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READERS**

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Remembering Daniel

A REMEMBRANCE afternoon with Year 2 pupils, staff, parents and friends, took place at Linton CE Infant school on Wednesday 7th November 2007, which would have been the 7th birthday of Daniel Meeks who died suddenly on 8th March this year in Addenbrooke's hospital with a previously undiagnosed, very rare condition called Chronic Granulomatous Disease.

I don't have adequate words to express the depth and breadth of feeling which emanated from events in school that afternoon. I will do my best... Daniel's parents, Anne and Andy, planned the afternoon with school staff as a celebration of Daniel's life and a chance for us all to remember the positive impact he had on our lives. We wanted the afternoon to be reflective, celebratory, spiritual and memorable.

Preparations were made in classes beforehand with each child writing a message for Daniel which staff then tied to helium balloon streamers (seven balloons brought in by Anne and Andy in yellow for its cheery



Picture supplied by Daniel's parents

colour and blue for Coventry Football Team, also Daniel's favourite colour).

The afternoon began with the children and adults sitting in a circle, lighting our Golden Assembly candle for Daniel's birthday and a special candle brought in for the day by one of his classmates. We welcomed our visitors, especially Anne and Andy, and thought about things which are symbolic in birthday celebrations – special food, candles, balloons and gifts.

I talked about the star we have named in Daniel's memory and how it is in the Great Bear constellation – very special, as Daniel and his dad used to look for this on their summer holidays in Newquay. We saw the star certificate and the star map. Then a gift was given to Anne and Andy of a framed star certificate.

We all went back into the hall where each child iced a biscuit to eat. Touchingly, several children presented Anne and Andy with their creations, showing incredible empathy. Anne lovingly chatted to each of the children whilst they were engaged in this activity.

Mrs Brooker, our secretary, had prepared a flower bed in the shape of a D

for some daffodil bulbs and the Remember Me rose – they all, including some parents, carefully planted their bulbs in the area behind the ICT suite which we plan to have as a quiet garden in Daniel's memory.

We all gathered together in the hall at the end of the afternoon for some singing and the children were asked if they would like to say a prayer for Daniel. About 20 of them led us in their own spontaneous prayers; heart-rending!



Mrs Brooker, the school secretary, shows the children how to plant the bulbs for Daniel

Picture supplied by the school

The children's amazing sensitivity and their responses, alongside the support from some wonderful parents/friends of the school was astounding. It was such a beautiful event and quite uplifting. Once again, our school community has left me feeling so proud and completely overwhelmed by that afternoon's event; there was so much love and positive feeling which came through everything and everyone present. That hour or so of my life will remain with me for a very long time.

Heather Sturman, Infant School Head

Fifth Bartlow three counties walk

THE Bartlow three counties charity walk will celebrate its fifth birthday at 10am on 4th May 2008, when Dr Mary Archer cuts the tape at the start in Bartlow village to launch this popular annual charity walk.

There are two walking routes, both off-road; the 'signature' route measures 13 miles and takes walkers to the point near Castle Camps where Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex meet, and back to Bartlow via Ashdon Windmill. The 'family-friendly' alternative is eight miles and shares the first and last parts of the longer route.

Families with young children do not miss out because a third option, a two mile Junior

Nature Ramble, starts an hour later and incorporates features designed to appeal to the young, particularly brownies, cubs and beavers looking to complete their nature badges.

The objective is to raise money for the chosen good causes and in 2008 these will be:

Linton Health Centre; Addenbrooke's Ward D10 (Infectious Diseases) and Bartlow St Mary's Church Restoration Fund.

In 2007, generous business sponsors and 350 walkers, sponsored by family friends and colleagues, raised a net £9,000. The target for 2008 is 500 walkers and a net total of £12-15,000.

The organisers hope that

Linton people will see the 2008 walk as 'walking for Linton' in view of the involvement of the Health Centre, and certainly as the day approaches residents will see the event actively promoted in the village.

Find out more and view the picture gallery of past walks at www.eastspace.net/bartlow

From January you will be able to download a form and start collecting sponsors. Alternatively, the distinctive forms and flyers will be available in many locations in Linton.

For further information please call:

Stephen Bugg 894668,
Duncan Ogilvy 893644 and
after 17th December me.
Graham Howat 891732

"Can Eye Help?"

"CAN Eye Help?" the 2007 challenge for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and girls in the Senior section has produced a fantastic result.

Vision Aid Overseas will receive 137 pairs of spectacles donated via the Linton units, including 32 pairs from the Monday Brownies, who also brought 2.6kg of used stamps, making a total weight of 4.8kg. A further £130 raised by the Monday Brownies goes to the Christian Aid Blind Mission, Forgotten Children's fund.

The stamps, 28 watches and a collection of beads will be given to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our projects, making it such a huge success.
Rosemary Turner

Too good for jumble ...

HELP, please – if the Sega Mega Drive II with games is still available, please could the owner urgently contact me.

New offers this month include an electric sewing machine in good working order, a Belswick hopper bike, and a baby buggy with shopping tray. The new pump station iron, JVC TV with remote control, Epson Stylus printer with black and colour cartridges and a Toshiba music centre with radio, cassettes and record player for 33 and 45 records in a dedicated cabinet with glass fronted storage space, are all still available.

The stand alone folding bed raised £10 for Cancer Research.

Does anyone know about selling cigarette cards? I have about 200, various, to benefit Wednesday Brownies.

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

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

Ooh aah what a show

A MILD, dry evening saw a record or near record number of people attend the Linton Fireworks Display on 3rd November – there were so many people streaming along the High Street that the start had to be delayed to give them time to get in.

The bonfire blazed, the queues made the most of the hot drinks and food stalls and the smoky air vibrated with music which switched from

pop to Land of Hope and Glory as the rockets lit up the night sky over the infant school meadow.

"It was a wonderful evening with near perfect conditions," said fireworks committee chairman Alasdair Forbes ... and no one at the display could disagree with that assessment. In fact, many people thought it was the best show yet.

When the entry money is

finally counted and expenses deducted, it looks like each of our village schools will receive about £1,000, less than might have been expected because Barclays Bank did not sponsor the event this year – leaving Cambridge Building Society to join the principal sponsor, Camgrain, and smaller donors.

Between 4,000 and 4,500 people oohed and aahed their

way through the spectacle. But by 9am the next day, there was hardly a trace of the night's fun to be seen after the early morning clean-up.

Jonh Keeble



Pictures by: John and June Keeble, Mike Crofts and Stoggie showing the bonfire, fireworks, bar-b-que and the St John Ambulance group, one of the many local groups we have to thank for making this display what it is, and not forgetting those hard working people who do the clearing up.



THOUGHTS FROM THE SANTA RANTA

IN a little over three weeks from now many of us will be sitting around a groaning table, stuffing our faces with enough food to feed a small division of Her Majesty's forces. The previous twenty four hours will have been spent frantically accumulating all those little touches that make Christmas Day lunch perfect. It will have been well worth going to the Co-op, and then an out-of-town supermarket for that single trivial item that we cannot possibly do without. Never mind if the whole expedition takes the best part of three hours (including trying to park and the inevitable queue) and the poor fellow charged with the task will be furious – at least great aunt Bertha will have fewer faults to find with your spectacular feast.

With the presents opened in a frenzy of expectation, everything will need to be played with at the same time, while the caterer is busy enjoying the washing up. Someone will be working their way through a bottle of the finest Scotch whisky, while investigating their new sat-nav device and trying to work out how to programme it to get the car to the yellow lines outside the Co-op in the shortest possible time.

Little Susie will be dressing her new doll, lovingly created in a sweatshop somewhere in the far east, and desperately trying to stop little Johnny's attempts to shoot it with his smart replica Helmand province assault rifle.

The apparent jollity hides the underlying nervousness of the family as the time for the annual game of Trivial Pursuit draws near. Everyone hopes that it won't end with Uncle Robert threatening World War Three again just because "the girls always get the easy questions."

A family on an average income will somehow boost the coffers of Tesco and the like by a staggering £750 this year. That figure accounts for the food and trimmings – everything from the aforementioned trivial item to the decorations... and then there is the debt-inducing amount spent on presents.

