

Guides' jumble sale at 2pm on Saturday 12th March in Linton Infant school see page 4

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THE LINTON NEWS

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Children's magical Book Festival is close

THE 2016 Linton Children's Book Festival is now only a couple of months away. With a theme of *Magic, Myth and Mystery*, on the weekend of 21st to 22nd May we'll be offering lots of magical activities for families to enjoy. This includes entertaining talks by award-winning writers and illustrators such as James Mayhew, Robin Stevens and SF Said; creative workshops and story-telling; and fun drop-in activities, including hands-on science from Cambridge Science Centre. Also, there will be muggle quidditch on Camping Close the week before. See our website www.lintonbookfest.org.



Honorary patron
Helen Moss

Picture supplied by Helen Moss
We are excited to announce that author Helen Moss has become our honorary patron. Helen, who lives in the area, has written many children's books including the popular Adventure Island series. As well as appearing at the festival, Helen will visit Linton Heights to run workshops with the children. She describes our event as "a

true celebration of the joy and adventure of reading" – we hope you'll agree.

We'll be distributing printed programmes after Easter so local families can get a head start on booking ticketed events. As always, events are free and open to all, although we do encourage you to make a donation to support the festival if you can.

The festival wouldn't be possible without volunteers. If you can spare some time to help us, especially during the weekend of 21st to 22nd May, we'd love to hear from you at info@lintonbookfest.org or call Anna on 892525. It should be fun.

Anna McMahon

Linton and Sawston GP Practices merger

THE two partnerships merge on 1st April 2016 to form Granta Medical Practices. Our computer systems will then merge on 20th to 21st April.

This is a huge piece of work for which we have been preparing for quite some time. Both Sawston and Linton sites will be closed from 1pm on the 20th April until mid-day on the 21st April.

All calls will be diverted to the out-of-hours service, which will provide emergency medical cover during this period.

Both practices will close their computer systems down by mid-afternoon on the 20th April with all electronic lab results and hospital letters having to be checked and filed – quite a task for the GPs.

The merger will then run overnight. Any forward bookings for appointments at Linton site will not transfer and Linton will aim to minimise forward bookings as much as

possible in the run up to the merger.

On the morning of 21st April we will need some time to check that everything is working as it should, and our reception staff will manually input all the pre-booked appointments for Linton. By mid-day we hope to have this work completed and we will be ready to resume normal service.

As always, we appreciate the support of all our staff and also the support and understanding of our patients as we prepare for the future.

The next update will come from Granta Medical Practices – the culmination of several years of hard work and collaboration between the GPs and practice staff.

Sheila Griffiths Practice Manager
Linton Health Centre
Gerard Newnham
Business Practice Manager
Sawston Medical Practice.

Doors finally close on Hadstock pub, but you can help re-open them



The King's Head in happier times

Picture from the archives, 2013

IT is with sadness that we, members of Hadstock Community Pub Limited (HCPL) report that the Kings Head public house has now been boarded up, and how dark and dreary it looks.

David Taylor, the publican ran the pub successfully, but was asked to vacate the building by the freeholders of the property. Their reasoning behind evicting David was that, in their opinion, the building was a health and safety hazard, and they were no longer prepared to allow the pub to continue to operate as it could expose them to unacceptable risks. Our investigations have indicated that none of these issues prevented the pub from operating normally, although there are matters we will address urgently once we have bought the pub.

Derek Bushell and James Beaumont met for crisis talks with a representative of the owners on Wednesday 13th January, and the owners were adamant that they wanted the building to close, unless our committee could come up with £190,000 within two weeks and purchase the building, allowing David Taylor to remain. Of course the committee knew this was an impossible task, bearing in mind our account currently holds approximately £60,000. We offered £180,000,

subject to the agreement of the shareholders, to exchange contracts and pay a 15% deposit, providing they gave us six months to raise the funds and complete the purchase. This was dismissed by the owners on the basis that they wanted evidence that the full £180,000 was available immediately.

However, we felt we had to try and consequently went to the local press. We received lots of press coverage and received a few enquiries but did not manage to raise the funds needed.

We have been advised by the owners that the pub will remain for sale and will now be marketed as seen.

The Asset of Community Value status is still in place, currently helping safeguard the use of the building as a Public House. We are working with the Parish Council and Uttlesford District Council, to ascertain if we can now invoke the six month moratorium to allow the community to purchase the pub.

We remain committed to raising the funds to purchase the building. We are hopeful that new investors will come forward, and we are pleased that a few of our investors have decided to increase their shareholding and we ask other shareholders to do the same.

We are also considering the possibilities of accepting private loans (although the legal situation will have to be thoroughly looked into, and lenders may want to take their own independent financial advice).

In this connection we are applying to HMRC for advance assurance to join the Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR) scheme. This is similar to the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), for which we have already received advance assurance, but this also applies to loans. There is still the 30% tax relief for tax payers and, most importantly, SITR is dedicated to social enterprises.

We plan to have a meeting of shareholders in the near future.

We welcome any ideas that you may have to help us raise further funds. Derek Bushell 07971 413355, Stella Parker 07967 486236 and Dr Brendan Burchell on 07760 178200 look forward to hearing from you with regards to financial help and ideas
Karen Delamain

Music Society welcomes award winning pianist



Mishka Rushdie Momen

Picture © Benjamin Ealovega

THE Music Society is very pleased to welcome the celebrated young pianist, Mishka Rushdie Momen to Linton Village College at 7.30 pm on Saturday 19th March.

Mishka has won many prestigious awards in Europe and the United Kingdom and has given recitals in New York and throughout Europe and the UK.

THIS Easter, Linton Health Centre will be saying goodbye to its practice manager, Sheila Griffiths. Sheila has been working there for over 26 years and is one of the few practice manager partners in the medical profession.

Until 1989 Sheila had been working at Adenbrookes in the medical photography department.

She applied for an administration post in Linton two days before the first clinical computer arrived. The current practice manager had already set her retirement date and after working part-time for several years,



Sheila, who is leaving the Health Centre

Picture taken by Julian

Sheila took up the post full time in 1995, never imagining that she would stay for the rest of her working life.

Sheila has seen many changes during her time in Linton, chiefly computerisation and targets.

She has loved working closely with both staff and patients and will miss them all very much. However, she plans to take a long holiday touring and travelling in Europe with her husband, who retired a few years ago. And then... who knows?

We wish her a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement.

Sarah Hurcum

Help is still needed by Linton News

WE had a magnificent response earlier this year to our plea for more help producing the paper.

Many thanks for that – however we still have a few gaps that you may be able to help with as follows:

- Sorting out the delivery lists and packing up the papers into bundles which takes an hour or two a month.
- Delivering the bundles (by car or van) to the deliverers this takes two people together three hours.
- Help on many aspects of production which involve the use of the In-design software see below.
- Production of the initial electronic template.
- Post editing manipulation to get it in a format suitable for the printers.
- Manipulation of the document into a word document for use by the Granta Grapevine.
- Preparing a website copy of the paper. All together production takes six hours a month.

So if you feel you have the aptitude and time for any of the above please let me know.

Editor 891517

Too good for jumble...

The child's blue Raleigh Magic bike is a learner/balance bike with 16in x 1.75in wheels.

Still available are the Smiths Timeguard 24 hour timeswitch controller (as new), the black glass TV unit in excellent condition 80cm long x 45cm wide x 53cm high with two shelves and a brand new large flat panel wall mount with tilt for plasma and LCD screens size between 37in and 61in .

