

PLEASE NOTE NEW
DEADLINES WILL BE
ON A FRIDAY FROM
NOW ON
FOR DATE SEE PAGE
6

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THE LINTON NEWS

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN THE HIGH STREET



As a regular bus passenger, used to being on a morning bus to Cambridge and meeting the Haverhill bus head-on in the High Street, I often witness quite heroic displays of manoeuvring from the drivers.

On 2nd March a far worse situation arose as there were a couple of holes in the High Street, coupled with careless parking, and the fact that the buses met at just the wrong point.

Those people who say the buses should not mount the pavement would have seen that there was simply no choice – neither bus could retreat, as there was a stream of traffic behind each vehicle. Our bus almost ended up in the lounge of one house, and the buses were a hair's breadth away from each other, diagonally across the width of the road. This caused a spectacle for the children on their way to school,

but I was disappointed that a few parents still insisted on squeezing past our bus while it was mounting the pavement.

The Haverhill bus driver (Mike) had to vacate his seat and help the Cambridge bus driver (Barry) out of this predicament, and I was impressed that they both were very good-natured about the situation. Our driver fully deserved the round of applause he received once we were free from the tangle,

having held up the traffic for a full ten minutes, longer than usual.

Now I see that extra (very bright) yellow lines have been painted, and this will probably help towards the situation of the buses, but I expect there will be quite a few grumbles as there are fewer places to park now. However if this keeps a bus service running through the village, then I am all for it
Tracey Wilson 891988

TULIPS BUT NOT FROM AMSTERDAM



LINTON Patchwork Group has made this beautiful quilt, which will be raffled in June in aid of MAGPAS (Mid Anglian General Practitioners Accident Service), at a cheese and wine party in Balsham. Details to be released next month.

The quilt, which is of modern design, has taken eighteen months to complete. The background colour is cream with patchwork stylised tulips in shades of pink and terracotta with green leaves. All the quilting is handcrafted.

There will be a coffee morning at The Manor House, Green Lane, at 10.30-12 noon on 22nd April where the quilt will be shown and also raffle tickets can be purchased. Entrance to the coffee morning includes coffee and home-made biscuits. There will also be a bring and buy stall and a cake stall.

Many thanks to M^r and M^{rs} Powell for allowing us to hold this event at the manor.

Raffle tickets are available from me.

Carol Todd 892979

LINTON DIARY

Further details about items in **bold type** may be found elsewhere in THE LINTON NEWS

Did you know that you could also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info?

Weekly: Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays Social Centre
Weekly: Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays LVC
Weekly: WEA class, 10-11.45am, Tuesdays Social Centre
Weekly: Story Time, 2-2.30pm, Tuesdays Library
Weekly: Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6-10pm, Wednesdays S C
Weekly: IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays Social Centre
Weekly: Citizens Advice, 1.30pm-3pm, Wednesdays SC
Weekly: Little Acorns, 10.00am-11.30am, Thursdays SC
Weekly: Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays Social Centre
Weekly: Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays Cathodeon Centre

April

3 Chestnut Playgroup Easter Disco, 3-5pm Fire Station
3 Farmers' Market, 10.00am LVC
3 Cambs Local History Society, Lecture 2.15pm
S' John's Hall, Cambridge
5 Abington Gardening Club, 7.30pm Village Institute
6 WI, 7.30pm Social Centre
7 Lent Lunch, 12noon-2.30pm Chalklands
13 VIP Group 2.00pm Chalklands
13 Gardening Club, 7.30pm, Social Centre
15 Linton Granta Bowls Club enrolment evening 6-8pm, The Pavilion, Recreation Ground
15 Parish Council Meeting, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
18 Camera Club 10.00am Social Centre
18 Table Top & Car Boot sale, 10am-2pm Fire Station
20 Historical Society, 7.30pm Social Centre
21 LVC re-development plans, 7.30pm LVC
21 CAMTAD, 9.00am-12noon Health Centre
21 Parent Partnership Service drop in, 1.30-3.00pm Social Centre
22 Coffee morning in aid of Magpas, 10.30-12noon Manor House Green Lane

24 Linton Music Society Concert, Trillum Bass Quartet, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Balsham
24 Jumble Sale 11am, in aid of Flaxfields Social Centre
26 Walk led by John Wintle, 2.30pm S' Mary's
27 Annual Parish Meeting, 8pm Social Centre

Refuse collection: 5th, 19th
Recycling collection: 13th, 26th

May

1 Coffee morning in aid of Flower Festival, 10.30-12noon, Richmonds, High Street
4 WI, 7.30pm Social Centre
Library times: **Monday** Closed; **Tuesday** 10.30am-1pm, 2-5pm; **Wednesday** 2-5pm, 6-8pm; **Thursday** Closed; **Friday** 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6-8pm; **Saturday** 10am-12noon.

BUSY FINGERS

FLAXFIELDS has been rather busy raising funds for "good causes" and we would like to mention the help given to the following recipients.

On Thursday 11th March Flaxfields Residents and Friends had a Knit & Natter which raised £60 for the funds of the Home Farm Trust.

Again the same team, this time on Thursday 18th March raised £175 for Cancer Research UK by holding an All Day Breakfast.

Thanks to all who helped and those that came along!

A diary note for any interested people: Jumble sale at 11am on 24th April at the Social Centre.

Jacque Wilson
Flaxfields

FOLLOW JOHN'S LEAD

A SERIES of walks, led by John Wintle, is being held in the next three months to enjoy the countryside around Linton to learn something about it, and to raise funds for the Friends of S' Mary's.

The first walk start at S' Mary's at 2.30pm on Sunday 26th April. We will cross the hills over to Hadstock, were there will be a short 10 minute presentation about the village and its church, before returning to Linton at approx 5.30pm, a distance of about six miles. A voluntary contribution per person is invited (students and children exempt).

John Wintle 893410

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FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

THINGS are not always as they seem. For example, I bet there are few people who know an American chap called Paul Williams, but almost everyone has heard his music. It was Paul who wrote the music for the film Buggy Malone, he wrote songs for the Carpenters, Elvis Presley, Art Garfunkel and many, many more, yet the chances are that many of you have never heard of him. This is because he has not pushed himself to a position where he is instantly known or recognised and has just continued doing what he loves - writing and performing. Paul once wrote as a preface to one of his albums, "There are those who talk, and those who listen. This is for the listeners".

To a lesser degree, there are people around Linton who are, like Paul, getting on with their business quietly. They do not want or need recognition and never get their name "up in lights". It is these people who have always had my respect, and whilst there will always be those who talk but do nothing, argue but do not hear, conclude without understanding, it is the quiet people that I go out of my way to listen to.

Recently, I was invited to Papworth Everard to meet the Papworth Trust User Council. These are a group of disabled Papworth Trust residents (of which I am one), who meet to discuss, with various departments within the Trust, about issues that arise. I don't think I was prepared for what I experienced. There was no whingeing, no complaining or arguing and the meeting had been designed to get issues across, questions answered and points of view heard in a very efficient and business-like way. The User Council always invites a member from the Trust to attend meetings and on this occasion it was Gordon Lister, Chief Executive of the Papworth Trust. Over the years I have attended many meetings but I can honestly say that I went home not only full of admiration for the way the User Council conducted themselves, but also for M^r. Lister, who treated the issues raised with understanding and without patronising. The respect on all sides of the table was obvious, and I am very proud to be joining the User Council in May. Linton has one bungalow for the disabled, owned and maintained by the Papworth Trust, in Paynes Meadow, and it is hoped to build two more in the future as part of the Trust's commitment to build around twenty properties a year for disabled people and their families. I take my hat off to the people I met on that evening. The quiet people, who talk least and achieve most.

