

Alzheimer's
Research
coffee morning
11th June
10.30am
29 Hollybush Way
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It is incumbent on us all to encourage people to use their votes and thereby foster the democratic process.
The Euro and county council elections are on 4th June ... so do something amazing and vote! LN editor.



The plan shows
an artist's
impression of
the improved
seating area
with the
dividing
fence (top
and bottom
left) and the
whole area of
Camping Close
(top right)

Plans courtesy
of Peter Smith
Associates

To fence or not to fence?

The governors of Linton infant school have been considering a plan to fence off part of Camping Close to provide a more secure and clean area where children can play and exercise. In the following article, they outline their reasons and ask for people's views.

AS Governors of Linton infant school, we are responsible for providing all the facilities necessary to deliver the school curriculum in a safe, secure and professional environment.

The continuous review and audit of the school's capabilities has highlighted the need to provide improvements related to its ability to meet effectively the physical health and well-being element of the curriculum.

While the area of ground known as Camping Close was purchased by the county

council specifically to provide a sports and play area for the school, in its current configuration it does not provide a secure and clean place for the children without extensive preparation before each use.

To address this issue the governors have been considering a proposal to fence part of the Camping Close area.

Coincidentally, the parish council approached the school about potential improvements related to Camping Close, which we saw as positive, and we advised them of our provi-

sional plan.

We considered that this would be a complementary development of Camping Close for the needs of both the school and community.

Although in the school's proposal an area of Camping Close would be enclosed, it was always intended to make this area accessible for community use as before but in an improved manner which will be beneficial to other groups such as sports' and uniformed organisations in the village.

As can be seen from the

above proposal, the area north of the footpath would be landscaped, enhancing the current outlook. The necessary funding for this project has been agreed in principle by the county council.

Unfortunately the governors have not been able to have detailed discussions on this subject with the necessary parties.

Disappointingly for the school, the parish council has now responded to our proposal by applying for village green status for Camping Close.

Obviously this will now entail extensive debate, and cost, to reach a final conclusion.

The school governors believe their proposal has significant merit to both school and community while retaining a large area of open space in an improved environment.

Detailed plans can be viewed on the new notice board at the school gate. We would be pleased to hear people's views and the Governors can be contacted at Ebrooker@linton-inf.cambs.sch.uk

LIS governing body

A night at the Oscars

FOURTEEN students from Granta school spent the spring term learning how to make short films with the school ICT co-ordinator Mrs Sam Lee McCloud.

Each student had the opportunity to work in a team to produce a number of different film genres from a short documentary to an animation.

They had to hold planning and discussion sessions to form their own ideas and then develop these into a theme for their films.

This project has helped the students to enhance self-confidence and boost self-esteem and improve their ability to work as a team and develop their speaking and listening skills.

All of them exceeded expectations and worked very hard. They certainly rose to the challenge, producing 14 finished films.

As a result, the school recently held a celebration evening, the Success At Movie Making Awards, for both parents and students.

The Lothbury Centre in Weston Colville offered their facilities for the evening and everyone was asked to dress to impress, which they did.

In true Oscars style, the MC, Mr Lee Ginger, treated us to a viewing of the films with popcorn and drinks served by our own usherette (the head teacher Mrs Lucie Calow!). It was a wonderful evening thoroughly enjoyed by all ... there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

After a short interval the students were awarded mini Oscars for categories such as best director etc. presented by Mrs Caroline Illott, chairman of the governors.

Three of the films made by students have now been selected for the Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Awards in July; two school entries and one individual animation.

Sam Lee McCloud
ICT co-ordinator
Granta School

It's our village green, says parish council

LINTON has very little recreational space. Camping Close (documented since 1674 and used for village sports since ancient times) is a green open area available for all of Linton to use freely – a place to walk, to play, hold our fetes, fly kites, picnic and meet friends.

Although the area was bought by the county council in 1974, it has always been considered to be *ours*, with the status of an open space.

The infant school has already provided a safe play-ground – now it is proposing to

extend its play area by fencing in half of Camping Close. It cites guidelines on provision of play space, but these are objectives, not statutory rights.

The whole of Camping Close is already available for children's use, unrestricted by fences, as it has been for generations.

The low fence that is proposed would not improve security nor prevent litter. The area would still have to be checked for rubbish and syringes (though none have ever been found there) before use – that is

a statutory requirement.

In this time of recession, can we afford an unnecessary fence, costs for design, legal representation, and the planning application? It is *your* money they are spending, dear taxpayer!

The parish council (LPC) has applied for village green status (no cost) to preserve Camping Close as a public space for use by all. A recent survey of young people showed that 45% of them use the area regularly.

We would like some

benches for them, and perhaps goalposts, away from houses to reduce disturbances.

A central seating area would not address this – and does the design enhance this historic area? In this matter we find ourselves in empathy with Prince Charles!

The LPC proposals had been discussed with the school, who then expressed the desire to fence off a large area of Camping Close.

The head and a governor had attended a parish council meeting in February when they

heard many objections to their proposed enclosure and the unsuitability of their plans.

Before that meeting took place, councillors had a note on the legal status of the area and that registration as a village green could be sought to formalise its common use.

The school plans show open gates – what does a fence with openings achieve? How soon before they are locked and we are excluded.

The school doesn't need to spend your money to fence this land off from the rest of the

village for sports or play.

Fencing off this area for the sole use of a small number of pupils for just a few years – and term-times are short – will deny not only all of us but them the use of it for the rest of their lives

Children need space for recreation, and so does everyone else – all of Camping Close must be freely accessible without the need for permission and unlocking of gates.

That is why LPC wants Camping Close as our village green.

Enid Bald
Linton parish council



Our vision for the infant school

EVERY school states its aims in a vision statement and the governors, staff and I have worked to revise our school's intention. We believe this encompasses what we stand for and we strive to achieve it in everything we do.

We provide an environment where children and all school members can be happy, healthy, safe and achieve their full social and intellectual potential.

We do this by providing a caring Christian environment, creating happy, stimulating and exciting opportunities for learning, developing positive relationships and supporting a creative approach to personal development and growth.

We work in partnership with parents and our community to equip children fully for their future. If you have any comments on our vision, please email them to office@lintoninf.cambs.sch.uk

So what has been happening at the infant school in the last month? Well, each year group has embarked on a new learning journey encountering a range of themes. This has led to great excitement throughout the school.

The youngest children are learning about Mega Machines. The topic started with robots and all the children created their own from recycled materials.

Since then they have moved on to modes of transport. They have welcomed special visitors including an airline pilot and a HGV rescue truck driver.

The Year 1 children are learning about our natural world. Part of this theme has included a focus on animals and making moving books.

The Year 2 children's focus is on explorers. The theme had an exciting start as a large mystery box arrived as part of a national project called the great plant hunt, organised to celebrate Darwin's 200th anniversary.

As part of this, the children have planted mystery seeds and tried to identify the plant as it grows. Was learning so much fun when we were at school?

Louise Clark, headteacher



Isn't it huge? Children examine a rescue truck

Picture by the Infant school

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PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

Poor parking at schools

THE Linton Neighbourhood Police Team (LNPT) has been looking at school parking problems in the villages. Hopefully some of you may have seen us both in Balsham this week at the end of the school day monitoring the road/parking problems.

Please, please remember to park responsibly and not on corners, opposite junctions or anywhere that can endanger other road users and most importantly, children.

So far, we have given words of advice to motorists committing these offences and will continue to monitor the situation. We do not want to start issuing tickets.

Phone number changed

DUE to a recent change in handset, PCSO Chris Pulley's number has changed as he was not able to keep the old one. The new number is 07525 227493. This is switched on when I am on duty. You can call me with information or to make us aware of something in the neighbourhood.

Please remember this number is not for reporting a crime. This must still be done on 0845 456 456 4 or in an emergency telephone 999. To give information anonymously about crime, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

PCSO 7081 Pulley

Warning about graffiti, vandals and dangerous driving

OVER the past week or so, Leanne and I have been quite busy looking at a few problems across the neighbourhood.

We have issued a Section 59 warning to one young man about his way of riding on a moped.

If this moped or any car is seen again being used in an antisocial manner, we will seize the bike or car! It will cost the offender £105 to get it back and £12 for every day in storage.

