

**BLOOD DONOR SESSION**  
on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July  
13.00 – 15.30 &  
16.30 – 19.00  
in Linton Social Centre  
PLEASE COME

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# THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info

July 2004

Vol. 18 N<sup>o</sup> 4  
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**E & E PLUMRIDGE**  
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## WACKY RACES AGAIN

IT was 5.25pm on Saturday afternoon and we were knocking frantically on the door of a fancy dress shop in Cambridge pleading with them to let us in just as they wanted to close. Yup it was Wacky Races time again and we were cutting it as fine as possible for final accessory shopping.

This year was the third Wacky Races event and although I wasn't around for the first one, last year I joined the rest of the village for the 2003 event, dodging water bombs and super soakers to cheer on the racers.

It looked so much fun I decided that the next year I would join in too. Then I went home, my clothes dried out and reality kicked in. Running's not really my thing (exercise, moi?) and I can't down beer without choking (yup I'm a girl, I know). So this year I persuaded my boyfriend and a friend to run in the race instead. Hence the last minute shopping trip. We have promised to be much more organised next year. By the end of the race we'd already decided on a theme and the plan is to start making the chariot in the Spring. I'll believe it when I see it.

Last year's chariots were brilliant, the Cool Runnings sled was my favourite and the Ant Hill Mob car was fantastic

so I was expecting to be fairly impressed but this year, well I had heard that some people had been making their chariots and costumes for months beforehand. I'm not surprised. Have any of you thought about becoming prop makers in the film industry? I think you'd be good at it! There was Cinderella in her pumpkin, the Men in Black in their supercar and Bo and Luke Duke in the General Lee (the Dukes of Hazzard). One cart even had smoke coming out of turbo engines at the back.

As with last year water was a bit of a theme. Plenty of young Lintonians came equipped with water bombs, spray bottles, buckets and some seriously large water guns so even before people were a hundred yards into the race they were pretty soggy. By the time they got to the ford they may as well just have jumped in and swum across. I did note that the fire hose was set at a fairly gentle spray this year—where's the fun in that?!

First across the finish line were Gary Donaldson and Danny Reed in their Hot Tub 3. They made the mile long course plus refreshment stops in a smidgen under ten minutes and reportedly reached speeds of up to 20mph on downhill stretches (did you have a speedo on there?). The first ladies across the line



A quick wash behind the ears

Picture by R Lapwood

were S' Trinian's truants Sam and Hilda Palmer at fourteen minutes. As for best chariot and best costume, the competition was definitely fierce but the title of best fancy dress was awarded to the Men in Black. Best Wacky Chariot was awarded to Big Pimp 3 for their precarious looking, but definitely extremely wacky, canoe-on-a-bike chariot. It was an extremely fun event and everybody seemed to love it.

The races are organised by the Crown Inn owners Joel and Sam Palmer and this year the sponsors were Boyz 2 Men, Crofton Engineering, STS Tyres and McKenzie and

Haywards. The total amount raised through sponsorship and collections on the day is expected to be over £4,000, all of which is being split between the Linton Area Pool Project and the Infants' School, where it will be put towards a new computer room. (Plea from the Crown, please could you return your promises as soon as possible.)

Even though it is only in its third year, the Wacky Races are now well and truly a Linton tradition and an event much enjoyed by the whole village. Here's hoping that next year's will be even more fun.

Hazel Olway 892180

## VICTORY AFTER THE BATTLE



James Paice cuts the ribbon to the re-opened

Dog and Duck Picture by R Pitkin

"A TREMENDOUS facility for the village" – this was the endorsement from James Paice, MP for South Cambs as he cut the red ribbon before declaring open the refurbished Dog and Duck on 16<sup>th</sup> June. He praised Bob and Tracy for managing to stay cheerful during the trials of disputes with planners and the Environment Agency, and the disruption of

building work. In turn, the landlords acknowledged the support of Mr Paice and his help in obtaining flood insurance when many companies had refused. However, it was obvious that all the effort has been worthwhile when after a complimentary drink and nibbles, visitors were shown the new areas by members of the staff, who all looked very smart

in black and white.

