

Linton WI

WE started preparing for Christmas at our November meeting when members Olly and Sue showed us how to decorate baubles and wooden ornaments with paints, stickers and crystals. After exercising our crafting skills, we tested our mental skills with a quiz, making as many words as we could from the word TINSEL.

Our meeting on Tuesday 2nd December will be our Christmas Social with food, drink, games, carol singing and a Secret Santa.

New members welcome. Visitors: £5.
Enquiries: 07305 847437.

Liz Cox

Balsham Singers

OUR 30th anniversary Christmas concert takes place on Saturday 13th December at 4pm in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. Tickets are £12 for adults. Under 16s for £1. Tickets are available from Balsham and Great Abington post offices as well as online at ticketsource-ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers and are selling fast. Last Christmas we had a full house so we would advise buying a ticket in advance to secure a seat.

We will be holding a raffle, so please bring some cash along with you. All proceeds of the raffle will be sent to the Royal Papworth Charity, which also celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2025.

We are always grateful for the loyal support of our audience, and hope that everyone who comes along will enjoy our concert.

Jo Stinton

Fire Fighters Charity Disco

THE Fire fighters Christmas Disco is raising funds for The Fire Fighters Charity on Friday 19th December, 7.30pm until late at the Sports Pavilion, Linton.

Tickets are £5 on the door. Please email bravo09_ffc@aol.com to reserve. Each ticket purchased enters you into our raffle with a chance to win a prize of £50.

Emma Eagle

Linton Christmas Market

THIS year's market takes place in Market Square, Linton on Saturday 13th December, 10am until 2pm.

Find locally made Christmas gifts and produce, mulled wine & street food; children & dogs welcome for a festive family day out! For more info follow [@thelintonkitchen](https://www.instagram.com/thelintonkitchen) or please email enquiries@thelintonkitchen.com.

We'd love visitors to walk, cycle or use public transport to the event where possible.

Gemma Whiting

Saffron Walden Rotary says Thank You

THERE was another great response from our South Cambs villages to our Ukraine appeal at Abington School on Saturday 8th November. Our van was totally filled and we received over £2,000 in donations too. Thank you to everyone for your very kind and generous support.

On behalf of Saffron Walden Rotary - making a difference in our communities,

Tony Collett

Headscratcher

No:14
The Japanese bullet train is so fast that the train driver cannot stop the train in an emergency. It is done automatically by sensors since human reactions are too slow to stop the train should an obstacle appear on the track.

What is the maximum speed the train can be travelling if the passengers are to be subjected to no more than half a gravitational force deceleration (Assume 5 m/s²), and the stopping distance kept to 4 km?

Answer to No 13
On my phone the square root of a negative number comes up as 'undefined'. This is because it involves an 'imaginary' number. There are three cube roots of 1, two of which are 'imaginary' since they are found by solving x³=1.

Aspasia

Cambridge Choir Joins with Linton Heights for Christmas Concert

CAMBRIDGE-BASED chamber choir, Cambridge Chorale, is teaming up with Linton Heights School Choir for an uplifting evening of Christmas music. Part of the Linton Music Series, the concert will take place on Saturday 6th December at 6pm at St Mary's Church, Linton.

Directed by Robert Brooks, Cambridge Chorale's programme will feature contemplative seasonal music by composers such as Herbert Howells and Morten Lauridsen. Linton Heights School Choir will showcase a number of festive favourites, culminating in a joint performance of John Rutter's much-loved *Star Carol*. There really will be something to suit all tastes.

Cambridge Chorale choir member and local Linton singing teacher, Sarah Rosewell, said: "I've sung with the choir for 30 years, but what makes this Christmas concert particularly special is that I'll be singing in my local church alongside my Year 4 daughter in the school choir."

Tickets are £15, £13 concessions and £3 children, available to buy on the door or at www.lintonmusicseries.co.uk/booktickets.

Linda Bird

Boswell's Christmas Raffle supports Arthur Rank Hospice

LAST year, your generous support helped us raise over £500 through our Christmas raffle for the Arthur Rank Hospice. This year, Arthur Rank is facing a cut in vital funding, so they need our support more than ever. Can we beat last year's total together? We think our wonderful community can do it!

For just £1, you could win Boswell and Son's Christmas cake ,an 8-inch festive treat filled with fruit, spices and enough brandy to make your Christmas truly merry!

Delicious enough to make Santa himself stop for a second slice.

Raffle tickets are available for £1 in the Linton shop until the draw date on Monday 22nd December. All proceeds from the raffle will go to Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

Merry Christmas from the Boswell & Son Linton team.

The team at Boswell & Son Linton

LINTON NEWS

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December bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 3rd, 17th, 31st

Blue: Wednesdays 10th, 24th

Green: Wednesday 10th is the last one of the year.

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

To be included email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com
Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.
See <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/events-calendar> for more details of village events.