The police team is also appealing for information regarding criminal damage which has been committed in both Linton and Horseheath.

There are two separate cases but both appear to be recurring problems.

On three occasions now, graffiti has been scrawled on the building site perimeter screen in Flaxfields, and since the opening of the public footpath between Flaxfields and Symond's Lane, we have had problems with graffiti on the screens around the site.

The graffiti is generally just bad language, rather than any sort of 'tag', but on one occasion the offenders drew a racist picture.

If anybody has any information about this or notices further graffiti at the site, please contact us. We understand the offenders to be two males, approximately 15 to 18 and wearing hooded tops. Creating graffiti is an offence and will be dealt with accordingly.

The notice board and the bus shelter in Horseheath have been damaged several times recently.

If you, or anybody you know, could shed any light on who is responsible for these mindless acts of vandalism, please either call Cambridgeshire police on 0845 456 4564 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Thank you and regards.

LNPT: PC 1881 Rebecca Parkin,
PCSO Leanne Allan and PCSO ChrisPulley.

Still looking for station site

AT the Linton panel meeting on 24th March, Insp Chris Savage agreed to keep people up to date about locating a new police station in the village. The date of the next meeting is on Tuesday 23rd June at Fulbourn.



Foreign friends: Jean Whitby (left) and Rose Newman
Picture by Roger Lapwood

More help for Chernobyl

SEVENTY-EIGHT-year-old Jean Whitby has again visited Chernobyl in the Ukraine to take money to help the children's outpatient polyclinic at Chernigov which treats up to 35,000 children a year for a wide range of cancer and leukaemia illnesses.

Jean says 98 per cent of the local people have something wrong with them. She has helped collect clothes, blankets, wheelchairs, plastic bins, electrical goods, toiletries and many other things that could be useful to the Chernigov community, seriously damaged after the nuclear power station explosion in 1986. Since September 2002 Jean has made regular visits and said: "One of the van driver's colleagues couldn't go so I was offered a place in the van and I have been going ever since."

Over the years the volunteers have helped raise money for a new boiler house, a hydrotherapy pool and a sterilising unit for the dentist's surgery. Jean and Rose Newman raised money by selling handknits made to order and running a plant sale as well as being given donations. They have been helped by ladies from the Linton knitting circle who meet fortnightly at the Chalklands community centre and knit blankets, baby and children's clothes for charity.

With other volunteers from Chesterford, Braintree and Sandy, who also support the children's polyclinic, Jean stayed with Dr Hannan Yakubova, the head physiotherapist. They visited the clinic and attended the annual Memorial Day on 9th May.

Jean, a Barnardo's girl, was fostered in Linton in 1937, attended Linton primary school and Cambridge high school for girls. She returned to live in Linton in 1992.

LNT

Grapevine meets Chatterbox

IN April, two members of the Granta Grapevine team attended the Eastern region conference of Talking Newspapers in Norwich. It was hosted by the Talking News Federation, and the local Norwich group Chatterbox. In addition to a number of linked presentations and discussion groups, the event provides a facility to meet other local talking newspapers and equipment vendors.

Granta Grapevine is an audio cassette version of the Linton News with a topical magazine side, and is available free each month to those in or around Linton who have difficulty reading the newspaper for whatever reason. Postage is free for those who are registered partially sighted or blind. It has been produced every month since March 1990.

If you would like to receive the tape, or you know anyone who could benefit from the service and would like a free copy each month, contact our distributor Roger Lapwood, 891104.

If you would like to help, visit www.grantagrapevine.org.uk or call me on 893619.

Mike Crofts

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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. All letters for publication must have a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited.

Dear Editor,
It does amuse me that the county councillors who serve Linton can always be found for a photo opportunity in the area. In the latest issue of the Liberal Democrat paper Focus, councillors can be seen inspecting the appalling state of repair of Back Road. It is rather frustrating, however, that they did not respond to my letters on the subject in July of last year. In fact, despite the exhortations in the Focus paper to “let us know” about any problems you wish to raise, I have not once received a response to any communication sent. Political posturing? Surely not.
Julie Platten, 5 Back Road,

Dear Editor

I dreamt I'd died the other night
and very strange to tell,
For all my sins I should have been
In that awesome place called Hell.
But the sky above was very blue
and the fields and trees were green.
I wined and dined on Co-op food, the finest ever seen.
Old boys with their dogs on leads passed the time of day
And youngsters on their mountain bikes
Yelled 'Are you OK?'

At the end of the road, I saw a sign and this
was the surprise
'Welcome to Linton' in words of gold
'Twinned with Paradise'.

John Cunningham, aka The Bard of Linton 892254

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
I wanted to write to thank the residents of Linton and surrounding villages for supporting Linton Granta playgroup’s tabletop sale on 9th May. The sale raised around £230 for the playgroup which will allow us to create our new garden in September.
In particular, I would like to thank all the stallholders for clearing out their homes and supporting us on the day, all of the customers at the sale and the staff and committee of the playgroup for all their hard work. Lastly, I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the customers and staff in the Crown and the Dog and Duck for their very kind donations and for purchasing cakes from the cake stall. A huge thank you to the man in the street outside Sweet Talk News for buying one of our cakes! Many thanks to all.
Natalie Morris, fundraising committee 894888

Enjoy your retirement, Bob

THE village hall committee is extremely sad to see our excellent caretaker/cleaner retire after two years of loyal service. Bob Pipe took over from George Glover when he retired, and has been a fine replacement.
The hall has always been kept in pristine condition during his period with us. Bob never had to be chased about anything and we never had to supervise the cleaning.
Like his predecessor, Bob would carry out jobs which were not in his remit and was a great asset in keeping the hall in tip-top condition. He will be hanging up his brushes and mops at the end of July. We wish him and his family all the best for the future with good health and happiness.
To apply for the job, please contact chairman Glyn Northrop (01440 704510) or email g.northrop@btinternet.com
Glyn Northrop

Too good for jumble ...

Just ready for a summer bike ride? We have a girl’s bike, 20in wheel with three gears; a boy’s bike 20in wheel with five gears and a man’s racing bike with 10 gears now available. Also new this month is a football goal net 6ft high and approximately 10ft wide.
Still available are the teak telephone table, three-tier electric steamer, one-year-old Photosmart 7800 HP printer, 15in Dell computer, almost new Fisher Price baby bath and Casiotone CT 450 stereo keyboard with instructions – battery or mains operated.
Macmillan Nurses have benefitted by £5 from the chocolate fountain, £20 from the chipper & shredder and £30 from the Sony TV with DVD, Balsham Brownies received £10 for the glass shower screen and £20 from the Philips TV.
To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, call 891602 or email katefrance@linton48.free-serve.co.uk
Kate France

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Fete and flower festival
will be Linton’s best

WHAT surprises are in store during this year’s celebrations at Linton flower festival? Come and join us to find out and help to make it the best so far. With summer just around the corner we can put the gloom and doom behind us and have a wonderful weekend.
Here is just a taste of some of the events:
The church will be open for flower viewing from 10am-5.30pm on Friday 5th June, from 10.am-5pm on Saturday 6th, and from 10.am-5pm on Sunday 7th. The restaurant will be open for snacks, lunches and teas on Saturday from 10.am-4.30 and Sunday from 11.am-4.30. There will be entertainment for all the family.
On Saturday, enjoy Punch and Judy, bouncy castle, Sumo gladiator, train ride, teddy bear jumps, dog show, army obstacle course, barbecue with hot dogs and burgers, beer tent, a treasure hunt and plant and cake stalls with Linton Jazz providing the music. From 6-7.30pm. there will be ‘Music for a summer evening’ in the church. On Sunday, there will be a fancy dress competition with the theme ‘All things bright and beautiful’, a duck race, tours of the church tower, games and activities. Linton village college wind band will provide the music. The weekend concludes at 6pm with evensong in the church.
Tricia Lewis 893609

THE festival barbecue and barn dance will be held in the infant school on 5th June, commencing at 7.00pm. As well as the dancing (optional) and meal, there will be a bar and raffle. Tickets are available from members of the social committee, or telephone Sue Ellis on 892257; price £5 (£4 for a small portion meal).
Please buy your tickets in good time to assist us in the catering arrangements. Vegetarian option available; please advise the person from whom you buy your ticket.
This energetic evening is sure to get the festival off to a flying start.