An extension has created a 50 cover non-smoking restaurant with its own separate entrance. This overlooks a heated patio leading down to the river which has been fenced off to provide a safe child-friendly environment. Does this mean we will no longer have to share our meal with the ducks? The bar is now reserved mainly for drinkers and the original small restaurant is an extension to the bar where children may accompany adults. Meals can be eaten in this area on a non-bookable basis.

Dedicated chefs working from the new kitchen offer traditional pub grub, all homemade, including old favourites from the lunchtime menu, and evening meals both traditional and unusual with "chef's specials" choices. A toilet for the disabled and baby changing facilities have been provided, as well as disabled access to the bar through a door, long plas-

tered over, which was the entrance to one of the three original cottages.

During the renovations, which revealed death watch beetle in the eastern wall, a number of pre-decimal coins were found. Sadly these are of little value but are now on display – a touch of nostalgia for some no doubt! Added to all this, both inside and out Tracy's special genius with furnishings and flowers is much in evidence, which results in a very attractive environment.

Last but not least, a new facility which the village has lacked for some time will be opening early in July. Linton will once again have its own coffee shop at the rear of the pub, trading from 9.30 to 11.30am before the bar is open. Tracy and Bob will offer a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to try out their revamped public house.

LNT

## LINTON DIARY

To guarantee entry into this diary please ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

Details of items in **bold type** may be found elsewhere in this edition  
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: Tots in Tow, 10-11.30am, Tuesdays Social Centre  
Weekly: Rock Cafe, 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

### July

3 Concert by S' Mary's Choir, 7.30pm S' Mary's  
3 **Farmers Market 10am** LVC  
4 Dog and Duck fishing match Little Walden  
6 **WI, 7.30pm,** Social Centre  
6 **Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm,** Social Centre  
10 **Balsham Flower Festival, 10am,** Holy Trinity Church  
11 **Balsham Flower Festival, 12 noon,** Holy Trinity Church  
11 **Camera Club, 10am,** Social Centre  
11 **Linton Scout Group, Boys' Toys, 2-5pm,** Infant School  
11 **Linton Music Society, Tea Concert, 3pm,** LVC  
13 VIP Group, 2pm Chalklands  
15 Parish Council Meeting, 8pm, Cathodeon Centre  
16 **ACE lunch, 12 noon,** Social Centre  
21 **No Family Resource Centre during school holidays**  
23 Citizens Advice, 1.30-3pm Social Centre  
20 Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm Social Centre  
21 CAMTAD 9am-12noon, Health Centre  
24 Gardening Club Annual Show, 2.30pm Social Centre  
24 **Reading rollercoaster** Lintin Library  
28 Councillor Surgery, 2-3pm, Social Centre  
30 Blood Donor sessions, 1-3.30 & 4.30-7pm Social Centre  
31 **Balsham Horticultural Show, 2pm, Meadow School Balsham**

Refuse collection: 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> July  
Recycling collection: 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July

### August

1 **WI, 7.30pm** Social Centre  
3 **Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm** Social Centre  
5 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm, The Crown  
8 President's Cricket Match, 2pm, The Pavilion  
10 VIP Group, 2pm, Chalklands

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.

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL

IF you or a member of your family have a story to tell about wartime experiences which could be included on the BBC People's War website, assistance is at hand. The Cambridgeshire Library Service has asked the Linton IT club to help people in Linton who have unusual experiences to relate.

The members of the Club are happy to offer their services, advisory or practical, to convert your tales into historical documents for future generations to appreciate. There are lots of us whose personal experiences in the war are not known about by today's generation. The recording of some of these memories will be a

practical aid in appreciating some of the sacrifices, great or small, that were part of the price paid for freedom from oppression.

If you lived through WW2 as a child, an evacuee, a prisoner of war, a member of Dad's Army or the Armed Forces, a Land Girl or a nurse, don't be shy. You created history; your account however trivial you think it, will be part of a historical treasury for future generations. There are not many of us left so please make an effort to put your mark on history.

Come along to the library, any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9pm, or contact me: Derek Birch 892607

## LINTON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW



Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Social Centre Linton  
Viewing 2.30pm



ENTRIES WELCOME FROM EVERYONE  
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For a schedule & details contact Susan Anderson on 891623

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# FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

I AM mobile, and so happy to be out and about again. Please say 'Hello' if you see me. I'm the happy fatty on my new red scooter! Thank you so much to the people who have already stopped and said the nicest things about my writings.