And on to the weather. We are almost at the end of Glumner now, but for those of us with tender plants and seedlings, don't think we are out of the woods just yet! Night frosts will follow dry bright days, the majority of the rain being in the north of England, a few days of cloud and the odd shower being nearer the mark for us here in Linton.

Please take care, stay safe and take care of your loved ones. I'll see you next month.

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KEEP THOSE TOKENS....

TESCO is once again running its annual Computers for Schools promotion, which has donated more than £80 million worth of hardware and software to schools over the last thirteen years. If you shop at Tesco this month, please remember to save your vouchers for one of the local schools. The vouchers will be given out with all purchases until Sunday 2nd May. Linton Heights Junior School urgently needs to upgrade its computer equipment following recommendations in the recent Ofsted report and would be grateful for any spare vouchers. You can deliver them to the school office any time after the start of the summer term on Tuesday 20th April.
Tony Kelly 892553

SKIP A TREAT

THERE will be a house to house collection in aid of Save The Children from Sunday 25th April to Saturday 1st May. The theme is "Skip a Treat" so perhaps you could give up a bar of chocolate, pudding, a glass of wine or whatever is a treat for you and donate the amount saved to Save The Children.
Judith White 894447

BOWLED OVER

MEMBERS and friends of Linton Granta Bowls Club met for their Celebration Dinner at Hildersham village hall at the end of February. Duxford Country Kitchens served a delicious hot meal followed by coffee and mints. There was a Bumper Raffle amidst plenty of good humour and laughter and afterwards Sam Agnew entertained with a quiz. A good time was had by all. Enrolment evening will be 6-8pm on Thursday 15th April at the pavilion on the Recreation Ground. Bowls Drives will start sometime in mid April [weather permitting] on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. New members are very welcome. We request that you provide your own flat shoes but bowls may be borrowed from the club. For further information please phone me.
June Bunn 891442

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ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

GARTH Collard welcomed M^r Barry Stevenson who had come along to discuss the many items brought by members to his 'Antiques Road Show'. M^r Stevenson is 'not in the trade' and does not give valuations, but his description and knowledge of the very interesting items displayed was most instructive and informative. His knowledge covers all aspects of antiquities. Included in the display were an endorsed cigar protector of 1855, an engraved silver hip flask of 1910 and various carved figures, one with a very interesting story in that it was an African 'Twin'. Apparently mothers of twins of whom one dies have these figures carved and keep them as a representation of the twin that died. There were some very old books, including a Herbal tome of 1633 and an 18thc. children's book, albums of cigarette cards and postcards from the Edwardian period, a smoker's cabinet with cigarette and cigar cases, a Victorian christening set, an old silver match case, a leather ink bottle, a small portable microscope and Hoggs book, *The Microscope*, dated 1854, to name but a few of the many intriguing items brought along and described. Claire Neville thanked M^r Stevenson who also mentioned the Open Gardens Day on 18th July in his home village of Cowlinge. On Tuesday 20th April, M^r Chris Jakes will be showing photographs of Old Cambridge, 1850-1940; all are welcome. Members who are going to Gressinghall are reminded that 20th April is the closing date for payment, or send it as soon as possible to me.
Joan Pearman
TABLE TOP & CAR BOOT SALE
THERE will be a Table Top and Car Boot Sale at the Fire Station 10am-2pm on Sunday 18th April in aid of the Fire Service Benevolent Fund and the Chestnut Playgroup. There will refreshments, tombola and more. If you would like a pitch or a table for a small fee, or just want to donate prizes or gifts please contact me.
Mark Collins 89189

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DREAMS OF ASIA---


 THE President of Linton WI welcomed members on a cold March evening. Birthday posies were distributed and the February minutes read. Events and outings were announced - ideas would be appreciated for fund raising towards our donation for the new headquarters in Girton. There is a vacancy for one committee member - a volunteer is required! Serving on committee is a marvellous way to get to know all the members. Our speaker was John Keeble who, assisted by his wife June who had taken many of the photos, entertained us with a talk entitled 'Dreams of Asia'. We were taken on a trip via the slides to Cambodia, Burma, Laos and Thailand. Most of the people are very poor and live in primitive conditions, scavenging for anything they can eat or sell. So

much of their land, especially in Cambodia, is contaminated by landmines and bombs, therefore life for many is very precarious. Things are easier in the towns, jobs being more plentiful. Despite the harsh conditions, most people on the slides had such happy smiling faces. Religion is taken very seriously and some go through the most unpleasant rituals to purify their communities by having their faces pierced by needles, sticks, metal poles, etc. - so far from our comprehension and experience! Clare Neville thanked M^r and M^{rs} Keeble for their interesting slides and talk. Tea and coffee were served and the raffle drawn.

Our next meeting is the Annual Meeting on 6th April, with a quiz, social time and trading stall.

Tricia Lewis 893609

---AND HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

 ON Monday 16th February at the Village Hall, Hildersham, eleven WI members welcomed M^r Daniel Fox who spoke to us about his work with the SOS Children's Villages. We learnt that the first Children's Village was started by Hermann Gmeiner in 1949 in Imst, Austria. The mission of the SOS Children's Village is to pioneer a family approach to long-term care and support of orphaned and abandoned children. Today there are 439 SOS Children's Villages in 131 countries which would not be possible without the generous support of donations from the public.

Muriel Crampin about her recent trip to KwaZulu - Natal, South Africa, based at the Cutty Sark Hotel, Scottburgh, overlooking the Indian ocean. It certainly sounded like an action-packed holiday, visiting the Durban Botanical Gardens, an Assagai Zulu village, the Oribi gorge and the Battlefields of Rorke's Drift, Isandlwana and Spioenkop. A highlight of the holiday was a visit to the Saga Jabula project, which is a Zulu creche for the Malangeni children. Our President gave the vote of thanks.

On Monday 15th March eleven members met at Furze Hill House, the home of M^r and M^{rs} Crampin, to hold the Annual Meeting. We were delighted to hear that our President, M^{rs} Di Arkwright, has agreed to stand for a further year, as have all members of the committee. We owe to her our special thanks, also to our Treasurer M^{rs} Iris Davies, to M^{rs} Jean Morton our programme organiser and to M^{rs} Pauline Franklin, our Secretary, who does all the hard work and continues to keep us in good order. After the business we were entertained with a very interesting talk and video from M^{rs}

We look forward to our next meeting, which will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th April. The speaker will be M^{rs} A Ross on the subject of 'Women of Nepal'.

Gillian Anderson

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READERS WRITE

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters on page 6
Please note new deadline date

A GOOD MOVE HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Dear Editor
In early November 2003, Pat and I moved house from Hillway to Hunstanton in Norfolk, hoping for a long and happy retirement by the sea.

The decision to move was quite sudden really. On one of our frequent visits to the area, we noticed a small development (seven houses) close to the sea, also near to Tesco, Woolworths and all the main shops, plus the golf course at Searles. We chose the house with the best sea view, put our bungalow up for sale, and before we knew it we were the owners of a house by the sea!

