

# Fireworks Highlights 2025

ON 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025, Linton's biggest community event drew over 4,500 people for a spectacular fireworks display. The organisers thank the more than 20 local businesses that sponsored the event, especially McKenzie & Haywards Garage, Hockeys Estate Agents, Camgrain, and Wylde Sky. The event raised £16,020, allowing £3,900 to be donated to each of Linton's four schools on 5<sup>th</sup> December, and £500 given to the Guides for their support.

Josie Symons, of Linton Heights PTFA, said that, "fireworks night is one of the biggest events in the PTFA calendar, raising an incredible amount to support the school and the children of our community. We're so grateful to the dedicated Fireworks Committee for all their hard work and to everyone who came along to enjoy the evening and help make it such a success." Mark Norman, treasurer, said that "it was a successful night thanks to the support of the Linton community."



A huge cheque gratefully received

The event was supported by a large and dedicated team with the highest ever number of on-the-day helpers with exceptional engagement from the Heights PTFA and Guides. Also, 2025 saw the highest number of local sponsors to date, making it a true community effort. It was a record-breaking year, and the committee is proud of the outcome and grateful to the community which made it happen.

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event, and to All Star Cleaning and FROGS for cleaning up the site following the event. Save the date: next year's fireworks will take place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

Kerstin Klein

# You can count on Kim

DO you or your loved one need a bit of extra support to live independently and happily at home? Are you over 60? Do you yearn for more day-to-day companionship?

My name is Kim; I am the new Linton Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Warden. If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then my service could make a huge difference to your or your loved one's life.

As a Community Warden, I make daily contact with older people from Monday to Friday, either by phone or text message, and make at least one face-to-face visit weekly. I am known to pick up some light shopping, queue for prescriptions or help with hospital and doctor appointments.

And I can do so much more! I am often described as a navigator of the outside world, a listening ear and a constant companion. My aim is to help grow each older person's confidence and nurture their independence, safe in the knowledge that someone is regularly checking in.

As an organisation, we charge a monthly fee for this service. In return, you have reassurance that your loved one has another lifeline in place, whether you live nearby or far away.

If you are interested in the Community Warden scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me. You or your loved one can take advantage of an introductory 2-week free trial to assess whether this invaluable service suits your needs. I look forward to hearing from you.



Kim Davidson  
Your community warden  
Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough  
07931 852019

# Look out for each other

IN these darker months it is more important than ever that we look after one another. It is a sad fact of modern society that women are approached and, in some cases, have been assaulted, even close to home. If anyone witnesses or experiences concerning behaviour, it should be reported directly to the police via 101. Even the smallest details can assist investigations when viewed alongside other reports.

Many residents walk, run, or commute alone, often early in the morning or late in the evening. Simple precautions can help: let someone know when you expect to be back, share your route, or walk in pairs when possible. These actions are not about fear but about strengthening everyday safety.

Checking in with neighbours, particularly those who live alone, can also make a meaningful difference. A short message asking whether someone arrived home safely, or offering company on an evening errand, reinforces the connectedness that already exists here.

Our community is defined by familiarity, trust, and the willingness to help. Staying alert protects these qualities rather than threatens them. The aim is simple: that every person in our village feels safe moving through daily routines. By keeping an eye out for one another, we help ensure that.

Kerstin Klein

# Linton Children's Book Festival

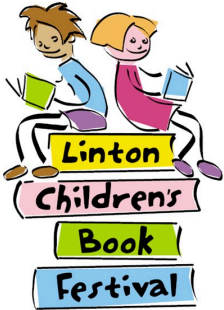
DID you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading? It's the perfect year for the return of Linton Children's Book Festival!

We'll be celebrating 20 years since the first Linton Bookfest, with the usual much-loved weekend of fun and free events for families with children up to age 12. This will include presentations, workshops, performances and hands-on activities to inspire everyone to dive into books and get creative. Mark your calendar for the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May at Linton Village College.

The festival is entirely run by volunteers and funded by grants and donations. If you'd like to support the event by volunteering or with a financial contribution we'd love to hear from you. Please drop Anna a line on [info@lintonbookfest.org](mailto:info@lintonbookfest.org).

Look out for updates about the exciting authors, illustrators, poets and performers who will be coming to Linton and check out the latest at [lintonbookfest.org](http://lintonbookfest.org).

Anna McMahon [info@lintonbookfest.org](mailto:info@lintonbookfest.org)



# Farming with a Flourish



JUST down the road from Linton is Flourish Produce, an organic farm on the edge of Hildersham, marked by a large sunshine yellow sign at the entrance. Originally founded in 2017 by Calixta Killander and her two working horses Bill and Ben on just 2 acres in the corner of a field, Flourish has gradually expanded. The horses eventually retired and were replaced by a fleet of Classic Massey Ferguson tractors.

Last month Flourish Produce was named Best UK Food Producer in the prestigious BBC Food and Farming Awards judged by Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall. From 250 candidates in this category Flourish was chosen as the deserving winner acknowledging their longstanding dedication to regenerative farming practices, deep rooted commitment to soil health and increased biodiversity.

A spokesperson for Flourish said, "for our whole team, this recognition means the world. As farmers – often working behind the scenes rather than front-of-house – it's incredibly meaningful to have our work celebrated on a national stage. We're especially delighted to see the BBC spotlighting regenerative, organic and agroecological farming, and highlighting its role in shaping a secure, sustainable food future."

750 varieties of vegetables, herbs, salads, fruit, cut flowers and heritage grain are grown on the farm, including many unusual crops from abroad. This produce is mainly sold to restaurants, shops and florists in London and locally and to home cooks via their produce boxes and the farm shop. Flourish Farm Shop is open 7 days a week. Visit [www.flourishproduce.co.uk](http://www.flourishproduce.co.uk) to find out more or follow on social media [@flourishproduce](https://www.instagram.com/flourishproduce) [@flourishfarmshop](https://www.instagram.com/flourishfarmshop).

Linton News Team

# Rudolph Ramble For Arthur Rank

IF you were walking in Linton on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, you may have seen 150 little and several larger 'reindeer' out and about! We were taking part in our annual 'Rudolph Ramble' raising funds for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

This year, they are facing an urgent challenge. Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is withdrawing its annual contribution of £829,000 funding which directly supports up to nine of the specialist inpatient unit beds. These beds provide expert end-of-life care for people who would otherwise be in a busy hospital ward. Without this funding, over 200 local people each year could lose the chance to die in comfort and dignity, surrounded by their loved ones.