Some people have been talking about the recent decision to give approval for 18,000 homes in our area, including 10 homes to be built next year in Payne's Meadow. Many people are not at all happy, so I've given the subject, along with another small matter of the airport expansion much deliberation while I trundle along, or sit and watch the rain.

I really feel a certain sad inevitability about the proposed new town (or even city), and may I be the first to suggest the name Lintabingsham. Whilst no-one ever wants such huge changes to our environment, surely we should not use a 'Not in our back yard' approach which will solve nothing, just move it somewhere else. That seems to me a selfish response to an impossible problem. After all, many millions of pounds have already been invested in our area in the form of a new technology park and major road and roundabout improvements and perhaps a suspicious mind could think that a 'grand design' has been in place for years, but this debate may never be proven. Talk of link roads and duel carriageways to Cambridge, Bury S' Edmunds and Stansted were under discussion when I lived in Haverhill, and that was many years ago.

However I feel that the Stansted airport issues are different altogether, and that it all comes down to modern life and the seemingly great importance placed on living within a 60 mile radius of London. How many of us in Linton regularly fly (using an aeroplane!). Not many perhaps, but when it comes to business, commerce, politics, tourism and industry, the people concerned need to get to and fro as quickly as possible without delays and frustration which I am told are very common at the moment. Money, pressures of life, the reasons for change, the ruination of all things present, may well be eventually placed on a relatively small number of people. If you look on a road map, Stansted is only three inches away from us; an important factor when decisions are being made in M' Prescott's office. The only saving grace may be the discovery of a large number of great crested newts, the Buck Rogers of the world of nature, but I am encroaching on Linton Country diary topics now!

Onto this weather of ours. The start of July may well be fine with only the odd heavy shower, but change could be on the way. Fronts from the Atlantic will be coming in around the middle of the month, bringing storms. This may well set a pattern that may be slow to clear. And I'm afraid it goes on. We may have to brace ourselves for a bad winter this year. All the signs are already pointing toward it, and whilst I really want to be wrong, I'm still going to ask Bob to build a snow plough for my scooter, just in case!

Please take care of one another, and I'll see you all next month. The views wxpressed here are not necessarily those of the LNT

# THE ANTICS OF THE WI AT DENMAN

ON a beautiful sunny Monday in April, 14 members of Linton WI set off for Denman College, the WI college in Marcham, Oxfordshire. A run through the countryside, a stop at a village pub for lunch and arrival at the college in time for tea. Settled in our single en-suite rooms and meeting up with a sister and friend from an Oxford WI, replenished with an excellent dinner, we had an introduction to our courses. Two were doing canvas work, two were softies taking sedate strolls and 12 enjoyed a course on prominent English families, covering their history and family trees - with outings to Blenheim Palace and Rousham Hall. (Needless to say the weather by then had deteriorated into all day rain!). On the last evening



WI members taking a break at Denman college

home-grown entertainment is provided and being such a large group we decided we had to take part. Five sang a version of Jerusalem, we all joined in 'All girls bright and beautiful' to the normal hymn tune, Tricia Lewis performed a sketch 'The inebriated flower arranger' and

Joan Pearman completed our contribution with a prayer for her family and friends - and computer - which holds the details of many friends in its complexities. Loud applause followed and we were then able to sit back and enjoy the rest of the entertainment.

It is always great fun and a pleasure to visit Denman, which easily compares with a four star hotel, with its excellent food plus the added attractions of the many and varied courses, meeting with old and making new friends. Six of us have already booked up for next March and two for June. Also in October seven of us are off to Malta to learn about its history with a Denman tutor.

During the year we go on many trips arranged by Cambridge Federation, to gardens, stately homes, museums, exhibitions and tours of areas of interest in London and other towns. Our monthly speakers are well worth listening to with the great variety of topics chosen. So why not come along and visit us and maybe join us in all of this. Joan Pearman

## BY GEORGE HE'S 90



George Peake enjoying a well earned rest

Picture by Ann Prue

A LEADING figure in Linton's social and sporting life for the past 21 years celebrates his 90th birthday on 20th July.

It was in 1983 that George Peake and his wife Ann moved to Linton and before too long, his passion for badminton led to him becoming involved with the Linton Village College badminton club.