Sun shines for Asthma UK

THE House and Garden Fair took place on Tuesday 12th May at Chilford Hall and raised just under £12,000 for Asthma UK, a very respectable amount considering the economic climate. About 800 people attended the event and quite a few stayed all day. We were joined by a lively team from Heart Radio who jollied us all along. The sun was out and many people stocked up on things for the summer and things for the garden such as picnicware, pashminas, lanterns, gel burners, swimsuits, plants and summer shoes. In October we’ll start planning next year’s fair!
Jo Fairey 07811 339279



AsthmaUK crew from left: Sophie Dixon-Smith, Fiona Jones, Lizzie Harris and Cazzy Walshe
Picture courtesy of Jo Fairey

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication Date 6th July 2009

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NEWS ITEMS Friday 19th June

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Priority is given to Linton businesses

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LINTON DIARY

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

WEEKLY	
Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	VH
Yoga, 7-8.30pm Mondays term time	Hadstock VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men’s all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays	SC
Ladies’ netball, 7.15-8.30pm Mondays	SC
Cempa wu-shu karate, 7-8pm Mondays (age 5 upwards)	LVC
Aquacise Mon, Tues and Wed tel 890248 to enrol	Granta school
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	Church pavilion
Linton Granta toddlers, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time	LVC
Hadstock toddler group, 2-3.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hadstock VH
Ladies’ football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies’ badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
Bowls roll-ups from 2pm Weds	Bowls pavilion
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men’s keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays	(call 892076)
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 9.50am & 10.50am Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time	URC
Buffy bus, Fridays 11am-12.15pm	Hadstock village green
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays	SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC
Adult tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays term time	VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays	SC
Mini kickers, 10-11am Saturdays term time	LVC
For Sports Centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248	

JUNE	
1	Camera club, 7.15pm CC
2	WI, 7.30pm VH
3	Linton reading group, 8pm Dog & Duck
4	Elections: County and Europe VH
4	Luncheon club, 12.15pm The Crown
4	Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
5	Linton flower festival and fete, 10am, St Mary’s
5	Flower festival BBQ-barn dance, 7pm Infant school
6-7	Flower festival and fete, 10am St Mary’s
7	Camera club away day, 9am Coles Lane car park
10	LCSC user group meeting, 6.30pm Room 8 LVC
11	Alzheimer’s Research coffee @ 10.30am 29 Hollybush Way
11	Trefoil guild family quiz, 7pm Church pavilion
13	Dads & Tots, 9.30am VH
14	TCT cricket match, 10.45am Old Rectory, Carlton
14	Open garden, 2pm Little Chishill Manor
18	Parish council, 8pm CC
19	Infant school summer fair, 5pm Infant school
20	Hadstock fete, 2.30pm Hadstock village green
23	ACEs’ garden party, 2pm 7 Symond’s Lane
25	WI outing, leaving 9.15am
26	Friends of St Mary’s safari supper, 6pm Various venues
27	Conservative garden party, 2pm The Beeches, Green Lane
27	Granta school summer fair, 1pm Granta school

JULY	
2	Luncheon club, 12.15pm The Crown
2	Parish council meeting, 8pm CC
3	Linton Heights summer fair, 5pm Linton Heights
7	WI, 7.30pm VH
10	Infant school disco, 5pm Infant school
11	Friends of St Mary’s concert, 7.30pm St Mary’s
14	VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
19	LV Junior cricket club presentation 5pm Cricket pavilion

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

Library times: Monday Closed; Tuesday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; Wednesday 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Thursday Closed; Friday 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon.

Refuse collection: 8th, 22nd June, 6th July
Recycling collection: 1st, 15th and 29th June

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THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

DURING my formative years, I was fortunate enough to enjoy several happy weekends in the Yorkshire Dales with the Linton scouts. Often, a day would be spent navigating one of the magnificent potholes. My own particular favourites were Gaping Ghyll and Alum Pot (in the Three Peaks area) as they provided some fantastic examples of stalactites and stalagmites.

Cambridgeshire is not normally associated with such outdoor pursuits, but Linton is proudly leading the way with a glut of recently opened holes ready for exploration. Unfortunately, many of the intrepid adventurers experiencing these natural wonders do so in their cars, as they wend their merry way through our streets.

A lot has been made recently of the abundance of these hazards in the county, particularly as they often seem to go unchecked for months. However, while they have been seen and cursed at by motorists, it would appear that the authorities are largely oblivious to the problem. How can it be that they are left for so long?

In addition to the damage potholes can inflict on tyres, they can also be a dangerous distraction as drivers swerve to avoid hitting them, putting other road users and pedestrians at risk.

The highways department at Cambridgeshire county council has an awful lot of catching up to do, assuming they can catch up, of course. While it is perhaps understandable that the county's towns and cities are a priority, it does seem that villages such as ours around the perimeter of the city are forgotten. When the road mending team does deign to make an appearance, the repairs are little more than a sticking plaster. Within days sometimes, the same pothole has reopened to menace the unwary.

Even the A1307, as it makes its way into Suffolk, is beginning to resemble an off-roading experience in parts. Surely the last thing that road needs is further dangers foisted upon it?

The most recent issue of the cleverly titled Your Cambridgeshire magazine contains the magnificent claim that Cambridgeshire has the most improved county council in England. How bad must it have been for that to be true? On the pages triumphantly talking us through 2008's glorious achievements, we are told that 'the council is investing in equipment to keep the roads maintained and ... getting the best value for money'.

They even use 'machines that recycle old road surfaces rather than use new materials'. Perhaps this gives us a clue as to how a recently filled pothole reappears. Not only does the finished job look like it was carried out by a rogue trader, but they've used poor materials to guarantee complete dissatisfaction. At least Emson's Close has finally been resurfaced less than two decades after the original request. It's now as smooth, in places, as a Peter Mandelson appearance before a disciplinary committee. Elsewhere, it's more like John Prescott explaining quantum entanglement. Happy motoring ... and take a cushion.

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Name that familiar wild flower



Gardening club members pore over local wild flowers
Picture by Kirsten Newble

JULIA Napier, an ardent conservationist, set the gardening club a challenge last month by filling several tables with 50 samples of our local wild flowers and asking us to identify them. For this educational talk, a small sample came from roadsides, verges, rough ground or her garden, and no protected species were taken.

There were a few familiar friends hiding in the display such as cow parsley, cleavers and bluebells but also many familiar flowers whose name was just out of reach. Some jars held a variety of similar flowers to tease us, such as the three different types of buttercup. Several seemed to have been re-classified as they count as troublesome weeds in my vegetable patch!

Debates were raging over the table until Julia saved us by identifying each specimen and explaining its background. Flowers with names suggesting their uses such as selfheal have subsequently been discovered to have beneficial properties; in this case the plant is anti-bacterial.

Invaders have reached our shores from many places. One is the hoary cress which travelled in the saddlebags of returning soldiers and has been spreading from the South East ever since, aided by our enthusiasm for scattering salt on the roads.

Some species are on the decline but it was interesting to hear about the revival of the fortunes of some plants too. Hemlock used to be weeded out of verges – since this has ceased, there has been a gradual increase in numbers, but beware, all parts are poisonous!

Thank you to all who generously gave their time, plants and produce to make this year's plant sale so successful. The next gardening club event will be the 67th annual show on Saturday 18th July. Schedules giving the full details are now available from Susan Anderson 891623 and Alex Todd 892979. Entry forms must be received by Susan Anderson no later than 8pm on Thursday 16th July.

A quick reminder for the photographers among you, this year's subjects are: Any flower or flowers; A boat or boats; Wildlife, Garden tools.

Kirsten Newble 892425 lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Taste of high life for ACEs

ST GEORGE'S Day was celebrated by ACEs with a ploughman's lunch and just a little flag waving in honour of our patron saint.

The speaker was Rita Bonniface; her passion easily deduced from the tiny flying aircraft that served her as earrings!

Rita became interested in flying as a result of a family interest in archaeology. The crop marks left by building and soil disturbance led her to seek an aerial view, and once aloft there was no stopping her.