It has certainly not been all like an extended holiday. The long winter evenings with only each other for company have been a bit of a drag, however, we have made the most of the daylight hours. I joined the golf club, and Pat has the luxury, after 60-odd years living in Linton of being able to walk to the shops.

Anyone who remembers seeing us traipsing round Rivey Hill or Little Linton would recognise us now with the three brown dogs every morning and afternoon either on the beach, the sand dunes near Holme, or Sandringham woods. It is a lovely place to live, if you can accept leaving family and friends behind, and can stand the long winter evenings.

Property prices are lower and living expenses much less, with the Sunday market for fruit, vegetables, etc., DIY and discount shops. King's Lynn has QD, Wilkinsons, plus all the usual chain stores.

Pat and I would welcome a visit from old friends from Linton, although we don't do Bed & Breakfast!

Best wishes to you all.
Pat and David Newman
2 Raines Close
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Dear Editor
Please may I, through The Linton News, make a plea?
Helping Hands urgently needs more volunteer drivers to help us to continue answering calls for help in Linton and surrounding villages.

Some loyal drivers have had to retire for personal reasons. We do thank each one for often years of help.

It would be so encouraging if their places could be filled by new volunteers. Those who use our service pay 35p a mile, within Linton £1.50. We do not phone you very often and you can always say, "I cannot manage that day". You could volunteer just to do Linton village journeys or even specific days in a week.

Where do I park at Addenbrookes? Many people have blue discs, such a help, and porters will come with a wheelchair if necessary to take your friend to the clinic while you park.

I have found so much encouragement and generosity of spirit, so journeys are a pleasure. Also, we make new friends. We would be very pleased to discuss any problems and help in any way to give you peace of mind.

Do telephone, please.
Joy Button 892300

DIRTY OWNERS NOT THEIR DOGS

Dear Editor
Please would the ignorant person who is allowing their dog to use my front garden in Barley Way and along Parsonage Way as a toilet rather than using their own garden let me know why this is acceptable.

Do you not know most of the houses have young children, and when we leave for school and then have to return home to change footwear after treading in the mess how inconvenient this is?

Sarajane Howard Lilley
4 Barley Way

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NEW SCHOOL, GOOD OR BAD?

Dear Editor

I am a resident of Joiners Road and my property backs on to the Linton Village College car park. I am strongly opposed to the planned development of a new special school on the Linton Village College site. This is a very large development in terms of the number of people working at the site and if allowed to proceed, will have a very significant and undesirable impact on village life and village infrastructure.

At the public meeting I was given a letter from Denis Baldry, briefing the 'Chairs of the Governing Bodies and the Headteachers of the four schools'. This letter stated that this new special school will 'enable joint use of the buildings between school, health and later Social Services Department for an extended day ... 8.30 - 5.30 and 50 weeks of the year.'

I am strongly opposed to any new development that combines Education, Health and Social Services and angry that the use of the proposed buildings has not been clearly explained to residents before the plans were submitted.

I am strongly opposed to the new site being used for an extended day of 8.30 until 5.30 and for 50 weeks of the year. This statistic implies that this development is not just a school. I therefore find it impossible to assess fully the impact to Linton village life and to my property.

Having inspected the plans, I find that a new road will follow a route between the existing Village College buildings and the playing fields. It will feature traffic lights on the A1307 and a new roundabout immediately behind my property.

I estimate that approx. 600 extra vehicle journeys will be made along this road and round the roundabout at the back of my property every day. This dramatic increase in traffic is not fitting for the area and will turn what is now a quiet car park into a busy main road. I am strongly opposed to these plans because of the increased traffic on the A1307. On average one person dies on the A1307 every month; 600 extra vehicles every day will dramatically increase this

statistic.
It will be more difficult and dangerous for pedestrians crossing the A1307 near Linton High Street, and for residents of Joiners road crossing the A1307 to get to the bus stop opposite.

The plans do not clearly show adequate pedestrian crossings or barriers where the new road crosses between the school and the playing fields. There is also no mention of speed limits!

The plans only provide around 75 new car parking places. This is not adequate for the amount of traffic expected.

If the new development is allowed to proceed the impact to my property on Joiners Road will be unacceptable. There will be light pollution due to street lighting for the new road. There will be light pollution from headlights sweeping across my property as vehicles travel around the new roundabout. This will invade my privacy dramatically. There will also be excessive noise pollution and air pollution due to the increase of traffic.

At the public meeting to discuss the plans a great deal was made of the potential of the new development for out of hours use by the community. I am extremely concerned that the new facilities will instead provide a new place for youths to congregate.

If these plans are allowed to go ahead my back garden will be transformed from a quiet haven for children to play into a noisy place where we would not be able to relax even in the school holidays.

Please do not approve these plans.
Mrs P Martin
Rushwood, Joiners road

This letter has been reduced owing to space restrictions, to see the full letter please go to our website.

LNT

K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of March's K-Club monthly draw:

1st prize (£50) **Victoria Madden** (No. 314); 2nd prize (£25) **Vi Murton** (No. 177); 3rd prize (£10) **Sue Mudge** (No. 258)

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor

My family and I wish to express our sincere thanks to all those who offered help and showed such kindness during Bill's long illness. We appreciated greatly their letters, cards and telephone messages of sympathy.

It was comforting to have the presence of many of our friends at the funeral service. We thank those who have sent donations to The British Heart Foundation in his memory.

Halina Hovell
2 Cambridge Road

Dear Editor

We would like to convey our grateful thanks to the customers of the Dog & Duck and the people of Linton who signed our petition, wrote letters and gave us enormous support in our quest to gain planning permission to build an extension to our pub. A big heartfelt 'thank you' to you all.

SincetakingontheDog&Duck we have received so much support, particularly throughout the flood and our forced closure in 2001. Since the Spring of 2003 we have been involved with SCDC planning office, and latterly the Environment Agency to further expand our premises. This exercise has been peppered with disappointment and has certainly been yet another learning curve for us. However, EA objections have now been withdrawn and we are looking forward to planning permission being finally granted in the next week or so.

It is hoped that following the Easter weekend, works will commence for a period of approximately eight weeks; for some of this time our food operation will have to close, as a new kitchen is installed. The bar may have to close for a week or so too.

When we re-open in mid-June we will be able at last to welcome families, have disabled access and facilities to embrace wheelchair users and a larger dining area which will look out onto the river's edge.

Again our heartfelt thanks; your letters and signatures on our petition (371 in just four days) certainly helped gain a turnaround of opinion at the February meeting - the authorities were visibly shaken on the day!

Tracy Harrison and
Bob Hackett

DO YOU REMEMBER?

DOES anyone remember The Linton Granta Song? One of our readers remembers singing it in his youth but cannot remember the words to teach his grandson. If you know the words, of either version he would be very grateful for them. Please contact him.

Gilbert Whiffin 834960

CAN YOU WRITE A STORY?

DID you know that Linton has it's own Talking Newspaper? I'm sure many of you will answer "Of course" But for those who don't let me give a brief outline.

Celebrating it's 14th birthday in March some of the founders are still with it. The prime aim of the tape "The Granta Grapevine" is so that the visually impaired can independently enjoy the "Linton News" just as easily as those blessed with good eyesight.

However we have always only used one side of a 90 minute tape for this and the reverse is a magazine of articles, stories, interviews - in fact anything we can produce that will be of interest to our listeners. These are anyone registered visually impaired, to whom we post the monthly edition free of charge.

