

Annual gardening club show  
2pm Saturday  
30<sup>th</sup> July  
in the village hall

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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## The highway men, the rector and the burial of the Barbies



ONE day a pothole appeared in sunny Market Lane and the men from the highways came. Their mission? To make good the hole.

While working with their tools a gallimaufry of people peered down into the hole and ummed and aahed.

And then an idea came. Two Barbie dolls had recently passed away, and this would be a good resting place for them.

It came to pass that as the dolls were laid to rest, the Rev Dr Steve Griffiths was walking past on his way to St Mary's church. We

asked him to bless the dolls and he agreed.

A big thank you to Dr Griffiths and also to the highway men for mending the lane.

All in all, a successful and impromptu fun morning. Article and pictures by Trysha Hunt

## Sunshine and flowers ... what a great festival



Just a small part of the Brownie and guide display

Picture LNT

THE Linton flower festival and fête was blessed with fine weather and plenty of sunshine.

The theme was Take My Hands and, when the church opened its doors on Friday morning, visitors were immediately struck by the gorgeous scent of the flowers and the beauty of the arrangements, each one demonstrating such ingenuity, artistry and love that the overall impression was breathtaking. There were more than 30 displays from both individuals and groups, ranging from the very young, including several Linton playgroups, the infant school and local Brownies and Guides, to the very elderly, including the residents of Nicholls Court and Symond's House.

On Friday evening a barn dance was held in a marquee, generously donated by Trevor Page Marquees, situated on

Camping Close. More than 150 revellers, young and not so young, danced to the music of the Bungalow Boogaloo Band and enjoyed food from the barbecue.

Overnight the marquee was taken over by a group of our young people and their leaders who held an all-night film night and, with the use of a couple of exercise bikes, undertook a sponsored static cycle ride to the Zimbabwean Embassy in London, raising funds for a charity in Zimbabwe.

Saturday commenced with the ever popular dog show, undertaken by our local vets, David and Val Urwin. The field was filled with dogs, great and small, all very well behaved. Chloe Joyce and Vegas were first in the dog most like owner competition and Imogen Cox with Vespre was best child handler under seven.

There was music from the

Linton Ukelele Element and Linton Jazz, two most enjoyable sets from the Devils Dyke Morris dancers and a display of strength and stamina by a team from Bassingbourn Barracks.

There were stalls, delicious refreshments, homemade ice cream, children's games, a bouncy castle and gladiator game, and army assault course as well as the popular teddy bear parachute jump from the church tower, followed by a teddy bears' picnic.

The afternoon concluded with the Great Granta duck race, although, after the lack of rain, the ducks needed considerable encouragement to keep swimming!

The variety show on Saturday evening proved to be a real showcase of Linton talent. A packed church was entertained by musicians, singers, humorous monologues and even puppets and a comedian.

## Aztecs beat Villa visitors ...

THE Aztecs football club recently hosted a charity game between an Aston Villa 'Old Stars' XI and an Aztecs Senior XI in memory of their late chairman, Barry Brewer, who lost his battle with cancer last summer.

In an entertaining match, Aztecs Seniors ran out 3-1 winners with the home goals coming from Andy Polley and a double strike from Keith Manning. The day included other events such as an Aztecs old team match, a ladies match and a fantastic display from the Fire and Ice Majorettes and Twirling team based in Haverhill.

The club would like to thank everyone who attended this special event and also the many people who made it possible including Linton Granta FC, all sponsors, Aztecs mascots and helpers on the day.

Aztec Juniors is based at the village college and provides mini-soccer, 9v9 youth and colts football from U6 to U16 age groups. Established in 1973, the club achieved its Football Association Charter Standard status in 2006 and has now grown to be one of the largest junior football clubs in South Cambridgeshire. The club website is at [www.aztecsjfc.co.uk](http://www.aztecsjfc.co.uk)

Mick Linsdell



Match play: Some action from the game  
Picture: Peter Hounsom

## ... and the U12s are top of the world

THE Aztecs U12 team, sponsored by MPI Services, enjoyed a successful 2010/11 season to win the Kempton U12 Youth C League.

Building on the success of a tournament win earlier in the season, the boys ended their league campaign 11 points clear of their nearest rivals Sutton Rangers.

Coach Mick Linsdell said, "the team can all be proud of their achievements this season."

The club will be holding their



We are the champions: the Aztec U12s

Picture by Mick Linsdell

pre-season signing-on day from 10am-12noon on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at the Linton pavilion on the recreation ground where the

club will be welcoming old and new players from age groups between U6 and U17.

Mick Linsdell

## Congratulations – year 5 wins maths challenge

ON 17<sup>th</sup> May, four pupils of Linton Heights participated in the year 5 maths challenge. We were competing against nine other schools.

There was a range of questions from triangle counting to difficult division calculations. Also, there were a variety of different rounds including mental rounds, team rounds and a puzzle relay. Sometimes we had to work together and sometimes we had to work individually.

We persevered all the way through the competition.

About halfway through we got a biscuit and a drink and went out to get some fresh air.

After having a break we continued with the competition where more questions were given to everyone.

About 45 minutes later we were given our final results and with a whopping total of 66 points – we won.

Reported by Juliet Babin-sky, Kaelie Oldfield, Oliver Golding and Brodie Knibbs.

Linton Heights school

## Too good for jumble...

ON offer this month are 12 books on dolls houses; a Mothercare cot with wooden frame; a high chair with wooden frame plastic padded and all accessories; a beech coloured computer work station on wheels, three shelves (one pull-out); wine making equipment; a small guitar, and a shopper style Raleigh bicycle which needs some attention. The four Nova white garden armchairs are still available.

The buggies raised £40 for 1<sup>st</sup> Linton Brownies.

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

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

Kate France on 891602

or email [kfrance@profsoundconsult.com](mailto:kfrance@profsoundconsult.com)



Owner most like their dog, Chloe Joyce and Vegas take the prize

Picture by Kate France

## Wild West fun day approaches

THE 2011 wild west fun day will soon be with us.

The cricket and football clubs, together with the Crown Inn are working hard in preparation of a fun event for the whole family, looking to raise funds to improve facilities at the recreation ground pavilion.

On 7<sup>th</sup> August bring the family to the recreation ground for a full menu of sport, sideshows, activities and refreshments all under a wild west theme.

There will be a car boot sale from 8-11am on the recreation ground, Linton residents priority, to book a space contact judith@rouse362.fsnet.co.uk

Leaving from The Crown

at 2pm we're looking to form a sponsored wild west wacky walk featuring wild west characters and animals, wacky sedan chairs and floats. There'll be prizes for the best entries and we can only make it work if you join in yourself or with a team.