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact Kate France on 891602 or email kfrance@profsoundconsult.com

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

Linda Bird,



The Heights year 5 visit Leicester

ON Friday we visited the Space Centre in Leicester. Even though it was a really early start, we had an amazing day. The museum is so interactive and there is so much to see and do; far too much to include it all.

We started off looking at gigantic models of our solar system and we got to drive the Mars rover.

Then we went inside the planetarium and watched a show about how to become an astronaut. It was spectacular.

After lunch we went in a simulator and crash landed on Jupiter. Then we learned all about the space race and went up alongside a rocket that was 30m high.

Lastly, we saw memorabilia that had actually been into space including Helen Sharman's space suit. Best day ever.

Jamie Wilson, Year 5 teacher

New nursery opens its doors



Happy tots outside the new building

Photo supplied by Julie & Jo

JULIE and Jo's Childcare is proud to announce the opening of their new purpose built childcare facility, offering a fantastic setting for babies, toddlers, and pre-school children, as well as before and after school care.

A £100,000 renovation programme ensured that the building is bright with plenty of natural light and designated departments, have been created and designed to suit the developmental needs of each individual age group.

Under floor heating has been installed in all areas whilst the outside play area leads directly off the rooms to ensure that children can have ready access to safe, secure outside play areas so as to enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. Babies will enjoy their own dedicated area, with access to a range of exciting multi sensory toys and activities.

Child-friendly toilets will help children become more independent and prepare them for their transition to school. In addition, a brand new kitchen has been installed for the preparation of healthy snacks and for the children to do baking.

For a visit and tour of the new building please contact me at: Julie_and_Jo_childcare@yahoo.co.uk

Julie Dixon



There's a lot going on

WE had a flipping good time this half term with the children (and staff) enjoying the pancakes we made. We also welcomed back our dance lady from Made2move who kept the children engaged in her lesson.

We are very proud to announce that our new Gardening Club is now up and running. We are helping the children to learn how to care for plants and the insects and wildlife that visit our garden area, as well as growing some basic salad and vegetables.

With the above in mind, if any keen gardeners have any seedlings they would like to donate, the children would

be very pleased to add them to their garden space to watch them develop and grow. If you are able to help with this, please contact us on our phone number below.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers are being collected by us until Tuesday 3rd May. Please collect the vouchers for us as the more we collect the better the equipment will be that we can resource for the children.

We are open mornings: 9am-12 noon M-F, lunch 12 noon-12.30pm M-F and afternoons: 12.30-2.30pm M, W, Th, F.

Please contact us on 07806 744864 to enquire about spaces and availability, or email office@lintongrantaplaygroup.

Karen Thompson
Playgroup Leader
Janine Polley
Deputy Leader

Parish visiting

IF you, or anyone known to you, would like to see someone from St Mary's Church, please contact Rev Maggie Guite (890273) or Rev Lesley Gore (891970) and a visit will be arranged.

Lesley Gore



Busy time at the Infant School

WHAT a sight.

A crocodile of children and staff for a whole school sponsored walk at the end of February, as a last push to raise funds for our new playground equipment. The children looked at the equipment at the public playground and took back some ideas as to what they would like to see in the school playground.

Thank you to all of you who supported our fundraising activities. It is very much appreciated by the staff, parents and children.

We hope that our playground will be built over the Easter break. Fingers crossed that the contractors keep to their schedule. The plans have been sent home to the parents and a

display board is in reception if you wish to pop in and take a look.

Easter is going to be a really busy time at the school. Along with the play equipment, we are changing our kitchen to a production kitchen, which will mean the school is able to produce its own meals on site. The existing kitchen is too small to accommodate all of the equipment needed to make this happen.

We are currently collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, so please collect them for us. These vouchers really do make a difference to the equipment we are able to offer to the children.

Louise Clark
Headteacher

ACEs have lunch with the law

ACEs gathered again, with fish and chips for lunch and a brush with the law in the form of a splendid talk by local magistrate Glynis Younger, on the theme of *Tales out of Court*.

Beginning with a history of the office of Justice of the Peace, Glynis gave a frank and personal account of her career, from training and nervousness in initial cases to her current work as a senior member of the bench. She told us that 97 percent of criminal cases are heard by these unpaid volunteers and their local knowledge is often surprisingly useful.

One offender had benefited from her knowledge of local bus services in deciding the time of his next appearance, while another found to his cost, that she knew that it did not take an hour to walk from the fire station to the Co-Op to buy lunch. Overall, we have the impression that the magistrates service is effective, makes fair assessment of sentences and mitigation, and is a fine example of public service.

Next, we have a Ploughman's Lunch at 12.30pm on Thursday 14th April at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. The speaker will be from ACT - Addenbrookes Charitable Trust - not surprisingly they will talk on 250 years of Addenbrookes. We look forward to seeing you then.

Enid Bald 891069

THE CUTTING ROOM LINTON

It is with great sadness that the Cutting Room will be closing on Friday the 11th March.

We would like to say a big thank you to our customers for their support over the last 21 years and we will miss you all.

I will be offering a mobile service any enquiries please contact Pippa on 07791 606061

Easter Weekend

Chilford Hall Bistro

Fri 25th, Sat 26th
& Sun 27th March

Friday 25th March Fun stalls, Cakes and Tours	Saturday 26th March Fun stalls, Cakes and Tours	Sunday 27th March Easter Egg Hunt, Fun Games, Stalls, Cakes, Raffle and loads more
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Raising money for St Mary's Church, Linton
For more information on this event and to book your tours please call 01223 895600 or email events@chilfordhall.co.uk

The vintage party venue that comes to you



Tilly, the caravan – just what is needed for your party

Picture by Urban Picnic, Saffron Walden

THIS new venture based in Hadstock is run by Carol Corfield, an experienced home cook, who has a wealth of experience delivering client hospitality.

Carol prepares all the food in her own kitchen, which has been given a hygiene rating of five by her local council - the top rating for scores on the doors.

Tilly is a beautiful vintage

caravan that will turn an event into a special occasion, anywhere you want.

What could be nicer than a bespoke vintage afternoon tea party? Delicious homemade sandwiches, cakes and scones, with lashings of jam and cream. All served up on beautiful china, with linen tablecloths and napkins and in true English fashion, a constant supply of tea.

Use Tilly as the centrepiece for your drinks party, with an endless supply of chilled bubbly served in beautiful vintage champagne saucers, to celebrate your special occasion. Delicious homemade canapés can also be supplied.

The party is set up, served, and cleared away, so that you can enjoy it as much as your guests.

For more information call Carol on 07834 249753 or visit Tilly's website - www.tillythetravellingtearoom.co.uk

Is planning a party or club on your 'To Do' List?

Did you know?
Linton Heights Junior School are now hiring out their hall and facilities

If you are planning a party or club then please get in contact with the School Bursar, Rebecca McKenzie; office@lintonheights.cambs.sch.uk where she can offer you a fantastic hourly hire rate.

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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on this page. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News. Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested.

Dear Editor
If there is there anyone in Linton who is a calligrapher and is able to do awards citation writing, could they please contact me.
Rita Boniface, 890047

Dear Editor
Following the very interesting article by Kate France regarding flooding in Linton, I thought your readers might also be interested in another photograph which illustrates perfectly how heavy rain impacts the Emson's Close side of the village, and how well the flood plain at the bottom of our gardens works as an overflow at such times. By implication, however, people will also realise it would not take too many new homes built upstream to add to and push flood waters further up the side of the valley, potentially flooding our homes all the way along the river as it runs through Linton, including any new homes built at the same level as ours.