We could all do well to remember why Christmas is celebrated. It is not supposed to be a competition to see who can buy and eat the most. We all know this, yet very few of us listen to the common sense trying desperately to be heard over the "3 for 2" offers shouted at us since early September.

The Three Wise Men marked the arrival of our Lord with a single gift from each of them. Okay, they were perhaps unusual and slightly extravagant gifts to bestow upon perhaps the most important figure ever, but how on earth did that simple gesture become a festival of gluttony and extravagance?

There is however, hope. In amongst the hustle and bustle of trying to get it all right, many of us will give to a charity, drop coins into the palms of carol singers, invite a non-family member to join in the festivities and spare a thought or two for those less fortunate than ourselves.

This ranta would like to wish everyone a happy, enjoyable time this Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Have your say about crime in your area

THE South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) exists to coordinate how the county council, the district council, the police and other local organisations deal with problems such as crime, antisocial behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse.

The CDRP has met to consider the crime and disorder issues in their area. The partnership considered statistical evidence collated from a wide range of sources and has agreed a draft list of priorities to be dealt with during the three years, 2008 to 2011. These will receive additional attention, above the work already carried out.

We are now seeking the views of people who live and work in the district on the chosen priorities over the next month by the completion of a

questionnaire. To complete the questionnaire please follow the link www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/priorities If you would like to know more about CDRP please visit www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/regions/regions00.htm The deadline for completion of the questionnaire is 7th December. If you would like a hard copy to complete you can request one from myself: Bridget Fairley on 01954 713367. Or write to me at: Bridget Fairley Partnership Support Officer South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park Cambourne Cambridge CB23 6EA

Linton welcomes a new PC

AS announced in the November Linton News, Martin Addison-Atkinson is no longer our Community Beat Officer and is hopefully enjoying his retirement after more than 30 years of service.

The village now welcomes PC Mike Dyke, part of the Neighbourhood team covering the Fulbourn and Linton areas, with specific responsibility for Linton. Mike is a busy member of the force as he is also the deputy officer for Cambridge United and Histon football clubs.

Cambridgeshire police advocate local public interaction in order to assist in dealing with specific problems. PC Dyke is keen to see a continuation of community engagement by the Police Community Support Officers, and believes this is important in helping to tackle some of the issues in the village. "I want to see some impact and progress on dealing with antisocial behaviour and criminal damage," he said. "After all, that is what we're here for."

Anyone wishing to report a crime (non-emergency) or discuss issues surrounding local policing can contact Cambridgeshire Police on 0845 4564564. Also the online service, providing information about your local team and details of police priorities, can be found at www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops

LNT

Safe crossing for infants

THE Infant school has been without a crossing supervisor for a long time now and there is real concern about the safety of the children crossing the road. We need a volunteer. Is it you? No experience necessary, just a willingness to be available for an hour or so a day. It's a rewarding job as the children are very appreciative and friendly. If you are interested please contact the school, or me, and we will put you in touch with people who can tell you all about the job. Hope to hear from you.

John Batchelor 892111 County and District Councillor

Christmas waste and recycling collections in South Cambs

SOUTH Cambridgeshire District Council has made the following waste and recycling arrangements for the Christmas and New Year period.

All bin collections will operate as normal up to and including Monday 24th December.

Black bin: Collections will be suspended from Tuesday 25th December and recommence Wednesday 2nd January 2008. From Wednesday 2nd January every household will then receive a black bin collection as follows:

Normal collection day	First 2008 black bin collection
Monday	Monday 7 th January
Tuesday	Wednesday 2 nd January (day later)
Wednesday	Thursday 3 rd January (day later)
Thursday	Friday 4 th January (day later)
Friday	Saturday 5 th January (day later)

Normal collections resume from Tuesday 8th January 2008.

Green bin: Collections will be suspended from Tuesday 25th December and recommence on Tuesday 8th January.

Green box: Collections will remain unchanged apart from scheduled collections on Tuesday 25th December and Wednesday 26th December, which will take place on Tuesday 8th January and Wednesday 9th January respectively.

Waste collection calendar: Household holders can check the waste collection calendar in the autumn South Cambs magazine, by calling 08450 450 063 or by downloading the calendar from www.scambs.gov.uk

Excess waste: Bags of rubbish left by the side of wheeled bins will not be collected under any circumstances. Please recycle all you can. Any excess waste should be taken to the household waste and recycling centres at Milton and Thriplow.

Extreme weather: In cases of extreme weather, householders are asked to bear with the council. Refuse will be collected as soon as possible. Please call the contact centre on 08450 450 063 for further information.

Bin not collected: Call 08450 450 063 up to 8pm on the day the bin should be collected, or by 3.30pm the following day.

Recycling tips: Cardboard can still go into the green bin - be careful not to compress it too much. Glass bottles and jars, rinse and put in the green box. Extra items produced over Christmas should be taken to a local recycling site.

Kitchen waste: If home composting is not possible, residents are advised to wrap food waste, including vegetable peelings and leftovers, in newspaper and put it in the green bin.

Newspapers and magazines: Separate into carrier bags and put in the green box.

Plastic: Don't forget to use the plastic recycling banks, but remove the cap and crush the bottles first. If a bank is full, call the contractor Pearsons on 01842 752386.

Christmas cards: Place all Christmas cards in the green box for recycling. Alternatively use old cards to make present tags for next year or send an ecard instead.

Real Christmas trees: If they are more than 3ft high they need to go to the local household waste site, unless they can be chopped up and composted at home.

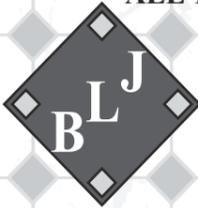
Tins, cans and foil: Cans should be rinsed and crushed and put in the green box, separate from newspapers/magazines and bottles. If cooking foil can't be reused, rinse it and put it in the green box. Don't forget to recycle aerosol cans!

Wrapping paper: Open presents carefully, fold the paper and use it again next year. Thicker better quality paper can be recycled, but the thinner papers can't. If in doubt please dispose of it in the black bin.

For more information please contact:

Helen Simpson
Communications officer
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EA
Direct Line: (01954) 713262, Fax: (01954) 713149
www.scambs.gov.uk

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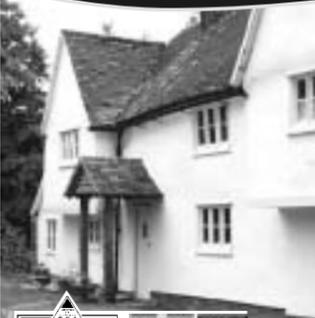


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Readers write ... Readers write ... Readers write ...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on Page 8. Please note: all letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited.

Hallowe'en dirty tricks

Dear Editor,
How I love old traditions! 31st October once again saw trick or treaters take to the streets of Linton... and the morning of 1st November saw my car windows covered in smashed eggs. Lovely!

Do parents in the village think about what their dependents get up to when they head off at night for "fun"?
Julie Platten
By e-mail

DVLA tells different stories

Dear Editor
Regarding your article in the Linton News, which may I add is a very good paper, about changing your postcode. I rang the DVLA and they said I must get a form from the post office, which I did.

The form informed me to have our photos taken and send them off with our old licences, which I did, at the cost of £8 and recorded delivery of £1.20. The forms were returned. Not good enough, they said, we

need more proof of your identity, either your passports or marriage certificate.

This is becoming a farce and is stressing us out big time. All we need for goodness sake is to change our postcode. Has the world gone mad? I have sent off once again, another £1.20. Let us await the results.

Mrs J A Roberts
Maple Close

I have had several communications about this issue and have double-checked with the DVLA, who are adamant that you do need to update your driving licence. Failure to do so may mean that your reminder will not be delivered and you could be in for a large fine if you drive without a current licence. The experience of one of the LN team members is that she upgraded her licence to a photocard one free of charge and it was returned within a week. Editor

Brilliant fireworks

Dear Editor
The fireworks were brilliant, especially the curly wurlies and constant showers of wonderfully colourful rockets. Anyone who went out of the village missed a great show this year.

Bob Hammett said the former huge bonfires used to keep the committee on security duty to 2am on Sunday, but now the smaller fire burns out and most of the workers can relax by 9pm the same evening - still a very long day by any reckoning.