Watch the Linton News for details of how you can take part or drop an e-mail to welshbarry@hotmail.co.uk. Instructions for how to make a sedan chair or panto horse are alongside.

Join in the fun and do your bit to help us develop the social facilities for the whole Linton community. Barry Bowen

**Your sedan chair for the Wild West Wacky Walk**

1. Make a pole frame
2. Add a seat
3. Add cardboard side designs
4. Add team of 3-5...and you're ready to go!

**Your panto horse for the Wild West Wacky Walk**

1. Cut old sheet or blanket as shown, fold in half
2. Stitch as shown, add tail and decorate
3. Make head or mask and "horsey" leggings and hooves
4. Add 2 people.. And you're ready to go

## Fundraising festival

FORM 10HP at Linton village college is organising the second annual Jesstonbury fundraiser in aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust and CLIC Sargent in memory of their friend and classmate Jessica Gower.

Last year they raised £2,700 and it would be fantastic if they could beat that target this year. Why not bring your family and friends to the college from 12noon till 3pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July to enjoy a fun afternoon of live music, cupcake bake-off, beat the goalie, sideshows and stalls, BBQ, afternoon tea, home-made refreshments, and much more.

Festival wear optional (at least if it rains you will have your wellies on!).

Remember to put the date in your diary and then come along to help to raise money for these worthy causes. For more information please phone the college on 891233.

Elizabeth Sanders

## Shakespeare in the wood

THE Outspoken Theatre Company are pleased to return to Hildersham to present a performance of Richard III at 6.30pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July in the Old School Wood at the church.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from the Pear Tree in Hildersham or Phil Wise on 892088. There will be a bar open in the car park area from 5pm. Picnics before the performance are most welcome. All proceeds go to the church repair fund.

Kirsten Newble

## July is showtime

THERE are an amazing 118 classes on offer this year for entries in the 69<sup>th</sup> annual Gardening club show, surely something to tempt everyone. They range from the horticultural classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers and pot plants to photography, flower arranging, crafts, baking and preserves, art and children's classes.

You can enter a single class or as many as you like. There are modest monetary prizes and cups to be won, but it is definitely the prize card and the fun of entering that counts. However this year there is even more to compete for as there are four more cups available for the whole village.

This takes the total number of open cups up to 12. The newly opened cups are the Edwin Swannell Trophy for the exhibitor who wins the most first prizes in the entire show, the Alick Jacob Cup for the best collection of vegetables, the Connie Wright Cup for the best flower arrangement in section 4 and the Jubilee Challenge Cup for the best grown exhibit in sections 1, 2 and 3. The other open cups cover horticultural, photographic, junior and junior group categories.

The annual show will be at 2.30pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July at the village hall. The prize-giving and raffle will be at 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Schedules giving full details on how to enter are available from Susan Anderson 891623 and Alex Todd 892979. Entry forms must be received by 8pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

Kirsten Newble  
892425

lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

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## Knitting group knits teddies for tragedies campaign

CHALKLANDS knitting group held their first open day on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at Chalklands community hall. Guests were welcomed by members of the knitting group.

There was a beautiful display of knitted garments, blankets and crocheted blankets, these will go to Armenia via the Armenian Ministries based in Hol-beach.

Smaller articles knitted in baby wool are destined for premature unit at the Rosie maternity hospital. Warm items of clothing such as scarves, woolly hats and children's jumpers go to Armenia and Chernigov in the Ukraine.

Teddies are destined for the Teddies for Tragedies campaign spearheaded by the Mother's Union and will go to the wards on the Mercy Ships which are located at present in Togo and Sierra Leone. £184 was raised by raffle and by donations, £124 for food parcels to Armenia and £60 to Polyclinic at Chernigov. £11.20 will feed a family for



The teddies are ready for their new owners

Picture by Janet Conochie

a month.

Many thanks to all who provided food and tea. We are grateful for donations of wool, and new members are always welcome. Enquires to Mrs Jean Whitby 893645.

Lian Watkin

## Health centre changes

DR ROGER Bertram retires from the practice at the end of July this year after 26 years. He joined the practice on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1985 having previously been a teacher of biology in Cambridge. He then trained to be a doctor and then a General Practitioner. Dr Bertram has lived in Linton all his life and his local knowledge of families going back generations is amazing and will be greatly missed. Dr Bertram's patients, we know, will particularly miss his kindness, his consideration and his great interest in people, their families, their work and their lives. All at the practice wish him well in his retirement.

With Dr Bertram's retirement, we would like to welcome Dr Laurence Kemp who will be joining the practice at the beginning of August. Dr Kemp has trained in Cambridge and is looking forward to meeting Dr Bertram's patients.

Dr Bertram's patients may notice that the name of their doctor has been changed to Dr Silverman on repeat prescription request slips. This is purely an administrative process: patients remain registered with the practice, under the name of our senior partner, and may choose to see whichever doctor they wish.

We have one surgery a month starting at 6am in the morning, a late evening surgery running until 8pm usually on a Tuesday or a Wednesday each week, and we have a Saturday morning surgery every week. Please note though that all extended hours surgeries are for pre-booked appointments only and not for emergencies. The out-of-hours service covers all emergency care in the evenings, at night and at weekends.

A copy of the latest survey of our practice is available on-line at www.gp-patient.co.uk and we have a paper copy available in the waiting room.

Sheila Griffiths, Practice Manager

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## Readers write...

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

### OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,  
I'm writing to thank you so much for the new Linton Village Directory, I have found the previous one extremely helpful, and have been meaning to say so for ages. Also thanks to those who spent their time in putting it together again. I, for one, am grateful. It is the first stop for local information.  
Joy O'Brien

Dear Editor,  
Thank you so much to all my friends for the good wishes and birthday cards you sent on the occasion of my 90th birthday celebration.  
The total donation given to MAGPAS was £700 and we handed over the money personally. A great achievement. Many thanks.  
Bruce Conochie

Dear Editor,  
The Linton Baby Group (Est. 2002) would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Pimms and cake afternoon on 10th June. Despite the rain, about 40 people joined us and we managed to raise £330 – a fantastic amount for a couple of hours. All the money we raised will go to our group sponsorship for Cancer Research UK's Race for Life which will be running (or swiftly walking) in Cambridge on Sunday 3rd July. If anyone else would like to make a donation, you can use our Just Giving page: [www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/em-mamason0573](http://www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/em-mamason0573)  
Thank you again,  
Anne, Emma, Isabel, Julia, Rachel, Sarah and Sarah  
The Linton baby group



Pimms and cake, followed by the Race for Life!