Come on District Councillors, please ensure South Cambs understands that if they make irresponsible planning decisions in the face of mounting evidence, that deliberately increase the level of flood threat to Linton, they could be held directly responsible for flood damage resulting from those decisions.

The photograph on the left was taken at the bottom of Emson's Close in 2001 looking out across my garden and the field towards the Pocket Park and A1307. The other photograph is the same view taken recently as a comparison which shows how it looks between floods.

Jane Whitmore, 894160



Back of Emson's Close in 2001



Back of Emson's Close in 2016

Both pictures by Jane

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
I would like to thank all who sent kind messages of sympathy following the death of my wife Doreen. I would also like to thank those who attended the funeral service and sent such kind donations for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in her memory.
Roy Palmer and family.

In Celebration of Trees

BARRY Kaufman-Wright may be known to some for his wonderful wildlife photographs and talks generated by his life spent nurturing wildlife, either at Jersey Zoo with Gerald Durrell, or as a Police Wildlife Crime Officer. However, it was not his love of animals that brought him to Linton on this occasion, rather his love of trees.

He has planted 129 native trees in an arboretum near Thaxted and has a collection of photographs of magnificent old trees. His firm favourite is the Oak, for its ability to nurture such a diverse abundance of organisms in and around it. Surprisingly over 100,000 insects of many different types can live in an oak tree in summer, attracting all sorts of other wildlife as a result. Oak woods have more flora in them too, as oak roots go deep into the soil rather than spreading out over the surface, which would deprive other flora of moisture.

This year's photography classes in the Annual Show are: *Action picture, Local landscape, and In the garden.* A maximum of three entries per class are permitted in these classes. An extra class, with only one entry permitted, is for a photograph of Architecture, A4 size, borderless.

Aubrey Barker joins us on Tuesday 8th March with a talk on *Winter Colour, Bark and Berries.* A reminder of how to add some colour to our gardens at just the right moment. We look forward to welcoming you at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Kirsten Newble, 892425, lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

The Spy Who Loved

CLARE Mulley, our speaker, gave a thrilling account of Christine Granville who was born a countess and half Jewish, in Poland in 1908, and loved adventure and danger and being centre stage. She had two husbands and various lovers, many of whom were partners in her espionage activities. Following the invasion of Poland, she begged the secret services to take her on. Seeing her fearlessness they caved in. She skied into occupied Poland from Budapest bringing in propaganda and bringing out information. She brought out thousands of people.

Christine had several narrow escapes. Once, she was arrested on a train and taken to the police station. She was wearing a necklace and broke the string saying, "my diamonds, my diamonds". The guards scrambled for the glass beads and she and her partner got away. One piece of information she smuggled out, about the invasion of Russia, had the potential to change the course of the war.

In Cairo she did training courses on wireless transmitting, parachuting, guns and explosives and the course in which she excelled, killing. She was parachuted behind enemy lines in 1944 with her wireless, joining up with the resistance.

Christine was awarded the George Cross, OBE, Croix de Guerre and many other war medals. Unfortunately, she met a tragic end as in 1952 she was murdered in her London flat: stabbed through the heart. Clare has written a book called *The Spy Who Loved.*

The speaker at our next meeting on 1st March will be Peter Lawrence. His talk entitled *This Policeman's Lot - From the Krays to the Crown.*

Sally Proberts, 891021

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THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 4th April 2016
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 14th March
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 16th March

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER
Limited space on waiting list for Linton businesses
Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse
email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR
Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
Editor: Fran Armes email: lneditor@linton.info
phone 891517

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office; failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here. You may also email your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info. Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News.

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

WEEKLY

- Seedlings, alternate Mondays 1.15-2.45pm CC
- Netball, Monday evenings, 6.30pm junior, 7.30pm adult LVC
- Chestnut baby/toddler group, 9.30-11.30am Monday term time CC
- Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays Pavilion
- Men's keep fit, 8-9pm Mondays LVC sports centre
- Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)
- WEA, Tuesdays, 10am term-time VH
- Linton Air Cadets Mon and Thurs 7-9.30pm (07717801056) LVC
- Scrabble Club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays CP
- Linton Granta playgrp, 9am-12noon Monday-Friday LVC
- Linton Granta Toddler grp, 9.30-11.30 Tuesdays term time LVC
- Linton Granta playgrp, 12.30-2.30pm Mon-Fri, NOT Tues LVC
- Storytime, 2-2.30pm Tuesdays, term-time Library
- Granta Bridge club, 2pm Tuesdays VH
- Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays VH
- IT club-computer help, 7pm Tuesdays CC
- Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (893509) CC
- Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time only VH
- Jelly Beans playgroup, 9-11.30am Thursdays URC
- New Beginnings (with Baby Sensory), 1.15-2.45pm, Thursdays CC
- Computer buddies, 2-4pm, Thursdays Library
- Cricket club, 6-8pm Thursdays RG, LVC
- Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
- Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays CP
- Stay and Play, Fridays 10am - 11.30am CC
- St Mary's church choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays St Mary's
- Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC

MARCH 2016

- 1 WI, 7.30pm** VH
- 1, 8, 22, 29 Bell Plates, 7.45pm URC Hall
- 2 Linton Charity Lent lunch, 12 - 2pm 8 The Furrells
- 2 Reading Group, 8pm VH (upstairs)
- 3 Linton Lunch Club, 12 for 12.30pm Red Lion, Horseheath
- 5 Farmers' Market, 9am LVC
- 5 Linton Jazz, 7pm for 7.30pm** LVC
- 7 Camera Club, 7.15pm CC
- 8 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
- 8 Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH
- 9 Community navigator 10-12noon HC
- 9 Linton Charity Lent lunch, 12-2pm 38 Symonds Lane
- 12 Guides Jumble Sale, 2pm** Infant School Hall
- 12 Cocktail Evening, 8pm Linton Granta Pavilion
- 13 Lighthouse, 10.15am URC
- 14 Whist drive, 7.30pm VH
- 15 Historical Society, 7.30pm** VH
- 16 Cambridge hearing help, 9.30-12 HC
- 16 Coffee morning, 10.30am URC Hall
- 16 Linton Charity Lent lunch, 12 - 2pm 4 Harefield Rise
- 17 Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm CC
- 18 Sports Relief Coffee morning, 9.30am** St Mary's Pavilion
- 18 Daylight readers, 10.30am Library
- 19 Linton Cricket Club Junior section, 12noon Pavilion
- 19 Family praise party, 3pm** URC Hall
- 19 Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm** LVC
- 20 Walking group, 11am Church Lane
- 20 Messy Church, 2.30pm St Mary's
- 23 Linton Charity Lent lunch, 12 - 2pm St Mary's Pavilion

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

Library times: Mon closed; Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.
Linton refuse collection: 14th and Tuesday 29th March
Linton blue and green bin collection: 7th and 21st March

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The 13th Bartlow Walk

WE talked in the last issue about the ground-breaking diabetes camps arranged by the East of England Paediatric Diabetes Network, which we will be supporting this year. It is great to hear that our region is leading the way nationally in this important area.

One of the beneficiaries in each of our 13 years has been the St Marys Church repair and restoration fund and over that time we have undertaken many significant projects. We started with the bell tower, rebuilt a buttress, put on a new roof, installed new lights and most recently conserved the magnificent wall paintings. Thanks to the generosity of our walkers and local company sponsors, together with others such as English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, SCDC, and many other charitable trusts, we now have a building in fairly good repair. However, there is always

more to be done. Not least is the work needed to tidy up the old boiler room disfiguring the front of the church.