Congratulations to everyone on the Fireworks committee who work so hard for this major village event.

Kate France
Emsons Close

WI has insight into art

 WE had an excellent meeting with an almost full turn out of members plus four visitors who we hope will join us in the future. Entries for guessing the weight of an enormous cake made by Eileen Impey and Christmas party tickets were on sale. Reminders were given about coffee mornings at Brenda's on 6th December and Wendy's on 9th January.

Carol Todd and Cynthia Norris reported on the Federation quiz. We had entered two teams this year and all had enjoyed themselves. Ann Simpkin thanked members for their harvest supper contributions.

The WI has hit the national press again; much praise was given to our campaigning for controversial issues such as Hampshire WI who are supporting legalisation of brothels to protect women who work in this business. We have a wonderful organisation that is not afraid to speak out on important things like women's rights, climate change, healthy eating etc.

Our speaker for the evening was Andrew Jackson on Van Eyck to Van Gogh. He gave an interesting insight on the 30 slides he showed us of paintings by the great masters. Many can be seen in galleries in the UK and Europe but some were unlikely to view as they are in private collections in the USA. We learned a lot, and I for one will look more closely for the details and meanings when visiting galleries in the future.

Next month's meeting at 7.30 pm on 4th December is the Christmas party. Don't forget to bring knife, fork, spoon and a wine glass to the party.

Tricia Lewis 893609

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	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays	SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays	SC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesday	CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time	VH
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076)	VH
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 10am & 11am Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Rhyme'n'rhythm tot's music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time	URC hall
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/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days, call 890248	SC

DECEMBER

1 Farmers' market, 9.30am	VH
1-22 Christmas Exhibition, 6-10pm	Darryl Nantais Gallery
2, 6-9 Exhibition 11am-6pm	Windmill gallery, Long Lane
3 Camera club meeting, 7.15pm	VH
4 WI, 7.30pm	VH
5 Reading group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
6 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
7 Boyz2Men celebration, 7.30pm	113a High St
8 One Tree Hillbillies, 9pm	King's Head Hadstock
8 Music society concert 7.30pm	LVC
9 Christingle service, 3pm,	St Mary's church
9 Camera club outing, 10am	Coles Lane car park
11 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
11 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
13 Luncheon club, 12noon	The Crown
13 ACE soup and rolls lunch, 12 for 12.30pm	VH
13,20,21 Christmas boogie nights, 7.30pm	Chilford Hall
13 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
15 Chestnut playgroup Christmas fair, 2pm	VH
18 Historical Society, 7.30pm	VH
19 CAMTAD Hearing Help, 9am-12noon	HC
22 Balsham Singers' Christmas concert, 7.30pm	Balsham church
26 Christmas big night out, 7.30pm	Chilford Hall
31 New Year's Eve party, 9pm	King's Head, Hadstock
31 New Year's Eve masked ball, 7.30pm	Chilford Hall

JANUARY 2008

2 WI, 7.30pm, Note day and venue change, Jan. only	CC
3 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
4 Late Christmas party, 7.30pm	Chilford Hall
5 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
5 Friends of St Mary's, coffee and mince pies, 11am	VH
5 Late late Christmas party, 7.30pm	Chilford Hall

KEY: CC Cathodeon Centre, HC Health Centre, LVC Linton Village College, SC Sports Centre, URC United Reform Church, VH Village Hall,

Refuse collection: 10th and 24th Dec, 7th January
Recycling collection: 3rd and 17th Dec.

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.

Your thanks

Dear Editor
We would like to thank all who made donations in memory of our dear son, Daniel. The overwhelming amount of £4000 was raised which has been divided equally between the Linton C of E Infant school and the Paediatric Intensive Care unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Our thanks also go to Su Matthews, Jane Rootes and Sue Golding for their organisation of a Pampered Chef 'Pimms and Puddings' evening held on 17th July, which, including donations, raised £700 for the CGD (Chronic Granulomatous Disease) Research Trust.

Anne and Andy Meeks
Pembroke Lane.

Dear Editor
We would like to thank the Linton News Team for still doing a great job in producing the excellent paper. We do enjoy getting it every month and thank you to Kate France who sends it to the wilds of Suffolk.

It does not seem possible that by the time the December issue of the Linton News comes out we will have been in Suffolk for nearly two years.

Though missing Linton in some ways we have no regrets at all at moving to this rural corner of Suffolk and just love our walks along the beach and quiet lanes.

Now Christmas is almost upon us and we would like to wish all the residents and friends we haven't seen for quite a while a "Happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year".

Take care of yourselves.
Clare and John Neville
Holton, Suffolk

Dear Editor
We would like to say a sincere and heartfelt goodbye to all customers and friends as we leave the Dog & Duck to take on the Black Bull in Balsham. Thank you all so much for your support, friendship and loyalty throughout a somewhat turbulent six and a half years, including a new thatch in our final weeks!

Bob and I would also like to thank our fantastic, loyal and dedicated staff. Thank you all for being so hard working and fun; we will miss you very much.

We have been very heartened at seeing, already, so many familiar faces regularly popping through our new doors at the Black Bull in Balsham - bless you for your support.

It was a very hard decision to leave Linton and our dear old pub, but it is time to move on. We will no doubt see many of you as we will be regularly popping back for our essentials and flowers!

Thank you again.
Tracey and Bob
The Dog & Duck

Dear Editor
Thank you so much to all who supported our recent coffee morning in aid of Save the Children and for the generous raffle donations. We raised the splendid total of £389. Our sincere thanks go also to our host and hostess Mr and Mrs Powell who kindly invited us into their home.
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Summer flowers in autumn as club hosts climate change talk

WALKING around Linton you could be forgiven for thinking autumn had decided not to arrive in some places as geraniums and fuchsia (seen below) and early irises are cheerfully flowering away. It's a perfect example of the way climate change is manifesting itself in our gardens. Fortunately George Thorpe, head gardener at Trinity College, visited the gardening club last month to help us make the most of the changes in our local climate and avoid too many disasters.

George ably cut through the complexity of climate change to highlight the main concerns for gardeners. The top two areas that will affect the way we garden locally are increases in average temperatures and a change to wetter winters and drier summers. He encouraged us to see these changes as a wonderful opportunity to try out new plants, and showed us photographs of beautiful plantings in Cambridge designed with this in mind.

However, changes also present a challenge with new pests arriving from Europe, such as the horse chestnut leaf miner seen around Cambridge of late. There will be more growth on plants we love but it will not just be those plants that prosper; the dreaded weeds will too! George gave a particularly helpful talk on local climate change that will inspire all our winter musings over what to



Wendy Francis tends her winter flowering Iris unguicularis, which has never bloomed before Christmas. This plant started flowering in September and was fading in early November – two months before it usually blooms. Pictures taken since 8th November by John and June Keeble and Ron Pitkin,

grow where next year.

The club's next meeting at 7.30pm on 11th December will feature Diane Wilson from the College of East Anglia demonstrating how to make gorgeous Christmas decorations using natural materials. This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies to usher in the festive cheer. Do come and join us at the village hall as we get into the Christmas spirit! If you could bring a glass with you it would be most helpful, thank you.

Kirsten Newble 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Linton's own Mastermind contestant

John, with his (fairly) lucky mascot – a Dalmatian in Admiral's uniform, practising at home for his ordeal in the Mastermind chair.



Pictures by Enid Bald

Picture below shows John's latest book.

WHO would suffer the ordeal of a public inquisition in the Mastermind black chair by John Humphrys? – none but our own John Bald. He came a creditable second – and the studio audience were certainly backing him!

John's specialist subject was "The naval careers of Nelson and Collingwood" – an intellectually demanding topic, unlike one of the subjects that day.... and I know that he *sometimes* listens to his wife, as a discussion we once had on cherry trees gave him a correct answer.

John is a consultant in modern languages, although mainly a Literacy Specialist. His research into the problems of reading and how to resolve

them has changed many lives. Reading is a vital skill, and being without it is a root cause of many behavioural problems.