As I write this article, Linton Infants have raised £1,983! A huge achievement for a small village school with 150 pupils. This, to me, only shows how much value our community places on this charity.

If you are able to donate, you can do so via the link below;

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/emma-hicks-7?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/emma-hicks-7?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

Kelly Harries



New Year Coffee Morning

CELEBRATE the beginning of 2026 with The Friends of St Mary's, who are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 from 10am until 12 noon in the Pavilion behind St Mary's Church.

As well as the usual freshly brewed coffee and tea. The Friends will be serving savouries, including cheese scones and sausage rolls, just the thing for all those who have had a surfeit of sweet things and chocolate over Christmas!

There will also be a raffle as well as an opportunity to book tickets for The Friends' Quiz Evening on 15<sup>th</sup> February in the church.

About the Friends: Our parish church is a beautiful building that is over 900 years old, and the only Grade 1 listed building in Linton. The Friends of St Mary's is a registered charity and was founded in the 1980s to restore, preserve, repair, maintain and improve the church building, fixtures and fittings. Most recently, over £120,000 has been spent on further repair works, redecoration and a new lighting system. The church receives no money from the Diocese of Ely, the wider Church of England, central government nor local councils, meaning that the charity needs the continued support of the local community and other sympathetic friends to carry on this vital work.

Judith Tonry  
Secretary, The Friends of St Mary's, Linton

Ghosts by Candlelight

HOLY Trinity Church, Hildersham welcomes you to an evening of Ghost Stories by Candlelight on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. The stories will include those by such favourites as Stephen King, M.R. James and Charles Dickens.

They will be read by David Hart and Steve Murray from the Outspoken Theatre Company. David and Steve are familiar faces to Hildersham, having performed in Shakespeare plays in The Old School Woods at Hildersham Church. This event is in support of the Friends of Hildersham Church.

Tickets £10 including refreshments available at the door or from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ghost-stories-by-candlelight-tickets-1966127522346?aff=oddtcreator>



Athene Hunt

Mary's Kitchen

THE kitchen has got off to a great start. Launched in October, it is not just about fresh bread and homemade soup (made by folks across Linton); it's about community conversation, reuniting old friends and helping to make new ones! Comments from people who have come so far include "the best soup I've ever had!" "it's been lovely because we have connected for the first time and we are three widows, two recently bereaved" and "I'm really overwhelmed by what you've done here". One person spoke to her neighbours properly for the first time; they'd never spoken before, only waved. It's good to get together.

Come and join us: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 12–2pm at the Pavilion behind the church, no charge (donations welcome). For all ages and backgrounds.

Revd Paul

Headscratcher

No:15  
A given dodecahedron is a solid with edges of length 2 cm and 12 faces. How many corners and edges does it possess? What is its total surface area and its total volume?

Answer to No 14  
The maximum speed the bullet train can be travelling is 20 m/s in order to stop in 4 km with a deceleration of 5 m/s<sup>2</sup>

Aspasia

Whole Pack Tempest in Hadstock

THE Whole Pack Theatre is thrilled to be returning to Hadstock Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 after the sparkling success of our dazzling debut *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This production includes local talent Alice Kellar from Linton in the cast, as well as Jessamy James from Hadstock who directs and performs in the show. We will also be performing in Saffron Walden on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

We're so excited to share our unique, all-female style of energetic, ensemble theatre with this brand new production of *The Tempest*. Prepare to set sail on a piratical adventure full of magic and mischief and sea shanties galore, incorporating The Whole Pack's trademark haunting harmonies.

The Whole Pack is an all-female company, founded to create more opportunities for women in Shakespeare, bringing something daring and different to these much-loved plays. Our first year as a company has been a whirlwind of working with incredible women, performing in varied and exciting venues, and meeting some truly fabulous audiences. Tickets available here for: Hadstock Village Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm <https://tempesthadstock.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Jessamy, Mary, Megan and Meghan

Burns Night Ceilidh



CELEBRATE Burns Night early with a lively ceilidh on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, at St Mary's Church, Linton. Kicking off at 7 pm, this festive event will feature traditional Scottish music and dancing, led by the talented Cambridge University Ceilidh Band. In true Burns Night spirit, the evening will include a hearty Burns Night meal (vegetarian alternative available). Whether you're a ceilidh regular or a first-time dancer, this event promises fun for all, honouring the Scottish poet Robert Burns in the most spirited way.

Tickets are £20 (children half price) and are available in advance. To reserve your place, contact Charlotte Dodd at [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk) or Sue Ellis at 01223 892257.

Charlotte Dodd

THE LINTON NEWS

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January bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

Blue: Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>

Green: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

To be included email: [diary.linton.news@gmail.com](mailto:diary.linton.news@gmail.com)  
Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.  
See <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/events-calendar> for more details of village events.

<b>January</b>		
Sat 3	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 6	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 6	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 8	Linton Roots, 6–7.30pm	TBC
Fri 9	The Tempest, 7.30pm	Hadstock Village Hall
Sat 10	Balsham Picture House, 7pm <i>The Penguin Lessons</i> ,	Balsham Institute
Mon 12	West Wickham History Society, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Wed 14	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	Free Church
Tue 16	Linton Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri 16	Daylight Readers, 10.30am & 2.30pm	Library
Fri 16	Mary's Community Kitchen, 12–2pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Sat 17	Free Church Men's Breakfast	Black Bull, Balsham
Sat 17	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 17	Burns Night Ceilidh, 7pm	St Mary's Church
Mon 19	West Wickham Gardening Club, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 20	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 20	LDHS, 7.30pm, <i>Borley Rectory the most haunted house in England</i>	Village Hall
Tue 20	Alpha Course, 7pm	Free Church
Wed 21	Author Visit, 2–3.30pm	Library
Sat 24	Ghost Stories By Candlelight, 7.30pm	Trinity Church Hildersham
Sat 31	Annual 440 Jazz Concert, 7.30pm	Free Church
<b>February</b>		
Sat 7	Harp By Candlelight, 7pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Weekly</b>		
Mon	Mini Movers, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30–11am	Library
Tue	Granta Bridge Club, 2–4pm	Village Hall
Tue	Knit and Natter, 2–4pm	Library
Tue	Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7–8pm	LVC
Wed	Tots in Tow, 9.30–11am (term times)	Village Hall
Wed	Warm Hub, 1–4pm	Sports Pavilion
Wed	IT Drop In, 5–7pm	Library
Wed	Let's Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1–2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2–4pm	Library
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10–11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7–9pm	Comm. Sports Centre, LVC

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News from the Heights

Year 4 pupils bring Peter Pan to life in captivating school performance



FAMILIES, staff and children at Linton Heights Junior School were treated to magical performances on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, as Year 4 pupils staged an ambitious and heart-warming production of *Peter Pan*. The performances marked the culmination of weeks of dedication, teamwork, and creativity from the entire year group.