DECEMBER		
Mon 1	Xmas Lights Switch On	Lonsdale
Tue 2	W.I., 7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri 5	Christmas Fair, 5–8pm	Hildersham Church
Sat 6	Cambridge Chorale Concert, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 6	Balsham Picture House, At World's End, 7pm	Balsham Institute
Sun 7	Xmas Lighthouse Family Event, 3–4.30pm	Free Church Hall
Sun 7	Healing Service, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 9	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Wed 10	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	Free Church
Thu 11	Linton Roots Meeting, 6–7.30pm	Dog & Duck
Sat 13	Xmas Market, 10–2pm	Market Square
Sat 13	Balsham Singers Concert, 4pm	Trinity Church Balsham
Sat 13	Winter Wonderland Ball, 7.30–11.30pm	Sports Pavilion
Sun 14	The Well, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Mon 15	Coffee Morning/Food Sale, 10–12pm	Symonds House
Mon 15	W. Wickham Gardening Club Xmas Social, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 16	Camsight Xmas Lunch, 1pm	Chalklands Centre
Tue 16	Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 18	Jelly Beans Xmas Party, 9.30–11.30am	Free Church Hall
Fri 19	Daylight Readers, 10.30 & 2.30pm	Library
Fri 19	Mary's Community Kitchen, 12–2pm	Village Hall
Fri 19	Firefighters Xmas Disco, 7.30pm	Sports Pavilion
Sat 20	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 20	Linton Granta FC Meat Raffle, 6pm	Sports Pavilion
Sun 21	Café Nativity Service, 10.30am	Free Church Hall
Sun 21	Carol Service, 6pm	Free Church
Sun 21	Carol Service, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Wed 24	Crib Service, 4pm	St Mary's Church
Wed 24	Midnight Communion, 11.30pm	Free Church
Wed 24	Midnight Mass, 11.30pm	St Mary's Church
Thu 25	Christmas Service, 10am	St Mary's Church
Thu 25	Christmas Celebration, 10.30am	Free Church
WEEKLY		
Mon	Mini Movers, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30–11am	Library
Tue	Granta Bridge Club, 2–4pm	Village Hall
Tue	Knit and Natter, 2–4pm	Library
Tue	Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7–8pm	LVC
Wed	Tots in Tow, 9.30–11am (term times)	Village Hall
Wed	Warm Hub, 1–4pm	Sports Pavilion
Wed	IT Drop In, 5–7pm	Library
Wed	Lets Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1–2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2–4pm	Library
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10–11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7–9pm	Sports Centre, LVC
Sat	Christmas Crafts, 10–1pm (Dec Only)	Library
Sun	Church Service, 10.30am	Free Church

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News from the Heights

Students Shine in Collaborative Performance at Stapleford Gallery.



LINTON Heights Year 4 pupils were recently invited to attend Stapleford Granary to take part in a special 60-minute immersive musical and theatrical experience. The performance was inspired by Helen Ward's beautifully written and illustrated story *The Tin Forest*, featuring artwork by Wayne Anderson. The show was co-created by Kate Romano, CEO and Co-Artistic Director of the Granary, and Emma Mason, Music Subject Leader at Linton Heights, and was offered to pupils across the eleven primary schools within the Anglian Learning Multi-Academy Trust.

Throughout the experience, pupils were guided by an experienced team of artists and creative practitioners from both Stapleford Granary and Anglian Learning. The production encouraged children to step directly inside the world of the story, using movement, listening, sound, and song to explore its themes. From recreating mechanical bird calls and forming human sound machines to experimenting with body percussion and group choral singing, pupils were not simply audience members—they became part of the performance itself.

All pupils who took part contributed with enthusiasm, cooperation, and imagination. Their creativity and willingness to collaborate with peers from other Anglian Learning schools made the showcase both unique and memorable. Each child should feel incredibly proud of their involvement and achievements.

We extend our sincere thanks to Kate Romano for providing this inspiring artistic opportunity, to Emma Mason for her successful leadership in organising and directing the event, and to the dedicated staff who helped prepare pupils and supported them on the day.

Caroline Webb

News from the Infants

DECEMBER is here, and although it is only mid-November as I write, plans for Christmas start in September in school! Organising Christmas lunch, the tree in the hall, singing and decorations. We hope Santa will be paying us a visit! There is nothing better than the magic of Christmas seen through the eyes of children.

Funding in schools is increasingly squeezed, and we have to make some very tough decisions about how it is spent. Our whiteboards have reached the end of their lives and, due to events like the fireworks, we are able to replace them in the New Year. A huge THANK YOU to the Fireworks Committee and all of you who supported the event. The donation we receive from them is invaluable.

Another huge source of support is our PTFA. They are, once again, funding the coaches and an ice cream for each child when we make our annual trip to the Pantomime in December. Their donation is made possible through the support of our community who get behind the events organised.

Our tours for prospective new parents have happened. It was lovely to meet some new families and enjoy the opportunity to show off our school. Please do follow us on Facebook to see some of the wonderful things we get up to!

On behalf of all the staff here, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a restful New Year.

Kelly Harries

December at Linton Library

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

COME in for festive reads on dark days. You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome here. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, find a new author or use our free WiFi. On each Saturday we'll have a drop-in Christmas craft activity, as well as a Christmas trail all December.

We will close for the holidays at 5pm on Tuesday 23rd, December and re-open at 10am on Friday 2nd January.

Do you know someone who uses a walking aid? As the paths become slippery, please spread the word that the library can supply free ferrules (rubber feet) for walking aids to keep them in a safe condition. Just ask library staff.

Daylight Readers: Our book groups will meet on Friday 19th, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. The morning group has space for new members.

Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesday mornings 10.30–11am for 0–4-year-olds (term-time only), followed by Duplo. We would love to see you and your little ones there!

Knit and Natter: Every Tuesday, 2–4pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

IT Drop-in: Every Wednesday 5–7pm. Knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with information technology.

Games Afternoon: Weekly, Thursdays 2–4pm. Come and meet new people; board/card games are provided or bring your favourite to share.

Lego/Duplo: Friday 10–11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd and 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0–4-year-old.