Despite problems with landings, she eventually got her pilot's licence – a splendid story of perseverance and quirky teaching methods. She told us of her trips and adventures, many of them involving failure of radar or wireless and how the problems were overcome. Her quick reflexes and thorough training certainly helped, as well as a much-tested sense of humour.

At the end we were shown slides, including some of London which would probably be unobtainable today, thanks to terrorist threats; how clean and neat everything looks from up there!

A fascinating talk; it made us understand how compelling a hobby flying is, and gave many of us an urge to sample the high life. Rita kindly donated her fee to an animal charity – yet another of her interests in a colourful life.

On 23rd June, there will be the annual garden party at 7 Symond's Lane – cream tea, raffle, bring and buy, stalls, etc. Bring umbrellas and parasols to be prepared for any weather. I will work on battering the garden into some semblance of order.

Enid Bald

Don't miss a special fete for our special children

GRANTA school in Linton would like to invite everyone to its second summer fete on Saturday 27th June at the school (next to Linton village college). Gates will open at 1pm and the event will run till 4pm.

This is a traditional school fete with everything from a barbecue to fabulous cakes and all sorts of stalls from hook the duck, guess the weight of the cake and tombolas to home-made jams, hand-made aromatherapy products, soaps and much more.

The school children will be running their own stalls with among other things plants, a treasure hunt and games to suit all ages. Many competitions will be featured, including guess the number of sweets in the jar. A grand raffle with fabulous prizes, the Linton jazz band and face painters are just some of the delights on offer.

The fete is run by Friends of Granta School, a registered charity set up and run by parents and staff to raise money for the many items of specialist equipment that special needs children so badly need, to provide a social forum for parents and to give all the support they can to the Granta school community. Every penny we raise is spent on the children, so come along for a fantastic afternoon of fun and enjoy our fete with us. Contact 01223 870602 or email caroline@ilott.demon.co.uk

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Calling all young singers for our choir

ST MARY’s church is preparing to launch a junior choir for youngsters between the ages of around 8-13 in the autumn. There is already a well established choir of adult singers at St Mary’s, plus additional singers in the two music groups.

The junior choir will provide a regular practice time once a week after school to help children (both boys and girls) to explore singing together as a choir. Two or three times a term, they will play an active role in providing music for part of the main Sunday morning service. The choir will be trained and directed by David Parry-Smith with the assistance of other members of the congregation.

If you have time to give to the formation of this new choir, please contact David (david@parry-smith.co.uk) or Hayley Donnan (hayley@lintonstmarys.org.uk) for further information. All staff will be CRB checked and the child protection policy of the Diocese of Ely, the Royal School of Church Music and St Mary’s will be observed.

We aim to have a group of at least 15 children in the choir and to grow from there. If you would like further information, contact David. Choristers will be encouraged to learn to read music and take introductory Associated Board grades in theory and singing, supported by the staff of the junior choir. Support of parents is critical in making a venture like this work, so do get in touch. We are also looking for a name; if you have ideas, let us know!

David Parry-Smith 894715

Toddlers from age two can share new premises

LINTON Granta Playgroup and Toddlers is extending its childcare facilities to two-year-olds from September, when the playgroup and regular toddlers groups on Tuesday and Thursday mornings will be relocated in the new block at Linton village college.

The new facilities allow us to have a shaded decked area for outside play during those balmy hot days and warm but wet days, a garden that is accessed directly from the building as well as a new facility with increased storage for equipment and educational aids.

If you would like to see the plans, please contact LGPT on info@linton-grantaplaygroup.org.uk

Admissions: Kirsten Butler on 890861.

Natalie Morris

Bring stories to life

COULD you take a group of young children on a magical adventure...without even leaving the library?

Then you could be the person we need to join us at Linton library as a volunteer storytimer/rhymetimer.

Whether you have experience, however informal, of sharing the magic of stories and rhymes with under fives or you wish to learn more about it, please get in touch.

If you are interested or would like more information contact Anne Worthington, librarian, Children’s Team, Cambridgeshire libraries on 07786 126 506 or email Anne.Worthington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Anne Worthington

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WI joins the fight to save our honeybees

WHAT a lot has been happening. Did you know Linton WI has a lovely ‘strolling’ group? Recently, we strolled over the Gog Magogs to see the swathes of cowslips and another day to some beautiful bluebell woods. Do join us and enjoy our beautiful surroundings. Next stroll will be on Thursday 11th June to Bartlow Hills. Interested? Meet at the top of Mill Lane; contact June Bunn on 891442.

We visited New Hall college, Cambridge, to see their magnificent contemporary art collection. We were wowed, not only by the art, but also the unique modernist architecture. Afterwards we drove to The Orchard, Grantchester for tea, relaxing beneath the beautiful blossom.

Dr Jonathan Silverman from Linton health centre and associate clinical dean in the clinical school, and colleague, Professor Marcy Rosenbaum, from Iowa, gave an excellent talk with role play at our May meeting.

We learned how modern communication skills between doctor and patient are so important. Good communication helps faster recovery – students work with simulated patients, preparing them for the average doctor’s huge annual workload.

Interested in gardens? We’re going to see the famous Beth Chatto garden on 25th. June. Beth has created a very successful dry garden – be inspired, no watering! Gents and non-members are very welcome. Contact Bel Griffiths on 894149.

Did you know our honeybees are in great danger? Across the world they are dying in vast numbers due to viruses and systemic pesticides. Bees are responsible for pollinating around a third of our western diet. The WI wants our government to address this with an increase in funding and more support. As a WI delegate, I shall be attending the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall on 3rd June. Hopefully, we’ll get this resolution passed and help save our bees.

On Tuesday 2nd June, Beryl Morris will be showing jewellery from around the world and on Tuesday 7th July, Peter Lawrence will give an interesting talk, Beneath London’s city streets. It is an open meeting and all are welcome. We meet in the village hall, 7.30pm. Guests pay £2. We’d love to see you.

Trysha Hunt 894533

An easy way to prolong play

FROM the time the parish council developed its plans for the Cathodeon centre in the mid 1990s, having a play area for small children was an integral part of the scheme. We knew the recreation ground was a long way to go for parents with small children living at the other end of the village.

As the managers of the centre on behalf of the parish council, the trustees have done their best to try and make the playground available. There are some times during the week when the play area is used by the playgroup, but parents are welcome to bring their children to the playground at other times.

On weekdays, the gates are locked by the last users to leave during the evening. At the weekend, the users of the building on Saturday and Sunday mornings leave the pedestrian gate open when they leave. However, as we don’t usually have evening users at the weekend, that means someone is needed to lock it later.

We have several volunteers at the moment, but would welcome more. It’s very simple. You go to the centre once a month around 6pm, close the gate and set the lock. That’s all there is to it. If you’ve got a young son or daughter or grandchild, you might like to combine locking the gate with a trip to the play area.

If you’d like to help the community in a small way, this is your chance. Just let Sue Parry at the parish office (891001) know that you’d like to join the volunteers and whether you would prefer to help on Saturday or Sunday.

Andrew Gore

Chair of the Cathodeon community centre trustees

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POT POURRI (53)

What did they spend?

I BOUGHT something costing a whole number of pounds as did my niece Hypatia. She noticed that my purchase (U) raised to the power of her purchase (U^h) minus her purchase raised to the power of my purchase (H^U) was 1 ie U^h - H^U = 1. How much did we each spend? My purchase was greater that Hypatia’s. (U greater than H)

Solution to No 52:
The square root of -1 raised to -1
A strange result. The number is 0.2079 (0.21 to 2 dp).
Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celebrity cricket for cancer

AS promised in the April Linton News, I can give details of a great event in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust on Sunday 14th June, from 10.45am-6pm at the Old Rectory, Carlton, near Newmarket, CB8 9JZ

Carlton celebrity cricket match will feature the Bumbury’s All Stars team, international stars of sport and show business. There will be live music, children’s entertainment, food and craft stalls, a licensed bar, raffle and an auction. Further information and tickets (adults £10, children under 14 free) from Fiona 01638 508055 or email fionarosenberg@btinternet.com

Anna Newton

Joining the Brownies

IF you have a daughter who would like to join the Brownies, please give me a ring on 892276 and I will put her name on the waiting list.