From the moment the performances started, it was clear how much effort the children had poured into their work. Confident acting, expressive singing, and an infectious sense of enthusiasm carried the audience through Neverland, with pupils embracing their roles as pirates, fairies, Lost Boys, and beloved characters from the classic tale. Their commitment not only showcased impressive talent but also highlighted the collaborative spirit that has grown among the group throughout the term.

We were thrilled to invite Year 2 from Linton Infants to watch the matinee performance. Teachers said the visit offered the younger pupils a wonderful introduction to Linton Heights while giving the Year 4 performers a wonderful, appreciative audience. The success of the production was also supported by the invaluable contributions of parents and carers. Many helped craft costumes, gather props, and rehearse lines at home, ensuring the children felt prepared and proud on stage.

Caroline Webb

News from the Granta School

WHAT a busy month December has been. Many thanks to all our families who attended the winter open afternoon sessions. It was great to see you all and the students enjoyed having you in their classrooms.

Throughout December, students have been taking part in winter themed activities; we had an array of colours and designs on the Christmas Jumpers for Christmas Jumper Day and students enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch; we even had a visit from Santa and his elf! We have continued to recruit for additional teaching assistants and we have two new teachers due to join us in January.

We must also take this opportunity to thank the Linton Fireworks for their continued support of our local schools. This year's fireworks event was a tremendous success and had an excellent turnout. The cheque for £3,900 was very gratefully received.

I wish you all a happy and healthy festive break and look forward to seeing all our students back in the New Year on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Emma Jennings

Young Leaders at BYT

THE Beacon Youth Trust (BYT) oversees youth work in Linton, with a base in the recreation ground and work in the local schools. We are so thankful for the amazing young people, our Young Leaders, who are supporting youth work with their time and talent.

It can seem that most of what we hear about young people is negative, but by providing a safe space for them to learn valuable social skills and team work, we have seen clear development in their confidence, communication and social skills.

It has helped to have them demonstrate something that other young people might emulate, making a positive contribution in the community, an important part of what we hope to achieve through youth work in Linton.

Below, two Young Leaders share their experiences.

**Holly aged 15**  
I have been helping with the youth group for two and a half years. I supervise games, take the register, and help with cooking and washing up. We feel we have given back to the community, helping create a safe environment for young people to relax and hang out with their friends. The group has helped me do something fun in my free time.

**Eleanor aged 14**  
I have helped take the register, run games, managed the tuck shop and helped set up and pack down. I like helping people to feel included, secure and cared for. It has helped me develop my confidence, helping young people feel safe and have a good place to socialise.

Abington Preschool

Please use us or lose us.

FOR over 20 years, Abington Preschool has been operating out of the annexe building at the back of Abington Primary School playground. Since September we have had very low numbers and it is now financially unsustainable for us to continue operating if we do not immediately attract more children.

It would be a desperate shame if we had to close the preschool, and this would be a huge loss to our local area.

We operate 8:50am to 3pm, term time only. But we could consider opening later and earlier if that worked for a group of children. We could also stay open in the holidays. We accept children from 2 years old, and offer government funding.

Please spread the word about our fantastic preschool. We have experienced, passionate staff, many of whom have been with us for many, many years. We are in an idyllic setting and have great links with the primary school. We are run by a dedicated committee of volunteers.

We had our AGM on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December in the annexe building. We'd love to have your ideas and practical help to remain open.

If you'd like to arrange a visit to preschool or enquire about a place, please call the annexe on 01223 894246. And if you need a flyer to share or have further questions, please email me, Katie Russell, [abingtonannexechair@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexechair@gmail.com). Thank you.

Katie Russell  
Chair of Abington Annexe Community Childcare

The Marsh Mail

MUSIC is an important part of life at Linton Village College. It is central to our curriculum and gives students opportunities to learn, perform and be creative. Led by Mrs Jukes, the music department is a busy and welcoming space, with students often visiting outside lessons.

Music at LVC offers a wide range of opportunities beyond classroom learning or GCSE courses. Students can join ensembles such as the jazz band, orchestras and choirs to perform together, including Linton Voices, led by Mrs Brown. Lunchtimes are active, with open sessions like Jam Club for anyone who wants to play. In addition, nine professional musicians provide one-to-one tuition, helping students develop their skills and confidence.



*Cambridge Jazz Festival*

Students are also involved in events beyond the classroom. Our Jazz Band performed alongside other Village College musicians for the School Big Band Concert as part of the Cambridge Jazz Festival in November. 120 students took part in our Carol Concert at The Church of the Holy Trinity, Balsham last month. It was a great community occasion attended by parents, governors and former staff.

Another highlight was a trip for 40 students to watch the world-famous King's College Choir rehearse for their carol concert, which is seen by millions on TV on Christmas Eve.



*King's College Choir rehearsal*

Music at LVC is about more than lessons – it is about experiences, confidence and community. We are proud of what our students achieve and look forward to more opportunities in the year ahead.

Helena Marsh

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## 100 Parishes

ONE of the pleasures of walking round the towns and villages within the Hundred Parishes is enjoying the variety of gardens, thriving testaments to those whose horticultural skills add to the local sense of pride.

Last October, the RHS published its *State of Gardening Report*, highlighting the many reasons why gardens are so important. Within the UK, they cover almost a million hectares, more than three times the area of national nature reserves. Many local gardens include a variety of trees as well as a range of flowering plants, some from other parts of the world, so the flowering season is extended. This provides Winter and Spring colour, and pollen and nectar for pollinating insects. Well-vegetated gardens are havens for other forms of wildlife too, including hedgehogs and many common birds, especially if supplementary food and nesting sites are provided.