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am–5pm; Wednesday 4–7pm; Thursday 2–5pm; Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday 10am–1pm

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King
Community Library Assistants
Linton Library

The Marsh Mail

AT Linton Village College, our dedicated Future Pathways and Careers team, Mrs Scally and Mrs Neeves, are passionate about guiding students as they begin to explore the world of work. This journey starts early, with Year 7 students engaging in careers education from the moment they join us in September.



Already this academic year, students across nearly every year group have taken part in career-focused events. Year 7 enjoyed 'What's My Line?', a fun and interactive guessing game where students asked questions to identify the professions of visiting volunteers. Year 8 will soon take part in a Skills Development day, hosted by Form the Future, a valued Community Interest Company we've partnered with for several years.

Year 9 students recently attended an Industry Day at The Junction in Cambridge, where they explored careers in the arts. Workshops covered sound engineering, lighting design, and pathways into the music industry. A highlight was the behind-the-scenes tour, including the lighting gallery, followed by a Q&A with professionals in the field.

For our Year 10 and 11, the Post-16 Open Evening offered valuable insights into future pathways, whether through apprenticeships or college. We were thrilled to see so many Year 10s actively engaging with their options, including preparations for their summer term work experience.

We'd like to hear from former students of Linton Village College who are willing to share their career journeys since leaving us. Your achievements help inspire our current learners. If you're able to help, please contact Mrs Scally at nsccally@lintonvc.org.

Helena Marsh

Linton Granta FC
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Christmas
Meat Raffle

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3 whole leg Lamb, 3 large Gammon joints
3 large Turkey breast joints
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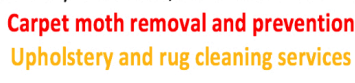


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The Hundred Parishes Society

THE Hundred Parishes Society is not a church or religious organisation but we encourage visits to churches because they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Most of our churches are open regularly and welcome visitors.

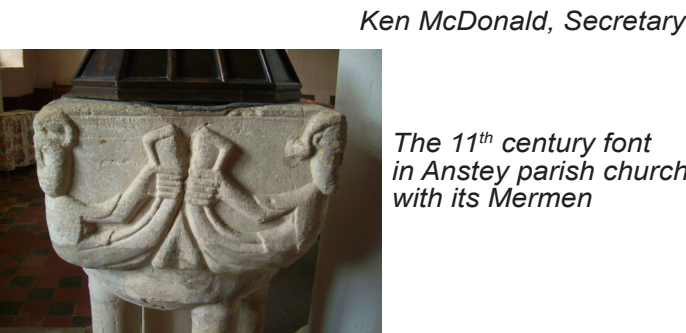
Our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk has many short articles, including some about various aspects of churches including bells, clocks, memorials, poppyheads, spires, towers and windows. We recently added an article about church fonts, some of which appears in the next few paragraphs.

Our local churches have a great variety of fonts, usually made of stone. For example . . .

St George's church in Anstey has an 11th-century font that is rare in that it is decorated with mermen (the male equivalent of mythical mermaids) holding their tails.

Thorley church has a 12th-century font. It was removed from the church and for many years was used as a drinking trough on a nearby farm before being reintroduced into the church in 1855. Its ornate cover was designed by George Gilbert Scott, a prolific architect known mainly for his work designing and renovating churches and cathedrals.

Over the last couple of years, I have been giving a talk entitled *A peek inside some Hundred Parishes churches* to local groups. The talk is a PowerPoint presentation with many photos. If your group might be interested, please contact me on hundredparishes@btinternet.com.



The 11th century font in Anstey parish church with its Mermen

Ken McDonald, Secretary

A Very Linton Christmas

DECEMBER at St Mary's begins with our monthly time of prayer for hope and healing, a short and gentle service when we seek healing for ourselves and those we love, on Sunday 7th at 6pm. All are welcome.

The Well, our regular time of quiet, with silence, music and space to reflect, is on Sunday 14th at 6pm; a wonderful antidote to the festive busyness, last-minute card writing and present-buying. Come and go as you like.

In these days of winter, what better than to share fresh bread and home-made soup with fellow Lintonians? Everyone, whatever their age, is welcome to Mary's Community Kitchen on Friday, 19th December 12pm–2pm at the Village Hall. No charge. There may be a few carols, too.

It wouldn't be Christmas without the Linton Carol Service on Sunday 21st at 6pm – come and sing together – and the Crib Service for all ages on Christmas Eve at 4pm, and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm. And of course, you and your family and friends are most welcome at our Christmas Day service at 10am!

Revd Paul

Linton & District Historical Society October Meeting Report

ANN Fletcher gave a well-researched and informative presentation on *The Last Best West - Emigration to Canada*. Her own family emigrated to Canada at the turn of the century, leading her to delve into the background of this prolific worldwide advertising campaign promoting 'Emigration to Canada'.

With accompanying documents and photographs taken at the time, we witnessed the hard times these families endured. Indigenous people were forcibly removed from their homes to make way for the 'new settlers'.

Nationalities from far-flung countries were used to build roads and railways across this vast country; photographic images show the great hardship involved for those seeking a 'new life'. Sadly, evidence reveals how all these people both young and old were badly mistreated.

It was a thought-provoking evening, with those attending contributing to questions and answers at the end of a fascinating talk.

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

On Tuesday 16th December, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall we welcome the return of David Caulfield who will give a talk *Travelling Light- 60 years of Stories and Music, recounting his experiences and performing songs from that exciting period*.

Wishing you all Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year.

Margaret Creek

Linton Camsight VIPs

The Cambridgeshire charity for people of all ages with sight loss.

