



Established 1987

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THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info. e-mail lneditor@linton.info

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Garth Collard's Linton photo exhibition April 28th & 29th Linton village college

20 years of publication ... and we're still going strong

It is difficult to comprehend that it is now 20 years since I, as parish council chairman at the time, wrote an article for the first edition of the Linton News. The News did not have an easy birth as many members of the council did not think that it would survive. Indeed Ron Amsden as the driving force behind the project, was only granted a loan of £100 towards the setting up of the publication (a loan which the council never actually asked to be repaid).

How wrong the doubters were! With the support of a band of dedicated volunteers, both in producing the News and its distribution, it has become a village institution and is now celebrating – in colour – 20 years of success.

The village has changed so much in the intervening years; we now have a one-way system, a new community building which houses the popular li-



Brian Cox: 'many thanks'

Picture by Roger Lapwood
brary (the Cathodeon Centre), many new houses, a new children's playground and bowling green on the recreation ground, a special educational needs school and traffic lights on the bypass (but not necessarily where most villagers wanted them).

We have lost many shops and pubs, and our post office is under threat. But I hope that over the next 20 years we are able to retain our existing facilities

and shops because they enable the village to remain a community and not just become a commuter zone.

Unfortunately some things have not changed. When I became a parish councillor, I was made painfully aware of how little power the council actually has. We can comment on planning applications, both major and minor, and sometimes the authorities actually seem to take notice; other times the decisions are contrary to our wishes. However, despite the continuing lack of power, the workload has increased enormously.

Twenty years ago, the council met once a month, and the minutes and paperwork comprised about six pages a meeting. Now we meet twice a month and on average have more than 50 pages of documents to deal with! No wonder it is difficult to get villagers

to volunteer to serve on the council. Now, that is enough moaning about things over which we have no control. We are celebrating 20 years of success for the News which has grown from an A3 and an A4 sheet to its current impressive four A3 sheets.

Many people have contributed much of their own time to the News, and over 20 years, they are too many to list, but I must give due credit to the late Ron Amsden for his vision in initiating the paper, Ron Argent for his unstinting dedication in raising the advertising revenue, and Graham Potter who continues to make a major contribution to its production.

To all concerned in the production and distribution, may I give a hearty thank you on behalf of the village, and "may the sun never set" on the Linton News.

Brian Cox

Lighting up Linton



André, John and Lorna in their well-stocked shop

Picture by Ron Pitkin

ONE of Linton's longest standing and most valued businesses was advertising in the first edition of the Linton News in 1987. John Tournant started the radio/TV and electrical goods enterprise over 30 years ago. His wife Lorna, who had previously worked in the lighting department of Robert Sayles, took over the running of the shop.

John had come from Bristol where he worked for Rediffusion in distribution by wire, later joining Pye in Cambridge, specialising in research and development for many years. Nowadays he is still to be seen in the workshop because repairing TVs is a hobby he can't give up.

Son André joined them in 1987, initially for a brief period only but he said: "Mother makes good tea and lunches so I stayed."

He brought with him his considerable expertise, and today the shop is crammed full with videos, satellite and digital equipment, computers, cameras and even an electronic keyboard,

all awaiting attention.

Lorna, who has extensive knowledge of all the electrical items she sells in the shop, still misses the pretty lampshades which used to be on sale. A few years ago she fell from a stool while reaching for a fan heater and broke her arm. She managed to run the shop 'single-handedly' and still enjoys her job, even though the shelves seem to be higher than they used to be!

The business survived the 2001 floods when it was forced to close for a year, much missed by patrons from near and far, but the Tournants look to the future with excitement and thank their customers for their continued support.

Despite omission from the latest edition of the phone book and problems caused by commuter parking in the High Street, people are still managing to beat a path to the door of a shop where plenty of laughs and friendly service prevail.

Gloria Fidler, a regular reporter and proofreader

Ron Amsden's amazing achievement

TWENTY years ago Helen Krarup answered a plea from Ron Amsden for volunteers to help set up a monthly village newspaper.

Having recently moved to Linton from Leeds with her family, Helen was keen to meet people and get involved with something interesting in her locality.

The early days of the Linton News (LN) committee were hectic and Helen was involved in typing, proof reading, copy editing and finally sorting and delivering the newspaper. After three years Helen had to leave the LN team due to work commitments at the Institute of Criminology,

though she and her husband Tony continued as deliverers until September 2005.

Helen believes that the Linton News has gone from strength to strength because of the quality of the report writing coupled with a loyal band of readers.

Having now retired, Helen would like to see the LN develop a series of articles on the opportunities for volunteer work in Linton.

The 20th anniversary is an "amazing achievement and a real tribute to Ron's vision" and Helen is delighted that she had a hand in its birth.

Advertising manager Judith Rouse swapped her usual role to write this article



The original team of five: from left to right, Ron Argent, Ron Amsden, Brian Milne, Graham Potter and Helen Krarup, celebrate the completion of the first year



Night the moon turned red

THE moon turned red last month – and Linton camera club member Mike Crofts captured the moment when the first lunar eclipse in more than three years happened on 3rd March.

During 'totality', the moon took on a coppery red hue as the only light reaching its surface was filtered through Earth's atmosphere. Mike's two shots of the moon were taken about 20 minutes apart, with the one on the left showing the last traces of sunlight at the top.



Julian continues capturing the moment after quarter of a century

WHEN the Linton News was launched in 1987, a considerable number of local businesses took up the opportunity to advertise in the fledgling newspaper. A small handful still regularly feature in the advertisements. One of those – Julian's Photography – will be particularly well known to many.

Julian Edwards has been photographing people and events in the Linton area for over 25 years. At the age of

21, Julian was invited to photograph the weddings of a few close friends. Pleased with the results of his early pictures, he set about turning his passion into a viable business. As a freelance photographer, he worked with Linton reporter Joan Carr for the Haverhill Echo, covering everything from fêtes and jumble sales to darts matches at the Princess of Wales public house.

The calls for his services increased during the 1980s.

His busy schedule saw him frequently attending Linton schools and youth groups. Many Linton News readers will have been part of a group photo taken by Julian. With an ever-growing workload, his son Jason joined him. Together they now undertake a number of projects. Many requests come in for portrait pictures of children, families and household pets.

Julian was there in 2001 to capture the extraordinary

scenes from the Dog and Duck bridge as the Soham fire engine aided the rescue and salvage effort during the floods – Linton's own fire engine had already been called elsewhere. He was also on hand to capture the amazing spectacle of the bomb disposal unit dealing with a suspect package in 2003, and the infamous occasion in 1989 of the "hold up" at Barclays bank.

Julian has also photo-

graphed the rich and famous including Humphrey Lyttelton and Jeffrey Archer.

Now in the digital age, he no longer needs to carry around heavy equipment. With Jason's computer expertise, they are able to produce a wedding album within 24 hours of the ceremony.

Among the formats proving popular is the 'Bellissimo' storybook album. A few examples of the stunning pictures they produce can be seen

in the window of Sweet Talk News or alternatively you can view them online at www.juliansphotography.co.uk

Much of Julian and Jason's work adorns the walls of many living rooms, not just in Linton but nationwide and abroad.

Strangely though, Julian himself hates having his own picture taken!

Owen Barnicoat, a new member of the Linton News team

The importance of the Linton News

THE Linton News is one of the most important pillars of our village: it takes the weight for many aspects of local social organisation and, without it, we would be far poorer in many ways.

