because the indictment spelt his name Serman instead of Selwin. The case destroyed the school's reputation.

For much of the 19th century the house was rented out. One famous resident was Major John Carwardine who gained fame in the American civil war for leading a cavalry charge against the Confederate army of General Lee.

In 1872 the house was sold to Mr W Isaacson, a Newmarket solicitor. His two unmarried daughters continued to live in Springfield House until 1925. The present owners are Mr and Mrs Rossiter who run it as a guest house.

Garth Collard

Bounty for the red kite courtesy of modern transport

We are pleased to announce the return of the country diary as Ian Storey has offered to write an article each month and next month we hope that Maureen Williams will resume her beautiful illustrations to go with them.

DRIVING along Back Road in August I disturbed a huge bird of prey feeding on some unfortunate road kill. The sudden leap as it flew up and away made for startling bewilderment at its sheer size, but as it took flight I could see the unmistakable markings of the red kite, which I have never seen around here before.

I used to see one regularly on my journey to Northamptonshire where I was told they are quite common. I have lived

around here for 25 years and had never seen one in all that time, or in fact anywhere in East Anglia.

The red kite (*Milvus Milvus*) is only regarded as a medium sized bird of prey but when you see it (I've only seen one) soaring above the thermals at the top of Rivey Hill as I did a couple of days later, they look like eagles. They are making a come back after being nearly completely exterminated in the 17th and 18th centuries. Seeing it at the side of the road is actually not an uncommon site.

The kite has got to be one of the laziest raptors; rather than hunting it just sits on the wind looking for a meal, picking at the hapless victims that someone else has kindly left on the roadside.

Making a point of looking up and spotting it at the top of the hill, I could quite clearly make out its distinctive markings.

The upper plumage is brown with a lighter coloured head. The wings are quite easily identified as they have black outer feathers splayed open like fingers at the tips.

The body of the wing is light brown with a darker middle but the speckled mottling of the feathers sets these apart from their cousins.

Oh, and then there is the shrieking call. They are not the quietest of hunters. Perhaps that's why they scavenge as you can hear them coming. It is as if they are whistling to you, letting you know they are there.

I couldn't tell if it was male or female though. I did look it

up in various sources but you would need to be an enthusiast to spot the differences.

I have been told that they are quite adaptable when it comes to feeding.

The sighting on Rivey Hill coincided with the harvesting of the crops.

They keep a lookout for running prey as they escape the machinery picking up mice, rats and quail. Some have been seen taking fish from ponds and chicks from their nests.

I also read that in some areas they will swoop and take a burger from an unsuspecting human, even raiding an unattended barbecue but I wouldn't want to be around when that happens. I've not heard of that happening around here yet.

Ian Storey

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/0873/10/F Mr Mark Brinkley, 15 Symonds Lane, Linton.

Replacement dwelling, conversion of telephone exchange to annexe, carport, garden store and terraces (application to replace an extant planning permission in order to extend the time limit for implementation).

S/1209/10 Dr J Silverman, 23 Green Lane, Linton. Extension.

S/1316/10 Mr & Mrs W Riley, 83 Chalklands, Linton. Extension forming a granny annexe.

S/1405/10 Mrs J Barnes, 26 Blsham road, Linton. Extensions and conversion of garage to habitable room.

S/1511/10 Mr & Mrs Milijic, 5 Fairfield Way, Linton. Single storey side/rear extension and first floor side extension.



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Parish Council Matters

Churchyard update

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

A FEW years ago the parochial church council (PCC) made a request (which they were entitled to under an act of parliament) to the parish council to take over maintenance of the churchyard of St. Mary's. The PCC had more than enough calls on their finances for the maintenance of the church fabric to be able to continue to also maintain the churchyard, with its crumbling boundary walls and disintegrating footpaths.

Having accepted the responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard the parish council set up a joint churchyard maintenance working group, consisting of three members of the parish council and two representatives of the PCC. A retired clergyman and engineer, the venerable Alan Clarkson formerly archdeacon of Winchester, was co-opted to the group to act as consultant. So what has been achieved?

The renovation of the railings, on the eastern and part of the southern boundaries of the churchyard, have been repaired and replacement panels found and fitted where necessary. A new gate has been fitted adjacent to the 'kissing gate' aperture, and the 'kissing gate' will be replaced when the short diverted section of path that passes through the new gate has been surfaced.