WE all know what amazing strides have been made in the world of technology. At our November meeting, we were shown some of the ways in which people with sight loss and blindness can be helped, specifically by devices that inform the user of what is in front of them.

The Camsight resources manager Adrian Cosgrave gave us a fascinating talk. He demonstrated the resources he brought to the meeting and helped our members to try them out. The most recent device looks like a pair of sunglasses, but it takes a picture and through a built-in speaker describes the picture to the user. We had a very enjoyable and informative afternoon and finished with our afternoon tea and raffle.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 16th December at 1pm.

If you would like more information or have any questions about our group, please contact us on the office number 01223 420033, or on the number below.

Jean Mannion 01223 893595

Bring and Share Christmas Lunch

CHRISTMAS Day is not always a happy or easy time for many of us. Will you be alone, or a couple with no family, or have family that are not around this year - then you are cordially invited to a bring and share cold lunch on December 25th, 12–4pm by myself and Mark. It will take place at the Chalklands Community Room.

We will be providing cold meat and fresh bread and butter. A cheese board and a fruit cake has already been donated. We will provide soft drinks, tea and coffee.

If you would like to come and join us please let us know as soon as possible and tell us what you would like to bring to share with everyone.

Karen Sanderson
07748917513 or email lintonjazz64@gmail.com.

Pirates to Celebrate Christmas

THE Christmas film evening on Saturday 6th December at Balsham Picture House will celebrate Christmas early with the film and all drinks and festive nibbles on the house, so please come along and enjoy the evening. from 7pm onwards. In a departure from our usual genre, we will be showing the last and best of the Disney's Pirates trilogy *Pirates of the Caribbean - At World's End*. A swashbuckling fantasy adventure film starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley and Geoffrey Rush. The film won lots of Oscars and is rated 12 so bring the kids along as well. It's a longish film so will have a mid-film break to recharge our glasses.

Our January film night will be on the Saturday 10th January, a week later than normal.

Richard Paden

What will your Christmas Jumper be like?

ONE of the highlights at Linton Free Church will be seeing what Pastor Chris's Christmas jumper will be like. Our Christmas morning service is a time of celebration and fun: children showing their presents, Chris giving out sweets and lots of singing. Much like a birthday party, which of course it is – Jesus' birthday. Why not come along and join the celebration with us this year on Christmas morning at 10.30am – Christmas jumpers welcome!

Linton Free Church – Christmas services and events 2025

- Advent Contemplative Prayer, Sunday 30th November 6.30pm, Linton Free Church, a chance to reflect on the Advent season and the Hope and Light to come
- Christmas Lighthouse – a fun event for primary school age children & families Sunday 7th December, Linton Free Church 3–4.30pm
- Christmas Coffee Morning, Wednesday 10th December 10am–12noon.
- Jelly Beans Christmas Party – Thursday 18th December 9.30–11.30am Linton Free Church Hall
- Café Nativity service – Sunday 21st December 10.30am Linton Free Church Hall
- Linton Free Church Carol Service by candlelight in the church, Sunday 21st December, 6pm
- Christmas Eve Midnight Communion - Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm Linton Free Church
- Christmas Morning Family Celebration - Thursday 25th December 10.30am, Linton Free Church

Plus our normal service, every Sunday morning through December at 10.30am.

God bless you all this Christmas.

Ian Burns, Church Secretary



Pastor Chris Kemshall sports a festive jumper

Pharmacy and Co-op Christmas Opening

THE **Village Pharmacy** is open as usual except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day when it is closed.

The **Co-op** is closed on Christmas Day. It closes early on Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. It opens late on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

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Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams

Thatching Past and Present

OUR insurance company decided they no longer wanted to cover thatched houses, and it took us weeks to sort out an alternative. We had to install more smoke alarms, have the chimney swept twice a year, have fire extinguishers all over the house, agree not to have BBQs within five metres of the thatch, a roof inspection every ten years, and definitely no bonfires. Strangely enough, our open fireplace was completely acceptable, but a wood burner was not. There are between 50 and 80 thatched houses destroyed by fire annually, and these are mainly caused by wood burners and poor chimney maintenance. When you think of how many other fires there are, this is not that many. I thought I might take a look at thatching past and present to get a better picture.

If you've ever watched programmes about the Fens back in time, you will have seen thatched reconstructions. We have been thatching since the Bronze Age, using anything available, typically broom, heather, rush, cereals, bracken, palms, sedge, turf and reeds. Fast forward to more recent times, and it is Norfolk reed, water reed or long straw that is used in East Anglia. Until 1800, thatch was the only roofing material available to most people, but from 1820 the coming of canals and railways meant more materials. Welsh slate changed everything. However, there are still around 60,000 thatched houses in the UK. In Holland there are 150,000, in case you thought it was a peculiarly British thing.

Mediaeval wheat grew to 1.8 metres, but especially following WW2, short stemmed wheat varieties proliferated, with the use of nitrogen fertiliser actually weakening the straw while increasing the yield. The Plant Variety and Seeds Act of 1964 further restricted growers, and now we import a lot of thatching materials from Eastern Europe. There are around 1,000 thatchers in

England. Most are employed by people who have moved into thatched houses and aren't allowed to change their roofs even if they wanted to. Three quarters of these houses are listed, and with the renewed interest in preserving historic buildings, and using sustainable materials, the story of thatch is likely to continue for millennia.