Picture by Sarah Walsh

Dear Editor,  
I just wanted to write and say what a wonderful job I think the Flower Festival committee and helpers have done for Linton this year. They have arranged a fabulous weekend of magnificent flowers, great entertainment, food, frivolity and fun for all the family. I think Linton residents should feel very lucky to live in such a vibrant village. Thank you everyone for all your hard work.  
Josephine Paterson

Dear Editor,  
Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to the recent collection for Save the Children. We raised the splendid sum of £1,187.99 in Linton. A big thank you also of course to the collectors.  
Bernadette Milner (Linton & Dist)



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## Beneath the Grand Arcade

WE are all familiar with our Grand Arcade in Cambridge, but few people are perhaps aware of what was revealed in the destruction of the old site.

Archaeologist Alison Dickins MIFA gave our members and guests an insight into what they discovered. The archaeological excavation of the Robert Sayle store and surrounding area was the largest work of its kind to be carried out in the county to date, over a year. Everything was recorded and photographed, and we were shown models and slides of all that was unearthed during the dig. Small areas of an old boundary, the Kings Ditch, were discovered probably from the 12th century or later. We were shown slides of wells

from the 11th century onwards made of wicker, later of wood, then brick; also one about 80 to 100 feet deep which provided the water to the original Robert Sayle store, and where time capsules were buried when Robert Sayle refurbished the store in 1964. The time capsules are still there as the archaeologists could go no deeper than a few feet, and Alison would love to be around if they are ever discovered during any further development. It was a very interesting evening.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th July in the village hall when our speaker will be Robert Smith in search of secret Norfolk. Please join us.

Cynthia Norris

## Hildersham and Balsham churches horse ride, your help needed

SUNDAY 11th September will be the 31st time that the annual Hildersham and Balsham churches horse ride has taken place and it is a very well respected and much loved event, both by the horse riders and all the marshals and helpers right across the beautiful local countryside.

The event is only possible with the help of our volunteers and we are once again looking to recruit these for this year's ride to help with safety at road crossings and jumps. If you are able to help or would like more information please contact Sonya Fisher on 891680.

We also would welcome the donation of homemade cakes and tombola prizes.

If you would like to learn more or can offer your help please contact Tracy on [td-davidson@hotmail.com](mailto:td-davidson@hotmail.com) or 291426

**THE LINTON NEWS** Next Publication 4th August 2011  
**DEADLINES for ADVERTS** Monday 11th July  
**NEWS ITEMS** Wednesday 13th July

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**Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office**  
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You may also send an email with your event details to [diary@linton.info](mailto:diary@linton.info), or use the form on [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info).

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY	
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Pilates classes, 11.15 - 12.15pm, Mondays	VH
Chestnut baby/toddler group, Mondays term time, 9.30-11.30am	CC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays	St Mary's
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only	VH
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays Apr-Oct	Bowls pavilion
Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only)	Library
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays	VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Hadstock village green
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

*For sports centre courses please call Linton village college sports centre on 890248*

JULY	
2 Farmers' market	LVC
2 Aztecs open day, 10am	Pavilion recreation ground
<b>Weekends in July, open studios, see article page 5</b>	
4 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
5 WI, 7.30pm	VH
6 Reading Group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
7 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm	The Crown
7 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
10 Camera club outing	VH
13 Chestnut playgroup open day, 9.45am	CC
14 ACE garden party, 2pm	7 Symonds Lane
14 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
14 Trefoil guild, 7.45pm	3 Cambridge Road
15 Quiz night and supper, 7.30pm	LVC
16 Jesstonbury fundraiser, 12noon	LVC
16 Twylight Shadows concert, 7.30pm	Haverhill Arts Centre
16 Songs for summer concert, 7pm	St Mary's church
17 Carpet bowls club 25th celebration, 2.30pm	VH
20 CAMTAD, 9am - 12 noon	Health Centre
21 Granta playgroup graduation, contact 890861	
21 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
26 Blood donor session	VH
30 Gardening Club show, 2.30pm	VH
30 Richard III, 6.30pm	Old School Wood, Hildersham

AUGUST	
2 WI, 7.30pm	VH
4 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm	The Crown
4 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
6 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
7 Wacky fun day, 2pm	The Crown
9 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands

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

**Refuse collection: 4th, 18th July, 1st August**

**Recycling collection: 11th, 25th July**

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

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## LINTON CABS

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# ACEs roll out their own wee stone

AT the recent meeting of Activities and Care for the Elders (ACE), we had a rather tasty ploughman's lunch with ham, cheese and salad – which is better than many of us used to get during farm work.

Linton has such interesting residents, many having had important and interesting work, or lived and worked abroad or had adventurous holidays. Alex Todd, our very own wee rolling stone, seems to have had the lot. His talk describing work and travel was illustrated by slides of the places that he and Carol had lived and some of the memorable sights and events they encountered. Carol, as ever, helped with the slides and any deviations from accuracy.

From Glasgow, Alex's laboratory work took him to Africa, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Middle East. Living conditions were not always ideal, but they sometimes had spectacular views to make up for it. The Todds, Scottish to the core, also encountered another version of highland games. The traditional dress worn in Papua would have been rather a sensation at Balmoral.

The next event will be the annual Garden Party from 2 to 5pm on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7 Symonds Lane. There will be stalls, bring and buy and a raffle – not to mention the cream tea, hopefully with strawberries or raspberries, depending what the weather does to the fruit supplies.

So, let us hope for good weather and remember – all friends, old and new, are most welcome.

**Enid Bald 891069**

## It's graduation time again



So pleased to graduate

Picture by Mayflower Photography

attend. All the children moving on to school will be presented with a graduation certificate and have a photo taken in their graduation caps and gowns. It promises to be a fantastic day, which will provide all the children with happy memories of Linton Granta playgroup to take with them on their next steps in the world.

Linton Granta playgroup has places available for the Autumn term, starting on 6<sup>th</sup> September. If you're interested in a place or want more information on admissions, please contact me at Kirsten.butler@gmail.com. Kirsten Butler, 890861

THIS term Linton Granta playgroup will be waving goodbye to our pre-schoolers, and wishing them lots of luck and fun as they start school in September. They will all be missed. To celebrate we will be holding our graduation ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> July, followed by a party. The parents and carers are invited to

## Changes to the Linton directory

UPDATED Information – The Headteacher at Ashdon Primary School is Mr Gary Brown, who took over from Linda Walsh.