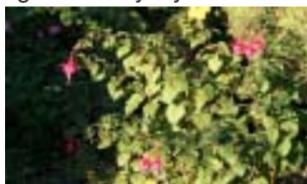
His book "The Literacy File" presents the essence of his teaching, from identifying causes of reading problems, to solving the difficulties of the spelling system – blame 1066!

His latest book "Using Phonics to Teach Reading and Spelling", was the Times Educational Supplement star read for five weeks. John has championed this system, modified through his own teaching experience and research, against all the trends – his own "30 years war" – to be accepted as the best way to teach most people to read.

John became a Mastermind contestant to meet John Humphrys, with whom he exchanges letters from time to time, and to publicise a new charity, A book of my own. This has been founded with Garth Collard so that children in care can have their own books, chosen by themselves, so they can discover the pleasure of reading and have a sense of personal investment in it.

John gave a talk to Linton ACEs on his Mastermind topic and another to Linton Historical Society is planned, in aid of the charity.

Enid Bald 891069



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Bob, Tracy & Carole have moved from the Dog & Duck to the Bull at Balsham. We will continue our 'Top'n'Tail' special of free starter and dessert with every main meal on Tuesdays from 29th November. Around the World Supper evenings continuing from January 2008

We look forward to seeing you in our new home!

A book of my own

BOOKS are vital to children – they help them to achieve both happiness and their potential as adults. But, while most get encouragement at home, those in care are not so fortunate.

That is why Linton literacy specialist John Bald and Garth Collard, former deputy head at Linton village college, have started a new charity, called A book of my own, to provide these children with their own books.

"We want them to choose their own books, to own them, to enjoy them and get from them what they need," said John. "It is a certain way to help them do well at school and in life."

The charity, based on an earlier project successfully run by John at Colchester, has already raised enough money for the first nine Cambridgeshire children to be provided with books worth up to £30 each. "There are so many more children to help and I now need to raise the money to do it," added John.

Sue Hains, who leads Cambridgeshire County Council's support team for children in care, has endorsed the scheme, and teachers on Sue's team will provide guidance to carers and children, as well as helping with organisation. "We have also had a promise of support from Caroline Derbyshire, principal of the village college, and are in discussions with other local authorities" said John.

"Many of us in Linton owe our livelihood and achievements directly or indirectly to early encouragement with reading from our parents, and often to having our own books. Giving more children a book of their own will help them to see their education as something in which they can invest and take pride. If you would like to help in any way, please get in touch with me via johnbald@talktalk.net"

If you would like to combine a good cause with a good event, John is offering to give his talk on Nelson and Collingwood – in return for a donation to A book of my own.

John Keeble

The big wild read

MAKE the world a better place. This year's summer reading challenge at the library – 'The Big Wild Read', gave children the chance to read lots of books, have loads of fun and help save the planet. Every book read for the challenge helped plant trees – great news for the environment!

Every year Cambridgeshire Libraries runs a summer reading game which challenges children to read six books over the summer holidays. All the children who took part were given a colourful folder to record their summer reading and collect sets of stickers to decorate the folder (including scratch and sniff stickers!) There were goodies to collect too – and we even gave a packet of wild flower seeds to the first 50 children who signed up. What's more, it was all free!!

At Linton Library we had even more children taking part this year; this would not have been possible without the very generous support of Linton Parish Council and the hard work of the Library Supervisor and her team at Linton library. We were able to put on special sessions in the library so that the children could talk about what they had read, collect their stickers and goodies and swap their books. We also, had visits from Linton Zoo personnel talking to families about their conservation programme and the important mini-beast creatures with whom we share our world.

Every child who completed the challenge was invited to a packed ceremony at the library on Saturday 15th September. 97 children (up on last year's figures) received their medal and certificate. Were you one of the Linton children who took part this year?

Very well done to all those who completed the challenge! Thank you to Linton Parish Council and all the staff at the library, for such a great result.

Anne Worthington
Librarian, Cambridge Library

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Left building the slum and right Sue and Jon cooking dinner

Pictures by Louise Rose



Slum survivors

"THE food you get doesn't have nourishment in it so you are constantly drained of energy," said Mat Fosberry, one of Linton's slum survivors who spent the last weekend of October in a makeshift home in the grounds of the United Reform church.

Four boys and nine girls, aged 13 to 16 from the three Linton churches – St Mary's, URC and Cornerstone – accepted the challenge to 'spend a few days the way a billion people spend a lifetime,' following on from Soul Survivor, a Christian weekend held at Shepton Mallet in August.

The teenagers split into 'families' of three and four, cooked two meals a day with just a quarter cup of rice and a quarter cup of lentils for each person, adding some herbs and

spices. Concerned about cooking the food, Laura North said she had no idea what to do to prepare the frugal meal

"Sleeping was warmer than in a tent," commented 14-year-old Jessica West who showed the layers of pallets insulated with cardboard, covered by a final layer of plastic sheets to protect them from the rain.

Although the slum dwellers woke early on Saturday morning, many delayed eating their first meal until mid-morning, hoping to stave off the hunger pangs later in the day before their second meal.

Slum survival was only too real for 14-year-old Nicole Tweed who "hated arriving back after a two mile walk and having to rebuild our homes destroyed by an earthquake."

Leaders Julia Burdett, Sue Filby, Sharon Whittle and Louise Rose said they were surprised that the youngsters

didn't seem to miss their computers, TV or mobile phones but readily joined in the walks and treasure hunt, and made up games to play around the fire at night.

On Sunday the youngsters led the prayers at the URC morning service, sharing some of their slum survivor experiences and challenges. Including donations from the congregation, the survivors have raised £700 for the chosen charities.

Each Linton participant was asked to raise £20 in sponsorship for the Tear Fund and Soul Survivor charities. They said about 200 people throughout the UK were taking part in the Slum Survivor weekend, including teams from two other churches in Cambridge.

To close the weekend the young people shared a meal prepared by Jane Whitmore and Clair West. Mrs Burdett said the youngsters agreed that food had never tasted so good.

Kate France 891602

The Friends' 2008 calendar

THE calendar has been selling like hot cakes with 120 sold in the first month. The help of the Linton Camera Club has been invaluable.

Two new postcards with views of Linton were also produced at the same time. They too have been well received and are available at Friends' events and, at any time, on 892988.

A Christmas quiz, engineered by Roy Petter, is ready for the Christmas bazaar.

The funds raised by these items are for essential church repairs.

Alan Clarkson

Prime Brass in concert

AT 7.30pm on Saturday 8th December at the village college, the Linton Music Society presents *Prime Brass*.

Following the success of their last visit to Linton (and the capacity audience they attracted – book early to avoid disappointment), *Prime Brass* provides another varied programme including some seasonal fare played in their own inimitable style. As well as some of the lighter repertoire for which they are renowned, at the heart of their programme is the *Sinfonietta* by Howard Blake – best known for his music for *The Snowman* and here revealed as a composer of real grandeur.

Tickets are available at the door or can be obtained in advance from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street Linton 893480.

There is a brochure available for the whole season. For a brochure or concert tickets please contact 894460 or 897983.

Hayley Donnan

Start your Christmas here

HAVERHILL Choral Society is launching a new logo as they present the posters to advertise their Christmas Concert.

The society was founded 147 years ago by Daniel Gurteen jnr. However, in keeping with the twenty-first century, it was decided this year to shorten the name to Haverhill Choral Society.

The choir will present Handel's *Messiah*, at 7.00pm on Sunday 16th December in the Old Independent church, Hamlet Road, Haverhill. They will be supported by an orchestra of some 20 musicians including Nigel Brown on the organ. Jane Wright will, as always, be the musical director and will welcome soloists Katherine Bundell (soprano), Ann Thomas (contralto), Nicholas Bewes (tenor) and Nick Fowler (bass).

Tickets, which include a buffet supper after the concert, are available from choir members or at the door on the night of the performance.

For further information please contact me. Roma Holmes 01440 705692



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Hardy snappers meet with nature



Seal and pup at Donna Nook

Picture by Maureen Williams

LINTON camera club members have had a month trying their skills on the natural world, with flying canine models and swimming and basking seals to tempt their shutter fingers.

On the first day after the clocks had been put back, three car loads of members braved the drizzle to travel to Swards End in Essex to take action shots of the dog agility class that takes place at Redgates Agility Club every week.