Last Spring, the Essex Wildlife Trust asked residents to record house sparrows visiting their gardens as these once common birds are now in serious decline. The reasons include the reduction of invertebrate food such as caterpillars, essential for rearing nestlings, and a shortage of suitable nesting sites in modern houses. Over 500 gardens were surveyed and the information gathered suggested older properties were more likely to provide nesting sites for these birds who also favoured gardens with a pond. Growing a wide variety of flowering plants and installing nest boxes in your garden may provide a habitat for house sparrows to thrive. For information about the project see [essexwt.org.uk/house-sparrow-project](http://essexwt.org.uk/house-sparrow-project)



House sparrow by jbooba on Pixabay  
Tricia Moxey, Trustee

## Poetry por Favor at the Gallery Above

IN the *Gallery Above* on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, we had an exciting evening celebrating the central role that poetry plays in our lives and has done since time began! A full house listened to the poet Katie Wellings performing her latest work, entitled *Snow Angel*, which was especially composed for the evening.

It was an especially festive affair since Tara Wheeler, David Parsons and Rosemary Wellings were all celebrating a shared birthday on 4<sup>th</sup> December (pictured right).



Rosemary Wellings

## 2026 at the Free Church

2025 was another busy year for us and we have continued to see good things happening and new people joining. It has been particularly encouraging to see several young people coming to find out more about the Christian faith. Here's some of our highlights;

- Pastor Chris was inducted as Minister at Old Independent Church, Haverhill and we entered into a formal partnership with them
- Debbie Gilbert joined our team
- Ten young people and leaders had an amazing trip to Uganda to support Kickstart Charity and their work with schools in Entebbe
- A new group for young people starting with a Youth Alpha course
- Overcoming a few weeks of no water supply and then a gas leak

Looking forward to 2026.

- On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm, we will be starting a new Alpha Course running for 11 weeks.
- New Coffee morning will be held on second Wednesday each month starting on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10am–noon.
- Men's breakfast on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January at Black Bull, Balsham
- Jazz concert for Beacon Youth Trust, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

For more information about Alpha, and of all our services, events and other information please check out our website, [Lintonfreechurch.org.uk](http://Lintonfreechurch.org.uk) .

Ian Burns, Church Secretary

## ACE's Festive Treat

ACE WERE delighted to see many friends at their very popular Festive Buffet. We enjoyed a drink of choice and a delicious selection of food served by the incredible team. The lunch was a happy event, with a warm atmosphere from the good conversations and festive music provided by Dave.



The committee whetted our appetite with their plans for the coming year and invited us to their first event of 2026, 'Soup with a Roll' in the Sports Pavilion on Linton Recreation Ground, 12.30pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

There will be a small charge to cover the cost of the lunch. Look out for the posters around the village with more details.

We wish all our friends a Very Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming new faces and old friends to our various events through 2026.

Sue Filby

## Richard III comes to West Wickham

WEST Wickham and District Local History Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Our 2026 programme begins with Matthew Morris speaking about *Reconstructing the life and death of England's last medieval king - Richard III: Bloody will be Thy End* on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Matthew was part of the team which discovered his remains in a car park! New members and visitors always welcome, (£2 fee for non-members).

Margaret Creek

## Linton WI

OUR Christmas Social started with a 'Getting to Know You' quiz. We found out that only two members were born in Cambridgeshire but four had met Royalty! This was followed by a poem, read by Gill, Sue and Olly. We then tucked into a bring and share with Christmas crackers and a Secret Santa. The evening was rounded off with carols accompanied by Jacqui on the keyboard.

Our next Meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm when Helen Regan will be leading us in Seated Pilates.

New members welcome. Visitors: £5; Enquiries: 07305 847437

On 14<sup>th</sup> November a group of our members was welcomed at Hadstock Village Hall by Richard Dolby, Pat and Maggie. Richard gave us a talk with slides on the history of St Botolph's Church in Hadstock. We then visited the late 11<sup>th</sup> century church and examined the oldest church door in the country.

Returning to the hall we were treated to tea and cakes.  
Liz Cox

## Balsham Picture House

THE film for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January will be the Steve Coogan comedy *The Penguin Lessons* (12). The film follows a disillusioned Englishman's personal and political awakening as he goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 and rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. It is based on a true story. Doors open at 7pm and film starts at 7.30pm.

Richard Paden

## That's Jammy

IN 2025, Hildersham Jam Stall donated £506 to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). Copies of the latest EACH newsletters are displayed on the stall. Victoria Goldsmith, Senior Community Fundraiser, sent a really lovely thank you email. She said, "You're the jamiest bunch we know", thanked us for our "sweet contribution, which help spread care and comfort" and our "generosity, the perfect recipe for making a real difference". She signed off with "heartfelt thanks and a spoonful of appreciation".

We welcome donations of homemade jam, marmalade, chutney and homegrown produce. If you're feeling adventurous and would like to make a batch of preserves for the stall, we will supply jars and sugar. Thank you so much to all our supporters.

Jill Heale 01223 893596,  
[edheale@btinternet.com](mailto:edheale@btinternet.com)

## Harp by Candlelight

TO mark the season of Candelmas, St Mary's, Linton will welcome internationally acclaimed harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldry (pictured right) on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February (7pm).



Our ancient church will be filled with candlelight and evocative music from across the centuries as the new season of spring begins to stir. Proceeds from this very special evening will help to make sure that St Mary's is here for everyone, every day of the year. Tickets (£15) from Jigsaw Bakery, [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk) or call 01223 455098. Not to be missed.

Revd Paul

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# Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams

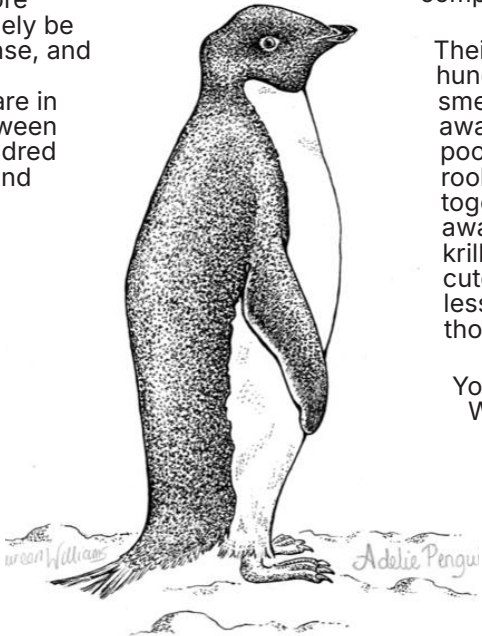


## Penguins in the Antarctic

JUST occasionally I'm allowed licence to venture out of South Cambs in Country Matters. This time it was prompted by a gift of the 2018 Folio edition of the South Polar Times, written by the men on the Discovery Expedition (1901–1904) under Captain Scott. It is a fascinating read, with all sorts of articles from plant life to seals to watering the ship to sledge flags to ballooning to the workings of a mariner's compass. It was one of the articles about penguins that attracted me first. There are two species of penguin in the Antarctic, out of a total of 18 species in the world, and these are the Emperor and the Adelie. Here is an extract from the spring 1902 edition.

