THE LINTON NEWS IS IN ITS 40th YEAR
SPECIAL FEATURES LOOKING FORWARD & BACK THROUGHOUT 2026

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THE LINTON NEWS

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Local paramedic to volunteer in Ukraine

WHILE I am a long-term Abington resident, I will be known to many of you, since I attended Linton Village College and now work as a paramedic for the GP surgery in Linton. In November I will deploy to Ukraine for the second time.



I first went to Ukraine back in 2024. I volunteered as a paramedic, working in war-affected areas to treat the civilian population via a mobile medical clinic. The charity I worked with, Global Care Force, uniquely provides continuity of care via return visits to the same areas every few months. On leaving the country last time, I said I too would re-volunteer my time to help. As a result, I will return to Ukraine in November 2026.

Please use the QR code to donate to the mobile medical clinics.

Tom Day





The Pear Tree, Hildersham: where tradition meets today

HILDERSHAM has its Pear Tree back. After many years as The *Pear & Olive* the High Street restaurant has returned to its original name. It even feels more like a homecoming than a rebrand.



Josh and Jade look forward to welcoming you

Summer brought a lot of changes. Step through the green front door and you'll find the bar back in the main room, part original, part new, and quite at home. Small details turn up everywhere, which nods to the building's past and with fresh modern touches.

The menu strikes the same balance. Pub favourites such as shepherd's pie and steak frites share the page with chef Josh's fine dishes. These are always seasonal, delicious, and beautifully put together. I recently popped over for lunch. While I enjoyed my gnocchi with pumpkin and chanterelles, my partner loved his juicy burger. What a delightful experience!

It's been great to watch Jade and Josh's vision come to life since they took over in early 2024, growing with every season. And psst... from what I've heard there's more to come soon, with draught beer on its way.

A wonderful addition to the local food scene and one to watch.

Kerstin Klein

Just days to go: Linton Fireworks, Saturday 7th November

LINTON'S biggest night of the year is almost here!

Join us at Linton CofE Infant School, where gates will open at 5pm. Come hungry: our food village will serve everything from BBQ and pizza to ice cream, beer and coffee. Stay for the Guy competition at 5.45pm, gather round the bonfire at 6pm, and celebrate the end of the evening with Linton's fireworks at 7.15pm, marking 100 Years of David Attenborough.



Some of last year's spectacular fireworks

Advance tickets are available for only a few more days, so don't wait. Buy them at Sweet Talk News, Acorn Garage, BP Garage or online at lintonfireworks.co.uk. You can use the QR code or pay at the gate on the evening.

New this year is our raffle, celebrating local businesses. We have over 30 prizes of combined value over £1,000, from firewood to restaurant vouchers. Strips are £5 and can be ordered online or bought during the evening. Every one sold helps our schools.

A huge thank you to our three key sponsors, Camgrain, McKenzie & Haywards Garage, and Liston Accountants. We also want to thank all the local businesses whose generosity helps make the evening possible. All profits go to our four local schools.

Follow @lintonfireworks on Instagram for the latest news and updates. See you there!

Please note: no dogs and no sparklers. Parking is at Linton Village College (CB21 4JB).

Kerstin Klein

Festive Fair @ Cambridge Art Makers

AFTER a hot summer that included some lovely events and activities with Linton Heights Junior School (including the stained glass panel below), it's somehow autumn again and we're getting ready for our annual Festive Fair. Join us on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November for handmade treasures, festive cheer, and a magical gingerbread creation—11–4pm each day. Before that we have plenty of lovely courses to keep you cosy as the seasons change.

We have also created a new category on our website for festive courses, so if you're looking to share experiences and make memories with friends or family in the lead up to Christmas or you are looking for gift ideas, this could be a great place to start! Go to CAM Courses→Short Courses→ Festive Courses to see what's on offer!







Some of our wonderful stalls from previous years



The stained glass window created by pupils at the Heights with our tutor Gill Fordham

Rosemary Bangham

Become a Granta School governor

WOULD you like to help shape key decisions at our school and contribute to the local community? If so, why not become a school governor? Governors help guide the school's development and oversee key areas, including the curriculum, school improvement, budgets, staffing, health and safety and premises management. Our governing body welcomes volunteers from a range of backgrounds, with different skills and experience. Governors work together to support the school and the community it serves.

We can offer you:

- The chance to acquire new skills.
- The opportunity to work as a team towards a common goal.
- Comprehensive induction, training opportunities and full support of the governing body.

If you can spare around 10 hours per term and would like to become a co-opted governor, or would like further information, please contact: cliott@granta.cambs.sch.uk. Please note that co-opted governors cannot be parents of registered pupils at the school, members of the school's staff, elected members of the local authority (LA) or those employed by the LA in connection with its education functions (unless they are employed wholly in other schools in the LA).

Emma Jennings



Operation Christmas Child

THIS Christian organisation sends filled shoeboxes to many parts of the world to give to disadvantaged children. The idea is to pack a box with lots of fun things, but also some practical items. These boxes are then distributed to children who may never have had a gift before or had new things for themselves. Operation Christmas Child sent 241,015 boxes from the UK in 2024. It would be great if this number grew even more. They tend to go to Eastern European countries, Central Asia and Africa.

It is never too early to knit items like hats, gloves, soft toys or to buy or make items. Look on the website for ideas and keep a look out for items such as stationery, soap, toothbrushes, small toys, balls, games in the shops or online (only new or in very good condition). There are three age groups: 2–4, 5–9, 10–14, either boy or girl.

Get a shoebox (not small child's or boot box please), cover it with nice paper and away you go. I have a limited source of preprinted boxes. I can also supply leaflets.