It was a relationship that lasted two decades and it was only after he had reached the age of 86, that he finally put his racket away in January 2001.

For 15 years he was in charge of the Linton junior badminton club before "retiring" in June 1999. He also ran, on a regular basis, a class at Linton Heights junior school,

bringing the delights of the game to new generations of young players.

George also helps Ann run a successful bed and breakfast establishment in Linton which they started in 1985, a couple of years after their move to the village.

The couple have three daughters who, with their husbands and one of their grandsons, will be helping them celebrate with a quiet family meal at the Dog and Duck.

So special is this family milestone that one of the daughters, who now lives in South Africa, will be flying over with her husband to join the celebrations.

Alan Judge

## A MEMORABLE OCCASION

**W** PRESIDENT Tricia Lewis welcomed everyone and after the minutes and reports were read Cynthia Whalley reported on the evening trip to Marks and Spencer where members enjoyed nibbles and a chance to browse and buy. She thanked Ann Simpkin for organising it. Marjorie Blackman then reported on the recent group meeting at Balsham which was much enjoyed, everyone being impressed with the effort that Balsham WI had put in to make it successful.

The speaker, M' Vic Botterill, was then introduced to give his illustrated talk 'Moments, Mystery and Magic', which proved to be a fascinating account of the brain and our memories. He soon had the

audience listening intently as he described which side of the brain controls what. Almost no hands went up when he asked who had a good memory for names! However, he said we couldn't blame ageing after all as this simply isn't true! It is more likely to be because we are conditioning ourselves to forget by saying we are no good at it. Long term stress, however, can affect our memories. It was a fascinating talk and certainly gave us something to think about. He was thanked by M's Eileen Impey.

Next meeting is at 7.30pm on 6th July at the Social Centre, when Fran Saltmarsh will give us a talk on 'The Lives of Henry VIII's Wives'.

Clare Neville  
893251

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# READERS WRITE

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters on page 6  
**Please note: All letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check their authenticity. Any letters without these details will not be printed.**

## THOUGHTLESS PARKING

Dear Editor  
 As the Infants school – a Church School – still refuses to allow churchgoers and users of the school to park in the playground, may I repeat my request to such people to be aware that vehicular access to my property is from the public highway leading to church alongside the school.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June vehicle registration number N298 FEV parked across my gateway so that it was impossible to drive my car out and there have been numerous occasions when insufficient room has been left for us to reverse out. Such thoughtless action is not acceptable.  
 Kathleen Greenwood  
 3 Church Lane

## TOYS FOR THE BOYS

CALLING boys of all ages (and their mums and sisters...)

The Linton Scout Groups will once again be staging their successful "Boys' Toys" afternoon, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July. The event will run from 2pm till 4.30pm at the Infants' School.

There will be the opportunity to race remote control cars on a giant track; play on a huge playstation; try the Linton "Bush Tucker Trial"; go close up to a fire engine; try firing a crossbow; and much, much more. Come and join in the fun! All money raised will go to support the village Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in their activities.  
 Sarah Seacombe  
 893968

## OUR THANKS

Dear Editor  
 On behalf of the flower arrangers at this year's Flower Festival may we extend our heartfelt thanks to Judy Nightingale and Margaret Cox.

Their unfailing good humour and support, together with the tremendous amount of hard work before, during and after the event made this year a great success and an enjoyable occasion for us all.

Many thanks,  
 Judith Rouse  
 address supplied

Dear Editor  
 May I please pass on my thanks to all concerned with the recent district council election.

As the Conservative candidates, Colin Brown and myself found the support from Linton and surrounding areas most encouraging; and to have secured 32% of the votes a clear demonstration of the interest in an alternative to the 'status quo'.

We expect to remain very much involved with local issues and we will do all we can regarding issues mentioned to us during the campaign, such as the A1307 traffic, low cost housing and the enforced Abington development.

Should you wish to become involved with the local Conservative team please contact me on 892564 or peter@phase4consulting.co.uk.  
 Peter Hase  
 Woodpeckers, Cambridge Road,  
 Balsham.

## ALL ABOARD GEORGINA

THE visit to St Ives on 7<sup>th</sup> June arranged by ACE (Linton Activities and Care for the Elderly) was well supported, and a coach full of Linton seniors, plus helpers, enjoyed a very sunny day visiting the market and shops, and spending time by the river.