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# The winning Whiffens



Zoe, Gemma and Paul show off their medals

SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> June was the third round of the Mud, Sweat and Gears summer series of mountain bike racing, which was held in Tunstall forest in Suffolk.

We had a good day with very good results. Coming home in first place for the under 12 girls was Gemma Whiffen in a time of just 10.07 minutes closely followed by twin sister Zoe who was just 21 seconds behind and took second place. This was out of 40 boys and girls, all under 12 years, doing a total of four laps over a course approximately one kilometre

long through the forest, with a mixture of single track and fire roads, having spent 90 minutes of coaching with riders from British Cycling. Also racing in the adult category was their dad Paul Whiffen. He managed a place on the finishing podium coming home in second place in the one hour warrior veteran race.

There are still another three races across East Anglia to go before the end of series in September when we will find out the overall winners for the series of six races.

Claire Whiffen

## Crete comes to the farmers' market



Anne Borakis with some of the olive oils

Picture supplied by Jan Lupton

BORAKIS Ltd is a local family business supplying high quality food from Crete and Greece. Based in Balsham husband and wife team Anne and Yannis Borakis aim to introduce the local area to some delicious and nutritional natural food products at very competitive prices.

Yannis says: "when I first came to England, there was a lot about the British diet I loved but I really missed my olive oil. It is much more than a cooking oil, it's a flavouring ingredient. Friends who came to eat wanted to buy it so I decided to have it bottled and imported into the UK. After success with the olive oil, I asked my uncle to send me some of our cheeses which are produced from goat and sheep milk. I then asked my brother who keeps bees to send me honey." Anne adds: "when friends came to eat with us, I often made traditional dishes. We now supply many of the local people many living in Balsham who ring up for oil or olives and I am happy to supply them."

Jan Lupton

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# New shop in the High Street

Rebecca stands ready to welcome all customers

Picture by Ron Pitkin



THE Little Gem Pound and Discount shop has now opened its doors at 113 High Street (next to Boyz 2 Men barbers.)

It sells a good selection of hardware, household cleaners, toiletries, party items, gardening and paper goods plus many more bargains. It also has on offer items that have previously been difficult to obtain in the village, as well as daily essentials at the lowest prices.

The owners would like to welcome everyone to pop in and say hello, if only for a browse, and to see what they have to offer. Opening times are Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm. They look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Rebecca Pearson 07580 411157

## Changes at the children's centre

YET more changes are happening at Linton children's centre. This time it is not the building work that we are reporting on (although that is coming along very nicely). We are having a number of changes to the staff. The administrator Debby Jepps will be going on maternity leave in early July and Wendy Chamley will be taking over booking people onto the number of courses and activities that we will continue to put on for up to five year olds.

Debby says: "I am excited to be going on leave but disappointed that I will not be around when the new children's centre opens its doors for the first time to all the families with young children in Linton and the surrounding area. I shall look forward to my return when there will be a brand new purpose built centre which staff and service users can be very proud of. We have waited a long time for this and are so excited that we have a completion date in October. I definitely plan to come and visit with the new baby."

To coincide with the building work we have also recruited two new family workers who will work within the Linton and Sawston locality. This provides us with even more opportunity to develop our work and put on more groups that families will benefit from.

To find out more information about any of the changes that are happening or to register with the children's centre please contact Wendy on 07768 008919 or e-mail lintonchildrenscentre.org.uk

Debby Jepps

## Open day at Chestnut playgroup

CHESTNUT playgroup has been busy once again, this term with lots of fun themes and activities. We are taking more leads from the children for our themes at present, and have enjoyed exploring space, dinosaurs and vehicles, with a visit from the police in their car. We are currently embracing fairy tales and have entered the worlds of Snow White and Peter Pan.

As we near the end of the playgroup year we are beginning to look forward to welcoming new children to our playgroup. Chestnut playgroup and toddler group will be holding an open day from 9.45am – 12noon on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at the Cathedral Centre. Whether you have a new baby or a child coming up to preschool age, come along and see what we do. There will be activities for the children as well as information about what Chestnut playgroup and toddler group can offer you and your child. There will also be an opportunity to meet and speak to staff and committee members and refreshments will be available.

You are welcome to drop in any time between 9.45am and 12noon. For more information please see our website www.chestnutplaygroup.btck.com

Karen Graves, 891416

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**LINTON COUNTRY DIARY** by Darryl Nantais  
Illustrated by Maureen Williams

# The deer, the jackdaw ... and me

*THIS month marks the return to the LN of Darryl Nantais and his country diary, which he told us he really missed doing each month.*  
Welcome back Darryl.

FOR many years I've plodded my way via mucky track or rode on tender foot or wheel around our parish, making mental notes of the bizarre and unusual pageant of nature.

You see, there is a world within our world, a life between deadlines and bills, growing up and growing wise. With an everlasting bagful of curiosity and with the wind in my lungs, this rich and diverse land gives up most answers where fascinating inventions are hidden within our beautiful countryside.

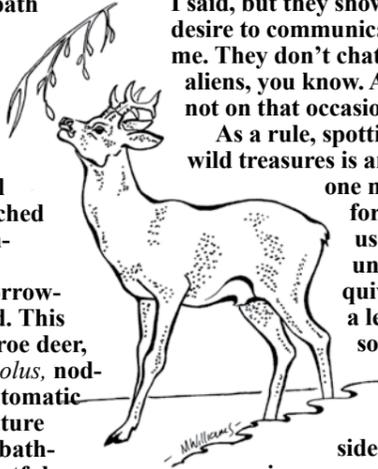
The obvious is a façade for what is really there; add the ingredients of patience and time to stand and stare for a slow revelation; it's therapeutic, too, exciting and yet humbling. To find the reflection of a kingfisher at work on the Granta or

to watch the gathering of rooks, crows and jackdaws at sunset flocking in formation, swooping, twisting and turning against the sun and the moon.

To see them finally come home to roost, chatter and rest, perched in the treetops as the curtains of night are drawn; it's a spectacle not to be missed from the Little Linton footpath to Hildersham.

But, what are those birds saying?

The leaves of cemetery laurel sparkled, drenched in morning sunshine; beneath twinkled the sorrowful eyes of a kid. This small, solitary roe deer, *capreolus capreolus*, nodded, ears on automatic pilot like miniature radars. There, bathing in shade, restfulness and promise of a long summer day, alive with possibility and fortune to be born here. He had without doubt enjoyed a breakfast of succulent ivy (poisonous



to most) and fresh bramble and was napping a while before heading off undercover towards Rivey Hill.