If you know anyone who would like this service please let us know - all we need is their name and address.

There are other ways to help if you are interested. We are always looking for articles, (free of copyright) stories or interesting tales to tell. Do you have a talent in that direction?

Regular readers (recording is always on a Thursday evening once a month) with good clear voices are needed too. Or maybe your talents lie more in committee work. Meetings are only about four times a year and not onerous.

Then there is the editorial work of producing the magazine. Now you can't say there is not variety in this particularly local charity.

So give it a thought and see if you would like to contribute or join the team, if so please contact me.

Clare Neville 89325

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THEY STILL NEED YOUR HELP

THANK you to everyone who supported the recent 'Chernobyl Children's Appeal'. The marvellous amount of £660 was raised including donations.

The local group who give aid to the children of Chernobyl are supporting another group who do the same good work. Their challenge will be taking place in May 2004 and they are attempting a sponsored drive in a 1988 Reliant Robin to raise £10,000. The trip will cover a distance of 1,685 miles through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Poland and finally into the Ukraine, where they will be heading for the city of Chernigov, which is 25 miles from Chernobyl.

As you may remember, in 1986 the nuclear power station reactor exploded causing widespread nuclear fallout covering hundreds of square miles; the brunt of the damage to the people in surrounding Chernigov. There are still thousands of children and adults suffering as a result of this, many having developed cancer, leukaemia, thyroid and chest problems. Even today there is evidence of this with new-born children still suffering illnesses as the effects of the radiation are passed down through the genes

from mother to child. Since the demise of the Russian Communist regime there is very little funding available to help their plight other than from the west.

Anglian Humanitarian Aid was founded by Michael and Pauline Rust who have given relentless help and support to the people of Chernobyl for many years. Michael was awarded the MBE in 1999 for his dedicated efforts. Their task for this particular trip is to raise enough money to renew the boiler in the Polyclinic No2 that is situated in Chernigov. This is a children's hospital and serves a large area of Chernigov and it is estimated that there are around 1,500 children that visit this hospital every week. The current boiler is not large enough to heat the therapy pools and the hospital, therefore the aqua therapy pools are not available in the winter months when temperatures can fall to around -25°C. The drivers on this trip will be Trevor Little, a director of Witham Motaquip and Russell Warner, a marine engineer for One Stop Chandlery.

Your help with this challenge would be very much appreciated. If you would like to sponsor this effort, please contact me. Jean Whitby 893645

NO COFFEE BUT MUCH TO SHARE

ON the first Friday in March, about 45 women (and one or two men!) from all four Linton churches and from nearby villages, came together at St Mary's Church to share in this worldwide, interdenominational day of prayer. The service was led by Mrs Linda Pearson of the United Reformed Church and Mrs Maureen Harper of the Roman Catholic Church. Women from all denominations took part as readers.

The service had been prepared by Christian women of Panama on the theme "In Faith, Women Shape the Future". A colourful display of pictures, etc. depicting various aspects of Panama ("land of butterflies and fish") had been arranged by two members of the Roman Catholic congregation and

remained on view in the church the following weekend.

The excellent address was given by Mrs Jane Shoesmith, an Anglican Reader from Cambridge. The collection, totalling £111.00 has been sent to the Cambridge treasurer of the Women's World Day of Prayer in support of their work with the Christian Education Projects and Literature Societies in this country and abroad. Due to circumstances beyond our control, it was not possible to serve coffee afterwards this year and our customary time of fellowship was greatly missed.

Many thanks are due to everyone who helped with arrangements for this service, both in the planning beforehand and on the day itself.

Joy Button 892300

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

SAFFRON WALDEN MP Sir Alan Haselhurst joined members of Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) and local councillors on 17th March to lead a public meeting, highlighting the threat to their quality of life that airport expansion would pose.

Sir Alan's strong opposition to the scale of development at Stansted is well documented. It reflects his deep-rooted concerns about the impact on both the immediate airport area and the wider effects across the region, including Saffron Walden. "The implications of Stansted Airport expansion for Saffron Walden are severe," he said. "SSE is right to keep the town informed about what can be done to maintain opposition."

The meeting was particularly timely since BAA has announced that in 12 months time it will apply to increase the number of passengers travelling through Stansted from the limit of 25 million passengers per annum (mppa) to up to 35 mppa. This would mean more than double the number of planes than at present.

BAA has also signalled its intention to apply within 18 months to build a second runway here. This would increase the throughput from the current 18 mppa to a massive 80 mppa, far exceeding the size of Heathrow Airport (63 mppa). The adverse effects of such major expansion would be inescapable, both from the sizeable increase in the number of planes and related noise and pollution, as well as from the extreme pressure on health, transport, education and housing services.

Further information is available from: Carol Barbone, Campaign Director SSE, 0777 552 3091, Norman Mead, Chairman SSE, 01279 659483, SSE campaign office 01279 870558 See also: www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

BABY COTTON-TOP TAMARIN MONKEY



SPRING is without a doubt the zoo keepers' favourite time of year. The zoo gardens are looking stunning with beds of colourful spring flowers, including hundreds of vivid hyacinths coming up to their best.

The breeding season got off to an early start with the birth of a Tapir calf, "Jan" on 2nd January. The tiny Tapir is doing very well and growing fast.

Other new babies to look out for include owlets and more recently, a baby Cotton-top

Tamarin. Tamarins are a small species of monkey from South America. The Cotton-top is only from Columbia. It is threatened with extinction due to habitat destruction and alteration. Baby Tamarins are carried around and looked after by father and older brothers and sisters, who hand them back to mum to be fed!

Lots of exciting and interactive events are planned for the weekends and Easter holidays which include:

11.30am Furry Friends Encounter—especially for the younger visitors.

12 noon Tapir feed and keeper talk - a good chance to get a close look at the new baby Tapir.

12.30pm Barn owl conservation and encounter - meet Becky the barn owl.

1.30pm Lion cubs' play time - watch Riziki and Karla at play and find out all about African lions.

2pm Tiger's conservation talk - hear all about the conservation of tigers in both captivity and the wild and find out what we are doing to help these magnificent creatures.

2.30pm Snakes, bugs and little beasts - here is your chance to meet and touch some of our little creatures at this exciting interactive event.

Some talks are weather permitting; check before visiting. Kim Simmons 891308

JUST DROP IN

THE Parent Partnership Service offers information and advice to parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs. We will be holding a parent/carer information day at The Family Resource Centre, Linton Social Centre at 1.30-3.00pm on Wednesday, 21st April.

This drop-in session will include a short presentation on the support the PPS can offer, an information display with free leaflets, a confidential, one-to-one consultation session and free refreshments. We look forward to seeing you. For further details and consultation bookings contact me.

Lynn Powell 718143

THE PARISH PLAN IS ON ITS WAY

THE Parish Plan group will present their report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting or from the Parish Council Office during the preceding week and a summary version will be distributed in early summer.

During the course of this enquiry it has become apparent that 'Parish Plan' is perhaps a misnomer, 'People's Preference Project' is probably nearer the mark! 'Parish Plan' suggests that the proposals have all been agreed and that we should now be able to sit back and wait for the bulldozers and social engineers to arrive and fulfil all our aspirations.