What is it like to be a policeman in Linton? There will be a chance to find out on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July when the speaker at the "soup and roll" lunch at the Social Centre is going to be Bill Barnett talking about his experiences policing the village. Time for lunch is 12.00 for 12.30pm.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August we shall be cruising on the Cam in the river boat 'Georgina', leaving the Social Centre by coach at 2pm for Cambridge for our two hour trip with afternoon tea being served on board. Please phone Gill or Dawn on 891001 to enquire about either of these.

ACE has been fortunate in being awarded a grant of £380 from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Trustline, which raises funds with an annual Christmas auction. Staff work voluntarily for the marathon broadcast whose aim is to help elderly, disabled and underprivileged people within the area that the station covers. This money will help to subsidise the regular lunches and outings that ACE arranges.

Janet Crofts  
 893619

## THOUGHTS FROM A LOCAL FARMER

I WONDER how many of us sit down to a meal and consider just how many miles the food has travelled to arrive on our plate? Somewhere, I read that the contents of the average Christmas dinner travel in excess of 250,000 miles. That's an awful lot of lorry or plane journeys, adding to congestion on our roads, to say nothing of pollution and wasted resources.

Fortunately, many people today realise that there are alternatives when buying their food. Farmers' markets have seen increasing popularity across the country and they bring local producers together reducing the amount of lorry journeys needed to supply supermarkets. They allow the customer to talk to the producer and tell him their likes and dislikes and mean good quality food from people who care passionately about what they produce and sell, and our area is no exception.

Eighteen months ago, Steve Barker and I set up Linton farmers' market at Chilford Hall. Steve produces top quality pork and I grow organic vegetables on 12 1/2 acres at Great Abington.

Production of vegetables had increased during the three years it took to become certified organic and I needed to look for further outlets, Linton farmers' market was the starting point. It has gone from strength to strength and with

the assistance of Jan Lupton it was moved to Linton village college and operates from 10am to 1pm on the first Saturday of every month. The market has now grown to over 25 stalls offering a wide selection of farm produce and speciality foods.

Not only has Jan Lupton taken over the running of Linton market but has organised farmers' markets at Newmarket, Saffron Walden, Royston and Great Shelford to ensure customers can obtain our produce throughout the month within a reasonable area.

Back at Meadowbrook Farm, my keen interest in the environment has led me to carry out a bio-diversity plan to improve the habitat for wildlife. The amount of birds and mammals is extensive, from grass snakes to fallow deer and kingfishers to woodpeckers. Because we have a balanced eco system we never seem to have problems with pests on our vegetables.

I am so positive that we must all take steps to make our environment a better place that I have plans to install a wind turbine for all our electricity needs. I always say to people that growing organic is not just about producing good quality, fresh, tasty food but improving the whole planet.

Charlie Barker  
 Meadowbrook Farm  
 Gt Abington



## A SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENT

ON Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July there will be a special event held by the Linton Music Society: a Tea Concert held at Linton Village College. Miyako Hashimoto (pianoforte) and her daughter Anna, as soloists, will play music by Chopin, Brahms and Debussy.

Anna, an outstanding 14-year-old clarinetist, will also play the Weber Concertino, which she is to perform with the English Chamber Orchestra at the Barbican in December.

Together they will play piano duet versions of Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals.

There will not be an admission charge, but the audience is invited to "Pay-what-you-like" after the concert, all profits going to fund-raising for the music society. Do come and bring your friends. You must not miss the opportunity of hearing an extremely gifted young artist who promises to be a star in the clarinet world.

Tea and home-made cake will be provided in the interval. The concert begins at 3pm.  
 Margaret Hearn  
 891474

## K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of the June K-Club monthly draw:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize (£50) **Abigail Dixon** (No. 000)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£25) **Margaret Eden** (No194)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£10) **Wendy Foster** (No. 197)

## A PASSION FOR FASHION

LINTON has a new shop at 113 High Street. *Summer's Lady*, which is situated next to the barber's shop, offers the best and the latest selections of party wear, tops, skirts, bags, sunglasses and much more. The quality is excellent and the prices are cheaper than else-

where. The most unexpected prices ever seen, as cheap as pizza!