Generally these little creatures spend much of the day hiding, yet by night they will venture into open spaces. While walking at dusk in the Pocket Park recently, I came face to face with two young deer. "Good evening," I said, but they showed no desire to communicate with me. They don't chat with aliens, you know. At least, not on that occasion.

As a rule, spotting these wild treasures is an art – one must look for the unusual, the unexpected quiver of a leaf or sound. Observe our countryside working as one, and in this case the only reason I peered beneath the hedge-row was the tell-tale sign of a distressed little long-tailed tit. I knew I was sure to find something of interest,

perhaps a fox, snake or poorly hedgehog.

To my joy, I was treated to a close encounter, sharing a few valuable moments with the young deer, until on his terms, we parted. His distrust of man is not surprising: for many unnatural reasons. Their infant mortality remains high. Thankfully, Linton boasts a community with a strong urge to preserve the wildlife and its habitat.

Finding a balance in an area sliced by motorways and thoughtless farming directives is not easy. Factoring in changes required for a more harmonious relationship with nature and profitable sustained food production causes most farmers a headache.

As keepers of Earth's garden, we are bombarded by the introduction of non-native species: American crayfish, grey squirrel, muntjac and mink to mention a few. However, in most cases the balance is soon redressed, but occasionally a little gardening is needed. Until next month, there's always something to discover!

## Up close and personal with the camera club ...

MACRO photography was the subject of the June meeting of the Linton camera club. In the world of film photography, macro normally meant life-size, but now we can achieve larger than life photographs with relative ease, using special settings

on both SLR and compact cameras.

Ron Pitkin presented a slide show showing techniques and settings with some photographic examples of beautiful close-up flowers, etc. Using a tripod makes a huge difference when you

zoom in really close, as any slight movement can be vastly exaggerated.

It was then time for a bit of practice ourselves with various objects on a tabletop and also five live snakes, brought in by John Jacobs, so we could try to capture the beautiful markings of their skin.

Members then displayed their own photographs of the subject of the month - windows. Next month we have a members only competition when we can enter a black and white A4 picture entitled texture.

Tracey Wilson



Tracey enjoying cuddling a snake  
Picture by Mike Crofts

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**POT POURRI (76)**

## How to divide a field?

I AM about to inherit a large, perfectly square field, but I must first demonstrate that I can divide it into three absolutely equal areas (otherwise no inheritance!). Armed with a decent-size map, compass and only a straight edge (with no markings of any kind, eg no ruler), how was it done?

**Solution to No 75 – How many ants in the column?**  
a) there were 1,346,269 ants in the column; b) it was the 31st column to arrive at the nest; c) the number in the column adds to the same as the column ordinal (31).

The next number in the series was derived by adding the previous two numbers.

Urania

## Anderson Trust grants

WE are all grateful for the generosity of Charles and Mary Anderson, who loved Linton so much. The trustees of the benefaction have made the following grants: Street Space project (St Mary's PCC) £4,500; Junior Impact (Beacon Community Trust) £1,500; smaller grants were made to Linton CE infants school, Linton Granta playgroup and Toddlers and Granta Grapevine. A total of £6,736 was distributed. The 2012 distribution will be announced in November. By then, there will be a new chairman of trustees – please look out for revised contact details.

David Parry-Smith, 894715

## Open studios in July

CAMBRIDGE Open Studios take place again this year throughout the weekends of July. Look out for the yellow open studio flags. Hildersham sculptor Carol Sinclair will open her studio, house and garden for the weekends of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July at Willow House, High Street Hildersham. See www.cambridgeopenstudios.com or www.carolsinclair.com. Visitors are welcome at any other time by appointment. Call 893613 or e-mail carol@carolsinclair.com. The yellow open studio brochures can be found at Linton library and other venues dotted around Linton or from Carol.

Linton artists Yasmin Marsh and Kaela-Ann Cooper are also opening their studios: Yasmin (34 Horseheath Road) will open on the weekends of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July; Kaela-Ann (88 Finchams Close) will be open weekends 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. Both open from 11-6pm. All welcome.

## Sing for the Kingdom ...

THE choir of St Mary's is preparing to join with many other choirs in the Cambridge area for a festival of church music at King's College on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. *The King and the Kingdom* is the theme of the 5.30pm service and all are welcome. This year, we will be singing several choral pieces including *I was glad* by Parry (as sung at a certain Royal wedding recently), plus hymns and other songs. Please contact David Parry-Smith, St Mary's director of music, for details of rehearsals, music etc. or speak to a member of the choir.

David Parry-Smith, 894715

## Celebrate 25 years of bowling

HAVE you ever had anything to do with Linton carpet bowls club? If so, help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year of bowling. Some of the original members still play an active part, so there will be people you know. Join us between 2.30-4pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the village hall. Refreshments will be available along with some dusty photos. We would love to see you.

Brenda Glover, secretary

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# The Derbyshire Post



ON our College Improvement Plan we make a pledge to our young people that they should all have opportunities, whilst at LVC, to do the following: visit the theatre, go to a concert, sing, dance, play a musical instrument, try out a sport we do not teach in school, attend a national sporting event, meet a writer, travel abroad, visit an art gallery, set up camp and sleep in a tent, talk to someone who speaks another language in their language, have a conversation with a senior citizen, do some community service and give a talk in public.

Our enrichment week held in the first week of June, provides all of our students with a chance to tick off many of the opportunities on this list all in one go and I think this year was our most varied programme ever.

Year 7 (11-12 year olds) went to an eco-theme park, visited a long list of museums in the local area, saw a play by Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre, solved a murder mystery and competed in some new sports.

Year 8 (12-13 year olds) were taught how to build gliders and then built them, visited Jimmy's Farm, climbed up a wind turbine at an eco-centre and travelled to France on an exchange where they had to speak a good deal of French to their host families.

Year 9 (13-14 year olds) went on residential visits to the galleries of Paris, the volcanoes of Southern Italy, the delights of Cornwall including the Eden Centre, water sports in the south of France and team activities with Granta Special school in the Peak District.

The pressures on us not to run these kinds of intensive weeks are many. The cost to parents is an obstacle. The modern day obsession with risk assessment might persuade many not to run them and the demand on teacher time is very great as not all members of staff are in a position to be away from their families 24 hours a day.

However, even weighing up these problems and the difficulties that need to be overcome, I think enrichment week is a very special part of the offer we make to our young people at the college, and, while I remain principal, it is here to stay.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

## News from the tower

THIS has been a very sad month in the bell tower. In late May we lost Mike Ellis, former tower captain and one of our most reliable and steadfast ringers. Along with his wife Sue and daughter Charlotte, he had been a fundamental part of both our ringing team, and the larger Cambridge district ringing community and will be much missed. A half-muffled peal was rung in his memory by visiting ringers, several of whom know the family well. A band made up largely of Linton ringers also rang a quarter peal before the memorial service which was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's.