Unlike many churches, St Mary's is open to visitors every day from 9am until late afternoon. Lights may be turned on to illuminate the wall paintings and a comprehensive interpretation display describes the building, its history and the wall paintings. One of our challenges is now to find ways of making the building as useful as possible to the parish and the wider community. For example, does anyone need a music practice space? Jazz, folk, heavy metal all are welcome.

We're serious. Please put the date in your diary – Sunday 1st May – and plan to join us in support of seriously worthwhile local and regional causes.

Graham Howat, 891732
Walk Organiser



Senior Guides take to treasure hunting



The local senior section girlguiding team

Picture supplied by Rachel

LINTON Girlguiding Senior Section members took to the streets of Cambridge on Saturday 30th January, to take part in *Clueless in Cambridge*, a giant treasure hunt; cracking codes and navigating obstacle courses in a race against the clock. Members worked in teams to complete a number of tasks around the historic city centre, racing to complete the course in a set time.

They joined over 100 girls and young women aged 14 to 25, for the exhilarating event, which was the first of many exciting events planned by Girlguiding Anglia this year to mark 100 years of the Senior Section. Thousands of girls and young women across the UK are making 2016 a year of fun, challenge and adventure. From mountain marathons in Scotland, to a carnival fiesta in the Midlands, these girl-led events will invite members to step out of their comfort zone and take on a new challenge.

Girlguiding's Senior Section offers a host of amazing opportunities to older girls in guiding, from international travel and outdoor adventure sports, to peer mentoring, advocacy and leadership skills. It enables members to be involved in a flexible way, with each choosing her own level of commitment, from attending a Senior Section group to training as a Young Leader with Girlguiding's younger sections, Rainbows (5-7 years), Brownies (7-10) and Guides (10-14). Many members opt to become inspiring mentors to their peers, delivering sessions on body confidence and healthy relationships to younger girls in a safe, girl only space. Young women in the Senior Section also drive Girlguiding's advocacy and campaigning work, speaking out on issues affecting girls at the highest levels of government. To find out more visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

Rachel Mulrenan, 020 7592 1733

News from the Historical Society

OUR next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th March in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane when the popular local historian, Mike Petty, will tell us about the 1947 Fen Floods. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

At our January meeting, the Venerable Alan Clarkson entertained us with his talk entitled *The Thorn and Presentments*. A former Archdeacon of Winchester, he spoke about the history of the role, which involved being the eye of the Bishop, with the reputation for being the Mr Nasty of the partnership.

Originally acting as a shop steward for the lower levels of the clergy, the archdeacon gradually gained more powers, not always used scrupulously. From 1603, the role holder was

required to be a priest, as it was seen as a step towards becoming a bishop.

Early archdeacons travelled extensively, dealing with practical problems such as the upkeep of religious buildings and clergy welfare.

With the introduction of church wardens any issues were presented to the archdeacons' courts. Apparently the word *presentment* is synonymous with the word *grumble*. Alan had also been a vicar in Glastonbury, and shared stories about the Glastonbury Thorn tree which flowers twice a year, a sprig of which is sent to the Queen every Christmas. The original tree is said to have grown from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea, who settled nearby.

Pat Faircloth, 893928

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Guides' bumper jumble sale

LINTON Guides' annual bumper jumble sale will be in Linton Infant School's hall at 2pm on Saturday 12th March. We would much appreciate your support by donating all the items you are turning out (clothing, bric-a-brac, books, etc.) and bringing them to the hall on the Saturday morning.

To arrange a collection please phone 891602 or 892925.

Although Linton homes are

constantly bombarded with charity bags for unwanted items, some of these are for commercial ventures rather than charities and many bags are left uncollected.

The Guides are a registered charity which benefits over 50 local girls. We will definitely collect whatever and whenever we are asked.

Kate France, 891602
Emson's Close

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Fancy an Easter day climb?

IN many places Christians get up early on Easter Day, and that's not to see what the Easter Bunny's brought. No, it's because the great event of the first Easter was discovered early in the morning around sunrise: the tomb in which Jesus had been laid after his crucifixion was open and empty. At first, his friends were confused and upset, as we all would be if anything untoward had happened to the grave of a loved one; but when mysterious young men told them that Jesus had risen from the dead, and then they met him for themselves full of new life, well then their confusion and grief turned to wonder and joy.

In Linton this Easter Day, 27th March, members of the different churches will be remembering these events together by climbing Rivey Hill; on the top we'll praise God for the first Easter, and looking out over the village, remember that Jesus died and rose again for everyone. We won't set off quite as early as sunrise, but as the clocks will have just gone forward it will still seem quite early when we assemble at 7.45am by the cemetery gate to climb together. After a short ecumenical service, we'll all come down to enjoy a bacon butty breakfast in the Free Church hall. Do join us.

All the other services of the churches over Holy Week and Eastertide will be on their websites and notice boards. You are most welcome at this, the greatest celebration of the Christian year.

Maggie Guite
Rector of St Mary's
on behalf of the churches

Fun and dance at the URC

THIS Easter, Linton Free Church (URC) on Horn Lane, is hosting a special family concert suitable for the whole family. It will take place from 3 to 4.30pm on Saturday 19th March.

This will be a really fun event. It's full of fast moving action songs, break dancing, funky dance tracks, tricks, illusions, hilarious puppets and sign language songs. Not forgetting some jaw-dropping visual experiments using dry ice and other chemicals. With lots of audience participation and a hefty measure of fun and laughter thrown in, it will make for a colourful and exciting celebration and help us to appreciate our amazing God through the incredible world He's made.

Doug (Duggie Dug Dug) Horley has a national and international ministry working with children and song writing. He has written some of the most popular christian children's songs of the last decade including *I'm going to jump up and down (Be Happy)*, *Great Great Brill Brill to have a friend like Jesus* and *We want to see Jesus lifted high*.

Places are limited so please reserve your place by emailing chris@lintonfreechurch.org.uk or phone 890118. Suitable for four to 11 year olds. Younger children welcome but must be supervised by an adult at all times. Entry is free, and light refreshments will be provided.

I hope to see you there
Lucy Kemshell, www.lintonfreechurch.org.uk

Jazz up your evening

COME along to an informal and family friendly evening of jazz, blues and funk at 7.30pm on Saturday 5th March at Linton Village College (doors and bar open from 7pm).

With a focus on popular tunes, from 1940s swing to contemporary favourites like Uptown Funk and James Bond themes, there will be something for everyone – plus opportunities to join in and shake maracas or even dance.

Tickets will be available on the door at £10 per adult and £5 per child/OAP; half the proceeds will go towards Scope, the disability charity.

Linton Jazz is a blend of enthusiastic and talented brass, woodwind and percussion players from the local community who have been raising money for charity for 17 years.

For more information, contact bandleader Karen on 891708 or jazz.64@talktalk.net.

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LINTON COUNTRY MATTERS

Text by Frances Armes illustrated by Maureen O+s



Of mice and men - Muscardinus avellanarius

IN the February issue of country matters I was intrigued to learn that dormice populations were helped by the coppicing of hazel woods. Indeed, the common dormouse is sometimes called the hazel dormouse, and I wondered then if there were likely to be any near Linton.

Dormice have gingery-brown fur, large black eyes and a furry tail. They are much smaller than a squirrel, having a body length of about 8cm plus a tail of 6cm. They feed on buds, flowers (pollen and nectar), fruit, insects and ripe nuts. These are available in turn as the year progresses. Hazel, honeysuckle, bramble and oak are particularly important food sources.