"First met with in the pack ice on January 5, the Adelie penguins came running up in twos and threes to greet us. A more delightful comical sight can scarcely be imagined. Their interest was intense, and their haste to reach the ship was checked only by their child like care in jumping over the water leads between ice floes. At last, when only a hundred yards intervened between them and us, they would stand and stare in open eyed astonishment, craning their necks to get a better look. Sometimes one of them would advance a little further with an inquiring squawk, and then, overcome by its own temerity, it would retreat again to turn and stare and stand on tiptoe and flap its flippers and laugh at its own absurdity. One could never tire of watching them, their ways were so amusing."

How could I pass up the opportunity to learn a bit more?



Penguins are flightless semi-aquatic sea birds. They have feathers, are warm blooded, have a backbone, lay eggs and have flippers instead of wings. The feathers are more like reptilian scales, and they exist in the harshest environment imaginable, to which they are perfectly adapted. They look clumsy and comical on land, but are exceptional swimmers, reaching 22 mph. They can dive to depths of 1,800 metres and stay under for 22 minutes. On the water, a flock is called a raft, and on land, a waddle. Penguins spend 75% of their time at sea, flying through the waves and using their tails as rudders. Like seals and whales, they have a thick layer of blubber, and they spend hours while on land preening their feathers, spreading oil from their oil gland, to keep their outer feathers completely watertight.

Their colonies, known as rookeries, run into hundreds of thousands of birds, and you can smell the stench and hear the noise from miles away. This is unsurprising, as apparently they poo up to 145 times a day. They breed in rookeries so the youngsters can huddle together for warmth while the parents are away at sea. Both Emperors and Adelies eat krill, which they regurgitate for the chicks. The cute fluffy toy image is a mask for some rather less desirable personal habits, sweet natured though they are.

You can adopt a penguin through the World Wildlife Fund, and get a personalised adoption certificate. Why wait till next Christmas?

PS You have read this far, so you might just be sufficiently interested to write an article yourself? If so, please email [o.laws@btopenworld.com](mailto:o.laws@btopenworld.com) or phone 07932 405541.

## Author visit & more

COME in to the library for cosy reads on dark days. You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome at the Linton library. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, find a new author or use our free WiFi.

We have an author visit from crime writer Alison Stockham, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 2–3.30pm. Alison will describe how she plots her gripping psychological thrillers and introduce her latest novel. Tickets are £3, book in the library or contact [cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

2026 is the National Year of Reading ([www.goallin.org.uk](http://www.goallin.org.uk)) and we want to encourage everyone to get into reading! Book groups are a great way to make new friends, discover new different authors and titles and get more enjoyment from reading. Two groups meet at Linton Library every third Friday, and the morning group would love to welcome new members.

**Daylight Readers:** Our book groups meet on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm.

**Rhythm & Rhyme:** Tuesdays 10.30–11am for 0–4-year-olds (term time only), followed by Duplo. We would love to see you and your little ones there!

**Knit and Natter:** Tuesdays 2–4pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

**IT Drop-in:** Wednesdays 5–7pm. Knowledgeable volunteers are here to help with Information Technology.

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

**Lego/Duplo:** Fridays 10–11am, weekly (every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday). Come along and entertain your 0–4-year-old.

*Vicky Anandraj and Ann King  
Community Library Assistants, Linton Library  
Opening hours: Tues 10am–5pm; Wed 4–7pm;  
Thurs 2–5pm; Fri 10am–5pm; Sat 10am–1pm*

## Breathing New Life into the Things we Love!

IT'S a brand new year and the saying goes 'Out with the old, in with the new' but what if our old tools and clothes are much loved, just needing repair? Why not book into Linton Roots Repair Cafe on 14<sup>th</sup> February at Linton Village Hall from 2–4.30pm. Repairs can often be done on a variety of items, such as: coffee machines, music equipment, fabric/clothes, jewellery and garden tools. There will be a café too, so you can enjoy a cuppa and cake!

To request a repair, you can submit an online form. We will confirm if we have suitable repairers and advise you of your time slot a few days before. Booking forms can be requested via [linton-roots@outlook.com](mailto:linton-roots@outlook.com) from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

All of this is done by volunteers and no charge is made, but donations are welcome to ensure we can pay for our costs and maybe even a repeat event! Please do contact us if you can help with the Cafe either as a general volunteer or a trainee repairer. We hope to hear from you!

There will only be a limited number of slots for walk-in repairs on the day – so please book now to be sure to have your item seen.

*Yannick, Kirsten and the Linton Roots Team*

## Winter skies and Wish Lists

WITH bright January skies and seeds to be sown (broad beans, sweet peas and chillies are just some that can be planted this month), there is so much for gardeners to look forward to in the New Year.

If you are not a member of the Gardening Club, we are always delighted to see new faces, even if you would just like to come to a meeting and see what it's all about. Membership for 2025–2026 is £8 (with £2 for non-members at talks) and runs from October to October with new members welcome to join throughout the year. Membership also brings with it discounts at local suppliers and half-price entry to RHS gardens. The Club offers a welcoming atmosphere with a range of ages and experience.

As well as monthly talks on a wide range of subjects from self-sufficiency to wasps, we also hold our incredibly popular Plant Sale in June and a Gardening Fair in September. One summer outing this year will be to RHS Wisley. So why not add the Gardening Club to your January wish list?

We are excited to welcome Dr Neil Dickinson as our first speaker of 2026, talking on the subject of *Japanese Gardens: what, why, how?* on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January in West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Please contact Sally Collins on [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org) for further information about the Club.

*Sally Collins*

## Linton & District Historical Society

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January we welcome back Bryan Thurlow to give us an insight into the history of Borley Rectory, named as 'The most haunted house in England'.



The meeting will be in Linton village hall, Coles Lane and begin at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Visitors and new members always welcome.