The disintegrating footpaths from the infants' school entrance have been resurfaced, and the sunken drain grills at the crossing of the paths have been brought up to the level of the resurfaced paths. This manoeuvre removed the potential hazard of the sunken drains.

The wrought iron gates into the churchyard at the Church Lane and infants' school entrance would not close properly due to the metal gateposts being out of the vertical. This was the result of the roots of the lime trees at both entrances causing cracking and bulging of the adjacent brick piers which abutted onto the gateposts. At the Church Lane entrance the lime tree was rotting at the base and halfway up the bole despite having a good head of shoots in the summer. Removal of this tree, which was found to be completely hollow, enabled the adjacent walls to be rebuilt, the gateposts re-aligned and the gates re-hung.



Gatepost forced out of alignment due to tree bole and suckers damaging the wall: the tree has now been removed

Pictures by Brian Cox

At the infants' school entrance there were major splits in the brick piers due to root and bole pressure from the adjacent limes. These sections of wall have been rebuilt and the gateposts and gates re-installed.

The majority of the flint section of the southern boundary wall has been repaired, rebuilt where necessary, and restabilised. The roots of a dead and now removed lime tree, which caused the collapse of one part of the wall, were so large and difficult to remove that forming a stable base for the wall at this point would have been difficult. However, the problem was solved by the insertion of an oak gate that bridged the remaining roots. The oak gate itself was originally the gate to the south porch of the church, which was replaced by the Peter Taylor memorial door. Since access to the rear of the rebuilt pavilion would have been needed in any case, this gate provides an aesthetically pleasing solution to the problem as can be seen below.



Lime Tree Root Remnants

The remaining section of the southern boundary wall, from the church pavilion access ramp to the junction with the western boundary at Church Lane, is due to be rebuilt this autumn, when the necessary planning permission has been obtained. (Following recent legislation, planning applications now require much more detailed information, and so trying to meet the district council's criteria for approval is much more expensive and time consuming).

However, approval was obtained for the removal of the sucker limes which were in the line of the planned rebuild, and which had contributed to the original collapse of this section of the wall. The sucker limes that had grown from basal shoots of the original trees (long since rotted away), have been removed, but as can be seen at present (August) the remaining roots have sprouted again.

The western boundary wall remains a problem. As can be seen in Church Lane, a section of the low flint boundary wall against one of the pollarded limes has collapsed. It had previously been repaired incorrectly with cement mortar rather than the lime mortar with which flint walls need to be constructed. Lime mortar is less rigid than cement mortar and allows for minor movement of walls without collapse ensuing. Now we have a problem in that the

district council tree officer has imposed tree preservation orders on the row of limes from the southern boundary to the entrance from Church Lane. The tree officer does not accept that the lime tree at the collapsed section of wall is in any major way responsible for the collapse of the wall. This is contrary to reports from construction engineers employed at parish council expense that the lime tree was a major factor in the collapse of the wall at that section. As indicated earlier in this article, the lime trees closeness to the flint walls has been a major factor in the collapse of sections of the southern boundary wall and damage to the gateposts. We have had statements previously from arboriculturalists employed by the parish council that the limes are too close to the walls and pose potential problems to the walls.

So, at present, there is an impasse. The churchyard maintenance working group are of the opinion that to attempt repair of the wall whilst the lime tree is still in place would be difficult and counter-productive in the long term, and in any event the parish council does not have sufficient funds to finance the re-building of this section of wall at the present.

Other sections of the western boundary wall will require expensive maintenance in the future. To date the parish council has made major improvements to the churchyard in the time that it has had responsibility for its maintenance. However, such activities are expensive and the council is taking a phased approach to the exercise, and will over the course of the next few years try to deal with all the major outstanding aspects of the churchyard maintenance.

Although the parish council is responsible for overall maintenance in the churchyard, the parish is indebted to the efforts of the volunteers - the 'Monday Gang' who carry out the gardening, keep the overall aspect (graves, grass and trees) so neat and tidy, and make the churchyard such an attractive feature of the village.

Cllr Brian Cox

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk
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Dates for full council meetings:
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ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 5th August 2010.

Present: Ms E Cornell (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, B Manley, G Potter and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with three members of the public and district councillor Bear.

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Cox, Lindsell, Mannassi and Wilson.