For me, its central role is one that can easily vanish into the everyday realities of events and occurrences – its underlying role as the only ‘whole village’ way of continually renewing our sense of community.

It helps us see what it means to be Lintonian – whether ‘old’ or ‘new’ – as it charts the monthly changes in everything from the physical and social structures of the village to our concerns and views. This in turn helps bring us together as a community.

While that is useful enough, it also acts as a catalyst for improving village life: many projects have got off the ground, many events have been successful, many disagreements have been discussed in a polite and constructive way, and many organisations have grown because of the reports that appear, for no more than the trouble of writing and illustrating them, in the Linton News.

When it comes to organising ourselves as a community there may be many means of communication available, but the Linton News is without doubt the most effective and – because it is run very efficiently by dedicated volunteers ready to put in any effort from editing to popping it through your door – it is the easiest to use. Send it in, get it used. Simple.

This gives organisers monthly access to every home in Linton, Bartlow, Hildersham and Hadstock. Their efforts can go into the organising; the Linton News takes the strain of door-to-door publicity without fuss and without charge. It even helps with photographs and writing, if needed.

The mirror of that, of course, is that it gives every resident direct and authoritative information, often written by the very people involved in organising or attending. It may be as simple as the time and date of a jumble sale ... it may be as critical as saying that we will lose a club or organisation if no one volunteers to help ... or it may be educational, showing how civic projects are being planned or why a cash crisis is stopping the provision of something.

Its advertising, too, is a major benefit. It helps us all to find the services we need from someone locally ... it gives a platform, at prices reflecting the volunteer nature of the publication, for businesses and this, in turn, helps the prosperity of the community.

For many reasons, the Linton News is compelling in a way that the bulging free weeklies cannot attain. It is all about us. In a very real sense, it is us.

John Keeble, former editor

Little Hands is looking for a new home

LITTLE Hands have been operating a nursery school at the Station House on Station Road in Linton since September 2004. During this time, we have built up an enviable reputation for quality, and developed a good working relationship within the local community. Unfortunately, our landlord has sold our lease, and the new landlord has taken the decision to evict us from our home at the Station House with effect from September 2007. We therefore have an urgent need to relocate.

Ideally, we are looking for a new home within the Linton village envelope, but would consider any of the outlying villages, particularly as an interim measure. We would need sufficient space to accommodate upwards of 24 children with provision for one toilet per 10 children, a kitchen, play area, parking and adequate vehicular access. Little Hands is the only private day care setting within the local area providing nursery school education and is therefore of great importance to the local community and economy. If you can help, please contact:

Jane Marshall on 503972 or e-mail janemarshall@litlehands.co.uk

Murray moves down a gear



End of a great partnership: Murray McKenzie in the car and David Barrell

Picture by Jim Cracknell

GARAGE owner Murray McKenzie has shifted his life down a gear. Tired of the pressure of running McKenzie & Haywards garage in Linton, 55-year-old Murray decided to retire last May and sold his share in the business to his partner for nearly 20 years, 43-year-old David Barrell.

Now, after moving the garage in 2003 from the High Street next door to the Crown Inn to a site on the Grip industrial estate, David says: “It’s all coming together,” but he admits he misses Murray to bounce ideas around.

The move doubled the garage floor space and provided an integral office, easy access and off-road parking. Also, since Murray’s retirement, two more mechanics, an administrator and a new receptionist have been taken on.

Murray started work as an apprentice and rose to become foreman at Holland Motors in Cambridge. In 1975 he joined Peter Sargent and Terry Norton

at Granta Garage in the High Street.

McKenzie & Haywards garage was started in 1988 when Murray and Graham Hayward bought the lease of Granta Garage from Peter and Terry. Three months later, Graham died of an asthma attack. “That first year was awful,” remembers Murray.

David has lived in Linton since he was nine. He trained as a welder at the Welding Institute, building jet engines for Rolls Royce and nuclear reactors for submarines.

“When I was on holiday in the summer of 1989, I heard Murray had a few problems and offered to see if he wanted a hand,” said David who bought into the business and agreed to Murray’s request to keep the company name, out of respect for Graham.

Murray and David expanded the business, doubling the turnover, increasing the local customer base and branching out into maintaining fleet vehicles owned

by lease companies.

When they were settled in the new premises Murray decided he wanted less of the pressure, and time to talk to people again. He decided to retire and sit in the front seat of a different car business; part time driving Linton Cabs, the taxi business run by his father, Jock McKenzie.

Murray says he is grateful to everyone for their support of him and the garage over the years. He’s glad David will carry on and lead the business into another era.

Meanwhile he’s considering starting something else, but for those who book him to drive to the airport, make sure your luggage takes priority over those irons lurking in the taxi boot waiting for Murray’s next trip to Haverhill... golf club.

Kate France for LNT

David may not always be in attendance at the business. See next month’s LN for news of his exciting “other job”.

Dressing up as princesses, pirates and Spiderman ...



CHILDREN at Chestnut Playgroup enjoyed dressing up as story book characters as part of the playgroup’s celebrations for World Book Day on 1st March.

Many of the children brought in their favourite book to share, as well as wearing some fantastic costumes which included The Cat in the Hat, pirates, princesses and Spiderman.

Hayley Donnan

Help wanted at festival

THERE is an opportunity for a part-time administrative assistant for the Cambridge summer music festival, working in Linton, one day a week. You will need computer skills, and some knowledge of classical music will be helpful. For further details, please apply to info@cambridgesummermusic.com or contact:

Juliet Abrahamson 894161

MORE Than Meets The Eye is the title of the summer series of Linton WEA lectures to be held at the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge.

Well-known tutor, Deborah Monteiro, will introduce art history, looking at art ‘in the flesh’, exploring the role of museums as custodians of our heritage, gallery setting and display.

The course will last 10 weeks starting Tuesday, 24th April. Numbers are limited. If interested, please contact:

Andrew Westwood-Bate 892430 or www.lintonwea.org.uk

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Women's World Day of Prayer

ON Friday, 2nd March the churches of Linton and district joined over three million people worldwide in celebrating the interdenominational Day of Prayer.

Under blue and sunny skies, about 35 people (plus three very young boys) from at least seven different congregations gathered for the service at St Mary's, Linton. The theme of the service, which had been prepared by Christian women of Paraguay, was United Under God's Tent.

Father Mark welcomed everyone to the service, which was led by Mrs Sue Filby, the organist being Mrs Jacqui Burge. Mrs Sarah Devereux, of the Linton URC, gave an excellent address. We learnt about nanduti lace, heard some Paraguayan harp music, and thought about our Christian sisters – not only those in Paraguay, but also those closer to home.

The offering amounted to £119, which has been sent to the WWDP Movement for Christian Literature and Educational Projects. Lots of people lingered after the service to chat over coffee and biscuits, greeting old friends and making new ones. Many thanks are due to all those who took part in the service, both in the planning and on the day itself. The Women's World Day of Prayer is special. Come and find out for yourself next year on the first Friday in March.

Ann King 897832

A look at art 'in the flesh'

MORE Than Meets The Eye is the title of the summer series of Linton WEA lectures to be held at the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge.

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Andrew Westwood-Bate 892430 or www.lintonwea.org.uk

Business as usual despite the mix-up

LIKE many Linton residents we at Tournant's were not thrilled with the idea of a new post code; however, we went about changing our details with various businesses and agencies.

We then found that national and international databases had not all changed at the same time, causing late or missing deliveries.

On-line transactions often had to revert to the old post codes. Then comments from customers made us check our entries in the Phone Book, we found that neither our business or personal numbers were included in the latest edition or in yellow pages.