Dormice are reluctant to cross open ground, preferring to spend all their time in the branches of trees and shrubs. Coppicing creates the ideal habitat with sprawling branches to provide pathways for dormice above ground. There has been a major decline in the dormouse population in the last 100 years due to the loss of its woodland habitat and by the isolation of each wood by the loss of hedges.

To counteract this decline, Cambridgeshire, Bedford and Northants Wildlife Trust re-introduced dormice in Brampton Woods in 1993 and Suffolk Wildlife Trust did the same to

Bradfield wood in 2006. Later, in 2015, Suffolk wildlife trust connected Bradfield wood with another ancient woodland by planting two new hedgerows and filling in gaps in a third where there was also a small dormouse population. The dormice in these woods are chipped and monitored.

How does the ordinary person know that there are dormice around? It is difficult to come across dormice as they sleep most of the day in a nest which they make in dense shrubs, such as holly or honeysuckle, or close to the ground in bramble bushes. Also they hibernate from the end of October until April or May.

The best way of finding out if dormice use a wood or hedgerow is to look for hazel nut shells that have been opened to get at the nut inside. Birds and squirrels usually split nuts completely in half or smash the shells in pieces, but dormice and other small rodents gnaw neat holes in the shell and leave characteristic marks around the edge.

Both the above trusts organise study days of vertebrates which include dormice – for more information just search for the websites of the wildlife trusts.



Village Hall news – a big thank you to the Parish Council

FOLLOWING a recent fire risk assessment on the Village Hall, a proper fire alarm system has been installed.

There is some further work to be done – for example, there need to be changes to the fire-doors so that they can do their job properly in the event of a fire. There are some other minor changes to come – the main hall floor is going to be refurbished and the wall colours and soft furnishings given a bit of a makeover, with the very capable assistance of Linda Richardson. Hopefully, this should improve the general ambiance for the current users.

The Village Hall Trustees would like to say a big thank you to the Parish Council for voting to provide the funding for the work from S106 money that is specifically set aside for community facilities.

In the long term, discussions are afoot to see what we can do to bring the whole building up-to-date and make it a more inviting and vibrant community asset, including applying for grants such as from the Lottery Funds. I shall be writing about this in the future.

Merrie Mannassi, Linton Village Hall Trustees
Contact is via Sue Parry, Village Hall Secretary on info.lintonvillagehall@yahoo.com and 07497 933005.

Hildersham News

Hildersham Village Hall Trust Spring Quiz

COME along to our quiz in the village hall on Friday 18th March. It's only £8, which includes a hot supper, and is bound to be a lot of fun. Please bring your own drinks and we'll provide the glasses. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start and there will be a raffle as well. Everyone is welcome - individuals or teams of up to 8 people. This is always a popular event, so make sure to book early by contacting Jill on 893596, or edheale@btinternet.com

It's Teatime

JOIN us for tea on March 3rd from 3 to 4.30pm in the village hall. This will be an Easter tea with Hot Cross Buns and Simnel Cake. Call in after school, or for tea and cake after a brisk winter walk. Everyone is welcome. Tea and cake £1.

Hildersham Lecture

THE next lecture will take place on April 29th when Martin Beazor, specialist in antique furniture, will give a talk on the History of the Chair. We all use them but who used them first? How have fashions changed? If you have a chair that may have an interesting history do bring it along.

Doors open at 7pm for light refreshments before the lecture at 7.30. Entry £5, U18s free

Hildersham Heritage Day

ON Sunday May 1st at Hildersham Church, we celebrate the heritage of the village and the completion of the building project. There will be a programme of events throughout the afternoon followed by a service of Evensong with the Dean of Ely Cathedral, the Reverend Canon Mark Bonney. There will be further details in the next edition of the magazine.

Cathy Myer, 892848

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POT POURRI 132

Area for Wildlife.

A FARMER is given a grant to leave an area of his field at the boundary for wildlife. However, he is in dispute over the amount he has to leave.

The field is a 100m square and he decides to use inscribed circles (circles that touch a boundary) for his crop along with further inscribed circles between the large circle and the corners plus a further inscribed circle between the smaller circle and the corners of the field.

Thus, the field contains one large, four lesser and the four smallest circles. Hence nine circles in total. As all circles touch the boundary, then what area of the field has the farmer left for the wildlife?

Solution to 131 – A Quadratic Equation Solution

Solution of $1/m^2 + 1/n^2$? (In terms of a,b,c) is $(b^2 - 2ac)/c^2$
Urania

Easter events at Wandlebury

FOR all the following events, the meeting point is at Wandlebury stable rooms and except for *Bushcraft Fun*, all children must be accompanied throughout the course. Booking is essential for most courses.

Slippery Slimy Science. Sunday 20th March from 11am to 4pm, free drop-in event looking at slugs, snails and worms,

Easter Fun Day. Saturday 26th March for either a 10.30am or 1pm start. For children five years and over.

Iron Age history and archeology of Wandlebury. Tuesday 5th April from 11am to 1pm For ages six and over.

Fairy Fun. Wednesday 6th April from 11am to 1pm. For ages 3 to 6 years.

Survival. Wednesday 6th April from 1.30pm to 3.30pm Children will be guided through the basics of building a shelter, collecting water, tracking, making fire and cooking. For ages 6-9 years

Unaccompanied Bushcraft Fun. Friday 8th April from 10am to 4pm. Activity for children that teaches bushcraft skills. They will need to bring a packed lunch to eat around a camp fire. For unaccompanied children aged nine to 12 years.

For more information: email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on

Lorna Gough

A chance for would be actors

LLAMADRAMA are holding auditions for the colourful family show, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, on Wednesdays 23rd and 30th March at 7.30pm in The Meeting Room, Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn (you only need to attend one).

We need adults and children to play the many parts; the show will take place at the Townley Memorial Hall (Fulbourn Centre) on 11th, 13th and 14th January 2017 (not 12th).

Rehearsals (about 24 in total) will be on Wednesdays at the Fulbourn Centre from April until January. For more information please contact the Producer on carole.ransom7@googlemail.com or 01354 694782 or 0772016714.

Carol Ransom

Eat cake and help transform lives

WE are hosting a fund-raising coffee morning for Sports Relief after the 9am service on Friday 18th March, in St Mary's Pavilion, behind the church.

We hope that you'll be able to join us as we serve hot and cold drinks with a selection of good cakes.

The money raised makes an incredible difference to people both at home and abroad. Half of it is used to transform lives in the UK and the other half is spent on funding projects in the world's poorest communities.

Sue Filby, suef4rector@btinternet.com



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The Marsh mail



ONE of the messages that I shared with parents at my first Parent Forum in January was; *It takes a village to raise a child.* It originated from a traditional African proverb, and has since been used in many different guises and contexts. I firmly believe in the substance of its message, which is that the whole community around a child influences the child's values, upbringing and maturation.

As a school we have a significant influence on the lives of children. The ability to make a difference is what motivates teachers and other staff to work at Linton Village College. Yet, in reality, we play a fairly minor role in comparison with the sway and direction that parents, wider family and friends will have on a student's life choices, attitudes and decisions.

I take the community aspect of the school's ethos very seriously, particularly as the Principal of a Village College. I believe that the joint efforts of home, school and the wider community can play a far more significant role together than any of these one elements can individually.