If you take a look along The Grip at the houses where the thatch overhangs the pavement, you have an excellent view of the layers of thatch. Each time the thatch is replaced, only the top section is removed, and the original, still dry and functional, remains. Each part of the country has different styles, but in every case the new thatch is bundled into what is called yealms, taken up to the roof, and then attached to the older part using spars, a staple made of twisted hazel. The quality of the work done by thatchers is instrumental in how long it will last. They need to be made of strong stuff on their ladders when they put their arm into a hole and a rat jumps out! Birds like to look for grubs, and pull out straw for nests, while rodents look for residual grain.



Thatch remains a durable, weather resistant, sustainable insulator, cool in summer and warm in winter. At an angle of more than 50 degrees, there is no water retention, and rain runs off before seeping in. It also needs less timber as it is lighter than slates or tiles. It is expensive to do, as it is so labour intensive, but lasts between 30 and 50 years, depending on how well it is done.

You will be familiar with the artistry atop some thatched roofs, called finials, like at the Dog and Duck. My favourite is The Old Butchers Café in Balsham, where the dog is chasing some straw sausages.

Celebrating our Winter Wonderland

With the leaves tumbling and early morning mists returning, we know we are heading into winter with all its botanical stars lighting up our garden. From the sweet scents of Sarcococca to the first stunning hellebores, there's plenty to enjoy.

So, it is fitting that we are celebrating the seasons at our Christmas social evening on Monday 15th December at 7:30pm in West Wickham Village Hall. Wine, soft drinks and refreshments will be provided by the club to help the members get into the Christmas spirit. This year we are beginning with a chat about our gardening experiences over the past year before circulating and enjoying each other's company.

We hope that your winter walks will also inspire you to enter this year's photo competition. It's open to everyone in West Wickham and the surrounding area. The categories for 2025-26 are Along the Path, Lovely Leaves and Sky's the Limit. Photos must be taken after 1st October 2025 and by the end of August 2026. Meanwhile keep the competition in mind when you're out and about through the year ahead. We had some great entries last year, with this one being the winner of Light and Dark.



Giant Snowflake
Linda Upton

Email your entries and queries for the photo competition to Alice and Andy Mitchell photo@westwickham.org. For general Club information, or if you'd like to help at one of our events, please contact Sally Collins at wwdgc@westwickham.org

Sally Collins

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Repair Café Needs You!

DO you own a much loved item that's broken, but you can't fix it nor bear to part with it? Maybe a much used kitchen item or a well worn pair of trousers? Did you know you could bring it along to a repair café where volunteer repairers give their time to see if they can fix it? Where you can grab a cuppa and cake whilst you wait? Repair cafés save money, reduce waste and bring the community together.

Linton Roots have had to put our bulb planting on hold but the wheels are now very much in motion for our first Repair Café on the 14th February in Linton Village Hall – and we need you! We would love to hear from you if you have a skill or interest in tinkering with things, or sewing, baking cakes or just helping on the day with setting up, washing up or welcoming people. Guidance and support given. Please get in touch at: linton-roots@outlook.com OR come along and meet the team at our next meeting on the 11th December 6-7.30pm in the Snug at the Dog and Duck.

PS Bookings for repairs for the café will be open in the new year, so look out for our January article!
Linton Roots

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District and County Councillors' Report - November 2025

Local Government Re-organisation
THE process, as requested by central Government, to merge District and County Councils into Unitary Authorities in England, is proceeding. The latest is that all local authorities in Cambridgeshire will have to submit their suggestions for how best they see a new local government structure working in the county by the end of November. Several proposals are on the table, which are outlined below:

- Option A:
- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & East Cambridgeshire.
 - Fenland, Huntingdonshire & Peterborough.
- Option B:
- South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City.
 - East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland & Peterborough.
- Option C:
- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & Huntingdonshire.
 - Fenland, Peterborough & East Cambridgeshire.
- Option D:
- An expanded Peterborough.
 - Fenland, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City.
- Option E:
- Huntingdonshire
 - Fenland, Peterborough, South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire.

The local views are that the County Council have agreed to submit Option A to government and South Cambs and Cambridge City have agreed to submit Option B. Other local authorities may submit one of the other options but, at time of writing, this isn't clear. Once submitted, the government minister (or more likely a civil servant) will decide which configuration will work the best for the whole county.

Local Plan
The District Council has recently released its draft Local Plan. This is the development plan for the next 30 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire that they feel can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time. As previously reported, the major development in our area is a site north of Abington called Grange Farm, which can accommodate up to 6,000 new houses. This would be a significant development

in our area, as it would represent a new town, twice the size of Linton. The reason this is proposed here is that the location is deemed to be 'sustainable', as it's close to employment sites like Granta Park and Babraham Research Park, and is also located on major roads (the A1307 and A11). A public consultation on this proposal, and all of the others in South Cambridgeshire, will be held over December and January – more detail to follow on this.

New 'Forest City'
Some people have picked up on a locally promoted suggestion for a new 'Forest City' which is claimed to be able to house over 1 million new people. This is proposed on land between Newmarket and Haverhill. More detail can be seen here: <https://www.forestcity.uk/>. It's worth pointing out that this proposal has absolutely no legs. It's an unsolicited proposal by two unqualified individuals and carries no weight in planning terms. It's likely they are attempting to capitalise on the government's plans to expand Cambridge, but developments associated with this expansion will be properly drawn up and consulted on by an official development corporation – not this 'Dragon's Den'-style pitch. So, in our opinion, this is going nowhere.