Although there will be no immediate results it must not be forgotten that this is an entirely new approach. Under all preceding planning legislation, objections carried a great deal of weight (except for airport expansion!) and there was no system for identifying just how

many people might support a scheme. The results of the Parish Plan have given support to a variety of initiatives and when/if they come up for consideration it will be possible to demonstrate how widespread this is.

The Parish Plan will uniquely offer the wishes of the village as a whole on a variety of topics. It will lift much of the burden of responsibility from the Parish Council for assessing their views when taking decisions, which could have far reaching effects. However it replaces it with the task of implementing suggestions from the plan as and when funds are available, in addition to all existing statutory tasks. There are now many funding organisations to support community groups and much of this money is not available to Parish Councils. It will only be possible to access it if you are prepared to get involved.

The document will appear on the Linton News website first
Judith Rossiter

NURSERY RHYME TRAIL

THIS Easter, children of all ages are invited to take part in a nursery rhyme trail in Linton. From Saturday 3rd April to Monday 19th April, nursery rhyme clues will be displayed in 10 shop windows along Linton High Street. All you have to do is to fill in a Trail sheet

(available from Sweet Talk News for £1) and there will be a prize for the most correct answers (in the event of a tie, the name of the winner will be picked from a hat).

All proceeds will go to Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers.

Liz Crump 892471

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MARATHON MAN

PETER Mercer, who has resided in Linton for over 30 years, was one of the original instigators of the Linton March Hare Run organized by the LVC PTA. In the days when we had Hares such as Angela Tooby, (international middle distance runner at the time) and Jeffery Archer (the only Hare ever to be caught).

Peter is running the London Marathon on 18th April and hopes to catch Jeffery

Archer again. However, on fund raising M^r Archer has an unfair advantage but with your help who knows? Peter is running to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre. Let us see if we can redress the balance and help Peter to



Peter with his favourite fans

raise a record amount! If you would like to support him please contact him at the addresses below:

Via his web page at www.justgiving.com/petermercer, or at 15 Crossways, 892355 LNT

MAKE IT SNAPPY

HOW are you getting on with that camera that you were given at Christmas? Getting good pictures? Like to enjoy it even more - or maybe get some tips on improving your photographic skills? If so, then you should join the village Camera Club, which meets at 11am on the second Sunday of every month (third Sunday in April). Meetings are held at the Social Centre with a small charge for a year's membership.

This month will be a trip to the Colne Valley Railway at Castle Hedingham, leaving Coles Lane at 10.00am on 18th April. The May meeting will be a portrait session with help and advice from Julian.

John Keeble 894948

LOADS-A-MONEY

THANK you to all the people of Linton who helped to make the Grade-one-a-thon the huge success it was!

All the musicians who took the exam passed, the clarinets doing the best, with most of us gaining distinction. The concert was great fun, and we all let our hair down after a tiring day!

The overall total raised for East Anglia's Children's Hospices was an amazing £51,000. I raised £2,000 and am very grateful to all those generous sponsors who cared sufficiently to give, making this the biggest ever fund-raising event for EACH.

The charity is now looking for new and original ideas for the next fund-raiser.

Anne Bradley

DID YOU SAY GARTH WAS A BULLY?

TO raise funds for Linton Activities and Care for the Elderly, we had a sherry morning on 13th March - an erroneous swipe on my keyboard ensured that it was advertised as 23rd in LN. Mea culpa, but thanks to all the posters on the Parish Council notice boards, shop windows and as many vertical surfaces as possible, most of you arrived on the right day...sorry.

We had a bring-and-buy stall, cake stall, bookstall, paintings by Darryl Nantais (looking very artistic in his cravat) and a well-supplied raffle. We were refreshed with shortbread and sherry, so the atmosphere was quite convivial.

Linton ACE stems from the Mobile Warden Scheme, which supports older people to help them continue to live independently in their own homes and the Social Link which arranges social events. LMWS is mainly funded through LPC, SCDC and CCC and is run through Age Concern Cambridge. This year

we have gained funding for the Social Link from COVER (Community and Voluntary Forum) Community Champions, Awards for All and a grant from the Anderson Benefaction. These grants mean that we can continue to have meetings with speakers, coach trips and other events, so please watch for the posters and other adverts. One possible project is a living history of the war years, to be put onto the web - is anyone keen?

The highlight of the morning was the auction of generously donated wines, cake and a magnificent set of brass scales and weights from local firm Libra. Garth Collard, our ebullient auctioneer - is there no end to this man's talents? - encouraged us to part happily with our money. In all, the day raised an encouraging £350. Many thanks to all who donated time, goods and effort, or who attended and bid. Your donations will be well used.

Enid Bald 891069

WATCH THIS SPACE



The old classroom half demolished during half term week in February. Photo: Jacqui Burge

AN exciting project has just commenced at Linton Infants School! After more than four years in the planning, we finally have action on our latest venture. If you have walked down Church Lane in the last two weeks, you may have noticed the absence of our demountable classroom. This was used as a classroom originally, a library area in the more recent past but, for the last few years, mainly for our Learning Support Assistants to work with small groups of pupils and for our band of parent helpers on Monday mornings who so generously give their time to support staff in making classroom resources. Problems with the floor meant that the building could not safely be used for larger groups or whole classes.

There is, of course, good reason for having rendered this group of people temporarily homeless. Work is now underway to build an extension from the corridor which runs parallel to where the demountable building used to be. This will feature a computer suite and two offices for the headteacher and administrative staff, respectively. This will improve security, as office staff will have a clear vision of people entering and leaving the site. The current position of

offices is also unsatisfactory in terms of Health and Safety - in the event of a fire in the corridor or secretary's office, there is no means of escape from the headteacher's office.

The ICT suite has been planned to accommodate 15 computers and will improve direct teaching of ICT skills. We also expect to develop it for use by pupils at lunchtimes and by parents and their offspring after school, in order to enhance learning across the community.

The current administrative offices, after slight modification, will be established as a reference library for pupils and as an area for staff to work with small groups of children. The lack of a library in the last couple of years has been a loss, though we are grateful to staff at the village library for accommodating groups of pupils.

Once the building is completed, hopefully by the end of June 2004, there will be landscaping of the demolition site and use of the gates in front of this area as a main pedestrian entrance. If you know any of our pupils they will be only too pleased to give you a progress report - the buzz amongst them is quite something!

Heather Greenhalgh, Headteacher.

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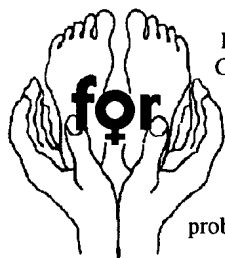


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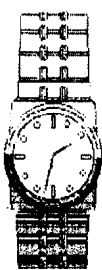
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LAST YEAR’S WINNERS

EACH month the Linton News Team selects what we consider to be the best picture and/or article of that issue.

We are delighted to announce that the winning ‘Best Picture of 2003’ was John Creedy’s beautiful snow picture in the March issue.

The winning ‘Best Article of 2003’ was ‘Did you know there is a superstar living on your doorstep?’ by David and Hayley Donnan in the May issue. Both of the winners have been presented with cheques for £50.

Highly commended come the picture of the ‘Rescue Puppy’ by John Keeble in the September issue and article ‘Linton Fireworks-not a bundle of fun for everyone’ by Kim Simmons in the January issue .

Congratulations to these contributors. Next time it could be you.