*Ian Creek*

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*By Tor Hjaltun*

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# District and County Councillors' Report - December 2025

**Local Plan**  
THE District Council has recently released its draft Local Plan – which is the development plan for the next 20 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire that they feel can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time.  
As previously reported, the major development in our area is a site north of Abington called Grange Farm, which can accommodate up to 6,000 new houses. This would be a significant development in our area, as it would represent a new town, about three times the size of Linton.  
The reason this is proposed here is that the location is deemed to be 'sustainable', as it's close to employment sites like Granta Park and Babraham Research Park and is also located on major roads – the A1307 and the A11. The public consultation on this draft document went live on December 1<sup>st</sup> and will run until January 30<sup>th</sup>. Please do encourage anyone that has a view on the Grange Farm site, or any of the others proposed, to engage with this.

There are numerous in-person sessions where you can speak with a planning officer about anything specific. There is a list of all of the events, as well as the consultation form, on the Local Plan webpage - <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan>.

**Local Government Reorganisation**  
All of the local authorities in Cambridgeshire have now submitted their preferred choices to central government for consideration. Here is a summary of which option each council submitted:

- Cambridgeshire County Council Option A Creates two unitary councils: Unitary 1 (Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, Fenland) and Unitary 2 (Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire).

- Cambridge City Council with South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council Option B Creates two unitary councils: Unitary 1 (Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire) and Unitary 2 (Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire).
- Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council Option D Creates three unitary councils: Unitary 1 (Greater Peterborough/West Huntingdonshire), Unitary 2 (Fenland, East Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire), and Unitary 3 (Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire). Fenland was originally involved in developing options A, B, and C with other councils. Since then they have hardened their view that the local government reorganisation process is flawed, reluctantly acceding to support Option D.
- Huntingdonshire District Council Option E Creates three unitary councils: Unitary 1 (Standalone Huntingdonshire), Unitary 2 (Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire), and Unitary 3 (Peterborough, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire).

The government ultimately received four distinct options (A, B, D, and E) for consideration. A government-led statutory consultation with residents is expected in Spring 2026, with a final decision anticipated in Summer 2026.

**Online Local Policing Forum**  
The Police hold regular online forums where anyone can register to attend and hear about the latest changes to the service and speak directly with the Police force in South Cambridgeshire.

**Cambridge South Station**  
The new train station being built at the Addenbrooke's site, that will be called Cambridge South, has had some construction delays and will not be open until June 2026.

District Council – John Batchelor – [johndbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johndbatchelor23@gmail.com)  
District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

# The Garth Collard Collection

IT gives me great pleasure to share news of the completion of the Garth Collard Collection online archive.

Following two successful exhibitions by the Linton Camera Club in 2025, an ambitious project began to ensure that Garth's work will remain accessible to everyone in perpetuity. Garth's endeavours over 30 years were recognised with the award of an MBE by the late Queen in 2008 for Services to Local History, of which he was rightly very proud. Garth was deeply passionate about Linton, Lintonians and the area's rich history, and he loved the photographic collection.



It has been quite a task to crop, catalogue and upload over 2,000 photographs, having taken many hours. I can only describe the work as a fascinating journey through Linton's history, and I feel privileged to have been entrusted with the project.

Everyone is welcome to view, download and print any of the material, whether simply out of interest, for a school project or for research. There is no copyright to worry about, ensuring Garth Collard's life's work can be enjoyed by all.

The Collection can be found under Local Info on the Linton Village Directory website at [www.lintonvillagedirectory.com](http://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com). Here is an index page showing the 400 sheets in the archive, each with an individual topic to explore.

The photographs are featured in groups of 25, equating to approximately 150 photos per page. You can simply scroll through, or use the index to pinpoint areas of specific interest. The Parish Council office has a catalogue of every photograph, including descriptions. This will preserve the information, which will be added to the archives.



GREEN LANE in the 1920's – The chimney on the left was part of the fish smoking business of Horace Morley. His shop roof can just be seen near the telegraph post. His sheds to the left became part of the house now situated next to the Old Maltings Lane. In the central background you can see the old Princess of Wales Beerhouse and Zenkers farmhouse.

Jenny Seaward

# Planning Applications

Planning Applications 12<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December

**23/00488/CONDC** Submission of details required by condition 10 (Existing Window) of Listed Building consent 23/00488/LBC. Linton Village College Cambridge Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JB. Validated: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Status: Awaiting decision.

**25/00998/NMA1** Non material amendment on application 25/00998/HFUL for change in Roof type and addition of roof light window.1A Bartlow Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4LY/ Validated: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Status: Awaiting decision.

**25/04619/HFUL** First floor side extension and partial conversion of existing garage to habitable space. Removal of existing side door and replacement of existing rear door with window. Installation of new doors to rear. 5 Barley Way Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4YN. Validated: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Status: Awaiting decision.

**25/04459/CL2PD** Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the installation of 12 solar panels to the front elevation and the installation of an air source heat pump. 20 Symonds Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HY. Validated: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Status: Awaiting decision.

**25/04492/SCRE** EIA Screening Opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for Outline planning permission for the erection of up to 250 dwellings, new site for a doctor's surgery, open space, allotments, and associated infrastructure, with all matters reserved except access. Land North Of Cambridge Road Linton Cambridgeshire. Validated: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Status: Awaiting decision.

# Help the Community and Boost your Income

THE Cathodeon Centre on Horseheath Road contains the Linton Library, Child and Family Centre facilities, and community rooms used by local organisations including Chestnut Playgroup. The Trustees who manage the Centre, alongside the Trust Secretary, need a local person to help them supervise it and liaise with organisations and groups using the Centre.

The role's ideal for someone who likes meeting people, wants to be involved with the local community and is flexible. One week there might be little to do, the next week it might take up several hours of your time and include meeting tradespeople.

This is a paid position, reflecting the hours worked, and would be ideal for someone looking to add to their existing income, including an actively retired person. Ideally, they would be self-employed but the Trustees would consider employing the right person directly. There is a chance they could apply for other community-based work around the village as well.

If this interests you, please contact me, the Chair of the Trustees, ([lintongore2@gmail.com](mailto:lintongore2@gmail.com); 01223 891970, 07568 236464) for more information.

Andrew Gore

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Parish Council Matters

LINTON  
PARISH COUNCIL

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

Cllr Rosalie Campbell

HELLO Linton News Readers,  
My name is Rosalie Campbell and I recently joined the Parish Council. I have lived in England for more than 30 years, but originally, I am from Northern Ireland. As a young adult, I moved to England for work, and recently retired from the NHS after 35 years.



Twelve years ago, I drove through the village searching for a home. I knew immediately I wanted to live here. My family has been here ever since.