BT told us that it was due to the new post codes and could not

be rectified until a new one is produced next year. So if your post code has changed, check you are still listed and contact BT if not.

We would like to assure all our customers and Linton residents that we at Tournant's are still open for business and can be contacted on 891321. Tournant's Electrical shop

ACEs find out about crime



Having an ACE time: Residents enjoy lunch and a talk by historian Garth Collard

Picture by Lesley Morgan

IN March, ACEs had lunch in the Chalklands room, with Garth Collard speaking on the changing but ever-present problem of 'Crime in Linton'. We enjoy Garth's wonderfully idiosyncratic talks and will report on this in a later edition.

Many of you know ACEs (Activities and Care for the Elders) as the group which holds regular social events for the older residents of Linton. We aim to have an event each month and all those over 60 are welcome.

But the activities are just one part of the charity's work. The major aim is to provide a mobile warden - the 'care' part of our title. Linton has many areas of housing with warden services, but there was no help for those who need just some assistance

to remain living independently in their own home. Our warden, employed through Age Concern Cambridge, visits or contacts her clients daily.

She helps with medications, shops or collects items, advises and helps on a wide range of matters, but mainly checks on their health and well-being. She is a welcome support to her 28 or more clients, and is increasingly called upon to help in wider community health, such as prevention of bed-blocking or when a carer is not available.

The warden is funded through grants from several councils - South Cambs, Cambridge county, and especially Linton parish, the origin of the scheme. We also raise money through donations and events,

to cover expenses and short-falls in funding. Thank you to all who support us; it is much appreciated.

The next social event is a Fish and Chips lunch at 12 for 12.30pm on Thursday 12th April at Chalklands, with Derek Birch speaking on 'A Leicester Lad in Linton'. Contact Sue/Tina on 891001 or me, for transport or to book for lunch.

Enid Bald 891069

Wildlife and canals



FOR our March meeting, the Linton WI were hosts to Mr and Mrs Peter Beale. Mr Beale is a man who has a real love of the countryside and all its life forms.

We were treated to a top quality slide show and we loved his close-ups of field mice, butterflies and moths.

The competition for spring flowers in an egg cup was won by Bel Griffiths.

There are still some places left for the coach outing to the gardens of Kent on Wednesday 2nd May. This outing is open to all; to book your place please ring 894149.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd April.

Ann Simpkin 892090

HILDERSHAM WI heard an expert talk on Britain's canals at its February meeting when Sue Schneider and her husband outlined a history of inland waterways starting as far back as AD50-60 with the Romans.

Members also saw a slide show of the canals' abundant wildlife and some amazing locks, notably Carnhill Flight near Bath consisting of 40 locks which take over four hours to rise or descend. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 16th April at the village hall.

Readers write

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on P8. Please note: all letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity.

Dear Editor
I feel I must write and congratulate Cllr John Lindsell on the excellent article in the Linton News, March edition, regarding memories of an old Lintonian.

It was particularly interesting to me as I came to Linton in 1949 as a young police constable in the Cambridgeshire police, and left in 1957. It brought back many memories which I can relate to. In those days we operated from the old police station and courthouse in Symonds Lane, when there was Sergeant F W Charter in charge, and at least three police constables

stationed in Linton. How times have changed, for better or worse.
W C Barnett
Wheatsheaf Way

Dear Editor
I am writing in response to a letter in your recent edition about not having access to the housing exchange register. Could you please say that if asked, I will always be able to bring a copy to the housing surgery (see diary dates).
Teresa Lucey, SCDC

LINTON DIARY

To guarantee entry into this diary please ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office. Details of items in bold type may be found elsewhere in this edition. You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info

WEEKLY		
Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays		Sports Centre
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)		SC
Slimming World, 7.30pm Mondays		Cathodeon Centre
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays		Village Hall
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays		VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Mondays and Wednesdays		SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays		SC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays		VH
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays		CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays		SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays		SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays		CC
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays		VH
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076)		
Tots-in-Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time		VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays		SC
Bowling roll-ups start 11 th April, 2pm Wednesdays		Pavilion
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays		VH
Children's trampolining, 3.30-4.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm Thursdays		SC
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays		SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays		CC
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays		VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays		SC
Adult social tennis, 2-3pm Saturdays		SC
Boxercise/dance aerobics/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days,		SC
		(call 890248)

APRIL		
3	SCDC Housing surgery, 10-11.30am	VH
3	WI, 7.30pm	VH
4	Final Lent Lunch, 12 noon	Chalklands
5	Luncheon Club, 12.15pm	Crown Inn
7	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
7	Students' car wash at farmers' market	LVC
10	VIP Group, 2pm	Chalklands
10	Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
12	ACE fish and chips lunch, 12 for 12.30pm	VH
12-13	Easter mini-academy, 10am-5pm	Sawston VC
14	Fashion show, from 9.30am for LIFE	VH
14	Linton Music society, 7.30pm	LVC
15	Camera club visits Norfolk Broads	call 891104
16	Hildersham WI, 7.30pm	Hildersham village hall
17	SCDC Housing surgery, 10-11.30am	VH
17	Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
18	CAMTAD hearing help, 9-12noon	Health centre
19	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
19	Cambridge flower club, 7.15pm	Whittlesfield memorial hall
21	Dads & Tots, 9.30am	VH
23	Pre-school open morning, 10am-12noon	Ashdon
24	Annual parish meeting, 8pm	VH
24	WEA lectures start, 1.30-3.30pm	Fitzwilliam museum
28	The Late Risers, 9pm	King's Head, Hadstock
28	Coffee morning, 10.30am	Richmonds, 65 High Street
28-29	Linton history photograph exhibition, 10am	LVC

MAY		
1	WI, 7.30pm	VH
3	SCDC Housing surgery, 10-11.30am	VH
2	WI outing to Kent garden, 8.30am	Fire station
5	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
5	Luncheon club, 12.15pm	Crown Inn
5	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
6	Three Counties walk, 10am	Paddock, centre of Bartlow

Refuse collection: 2nd, 16th, 30th April
 Recycling collection: 10th, 23rd April and 8th May
 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.

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Julia Pollington, Rhiannon Lee and Jenny Drew washing cars at the farmers' market

Students' car wash campaign for World Challenge 2008

SOME 30 Linton village college students have been washing the cars of visitors to the farmers' market at their school to raise money for a trip to South Africa in July 2008.

The expedition, called World Challenge 2008 and run by a private company, will last three weeks and is being organised by Mr Christie,

an LVC chemistry teacher. Students are responsible for raising their own money for the trip.

The group has been fundraising at Sainsbury's over the Christmas holiday and raised more than £4000.

Many students have also taken on part-time jobs to help raise the £2,650 each pupil needs to pay for the

trip. While in South Africa, the students are planning to visit a school, trek up mountains and observe the unique wildlife of the area.

They are planning to continue washing cars at farmers' markets – so please watch out for them and have your car cleaned!

Julia Pollington
01440 730552

Google to the rescue

BELIEVE it or not, the internet isn't all spam and scams. Online, everybody has a voice, and it gets ever easier to make yourself heard.

The one problem with such freedom of speech is that it is often hard to tell what is really true. The online encyclopaedia Wikipedia has grown so large and popular it is widely accepted as an official source of information, yet it can be edited by absolutely anyone.

Luckily for us, Google is one company that refuses to rest on its laurels and continually releases innovative products that make the internet more reliable and easy to use.