Collection week this year is November 9th–16th. Boxes can be dropped off at my house or at Linton Free Church on Sunday mornings.

Jane Furlow,
07745 046921, email jane.furlow@gmail.com

Balsham Picture House

OUR November film is *H is for Hawk* (12), and stars Clare Foy as Helen MacDonald, who is grieving after the death of her beloved father. She trains a goshawk, Mabel, to cope with her loss because it brings back memories of the natural world she shared with her father. As she labours to teach Mabel how to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers her own emotions and life.

The screening will be at the Balsham Church Institute, Saturday November 7th. Doors will open at 7pm for drinks and nibbles from Dave's Bar and the film will begin at 7.30pm.

Richard Paden

Join the Cubs and Scouts

JOIN Linton Cubs, Scouts and Beavers to discover fun, friendship and adventure every week! From camping and hiking to games, teamwork and learning new skills, there's something for everyone! Make new friends. Build confidence. Try exciting activities. Earn badges and awards.

Whether your child loves the outdoors, wants to try something new or wants to simply have fun in a safe and welcoming environment, Scouting is the perfect place to grow and explore.

Spaces are available for Beavers (ages 6–8) and Scouts (ages 10½–14) now. There are limited spaces available at Cubs (ages 8–10½).

All groups meet weekly at the following times: Beavers on Thursdays 6–7.15pm, Cubs on Wednesdays 6–7.15pm and Scouts on Wednesdays 7.30–8.45pm

Contact Barry Holman for more information: barrydjholman@googlemail.com.

Barry Holman

Headscratcher

HMRC has demanded a large capital tax from 20 years ago. However, the accounts are on an old system and I have forgotten the numerical 4-digit code in order to prove otherwise.

All I can remember is that the fourth digit is the only square number. Two digits are greater than 6. Only one digit is odd. The first digit is one more than the third and the second digit is two more than the fourth. What is the code?

Always keep records where HMRC are concerned...

Answer to 24

It can be done with just three denominations of note £1, £2, £3. You could also use a £4 note. Aspasia

Chalklands Christmas lunch



LAST year we hosted the first Christmas lunch at Chalklands community room for those on their own and we had a fantastic time. Everyone went home with a small gift and some of the food that was left.

If you are on your own or are a couple or family with nowhere to go for Christmas lunch on 25th December, we are hosting a free 'buffet lunch' at the Chalklands community room, from midday onwards.

The buffet will include traditional Christmas meats, cheese, salad, bread and desserts. There will be a small gift for you to take home, lots of laughter and new friendships made. There will be music and singing too.

However, we are limited to 30 people and if you would like to come and join us please email or ring me to book your place and inform us of any dietary needs.

Thank you.

Karen and Mark Sanderson
07748 917513 or lintonjazz64@gmail.com

Macmillan thanks

THANK you for supporting our coffee morning on Friday 25th September. Linton Infant School and St Mary's Church were delighted to offer a choice of drinks and a mouth-watering selection of homemade bakes. As usual, the church was packed with children from the School, their families and friends for the regular Friday service and after the service, our coffee morning.

There was a lovely atmosphere all morning and we raised £480.10. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for helping us to support Macmillan as they support those people living with cancer.

Sue Filby
On behalf of Linton Infant School and St Mary's Church.

THE LINTON NEWS

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November bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 4th, 18th, 2nd Dec

Blue: Wednesdays 11th, 25th

Green: Wednesday 11th, 25th

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition
For entries, email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com.
Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.
For more details of village events see https://www.villio.co.uk.

NOVEMBER		
Tue 3	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 5	Linton Roots Meeting, 6pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Sat 7	Farmers Market, 9–1.30am	Village Hall
Sat 7	Linton Roots Bulb Planting, 10–12pm	Linton Rec. Ground Pavilion
Sat 7	Linton Firework Display, 5pm	Camping Close
Sat 7	Balsham Picture House, 7pm	Balsham Church Institute
Sun 8	FROGS Post Firework Litter Pick, 10–12pm	Infant School
Mon 9	W. Wickham History Group, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 10	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Wed 11	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	Free Church Hall
Wed 11	Houghton Mill Library Talk, 2–3.30pm	Library
Fri 13	Friends of LVC Community Quiz Night, 6.30pm	LVC
Sat 14	Psalmscape, 10.30–4.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 14	Linton Roots Repair Café, 2–5pm	Village Hall
Mon 16	W. Wickham Gardening Club meeting, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 17	Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 19	Book Launch, *'Cricket in Linton'*, from 6pm	Dog and Duck
Fri 20	Daylight Readers Book Group, 10.30am & 2.30pm	Library
Sat 21	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 24	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Thu 26	ACE Festive Buffet, 12.30pm	Linton Rec. Ground Pavilion
Sat 28	Cambridge Art Makers Festive Fair, 11–4pm	6 Lintech Ct., The Grip
Sun 29	Cambridge Art Makers Festive Fair, 11–4pm	6 Lintech Ct., The Grip
Sun 29	Advent Tea and Gift Collection, 2.30–4.30pm	St Mary's, Little Abington
DECEMBER		
Tue 1	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 3	Linton Roots Meeting, 6pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Fri 4	Christmas Craft Market, 5–8pm	Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham
WEEKLY		
Mon	Mini Movers, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Mon	Junior Netball Club, U12s 5–6pm, U14&16s 6–7pm	LVC
Mon	Netball Club, Adults 7–8.30pm	LVC
Mon	Men's Keep Fit, 7.15pm	Comm. Sports Centre, LVC
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30–11am (term time)	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	Village Hall
Wed	IT Drop In, 5–7pm	Library
Wed	Let's Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1–2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2–4pm	Library
Thu	Balsham Singers, 7.30–9.30pm	Sports Pavilion, Balsham
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10–11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7–9pm	Comm. Sports Centre, LVC
Sun	Church Service, 8am and 10am	St Mary's Church
Sun	Church Service, 10.30am	Linton Free Church
Sun	SWAG Youth Group, 8pm	Linton Free Church Hall

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New barbers


THERE is a new barbers in the village where you can get fresh trims and fades at 10 Bartlow Rd, Linton, CB21 4LY. Closed Mondays, Tuesday–Saturday 9–6pm; Sunday 10–4pm.