Don't just drive past, drop in to see our selection.

The shop is open seven days a week from 10.30am till 7.00pm.  
 Bobby Rabiee  
 891023

## NEXT STOP KILIMANJARO

WHAT a splendid afternoon we had and we raised £300 for Diabetes UK.

Everyone enjoyed a relaxed afternoon scoffing cream teas and listening to Elizabethan music played by members of the Cambridge String Players.

Helen and Brian would like to thank everyone who attended and we now look forward to raising funds for the next event for Diabetes UK -

'A Walk in the Park at Wandlebury'. Then it's all down to Brian with his trek up Kilimanjaro in September. Helen says "He's on his own with this one, I don't do mountains!!"

Any cheques to spur him on made out to 'Diabetes UK' would be well received. Please send to Brian Bonney at Tosca Cottage, 28, Horseheath Road.  
 Helen Bonney

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# THREE PEAKS CONQUERED



Debra Tournant on one of the three peaks.

Picture by Andre Tournant

WE arrived at Victoria Coach station on Thursday afternoon not quite sure what we had let ourselves in for. We needn't have worried as we were very soon befriended by other 'Three Peakers' (our rucksacks and identity labels had given us away). So at 3.30pm several coaches full of walkers were on their way to Wales, arriving at Snowdon in the dark at about 10.30pm. We collected our packed lunch of sandwiches, peanuts, chocolate bar and energy drink and set off up the mountain by the light of head torches. By the time we were halfway up it was raining and very cold and windy; we continued up to the summit where it was too dark and misty to see anything and too cold to sit around, so after a quick flask of by now lukewarm soup we began our descent. It was very hard going on the slippery rocks but with only a couple of falls we made it back to the coach in one piece.

Then we were off to the Lake District for our second mountain, with a brief stop at a service station for breakfast we arrived at Scafell Pike at around 11am and again with a very similar packed lunch we set off again. We started climbing in beautiful sunshine, but again by the time we were halfway

up the clouds had descended and we were walking in a thick mist. When we reached the summit we were treated to 60 mph winds and a short hailstorm - very nice. Again it was too cold to linger so we set off back for the coach, scrambling over some very rocky terrain.

Next stop Fort William for our climb at Ben Nevis where we arrived at 2am the following morning. As we started it was a beautiful clear night and the sun soon started to rise as we walked, but once again before we reached the top we were amidst the clouds and getting very cold. We did eventually get back down and went off to Stirling University for a shower and a sleep, our challenge over. It was an amazing experience even though we actually didn't see anything from the top of any of the mountains. Never mind, maybe the weather will be better the next time we do it.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our collective families who paid our event costs, and also all our friends, acquaintances and customers who so generously helped us to exceed our expectations in raising money for Children's Hospitals Appeal. Andre and Debra Tournant 893431

# IT'S YOUR MOVE

PHILOSOPHERS have said that "Chess is too serious to be a game but not serious enough to be an occupation". It is true that a comparatively small number of people manage to make a living solely from playing chess, but millions of people worldwide derive great enjoyment and satisfaction from playing the game.

A version of chess is alleged to have been played in the 4th century, but the present game is believed to have come into being around the late 15th century.

The Linton Chess Club started life as the 'South Cambridgeshire Chess Club' in 1976 and at that time was located in Sawston. In the early eighties the club relocated to Linton and became the Linton Chess Club. We used to play in the church pavilion until four years ago when a combination of floods and electrical faults drove us out. We now play in the social centre which thankfully is much warmer. We have members from Saffron Walden, Duxford, Royston and Steeple Bumpstead, but regrettably only three of us actually live in Linton.

Chess has the unique characteristic of being completely fair - which is very satisfying if one wins, less so if one loses. There are masses of books in many languages written about chess - did you know that there are more books about chess than any other subject? Chess

computers are extremely useful. They mean that you are never short of a partner to play against. Of course it is better to play a person - the trouble with playing a computer is that one can take back moves, and even get the computer to help in defeating itself. But they are especially useful for beginners as the skill level can be adjusted to suit the person playing.