One of these is Google Groups, and local businessmen Alan Crooks and Andrew Clark have used it to set up the Linton Business Exchange.

Alan says he set up the exchange "as a way of contacting other people running small businesses locally so we could share experiences, contacts, and resources". Part of his thinking was that working with local companies could improve the community and reduce the amount of travelling needed, with obvious benefits to the environment.

If you run your own business in or around Linton, being a member of the group can only help you, and new members are always welcome. Membership costs nothing, although you need to have a free Google account. If you think you might benefit, sign up now by simply sending an email to linton-business-exchange@googlegroups.com and you will receive an invitation.

Tris Lambert, new website designer and team member

Roll-ups, roll-ups at the bowls club



Bowling along: John Harpur gets ready for the summer

Picture by David Champion

WITH the prospect of a lovely summer ahead, members of Granta bowls club are looking forward to the start of the new league season and an increase in club activities.

The club has excellent facilities, with six all-weather rinks and the use of a good clubhouse.

One of the main weekly events is the Wednesday "roll-up", when members get together to enjoy a competitive afternoon bowling, followed by tea and prizes.

President Sam Agnew would like more people to join the club this year and boost numbers, so he extends a very warm invitation to residents to come along and give bowls a try.

A free two-hour session

with tuition is on offer on the following dates: at 2pm on Wednesdays from 11th April and at 6.30pm on Thursdays 3rd and 10th May.

Bowls are available to use and you only need flat-soled shoes in order to sample the fun. If we get enough support, we are planning a regular Thursday evening roll-up.

As your skills increase, you could compete for a place in the weekly league games. However, all members are encouraged to play in the regular home and away club friendly competitions.

For more information please contact:

Sam Agnew 892982

Try summer learning ...



THE summer term Adult Education programme has several new courses to tempt you this year.

How about testing your culinary skills with the summer puddings course to brighten up Mondays; or having a go at your own furniture repair and restoration?

Both these courses and more are available at Linton village college.

Sawston offers the opportunity to brush up your digital photography or your French skills.

These courses and many more are all available locally. For information on all courses,

please visit the two websites at www.bepartnership.org or at www.camlearn.net.

Alternatively, you can contact us on 712424.

To avoid disappointment, we would recommend that students book before the Easter holidays.

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Late Risers bring acoustic music back to Hadstock

THE monthly series of acoustic music gigs at the King's Head in Hadstock continues on 28th April with the return of popular Cambridge blues and roots band, The Late Risers.

They will bring more of their spicy mix of traditional American dance tunes and original songs. Admission is free and the music starts at 9pm.

Richard Partridge 890990

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The Woppapotamus

A YEAR ago, Helen Bonney was commissioned to write a short story, which was serialised in the Haverhill Echo.

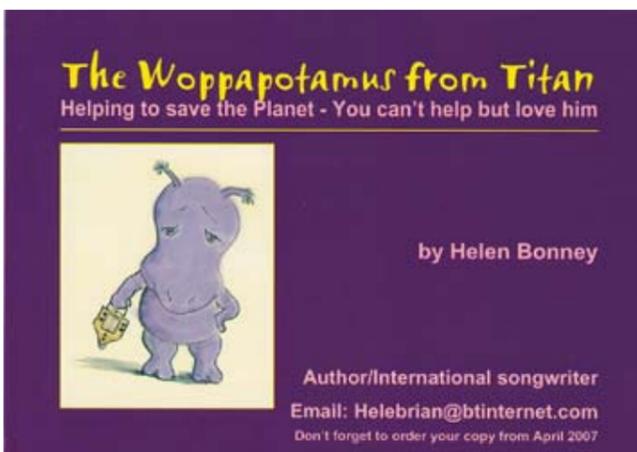
Now she has written the book and *The Woppapotamus from Titan* is due to be launched at the International London book fair at Earls Court in April.

The whole project has been really exciting and Helen has enjoyed it so much. Researching for the material was great fun and she has learned a lot on both a scientific and ecological front.

This book is based on fact entwined with fiction and is intended for 'children of all ages, from five - 105', although the bookshelves will probably say from six to nine or 10.

The fact is about Nasa's Cassini Huygens mission to Saturn and its largest moon, Titan. The fiction, without giving too much away, is about the creatures on Titan who become very perturbed when Nasa lands the probe on Titan.

An investigation ensues, resulting in a journey of fear back to Earth via the exact route



Helen Bonney's book is due to be launched this month

of the Nasa space rocket.

What then follows is a heart-rending story of how the lovable and caring Wally Woppapotamus, in trying to save his own world, stumbles on another world doing a good job of destroying their own planet - namely Planet Earth!

A CD also accompanies the book, with a song that Helen has written (*The Woppapotamus from Titan*) and which should make you laugh, have your feet tapping and legs dancing!

The CD has been produced

with a separate backing track and the main song; it would be ideal for school or home use.

Helen has been lucky in having Nasa support as well as that of RES (Renewable Energy Systems). She has also had a wonderful illustrator in Castriona Ogilvy from Bartlow.

Helen is donating 50% of the profit from the first 1000 books sold to the NSPCC. To order a personalised signed copy now, contact Helen on 894887, or email her at helebrian@btinternet.com

Website update

THE Linton village website is evolving. Tris Lambert and Andrew Clark have begun working on a new design, and new content is also planned to bring it up to date.

You may have noticed a new simpler, cleaner look to the homepage recently; this is a temporary one and Andrew is drawing up a new design proper as I write, but it's only the first step in a larger plan to revamp the website.

The first task we have set ourselves is to update the Directory, which is by now a few years out of date, but we need your help to do this properly.

So if you run a business, club or society in or around Linton, are your details in the Directory? If they are, are they up to date, and if they aren't, then why not? Simply email webmaster@linton.info with a line or two about your company and any contact details you would like to advertise.

Ideally we would like to add your website, email address and a phone number, but we'll also add any other details you want.

While we have a number of ideas of our own, we would love to hear yours too. If there's anything you think we might not have thought of, or if there's anything you think we could do differently, please let us know on the above email address.

We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

Tris Lambert, a new member of the LNT team

Linton News round-up

STAGECOACH buses have told us that there is a revised timetable for the 13 and 13A bus, which will still run half-hourly. Contact Stagecoach for details at 423578.

Our regular items, Pot Pourri, Chef's corner, Too good for jumble, planning applications and Police matters will be back next month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Create a wildlife garden

THE April meeting of the Gardening club will feature Robert Good telling us how to create a wildlife garden. Do come along to see how you could make even small alterations to your garden to aid the essential preservation of our native species.

Please remember that the annual plant sale will be held on 12th May, so any plants which you can produce from seed, or potted-up spares will be very welcome.

Gloria Fidler 891800

Strictly no smoking

AS from 2nd April, the Dog and Duck, High Street Linton will be a non-smoking establishment. Anyone wishing to have a cigarette will be able to sit outside on the patio area where umbrellas for shelter and heater units will be available.

Bob Hackett and Tracy Harrison

Chance to meet the children

ASHDON Pre-school will be holding its annual open morning from 10.15am-12noon on Monday 23rd April. The school runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and is Ofsted registered to provide pre-school education for children between two-and-a-half and five years. We are based in Ashdon village hall (opposite the Rose and Crown pub) in the centre of Ashdon village, only four miles from Linton. Come along and meet the children, other parents and staff.

Ann Naylor, supervisor 01799 527008

All that glitters ...