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Infant school news

NOVEMBER is here, along with the darker mornings and evenings. October half term has been and gone so we are entering into the Christmas spirit by designing Christmas Cards and drawing self-portraits as gifts. The children's artwork is amazing.

A huge number of items were donated at our Harvest Festival Service. We were also delighted with the amount raised at the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you to Sue Filby who organised this event and to our staff and families who generously donated.

We are already planning for our September 2027 intake and the admissions window is open. Some of our small group tours still have availability if you would like to come along on the following dates: Tuesday 3rd November at 10am, Tuesday 10th November at 10am or Thursday 12th November at 1.30pm.

During each session, you will have the chance to look around the school, see the wonderful things we do at Linton Infant School and ask any questions you may have. Places are limited, so please book in advance by calling the school office on 01223 891421 or emailing office@linton-inf.cambs.sch.uk.

Kelly Harries

Linton Reads

WELCOME back to Linton Reads a place for young readers to share book recommendations and encourage a love of reading in our community.



This month Izzy, aged six, tells us all about the *How to Train your Dragon* series by Cressida Cowell and has drawn some lovely pictures of main character, Hiccup and his best friend Fishlegs!

"I have read the first five books and I love them! It's about a shortish Viking with a longish name, Hiccup Haddock the third. He always finds himself on a mysterious quest. Toothless, his little disobedient dragon, always goes with him. I love these books because there is always something exciting going on and I love the characters, especially Hiccup who is always the hero even though he isn't a normal Viking."



As the days get cosier, it's the perfect time to head down to the Library where you can find all sorts of books about dragons, mythical creatures and magical adventures. If you don't yet have a library card, you can register for free at the library or through the Cambridgeshire Libraries website.

We'd love to hear what you're reading and why you love it. Please send your review (of no more than 100 words) to lintonreads@gmail.com.

Happy reading!

Emily Steed and Tara Wheeler

Growing greener at Linton Heights

LINTON Heights Junior School is delighted to have worked in partnership with Water Sensitive Cambridge on an exciting project to make our school grounds greener, more attractive and better equipped to cope with heavy rainfall. The project has been fully funded, with support from a grant from the Department for Education.



As part of the project, we received several specially designed planters that do much more than hold colourful plants. The planters capture and divert rainwater, helping to slow the flow of water across the site. This will be particularly valuable in our courtyard which has previously been prone to flooding during periods of heavy rain.

Water Sensitive Cambridge also led an assembly to explain how the planters work and why managing rainwater matters. Our Gardening Club then helped bring the project to life by filling and planting the containers. The greenery brightens the grounds and one planter now provides a welcoming display outside the main entrance.

Water Sensitive Cambridge will also be returning to install water butts around the site. These will allow us to collect rainwater and reuse it for watering plants, reducing our reliance on mains water. Following the exceptionally hot summer when green spaces needed extra care, stored rainwater will be particularly useful.

This partnership has given pupils practical experience of sustainability and shown how thoughtful changes can make a real difference. We thank Water Sensitive Cambridge and our Gardening Club for helping create a greener future.

Caroline Webb

The Marsh mail

IN OCTOBER we held our annual sponsored walk, organised and supported by the Friends of LVC. There was a fantastic array of fancy-dress costumes as students and staff came together to complete a 7-mile route through the local countryside while raising vital funds for the school. Despite an early morning downpour, the weather held out and there were lots of smiles, plenty of conversation and some very tired legs by the end of day.



Thank you to everyone who supported the sponsored walk, whether through sponsorship, volunteering or taking part. Every donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

The Friends of LVC work tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds that directly benefit students. They work closely with staff and students to ensure that money is invested where it will have the greatest impact. Following feedback from the Junior Leadership Team, the Friends have helped transform the common rooms with comfortable seating, creating welcoming spaces where students can relax and socialise during breaktimes. Other initiatives include team sports kits and enrichment opportunities that benefit students across the school.

The Friends' next event will be the community quiz night on Friday 13th November. Please do come along and join us for a fantastic evening of quizzing, a fish and chip supper (other menu options are available) and bar where you can purchase drinks and snacks. Tickets for the quiz night can be purchased by visiting the Friends of LVC's Facebook page and scanning the QR code.

Helena Marsh

November at the Library

COME in for cosy 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.

We have a talk about Houghton Mill on Wednesday 11th, 2–3.30pm, £2 per person. To reserve your place please call into the library or email cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Do you like reading stories aloud to children? We have a vacancy for a volunteer to help us – call in for more details.

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 most walking aids to keep them in safe condition. Just ask library staff.

Daylight Readers: Our book groups will meet on Friday 20th, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm.

Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesday mornings 10.30–11am for 0–4 years (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. All are welcome.

IT Drop In: every Wednesday 5–7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with information technology.