Linton Greenway
The Linton Greenway is progressing, albeit slowly. The next section that will move forward is the section between Linton Village College (LVC) and the recreation ground in Linton. Several options were considered, including Stantons Lane, Joiners Road and the driveway of LVC itself. After some engineering appraisals, the only viable option that emerged was Joiners Road, as Stantons Lane is too narrow and LVC, being a secondary school, has too much red tape. The Greater Cambridge Partnership is looking to present a proposal for what this route would look like, although we understand that the only physical changes to the highway will be to widen the footpath between LVC and Joiners Road, and between the bottom of Joiners Road and the recreation ground. Nothing else will be altered. The next section of the Greenway to complete is the section through or around Abington, to link with the A11 crossing and onwards. The route of this hasn't been agreed but is moving forward, slowly. Watch this space.

Cambridge South Station
The new train station being built at the Addenbrooke's site, Cambridge South, has had some construction delays and now will not open until June 2026.

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com
District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Planning Applications

Planning Applications from 14th October to 12th November

23/00488/CONDB Submission of details required by conditions 3 (door furniture), 4 (protection of historic floorboards/floors) and 9 (ceiling finish) of Listed Building consent 23/00488/LBC. Linton Village College Cambridge Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JB. Validated: Tuesday 11th November 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

22/04033/CONDB Submission of details required by condition 6 (written scheme of investigation) of outline planning permission 22/04033/OUT. Land Off Station Road Linton Cambridgeshire. Validated: Monday 10th November 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/1230/TTCA Hornbeams – HB1 & HB2 – Trim 2–3 m away from branches overhanging house and garage. The Old Manor House 14 Green Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JZ. Validated: Fri 31st October 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/1207/TTCA Ash and Hawthorn trees. Ash tree – Proposed Works: Removal of tree because of Ash dieback. Hawthorn. Proposed Works: Crown reduction by approximately 1 metre all round to maintain the tree in a healthy, balanced form for long-term management. 73 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Monday 27th October 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

23/00488/CONDA Submission of details required by condition 10 (windows scale of 1:10) of Listed Building consent 23/00488/LBC. Linton Village College Cambridge Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JB. Validated: Thursday 16th October 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

An update from your local MP, Pippa Heylings

One of the proudest moments in my time as an MP so far has been delivering our petition to save Arthur Rank Hospice's beds to Number 10 Downing Street in November. I was joined by my fellow Cambridgeshire Lib Dem MPs and the most amazing group of people who have felt Arthur Rank Hospice's care first-hand or whose family members have – and the petition we delivered was more than 15,500 strong!

We continue to fight to restore the funding to ensure all 23 beds at the hospice remain open because everyone deserves access to excellent care right up until the very end of their lives. Thank you so much to the group that travelled as well as all the passionate constituents and colleagues across the county who made this happen.

A South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council joint campaign has led to more than 80 extra children in South Cambridgeshire

now receiving free school meals, following a pioneering initiative between our two local councils. I'm particularly impressed by their use of smart technology and data-sharing to proactively identify families eligible for support but who are not currently claiming it. I wanted to share this with you as it demonstrates how things can be done better, when we all work together.

It was a privilege to attend moving and thought-provoking Remembrance services across the constituency, including Bassingbourn Barracks' 'Propeller Ceremony', Sawston's jam-packed Remembrance Service and Linton's community-oriented church service, complete with choir and poetry. I know many other villages will have had their own ceremonies as well. It is such an important time of year for us to

remember the fallen and commit ourselves to upholding the values they died to protect.

I've also been out on the doorsteps listening to residents and holding my MP surgeries. This has been invaluable in helping me prioritise the work that matters most to you and to take that forward as your voice in Parliament. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter, available at www.pippaheytings.org.uk/newsletter.

It will not be long before the holidays are upon us again soon, and I want to wish you all the best for you and your families at this time. I hope you have a restful and joyous Christmas break and a very happy New Year in 2026.

Pippa Heylings MP

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Parish Council Matters

LINTON
PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Matters is written,
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Age UK & the Community Warden

Meeting with AGE UK, we found out we now have a new Community Warden, Kim Davidson, Chrissy Sayer having now retired. Kim is local to Linton for many decades and so some of you may already know her.

The District Council (SCDC) continues to support this support service financially, although funding has reduced in line with their desire that the scheme becomes self-funding over time.

At the moment, there are only 10 people using this support in Linton so it would be good if some more people signed up for it. Kim certainly has the capacity to engage with more of you.

Obviously, it fluctuates as people may go into full-time care or a period in hospital or even move away from the village but conversely, there could be some new residents who don't know about this. So please, spread the word.

Kim has also already met up with the ACEs and will be at their Festive Buffet on the 13th December in the Pavilion. If you don't know what the ACEs do this is also a chance to find out and to meet Kim and see if it is something that would be of interest.

It was really evident that Sarah Lees, Head of Services, from Age UK is putting a lot of thought and energy into making sure that the service continues to improve and meet the needs of the elder generation.

The Parish Council will continue to support the Community Warden Scheme as we believe it is an incredibly valuable service and helps people to continue to live independently and maybe sometimes be less dependent on their families.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

Telephone Box Defibrillator

Linton Parish Council is pleased to announce that there is now a new defibrillator situated in the red telephone kiosk on the High Street, near Market Lane.



This is the latest defibrillator to be installed or adopted by the Parish Council in the village, the others are situated at the pavilion on the recreation ground, the fire station, Tower View, Bartlow Road bus stop (opposite Bakers Lane), Chalklands Community Centre, the Village Hall and Wheatshaf Way. All the Parish Council defibrillators are available 24 hours a day.

There is a full list of available defibrillators in Linton on www.defibfinder.uk, including ones at St Mary's Church Pavilion and J.R Crane Services at the top of the High Street.