Some members had been inspired by a talk from camera club member Stuart Lyall at one of four monthly educational sessions, and so wanted to put his methods to the test. Unfortunately, poor light limited the action shots but we are planning to return on an early summer day next year.

A small, hardy group led by Ralph Atkinson put on their warm and waterproof clothing

and left Linton before the sun had risen. The destination was the bracing Lincolnshire coast to see the grey seals at Donna Nook. Once a year the seals come out of the sea and into the sand dunes to give birth and mate again before returning to the sea. Here you can see nature in the raw – the brutal rivalry between males for females and space, and the early stages of the pups' life of birth, suckling and moulting.

The club has one more photographic outing, taking Christmas pictures in Cambridge before the end of the year and its "First Monday" (of the month) evening meeting at the village hall, starting proceedings with a brief AGM, then long exposure to Christmas eating and drinking for the rest.

Linton Camera Club is open to everyone. For more information please contact Roger Lapwood on 891104 or Tracey Wilson on 891988 or visit our website:

www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk
Tracey Wilson and Maureen Williams



Bracken is put through her paces by her "Mum"
Picture by Tracey Wilson

A1307 speed limit

DURING July, officers from CCC carried out speed monitoring on the A1307 as the road had been chosen as a test route for their new revised speed limit policy.

In early November, Access 1307 was advised that the initial recommendations from this speed monitoring were as follows:

a) The section of single carriageway from Linton to the dual carriageway towards Horseheath has suitable conditions to allow introduction of a 50mph limit without engineering measures

b) The single carriageway from Little Abington to the dual carriageway south of Hildersham would need engineering measures investigated before a decision on the 50mph speed limit is made

c) The 40mph limits through Linton and Abington may be suitable for reduction to a 30mph limit but this would need further investigation.

d) All other speed limits on the road were considered to be appropriate for the existing conditions.

Whether a speed limit reduction will help accidents is a matter that is hotly debated, particularly when it comes to the enforcement of speed limits, but at least changes have been considered. Some other villages have had no positive news and there is great disappointment in Horseheath where there have been no recommendations for reduction, even though residents still have to cross the A1307 without the aid of crossing facilities.

Just a final point, even though Linton is lucky enough to have crossing points these should still be used with great care. The one at the Granta Garage is being regularly hit and it is still common for vehicles to go through a red light at the top of the High Street, so with the dark winter months upon us, when traditionally the accident rate on the road increases, please stay safe.

Esther Cornell

THE results of the speed limit survey carried out by County Highways on the A1307 are good news for Linton.

However we have yet to see the detailed study or to have the opportunity to question the findings. This should happen over the next few months when a joint committee of District and County Councillors will debate the matter.

It looks like a step in the right direction but we need to do much more to make the A1307 a safer road.

John Batchelor, District & County Councillor

New Linton directory

IT is several years since the Linton directory was issued and the Linton News team is hoping to produce an updated version early next year, both online and hard copy.

Owain Bury has been hard at work contacting all the people in the last issue and hopes to finalise the directory soon.

If you have not already been contacted by Owain, please could you contact him on 07701 019780 or by e-mail at koolowain1000mhz@hotmail.com if you wish your group or club to be in the directory.



Chef's corner

with Joel

Dare we mention the 'C' word?

CHRISTMAS is once again looming over us. Have you sent Auntie Mabel her card? Have you done your overseas messages? Are the children's stockings full of what they want, or what you want? But, worst of all, are we going to cater for an entire battalion of hungry soldiers when it's no different from a regular Sunday lunch with a couple more people.

I mean, it's no real surprise to see the cars parked half way back to Linton trying to get into Sainsbury's.

"But they are only shut for one day!"

Anyway, don't get me started on over consumerism. I often hear about turkey being a bit dry or flavourless and the sprouts being either hard or dark green and smelly, so maybe a couple of neat ideas for getting the Christmas meal sorted this year without the worries will be useful.

First of all make sure that the turkey is of good provenance and has been well looked after. A quality farm shop would be a good bet. When preparing the turkey approx (6-7 kgs) it should be lightly seasoned and turned onto its breast for the first hour (200°C Gas 4) Always be par-cooking your potatoes in water at this stage. After the hour turn the bird onto its back and return it to the oven, with the potatoes in the meat juices that have collected thus far. Season again. This can go back for a further hour, but always check after about 40 mins. A skewer can be inserted into the most dense area, usually the thigh; if the juices run red it's not cooked, if the juices run clear then take the bird out and leave to stand with a foil blanket. The potatoes should be ready by now and placed in a dry tray and left in a cool part of the oven

Meanwhile you have been doing the vegetables by way of blanching the sprouts in boiling water until they become resistant to a small knife. Then chill them in cold water. This can be done the night before if you like. They can now be cut into quarters and reheated in a frying pan with a little seasoning, butter, a few tinned chestnuts and some cooked bacon.

Make the gravy in the roasting tin that the turkey was cooked in and strain it into a jug.

Hey presto. Beautifully simple moist roast turkey with tasty roast potatoes, dynamic sprouts that actually taste nice and all with a homemade turkey gravy.

Doing it this way should give you the time to enjoy your Christmas day stress free, wondering if that queue was any smaller. Probably not!

Merry Christmas.

Joel Palmer and family

Linton CE Infant school is outstanding – Ofsted

LINTON CE Infant school was pronounced an outstanding school about which parents are overwhelmingly positive, by Ofsted – the Office for Standards in Education when they visited in October.

"Excellent teaching means that every pupil is encouraged and helped to do their best. Talented support staff contribute very strongly to progress. Teachers have very high expectations and challenge pupils of all abilities."

"Pupils' personal development is outstanding." The inspector said all pupils, includ-

ing those with learning difficulties and those who speak English as an additional language, made excellent progress.

Pupils in turn were praised for their good manners and behaviour. "They are very polite and their behaviour is excellent. Pupils receive outstanding care, support and guidance. They thoroughly enjoy coming to school and this is evident in the way they work and play together".

She stressed that the outstanding leadership of headteacher Heather Sturman

was fundamental to the school's success. "She provides a very strong lead to the staff. There is a obvious sense of team spirit between teachers, support staff and governors, who all fulfil their rôles exceptionally well."

Governors were also highlighted: "The governing body is extremely well informed and led by a knowledgeable and active chair of governors."

The school was encouraged, as already identified by staff, to narrow the gap between standards in writing and those in reading, and to help pupils

assess their own work and that of their peers.

Headteacher Heather Sturman said: "I feel proud and extremely privileged to work with such a strong team of pupils, staff, governors and parents. This report is a real credit to all those involved in our school and who have helped us to meet our vision. The future is bright!"

Heather is taking maternity leave from the end of this term. We wish her well and will try to let you know when junior arrives. Louise Clark, deputy head, will be acting during Heather's absence. LNT

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Trainee spies?: club members Ralph Atkinson and Richard Smith on the case
Picture by Maureen Williams

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PLUMBLINE

Seasonal exhibition at the Darryl Nantais gallery

OUR Christmas show, from 1st to 22nd December, contains a wonderful range of work from many of our favourite artists. We will have a diverse and colourful collection of original paintings, prints, photographs, gifts and much more.

We are proud to show paintings and drawings by local artists and to introduce new names into the gallery. Some artists you may recognise – John Glover, Katherine Fairey, Sue Walker, Janet Rogers, Sylke Claridge, to name but a few!



'Lady in Red' by Ophelia Redpath
Picture supplied by the gallery

New pieces to the gallery include some of the latest prints by Sue Howells, special edition prints by Quentin Blake and Beatrix Potter and two striking prints by Ian Faulkner. A print by Storm Thorgerson celebrating 40 years of Pink Floyd features all of the album covers designed by Thorgerson. An exceptional piece, it is an edition of 160; sure to be a sell out.

The Darryl Nantais Gallery
59 High Street, Linton
891289

Balsham singers' Christmas concert

FOR those of you who like to hear music which is familiar, we will be singing excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and giving a performance of Hubert Parry's rousing "Blest Pair of Sirens" at 7.30pm on Saturday 22nd December, in Balsham church, with orchestra and soloists.