LNT

A LECTURE

THE Cambridgeshire Local History Society invites you to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society Lecture entitled ‘Royal Newmarket 1606 - 1714’, given by John Sutton at 2:15pm on Saturday 3rd April at S’ John’s Hall Blinco Grove (off Hills Road) Cambridge. All welcome, small fee for visitors, tea and biscuits included. Enquiries to the Secretary: Gill Rushworth 811703

AZTECS JFC VERSUS PRO’S

ARSENAL ex-professional and celebrity team have offered a team for a football match to be played against Aztecs JFC and managers on 23rd May. Kick-off will be at 2pm at Linton Village College. For further information and tickets for this grand event please contact me.

Peter Belsom 891273

SUCCESSFUL JUMBLE

THANKS to strong local support Linton Guides raised £335 at their jumble sale on Saturday 28th February. Thank you to every one concerned, sellers and buyers.

Could the person who bought the Zippy 90 knitting machine please call 01223 891602 to arrange to receive the instruction book. The Guides are also offering for sale a small Edwardian wing chair with autumn coloured upholstery and a slightly damaged leg.

Kate France 891602

HOW EGGCITING

THE Chestnut playgroup’s Easter Disco will be held at the Fire Station from 3-5pm on Saturday 3rd April. Tickets are available at the door or from:

Sarajane Howard Lilley 891659
or Clair Whiffin 893304

LET IT GO TO SEED



THE message that came across from Sue Robinson at our March meeting is that gardens can be just as colourful in the autumn and winter as in the summer. Well, nearly! Without the brightness of annuals and summer perennials the winter garden relies on form and colourful foliage as well as the late bloomers such as rudbekia, penstemons, japanese anemones and chrysanthus. Left untidied, seedheads too can make a good show provided by crocosmia, acanthus, sedum, alliums and many more.

Sue’s country background, with a father who taught her about plants, followed by art college has provided her with a wealth of gardening knowledge and useful tips which she puts over in a humorous fashion, frequently asking “You like that photo?” Well, we did, and she could have gone on much longer had we not all needed a break for refreshments!

Our plant sale will be on Saturday 8th May at 3 Mill Lane so we are hoping for the usual abundance of donated plants which miraculously turn up each year. May I also remind you of the categories in the photo competition of the Show, which will be on Saturday 24th July. They are: a flower or flowers on a single stem, gardens of historic houses, a local village event, a tree or trees, water (limited to four photos per category). The children’s subject is: my favourite photo taken by me.

The April talk will be entitled “Wild Flowers and Birds in the Garden” by Barry Kaufmann-Wright. All are welcome.

Gloria Fidler 891800

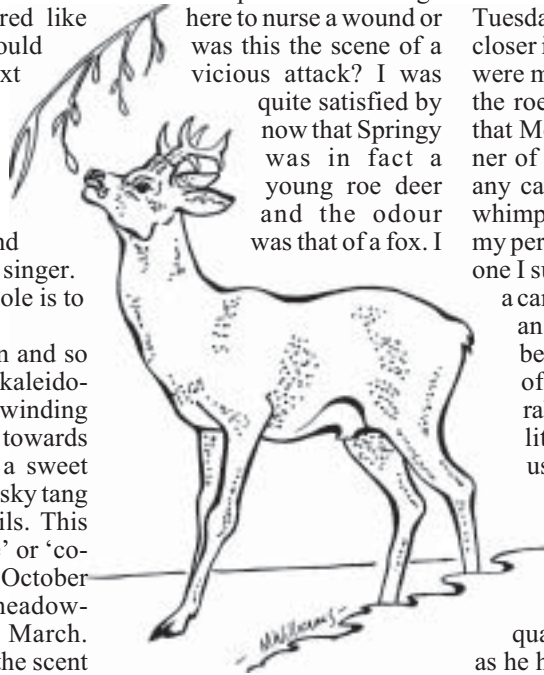
LINTON COUNTRY DIARY

by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

negated the need for a Sherlock. The animal at this location had obviously been startled, changed direction, leapt and ran. I named him Springy and followed his trail to a clump of prickly bramble where upon some leaves and grass I discovered a few spots of drying blood and short brown hairs. Had the animal attempted to take refuge

here to nurse a wound or was this the scene of a vicious attack? I was quite satisfied by now that Springy was in fact a young roe deer and the odour was that of a fox. I



checked back and deduced the other marks in the mud had been left by numerous dogs and their guardians, yet one print stood out by the nature of its random course. This was the telltale sign of that bushy tailed enigma, and clear evidence of a chase. The fox, cunning as we know had zig-zagged up and down the banks of the pathway, presumably to confuse and cut off his prey in flight. Attacks on deer by fox are extremely rare but since the changing of our refuse collection day they venture hungrily

into the village on the wrong evening. When finally they break their old habits they will also be required to learn how to open a wheely-bin. And believe me, they will!

Despite this moment of compassion I still felt the urge to throw the book at our young fox and call the singing bird as witness to what occurred between six and seven on that Tuesday evening. However, on closer inspection the fox prints were much dryer than those of the roe. It is also well known that *Monsieur le renard* a dinner of rabbit would prefer! In any case his wily way would whimper ‘Woe is me but see my perfect alibi’. The innocent one I suspected was injured by a car or truck whilst walking an ancient ‘run’ made long before the bypass. Some of these pathways of fox, rabbit, badger and deer are literally centuries old and used by generation after generation of wildlife.

A few days later I found Springy’s lifeless body in a heap on the verge; his hind quarters and life shattered as he had tried to return home injured via another pathway that crossed the road by the far weir. Why he did not use the narrow ledge beneath the bridge we’ll never know. Perhaps he was in great pain, melancholic and not thinking clearly as he leapt into the blinding lights to receive his final and mortal blow? The driver cannot be blamed, for the real crime is in our own planning. We simply carry on building to suit humans as if we are the only inhabitants of earth. As we are the keepers of earth-garden, there is another way! Springy was less than two years old. I scooped him into my arms and carried him to the other side of the 1307 and laid him beneath a bush for his family to find, and for nature to do its job. With each step an inner tear on behalf of the human race, apologising for our folly as I too dodged the serpents fangs, for there was no safe place for me to cross either. The harmonious bird must have seen it all I’m sure, and returned to sing again the following night, but what was she singing about, and who wrote that beautiful song? Not I!

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/0364/04/F Linton S’ Mary’s Parochial Church Council, **Land to south of S’ Mary’s Churchyard, Church Lane.** Erection of Church social and meeting room.

S/03264/CM Cambs CC, **Land at Linton Village College.** Proposed new single storey Special School (to accommodate 165 pupils aged 2-19)

S/0342/04/CM Cambs CC, **Linton Village College, Cambridge Road Linton.** Proposed new all weather Sports Pitch (with Floodlights).

S/0413/04/F Mr & Mrs Devlin, **The White House, 85 Bartlow Road, Linton.** Extensions.

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Parish Council Matters

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE BUILDING PROGRAMME



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

ON A splendid spring day Susan Anderson and the team went hedge planting in the cemetery. It soon reverted to winter chill, so we were grateful for the tea and cakes passed over the fence! We noted just how big and overpowering the Lime trees have become. Many conifers are also past their beauty and could be replaced. We have ideas for changes, but what would you like here? Remember, it is place for respect and peace, not a play area.