LPC Office Team.

Dates for your Diary

LINTON Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Parish Council office will be closed from noon on **Friday 19th December 2025**, reopening on **Monday 5th January 2026**. Phone calls and emails will be monitored during this period and we will always aim to respond to urgent matters.



Meeting dates for the Parish Council are available on the Parish Council website. Most of the meetings take place at the Cathodeon Centre (the library building).

Members of the public and press are welcome at all "open" meetings and there is a public participation section at the start of every meeting where you are invited to address the council.

Planning Committee Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, starting at 6:30pm.

Full Council Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:30pm.

Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month, starting at 7:30pm.

Personnel Committee Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month, on a quarterly basis, and these are the only meetings closed to the public.

If you wish to raise any matter with the Parish Council you can do so by emailing the office on enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk. Your request must reach the office in time for circulation to councillors and publication of the agenda, which occurs on the Friday prior to any meeting.

Please contact the office if you would like any further guidance and please feel free to attend the meetings, you will be made to feel very welcome by the Parish Councillors and members of the office team.

Clerk

Litter Pick Dates for 2026

A NEW DIARY for Christmas used to be the norm, with technology now it far more likely you are taking full advantage of the break to update your phone or tablet!

There are four litter picks a year, based at the Village Hall, run by the Linton Friends of the River Granta (Linton FROGs), with support from the Parish Council.

Dates for next year are as follows:

Saturday 21st March 2026
Sunday 7th June 2026
Saturday 25th July 2026 and
Saturday 26th September 2026.



Start times will be confirmed in due course.

Clerk

Endurance Estates Proposal for Horseheath Road

THE PARISH Council Office was contacted by email on the 23rd of October by Concilio, on behalf of Endurance Estates, with notification of the public consultation launching on the 24th of October. This was shared on Village Facebook pages by the Parish Office, in addition to the circa 600 leaflets delivered by the developer to properties in Linton in close proximity to the land on Horseheath Road (next to Michaelotts).

In brief, the proposal was to "provide up to 100 high-quality new homes, including 40% affordable housing, within a landscape-led design that reflects the character of Linton. Nearly half of the site will become public open space, featuring play areas, walking routes and space for wildlife, creating a peaceful, sustainable and well-connected extension to the village."

The proposal can be viewed on the following website: <https://landathorseheathroad.co.uk/>



Members of the Parish Council were invited to a remote briefing on the proposals with representatives from the developer. Whilst this did provide first introductions with a potential developer with interests in Linton, the presentation offered the same information to that which is available on the website link.

It would appear that Endurance Estates have no plans to meet parishioners face-to-face at this stage. Whilst the interest of a second developer looking to build in/adjacent to Linton, in less than 12 months, may be concerning for many residents, please take assurance that no planning applications have yet been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for consideration.

If, or when, Endurance Estates submits a Planning Application to the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Department it is important to remember that all residents can submit comments during the consultation process. Whilst Linton Parish Council is a statutory consultant on Planning Applications in Linton, all residents have a right to represent themselves.

As a gentle reminder, when commenting on planning applications there are specific material considerations that should form the basis of your responses, including; overlooking/loss of privacy, the principle of development, layout, scale and massing, design, listed buildings and conservation areas, green space and biodiversity, local wildlife or protected species, streets and roads, public rights of way, cycle and car parking, refuse and storage facilities, noise, fumes or smell, surface water, foul water drainage and flooding issues, design of signage, external lighting or advertisements (more information is available on the Parish website <https://linton-pc.gov.uk/comment-on-applications>).

LPC Planning Committee

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Parish Council Minutes



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Abbreviated minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th October 2025 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Vice Chairman's Comment.

Cllr Lee Gardner advised that he would be circulating new information on co-option procedures in preparation for a review of the current policy and documents in relation to the Cathodeon Centre.

Clerk's Report. Written report available.

Consideration for the request by the Clerk to seek lower quotes from alternative suppliers for the installation of the defibrillator in the High Street telephone kiosk. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the Clerk be permitted to pursue the quotation presented at the meeting which was less than the £1,850 previously agreed. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. All Agreed.

District and County Councillors Report for October 2025. Written report available.

In addition to the written report County & District Cllr Henry Batchelor added the following.

A reminder to submit comments on the Kingsway Solar Farm Public Consultation which remains open until the end of October 2025.

District Cllr John Batchelor gave a reminder to submit comments on the Local Government reorganisation consultation, via the SCDC website, by the end of October, explaining decisions will be taken by SCDC and submitted in November to central government, adding that SCDC favour Option B.

Cllr John Batchelor also advised of the upcoming Local Plan consultation which would have details of the proposals for a new town, namely Grange Farm development, in Abington.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi raised concerns about damage caused by Virgin Media during the installation of full fibre cabling and asked if the costs to repair the damage, repaired by CCC would be charged to the utility company.

Cllr Batchelor advised that he would confirm the costs are being charged to Virgin, adding that it is normal practice for all costs for damage caused to be reimbursed by the contractor.

Planning

Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan

Consideration for recommendation from the S106 working group for comments on the GC Local Plan Supplementary Planning document. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the comments shared in the meeting be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Finance

RFO's Report. Written report available. For Information.

In addition to the written report, the RFO advised that the second insurance claim for damage to the Cathodeon Centre wall, caused by a third party had been agreed and costs for repairs would be settled in full. Noted.