My daughter attended Linton Village College and my husband also serves on the Parish Council. I have made strong connections in Linton, and feel motivated to support the Parish Council in its work for our village.

I feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country, and privileged to be co-opted to serve on the parish council. I look forward to contributing to the work of the council and I'd be happy to consider any thoughts from parishioners. Feel free to contact me at [R.Campbell@lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk](mailto:R.Campbell@lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk).

Cllr Rosalie Campbell

Cllr Robin Williams

Hi my name is Robin Williams and having been accepted to join the Parish Council with the ambition to continue serving the Linton community in future projects.

I moved to Linton in 1968. And after leaving the RAF I became the Warrant Officer with the 2523 Linton Squadron ATC. I then became the Scout Leader for the 1st Linton Scout troop, which I continued for 26 years. We took the young boys and girls on various camps and expeditions, and was awarded the chief scouts medal of merit for work in the Granta District. I have two daughters who both went to school from Infants to LVC.

Linton Granta FC has been a big part of my life having first played for them in 1971 then I became a committee member until becoming their Chairman for over 10 years.

Local community is important to me and I have helped in many village events from the carnival, infants school PTA to more recently helping with the picnic in the park event plus events organised by LGFC.

Many people see me around the village and stop to chat (mainly about football) but please feel free to discuss whatever is on your mind.



Cllr Robin Williams

Cllr Lee Allen

HELLO, my name is Lee Allen, and I recently joined the Linton Parish Council at the beginning of November.

I have lived in Linton for the past 22 years. My wife has spent most of her life here, and together we have raised our two daughters, who have grown up and attended the local schools in the village. As a family, we are proud to call Linton our home and to be part of such a strong and welcoming community.

I currently work as an Engineering and Projects Manager, with extensive experience in maintenance, engineering, and operations. I am passionate about developing people, improving processes, and driving sustainable growth through effective project delivery and teamwork.



Alongside my professional career, I also serve as an on-call firefighter with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, where I hold the rank of Watch Commander at Linton Fire Station. For nearly 20 years, I've been proud to serve the community, leading a dedicated team of local firefighters, supporting community safety, and helping to keep Linton and the surrounding areas safe.

I take great pride in serving the community, whether through my work with the fire service or by supporting local events and initiatives. Outside of work, I enjoy practising close-up magic and exploring its history, as well as spending time with my wife and daughters.

Linton has been our family's home for more than two decades, and I am honoured to contribute further through the work of the Parish Council, helping to support the community and shape its future. If you see me around the village, please do say hello or feel free to contact me by email at [L.Allen@lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk](mailto:L.Allen@lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk).

Cllr Lee Allen

Safety Warning for Walkers

IN LINTON we are surrounded by agricultural land, where public rights of way are provided to ensure parishioners can safely enjoy the countryside. Please adhere to the safety advice below to ensure you and your animals, the landowner, and the wildlife are protected.

- Be Seen to Be Safe – wear protective high-visibility clothing, especially in the dark winter months.
- Stick to the paths, which are usually but not always on the perimeter of the field.
- Be aware of countryside activities taking place e.g. shooting and horse riding.
- Keep your dog on a lead if working/shooting parties are present.

In England you do not have the 'Right to Roam' across agricultural land without permission from the landowner. Please stick to the Public Rights of Way which are often maintained by the landowner to ensure your safety and to protect the winter crops.

Clerk

Grange Farm - Abington

GREATER Cambridge Shared Planning have published a draft Local Plan which is out for public consultation from 1st December 2025 to 30th January 2026 at 5pm. It can be found here: <http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan>.

On the 1st December members of the SDCD Planning Committee introduced the draft Local Plan, including the part of the plan addressing the planned development at Grange Farm.

This part of the plan may be found here: <https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/draft-greater-cambridgelocal-plan-consultation/site-allocations/new-settlements/policy-sgf-land/>

"Grange Farm will be a thriving and sustainable new community, providing a distinctive mixed-use development shaped by a comprehensive and innovative approach to delivering resilient placemaking. It will be delivered through a design-led approach with placemaking and nature at the heart of development. Grange Farm will play a vital role in locating high quality new homes close to existing employment areas, connected through a holistic active travel and public transport network. At its heart, it will be a vibrant place that provides for the day-to-day health, wellbeing and quality of life needs of new residents, workers, surrounding communities and visitors, by positioning new local centres, schools, community uses, and other local services and amenities close to homes."

In a nutshell the plan calls for the building of 6,000 homes supported by medical and educational infrastructure together with shops and amenities. Easy transport links and cycle ways to minimise the need to use private transport is recognised as important. This development will help to meet the expected growing employment needs of local BioMed Campuses and similar.

Concerns were raised on the current water supply situation; it was explained that if the scheme goes ahead it was not likely to start until 2032 when the pipeline from Grafham Water is finished. It is expected that 300 houses will be built each year the settlement finally maturing in 2052.

Why Settlements?

Greater Cambridge, like all Local Authorities, are having to meet Government expectations on growing housing needs. The local economy has grown hugely over the past few years and seems likely to expand into the foreseeable future hence what seems to be the huge number of houses needed.

The GCSP team have leaned away from suggesting this new housing burden be shared among the villages and towns and are championing what are in effect new towns as the sustainable solution.

The Planning Committee is keen that everyone with a view take part in the consultation, they really do want to know what people think. Whatever your view, largely supportive or indeed critical of the plan, do take part in the consultation. It's online and can be accessed through the links at the top of this column.

Chairman of the LPC Planning Committee

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Parish Council Minutes

LINTON  
PARISH COUNCIL

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

Abbreviated minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Cathodeon Centre.

**Open Forum for Public Participation**  
The Vice Chairman invited members of the public to address the council.  
Participant One requested clarification of the parking and access to the Recreation Ground in relation to hiring the Pavilion.  
The participant made a complaint about the excessive cars on Sunday evening and stated that the grass area had been damaged.  
Participant Two raised concerns of walkers on farmland, especially during the shooting season, stating that members of the public are damaging crops and causing risk to safety.

**External and Internal Meetings**  
Update following the Quarterly Review (Tr1 Qtr2) meeting held between LPC and the Beacon Youth Trust on 20.10.2025. *Written report available.*  
Update following the Open Spaces meeting held on 21.10.2025. *Written report available.*  
Update following the Community Buildings working group meeting held on 28.10.2025. *Written report available.*  
Update following the meeting held between LPC and a parishioner on 05.11.2025 in relation to traffic issues on the High Street.  
Cllr Tony Smith advised of the parishioner's request that the Parish Council support the possibility of reinstating of the "School - No Parking" road markings.  
Update following the Seniors working group meeting held on 11.11.2025. *Written report available.*  
Noted.