Daphne Brazier

Teddy bears at Hadstock fete

AT this year’s Hadstock fete on 20th June, not only is there a teddy bear stall but there will be a teddy parachute launch from the church tower at 4pm. Please bring along your bears if you’d like to join in; the fete also needs any unwanted bears. If your bear has outgrown your house or its owner, please call 890186 and we will arrange collection. Many thanks.

Jamie spencer

Garden open for charity

ON Sunday 14th June, the church warden of St Nicholas church, Little Chishill, is opening his garden in aid of the church and supporting the charity Help for Heroes, for members of the armed forces wounded in battle.

It is a mature garden in a wooded valley with shrubs, herbaceous borders, rose garden and kitchen garden. There will be music from Barry Tyler’s Dixieland jazz band plus home-made teas, stalls and plants. The garden, which is off the Royston to Saffron Walden road between Barley and Great Chishill, will be open from 2pm-5pm

Peter Lyster 01763 838238

Strawberries and Pimms

LINTON Conservatives will be holding a garden party at The Beeches, Green Lane, from 2-5pm on 27th June. Jim Paice MP and his wife Ava will attend. There will be strawberries, cream and our own tested recipe of Pimms. Half the proceeds will go the emergency ambulance service, MAGPAS. Tickets £8, accompanied children £2.

John Bald

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Lots on offer at the sports centre

Both inside and outside, you'll find plenty to do

THE children's summer holiday programme has been arranged at Linton community sports centre. There's a whole range of activities for children aged 6-16. The first week sees – in conjunction with the Lane Dance Academy – a performing arts workshop. Children will learn the dance moves, sing and act the best of their favourite movies such as *High School Musical* and *Hannah Montana*.

We also have multisports weeks, individual sports mornings and afternoons, and arts days too. If you want to find out more about the activities over the summer, contact the sports centre.

Student fitness suite passes are available to all students (year 9-university).

We thought that you would like to know that there will be limited places on our floodlit all weather pitches over the summer period.

Available for June, July and August, these extra spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. As existing users, you are given priority notice before the message is spread to our waiting list and non-users.

Also, a reminder that we have three high quality floodlit tennis/ netball courts. So with the longer evenings and the warmer weather coming along, why not come and use our courts.

Call 01223 890248 or www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk
Mark Wilson

... then join us next month to hear more feedback

AT the user group meeting held on 26th February, presented by Duncan Clay, LVC governor, and Mark Wilson, sports centre manager, action being taken covered:

- Health and Safety:** Emergency escape routes were clarified
 - Fitness Suite Shared use:** users of the fitness suite during the school day were reassured there would be a physical presence during LVC class use; evening users would see more regular patrols and interaction from staff
 - Staffing:** training is ongoing for all staff as part of their performance management
 - Security:** certain areas have been made more secure and the staff will lock a team changing room in order to keep belongings safe
 - Bookings:** tennis and netball courts should be set out as such before the activity commences. Football pitch use is clarified at the sports centre reception – a map of the site will be used.
- Mark clarified that the new school gym, dance studio and activities room would be open over the summer. The gym will be over 11 metres high with a wooden sprung floor, the dance studio will also have a wooden sprung floor, mirrors, ballet barre and air handling unit. There will be a review of all use of existing facilities in an effort to maximise the space (indoor and out) available.
- The next user group meeting is at 6.30pm on 10th June in Room 8 LVC (use main entrance). Please come along. Your views are important to us.
- Please confirm with Mark by 9th June on 890248 whether you will be attending.
- Mark Wilson

Sound of leather on willow is with us again

THE 2009 cricket season is now well under way, and, for the first time in its history, the club is fielding three teams in the Cricket Stick Cambridgeshire Cricket Association League. Our first team began their campaign with an 8-wicket victory away to Yelling, a fixture which has often been an unsuccessful season opener in the past.

There were no slip-ups on this occasion though, as Yelling's total of 174 in their 45 overs was comfortably chased down thanks to a sublime 112 not out from Guy Savory, accompanied by a superb supporting 43 not out from former skipper Andy Osborn.

Perhaps more satisfyingly even than that, week one saw us succeed in the first big test of our new venture into third XI territory, as we managed to field 33 players for the opening weekend. Not only that, but our third XI, which included seven players aged 16 or younger, and who have come through our junior ranks, secured a victory in their opening match, thanks to a superb all round bowling and fielding performance.

There were wickets for Alex Flynn, Dan Pass, Ryan Auger, Charlie Roke and Graeme Beck. In fact, Graeme took a wicket with his only delivery so far in adult cricket – it doesn't get much better than that!

Girls are welcome to join the LVJCC. There are a few more registered with the junior teams and I think over time more will continue into the adult club sides.

A link to our website can be found by at <http://lintonvillage.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>. June home fixtures are as follows:

First XI: Saturday 13th June: home vs Histon CC 1st XI
Saturday 27th June: home vs Stapleford CC 1st XI
Second XI: Saturday 6th June home vs March Town CC 2nd XI

Hans Pinkard.

Tandoori serves up plates of curry for a noble cause



Patrons enjoying their meal Picture: Linton Tandoori

THE Linton Tandoori got cooking last month to support the Big Curry 2009 to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF). Now in its third year, the Big Curry initiative invites everyone across the UK and overseas to host a fund-raising curry evening in April or May for family, friends and colleagues to support soldiers, veterans and their families.

Wali Ahmed, owner manager of the Linton Tandoori, said: "We are delighted to support the Big Curry initiative. After our special fund-raising feast on 17th May, we will continue to collect a voluntary donation of £1 per person from our customers and will match the amount collected with our own contribution to this noble cause. The address of the charity is Army Benevolent Fund, Mountbarrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth St, London, SW1W 9RB. Tel: 0845 241 4820. Registered charity N.211645.

Linton Tandoori 890030



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Chef's corner

WELL it is back to school after a good break for the kids; I found that if the weather is not conducive to outdoor pursuits, it can sometimes be an easy way to kill a bit of time while having a little fun with the kids by a little baking. And what better thing to do than a double chocolate brownie.

Time to get down and dirty!
This recipe will yield about six good slices.

Double chocolate brownie

First, get yourself a long apron!

Ingredients:
100g plain flour
175g dark plain chocolate
4 small eggs
150g caster sugar
1/2 tsp of baking powder
120g unsalted butter

Melt the chocolate with the butter in a bowl over a pan of simmering water.
Allow this to cool slightly (10 minutes should do it).
In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs and the sugar until it turns slightly white.
Then add the baking powder.
Slowly add the chocolate mix to the sugar with a spoon.
Sieve the flour into the cake mix and fold until there are no floury lumps.
Prepare the standard size cake tin by melting a little amount of butter and painting the surface of the tin; lightly dust the tin with some flour and discard any excess flour.
Pour into the tin the brownie mix (if you wish, you could at this stage sprinkle a few chopped chocolate buttons for a gooey finish).
This can now go into a pre-set oven at 180C for about 25 to 30 minutes.
All ovens are different but a good way of testing if the brownie is cooked is to sink a knife into the cake and when you pull it out, it should be clean and not chocolatey.
Once cool – slightly warm is my favourite – your brownie is ready for the test and it can be accompanied with any thing that takes your fancy.
Now all that's left to do is clean up the kitchen.

Joel

Don't forget you can access all Joel's recipes at www.chefscorner.co.uk

An evening at the summer fair

LINTON Infant school summer fair will be held at 5.30pm on Friday 19th June. There will be lots of fun things for the children and adults to do, including bouncy castles, lucky dip, face painting, beer tent, barbecue and raffle to name a few.

There will also be small performances done by each year group in the playground.

So come and enjoy a good evening out.

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Camgrain: a noisy neighbour

CAMGRAIN likes to use its role as an employer and sponsor of local events to present itself as a good neighbour. But this is not the whole story. Although it is the biggest grain store in Europe, Camgrain employs very few local people, and, since the restrictions on its night operation were removed by officials – not councillors – in 1996, produces a great deal of noise.

Last summer, as we know, was wet, and wet grain must be dried. But Camgrain’s reaction was excessive. It operated at full tilt, night after night, for over four months, often drying grain in Linton for storage elsewhere, and sometimes switching off at the end of the cheap electricity period.