Declaration of interests from members: Cllr Hickford declared a prejudicial interest under the payments item.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July: Cllr Bald reported she had sent a cheque for £60 (her mileage claim) to the firefighters charity in thanks for the watering of newly planted trees on the Bartlow and Horseheath Roads.

Reports from co-ordinators: Recreation ground: Cllr Krarup reported that a risk assessment check had been carried out. There was slight damage to the clapper stile and the picnic table. It was noted that a security light at the rear of the pavilion needed to be secured.

Cemetery: Cllr Gee reported that a risk assessment check had taken place. It was noted that signage was required and wording for a sign was considered. It was agreed to contact the council's insurers to ascertain whether this wording was sufficient.

Leadwell Meadows, River and Wildlife: It had been reported that a mink had been seen in the river by the Dog and Duck public house.

Churchyard: The clerk reported that the planning application for the rebuilding of the southern flint wall had been returned by SCDC due to lack of information.

Allotments: The chair stated that when the agenda was prepared it was anticipated that the allotments item would be confidential. Since then a meeting had taken place which allowed it to be included in open session. The chair reported that 21 acres of land on Back Road had been identified. The landowner had been contacted and discussions had taken place to lease approximately seven acres for allotment use, and maybe to lease the rest for community orchard and public open space. The landowner was reluctant to sell any land. The current leaseholder, Fairey Farms Ltd, was reluctant to release any of this land for allotments.

A favourable pre-planning meeting and site visit was held with SCDC to determine the viability of the proposal which may include an application for a small dwelling adjacent to 12 Back Road. Cambridgeshire county council (CCC) had made a site visit to look at access to the field via Bridleway 21 adjacent to the telephone exchange. Discussions were ongoing.

Risk assessments: The clerk had issued a report following the receipt of correspondence from council's insurers regarding a claim. Much discussion took place and it was felt that councillors were not trained to assess play equipment safety and, as volunteers, should not be expected to undertake these safety checks. However it was agreed to contact ex councillor Hammett to ask if he would agree to make a statement detailing how frequently visual play equipment checks had been carried out over the previous year. Anglian Playgrounds, who undertake repairs to the play equipment, had stated that general wear and tear had occurred and the failure of this piece of equipment could not have been foreseen. Discussion took place as to whether the aerial runway should be permanently removed. This was deferred until a response from the insurers was received. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Glen Staff from Zurich Insurance to discuss the situation. It was also agreed to ask other parish councils how they carry out their checks and whether they employ a specialist.

Wind farm inquiry: Discussion took place regarding the planning conditions to be imposed should the appeal be allowed. It was agreed to ask for highways safety issues on the A1307 to be addressed especially at the Little Linton and Hildersham junctions.

Comments regarding landscaping plan for Nichols Court: Cllr Bald was concerned that there was insufficient and inadequate provision for planting and screening.

Correspondence received and for discussion: A letter had been received from Mr V Harris and it was agreed to contact him to clarify the situation. Whenever the gate to the Recreation ground was removed for access by large vehicles, stones collect in the gate post hole. This lifts the gate up so that the mechanism does not shut easily. Therefore the gate had been left open for ease of entry until the hole had been cleared.

A letter from the 'six existing residents of Flaxfields' had been received in support of Nichols Court. It was felt that the situation had been misread. The parish council had not objected to the care facility, just the bulk and design of the building which had resulted in gross overlooking.

CCC had sent a proposed reduction to mobile library van visits. Council was disappointed that visits had been reduced from fortnightly to monthly however they felt that this was an acceptable reduction due to financial constraints.

CCC had advised that the withdrawal of the objection to the Camping Close village green application meant it was now deemed to be unopposed and therefore the application could be determined under delegated powers by Mark Kemp, director of highways and access.

Reports from councillors (for information only): Cllr Potter reported that the repairs to Stanton's Lane bridge were proving difficult. Previously the stainless steel bolts, which held down the wooden slats, had been replaced with wood screws which had rusted. The boards had expanded when wet and the screws had broken. When the boards had dried out the screws would be replaced.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 2nd September 2010.

Present: Ms E Cornell (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, J Lindsell, B Manley, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). There were also five members of the public present.