Quotes and Contracts

Consideration for the quotes received for the Village Ranger contract from 01.11.2025 – 31.03.2027. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the quotation received from Local Handyman Services be accepted for the Village Ranger contract to run from 01.11.2025 – 31.03.2027. Cllr Brian Cox seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the quotes received for the Cemetery Ranger contract from 01.11.2025 – 31.03.2027. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the quotation received from Local Handyman Services be accepted for the Cemetery Ranger contract to run from 01.11.2025 – 31.03.2027. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the review of the various aspects of the Grounds Maintenance contract. Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed the revised quotation for the Ground Maintenance contract for Lot 3 – Recreation Ground be accepted to commence from 1st March 2026 allowing for the flexibility to incorporate 31 cuts between 01.03.2026 – 31.10.2026. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. 5 in favour with two abstentions. Motion carried. Consideration for the quotations received for the office telephone and broadband. *Supporting documents in councillor packs.* Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the quotation from Aerial Direct Communications be accepted for a 24-month contract, excluding the 3 handsets for a maximum of £110 per month and that a budget of £300 be delegated to the RFO to source 3 handsets independently if alternatives cannot be provided by the supplier within the contract. Cllr Merrie Mannassi seconded. All Agreed. Consideration for the six-monthly Fire Alarm service at the Pavilion. Decision required.

The Clerk advised the six-monthly Fire Alarm service is due at the Pavilion building. Cllr Lee Gardner proposed the quotation for the six-monthly Fire Alarm service at the Pavilion be approved. Cllr Merrie Mannassi seconded. All Agreed.

Grants and Funding

Consideration for a grant funding opportunity from CCC for Water Course Maintenance. *Supporting documents in councillor packs.* Decision required.

The Clerk advised that a grant application had been initiated and that follow up information submitted to address the maintenance of the Rivey bridlepath ditch.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed the opportunity for a grant be completed. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. All Agreed. Clerk.

Compliance & Risk

Compliance

Notification of the Governance Training completed on 23.09.2025. *Verbal update by Cllrs Sanderson and Smith.* For Information. Noted.

Cllr Tony Smith gave a brief overview of the training and recommended the course to all members.

Cllr Chris Hine requested that a section be created on the councillor section of the website for training and presentation slides to be accessible to all councillors.

Risk

Consideration of the information received in relation to the insurance of the Pavilion. Decision required.

The Clerk advised that Zurich Insurance had been approached in relation to a full insurance quotation for the Parish Council and this would be brought back to the Full Council meeting scheduled for November.

Traffic & Highways

MSID Data YTD – *Written report available.*

Community Buildings

The Cathodeon Centre

Consideration for the proposal for changes in the overall management of the Cathodeon Centre. **Decision required.**

Cllr Tony Smith proposed holding an internal meeting for discussions on changes to the overall management of the Cathodeon Centre with recommendations to be presented for consideration at the Full Council meeting scheduled to take place on 20.11.2025.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi seconded. **All Agreed.**

The Pavilion

Update on remedial works in relation to the Pavilion. Decisions required.

The Clerk advised the following outstanding remedial works to be completed by LGFC.

-Cleaning of the extraction filters and oven in the Pavilion kitchen.

The Clerk advised of repairs required to the showers.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed the quotation of £110 to replace two light fittings in the showers be approved.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi seconded. All Agreed.

Update on Hire Agreements and Regular User Agreements. For Information.

The Clerk advised that the Linton Village Cricket Club had not yet signed the Regular User Agreement for use of the Pavilion but had signed a H&S Agreement to ensure access be provided to the garage and changing rooms to facilitate the ongoing grounds maintenance. Noted.

Events

Christmas 2025

Consideration of the request for a maximum budget of £200 to purchase seasonal decorations to be displayed in prominent locations in the village. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed a maximum budget of £200 delegated to the Clerk to purchase seasonal decorations for the village. Cllr Brian Cox seconded. All Agreed. Clerk.

Notification of the proposed office shutdown period for 2025 from 22.12.2025–02.01.2026. Decision required.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi proposed the office shutdown period from 22.12.2025–02.01.2026 be approved. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. All Agreed.

The Clerk confirmed that the Burials Officer would be available to assist the funeral directors if required during the office shut-down period and that emails would be monitored in case of urgent matters arising.

Village Enhancement

Consideration of the adoption of the listed telephone kiosk on Church Lane. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the parish does not adopt the telephone kiosk situated at the Linton Infants at the current time. Cllr Merrie Mannassi seconded. All Agreed. Consideration for the restoration at a maximum budget of £500 for benches at the Recreation Ground and on Rivey Hill. Decision required.

Cllr Jasvir Singh proposed the maximum budget of £500 to cover repairs to the bench on the Recreation ground and at the top of the Rivey Hill and requested the Clerk seek quotations within the budget. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Youth

Consideration for the BYT Quarterly Report Yr1 Q3. *Written report available.* For Information. Noted.

Notification of the BYT Quarterly Review meeting to be held on 20.10.2025. For Information. Noted.

Meeting Dates

Consideration for the Parish Council meeting dates for 2026. *Supporting document in councillor packs.* Decision required. Cllr Tony Smith proposed the Parish Council meeting dates for 2026 be approved. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed. Consideration for the proposed date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish to be held on Tuesday 12.05.2025. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the Annual Meeting of the Parish be held on Tuesday 12.05.2026. Cllr Brian Cox seconded. All Agreed.

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

Clerk

The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001

Clerk to the council – Jenny Seaward

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Office open: **Monday - Friday 9am - noon.**

By Appointment Only

Full Council meetings are held at the Cathodeon Centre, commencing at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month.



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