Several people could not use their bedrooms. The lucky ones had somewhere else to go. Others had to suffer, sometimes severely. At least one who tried to complain was told by the council switchboard that nothing could be done.

... and its response

THE Camgrain site at Linton has been operating now for 25 years and the noise limits to which it operates have not changed since it was established in 1983. Camgrain has become hugely important to the local farming community as farmers look to replace redundant grain stores with storage at Camgrain. In addition, Camgrain is now a significant employer of people from the village and it continues to support local schools and events.

Unfortunately, we have just suffered one of the wettest harvests on records and Camgrain has had to work to its limits, by drying grain 24 hours a day, in order to avoid a disaster. The disaster was avoided because Camgrain was able to operate in this way. Without it, local farmers would have suffered huge crop losses.

It must also be said that much of the quality grain collected by Camgrain from local farms has replaced imported grain from around the world, which, of course, reduces food miles and provides much of the bread and cake that we all eat. This has happened when world food stocks are at an all time low.

We believe and hope that we have been a good neighbour to the village during the years that we have been in operation and will continue to ensure that we do everything in our power to keep noise levels to a minimum – even during a wet harvest!

Charles Fairey, Camgrain’s Vice Chairman

Eventually, the council established, last September, that Camgrain was exceeding its noise limit of 38 decibels. Camgrain, to be fair, accepted the ruling. It put straw bales in place, built a barrier (with a large gap in the middle – a chicane would be better) and fitted silencers.

This might help. But why should Camgrain operate at night at all? A good neighbour does not keep people awake at night just because it is, as they say in parliament, ‘within the rules’. In the course of these complaints, the local authority Ombudsman has criticised South Cambs district council for not taking proper account of residents’ views. He might have said as much of Camgrain itself.

If it really wants to be seen as a good neighbour, it must start acting like one, and stop using sponsorship as a smokescreen for antisocial behaviour.

John Bald

Our history man Garth getting better

GARTH COLLARD, our much missed history columnist, is now in Brookfields hospital in Mill Road and is still progressing well, if slowly.

He and Elaine have become proud grandparents to Daisy and Rafe, born to their son’s wife and their daughter within five weeks.

Both children and their mothers are doing well.

As we all know, Garth loves to chat so he would welcome visitors if you have the time.

Brookfields visiting hours in Garth’s ward are 2-5pm and 6-8pm.

LNT



LINTON COUNTRY DIARY

by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams



The stealthy buzzard’s tale

WHO am I you call *Buteo buteo* swooping and soaring in these southern skies? Who sweeps and dives from Borley Wood to Catley Park o’er Rivey Hill to Little Linton from dawn ’til dusk? Who am I who wheels and turns and picks and snatches from your manicured earth all I need to survive, only to be feared and fostered by the tiny ones below?

I have come with little invitation, without recommendation and as silent as the foreign crops upon our lands. Old as ancient England yet as new to you as the vibrant colours reflecting change upon the landscape, with little question as to why. But, I am here again now, gathering strength in numbers while others diminish who, unaccustomed to my habits wander aimlessly into my new-found larders, unaware of their potential fate.

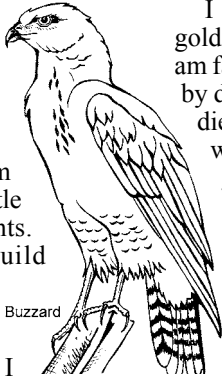
I share the air space and hunting lands with my brothers and sisters with vantage points and perches claimed solely for myself. Like your kings and queens or those of self proclaimed destiny, my perch is my throne and I’ll go to war even against my kin to defend it.

I am admired and protected, reviled and scorned, yet from up here I care little for your thoughts. I sometimes build several nests, often over a metre wide, yet I am rarely found. I am seen more frequently when surveying your village from great heights, gliding with my four-foot wingspan upon the thermals or scudding

quickly by, a desirable feat for which nature left you ill prepared. See my barred tail and fingered wings, pastel-lined breast and rich brown plumage and look into my raptorial eyes and deny I am the finest of them all.

I am often mistaken for a golden eagle – such cheek! I am far more sleek and superior by design. The truth about my diet is also misconstrued. I would have to be very hungry indeed to take a lamb and rarely do I enjoy rabbit or hare. Being rather sedentary, I prefer carrion or something small and fun to catch, like a vole. Hear me at least mewing when all else falls silent.

Moreover, I’m about as busy as a barnacle; ’tis why you may not have noticed me around, yet. In the wild, unless it moves, ’tis not always seen!



An amazing walking feat to be re-enacted

ON 12th July 1808 Captain Barclay completed a walk in Newmarket covering a single mile in every one of a thousand hours and at the same time making himself a fortune.

Starting on 29th May, Richard Dunwoody, the former National Hunt champion jockey, is going to attempt to re-enact this amazing feat but on this occasion raising money for Spinal Research, Racing Welfare, the Alzheimer’s Society and Sparks.

In support of Richard’s amazing effort, the Newmarket trainers invite you to join them on a 4½ mile ramble on Sunday 12th July, starting at 11am from the National Stud, covering the course of the Town Plate, the oldest recorded racecourse in the world, and finishing on the famous Rowley Mile.

For more information please contact me.
Patricia Lewis,
plewis376@btinternet.com



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Can you help to identify faces in this 1940s LVC choir?

TO give you a start, the following are the names we think we know.

Top row, left to right
Margaret Smith, Ena Moss, (unknown), Jean Dale, (unknown), Rosemary Hill, Ann Garner, Eileen Jacobs, (unknown), Jean Allen.

Middle row, left to right
Rosemary Morley, Betty Nordon, Ann Gabberday, (unknown), Michael Kidman, David Coppen, Eva Mallyon, (unknown), Pat Pipe, Daphne Sparrow.

Bottom row, left to right
Tassy Tofts, Maurice Kinsey, (unknown), (unknown), (unknown), Colin Cracknell, ? Kidman, Ian Seeley (?),



Billy Pegg, Gordon Stimpson.

We just require help filling in the missing names. The person requesting the names is Billy (William) Pegg, who

now lives in Chepstow. Please forward any information to his sister Gwen.

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The Derbyshire Post



IT is that time of year again in the college. We are in summer uniform, the exam season is with us so we are tiptoeing around and, ever so quietly, planning the launch of the next academic year.

However, before we turn our thoughts to a new intake of LVC students, I would like to take a moment or two to reflect on the year that is leaving us; the class of 2009. This group will forever be etched in my memory as the 'all change' year group. Poor things. They were in year 8 when I first came to Linton, so just as they had settled in and learned the ropes, a new principal came along and decided that it was time to do a few things differently. More than any other year group, they found the changes hard to accept and at times, they were not backward in coming forward to say so, but actually I've always admired that in them and I've also admired how, through learning to cope with change, they have learned to make change work for them.

This is the year group, for instance, who recently helped me to settle on our new logo – their ideas at school council level moved us on with choosing a design and shaping how it developed. They are also the year group who worked with the school to arrange an audience with Mark Kemp, the man in charge of road planning at the county council. They shared with him, in a polite but forceful way, their ideas about how to make the A1307 a safer road for pedestrians crossing at the Castle Camps bus stop. Mr Kemp listened and answered their questions. He wrote to us to say how impressed he was by the students and their ideas. We'll never know how influential this meeting was, but it was not long afterwards that the red route signs appeared for the first time and the road works around the bus stop began. The students certainly feel that their call for change was listened to and acted upon.

Another thing I admire in this class is their personal strength and bravery. They have learned not to be frightened of life. The eight members of the year group who accompanied me to Soshanguve township last year were incredibly positive and resilient throughout the whole quite challenging experience. They came back able to handle so much more than they could before. I am sure that there is a relationship between experiencing change and becoming resourceful because it's a quality that this group of students has in spades.