Public forum: The chair reported that an email had been received from SCDC late that day advising that 'the council's building control team had carried out a levels survey, comparing the approved plans to actual. They measured ground levels in five locations, finding that the finished ground levels were between 13cms and 18cms lower than the approved drawings across the site. They measured eaves height at two locations. On the north western gable nearest to no.11 Flaxfields the eaves height was 30cms taller than approved, but set into the ground 18cms lower than approved, net increase in height of 12cms. The eaves level of the south western gable nearest no.18 Symonds Lane was 15cms taller than approved but the ground level was also 15cms lower than approved, resulting in no net height increase. The builders, SDC, had commissioned a lighting report, which had been received and was being considered. A planning application for the revised lighting proposals was in formulation and would be submitted in a few weeks time'. A full copy of the report from the building control team would be requested. It was agreed to investigate whether the agreed dimensions could be enforced. Sanctuary Hereward would be contacted regarding the parking concerns.

Mr Wilson of Back Road spoke of his concerns, which included the visual effect on the Icknield Way and the water tower, regarding the proposed allotment site in Back Road. These had been included in the parish council's reasons for the objection to his recent planning application and he considered that this was a case of double standards. Cllr Bald replied that the parish council had a statutory duty to provide allotments as a public amenity and his concerns would be discussed further later in the meeting.

The chair reported on the death of ex councillor Mike Clay and sent condolences to his family.

Apologies for absence were received from councillor Cox and Mrs K France (press).

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 5th August: The clerk thanked Cllr Hickford for his involvement

and help in respect of the wind farm inquiry during a very hectic period.

Reports from Co-ordinators: Open Spaces and Environment: The clerk reported that locations for extra grit bins had been agreed with the highways department. The council had been reminded that the grit was only to be used for roads. The locations were Meadow Lane, junction of Symond's Lane and Back Road, Lonsdale, The Woodlands, Church Lane, Wheatsheaf Way and Joiners Road. As the bins in Church Lane and Meadow Lane were in a conservation area they would be required to be painted black. Council requested that the bin at the junction of Symond's Lane and Back Road be sited on the left hand side.

Cemetery: Plumblin had repaired a water leak in the cemetery and in lieu of payment had displayed an advertising sign on the railings short term. It was agreed that permission should be sought before displaying any signs. Signs should only be displayed short term and it would be at the discretion of the clerk as to whether they would be allowed.

A resident had requested that the lime tree overhanging 124 Chalklands be removed. This was delegated to the cemetery working group who would report back to council.

Venture playground: A request had been received to refurbish the skate ramp which was currently out of use awaiting repair. The clerk reported that the warning signs and tape had been removed on several occasions. A quotation for £7000 + VAT to refurbish it had been received. Considerable repairs had already been carried out and it was felt that the long term future of the ramp needed to be discussed. Cllr Hickford issued photographs of a skate park in Over which if copied could make better use of the tarmac area. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the skate boarders to discuss options.

A meeting had taken place with a representative from Zurich Insurance. He had advised that, in his opinion, the parish council had taken all possible steps in respect of play equipment safety checks. When undertaking checks no one councillor would be liable; it was the responsibility of the council as a whole.

Cllr Potter reported that he had met with an engineer from Wicksteed Leisure regarding problems with the aerial runway. Following this meeting a quotation for £1578.50 + VAT had been received. No decision could be made until the next meeting but the general consensus of opinion was that the repairs should go ahead as it was a very popular piece of equipment. In the meantime the runway had been dismantled for safety reasons.

Leadwell Meadows, River and Wildlife: A resident had raised concerns regarding water levels in Leadwell Meadows and had requested the creation of a small weir. It was agreed to seek advice from the environment agency and the ecology officer at SCDC.

Allotments: The chair welcomed Mr Lamb, the landowner, to the meeting. The need for allotment and recreational land was considered. The council had a statutory duty to provide allotments under the allotment act and there were currently approximately 55 residents on the waiting list. The village also fell very short of recreational land according to a survey undertaken by SCDC in 2006. Cllr Hickford proposed that as a priority the council sought to obtain approximately seven acres of land in Back Road for allotments. The council would then wish to obtain the remainder as soon as possible after that for recreational use. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion and resolved by the meeting.

Cllr Bald responded to the remarks made by Mr Wilson in the public forum. She reported that if recreational space was obtained it may be possible to plant a community orchard and other planting which would mitigate the effects of any perceived visual negative impact on the landscape.

Correspondence received and for discussion: The county council's review of gritting arrangements was considered. It was noted that Coles Lane and Bartlow Road did not appear on the schedule although both roads were on bus routes. It was agreed to advise the county council of this omission and to re submit the request for Wheatsheaf Way to be included.

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

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