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

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

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King,
Community Library Assistants, Linton Library
Opening hours: Tuesday 10am–5pm; Wednesday 4–7pm; Thursday 2–5pm; Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday 10am–1pm

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The Hundred Parishes

WHILST walking, cycling or driving in our beautiful and mainly rural area, you will come across a variety of crops at various stages of their life cycle. One of these is sugar beet, a plant that is harvested during the colder months, from September to March.

When my wife and I were checking out one of the Hundred Parishes quiet lane walks last winter, we came across great mounds of root vegetables. The farmer explained that they were recently harvested sugar beets that were about to be transported to the local sugar beet factory in Bury St Edmunds, around 35 miles away.

Bury St Edmunds is home to one of just four UK processing plants, all in the East of England and run by British Sugar. In total they produce over a million tonnes of sugar each year around half of the UK's consumption (the rest is imported).

Sugar beet is sown in spring and harvested in autumn and winter. Sugar in the form of sucrose is produced by photosynthesis in the leaves and is stored in the root. An average mature root weighs about a kilogram or 2 pounds. About 20% of this is turned into sugar.

Once in the factory, the beet is washed and processed to extract the sugar. The residue pulp is turned into animal feed.



Sugar beet growing

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Linton and District Historical Society

THE next meeting of the Linton and District Historical Society takes place on Tuesday 17th November, 7.30pm Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. Steve Ruthen will talk about *The Greene Family*.

Margaret Creek

Gifts for children and young people in care

WE have run this appeal for several years and your generosity has been outstanding. Sadly, the need is even greater this year. More children are being taken into care and this tends to rise around Christmas. Young people leaving care face a very uncertain future.

The churches in Abington and Hildersham, with Love Abington, are leading this appeal with the Advent tea and collection of gifts at St Mary's, Little Abington on Sunday 29th November, 2.30–4.30pm.

Realty, from Granta Park has generously offered to join in with the appeal again through their Give a Gift scheme.

Last year you gave to young people aged 18 to 25, who often get forgotten at Christmas. Here are gift suggestions for this age group: chocolates, gloves, hats, scarves, footballs, gift cards for sports shop, art kits, blankets, backpacks, toiletries, book tokens, notebooks/journals and pens, gift cards for cinema, slippers or dressing gowns. If you would like to give larger items, the young people also need second hand bicycles and repurposed tech, e.g. laptops, phones and tablets.

Do not wrap your gift. Put it in a gift bag with a label saying whether it is for a boy or girl (or is suitable for either) and approximately what age.



If you are unable to deliver your present on the day, please ring Rosemary Mead (01223 891718) or email Amanda Palmer (amjpalmer@gmail.com).

Rosemary Mead and Amanda Palmer

Be festive with ACE

ACE looks forward to welcoming friends old and new to its very popular festive buffet, in the Sports Pavilion on Linton recreation ground, 12.30pm on Thursday 26th November. See posters around the village for more information.

There is no need to book, just turn up on the day. As well as the usual tasty buffet there will be the seasonal festivities and raffle. We hope to see you at our final event for 2026 and share some Christmas cheer.

Sue Filby

Busy autumn at Linton Free Church

IT'S been a busy, challenging and exciting autumn at Linton Free Church. By the time of reading, both Linton Churches will have put on the annual Light Party for children, with around 100 children and families.

A year ago, a new Youth Group called SWAG (Saved With Amazing Grace) started on a Sunday evening. Over 20 young people up to 18 are now linked with this group. They explore the Christian faith and also do lots of fun activities. Do come along to the church hall, 8pm on a Sunday evening if you're interested.

Next month we'll tell you all about our Christmas services and activities but we just wanted to give an early notice for two events:

Our monthly coffee morning, on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, holds its Christmas special on Wednesday 10th December, 10–12 noon, and will of course include carols and mince pies. All are welcome.

Our Christmas Lighthouse Family event will be on Sunday 13th December, 3–4.30pm in the Free Church Hall. All children aged 4–11 and their families are welcome. Christmas themed crafts, stories, games and snacks. All free and lots of fun!

Check out our website for more details: Lintonfreechurch.org.uk.

Ian Burns, Church Secretary

Linton WI

OUR October meeting was run by our members, they showed us how to use mosaic tiles to create a decorative coaster. Several skills were called for, manipulating the tiny pieces with tweezers or fingers, designing a pattern and manoeuvring them neatly into place. Patience and concentration produced many attractive and interesting pieces on which to perch our hot cups!

On September 19th, we hosted the monthly coffee morning in St Mary's, with a raffle comprising several attractive baskets of groceries, vegetables and fruit which were both colourful and useful. They boosted the takings to over £300 which will be shared equally with the church.

New members always welcome. Visitors: £5

Pat Marshall

Be seen - shine your screen

Cambridgeshire bus operator, Stagecoach East, has urged passengers to make themselves visible at bus stops – particularly as the mornings and evenings become darker – to make sure that bus drivers can see them.

Managing Director, Darren Roe urged passengers to "give drivers a helping hand" by lighting up their phone screen at the stop so they can be seen from a distance. At this time of year, being visible is essential to ensure that boarding can take place as quickly and safely as possible; so, in addition to wearing bright clothing, there are these four points to remember:

- Shine your screen – wake up your phone and show a bright screen toward the oncoming traffic.
- Avoid torches – do not use a bright flashlight or torch feature, as it can dazzle or distract the driver.
- Aim low – point the screen light downward toward the road rather than straight at the driver's eyes.
- Stand to be seen – stand back from the edge of the pavement and stick your arm out.

Lee Ogaza, bus driver and local representative for the Unite Union, added, "As drivers, we wake up every morning wanting to provide the best possible service for our customers, but to do that, we need to see them. When the streets are dark or crowded, sometimes we can miss people and we definitely do not want to do that, so it really helps us if people make an effort to be seen."