All the Linton ringers wish Sue, Charlotte and Chris well and hope that they will gain strength from their friends in the tower and the district when they are ready to get back to regular ringing.

As always, if you are interested in learning to ring, please call me or just come along at 7.30 on any Wednesday evening. Jackie Latham, 890898

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/0947/11 Pembroke College, Greenditch Farmhouse, Balsham Road. First floor rear extensions to dwelling and single storey rear link extension between dwelling and outbuilding.
- S/0114/11 Mr James Long, Livemore House, 117 High Street. Alterations – reconstruct part chimney, replace dormer windows and render.
- S/1055/11 Dr R Wadwhani, 108 High Street. Projecting sign (to relocate an existing sign at the front of the building to the side above the access gate).



# The Way We Were by Garth Collard

## Law and order in Linton



Tales of disputes down at the mill

Picture supplied by Garth Collard  
21s 3d for embezzlement by Frederick Nichols on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1898.

A MURDER occurred in 1361 when two Linton lads quarrelled whilst drinking beer and playing draughts by the mill. A certain Walter stabbed Richard de Chaundler in the chest just below the ribs. Richard died ten days later. There is no record of what happened to the killer.

In April 1837 at the Cambridge Assizes Charles Turner of Linton was convicted for stealing two rabbits from Mrs Reeve of Linton. A local bad character with previous offences, he was given seven years transportation. Charles was the brother of William Turner who was hanged for arson in 1830.

However, the poor were treated more kindly in January 1886. Mill owner and his wife, Mr & Mrs Frederick Nichols, entertained the aged poor with a splendid dinner of beef, plum pudding, fruit pies and Burton ale in the British schoolroom, the present Shepherds Hall

site, followed by an evening of entertainment. The previous week Mr Holtum gave the poor a tea party.

Although there are records of Frederick Nichol's generosity to the school and the poor, he could still be tough on offenders. Abel Webb of Loughton, a carman, was fined

personality and since his wife was a member of the Haverhill Gurtreen family, he was sufficiently wealthy in 1923 to conduct an expensive court battle. Arthur argued that he had the right to dredge and clear the river upstream and ensure that the banks were secure. Mr Ellis-Long blocked the pathway and the river to close off his lands. Gowlett sent boat parties up the river to clear the weeds, to saw up the blockages, including tree trunks on the banks fronting the Beeches. Things became even more animated when Gowlett deliberately sent up noisy parties of punters to disturb garden parties held at the Beeches.

Gowlett lost the case, which cost him around £2,000 but the judge granted him the right to clear the weeds and repair the banks, providing he gave Ellis-Long due notice. Trained lawyers still use this case in disputes over control of river flow.

## Concert by local guitarist

IAN Cutter lives in Hildersham and has done all his life. Having been born there 47 years ago. He is the joint founder member together with Jay (Bass) of a Cliff and the Shadows tribute band called The Twilight Shadows who are playing a concert together with an Elvis Tribute on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July at the Arts Centre in Haverhill.



Ian strums away  
Picture supplied by Ian Cutter

Ian started playing the guitar when he was eight years old. He attended his first Shadows concert in 1980 at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend when he was 16. He instantly fell in love with their music and declared on his exit from the concert that one day he would play like Hank Marvin. Ian now plays a Fender Custom shop Hank Marvin signature Stratocaster and a

Hank Marvin Fender Stratocaster limited edition.

Ian has wanted to put a Shadows Tribute Band together for many years but, for several reasons, has never managed it. He has played on Cromer Pier, the Talk at Norwich and the Princess Theatre Hunstanton. He has many favourite Shadows tunes including *Atlantis*, *Dance On* and *Genie with the light brown lamp* but the one which he holds very close to his heart is *Theme For Young Lovers*.

The concert is at Haverhill Arts Centre Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 from the box office 01440 714140 or haverhillartscentre.co.uk

Ian Cutter

## Chilford 10k and 5k race a great success despite the weather

COURTESY of Chilford Hall vineyard in Linton, the second edition of the Chilford 10k and 5k race took place in June.

Warming up on a sunny early morning, almost 200 runners welcomed the drizzly weather at the start of the challenging multi-terrain race. They embarked on a tough but picturesque route, running up and down Rivey hill past the listed water tower and then back to the vineyard after a short run in town.

Lots of local residents and runners came to support the race aimed at raising funds for Linton Out of School club supported by local web design agency Nextnorth, artist jeweller Tereza Votre, and Saffron Striders running club.

David Bettinson was first home completing the race in 36 minutes 59 seconds, and the first lady Orla Tuohy from



And they are off

Picture supplied by Stephane Toussene

Balsham, made the win fairly local.

The first Linton runner was Harvey Tournant, ahead of Bryan Rootes.

Podium runners were rewarded with sparkling rose and a wine tasting tour from Chilford Hall vineyard, plus prizes from Advance Performance, Jazzercise and the Aloe Vera company.

More than a £1000 was raised thanks to Glen Meijas, director of the Chilford hall. Results are available on Saffron Striders website and www.losc.co.uk

Stephane Toussene

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# Parish Council Matters

## An introduction and sporting views

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

I ONLY joined the parish council last June when I was told at an informal meeting of pavilion users that there were five vacancies on the council. I felt it was a great shame that a village the size of Linton should be unable to attract a full complement of councillors. My main interest is in the sporting facilities and the pavilion on the meadow, which I was heavily involved in when the present brick building replaced the wooden structure which had served the needs for many years.

I moved into Linton from Manchester in 1974 with my wife Carol and children Maria and Philip as a result of business relocation. Maria was amongst the first intake at the junior school and Philip started soon after at the infant school and they both continued their education at the village college.

I was a football referee, and my main pastime still is football and sport in general, so I soon became involved with the Granta football club and was persuaded to become secretary, a position I held for a number of seasons, and was later to become chairman. It was during this time that it became obvious that the old wooden pavilion was getting past its "sell by date" and would need a complete new structure. With the help of many local volunteers under the guidance of Karl Chapman, then chairman of the parish council, the new dressing rooms began to take shape. Outside public toilets were included but unfortunately due to constant vandalism and misuse they had to become internal when the new clubroom was added. The cricket club joined the weekend league in 1990 and the meadow became used all year round with cricket in the summer and football in the winter months. In addition the bowling green all weather surface was added in 1996 and the bowls club was formed. After over 20 years of use, the pavilion is now in need of refurbishment and the addition of a storage area to replace the two unsightly containers is a priority.