The Friends of LVC is one example of how support and parental involvement can be harnessed to benefit young people and the local community. The Friends of LVC consist of a group of volunteers, mainly parents of current and former students, who organise events to raise additional funds for the school. The work of the group not only enriches and enhances students' experience at school, but also provides facilities for use by the local community.

The sponsored walk, quiz night and Year 11 ball are among the annual events that they arrange. The organisation raises significant amounts of money to improve the facilities at school and, perhaps more importantly, it creates opportunities that bring students and/or villagers together for a shared purpose and celebration.

The Friends of LVC is recruiting for new committee members to support and continue the great work that it does. If you would like to find out more about what's involved and how you could contribute, please come along to a Friends Open Evening at 7pm on Thursday 21st April at the Village College, or contact Steve Kiddy, the Chair of the Friends Committee, friends@lvc.org.

We also have vacancies on our Governing Body. If you are keen to play an active contribution to the life of the school please contact the Clerk to the Governors: tracy.coston@lvc.org.

Helena Marsh, Headteacher

Prestigious award for college

LINTON Village College has just received a letter from Education Minister Sam Gyimah MP to confirm that they have received the Pupil Premium Award for their GCSE performance among students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

This award is granted to students who have been disadvantaged in some way in their personal lives. There is often a very significant gap between the performance of Pupil Premium students and their peers nationally.

Last year's Pupil Premium cohort at Linton achieved a score of 0.44, which was well above the national average and almost the same as the rest of the year group (0.55).

This shows that LVC provides an excellent comprehensive education that enables all students to achieve their potential, regardless of personal background or circumstance.

LNT

Editor: Well done to the pupils and staff.

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Peter runs for Mencap

AFTER moving to Linton, Pete Thornton decided to volunteer for Mencap as a befriender. A volunteer befriender helps someone with a learning disability by becoming their friend, allowing them to go out and about more and building their confidence.

Five years ago Mencap paired Pete with Jack Clapson of Balsham who has Down's Syndrome. Jack is 22 years old and like Pete has a great interest in sports, particularly football. Despite Jack's love of West Ham United, Pete and Jack have remained close friends and regularly go into Cambridge for bowling, cinema, drinks and food.

In addition to football, Pete is a runner and wanted to tackle a full marathon to raise money for Mencap (now called Eddie's, www.eddies.org.uk/ in Cambridgeshire). The training schedule is gruelling. Pete



Pete with his friend Jack
Picture supplied by Pete

enjoys the buzz from running and on some early morning runs has crossed paths with muntjac deer in Borley Wood.

In the near future Pete is planning a pool competition and cake bake to help him reach his £1,750 fundraising target.

If anyone would like to contribute to this great cause go to www.justgiving.com and search for Pete Thornton.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer befriender please contact Eddie's, www.eddies.org.uk.

Pete Thornton

The community orchard

IT has taken some years to organise an orchard for the village but through Rob Mungovan (SCDC* Ecology consultant), the Tree Warden group and LPC*, we did it. We found a space on the right hand side of Symonds Lane as you approach Back Road. Following public consultation, and the approval of LPC, we decided to take over the care of this and plant an orchard for the use of us all. Costs have been shared between the Parish and SCDC, and are very low for such a project.

So far, a bramble area has been cleared and re-seeded with wild flowers, redundant concrete posts removed and eleven fruit trees planted - cherry and plum trees, including local varieties, fruiting between June and September (to discourage wasps).

Over the next two years we will need help with watering and protecting the trees - perhaps you might adopt one for yourself or a village group? If you can help please contact me, the Tree Warden, Beatrice Ward, or the Parish Office.

The planting was a real community event. I was overjoyed at the response - so many people came to help with the planting, and humbled that all parts of the village supported the initiative. My grateful thanks to everyone. I hope that we will soon be eating the results of our work.

Enid Bald, 891069

*South Cambridge District Council and Linton Parish Council

Calling the Class of '86

COME to the Linton Pavilion from 8pm on 23rd April to celebrate the fact that we left LVC 30 years ago this summer.

It would be great to see as many pupils, and even teachers, as possible but we need at least 60 people for the event to be viable. Tickets are £10, which includes a welcome drink of fizz or orange juice, disco, cold finger buffet and cake. It will be great to catch up with as many as possible, so look forward to seeing you.

Please mail Claire.walker1570@gmail.com or bank details, any questions and to share school photos.

Sean, 07818036665

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It's Gold for Megan



Megan hard at work

Picture supplied by Megan

MEGAN Harmer, a year 11 student at Linton Village College, has just received a Gold Arts Award. Normally completed as part of an extended A-level study, Megan has become the youngest person in South Cambridgeshire to receive the award.

The project for an Arts Award can be done in any area of the arts from fashion to poetry, music to dancing, sculpture to film. It can be as the creator or performer of the work, and can link in to essential roles like marketing or stage management, where communication and leadership qualities are required.

It comprises several modules - a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh award. Some of the modules involved Megan doing research into the funding for the arts (with the help of such people as the University of Cambridge Museums Officer), and how artists got to be where they are today. She also worked alongside professional artists.

Megan found a project locally at a Cambridge Care Home. Her brief was to paint two large murals in the bathroom to stimulate patients' memories, especially those with dementia. She based the designs on the beach at Southwold. Bright bold features included a lighthouse with rocks, a deckchair and sun umbrella, beach huts, buckets and spades in the sand.

She organised the technique (draw the design on paper, transfer to an acetate and project on to the wall and paint). Then she and three friends painted the mural over a period of six weeks.

Feedback from the care home staff showed that patients had been positively stimulated, as it brought back happy memories of days when they were young and their alertness was improved. It was a talking point for patients, visitors and staff - a success.

Megan wants to develop herself as an arts practitioner, having really enjoyed completing an independent arts project. She has developed an impressive portfolio of her work and should do well in the future.

LNT

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/3040/15/DC, Jennifer Norton, 36 Back Road. Erection of single-storey dwelling and double garage to rear (to include demolition of existing garage and provision of new access, parking and double garage) together with erection of double garage to front of 36 Back Road.

S/3228/15/FL, Travers, 125 High Street, Conversion of currently disused outbuilding to first floor habitable room, including installation of new stair and shower room.

S/0050/16/FL, Mr & Mrs Russell Knight, 4 Essex Gardens, Single storey rear extension, creation of a mezzanine and alteration to stairs.

S/0069/16/FL, Brazer, 6 Balingdon Lane, Two storey side extension following demolition of garage

S/0091/16/FL, Mr Jeffrey Andrews, 4 Flaxfields. Proposed summer house.

S/0260/16/LD, Robert Watts, Land and buildings on the south east side of Hadstock Road. Storage of vehicles (cars and caravans).

S/0263/16/VC113B, Mr Ben Rong-Chen, 113B High Street, Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) to planning permission S/1830/13/FL

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Parish Council Matters

Decision time for planning applications

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

WELL, it has taken quite some time, but two large planning applications are finally coming before the South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) planning committee on 2nd March. The decisions have been deferred several times, but now they must be heard or the decision will be taken by a higher authority; if that happened, the village voice would not be heard and the democratic process would have been bypassed.

As the SCDC and Cambridge City Local Plan is under review we have lost its protection, provoking a spate of speculative planning applications. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) review that assessed these and many other sites for development is being scrutinised, but these particular sites were firmly rejected as having no development potential. We must now fight for those assessments to be upheld.