THE next meeting of the Cambridge flower club is at 7.15pm on Thursday 19th April in Whittlesford memorial hall. Tan Strong will entertain members with a demonstration entitled 'All that glitters'. During the year, an exciting programme of demonstrations, workshops and visits are planned to which new members and visitors are welcome.

Correction to LIFE

IN last month's Linton News, the headline 'What is LIFE after 60' should have read 'What is LIFE'. We hope the change did not cause offence; that was not our intention.

Charity begins when you sell your home

KEVIN HENRY, the Saffron Walden based estate agents, made a commitment when the partnership was formed in 1988 that it would support local charities.

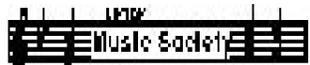
This commitment has been maintained during good trading times and bad over the past 19 years. Kevin Henry has donated thousands of pounds to charities around the local area for schools, fêtes, carnivals and parish churches, as well as supporting the local branches of national charities such as Spinal Research, Marie Curie and Medics.

As well as direct funding, they pledged that for every house they sell in a particular location, they would donate £25 to the local parish church. Our own St Mary's in Linton has benefited to the tune of £1,000 over the past four years.

Kevin Henry believes supporting local charities is an ideal way to put something back into the community. It has also supported the Linton News for many years through advertising and wishes the team a very happy 20th anniversary.

LNT

Linden Trio comes to Linton



THE next Music society concert will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 14th April in Linton village college, when the Linden Trio - Eleanor Reeves, flute, Nick Wolmark, horn, and Ralph Woodward, piano - will be performing Beethoven and Schumann.

The Linden Trio made its debut to critical acclaim in July 2006.

Highly successful as individual performers, the trio members relish the opportunity to perform together, with works for horn and piano, flute and piano as well as arrangements of repertoire for all three instruments.

This concert will include



Musical evening! the Linden Trio made its debut last year

Beethoven's *Sonata for horn and piano Op 11* and Schumann's beautiful *Adagio and Allegro*.

There is also Poulenc's *Sonata for flute and piano*, the little known *Sonatine* by the French composer Pierre Sancan and one of Mendelssohn's

Songs Without Words, arranged for flute, horn and piano.

For a brochure for the whole season or concert tickets, please contact Bruce Conochie 894460 or Sally Plummer 897983.

Hayley Donnan

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River scenes:
Ron Pitkin
snapped this
beautiful
picture
and, below,
the recent
overflowing
of the ford in
Mill Lane

Awaydays know no bounds

LINTON Camera Club has just finished polling its growing membership for ideas on where they should go for monthly photographic away-days – and the list is long and varied.

There is also support for expanding members' skills with their cameras and with handling digital pictures on their computers.

Ideas – enough for the next two years – split roughly in two: half-day outings within easy distance of the village, and whole day outings for more challenging or distant subjects

... and, maybe, a couple of days of catching the photographic sights of Amsterdam, Paris or Dublin.

This adds to the planned events (art & photography, image shows as photo-journalism, and building your own mini-studio), and the annual exhibition of members' work in October.

In addition, the club is going live with its new website, which is replacing the old one on www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk. The website features members' photographs, tells potential new members about the club, and lists activities and officers.

At this time of celebration for the Linton News, our founder members recall how the club was formed after a couple of paragraphs suggesting the idea appeared in the letters column. Thanks and well done, Linton News!

At the April outing, club members will be setting sail along the Norfolk Broads. Places are limited so please call Roger Lapwood on 891104. For the latest information and new member inquiries, please also contact Roger Lapwood.

Maureen Williams



A new building for all

WHEN the article about the new church pavilion was laid out ready for printing in the March edition of the Linton News, the building was no more than a base. By the time the News was dropping through letter boxes, the walls were up and the roof was on.

It was quite a shock to nearby residents when the first lorries made their way down Church Lane, carrying large readymade bits of the building.

It also made people wonder why, if we are so good at making prefabricated wooden buildings – has any other country got as many garden sheds as Great Britain? – we seem to be so bad when it comes to putting up prefabricated houses. The care and quality of workmanship that has gone into the building, both at the factory and by Richard and his gang on site, is very apparent.

The shell is now completed and the major items of fitting out are under way. The aim is to have the new building ready for the flower festival in early June. That depends mainly on the bridge connecting the building and the churchyard. The need for some design changes, requiring the planners' approval,



From this ...

The old pavilion
Picture by Garth Collard

has been identified. After that will come the landscaping of the area around the pavilion, and the repair and erection of walls and fences.

A minority of the village's residents comes to church regularly, but the pavilion is not just for them. Nor is it just for the majority who identify themselves as Christians but cross the threshold of the church occasionally. It is for all. There are times when everyone turns to the parish church, if only attending a wedding, a baptism or a funeral, and the church is there. At times of crisis in the community, the church is

there, playing its traditional pastoral role.

The central role of the church in village life was recognised at the gift day held several years ago for the pavilion fund. Many people from the village who had no formal connection with the church came and contributed.

As the project moves towards completion, the church is asking the village to help again and help turn a shell into a living building.

If you would like to help, please contact Derek Lockstone on 891931.

Andrew Gore



via this ... **Work in progress**
Picture by Bruce Conochie



to this ... **Almost complete**

February and March winners in the K-Club draw

THE winners of the February K-Club monthly draw were:

- 1st prize (£50)
P Chipp (No.028)
- 2nd prize (£25)
Albrow (No. 100)
- 3rd prize (£10)
McKenzie (No.324).

THE winners of the March K-Club monthly draw were:

- 1st prize (£50)
Kate France (No.147)
- 2nd prize (£25)
Ms J Ahringer (No.092)
- 3rd prize (£10)
Mrs S Gillon (No.151).

Have your say about Linton

LINTON'S annual parish meeting will be held at 8pm on 28th April in the village hall.

Linton is your village, so if you have something to say about the way things are run, this is your chance to make your point and influence the parish council.

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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams

Meet the oystercatcher ...



What a connoisseur: the oystercatcher stalks a sandy beach

ON 3rd March there was the most magnificent south sea pearl hanging in the sky! Around eleven o'clock, the sun's rays were being filtered by the Earth's atmosphere. The blues had all but gone, leaving just a trace of grey hue. The reds having reached their man, gave rise to the coppery glowing moon. Its not surprising to have gazed in wonder and awe as the Earth's shadow was cast.

What dreams may come, as the memorable event was etched into the minds of those blessed by clear skies?

Above the vale of Linton the indolent evening cumulus clouds were swept aside by a cool spring breeze. The great adductor that governs all upon this mortal earth by propinquity appeared an illusion by colour; created from lying in the red shade of earth. The birth of this

gem from a mythical oyster never fails to inspire, but this month by way of Maureen's superb illustration we are whisked away to the blustery Norfolk coast where the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* lives.

Now there's a connoisseur if ever I saw one! Standing there on a sandy beach at Blakeney, our deep cadmium orange-beaked bivalve hunter stalks. The large, flat strong bill enables this wader to tackle even the most stubborn of shellfish. Cockles eked out of the sandy shoreline supplement their diet and they are not opposed to a small dish of crab or shrimp from a fertile pool. The oystercatcher may catch few oysters if indeed any, but down in the silt of the muddy estuaries they pick out with ease a tasty worm.

So, once you have delved into the rich wildlife that thrives in the Pocket park, and all around our pleasant locality, having trodden the well-honed footpaths on the banks of the Granta, your understanding of our precious eco-system becomes clear.