My final example of this is an exceptional one. A few weeks ago, Bianca Ho was the first on the scene of a road accident that happened near Balsham. A young man was trapped in his car, having turned it over by the side of the road. Bianca administered first aid, phoned for an ambulance, called the man's family, stayed with him and kept him conscious by chatting to him, saw the paramedics arrive and explained to them what she had done and then followed up the whole thing by checking on his progress next day. His injuries were bad, but she had without doubt saved his life. What incredible presence of mind in a mere 16-year-old

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Pupils have a say on their own website

'CAN we have a pupil newspaper?' Catherine in Linton Heights' Year 5 recently asked me. Although Catherine was not aware of it, the timing was perfect. About three weeks before being approached by Catherine, James and Alastair, also Year 5, had visited Fen Ditton school with James' mother to have a look at their pupil website. All three came back very excited about the possibilities.

Our aim in investigating the possibility of pupil pages on our school website was to provide opportunities for our children to use the website in a way that is helpful to them and their learning. As a result, we now have eight class pages and a school council page, where the three pupil groups working on healthy schools, eco-schools and policy issues will be able to keep their classmates and those in the community informed.

A small team, including Catherine, James and Alastair is currently starting to consider ideas for this page. They will be responsible for writing, editing and producing the pieces that will appear, under the guidance of Mrs Smelik.

In order to gather ideas about the eight class pages, the pupils recently held meetings to decide what their pages would be used for. Ideas ranged from information about class visits before and after they take place, photographs of visits, pictures of project work produced, links to good games sites, the maths challenge, timetables, homework, books they like and competitions.

It is very early days but we hope that by July all pages will be up and running in a way that is helpful to and enjoyable for our students. It isn't a newspaper but it will be a means of communicating with each other and the community about things that are important to them. For details, see www.lintonheights.cambs.sch.uk

Jennifer Malone, headteacher

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Victorious runners pictured from left:
Kate Holden, Bridget Savill, Stephane Toussnel and Keith Savill.
And below:
Ally Cooke and Fiona Tideswell.

Pictures submitted by the runners

YOU couldn't miss the fact that runners from Linton took part in the London Marathon this year. Among them, four ladies and three men; friends who shared some intense training sessions, had the opportunity to cross the finish line on 26th April.

Ladies first then ... Fiona Tideswell made the perfect run and finished with an impressive 3 hours 21 minutes and 16 secs. Frances Reynolds and Kate Holden were also in good form with 4 hours 7 minutes and 4 hours 14 minutes respectively, while I completed my first marathon in 4 hours 24 minutes in support of my chosen charity:

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who supported me with sponsorship. I raised an incredible £1150 for the MEDICS. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity and support that people have given to me. It makes me realise what a wonderful community I live in. I couldn't have achieved this without everyone's support.

I would also like to thank some local businesses which sponsored me. These are the Crown Inn, Saxon John Brown the builders and the Linton Tandoori.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, the atmosphere and the crowd were amazing. Of course, I must not forget my husband Keith who also took

part and finished in a fantastic 3 hours 54 minutes, as well as having to guide me through my training!!

Bridget Savill
I RAN for WellChild and in summary, I'm a very pleased man. Setting a personal best by 55 minutes is a real achievement. I felt so much stronger this year and the amount of running compared with 2007 proves that. I'm still a little grumpy about hitting the wall around 20 miles but to get over it and finish so strongly was a great result. I can honestly say I've enjoyed the build-up and training leading to the race. There have been many highs along the way and memories I will always cherish. By the time I write this, I think I'm on track to raise almost £1800 for WellChild".

Alistair Cooke
LAST but not least, your humble servant; I am grateful to all my supporters. I have learned a lot from my fundraising experience and am really proud of what we have achieved altogether for Barnardo's. I raised nearly £1400 of my £1600 target.

Regarding the race itself, I suffered from the heat, surprising as it seems. I completed the 26.2 miles in 3 hours 26 minutes. Following this I completed the beautiful Halstead marathon two weeks later in exactly the same time!

Stephane Toussnel



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S/0485/09/F Mr Terence Chipps, Nursery School, 37 Wheatsheaf Way, Linton.

Variation of condition 3 of planning permission S/2308/04/F to allow the increase in number of children to be cared for from 12 to 15.

S/0487/09/F Mr Andy Polley, 29 Balsham Road, Linton.

Extensions.

S/0513/09/F Mr C O'Malley, 7 Bakers Lane, Linton.

Dwelling.

S/0519/09/F Mr & Mrs Mark Slater, 15 Tower View, Linton.

Extension.

S/0539/09/F Linton Heights Junior School, Linton Heights Junior School, Wheatsheaf Way, Linton.

Extension to provide toilets.

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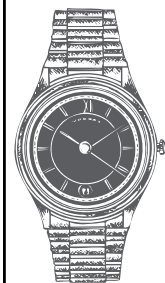
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Parish Council Matters

Chairman's annual report

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

AS you get older, do you suffer more and more from déjà vu? I seem to get it every day now - or do I mean twice a day?

When preparing my report for this year's Annual Parish Meeting, the last before I stepped down as chair of the council, I looked back to what we were doing in the 1990s during my previous spell as chair. I was struck, as I usually am when I look back at old minutes, at how the same things seem to come around again as part of the rhythm of village life.

In the 1990s our clerk ran the office alone. Since then the extra workload has required the employment of a part-time assistant. Last summer we appointed a new assistant. I said we would be lucky to find a worthy successor to Tina Stock so am happy to report that in Anne Meeks we found both a worthy successor and someone with a wealth of knowledge about the village.

When I first became chair in the 1990s Jack Tofts was our village custodian. Of course it's now his son, Colin, who holds that post. Colin increasingly resembles his father - or is it this déjà vu thing again? - and is looking forward to another cold winter so he can make good use of our newly acquired gritting machine. I'm sure Jack would have loved a machine like that. And Ivy Whiting has continued to help keep the village clean and tidy whatever the weather, just as she did in the 1990s.

Looking back at the old minutes, during my first period as chair we were concerned with the proposed development of the former allotment land to create Granta Leys, and decided to try and extend the new riverside path to Kingfisher Walk. That took rather longer than expected - 12 years! There were a series of problems, including identifying who owned the land, which we never got to the bottom of. So it was a great pleasure that the only resolution on notice passed during the last year was to lay the tarmac path, and an even greater sense of satisfaction when the work was completed, on budget, a matter of days before I stood down as chair.



The Cathodeon centre is one of the parish council's main assets

Andrew Gore pictured outside the Cathodeon centre where parish council meetings are held

Picture submitted by Andrew Gore

Because of Granta Leys, my previous spell in the job saw the loss of our allotment site. Over the years our attempts to gain a new site have been thwarted for various reasons. Last summer we had a meeting with a local landowner regarding a possible allotment site. Although he subsequently approached the district council for advice, we learnt only recently that their officers had not responded, and I wrote to the district council expressing our disquiet. I hope we shall make progress on this in the coming year, though if I tell my wife, Lesley, that having ceased being council chair I am looking forward to taking up an allotment instead, I suspect she will remind me of all the jobs around the house neglected in favour of the time taken up on council work.

As always, the council has tried to keep up with the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. We installed railings to the corners of Stantons Lane bridge, reinstated the light to the skateboard (not without its problems), repaired a section of the bowling green kerbing and replaced the bus shelter at the Swan bridge - including a proper seat as requested by the WI. The village sign, repainted by Darryl Nantais, was returned to its rightful position.

When I first became chair of the parish council I had just had a meeting with the divisional commander of the police about the possible closure of the police station in Linton and my first few months as chair saw confirmation that it would be staying open. So what suddenly emerged a few months ago? A proposal to close the existing police station in Linton. Despite initial disbelief that something like this would suddenly appear in the press with no prior local consultation, it looks as though local pressure will result in the police maintaining a proper physical presence in the village, possibly at the fire station. No prizes for guessing where we were suggesting the police station might move to in the 1990s!

There are some new things which have happened over the last year which were not being discussed in the 1990s:

- the proposed transfer of the district council car park to the parish council

- the lowering of the speed limit on the bypass to 50mph, something which most people will feel should have happened earlier

- and, of course, there was the wind farm. Nothing like that was around in the '90s. Whatever their views, most residents seem to feel that the parish council helped them to get engaged through its consultation process. Over a third of residents on the electoral roll responded to the council's questionnaire, some 76% opposing the application, and over 100 attended the public meeting. The council resolved at a special meeting in April to oppose the application for reasons which have been submitted to the district council. Whatever views people have of the merits of the application, and an annual report from the chair is not the place to discuss them, I do regret Enertrag's decision not to engage in the local debate over this issue.