Steven Kiely



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Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



What is that pile of poo?

MAUREEN was slightly alarmed when I asked her to draw a large pile of poo for November's issue. And Ben thought I might write about something a little less unsavoury. But poo is important in so many aspects of life and the countryside is no exception. Anyone using country lanes can't fail to see huge black mounds piled on the bits of fields nearest the road. What exactly are they?

These piles, described as biosolids, start in our bathrooms and end up on farmland, a huge recycling operation across Cambridgeshire. What exactly is in them, why do farmers want them and how closely are they monitored?

According to Anglia Water's assessment, the Cambridge sludge treatment centre puts out 5,600 tonnes of dry solids every year. Very roughly, there is an application rate of 4.7 dry tonnes per hectare. For 2024, the Environment Agency recorded 84,500 tonnes despatched and spread over 18,000 hectares. That is quite enough numbers. What does it actually do?

At the beginning of this process, the anaerobic digestion of sewerage sludge produces biogas. This gas can be used to produce energy to provide heating and power equipment . Biosolids, sold as Nutri-Bio and certified under the UK's Biosolids Assurance Scheme contain nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, magnesium and organic matter. This last helps soil structure and water retention. Nutri-Bio's website offers three products: digested cake, iron cake and lime cake. The last one sounds rather scrummy really!

So is it a win-win for everyone? It would seem so, but there are still concerns about microplastics entering the soil and about PFAs. The P and F bits are too hard to spell, but think of them as 'forever chemicals'. There are also pharmaceutical residues and heavy metals; too much nitrogen and phosphorus spread on the soil can contribute to pollution of rivers and ground water. As we learn more and more about contaminants, it's the job of the regulatory bodies to keep amending the testing standards. All very tricky.



Bringing life to things new and old!

SEPTEMBER was a busy time for the amazing Linton Roots team! A striking angel was created from non-perishable items, highlighting the need for care and guardianship of our beautiful yet vulnerable world. The same week, 60 people spanning several generations, watched *The People's Emergency Briefing*. (More info: nebriefing.org). Apparently, we are the first to screen it twice, demonstrating great local interest in an important and informative film that can help us all to do something.

We are planning two more events for you to support and enjoy. On Saturday 7th November at 10am, help with planting native bulbs, all ages welcome! Meet at the sports pavilion. Bring miniature gardening tools if you have them, the bulbs are tiny!

Our next Repair Café is on the 14th November in the Village Hall from 2pm, last bookings at 4.15pm. Repairs are possible on a variety of items: kitchen, office and music equipment; clothes; jewellery, etc. There's a café too, so you can enjoy a cuppa, cake and chat, all made possible by volunteers. Offers of help and donations extremely appreciated to help us do more! **Please request a repair ahead**: there will only be a few spots for walk-ins. Look out for posters with a QR code linking to a webpage with the booking form.

Want to find out more? We'd love to see you at our next meeting on the 5th November 6pm at St Mary's Pavilion.

Yannick Auckland

Winter wish list

AFTER October's Annual General Meeting and fascinating lesson from Sue and Clive Boase on ways to future-proof our gardens for the changing weather, we look forward to a well-earned rest from gardening tasks. Planning and recharging our batteries are the themes for the next few months so that we are ready to tackle the challenges of next year with renewed enthusiasm.

We are beginning with a talk to give us inspiration on how to redesign all or part of our gardens to cope with these new conditions. This will be held on Monday 16th November at 7:30pm in West Wickham Village Hall, we will be learning that *Good gardens don't happen by accident: thoughtful planting for wildlife and beauty*. This promises to be a fascinating talk as Catherine and Viki from Ladies that Mulch explain how they use design software to visualise gardens, which they then turn into reality, helping to select the right plants for the soil, conditions and landscape.

As with all our talks, members gain free entry and non-members pay just £2. Tea and biscuits are served after the talk so that we can socialise and share ideas. As always, please do contact us with your ideas and thoughts. Membership runs from September and new members are welcomed all year for a fee £10. Contact Sally Collins on wwdgc@westwickham.org for further information about the Club and Janet Morris on jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com for information about the Club's Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits.

Sally Collins
West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Out and about

AN HOUR'S drive away lies Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve, Shefford Road, Beadlow, Beds SG17 5TR,. This is a lovely nature reserve to visit with so much wildlife and good walking routes as well. The facilities on site include a café, toilets and plenty of car parking. There is a car parking fee. The whole area is managed by the Greensand Trust.

How did this nature reserve come about? Fullers earth was discovered in Clophill in 1934. Excavations commenced sometime in 1952. Fullers earth was formed by falling layers of ash vented by volcanoes. Production ceased in 2000. The pits were finally flooded to create lakes for the wildlife. Today Fullers earth is still used in cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. Most of today's Fullers earth comes from the USA.

Stella Joyner



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District and County Councillors' report: October 2026

Changes to the planning system
From October 31st new government rules change how planning applications are decided. Fewer applications will go to the planning committee, with the majority decided by council officers. District councillors and parish councils will no longer be able to ask for an application to be decided at committee; that decision will rest with officers alone. The changes are intended to speed up the planning process.

Kingsway Solar
Kingsway Solar has indicated that it expects to resubmit its solar farm application by the end of October. The application was withdrawn this summer after the Planning Inspectorate requested changes before it could proceed to examination. If it is resubmitted, the Inspectorate will decide whether to accept it for examination.

Food waste collection
New food waste bins will be delivered to this area during October, with collections due to begin in mid-December.