Completely new to Balsham will be a performance of George Dyson's "In Honour of the City". (London of course). This is a setting of

William Dunbar's poem.

Dyson is a very much underrated and under performed composer of excellent choral works and this is no exception with both rousing tunes and gentle passages. This will be a unique opportunity to hear a work that is rarely performed.

Unaccompanied music to please the ear, and Balsham church resounding to carols sung by everyone accompanied by the orchestra will complete the programme.

Mince pies and festive drinks will be served in the interval.

Come and make this a very special occasion for singers and audience alike.

Put the date in your diary now!

Tickets will be available from Balsham Post Office or members of the group at the beginning of December.

Rodney Bryant
Secretary Balsham Singers

Meet the new landlord of The Dog & Duck

A FOND farewell to Bob Aand Tracey and please give a warm welcome to Chris Varian, the new landlord of Greene King's flagship pub, The Dog & Duck in Linton.

Chris took over on 15th November giving himself enough time to settle in before the busy December run up to Christmas.

Chris is no stranger to Linton. His family on his mother's side has lived in Linton for four generations. His father and grandfather used to sup a drop of Abbot ale in the pub when Dennis Phelps was landlord back in the seventies, 13 landlords ago!

Chris said "I could hardly believe it when The Dog & Duck became available. It's the opportunity I've been seeking for quite some time to move back to Cambridgeshire. It's quite different from the city pub I was managing in Southampton and I'm delighted to have been chosen by Greene King to advance it through the



Chris, returning to his roots

Picture supplied by Nigel Varian

next stage in its long history."

Chris will not be making any changes in the short term and the same friendly team will continue to serve the customers. In the longer term he'll be looking at what can be done to develop the restaurant business which is such an important part of the modern pub. Having been instrumental in the past in building up the restaurants in two previous pubs, The Red Lion in Oxfordshire and The Langton Arms in Dorset, Chris has some well developed ideas.

Linton residents will have

noticed a big change in the appearance of The Dog & Duck as the old reed has been stripped off the roof to make way for a brand new thatch. Inside it's the same cosy atmosphere and "business as usual!" Once complete The Dog & Duck will truly become the star of Greene King's large family of country pubs.

Bookings for Christmas lunches and dinners are now being taken. For more information please call Chris on 891257.

Nigel Varian

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY

by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

A celestial season

I HAVE always professed Linton to be a very special village. The last ice age and consequent glaciation contributed to its unique geology by gouging out a trough and leaving a chalky bump surrounded by an otherwise flat landscape. The mysteries of our dip 'n hill surface like hidden treasures, slowly, over time, and are not the reserve of those with only esoteric interests.

The strong November wind lingered, then lulled under an autumnal blue sky. I looked through sparsely leaved branches of the cemetery's tall trees, to see three seagulls glide peacefully by!

A wispy mini whirlwind curdled the air with showers of golden leaves, falling like confetti o'er the marriage of Miss Autumn and Mr Winter. This is the way of the world proclaimed Mr Time Passing, for it seems a little part of everything must die before new life can begin again. I think it was Shelley who wrote 'The trumpet of a prophesy! O' wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind? My cats have taken to napping tail to tail in the afternoon, a sure sign of frosty days to come!

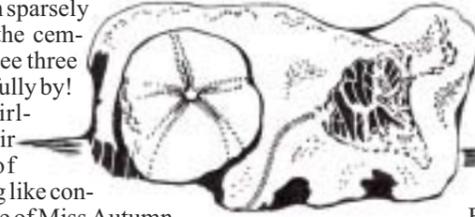
Not so long ago, at two in the morning, seated up the hill upon the bench donated by the Women's Institute I watched in awe the predicted meteor showers. Walking there one recent afternoon I plucked a stone of remarkable appearance believing it to be coprolite, perhaps fossilised dinosaur excrement! This would not have been extraordinary given coprolite mining was big business in Cambridgeshire during the 19th century, apparently for calcium phosphate extraction.

However, by the time I reached home I realised in all probability the object in my hand was of extraterrestrial origins, heavy for its size, with a brown glaze indicating high iron content. After testing its specific gravity at 'Small Gifts' (where else?) and showing it to a number of Lintonians, all agreed it to be a meteorite. The internet also revealed information on an almost identical specimen found in China from a 'fall of stars' in 1516 at Nandan.

It was 500 years later when local inhabitants collecting 'iron ore' found smelting the pieces at the cottage furnaces impossible. Scientists were brought in, proving the 'ore' to be alpha iron or kamacite meteorites, with a nickel content of up to 7%. One cannot help but feel the strangeness of this Rivey Rock. Being sceptical of claims that these are sacred stones from the heavens I can report the exceptional fortune of a number of those who have already held it in their palms!

It has also prompted some to be more wide-eyed and sprightly in their observations, recovering such jewels as seen in Maureen's beautiful illustration of a fossilised sea urchin.

The word urchin, by the way comes from old French *erichon* meaning,



hedgehog!

Meteorite and fossil hunting is of growing popularity and where better than Linton to start? Almost 90% of meteorites are magnetic though most magnetic rocks found on earth are meteorite-wrongs. Death by meteorite seems incredibly rare; this one just missed me by several inches and several weeks, although a cow was struck in the USA and in 1911 a dog was killed by a bolide in Egypt. Hopefully in the near future Santa will slip a museum in Linton's Christmas stocking where all our finds and historical records may be housed!

Until next year – a very merry celestial season to you all.



Possible meteorite found by Darryl at the top of Rivey Hill in October

January deadlines

PLEASE get your articles to us for our January edition before our next deadline of 7th December.

We will endeavour to deliver the paper between Christmas and New Year so if you have anything you wish to publicise for 2008, now is your best opportunity.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from the Linton News team.
Editor

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The Derbyshire Post

I AM writing this on Thursday 15th November following a long and extremely successful day at the college. The euphoria has not quite worn off.

Yesterday we were visited by Ofsted for our inspection – they are scrutinising all of the schools in the area at the moment (the Meadow school at Balsham will be inspected today, Linton Infant school was inspected a few weeks ago).

We, like the Infants', had a "reduced tariff" inspection; one inspector came for one very long day. We were given only three working days of notice. The inspector was testing our own self-evaluation, rather than making judgements for himself. We had tentatively described ourselves as "outstanding" on the basis of evaluation – his job was to decide if we were right. I'll let you know of his decision next month when the outcomes are published (I'm not permitted to share the outcome with you at this stage) but if I were to tell you that the atmosphere around college today is gleeful, then you know that we are confident about what will be in that report.

The rigours of the inspection were brought to an end by a delightful event; our Presentation Evening. The prodigal Year 11 of last year returned with their parents to hear the inspiring story of guest speaker Danny Crates, paralympic 800m gold medal champion. Danny lost his arm in a car crash at the age of 21, but grit and determination spurred him on to become an elite athlete. He was engaging and funny, embodying an important message; life will not always go exactly to plan, but the determination to meet hurdles as and when they arrive helps us all to achieve success. Year 11 had their fair share of these hurdles in the run up to their GCSEs, losing as they did two of their classmates in such tragic circumstances. They understood, in a deep way, the message Danny had for them and the evening transcended the ordinary and became magical for all of us.

At this moment, I know that this job is both a pleasure and a privilege.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/2011/07/F Linton CE Infant School, Church Lane, Linton. Gazebo.

S/2112/07/F English Courtyard Developments Ltd., Borley House, 1 Horseheath Road, Linton. Erection of 10 sheltered retirement homes.

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

The pub, the Princess and the drunken schoolboy

THE Princess of Wales public house closed in September 1991 because Whitbread found it to be unprofitable.

New legislation limited the number of public houses large breweries could own and the trade at the Linton pub had been declining for some time. By then the Princess of Wales in Linton was one of a handful left carrying that name in Britain.

We know that Robert Brand and his wife Charlotte ran a beer house on this site as early as October 1830 since a court case records an assault on the couple by two Linton labourers. Thomas Seaman and Charles Marsh were both sentenced to one month in prison with hard labour. Charlotte Brand was the licensee after her husband's death, and she was prosecuted and fined 7/- (35p) in 1845 for selling beer on a Sunday.