One project dominated the council's business during my years as chair in the 1990s, the Cathodeon project. It involved a tremendous lot of work to turn a derelict and vandalised shell into a welcoming community building with a wide range of facilities, the library, computer suite, community rooms and a play area. I still believe it is the most important project the council has undertaken, so it is a great pleasure to record that the parish council has just resolved to take part in the creation of a Children's Centre for the Linton area on the site. This will comprise an extension to the building where parents of young children with any concerns or problems will be able to come and meet a wide range of health and educational professionals, and a base from which those professionals will be able to go out into the community. It also opens up the opportunity for closer co-operation between the Library and Children's Services, to the benefit of both.

In conclusion on behalf of myself and the council I would like to thank Sue Parry and the other members of our staff for their hard work and assistance throughout the year. Without them, nothing could happen.

Cllr Andrew Gore



View of the recently tarmacked riverside path at the rear of The Grove linking the path behind Granta Leys to Kingfisher Walk

Picture by Sue Parry

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 2nd April 2009.

Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, S Daly, M Gee, B Hammett, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr V Urwin, Mrs J Williams and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with one member of the public.

Public forum: Helen Earl explained that she currently lived in Duxford and was present in relation to the purchase of 31 Paynes Meadow, to be discussed later in the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rossiter.
Request to remove the local connection regarding the sale of 31 Paynes Meadow: Discussion took place regarding the request. The chair explained that if it were to be removed it would be removed in perpetuity, although it would only relate to this property. Cllr Urwin reminded those present that council had fought long and hard for affordable housing for Linton residents and this could set a precedent for future sales. The chair confirmed that any further requests would be judged on their own merits; any precedent set would be a moral obligation, not a legal one. Council was reminded that the property had been on the market for well over 12 months and had been advertised in the local shops. A vote to widen the local connection to include the whole of South Cambridgeshire was defeated. Cllr Cornell proposed that a further vote be taken to widen the area to that of the former Linton poor law union. There were 10 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open Spaces: Cllr Bald reported that the group would be meeting to discuss the planned new parking area in Chalklands. There were several areas that required attention including the area by the bus stop at Greenhill Mews, the bottom of Rivey Lane and Palmers Close. It was agreed to obtain a Land Registry search to determine ownership of the land by Greenhill Mews bus stop.

Recreation Ground: Cllr Bald reported that the work to provide concrete bases to the benches and youth shelter had been completed and immediately vandalised.

Cemetery: Cllr Gee is to seek a quotation for a tree survey and prepare a draft specification for the painting of the cemetery railings.

Venture Playground: Cllr Hammett reported that he had sent photographs of the skate ramp damage to Clever Curves and requested a quotation. The lights on the skate ramp were working intermittently and would be monitored.

Churchyard: Cllr Cox reported that the piers had been finished. No start date for the resurfacing of the paths had been received.



Rebuilt piers at the main entrance gate to St Mary's church

Picture by Sue Parry

Communications: Cllr Gee reminded councillors that their contact details should be shown on the website. He would circulate a form for completion. Photographs of each councillor should also be included.

A1307: Cllr Cornell referred to a press release issued by CCC regarding the installation of two speed cameras, one at Cardinals Green - subject to the resolution of certain issues, and the other at the Hildersham crossroads.

Allotments: Cllr Cornell reported that the council was awaiting further information from SCDC.

Wind farm update:
Concerns regarding format and wording of questionnaire.
Cllr Bald expressed her concern that the questionnaire was not as was agreed by council at the previous meeting. Cllr Gore apologised that not all the agreed changes to the first draft had been incorporated in the second draft; he had been concerned that the questionnaire should cover a wide range of concerns; he had circulated the amended draft and requested feedback, which had been received from Cllr Cornell.

Arrangements for public meeting.
The meeting would be attended by David Rush, head of development control at SCDC and Ray McMurray, its area development control manager. It was agreed that councillors would sit at the front of the hall.

Arrangements for analysing questionnaires.
No information would be disclosed until final figures were known. If more than one response box was ticked, each response would be given the appropriate fraction of one. Those with multiple 'other reasons' would be analysed separately and any 'new' comments noted.

Consideration of format for special meeting on 23rd April.
Cllr Hickford suggested that all attending who wished to speak in the public forum be asked to write down their names and allowed to speak on a first come first served basis as time allowed; residents would already have had the opportunity to speak at the public meeting. Notices advising of the council's decision would be posted the next day. A vote took place regarding holding the meeting at the Cathodeon centre rather than a larger venue. There were nine votes in favour of holding the meeting at the Cathodeon centre, with two against and one abstention.

Damage to Cambridge Road bus shelter: Cllr Gore explained that some wind damage to the bus shelter had occurred; an insurance claim had been made to which no response had been received. It was agreed that subject to the insurers offering a substantial payment, the clerk be authorised to obtain a quotation for its replacement.

Correspondence received and for discussion:
Chalklands Residents Association request for a litter bin at Back Road bus stop. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the purchase and installation of a bin.

South Rhugarve Neighbours Group regarding damage by tree roots to sewer under footpath. It was agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letter and advise the group to contact Anglian Water and CCC.

D Birch request for re-surfacing at The Grip. It was agreed to forward this request to CCC.

Calor Gas village of the year competition. Any councillor wishing to take this forward was requested to contact the clerk.

Village tree warden request for tree planting on A1307. It was agreed to support this request in principle, subject to consideration being given to the safety of cyclists and the possible damage to the cycleway by tree roots. Cllr Cornell said that Richard Preston of CCC had previously stated that tree planting by this stretch of road would be beneficial.

Reports from councillors (for information only):
A letter had been received from A Binney of Pampisford Hall inviting interested parties to Hildersham Wood on Saturday 4th April at 10am to view the surrounding landscape.

Cllr Hickford reported that following speed checks in Horseheath Road 24% of traffic had been found to be driving at 35mph or over. The police would now be targeting this area.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001

Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon, and 4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon
Or by appointment
Dates for full council meetings:
June 4th and 18th, July 2nd and 16th 2009
All meetings held at the Cathodeon centre following the public forum commencing at 8pm

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 23rd April 2009.

Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, M Gee, B Hammett, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Mrs J Williams and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with five members of the public.

Public forum: Mr Bill Thomas of Little Linton spoke against the wind farm application and asked the council to especially focus on the issues of the impact on the extraordinary landscape, the A1307 and the impact from noise and potential health issues.

Mr Tony Kelly of Rivey Close spoke for the wind farm application and said that many residents were willing to risk the possible negative impact for environmental benefit.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Daly and Linsdell.

Declaration of interests from members: Cllr Cornell declared a personal interest as spokesperson for Access1307.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April: Cllr Bald had issued a report on the Disability Access and Safety Project. This related to the proposal to install six sets of dropped kerbs. She asked Cllrs to consider her proposals and to highlight any other areas which required attention.

Planning application S/0232/09/F Enertrag UK Ltd, land to the south west of Little Linton Farm, Cambridge Road, Linton. Installation of seven wind turbines and associated infrastructure (to include access tracks, crane hardstandings, temporary construction compound, switch house and cables).

The chair reported on the results of the questionnaire. The number of questionnaires returned was 1169 with 63 neither for nor against, five spoilt, 211 for (18%) and 890 against (76%) the application. A detailed analysis of the questionnaire was available to members of the public from the parish office.

The questionnaire had helped to highlight the major issues which were identified as:

- Landscape
 - Environment of the village
 - A1307
 - Impact on Health and Wellbeing and other issues
- These were each discussed in turn.

When there were no further observations to be made a vote was taken. There was one vote in favour of recommending approval of the application and 11 against. The chair did not vote, in accordance with the council's usual practice.

It was agreed that Cllrs Gore and Cornell would produce a draft response setting out reasons for refusal, based on policy and the observations of councillors expressed during the meeting, and conditions to be attached in the event SCDC was in favour of the application. It would be emailed to all councillors with a view to finalising the draft by 29th March, for submission to SCDC.

The chair thanked the clerk, her assistant and other helpers for their work on the questionnaire and the application generally.

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

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