Local Plan
Public consultation on the District Council's Local Plan has closed and all comments received will be passed to the government's planning inspector. The plan is due to be submitted to the inspector in December, followed by an examination expected to last at least a year, possibly longer. The inspector will decide whether the plan is sound and deliverable.

John Batchelor, District Council, johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Mind the gap - free bus passes to combat loneliness

CAMBRIDGESHIRE bus operator, Stagecoach East, has called for more to be done to close the "knowledge gap" that is preventing entitled people from getting their free bus passes.

As part of Catch the Bus Month, Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, called on operators to promote the availability of free bus passes after Stagecoach's own research showed that over a third (34%) of people eligible for a free concessionary bus pass have not even claimed theirs. Stagecoach is now putting out regular advice aimed at increasing awareness of the free pass. If you have reached state pension age or have a certain disability, you may be eligible for a concessionary bus pass from your local council, free of charge. This is a bus pass that allows concessionary travel on most buses for free.

Darren said: "We know what a crucial role buses play in giving people vital connections to friends, services and wider society and combatting the epidemic of isolation that impacts upon so many people. Research by Age UK shows that around 940,000 older people experience chronic or frequent loneliness and roughly 270,000 people in England go an entire week without speaking to a single friend or family member.

The bus can play an absolutely fundamental role in breaking this cycle, whether by a friendly hello from the driver or a chat with the other passengers or simply being able to get to the shops, days out with friends or medical appointments. It is our responsibility, as operators, to make sure that people know they can get on a bus for free and feel confident to do that."

To find out more about whether you are eligible for a free bus pass, go to https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/national/concessionary-travel.

Steven Kiely



A day out with the grandchildren



Taking the bus to go shopping

An update from your local MP, Pippa Heylings

Fighting to keep Arthur Rank Hospice's beds open

Hospice Awareness Week was an opportunity to pay tribute to hospices like Arthur Rank Hospice, which supports patients and their loved ones at the hardest moments of their lives. I recently spoke with CEO Sharon Allen about the fight to save nine beds threatened with closure after Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) cut its funding. Local fundraising has kept them open for 12 months, but the hospice needs a long-term funding decision.

I am pressing CUH to work with the hospice to find a way forward. I am also asking the Integrated Care Board how hospices and community care will feature in its plans, backed by longer-term contracts that provide stability. I will keep fighting to ensure Arthur Rank can care for local people when they need it most.

Campaigning to end the SEND crisis

I continue to hear from parents and carers facing delays with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and school placements for children with special educational needs (SEND). Some children started the new school year without a place, leaving many parents unable to work. Schools say they struggle to meet needs without timely funding.

Cambridgeshire has some of the lowest per-pupil funding in the country and is in the lowest quartile for high-needs funding. I led a national debate in Parliament on SEND funding and am pressing ministers to review the funding formula. Following our successful campaign to secure funding for two new special schools in Gamlingay and March, I am demanding that they are built swiftly.

People's Emergency Briefing

I joined a local screening in Comberton of the People's Emergency Briefing, which sets out what the latest science says about the climate and nature crisis. It warns that the crisis is already affecting our health, food supply, economy and national security.

Local councils and communities in South Cambridgeshire have an important role to play. As the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Energy Security and Net Zero, I am urging the Government to listen to scientists, share the information nationally and act on the scale this emergency demands. Find a local screening at https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map.

These are just some of the things I have been working on recently. To keep up to date, register for my e-newsletter at https://www.pippaheylings.org.uk/newsletter .



Pippa Heylings MP

Planning Applications 16th September to 14th October

26/1116/TTPO – Walnut: reduce height and spread on all sides by 2–3 m by removing the longest regrowths from each pruning head; remove deadwood. 3 Stantons, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4FD. Validated: Wednesday 30th September. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/03577/HFUL and 26/03578/LBC – Installation of a ground-mounted external air-to-air heat-pump system, together with two internal floor-mounted units and two internal wall-mounted units. 8 Green Lane, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4JZ. Validated: Tuesday 29th September. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/03639/FUL – Creation of a new access from the highway, together with associated works and infrastructure. Chilford Hall, The Lodge, Balsham Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4LE. Validated: Thursday 24th September. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/1086/TTCA – T1, horse chestnut: crown reduce overall by up to 3 m back to previous pruning points, leaving the tree approximately 22 m in height. 40 Mill Lane, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4JY. Validated: Thursday 24th September. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/03541/FUL and 26/03530/LBC – Change of use of optical practice to residential dwelling (Class C3), including removal of modern shop sign from front façade. 55 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Thursday 17th September. Status: Awaiting decision.

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Parish Council matters

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

Linton Remembers 2026

ON Sunday 8 November, the village is warmly invited to join a special Remembrance Sunday service at St Mary's Church. The service, which will include music and readings, will begin at 2pm. Following the church service, there will be a gathering at the War Memorial at 3pm to remember and honour all those who lost their lives in conflict.

Residents are then invited to the Village Hall for refreshments, kindly provided by Linton Parish Council, offering an opportunity for the community to come together and reflect.



In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday many parishioners are involved in the preparations for this important event.

Historically, Lawrence Kidman, a well known and hugely respected parishioner, acted as the main organiser of fund raising for the Royal British Legion.

More recently, Mark Chennells has taken on this important role. Despite the considerable demands of the fundraising campaign each autumn, Mark has worked alongside members of the Parish Council team to coordinate the display of memorial crosses at the War Memorial.

There are 62 crosses displayed on the bank, one for every individual from the parish who lost their life during the two World Wars. A further 28 crosses are placed beside graves in the cemetery to honour those who served their country.