**Consideration of the District and County Councillors Report for November 2025.** *Written report available.*  
In addition to the written report;  
County Councillor Henry Batchelor advised that in relation to the Local Plan, the development at Grange Farm, Abington has been put forward for development.  
CC Batchelor added that a public consultation would provide the Parish Council and parishioners the opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

**Finance**  
**Quotes and Contracts**  
Consideration for the quotation to repair and renew multiple plumbing items at the Pavilion. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed a maximum budget be delegated to the Clerk to allow Wells Plumbing & Heating to proceed with the work. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. 8 in favour with two abstentions.  
Consideration of the quotation for repairs to the Rivey Hill bench. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed the quotation received from LHS be approved for repairs to the Rivey Hill bench. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed.  
Consideration for the quotation received from Fitness Sports for a replacement tennis net following vandalism at the MUGA. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed the Clerk investigate if the net can be repaired and if not, to approve the purchase of a new net, but to delay the installation until the spring of 2026. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

**Grants and Funding**  
Notification of the successful grant application for the Watercourse Maintenance Grant for the Rivey Bridlepath ditch. Action required.  
Cllr Tony Smith proposed to proceed with the application and works at the end of the meeting. Cllr Rosalie Campbell seconded. All Agreed.  
Consideration for the escalating heating costs at the Pavilion and the suggestion for the organisers of the

Community Hub to apply for a Community Chest grant to assist with the costs.  
Cllr Lee Gardner requested the Clerk write a formal letter to the organisers of the Warm Hub to gain clarity on the activities and to pursue funding opportunities if possible.

**Compliance & Risk**  
**Compliance**  
Consideration for two councillors to lead the Open Spaces working group in relation to compliance with the LPC Biodiversity policy. Decision required.  
Cllr Lee Gardner proposed Cllr Tony Smith and Cllr Simon Hill be nominated to lead the Open Spaces working group. Cllr Rosalie Campbell seconded. All Agreed.

**Risk**  
Notification of the completion of the Triennial Tree H&S survey and an update on required action. For Information. The Clerk advised that a meeting was scheduled for 21.11.2025 to discuss remedial work on trees following the survey and quotations would be presented in due course.

**Traffic & Highways**  
**MSID**  
Consideration for the request from Shudy Camps Parish Council for inclusion in an MVAS User group for South Cambridgeshire. Decision required.  
Cllr Brian Cox proposed the Clerk politely decline the request by Shudy Camps Parish Council to join an MVAS user group but share all data to the group by way of providing links to the reports for Linton. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. All Agreed.

**Traffic & Highways**  
Consideration for the concerns raised in relation to the installation of a bollard in Church Lane. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed a meeting be requested with the Highways Officer. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.  
Consideration for the notification of the unsuccessful LHI bid for 2026-2027 and for the LHI application for 2026-2027. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed that traffic calming on Horseheath Road be re-applied for, with new evidence and a letter of support from Cambridgeshire Police. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.  
Consideration for the suggestion from a parishioner for the relocation of the Co-op store. Response required.  
The Parish Council advised that decisions of this magnitude are made by higher level authorities.

**Events**  
Consideration of the request from The Linton Kitchen to hold a Christmas Market on the Market Square on Saturday 13.12.2025. Decision required.  
Cllr Tony Smith proposed permission be granted subject to the required liability and risk assessments being provided and that a charge of £50.00 be applied for the event to take place on parish land. Cllr Rosie Campbell seconded. All Agreed.

**Recreation Ground**  
Consideration for the suggestion from a parishioner for the removal of the hedge at the MUGA. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed the office seek quotations for the removal of the hedges surrounding the MUGA. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed.

**St Mary's Churchyard** Consideration for the requirement to raise a formal complaint in relation to the tree works carried out on behalf of CCC in St Mary's Churchyard. Decision required.  
The Clerk was requested to write to CCC, SCDC and St Mary's PCC to request clarification in relation to the works carried out, as LPC are responsible for the Churchyard and were not directly consulted.

**Community Buildings**  
**The Cathodeon Centre**  
Consideration for the recommendations from the Community Buildings Working Group on the proposal for changes in the overall management of the Cathodeon Centre. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed that a formal lease agreement between the Linton Parish Council and the Linton Cathodeon Centre Trust be drafted by Mr Andrew Gore. Cllr Brian Cox seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

**The Pavilion**  
Consideration for the request from the Community Warm Hub to be allowed access to the bar area at the Pavilion to access the air conditioning and the request for additional tables and chairs for the use of the warm hub. Decision required.  
It was noted that the LGFC does not permit access to the bar area to any third-party, other than the Parish Council as the building owner.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed the office seek quotations to move the air conditioner controls to an accessible location and install an anti-tamper lock box. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. Agreed with one abstention.  
The Clerk advised of the request from the organisers for additional chairs and tables for use during the activities. It was verbally agreed by a representative of the Linton Granta Football Club (LGFC) that the spare chairs and tables could be stored in the main meeting room to enable access at all times.  
Consideration of hirers terms of usage for the fridge, freezer and cooking facilities at the Pavilion. Decision required.  
Cllr Chris Hine proposed the office liaise informally with LGFC in relation to the use of the equipment in the kitchen at the Pavilion by third-party hirers and that this be reviewed on the renewal of the agreement due to supersede the current terms in September 2026. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. Agreed with one abstention.  
Consideration of the formal adoption of the defibrillator at the Pavilion. Decision required.

**Defibrillator at the Pavilion**  
Cllr Karen Sanderson proposed the Parish Council formally adopt the defibrillator at the Pavilion with the ongoing responsibility for costs of maintenance and repair. Cllr Rosalie Campbell seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

**Garth Collard Archive**  
Consideration for the proposal for the Linton Camera Club to photograph key scenes from the village for 2026 to create a current record of Linton. *Verbal update from Cllr Smith.* Response required.  
Cllr Tony Smith advised the project had been positively discussed with the Camera Club.  
The Clerk advised that the "Was & Now" would be included on the Linton Village Directory website once the project is completed.  
It was noted that support would be available from the Parish Council office for administration if required.  
Full Minutes and written reports are available on the Linton Parish Council website. *Clerk*

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Cambridge CB21 4JS **Tel:** 891001  
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