Are you enjoying the daffodils planted by the Brownies, the Chalklands group, the two Mikes of LPC and others? Community activities like these, add beauty to Linton and lift the spirit. There will soon be other initiatives to improve or conserve the environment – new volunteers always welcome.

The river is always interesting – not just because of Darryl in his waders! Recently we have had trees blown (or thrown?) in, and removed by the helpful men of the Environment Agency. Have you noticed how much the banks have eroded? Some riverside paths are dangerous in places; other paths are narrowed where ploughing has spread. There has been more damage to the Stantons Lane bridge – the brick walls were built so no one else would fall in, but someone has steadily destroyed this protection. We will get a new bridge. Until then, can we keep the repairs intact? Any accidents will be on your conscience – they could be serious.

Networking in Brussels – OK, in the loo queue – with medical and business colleagues from the USA, EU, Russia, Israel, etc, I was amazed how many were involved in local councils and community groups. If they can find time, how can we say we are too busy? Get involved in village life and you may be pleasantly surprised by the friends you make.

Enid Bald

IF YOU thought that LVC was just an adjunct to the village not really part of your life, think again... changes proposed for the site will affect the whole village. At the last Parish Council meeting, we heard of plans for an SEN school, extending the Leisure Centre, provision of an 'astro-turf area, and refurbishing the College itself, a massive building programme over the next 4 years.

It is not just the visual and environmental impact of new buildings, but the SEN school itself that will bring increased traffic, and roadworks will affect all users. The PC Traffic Working Party, Action A1307 and other groups will have much to say on the changes. The traffic plan must allow for the

PUBLIC MEETING

The Parish Council are holding this in conjunction with LVC to discuss the

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE 4-YEAR REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

at Linton Village College Main Hall,
Wednesday 21st April, 7.30 pm.

Come and discuss your concerns regarding traffic, safety, access, construction, swimming pool - This affects us all!

needs of Linton and the industrial area opposite LVC. We need suitable business in Linton and it should not be hindered by poor road design.

Of major concern is the loss of playing fields during development. We have insufficient football pitches for

current needs, but will lose more until replacements are eventually provided. This will affect the Aztecs and others. How can they continue without pitches? How will teams be maintained?

Other groups using LVC will be affected when their

rooms are demolished. Where will they go? Will there be enough new rooms for community and dual use? The Parish Plan highlighted the need for more community rooms and leisure areas. Will the new build take this into account? There could be a swimming pool, as there will be plant capacity, but this has not been included. The Parish Council will comment on the plans, but your input and ideas are needed so all issues are addressed.

The developments may be positive, but the disruption could have far reaching effects for Linton. To ensure that problems are tackled, we need more consultation and the whole village needs to consider the plans.

Come to the meeting!

A STICKY ISSUE IN THE CEMETERY? YOU DECIDE!



Cemetery - as it looks now!



Cemetery - with only half the trees

IN RECENT years there has been a series of complaints concerning the Lime trees in the Cemetery. Basically the lime exudes a sticky, honey like substance from its foliage due to certain insects that inhabit the leaves of this tree.

Unfortunately this syrup, for want of a better description, has been playing havoc with the gravestones. Cleaning the mess off them is very hard work and obviously many of those

with loved ones buried in the Cemetery are unhappy with the situation.

The Parish Council makes every effort to keep the Cemetery in the very best condition which includes the ambience of the area. The Lime trees are a feature but over the years their increase in size has increased the problem.

There are several possible solutions the PC are considering. I outline them below in the

hope that readers will offer their views.

1. Take down every other Lime tree. This would halve the problem without altering too much the look of the area as per the pictures included in this article.

2. As above, but also pollard (cut down the branches to the main trunk) which would reduce the size of the trees but of course in the course of time they would return to their

present size.

3. Pollard all the trees remembering that this would only delay the problem

4. Remove all the Limes and replace with native species more suitable for the area

We welcome any comments and indeed other solutions. Please ring, write to, email or visit the Parish Clerk if you wish to make your views known.

Mike Gee
Cemetery Co-ordinator

Cemetery - same number of trees - pollarded



Cemetery - half the number of trees - pollarded



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

Know your councillors



SUE ALBROW

I JOINED Linton Parish Council with a particular interest in the needs of the young people of the village. The Parish Council was a partner in the setting up of Linton Action for Youth and has consistently supported this work with Linton's young people and more recently the Family Support workers who work with village families who are experiencing difficulties.

LPC was forward thinking in helping to set up LA4Y – a charity, providing a drop-in and experienced help of qualified youth workers, it was one of the first projects in the county, and is now used as a model to other parish councils.

For the future I hope that we will work with LVC in its plans to have a 'special needs' on the same site as the current school. The opportunities for integrating the disabled children into the mainstream and vice versa can only bring enormous benefits to our children in raising their awareness and acceptance of other young people with difficulties. This will bear fruit when they are adults in society. These opportunities will be worth it, despite the difficulties in the short term. I believe that the PC can play a vital role in planning the changes and helping to alleviate the difficulties for the village. I am looking forward over the next few years to the exciting developments in the education and sports facilities in the village and to the subsequent improvement in the arrangements for traffic passing through the village that I am sure will happen more quickly due to these major changes.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held on Tuesday
29th April, 8pm at
Linton Social Centre
Agenda to include
Consideration of Adoption of the Parish Plan

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MINUTES of the meeting held
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February, 2004 at 8pm.

The 9 councillors present were introduced to Pat Kilby, District Manager for the South Cambs region of the Cambs Fire and Rescue Service. Mr Kilby gave a presentation on the current role of the Fire Service, undergoing major change at the moment in line with new government directives. The emphasis of the presentation was on Fire Safety in the Community and ways in which the Fire Service could help and advise. Mr Kilby reported there were 5 stations in the SC district, all of which were operated with 'retained' staff. Recruitment was a problem, and Mr Kilby sought the Parish Council's help with this. People who worked in the village, or perhaps worked shifts and could be available, in the village, during the day and who wished to help their community could apply. With regard the help and advice given, pre-

vention was the key word. In this respect, for some residents, items such as smoke detectors could be fitted free of charge. Demonstrations with regard prevention and fire safety could be given to groups. He then invited questions. Councillors queried whether the Fire Service had advertised for retained fire fighters through the Linton News and suggested this would be worthwhile. It was noted that any interested applicant need only contact Cambridge Fire Station, or indeed the local Fire Station. Mr Kilby also reported that administration services were scheduled to move to Cambourne. C^{lrs} Cornell queried whether volunteers could organise to be available day time only. Mr Kilby confirmed this was possible. Drill sessions were held on Wednesday evenings and all staff were expected to attend. The Chairman thanked Mr Kilby for his very informative presentation and reported that the Council would assist

however it could in attracting new staff.

Councillors approved the previous minutes and as a result, C^lr Hammett noted his concern about rumours regarding the proposals for the Special Needs School at LVC. Discussion took place and as a result C^lr Batchelor reported that the Principal, Clive Bush, had volunteered to attend a parish council meeting to give a presentation of the proposals and answer any questions.

C^{llr} Urwin then reported with regard the council's successful JFMB for interactive signs on the A1307. A further meeting with the CCC officer responsible for the installation of the signs had taken place. C^{llr} Urwin had issued a written report detailing the compromises achieved and why. She was now awaiting the officers confirmation with a revised plan and whether the compromise could be achieved within the original budget. When this information was available, the

Traffic Working party would discuss and make recommendations to Full Council. It would be necessary therefore to hold a Traffic Working party meeting prior to 19th February. The meeting was set for Wednesday 18th February at 8^{pm} at the Social Centre. C^{lr} Urwin was congratulated by the meeting on the compromises achieved.