The Parish Council's grounds maintenance team also play their part, giving the cemetery extra care and attention to ensure it looks immaculate and worthy of the occasion.

At St Mary's Church, a dedicated team of volunteers organise and host the service, coordinating the sermon, choir, bell-ringing and procession. Children from the local schools participate each year, to the joy of the congregation.

We are also honoured to welcome the local cadets, scouts and guides, who proudly parade alongside the clergy and choir, leading the congregation from St Mary's Church to the War Memorial. Their participation provides a visible link between generations and reminds us that remembrance continues to be valued by young people today.

Adding colour and symbolism to the occasion are the beautiful crocheted poppies created by talented parishioners. These handcrafted displays, which adorn the railings in red, white, purple and black, are a wonderful example of community spirit and creativity.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, skills and dedication to make this event possible, and to every parishioner who attends in remembrance. By coming together as a village, we ensure that those who gave so much will never be forgotten.

Linton Parish Council

Nature Day 2026 - update

ON Saturday 3rd October Linton Parish Council, Linton Friends of the River Granta (Linton FROG) and Linton Roots hosted a Nature Day in Linton.

The People's Emergency Briefing

The People's Emergency Briefing was shown for the second time at St Mary's Church with a high attendance. The film is an unfiltered assessment of the latest threats to the UK food supply, health and natural security due to climate changes. If you missed the screening in Linton, and would like to know more please contact Linton Roots at linton-roots@outlook.com.

Tree ID with Ian Lorman

A tree ID session with Ian Lorman, a local tree specialist, was held in the village hall. The interactive session provided information and interesting facts about our native species and advice on the advantages and disadvantages of each. A booklet full of information is available from the Parish Council office. Please call us on 01223 891001 if you would like a copy.

Wildlife Gardening

An interesting talk with Ian Webb from the Wildlife Trust was organised by Linton FROG which provided information and advice on various improvements that can be made in our gardens to help the wildlife and maintain a safe habitat for all native species to thrive.

Just Add Water

Following on from the Emergency Briefing in the morning the focus for the final session was how everyone can adapt to preserve and provide water to sustain plants, animals and insects. Gardening has become problematic with heatwaves and low rainfall; Ian was full of ideas to help make a difference. Further information about the wildlife gardening and the *Just Add Water* talks can be found on the Wildlife Trust website - https://www.wildlifebcn.org.

If you are keen to get involved with environmental projects in Linton or would like to know more about Linton FROG and Linton Roots please contact the Parish Council office for further details.

Linton Parish Council

LHI Bid 2026-2027 - update

THE Local Highway Improvement (LHI) programme gives communities the opportunity to apply for funding to improve the public highways in their area. Community groups, parish councils and town councils can apply for support for eligible highway improvement projects.

In July 2026 the Parish Council was invited to present the bid for Linton to the member panel at Cambridgeshire County Council.



The LHI bid for 2026/2027 for Linton is for traffic calming measures on Horseheath Road by installing speed bumps to slow the traffic and support the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit.

At the Highways Committee meeting for Cambridgeshire County Council held on Tuesday 14th October 2026 the LHI scheme for Linton was approved. Work to install traffic calming measures will commence in 2028. While there will be some disruption for a week or two, it is hoped that this will help to improve road safety for everyone.

Linton Parish Council

Apply now for grant funding

IN last month's Linton News we included a reminder to apply for grant funding from the Parish Council.

If you are a group or local organisation now is the time to submit your application. The Parish Council has started to assess the precept requirements of the parish for 2027–2028 and must budget for grant funding in the next couple of months.

Full details are available on the Parish Council website.
Please use the QR code or email the office via enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk.

Linton Parish Council

Save the date!

Defibrillator & CPR Training

Saturday 5th December.

Drop into the Village Hall on Saturday 5th December for an afternoon of defibrillator and CPR Training.

The event is being organised by the Linton Parish Council. Training will be provided by Callum, a St John Ambulance volunteer and resident of Linton, to support *Restart a Heart Day*.

Save A Life

Linton Parish Council

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Parish Council minutes

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2026 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Chairman's Comment

The Chairman spoke about the aim to reduce the length of future meetings.

Cllr Williams was thanked for hosting the summer holiday opening at the Pavilion.

An appeal for members for a steering group for the Neighbourhood Plan is to be included on the October full council agenda; all members present were requested to consider applying as volunteering is open to all.

External and Internal Meetings

Meeting report – GCSP Planning Forum held on 19th August. Cllr Sanderson encouraged all councillors to view the lengthy report which will be uploaded onto the councillor portal as soon as it is complete along with the slides from the meeting as the information is extensive.

Meeting report – Preparing a Community Flood Plan held on 9th September. For information. Cllr Smith advised that the workshop was primarily for groups looking to prepare a Community Flood Plan, confirming that Linton has already progressed past this stage and have included all aspects of the advice given at the workshop.

District and County Councillors Report – September 2026. *Written report available.* For information.

District and County Councillors Report – September 2026. *Written report available in councillor packs.* For information.

County & District Councillor Henry Batchelor shared the following:

Local Plan Consultation - Comments are to be encouraged by the 25th September by members of the Parish Council and the wider public.

National Planning Policy Framework – changes have resulted in a split for the housing trajectory for Cambridge whereby the city and south Cambridgeshire have been amended. This has resulted in a land supply for south Cambridgeshire of 7.8 years and a lowering of the land supply for the city which is at a lesser risk of development through lack of available, suitable land. The recent appeal in Abington has benefited from the improved housing trajectory being applied and advised to the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Kell asked whether the changes would affect the Local Plan.