Now, perhaps it's time for a day out to the coast. When you return to Cambridgeshire the journey may continue along the banks of the Ouse, where drifts of fresh water mussels abound in waters increasingly inhabited by carp. With your old river mussel shells dredged from beds where the bullhead dwells, a private moment to admire their natural beauty is in order.

Listen out for the sounds of spring, apparent when the rooks declare war in an effort to protect their nesting sites. Mobbled and attacked, the heron engaged and bowed under siege. Entering resolve, in such determined effort and death, for life to regenerate.



How are the mighty fallen ... a huge tree that has stood alongside the Granta in Linton for years was blown into the river during the recent gales and the resulting scene was photographed by LN reader Iris Tarver

Three Counties charity walk

THE fourth Bartlow Three Counties walk will be held, as always, on the Sunday of the May bank holiday weekend - this year the 6th May.

This year our two 'good

causes' will be the Lewin Stroke Unit at Adden-brooke's and Bartlow St Mary's Church restoration fund.

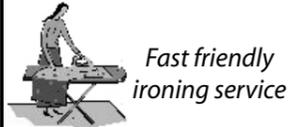
We will offer both the 8 and 13 mile walks this year and, due to popular demand, will add a third; a 2 mile pushchair-friendly nature trail.

The start line will be in the paddock in the centre of Bartlow. Registration for the 8 and 13 mile walks will open at 9.30am and these walks will start promptly at 10am. The Junior Nature Trail will start at 11am.

You can get sponsorship forms by e-mailing details to bartlow.walk@hotmail.co.uk or by telephoning Rebecca on 894979.

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Help for younger people recovering from a stroke

ARE you a younger person who has had a stroke, feels alone and needs some support?

There is now a local branch of Different Strokes which meets between 2pm and 4pm on Tuesdays at Cambridge cancer help centre, 1A Stockwell Street (off Mill Lane).

Different Strokes was founded by younger stroke survivors who manage the group, aided by family members.

Its aims are:
** We realise that each stroke and each individual's response to their new circumstances is a unique story
** We appreciate that the journey back to full health is often exceedingly difficult, challenging, long-term and in many cases incomplete
** We understand the challenges, frustrations and triumphs, both great and small, that stroke survivors experience as

they work towards their optimum recovery
** We know at first hand of the need for support, information, care, counselling and physical rehabilitation

** We acknowledge that younger stroke survivors need guidance to overcome the many barriers that may restrict them
** We recognise that stroke survivors need our resources to adapt to their new circumstances and empower them to participate fully in all aspects of life.
If you would like more information, please contact me:

Annie Diggins 893166

Make a date for Linton's fête and flower festival

MAKE a date in your diary for the Linton Fête and Flower Festival, which this year is celebrating its 40th anniversary on 8th, 9th and 10th June.

On the Saturday, there will be a family fête at the infant school, with craft and gift stalls in the school. On the playground and field, there will be numerous attractions and events for all the family including a family dog show, five-a-side football competition plus the traditional bouncy castle, train rides, barbecue, balloon race etc.

The floral displays in the church on the theme 'Women of the World' can be viewed from the Friday morning through the weekend. The church will also be hosting concerts on Saturday evening (a light-hearted programme of words and music performed by the Merely Players), Sunday afternoon (LVC orchestra) and Sunday evening (choral music by Rutter, Vivaldi and Walton performed by the church choir, with brass and percussion).

Also on Saturday afternoon, Linton's boldest teddy-bears will be parachuting from the church tower.

More details will be published nearer the time - watch this space!

In the meantime, why not come to the pre-flower festival coffee morning and open garden at Richmonds, 65 High Street, from 10.30am-12.30pm on Saturday 28th April. Cakes, plants, produce and raffle. All welcome.

Andrew King 897832



The Derbyshire Post

I RECEIVED a card from a fellow headteacher offering condolences following the death of Imogen Barker, the delightful year 11 student who was killed in a road accident last month. My colleague wrote "I know what it is like for a school community when a child dies. My thoughts were with you when I read about it. It must be the worst thing a head ever has to manage, as well as suffering with the rest of the college."

It goes without saying that all of our thoughts and prayers are with Imogen's lovely family; her parents Roger and Christiane, brother Sebastian and sisters Naomi and Anna, but the fellow head is right ... it has been the worst thing so far that I've experienced at LVC. Imogen was one of the brightest stars in her year group. She had many friends, was cherished by her teachers and was the last person you would expect to lose in such a tragic accident. She was always the sensible, considerate one - helping others, getting stuck into Duke of Edinburgh hikes, doing her bit for the Variety Show (as George the magician's assistant, I recall).

Her death was such a shock to this small community because no one could ever have imagined that this would happen to her - she was expected to get fabulous GCSE results, to go on to Hills Road, then university; to be one of the college's success stories. It seems amazing that this will not happen.

I was very proud indeed of the way the students supported each other in their grief ... although we provided counsellors for them to talk to, what most of them needed was time together to share memories and write down their thoughts. The week ended with an incredible funeral; incredible partly because of the considerate way in which the Barkers had arranged things - a Sunday service at St Mary's followed by tea at the college, enabling all of her friends to be there, but also incredible because of the sight of the huge numbers of people who turned up. Every human space in the church was taken up. Half the college seemed to be there in the rain.

It would be wrong to say that a month on things have returned to normal; Imogen will never be forgotten, but after a week when everyone, even those who didn't know her, was subdued and awkward, it was a relief when for the first time in a while the students began to run around and laugh again normally - lunchtime at the college was filled with the comforting sound of children playing and the sun came out again too.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Linton in pictures: an exhibition of 1,500 photographs of village history

MY article this month is devoted to providing readers with details of the exhibition at Linton village college from 10am to 5pm on Saturday 28th April and Sunday 29th April. I hope that as many people as possible will find the time to visit the Linton and district historical society's exhibition. I know that many people missed the display last April.

The success of the Linton in Pictures book demonstrates that people of all ages are interested in the history of the village. The book contained around 200 photographs so the 1,500 photos in this exhibition should satisfy every interest. I have more than 300 pictures which were not on display last year.

Admission is £1 for adults, since we hope to raise money to equip the new resources archive room which Caroline Derbyshire has kindly pledged once the next college building phase has been started. Children and students under 16 years of age will be admitted free of charge.

The college is sponsoring the exhibition by providing the hall and rooms free of charge. The increased space will enable people to view the photographs in more spacious surroundings. The Chilford room will be available for visitors to sit down and identify the people in the large collection of group pictures. This year is the 70th anniversary of the opening of Linton village college in 1937 and the main corridor display boards will be



Local history: the Swan Bridge as it looked around 1900 in this picture postcard

devoted to village college history. Please bring photos you need to identify or which I can copy to add to the village archive. Old box camera snaps, school groups, sporting occasions and social events are all equally valuable. I am also interested in more recent village photos of the 1960s to the 1990s.

The Linton WI have kindly agreed to sell refreshments in the common room and they also intend to have a display about their activities. There is ample parking at the college. Any senior citizens who may need transport to the college should contact me nearer the time so that something can be arranged.

Garth Collard 892395



Youngsters at Swavesey village college last summer perform *Guys and Dolls*

Picture by Gillian Hunt

Create! Inspire! Perform! ... that's the theme of Linton summer academy

IN August, there will be a week-long summer academy in Linton village college, focusing on different aspects of musical theatre. To prepare for this, there will be a two-day mini-academy in April, led by SNAP! Creatives. This mini-academy will involve daily classes in movement, drama, voice training and ensemble rehearsal. You don't need any experience to join but you do need to have lots of energy and be willing to learn good theatre discipline. It will be hard work but promises to be great fun.