In the reports from Coordinators:- C^lr Clay reported that CCC sign cleaning was currently taking place on Horseheath Road. It was further reported that signage on A1307 had also recently been cleaned.

C^lr Batchelor reported that two street lights on the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground, west of Stantons Lane were still not working. The Clerk was to report this.

C^{llr} Rossiter reported the Ramblers Association had once again volunteered to review all footpaths and bridleways in Linton. This had

been carried out 3 years ago and had been successful. There was a minimal cost to hire a venue for the Ramblers to meet and use for refreshment and to cover the cost of that refreshment. C^lr Rossiter requested that the Council consider covering this cost up to £50. This was agreed. C^lr Rossiter further reported that grant funding had been found to cover the cost of a sign for Leadwell Meadows, and that the Linton Environment Action Group, brought together through the Parish Plan, was now in full swing and would make any necessary application for this money.

C^{lr} Hammett reported that the new safety surfacing for the last two remaining pieces of equipment without this had now been completed and a satisfactory job had been carried out. He further reported that the 'cargo net' within the small children's area required attention the details of which had been passed to the Clerk.

The payments due were agreed by the meeting. C^{llr}'s Batchelor and Urwin signed the cheques.

All items from Correspondence Sheet 14 were noted including the Police Consultative meeting; lime trees in the Cemetery; and a request for the fair on the recreation ground, this being agreed by the meeting. The Chairman then reported on a late item of post. SCDC had forwarded details of a Street Trading Consent request for the public car park in Coles Lane. Details were for trading Tuesday to Sunday from 4.30 to 11.30 pm for kebab and hot food sales. Discussion took place regarding this during which the times were compared with the Health Centre. As a result of discussion C^lr Urwin proposed that a permit be given from 6pm to 11.30 pm only for the days requested.

The meeting closed at 21.16

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Cathodeon Centre on 19th February, 2004 at 8pm. There were 11 Councillors present.

The Chairman introduced Mr Bush, Principal of Linton Village College, who explained that the proposals for a Special Needs School within the Village College site was only one phase of what was a '3-phase programme of development' for the College. In detail he elaborated:-

Phase 1:- this would begin in April and consisted of the development of the Sports Centre and the provision of an 'astro-turf' area; this had been funded through grants from the Football Foundation, CCC, SCDC, PC and user groups, and the College itself. The astro-turf would be full size and floodlit. The purchase of a 90 metre strip of land next to the College would allow for two more sports pitches in time, about two years. The sports centre would house a much larger fitness suite with new changing rooms and a new entrance, making it self-sufficient. All this would entail the sports centre closing for 3 months. Phase 2:- which was due to commence in October,

was the Special Needs School. This would overlap with the completion of the sports centre works and some features of the SEN would be dual use. There was provision for a 10 metre hydrotherapy pool. The SEN would necessitate revision of the access arrangements to the site as a whole. It was proposed there would be a new entrance, opposite the entrance to Libbra/Crofton, and a new internal road running parallel with A1307 which would link up with the existing internal road. The existing entrance would be closed. The new entrance would be controlled with permanent traffic lights which would operate on 'demand'. It was envisaged this work would be completed, all but snagging, by April/May 2006.

Phase 3:- the building within the current site known as the 'Vic Hallam' building, was to be demolished and replaced with a mainly single storey complex, cost of which was £7m. During this time 8-10 mobile classrooms would be employed within the site. Other user groups currently utilising some of the affected space, ie playgroups and ATC were being invited to comment and

would be incorporated within the new build. It was envisaged this work would take 18 months to complete, commencing during the 'snag' time for the SEN. It was, therefore, envisaged that all works would be complete around the end of 2007. Mr Bush then invited questions. Councillors expressed a number of concerns including possible gridlock on the A1307 at the junction with the High Street; building works traffic entering and exiting the site; speed of vehicles on the dual carriageway on approach to the School then being faced with traffic lights; possibility of utilising building programme to ensure a community swimming pool on grounds of cost effectiveness; access for disabled pedestrians into College via Stantons Lane (not available at the moment); ensuring enough car parking spaces for all new users, particularly while build was taking place; current multi-modal study of traffic using A1307 results of which were due and could have serious consequences for current proposals; whether SCDC were aware of SEN proposal when they turned down grant for swim-

ming pool feasibility study; possibility of a dedicated nursery facility within the new build programme (highlighted from the Parish Plan); concerns regarding lack of sports pitches during this time, in particular football pitches. Councillors explained that over 200 local children, who play for Aztecs Junior Football Club, use the College facilities – where were they to go? When were the proposed traffic lights to be installed; why traffic lights, was a roundabout at the end of the dual-carriageway considered; another solution would be two sets of traffic lights, 1 at the High Street and the other at LVC and the results of the multi-modal study could assist with this; environmental issues such as noise reduction measures and sustainability with regard fuel uses.

Mr. Bush responded to each concern, in particular with the traffic issues reporting that what was currently proposed was not what had been initially requested by the College, but the results of compromise with the Highways department on what was feasible. Letters were currently being sent out to representatives of user groups to keep them informed of the situation and seek their views and requirements for the future.

Investigations were currently taking place into the hire of portable changing room facilities to enable the sports centres to remain open, but this was very expensive. Disruption due to construction traffic would be minimal, with heavy construction vehicles only on site for short times and mainly during holidays. The extra land being acquired to provide 20 new sports pitches would not be ready for use for two years. To minimise effects of picking up and setting down times, both schools would have staggered start/finish times.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Bush for his presentation and noted that the community would require as much information and consultation as possible prior to events to ensure a smooth project.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and it was noted that the Farmers Market was moving to the Village College as from March.

The Police report detailed 11 crimes for January. The Police Consultative meeting had been held in Linton and attendance from residents had been good.

CC D^r Terry Bear reported that the County Council had set a budget of £446.1m requiring a council tax increase of

6.9%. C Cllr Bear explained that this was a lower increase than had been expected. The Council had planned for a 6% council tax increase but the Secretary of State for Education had been insisting that an extra £4.5m was put into schools which would have needed a council tax increase of 9%. In the event, the Government and County Council had compromised on the increase of 6.9% which will put £4m more into schools.

The district councillors reported that South Cambs were not raising its portion of the Council Tax.

The payments due were noted and agreed with C^{llr}s Cox and Potter signing cheques.

The Clerk reported two applications for the Councillor vacancy. Both applicants were present. They were both invited to speak to council on why they wished to become a Councillor, then asked to leave the room for debate. Then a ballot was taken and as a result Roger Hickford was duly co-opted as Councillor.

There was quite a heavy post list which included letters from the local Brownies, Garden Club and subscription renewals. A quotation for repairs to Cathodeon play equipment.

In Any other Business, C^{lin} Gore reported another section of the churchyard wall had deteriorated and there was urgent need for liaison regarding this area between the PC and PCC. This was to be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 22.00

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**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
DATES**

FULL COUNCIL
April 2004:- 1st and 15th
May 2004:- 6th and 20th

All meetings held at the Cathodeon
Centre and commence at 8pm