Cllr Batchelor confirmed one Local Plan would be in place with the separate figures for housing supply.

Kingsway Solar Farm – Cllr Batchelor advised that a resubmission of the application is expected but that refinement and consultation were still lacking and therefore the proposal is expected to be rejected again.

District Councillor John Batchelor advised on the following:

Local Government Reorganisation – all changes have been paused for at least 12 months. SCDC confirm local elections will take place in 2028. Measures have been taken to reclaim expenditure by SCDC in relation to the LGR.

It was also confirmed that food waste bins will be allocated to every household by the end of September and that collection will be on a weekly basis.

Planning

Comments submitted to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan public consultation are extensive and can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

Consideration of the recommendation from the Planning Committee in relation to advice on repairs to the dovecote at Linton Infants School. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed the recommendation of the Planning Committee to advise the Linton Infants to approach the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) Conservation Office for advice. Cllr Sanderson seconded. All agreed. It was suggested an application is submitted to LPC for the possibility of matched funding grant to assist with associated costs of maintenance to the building of historical value to the village.

Finance

Quotes & Contracts

Quotation received for the replacement springy for the play area at the Recreation Ground. Correspondence item 17 refers. Decision required.

Cllr Sanderson proposed to approve the quotation. Cllr Kell seconded. All agreed.

Quotation for the required repairs to the air conditioning at the Pavilion. Correspondence item August 81 refers. *(deferred from the August meeting)* Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed a maximum budget for repairs of £650 with the Clerk to seek alternative, cheaper quotations for comparison. Cllr Sanderson seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Quotation received for the relocation of the air conditioning controls and the broadband router at the Pavilion. Correspondence item August 122 refers. *(deferred from the August meeting)* Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed a £200 budget for the relocation of the air conditioning controls for the bar lounge only, with an anti-tamper cover fitted, and for the broadband router to be placed in the bar. Cllr Hine seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Consideration of the quotation received for the annual cut of the Leadwell Meadows to be completed during October 2026 due to extensive works at the Pocket Park. Correspondence item 78 refers. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed the quotation be approved. Cllr Sanderson seconded. All agreed.

External Audit

Update on the external audit for 2025-2026. *Verbal update from the RFO.* For Information.

The RFO advised the external audit had been completed by PKF Littlejohn with no issues or advisories and provided the certificate and report to all members present in the meeting

The RFO was congratulated on the excellent audit and thanked for her continued commitment to accurate accounting for LPC.

Compliance & Risk

Further information in relation to the perimeter walls at St Mary's Churchyard and update on the churchyard working group meeting. Correspondence item 62 refers. Decision required.

No decision was required on this item.

The Clerk advised that a Churchyard Working Group meeting would be scheduled following an assessment by the contractor.

Review and re-adoption of the Fire Safety Policy for the Pavilion building. *Supporting documents available in councillor packs.* Decision required.

Cllr Sanderson proposed the fire safety policy be adopted with the correction to the email address on page 4. Cllr Kell seconded. All Agreed.

Traffic & Highways

Civil Enforcement Data from April 2026 – July 2026. *Written report available in councillor packs.*

For Information.

The Clerk was requested to raise the duration of visits to the village with County Councillor Henry Batchelor as the data suggests extremely limited time has been allocated to enforcement in Linton.

Confirmation of comments submitted to CCC in relation to the installation of a disabled bay in Tower View by 9th September deadline. Correspondence item 21 refers. For information.

The Clerk confirmed that no objections had been raised by councillors and therefore no comment had been submitted. Noted.

Notification of a TTRO 26-21792 – Bartlow Road from 16th–28th November for a new sewage connection. Deadline for comments 1st October. Correspondence item October 1 refers. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed that enquiries be made regarding the proposed diversion of the bus route from Bartlow Road, whether traffic management could be used instead of a full road closure, and whether the stated 13-day duration of the works could be reduced. Cllr Gardner seconded. All agreed.

Community Buildings

The Pavilion

Update on the status of the regular user agreements in relation to the Pavilion and request from LGFC in relation to the bar charges. Correspondence item 34, 56 and 59 refer. Decision required.

LPC had previously considered the charges using the evidence of the electricity differentials for months when LGFC was using the cooling system and therefore justifies the additional charges to ensure public money is not being used to pay for this provision. A monitor to be installed as agreed on agenda item 127.26.27(b)(ii) and a review of charges to be carried out prior to the Regular User Agreement for 2027–2028.

Cllr Gardner proposed the charges remain in place as agreed, accounting for the above explanation. Cllr Smith seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Events

Remembrance Sunday – provision of a £350 budget for memorial items on behalf of the village. *Supporting documents available in councillor packs.*

Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed a maximum budget of £350 for the memorial items on behalf of the village. Cllr Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

Cllr Sanderson requested permission to place poppies on the cemetery railings and at the Linton Village Hall.

Permission granted by LPC for the cemetery railings, and by Cllrs Smith and Gardner as trustees for the Linton Village Hall.

Nomination of a councillor to attend the Remembrance Day service on behalf of Linton Parish Council.

Decision required.

Cllr Singh proposed Cllr Gardner attend the service to represent Linton Parish Council. Cllr Kell seconded. All agreed.

Youth

Request for confirmation of each parties' cost contribution for the services required in relation to the new lease agreement for parish land, in relation to the site for the youth hut. Correspondence item 39 refers. Decision required.

Cllr Gardner proposed LPC take the advice of the solicitor and that the costs are borne by the tenant, in this case the Beacon Youth Trust. Cllr Smith seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Clerk

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

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