There will also be a short sharing of work with family and friends on the second day. Once you've completed your two-day adventure, you'll also know whether the summer academy is something that you would like to try. The mini-academy is open to all young people aged eight-16 and will be held at Sawston village college from 10am-5pm on Thursday and Friday 12th and 13th April.

For more information please contact:

Lesley Morgan, 712825 or email: lmorgan@sawstonvc.org

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The Suffolk Horsemen

NEIL Lanham made a return visit to Linton and district historical society for the February meeting. He spoke about his particular interest - The Suffolk Horseman - the importance of his costume and his unique identity.

Many of the men had a bespoke suit which they wore on special occasions. Their suits all have features in common including horseshoe buttons arranged in threes and long cut jackets, high at the neck. We were also greatly entertained by listening to recordings made by Mr Lanham of these men recounting their experiences and singing.

Mr Lanham's enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject were very evident. He will be performing sketches with the Bumpstead Boys in Hildersham village hall on Friday, 12th October entitled 'Ruby and the Horses'.

At 7.30pm on Tuesday, 17th April in the village hall, Hilary Ritchie will be speaking on the history of nursing at Addenbrooke's. All are most welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith 894715

Get smoke alarms fitted

FOLLOWING the house fire in Linton in March, which left three families homeless, the fire service has urged all residents to fit and maintain smoke alarms.

The families concerned in the row of terrace houses in The Grove, Symonds Lane, all got out safely thanks to a working alarm in the house where the fire started.

Fire officer Andy Tucker said: "Anyone without a working smoke alarm should contact their local fire station for a free home fire safety check."

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Parish Council Matters

Trees rule

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

IF you have a tree on your property, it's important to find out what you can and can't do before carrying out any tree surgery.

If a tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), in general it is an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy it without SCdc's permission. An order can cover anything from a single tree to woodlands. If you deliberately destroy a tree, or damage it in a manner likely to destroy it, you could be fined up to £20,000. For other offences you could be fined up to £2,500. You will normally have to plant a replacement tree if the tree was cut down or destroyed.

Do

Contact SCdc before carrying out any work on a protected tree. There are some exceptions like the Forestry Commission granting a felling licence or when it is at the request of an organisation specified in the TPO. However, it is always best to check.

Use a qualified tree surgeon for advice and/or to carry out work where necessary.

Contact SCdc before cutting down a protected tree which is dead, dangerous or dying – you could be prosecuted if you are judged to have carried out unauthorised work

Don't

Cut down or cut back trees directly in the way of development which is about to start, unless you have detailed planning permission. You cannot carry out tree work if you only have outline planning permission.

Carry out work yourself on large or dangerous trees – you could cause damage to yourself and others.

These rules also apply if you are in a conservation area.

If your tree does not have a TPO or you are not in a conservation area then you do not require permission for tree work.

Under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997:

It is against the law to remove most countryside hedgerows without permission. To get permission to remove a hedgerow, you must write to SCdc. If they decide to prohibit removal of an important hedgerow, they will let you know within six weeks.

If you remove a hedgerow without permission (whether it is important or not) you may face an unlimited fine. You may also have to replace the hedgerow.

The way in which the regulations apply to individual hedgerows is quite complex. It is advisable, therefore, to discuss informally with SCdc, at an early stage, any plans you have to remove them, before you formally seek permission. At your request they will provide a written explanation of what action is necessary and why.

Do I need permission to remove my hedgerow, either in whole



Recent tree works carried out in Linton High Street

Photo by Sue Parry

or in part?

Yes, if your hedgerow is on, or runs alongside:

- Agricultural land;
 - Common land, including town or village greens;
 - Land used for forestry or the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys; or
 - A local nature reserve or site of special scientific interest.
- No, if it: is shorter than 20 metres (unless both ends join up with other hedgerows or it is part of a longer hedgerow) or is in, or borders, your garden.
- Gaps of 20 metres or less are counted as part of the hedgerow. A gap may be a break in the vegetation or it may be filled by, for example, a gate. You also do not need permission to remove your hedgerows:

To get access - either in place of an existing opening, provided that you plant a new stretch of hedgerow to fill the original entrance, or when another means of entry is not available, except at disproportionate cost;

- To gain temporary entry to help in an emergency;
- To comply with a statutory plant or forestry health order;
- To comply with a statutory notice, for preventing interference with electric lines and apparatus;

In connection with statutory drainage or flood defence work; or to implement a planning permission (but in the case of permitted development rights, most hedgerow removal **will** require prior permission).

There are further exceptions for reasons of national defence and for removal by the highways agency.

Normal management of your hedgerow does not require prior

Lighting matters

WHAT can be better than a fresh spring day – bright and sunny with a matchless quality of light. The problem is that it tends to show up all the dust and grime remaining from winter...every silver lining has its cloud.

Last year brought controversy about funding the street lighting. Eventually, the parish council (that is the council tax payers, through the parish precept) shouldered the burden, but should we now review exactly what levels of lighting are needed? Of course there are the opposing views of safety, saving of resources and regaining the appreciation of our night skies, but perhaps reducing levels of light, hours of use and numbers of lamps could be considered. The type of lamps could also be reviewed when they need replacing. There have been many moves to having less light in the environment, so we will see how that debate progresses.

One of the most distracting aspects of the A1307 at night are the stadium-quality lights of the sports pitches at LVC – your eyes are drawn to these involuntarily, to the detriment of driving. They are obviously needed for the sports, but who thought they would be so bright? Hurry on the light evenings.

Village houses can be close together – noise and light pollution can make life intolerable for neighbours, and turning it down/off saves on electricity bills too. Security lights are often too bright, misdirected and light up the wrong areas. When left on all night they are a big give-away that the house is unoccupied, and also give burglars a decent light to work by, so perhaps they are not such an aid to security after all. Movement sensitive lights are a more thoughtful option (for wildlife, too).

It has always been a joy of life to view the stars, and this region seems to have more than its share of open skies - would it be so bad to limit our lights and regain the view of the universe? Or at least the view of planes from Stansted...but that is another matter!

Cllr E Bald

permission.

Where can I get more information?

A leaflet - The hedgerows regulations: your questions answered - provides a brief summary of the law. More detailed guidance is in the Hedgerows Regulations 1997: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice. Both are available by contacting The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) by e-mail - farmland.conservation@defra.gsi.gov.uk or visit the DEFRA website.

List of approved contractors - www.trees.org.uk

For technical advice - www.aie.org.uk

Rosalind Richardson, tree officer at SCdc 08450 450 500 or visit www.scamb.gov.uk.

Information taken from SCdc website and magazine.

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

MINUTES of the meeting of Linton parish council held on Thursday 1st February 2007.

Present: G Potter – chair, A Gore – vice chair, M Clay, Ms E Cornell, M Gee, B Hammett, Mrs P Kenyon, J Linsdell, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White, D Willingham, Mrs K France – press and Mrs S Parry – clerk.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bald, Cox and Krarup.

Declarations of interest. Cllr Willingham expressed a prejudicial interest under 207, Item 58 (letter from postwatch).

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with Hereward Housing prior to them submitting an application for the redevelopment of Flaxfields.

Co-ordinators Reports

Open spaces (Cllr Clay) It was reported that the verge on Horseheath Road has been damaged by farm vehicles accessing the field. It was agreed to contact Mr Fairey to ask if he will restore the grass verge.