By September 1862 the beer house had been purchased by Oliver Fordham of Ashwell and he adopted the Princess of Wales name in 1863. Albert Prince of Wales, the later King Edward VII, married Princess Alexandra of Denmark at Windsor Castle in March 1863 when he was 21 years of age and she only 18. The whole country was ecstatic and astute brewers hastily renamed their



A view of the Princess which most of us will recognise

Picture by Garth Collard

The Princess in a previous life

Picture courtesy The Cambridge collection



public houses to exploit this enthusiasm.

In Linton the royal marriage was celebrated in some style. The bells were pealed at 8am, flags covered every building, rural sports took place in the recreation ground, there was a pyrotechnic display on Rivey Hill, and to end the proceedings a torchlight procession perambulated the town.

However, one schoolboy called Fuller Chapman obviously wanted the festivities to continue because 10 months later he was "tempted into the Princess of Wales during the

school dinner break by a boy not belonging to Linton Church School." These were the words headteacher Frederick Mutimer later wrote in the Log Book after he discovered Chapman "in a state of intoxication" during the first afternoon lesson. After school all the scholars were assembled to watch Chapman being flogged by Mr Mutimer.

Before 1914 the pub was the base for the Granta Athletic Club formed in 1903 and in March of that year Linton won the county cross country championship. Medals were

presented to the triumphant runners at a smoking concert and dinner hosted at the Princess of Wales.

The Princess of Wales was quite a small pub and the clientele were mainly labourers. By the 1930s the pub's location on the main road through Linton to Clacton attracted coach parties at weekends, and this profitable trade required larger premises.

The old building was demolished in 1936 when Charles Dobson was the landlord. The new pub was built by Paintins and was located to the rear of the old site, set back from the main street. Fordham's of Ashwell were still the owners and the pub secured a licence to sell wine as well as beer. In 1956 Fordham's became part of the Flowers Brewery group, and by the 1970s Whitbread acquired the premises.

Customers in the 1970s often referred to the pub as "the Danish Princess" and one customer, whilst searching the attics found a rolled up Victorian poster of Princess Alexandra. Since 1991 the former pub has been a private residence.

On Tuesday 18th December at the Historical society meeting I will be talking on "Linton Village College, the first 20 years". All welcome, guests pay £2.

Come and join us at the mob motorcycle club

SOMETIMES there may be clubs or meetings going on in Linton about which little is known.

The mob (men on bikes) motorcycle club has been meeting since 2001 – the idea was thought up by Dave Hall, Max Penfold and myself (Stuart Stanley) over a pint in the Crown one Sunday evening.

Since then, we have arranged various weekend rides, and every year we have a long weekend away. 2003 saw us in Devon, 2004 Cumbria, 2005 Germany (with the help of my school pen friend who is now in the German police!) and in 2006 Normandy. This year we went to the Harz mountains for a week, and on our return two of us, including myself, went back to ride around

Europe, visiting race circuits for the charity Clic Sargent. In all £85,000 was raised (see article in August's Linton News).

Other than this, we get together for meals out, go to the various motorcycle shows and race meetings (WSB, BSW, etc).

Soon, we will have our Christmas get-together, where our wives and partners join us, and we start thinking of where we would like to go for our next adventure.

Our group consists of local people and also several from quite far afield; from Papworth, Glemsford and even my cousin from Devon comes to join us.

If you fancy joining us on our rides, drop me a note at stuartj.stanley@o2.co.uk Stuart Stanley

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THE LINTON NEWS

Next Publication Date 7th January 2008

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NEWS ITEMS Friday 7th December

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR

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Parish Council Matters

The Financial Story of the Parish Council

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

HAVE YOU ever wondered who pays for the High Street to be cleaned; who pays for the recreational land to be maintained; who pays for the cemetery to be maintained; who pays for the children's play equipment; who pays for the notice boards; who pays to keep the bus shelters clean and who pays to clean up the mess in the recreational areas?

The answer is, if you pay council tax, **you** do.

Have you ever wondered how all these things miraculously get done, plus a lot more in the village?

The answer is, **we** do it.



Colin the Village Custodian cleaning in Linton High Street

The money you give is managed by the parish council and using this money we aim firstly to maintain and secondly to improve your village. As it is your money, you may have ideas about what you would like in the future to improve Linton facilities. If so, we would like to hear from you. Firstly, however, I will explain how the financial process works and the constraints we have to work under.

Every year around this time the parish council has to assess how much funding will be required for the following financial year. We hold a special meeting called a precept meeting which is when councillors discuss and agree on the projected financial commitment for the parish for the following financial year.

What is the precept?

The parish council precept is an amount of money that South Cambridgeshire district council collects from residents, on our behalf, and is included in everyone's council tax. Although SCDC collects the money from you, it is the parish council which has to estimate the amount it will require in order to fund the parish's financial commitments during the following year. Our precept for the current year is £127,500.

What are our financial commitments?

There are some commitments that are essential and occur every year such as grass cutting, administration costs, litter picking and more recently street lighting. Likewise, it is always necessary to request funds annually for essential maintenance

and to cover the unexpected repair bill for equipment owned by the parish. Repairing parish owned property, that is your property, is an area which unfortunately requires increasing amounts of funding due to vandalism. These essential commitments are not what you would call exciting, but if they were not funded the quality of village life as we know it would decline, and the parish clerk would be inundated with your complaints. Hence at least 60% of the precept is for essential items of expenditure.

The remaining precept requests last year included funding for repairing the walls in the churchyard, additional play equipment, new notice board and improvements to Lady Bridge, Horn Lane.. We are also encouraged by central government to request funding within our precept to build up our reserves.

There are often occasions when we have to budget over



Repairs finished on Lady Bridge

several precepts in order to be able to progress a project, as we did to fund the major revamp of the recreational facilities and the establishment of the Cathodeon Centre facility. Currently we are budgeting for the extension of the pathway at Kingfisher Walk, resurfacing the bowling green, repairs to the cemetery and resurfacing the car park. We will whenever possible apply for grants to help fund special projects in order to maximise use of your money.

We are also able to fund activities or projects run by local groups for the benefit of people in our area by using what are termed Section 137 payments. There is a limit to the total value of these payments each year based on the number of residents on the electoral register, which was £5.64 per elector. This increases slightly each year. Over the years we have given donations, following requests, to a variety of groups including the Guides, the Scouts, Activities and Care for the Elderly, the Churches, Aztecs Junior Football Club, Camera Club, Music Society, Air Training Corps, Cricket Club and Linton Action for Youth.

Next year's precept

We will be setting next year's precept very early in January. The decision regarding the final amount of money we will be requesting from SCDC as our precept has not yet been made. You still have time to let us know whether your local group needs help with a specific project or whether you have thoughts on a project that will benefit the village as a whole.



Repairs being carried out on flint wall in the Churchyard

Pictures by Sue Parry

Your input

If your local group requires help please let us know now. We need proof that your group is up and running correctly, is local and benefits local people together with a request for a specific item with costing. It is possible we may be able to part fund an item, even if we cannot fund it totally. We cannot promise that there will be funding for every request but we will certainly help if we can. Tell us clearly why you need funds and how it will benefit your group.

Please act now if you would like your request to be considered for funding in the next financial year. Once the precept is set we will not have surplus funds to finance new requests during the next financial year.

If you have an idea don't delay. Write to us by mid December, at the very latest, with details of your request. We would very much like to help your group with your money.

Cllr Val Urwin
Chair Finance Committee

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: C. 891001
www.lintonpc.org.uk
Clerk to the Council – M^{rs} Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon, & 4–5.45pm,
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December 6th 2007, January 3rd and 17th 2008
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MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 4th October.

Present: A Gore - Chair, Ms E Cornell - Vice Chair, Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr D White, Mrs S Parry - Clerk and Mrs K France - Press.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Gee, Linsdell and Urwin.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hickford declared a personal interest under item 114 (Pavilion lease).

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2007- Under item 99 Cllr Hickford reported that the Community Safety Officer has taken photos of the pavilion and Camping Close in order to help us with the project to install CCTV equipment. Under item 94 Cllr Cox reported that the village sign has been taken down as recommended.