Plans have been drafted and discussed with all the current users and we now appear to have agreed on a suitable plan, from which a set of plans will be produced to present for planning permission and tenders. A fund has been set up by the football club to raise monies for this project and both the cricket club and football club are working on plans to add to the generous donation of £1000 from the wacky races organised by Joel at the Crown Inn last year. The Presidents Day on August 7<sup>th</sup> is being organised jointly by the cricket and football clubs along with the Crown Inn, to raise funds for the pavilion refurbishment.

The day is aimed to be a fun day, with a parade and events for all age groups being organised. You can give your support by attending, entering the events and buying a programme. For further details or to volunteer you can obtain further information by contacting Barry Bowen on email [welshbarry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:welshbarry@hotmail.co.uk)



The recreation ground pavilion which has undergone many changes over the years with more being planned

Picture by Sue Parry

Two volunteers from the junior section of the cricket club have kindly come forward and are exploring various avenues to apply for grants from different funds and organisations.

The proposed plans can be viewed in the pavilion and will include new toilets in the clubroom area and a kitchen to enable the preparation of refreshments etc for the users. The present dressing rooms will be improved and refurbished to comply with the requirements of the Football Association's ground grading policy.

The success of the football and cricket teams has been achieved despite a lack of facilities in the village. Aztecs junior football club is one of the most progressive clubs in the area and provides football for all age groups from under sixes (mini-soccer), to under 17s. It is a Football Association charter standard club and complies with all the requirements that involves, including qualified coaches, a welfare officer and an understanding of safeguarding children policies. In addition a mens team compete in the Sunday league, a ladies team in the Cambs womens league, and a veterans team provides football for the over 35s.

Linton Granta will have three teams next season, the first team gained promotion to the Kershaw Premier Division last season which is the highest league they can aspire to with the current ground restrictions. Again Linton Granta is a Football Association charter standard club.

The Linton village cricket club now provides opportunities for all age groups from under nines to under 15s and a number of senior members have devoted their time to becoming qualified coaches. The main strategy of the club is youth development and they are working with the village college on a cricket academy, and have jointly funded with the English Cricket Board (ECB) state of the art nets both indoor and outdoor. The all weather football pitch and floodlights opened some eight years ago was also partly funded by a grant of some 240k from the Football Foundation. The cricket club is now a focus club recognised by the ECB as a responsible club adhering to all the policies that involves including safeguarding children policies provision of qualified coaches and welfare officers. As with the Aztecs football

club this ensures that the club is run as an organisation in which parents and guardians can feel confident that their children are in safe and qualified hands.

This has all been achieved by a dedicated team of volunteers in all the clubs both junior and senior. For a village the size of Linton the recreational facilities are poor and without the co-operation of the village college and the excellent amenities they have we would not be able to provide these opportunities for the residents.

The only recreation ground in the village provides a football pitch which has to be shared with a cricket square whereas in neighbouring villages much smaller than Linton recreation grounds boast a separate cricket square, two football pitches, and space for further development. I am confident despite the current cutbacks this will be addressed by the parish and district councils and land sought after to create a new recreation ground with space for the cricket and football clubs to expand and flourish and an opportunity for other sports (eg rugby) to develop. Now that the acquisition of land for provision of allotments appears to be progressing well the next objective should be to seek out and identify any land suitable for the development of a new recreation ground. Any land which is suitable for developing into leisure facilities should be investigated and if anybody becomes aware of any such opportunities or has any ideas how we can progress they should contact the parish clerk with details.

My vision would be to see a new sports facility developed within the village boundaries as soon as possible providing up to date facilities and equal opportunities for all to enjoy and participate. In the present economic environment this may be too much to expect but we must explore every avenue to improve the inadequate provision currently available.

If you wish to obtain any further information on any of the clubs or organisations mentioned or feel you can assist in any way, most contact details are in the recently produced Linton directory or you can contact me via the parish council office or as detailed below.

Cllr Brian Manley [bg.manley@hotmail.com](mailto:bg.manley@hotmail.com)

**LINTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,  
Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001

Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry  
Email: [lintonpc@btconnect.com](mailto:lintonpc@btconnect.com)  
Website: [www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk](http://www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk)  
**Office hours: Monday 9am–12noon and 4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon**  
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# Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**Present:** R Hickford (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, Ms T Hunt, J Linsdell, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with three members of the public.

**Apologies for absence** were received from councillors Gee, Manley, Mannassi and Potter.

**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May:** The trustees of the Cathodeon centre had contacted the builders to remind them that evening access via the front of the building for health and safety reasons was required. The clerk confirmed that access was now available. The trustees would be thanked for their swift action.

The clerk reported that Mr Harman of Zurich Insurance had confirmed that the parish council was doing all that was reasonably practical to ensure that the skate ramp was not used. It was agreed to again chase the skate ramp repairers for a quotation.

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) regarding the overgrown shrubs and tree in Palmers Close but a response had not yet been received.

On planning application S/0563/11 erection of fence, Cllr Bald reported that SCDC had advised her that they had requested an amendment to this application. However, in the opinion of the planning committee, it was still likely to contravene the original conditions.

**Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues:** Cllr Champion reported that the recent police surgery had been very well attended. The main issues of concern appeared to be the congregation of youths and resulting noise outside the Dog and Duck.

Cllr Hickford reported that the fire station was no longer under threat of closure. This was very good news for the village.

**Report from the county councillor:** Cllr Batchelor advised that the A1307 would be resurfaced in the summer from the end of the dual carriageway after the Dene Road crossroads to Horseheath and from the end of the dual carriageway to the village college. Cllr Bald asked whether a noise reduction surface would be used. Cllr Batchelor thought this to be unlikely. Cllr Bald asked that he insist that it was.

Cllr Champion reported on the proposed cuts to transport to the Granta school. This would increase the number of vehicles using the A1307 if parents were responsible for transporting their children. Cllr Batchelor replied that all school transport was under review. It was intended that this would consolidate vehicle movements and larger taxis etc would be used. Cllr Cornell replied that this was not how it had been reported. Cllr Batchelor would investigate and report back.

Cllr Batchelor confirmed that the number 13 bus service was the only service not under threat. The next review would take place in October.

Cllr Dew asked for an update on the request for access to Flaxfields from Back Road. Cllr Batchelor reported that the legal department were still looking into this issue.

**Reports from the district councillors:** Cllr Bear confirmed that she would chase up the issues regarding Palmers Close (see above). Cllr Bald asked if the dead trees at the bottom of Rivey Lane and Crabtree Croft could also be addressed.