Recreation ground (Mrs P Kenyon) Report circulated. The bridge on Footpath 1 has a slat missing.

Cemetery (M Gee) Report circulated. Emergency tree work was carried out after the recent gales. Cambridge Tree Surgery was thanked for their prompt response and good work. Cllr Gee has received a quotation from an independent tree consultant. Cllr Gore questioned the need at this time.

Rights of way (Dr J Rossiter) A meeting has taken place with Mr S Taylor, a report will follow.

Venture playground (B Hammett) All repairs are in hand.

Leadwell Meadows (Dr J Rossiter) A willow has fallen into the river – Cllr Rossiter will investigate.

Churchyard (Dr B Cox) Cllr Gore reported that a meeting has taken place with Dr Brown regarding tree works on the southern boundary. A report will follow. There has been vandalism to the pillars on the new flint wall. It was agreed to contact the conservation officer to ascertain if any-

thing can be added to the lime mortar.

Communications (M Gee) It was agreed that minutes could be shortened or placed on the front page of parish matters if there is a lack of space.

A1307 (E Cornell) The illuminated 40mph sign near to the traffic lights at LVC is not working.

The payments were considered and agreed. A full list is available from the office.

Go-East proposed changes to the East of England plan (correspondence item 17 carried forward from previous meeting). As very few changes relate to Linton no action is required.

Bridge at the ford – decision required (See item 196 (181) carried forward from previous meeting). It was agreed to ask Ccc to advise us when the bridge has been completed. The issue will then be reassessed.

Ccc Statement of community involvement consultation document – carried forward from planning meeting of 18th January. It was agreed to contact Ccc and ask that a venue be found locally and more central to Cambridge. Currently most exhibitions/consultations are held at Cambourne and to the north of Cambridge making access difficult.

Correspondence

Item 39 (email from L Morgan reSCdc magazine) It was agreed to suggest that more warning is given in future regarding deadlines.

Item 48 (Cambs Assoc. for Local History offer of aerial photos) It was agreed to see if any were available of Linton.

Item 50 (M Jeffels email re hedge) clerk to enquire as to what reason or evidence exists to suggest that the hedge is owned by the parish council.

Item 56 (Ccc re highway issues) Costings for each element of signage and S3 audit will be requested.

Item 57 (Letter from K Nichols re Co-op) Council is concerned that there has been very little response from the police regarding the incident at the Co-op. It is essential to the well being of the village that the safety of Co-op staff is protected. The police should treat this matter seriously. Cllr

Willingham will pursue this issue.

Item 58 (Letter from Postwatch re post office network consultation) Reply slip to be returned.

Matters arising from the Minutes of 18th January not already listed. Cllr Willingham is pursuing the issues of the neighbourhood panel meetings and speeding on Horseheath Road with the police.



Village Post Offices under threat

MINUTES of the meeting of Linton parish council held on Thursday 15th February 2007.

Present: G Potter – chair, A Gore – vice chair, Mrs E Bald, M Clay, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, M Gee, Mrs P Kenyon, J Linsdell, Dr D White, D Willingham, Mrs K France – press and Mrs S Parry – clerk. Also in attendance were Cc/Dc J Batchelor and Dc Mrs T Bear and one member of the public.-

Open forum

Mrs J Smith has arranged a meeting of LAPP (Linton Area Pool Project). This will take place at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 22nd March.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hammett, Krarup, Rossiter and Urwin.

Members declarations of Interest. Cllr Willingham expressed a prejudicial interest under item 216.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2007. Cllr Linsdell proposed, seconded by Cllr Clay and agreed by the meeting that the minutes be signed as a true record.

Report from the police. Several emails of information have been received and distributed.

Reports from County Councillor

J Batchelor reported that council tax is expected to be increased by 5% resulting in a reduced budget with

substantial cuts in most areas including libraries and highways. He will be raising the issue of speeding in Horseheath Road and the lack of funding available for small schemes.

Reports from District Councillor

Cllr Bear reported that SCdc are considering implementing a supplementary planning document to assist with the determination of applications for energy efficient installations to listed buildings. Cllr Batchelor commented on the damning report from the Audit Commission. He reminded everyone that many of the issues referred to a small minority of councillors and hopefully with a new leader there will be clear lines of responsibility.

Post Office closures. The consultation response form was discussed and suggested comments were submitted (see response form).

Councillors' Reports

A report has been distributed from Cllr Willingham following his attendance at rural question time (see report).

Flaxfields redevelopment - Cllr Cornell reported that a meeting with Hereward Housing is being arranged.

Consideration of payments due. Agreed at the meeting. A full list of payments is available from the office.

Correspondence

Item 5 Permission was granted to Mr V Harris for use of recreation ground for a funfair at a cost of £110.

Item 12 It was agreed that although we are sympathetic to the request for support for Milton Country Park we will not be passing a resolution at this time. Negotiations are still ongoing with SCdc and we have concerns regarding the financial implications.

Item 24 CALC workshops. Cllr Rossiter has asked to attend the planning process workshop on 9th May. It was agreed that the clerk attend this workshop and another on 5th September relating to archiving of documents and Freedom of Information.

Item 26 SCdc lettings policy consultation. The current points system will disappear and houses will be allocated on

a regional basis. Eight other regions including Haverhill and Fenland will have the right to apply. This has serious implications for the village. It was agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting on 1st March.

Item 30 email re speed restrictions in High Street. The parish council had previously requested a 20mph speed limit in the High Street. They had been advised that 20mph limits will only be introduced in association with self enforcing speed reduction measures. "Self-enforcing" means 85% tile speeds after the introduction of the scheme being around 25mph or less. The last speed check undertaken on the High Street showed speeds higher than this, however the parish council were still waiting for Ccc to undertake the last speed survey which had been promised after the installation of the one-way system. This matter is being progressed through the traffic working party.

Item 35 Herald increase in cost for grass cutting at Cathodeon Centre (LCCT). It was agreed to pass this to the LCCT trustees for investigation.

Item 36 NALC re quarry parish status. Cllr Gee queried our stand on QPS. The clerk replied that at a recent meeting Cllr Rossiter had offered to set up a working party and had asked for volunteers. None had come forward. The clerk agreed to reissue method statements and risk assessment information.

Item 38 The email from C Fairey in response to verge damage was discussed. It was agreed to contact Ccc to determine ownership of the verge. It was suggested that Mr Fairey write to the Linton News with a clear indication of the correct footpath from Horseheath Road to Borley Wood.

Parish Matters – decision on correspondence sent to the Linton News regarding council issues.

It was agreed to ask the Linton News team to forward

copies of any letters which refer directly to parish council issues.

Matters arising from the minutes of meeting of 1st February not already listed. Under item 202 (vi) regarding the fallen willow tree in the Pocket Park, Cllr Rossiter is arranging a working party for Saturday 11th March to tidy up after the recent storms. Cllr Potter has undertaken a risk assessment and currently the river is too high for any work to be carried out safely. Under item 202 (viii) The conservation officer at SCdc has been contacted regarding damage to the flint wall in the churchyard. She advised that it is the wrong time of year to be using lime mortar; however it could be made coarser by adding



Restored flint wall in churchyard

Photos by Sue Parry

horse hair. The wall has been vandalised again, one person has been arrested and three others are to be questioned. If no further damage is done, the wall should be finished next week.

A crumbling pavement was reported at the top of Granta Vale.

Cllr Potter outlined a new SCdc graffiti removal service provided by the probation service. Cllr Willingham will write a short article for Parish Matters regarding this issue.

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