We first heard of the applications in August 2015. They were discussed and rejected by Linton parish council (LPC) in September, at a meeting attended by several members of the public who supported that decision. LPC comments were submitted along with those commissioned from a planning consultant - these gave professional and forceful support to councillors non-specialist but heartfelt comments. Since then, LPC has publicised the applications, encouraging comments to be sent to SCDC, and raised awareness of the issues that these applications have highlighted. This paper has been just one of the routes that we have used to draw attention to these contentious applications.

One application, from Bidwells, is for up to 78 houses on Bartlow Road (S/1963/15/OL, SHLAA sites 102 and 104). Development here has been proposed for at least 30 years, and always rejected. Our objections to this application included the effect on the floodplain, the distance to village amenities, lack of sewage and other infrastructure and traffic issues. The development is just not sustainable.

The application from the Diocese of Ely (S/1969/15/OL, SHLAA site 032) is for around 50 houses plus about 30 allotments on Horseheath Road; the numbers are not consistent in the application, and allotments would only be leased, not owned by the village (we have lost allotments due to this, too many times already). We have recently received amendments and submissions relating to significant issues that we have raised. These amendments are available to view in the parish office and online at www.scams.gov.uk/services/planning-applications

These include reports on the archaeology, not the full assessment required. It confirms they found something along the lines of the expected Saxon graveyard, and "has potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest". Just as we thought!

The submitted flooding plan shows that the ground is not capable of taking soakaways, so they propose a scheme involving a lake similar to the one proposed at Bartlow Road. But this is not shown, the full implications are not obvious, and it would appear not to address the problem of surface water flooding but to move it elsewhere. More floods onto Bartlow Road?

The promised number of bungalows and affordable housing appears now minimal, housing is more dense and the internal road encourages expansion of housing into the allotments area. So, a scheme of 50 houses and 30 allotments appears to be not deliverable, and remains not sustainable.

The meeting at SCDC offices at Cambourne will be on 2nd March, starting at 10am. If you would like to speak on either application, please contact Ian Senior on: Ian.Senior@scams.gov.uk

However, even if you are not called to speak, your support would be most welcome, as it would show the strength of feeling within the village. It could be an interesting day - the character and quality of life of the village is at stake.

Cllr Enid Bald

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
 The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001
Clerk to the council – Mrs Marilyn Strand
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Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk
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Or by appointment
 Dates for full council meetings:
 17th March and 21st April 2016
 All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre commencing at 7.30pm

A new view

AS you travel up Coles Lane, you will notice ahead of you a whole new green area, backed by mature trees. If you remember, this was what was euphemistically called the 'Old Pond', but in reality a dumping ground with heaps of soil and overgrown with weeds. Now it is an opportunity ... let us make the most of it!

The area has been cleared, drainage improved and the ground formed into terraces, opening a remarkably large space. Now it needs ideas for planting and the best way to use the area. Perhaps there could be seating - logs or timber baulks, not too formal - and planting to encourage reflection? Or perhaps this could be central to a history project - the site, the people in the cemetery, their

lives and stories are our history and ought to be remembered. Information boards could document burials, interesting graves, some history of the site, etc as suggested by Garth Colard. Ideas needed, please!

We did lose a shed - before it collapsed - revealing a good solid base. This could be used as a foundation for a statue, art work or memorial. The old metal grave markers have been conserved and might be made into a memorial for those who have no headstone to mark their grave; a sad reminder of their poverty and how fragile the rural economy can be.

So, please get involved with creating something worthwhile for this very prominent site - if you would like to be involved contact the parish office.

Cllr Enid Bald

investigated for a few months and then we will meet Stagecoach again to discuss the impact of this measure.



The damage caused by the buses to the pavements, houses and curbs in the High Street is also cause for concern and needs to be addressed. The pavements are built to a different design to the road surface and are for the weight of people, buggies and

wheelchairs; they are not strong enough to withstand the weight of normal small cars let alone double decker buses.

It is in the best interests of all to retain the bus services and enable free movement of traffic in the High Street. So, please park with consideration and legally.

Cllrs Simon Hill and Beatrice Ward

Stagecoach 13 bus service

THE bus service Stagecoach provides for Linton is a regular 30 minute service and covers the main through way in the village as well as the express X13 service along the A1307. Other villages have had services reduced or cut, ours has seen improvements.

We are lucky for a number of reasons; we have the new, comfortable buses, with Wi-Fi - there isn't Wi-Fi on all routes in or around Cambridge, but Linton services do have it. Another improvement has been the real-time information boards at the Swan Bridge and Parsonage Way stops. At least passengers know the times of the buses and when the next bus is due.

Real-time information board at Swan Bridge bus stop



On the 21st January the parish council met Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire county council (CCC) to talk about the bus services. Stagecoach had informed the parish council that there was a possibility of stopping buses coming through Linton. Stagecoach advised the parish council and CCC that there is tyre wear on the buses when they pass through the High Street. This is caused by the buses hitting the curbs on some parts of the High Street, causing the tyres to wear on the

sides; this is expensive damage. Linton's High Street is the narrowest in Cambridgeshire, built before motorised transport. Many of the old buildings do not have off-road parking and so need to park on the street. The High Street parking spaces are meant to be used for access to schools, homes and businesses; however there is a casual disregard by some drivers for the parking measures that are in place. The buses are having to slow down and are hitting or riding up onto the curb because of badly or illegally parked cars. Stagecoach don't want to stop the buses coming through the village, as this is one of their most used routes, but the car parking situation is making this difficult. The buses are an asset to a lot of people in the village.

Buses having difficulty traversing the High Street (above and right)

All pictures by Simon Hill

The parish council traffic working group is working with Stagecoach and CCC to try and find solutions and keep the bus service running through the village centre. The first trial is to employ a PCSO to patrol the areas around the High Street shops to issue parking tickets and deter illegal parking. This will be



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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton parish council (LPC/PC) meeting held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 21st January 2016.

Present: Cllr Mrs Enid Bald (chairman); Cllr Paul Poulter (vice-chair); Cllr David Champion; Cllr Brian Cox (Dr); Cllr Simon Hill; Cllr Brian Manley; Cllr Merrie Mannassi; Cllr Graham Potter; Cllr Amy Smith; Cllr Alison Walker; Cllr Beatrice Ward (Dr). Clerk: Marilyn Strand. District councillor Henry Batchelor. Members of the public: two.

Apologies for absence: County & district Cllr Roger Hickford.

Councillor vacancies: South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) has notified the PC that all four vacancies can be co-opted. No applications have been received.

Councillors' declarations of interest: Cllr Hill declared a personal interest in the update on allotments item. Cllrs Champion and Mannassi declared a personal interest in the village hall item.

Chairman's comment: The Granta in Linton had recently been very high following heavy rain. However, the PC's flood amelioration work in various sites around the village had proved to be effective in preventing flooding. Leadwell Meadows flooded as it should now that work to redig the ditches and the pond has started. The PC would also like to work with neighbouring villages to form a flood forum which would look to form flood prevention policies to benefit the wider area.

Congratulations go to Dr Rachel Furley who has been awarded the MBE for her charity work, and to Professor Alistair Compston who has been awarded the CBE.

Matters arising/clerk's report: Cllr Manley said that Linton village college had been awarded a grant of around £99,000 for the re-carpeting of its football pitch; the PC had also given a grant of around £3,000 for this with the total cost being around £120k.

The clerk had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted and discussed.

The PC's application for planting on the highway at the junction of the High Street and the A1307 had been refused and will therefore be brought back to a future meeting for reconsideration of the planting scheme.