Cllr Bear reported that the Nichols Court lighting application had been discussed at a second delegation planning committee meeting. The committee had received the application with horror and had agreed that the lighting scheme had not gone far enough to address the concerns of residents and the council. A delegated refusal/approval was passed which meant that the application must be resubmitted within six weeks with input from the parish council, the neighbouring residents, the planning department and the applicant. Cllr Kindersley and others apologised to the residents, the planning department and parish council for the

effect of the development. Cllr Bald commended Cllr Dew who spoke at the meeting.

**Consideration of village green grass cutting:** Cllr Cornell proposed that the parish council be responsible for the grass cutting of the village green, Camping Close. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Linsdell and resolved by the meeting. Cllr Hunt proposed that a quotation from CGM Ltd at £40 per cut be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Linsdell and resolved by the meeting. This would be added to the grass maintenance contract. Following the receipt of a licence from the county council, enabling access across the Infant school playground, the grass on the village green had been cut.

**Correspondence received for discussion and decision:** Locality had requested that the priorities for the service level agreement for youth services be accepted. However it was felt that not enough information regarding 'the identified gaps' had been received from them and further clarification was required. Amendments to include representatives from the Granta, Infant and Junior schools were also required. Cllr Batchelor was asked and confirmed that he supported all the youth clubs and was not instrumental in Linton youth club's initial closure.

Cllr Cornell proposed that £200 be given to the library service as funding for the 'Circus Stars' reading challenge. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bald and resolved by the meeting. This would be allocated from S137 funds.

A request from CamJam Radio for funding was considered and it was agreed to contact Linton scouts to see if they were taking part in this event. If so they would be asked to submit their own request.

A request that the Recreation ground play equipment for small children be updated was considered. It was agreed to respond that the parish council was always willing to consider requests and the resident would be asked to help by investigating the upgrading of equipment and cost. The parish council would also be able to advise on grant funding opportunities.

**Reports from councillors (for information only):** Cllr Champion reported that the complaint regarding the maladministration of the Tower View situation had been sent to the Ombudsman. Cllr Champion confirmed that on average in 2009, 16 calls to the emergency services per month had been received. In 2010 and 2011 there had been an average of 12 per month. Cllr Hickford, on behalf of the council, thanked Cllr Champion for his work on this without which the matter would not have been resolved.

Cllr Champion confirmed that he had reported the situation regarding handbrake turns at the Bartlow crossroads to the police.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

**Present:** R Hickford (Chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, J Linsdell, B Manley, G Potter and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with 12 members of the public.

**Apologies for absence** were received from councillors Mannassi and Wilson.

**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May:** It was noted that the county council had agreed to relocate a grit bin from the junction of Back Road and Symond's Lane to Parsonage Way.

It was agreed that the shrubs in Palmers Close should be trimmed but not removed and that this work should not set a precedent for any future maintenance.

Cllr Champion reported on the proposal to introduce civil parking enforcement. The change of emphasis only appeared to affect South Cambs. Based on the figures quoted it was very possible that a maximum of £50k per year would be raised from the scheme and was unlikely to be cost effective.

**Reports from co-ordinators:** Recreation ground: A request to site a memorial bench close to the Drop-in centre had been received. Whilst the council agreed in principle to this request

they required a plan of the exact position.

A request to level the top of the river bank from Stanton's Lane bridge to the third tree to the east opposite the cricket square had been received. This was to enable the erection of cricket screens. A representative from Morgan Sindall had verbally offered to undertake this work free of charge. The area would then be seeded. Cllr Cornell suggested that the environment agency be contacted in the first instance to ascertain whether this would increase the risk of flooding. The council could then make a more informed decision.

**Venture playground: Skate ramp:** Cllr Potter reported that the council had received two quotes so far for repairs to the ramp, and that the third was in the process of being done. Once all three quotes had been received, the council could authorise repairs to the winning contractor. PCSOs Pulley and Fisher had joined the meeting and outlined their concerns regarding the increase in anti social behaviour and drugs use in the vicinity of the ramp. They reported that they were continually reminding children not to use the ramp and to take notice of the safety signs. Cllr Hickford commented that the council was investigating upgrading the CCTV coverage of the area. Barry Easton, youth worker, thought that the anti social behaviour and drugs problem was a separate issue. The vandalised ramp had attracted the drugs and alcohol users. Stuart Crook wanted the ramp users to take ownership and to raise money for its upkeep. Cllr Hickford reported that funds were available for the repairs however there had been deliberate damage done and this had to stop. As an example, a light had been put up at a cost of around £1000 and within three weeks it had been ripped down. Barry Easton reported that a sponsored virtual bike ride had been arranged to raise funds for the ramp. It would take place, with the kind permission of Caroline Derbyshire, in the village college sports hall. It aimed to cycle 755 miles which was the distance to Malmo, Sweden where the largest skate park was situated. Max Reed, George Bainbridge, Ben Wood and Barry Easton outlined their ideas and would be raising awareness at St Mary's flower festival fete. They wanted to give something back to the community in exchange for the repair of the ramp. Cllr Potter suggested that they help dig a trench to carry a power supply to the ramp so that a lamp post could be erected to illuminate the area and to house a CCTV camera. Sue Filby, youth worker, thanked the council for taking the time to listen and for inviting them back to report. Cllr Hickford thanked everyone for attending and reiterated that as soon as all three quotations had been received the council would arrange for the ramp to be repaired.

**Churchyard:** Cllr Cox had met with Barbara Clarke, SCDC conservation officer, regarding the planning application to rebuild and repair the flint wall and brick boundary walls in the churchyard. Various issues had arisen which were being resolved.

**Correspondence received for discussion and decision:** A request to support the complaint to the county council regarding the cutting of the Back Road protected verges had been received. It was agreed to support this request and to ask that the protected verge signs be replaced as a matter of urgency.

A request from Mr V Harris for the overhanging trees and hedges in Meadow Lane to be trimmed was discussed and it was agreed to contact the highways department. The council would not sanction the installation of a standpipe on the recreation ground but would contact the football club to request the use of the pavilion water supply. Mr Harris would be asked if he required a continuous connection.

**Reports from councillors (for information only):** Cllr Cornell reported on the library service review which had only recently been received. It appeared that the library would be closed every evening. It was agreed to respond that the library should remain open for two evenings per week even if this meant that it would have fewer daytime openings.

Cllr Hickford reported on a successful six-a-side football tournament which had recently taken place and had been sponsored by Linton Tandoori.

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

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