Reports from Co-ordinators

ii) Recreation Ground - A written report from Cllr Krarup had been circulated. The clerk confirmed that 5 Star Pest Control have been contacted regarding the moles. Cllr Gore reiterated that no quotations have been received regarding the path to the clapper stile. Cllr Potter reported that there is already a litter bin by the skateramp. Cllr Gore reported that a response has been received from Greengauge Surfaces and Cambridge county council regarding the problems with drainage to the bowling green. A meeting will be set up shortly.

iv) Rights of Way - Cllr Rossiter reported that several fields have now been ploughed and we should contact Mr Fairey in due course asking him to reinstate the cross field paths.

v) Venture Playground - Cllr Hammett reported that the play equipment has been repaired. Cllr Cornell will check out the broken hinge this weekend.

vi) Leadwell Meadows - Cllr White reported that the far meadow has been mown but the remainder is now overdue to be cut.

vii) Glebe Land - Cllr Rossiter reported that the grass needs cutting.

viii) Churchyard - Cllr Cox reported that Mr Cahill is making slow progress on repairing the wall. He will finish section 2 first and then move on to the gate posts.

x) A1307 - Cllr Cornell reported that several Sunday's ago the A1307 was closed when a power cable caught fire. This again brought chaos to the village but it was fortunate that it was a Sunday. She will chase up a response regarding the re-routing of HGVs.

Discussion regarding pavilion lease

Cllr Hickford circulated a report outlining his concerns regarding the pavilion lease. Discussion took place but no decisions were made. This item will be forwarded to the meeting of 18th October 2007.

Correspondence list for discussion

Item 48 CCC Jigsaw Community Archaeology Project Proposal - To support community archaeology projects. It was unanimously agreed to give our support to this project.

Item 44 Cambs Police request to use the IT systems at the Parish Office - The request was granted.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Krarup asked if there are any restrictions on the grain driers at Camgrain. Cllr Cox reported that restrictions have been relaxed.

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 18th October.

Present: Councillors A Gore (Chair), Ms E Cornell (Vice Chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, S Daly, M Gee, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr V Urwin; Mrs S Parry (Clerk). County and District Councillor J Batchelor, District Councillor Mrs T Bear, Mrs K France (Press) together with seven members of the public

The Chair welcomed Mr Simon Daly following his election to the Council. Councillor Daly signed the Acceptance of Office.

Open Forum: No members of the public sought to address the Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr J Rossiter and Dr D White.

Declaration of Interests

Under item 124, Planning application S/1881/07/F, Beechdale Homes plc, Land r/o Newdigate House, Horseheath Road, Cllrs Cornell and Hickford declared personal and prejudicial interests as community governor and local authority governor respectively of the Junior school. Cllr Daly declared a personal and prejudicial interest by reason of the proximity of his house to the proposed development.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 4th October

Under item 116, Cllr Bald reported that she had contacted the Environmental Health Officer and had been advised that Camgrain remained subject to the original condition relating to permitted noise levels.

Report from County Councillor J Batchelor

The Infant School had just received the result of its recent Ofsted report and had been rated as 'outstanding' in all but one area.

It was now hoped that the work of partially resurfacing Coles Lane and of footpath works on Back Road would commence by 29th October. The work was being done in three stages by three different contractors, with the anticipated sequence of works being as follows:

Week 1 - two days for kerbing to secure the bank;
Week 2 - two days for resurfacing the right hand side of the road;

Week 3 - resurfacing of footpath and installation of the new bus stop on Back Road.

There was no plan to close Coles Lane as only part would be resurfaced, but there would be parking restrictions.

Report from District Councillor Mrs T Bear

Cllr Bear thanked Cllr Cornell for her excellent presentation of the Parish Council's representations to the District council's planning committee regarding the Flaxfields development. Unfortunately, the application was approved by the committee. The photomontages supplied by Hereward Housing, although inaccurate in Cllr Bear's opinion, appeared to have a significant impact on the committee's view. Cllr Bald expressed her concern that council housing was not always being allocated to local deserving people. Cllrs Bear and Batchelor agreed to look into this matter.

Report on Policing, Safety and Security

Notes on the Linton Neighbourhood Panel Meeting received from Cambridgeshire constabulary were considered. Notice of Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch Executive Group Annual Conference on 17th November. This was noted. Cllr Hickford had previously circulated notice of a meeting with Dick Moore and Hilary Conner from the Community Safety Unit and Martin Beaumont from Cambridge City CCTV unit to investigate the feasibility of possible sites, types of camera required and estimates of initial and running costs for CCTV equipment. Councillors were requested to advise Cllr Hickford if they wished to attend.

Consideration of planning application S/1881/07/F

Beechdale Homes plc, Land r/o Newdigate House, Horseheath Road - approval of layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping for 11 dwellings. Cllr Cornell and members of the public addressed the meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Council's adopted Code of Conduct. Cllr Cornell reported that the Junior School was very concerned and disappointed that it was proposed that the copse screening the pool area would be removed.

Mr Jim Mulley expressed concern at the apparent moving of the access road further up Horseheath Road, resulting in poor visibility for vehicles exiting the development. Mrs Debbie O'Brien expressed concern regarding loss of privacy and

sunlight to her house and the removal of the tree buffer zone on the northern boundary. Mrs Chris Ellis expressed concern regarding road safety, the loss of the northern boundary trees and scrub land on eastern boundary which provided biodiversity and the inclusion of two and a half storey houses. Ruth Wilkinson asked for a full biodiversity report to protect bats. Cllrs Cornell, Daly and Hickford withdrew from the meeting. After a lengthy discussion the Council agreed unanimously to object to the application on the following grounds: The access road should not be higher up Horseheath Road than had been previously approved and there should only be one access road, including the access to Newdigate House. The proposed development was contrary to policies SE2 and HG10 as referred to by the Planning Inspectorate in the previous decision notice and would have a serious impact on the amenities of 29 and 31 Dolphin Close. The trees on the northern boundary should be retained because of the impact of the proposed development on the school and the existing trees should be strengthened by additional tree planting. The scrub land on the eastern boundary should be retained to maintain biodiversity. All dwellings should be restricted to 2 storeys in height. A full biodiversity survey should be undertaken prior to any development commencing.

No properties on the northern and eastern boundaries of the development should be allowed any permitted development rights. The proposed rumble strip was unnecessary and liable to cause a noise nuisance. There should be a requirement that any landscaping undertaken by the developers should be maintained thereafter by the householders. DC Batchelor reported that the Tree Officer would be visiting the site on 19th October to ascertain the condition and position of the trees. It was suggested that the school might investigate the possibility of purchasing the tree buffer zone.

Cllrs Cornell, Daly and Hickford returned to the meeting.

Discussion on the installation of a dog bin on Paynes Meadow at a cost of emptying of £6 per week. It was agreed that the Council should refuse the offer by the District council to empty the proposed bin at a cost of £6 per weekly visit. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate alternative ways of emptying the proposed bin.

Further discussion regarding the pavilion lease

A written report from Cllr Gore had been circulated. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with all users of the pavilion to outline the council's concerns, including the increase in the number of vehicles driving to and from the pavilion, their speed, and the leaving of the gate open and to remind users of the terms and conditions of the lease. It was agreed that there should be a limit on the number of key holders and on the number of vehicles using the recreation ground.

Correspondence list for discussion

Item 9 - Minor Highway Improvement Scheme 2008/9 bids, to be submitted by 26th November - It was agreed that Councillors should send any suggestions to Cllr Urwin for collation.

Item 18 - Tree works at 2 Church Lane - It was reported that deemed consent had been obtained to remove the tree at 2 Church Lane which was causing damage to the listed outbuilding at 70 High Street. Cllr Batchelor stated that although deemed consent had been granted to remove the tree this did not mean that the occupiers of 2 Church Lane had to remove the tree, and that the only way this could be achieved would be through a legal process.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Cornell noted the importance of ensuring that all construction traffic generated by the approved redevelopment of Flaxfields avoided the High Street.

Cllr Cox reported that the quotation for the refurbishment of the paintwork on the village sign might be in the region of £800 although the timber itself was in good condition and that he intended to ask Darryl Nantais to give his opinion on the work required.

Note: Copies of reports and documents referred to in these minutes can be inspected at the Council's office.

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