Planning matters: Update on planning applications at Horseheath & Bartlow Roads. Both these applications will be heard at SCDC's planning committee meeting due to be held on 2nd March. It was agreed by all that Cllr Bald and one other councillor could speak on behalf of the PC at this meeting.

Planning committee representatives: It was proposed by Cllr Walker that Cllr Manley be co-opted onto the planning committee and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith. All agreed.

District and county councillors' reports & business: Cllr Batchelor had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted.

Substantial cuts to winter gritting services which were largely avoided in last year's budget will unfortunately occur in 2016/17. It is unclear how this will affect Linton but it is not good news.

Cllr Hickford had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted.

Insurance policy: It was agreed that Zurich's quotation for insurance for the next 36 months was best value for money as it affords some protection from premium price rises during that period. Cllr Manley proposed to accept the 3-year agreement with Zurich for £4,988.50 per year and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox. All agreed.

Community orchard: Mr Rob Mungovan, Ecology Consultancy officer at SCDC and his colleague, Dean Scrivener, came to give a presentation and answer questions on the proposed community orchard for councillors' consideration: SCDC has written to over 100 properties in the vicinity of the proposed site on Symonds Lane to ask residents for their comments on the orchard, and has so far received six responses. Negative feedback included comments on the lack of parking and a footpath and general road safety. Positive feedback included comments that the area will look much nicer and that children will be able to visit. Many of the residents giving positive feedback also offered to support the orchard practically by volunteering to water the new

trees. Trees bought by SCDC would will include local varieties chosen to fruit when wasps would not be attracted.

Councillors agreed that a community orchard would be an asset to the village but also expressed concern at the proposed site given the road safety issues present. The chairman thanked Mr Mungovan and Mr Scrivener for attending the meeting and giving councillors a thorough presentation. The chairman also thanked District Cllrs Henry Batchelor and Roger Hickford for their support and help with this project.

On consideration of progression and funding towards this project it was proposed by Cllr Ward to accept Mr Mungovan's plan for a community orchard in the area on Symonds Lane and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Poulter. Councillors voted eight in favour, one against and two abstentions and the proposal was carried. It was agreed in principle that the PC will take on the cost of maintaining the grass in the area, however costs for this were not available at this meeting. A licence between SCDC and the PC will have to be signed once a final decision has been made on this.

It was proposed by Cllr Ward that the PC would pay £388.50, being half of the total cost of removing the concrete posts (shared with SCDC), and also to set aside £500 for miscellaneous items associated with setting up the orchard, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Walker. All agreed.

Precept 2016/17: To agree LPC's precept request to SCDC for 2016/17: Cllr Potter stated that all requests from councillors, and those from s137 grant applicants, were able to be included in this year's precept request to SCDC. There is an overall increase of approximately 1.8% on last year's precept figure. Following discussion and clarification, Cllr Poulter proposed to agree this year's figure of £162,864 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion. All agreed.

Update on s106 allocations: Cllr Bald reminded councillors that future claims for s106 money from developers would have to be submitted along with fully costed and planned projects. With this in mind, a small working group will meet to discuss the PC's ongoing projects and new projects which might be put forward.

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Poulter reported on the public consultation event which was held on 12th December. Many residents attended and stayed for an average of 15-20 minutes. Feedback was positive and the format worked well. It is hoped that a draft plan will be ready within the next two months. LPC will probably be the first village in South Cambridgeshire to submit a Neighbourhood Plan.

Facebook and the website have proved to be the most effective forms of communication with residents, although the Linton News will still be utilised to reach the large section of the community which is not online.

Update on Allotments: The PC is still waiting for advice from SCDC as to whether to proceed with its compulsory purchase order for the land or wait for the proposed development of the site to be determined. Cllr Batchelor will speak to the legal department and report back to the next meeting.

Update on Leadwell Meadows: Ditches have been redug and the pond cleared so that it is now visible to users. After the recent heavy rain the area flooded as it is designed to do and work will continue once the ground has dried out somewhat.

Update on flood amelioration work: See chairman's comment. SCDC have delivered a stock of sandbags for residents vulnerable to flooding and these are located outside 65 High Street. Many of the drains in the village appear to be blocked. Residents should report this via CCC Highway's website, or by phoning 0345 045 5212.

Village hall: To consider application from village hall trustees for s106 funding (community facilities): The village hall management committee has applied to the PC for a grant of £8,800 for refurbishment work to the floor, redecoration of the building and soft furnishings. The trustees have a wider long-term vision for the building but this work will, in the short-term, help them to generate more income in order to facilitate that wider vision. Cllr Mannassi was thanked for her work on this. It was proposed

by Cllr Walker that LPC would grant £8,800 to the trustees out of its s106 allocation for community facilities and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox. All agreed.

Local handyman services: Cllr Ward had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted. The report highlighted a number of repair and maintenance jobs required on Horn Lane and to the bridge. It was agreed that all repairs should be carried out by the PC's handyman, Ian Blackman. However, two larger projects on the site require quotations from Mr Blackman to be brought before council for agreement.

Churchyard matters: Cllr Cox had sent a report from the meeting held on 12th January between SCDC Tree officer Ian Lorman, the PC and the PCC and this was noted. Since the meeting a letter had been received from the PCC stating that it supports the view that a planting plan is put into place before the removal of the laurels in order to safeguard the privacy of those using the memorial garden. Cllr Bald clarified that it was not the LPC view, but that many in the village thought of the church as an historic building at the heart of the village.

Cllr Cox said that the Lime tree previously reported by him as in need of felling had, according to tree officer Ian Lorman, about another five years of life left and should only have epicormic growth removed to allow rebuilding of the wall.

Cllr Ward suggested a pictorial, annual record of the trees be kept and this was agreed.

Request from resident to repair ornamental gates: Following advice from Cllrs Cox and Mannassi it was agreed by all that the gates, which are in working order, should be left as they are.

Cemetery matters: Cllr Bald had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Poulter that the PC would amend its cemetery regulations to state that all excess soil from graves must be disposed of off-site and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

As the cemetery is rapidly filling, it was proposed by Cllr Cox to close the cemetery to non-parishioners with the following caveat: This will not apply if a grave space has been reserved or if a family grave would be used by someone now living outside of Linton. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion. Councillors voted ten in favour and one against and the proposal was carried.

M Draper request to scatter ashes and plant rose bush: It was proposed by Cllr Poulter that this request should be granted as a one-off and that future requests would be decided on a case-by-case basis. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

Traffic matters: Cllr Manley gave a report from the meeting held earlier in the day between the PC, Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire county council (CCC) which had been held to discuss buses using the High Street. Cllr Manley gave the meeting an assurance from Tom Waterhouse at Stagecoach that there is no threat to the current service. However, Stagecoach is concerned about tyre wear on buses having to mount kerbs in several locations along the High Street and this was investigated further at the meeting. The PC had agreed to collate and pass on information from the PCSO parking enforcement over the next three months to measure the effect of this enforcement on parking which is the major factor in causing pinchpoints along the bus' route.

Cllr Champion asked if the loading bay at the Co-op could have a traffic regulation order placed upon it as previously stated, or double yellow lines painted instead. The clerk will check the Highway's officer's response last time this was raised and report back to the next meeting.

Consideration of correspondence received: Information Commissioners Office regarding confirmation of data protection renewal. Noted.

Mr V Harris request to book the recreation ground for fun fair between 19th and 22nd May 2016. It was proposed by Cllr Walker to grant the request to hold the fun fair on the recreation ground and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Potter. All agreed.

SCDC regarding parish council elections from 2018. Noted.

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

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