The Linton Chess Club has two teams in the Bury League. We play matches in Newmarket, Bury, Ely, Cambridge and others. A match can last as long as three hours but speed chess is popular with many and can last for as short a time as five minutes. Some players like speed chess as a way of limbering up for a match game. We have members from all walks of life - they include an engine driver, a bricklayer, an engineer and several pensioners - chess is a very good way of keeping the brain ticking over if you are retired. The chess season has just finished, and this year Linton came first and second in Division 2 of the Bury League. But it's not all matches; most evenings there are friendly games being played.

We play fortnightly during the summer. Our dates are 6th July, 20th July, 3rd August, 17th August and 31st August. We would be delighted to welcome some new faces. David Barnicoat 893509

# ROLL UP FOR THE READING ROLLERCOASTER

FOLLOWING the great success of last summer's reading challenge 'The Reading Maze' which attracted over 4,000 children, this summer libraries in Cambridgeshire will be promoting an exciting new challenge called 'The Reading Rollercoaster'.

Each child who joins will be issued with a collector's folder. As they read books during the summer, they will collect sheets of stickers. Each sheet relates to a section of the rollercoaster in the collector's folder.

To complete their own reading rollercoaster, children will fill in gaps on the folder with different sections of track. There are loops, a tunnel and a water slide. They also have different rollercoaster cars to add to the track and lots of weird and wonderful characters for the background. There is space on the reverse for children to record their thoughts on the books they have read.

The reading rollercoaster

passes through some amazing landscapes, suggesting reading genres and themes for children to explore on their way through the challenge. These include space, planets and aliens, haunted houses, pirates and explorers, knights and castles, fantasy lands and a funfair. The bright, lively artwork will ensure that it appeals to all ages.

Children may choose books from any section of the children's library. There is no set list. However, lots of exciting new titles will be on display throughout the summer. All children who read six books will receive a medal.

Thanks to the generous support of many local town and parish councils, there will be supporting activities such as storytimes, quizzes and simple craft sessions in most libraries.

The reading rollercoaster will be launched on Saturday 24th July and is the sixth annual summer reading challenge.

Cambridgeshire library service

# THANK YOU LINTON



One of the many beautiful arrangements at this year's flower festival. Picture by LNT

ANOTHER Linton Flower Festival and craft show is over and, in spite of the rain, this year was one of the best ever.

The flowers in the church were stunning and the hours of work in arranging them were well worthwhile. Judy Nightingale, Lesley Gore and the army of helpers must feel very proud.

This year, we tried to make the event much more "villagey" by having more stalls and games on the playing field. Special thanks must go to the finalists of the tug of war competition especially Bob of the Dog and Duck who got us the licence and who ran the beer tent and also to Kenny and

all the gang at the Waggon and Horses - worthy champions!

Many others - far too many to name individually, all helped to erect tents, run stalls including archery, bouncy castle, hot dogs, fruit machines etc etc, and this obviously attracted many more people to the Festival.

Next year we aim to make the event even more of a Linton Festival so if anyone has any ideas or is willing to help, do please let the organisers know.

Once again, thank you to all who helped or took part and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves. See you next year!

Michael Holden

# BALSHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL AND SHOW

BALSHAM will be celebrating "East Anglia in Flowers" at its church flower festival from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 10th and 12noon to 6pm on Sunday 11th July.

On Saturday morning there will be a cake stall, and cream teas will be served in the afternoon from 3-5pm. The day will be rounded off with a concert in the church at 7.30pm, where cheese and wine will be served; tickets at the door. Cream teas will be served again on Sunday and evensong will be celebrated at 6pm to complete the festival.

Several gardens will be open on both days from 2-5pm; tickets available from the Church or one of the open gardens.

Lots to admire at the Balsham Horticultural Annual Show 2004 which will be held from 2-4.15pm on Saturday 31st July at the Meadow School Balsham.

There will be fruit, flowers and vegetables, floral art and handicrafts, a children's section, food, wine and photography exhibitions.

Teas will be served and for the gamblers there will be a raffle.

There is a small charge for entry but exhibitors and under fives go free.

Everyone is welcome to both of these events.

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# ZOO NEWS



Riziki at four weeks old

Picture by Kim Simmons

THE latest zoo babies include several parrots and macaws, and a mongoose lemur. Jan the tapir calf born in January is growing well and still looks very cute with her brown coat covered in white spots and stripes. Our pair of Amur tigers, Deja and Mirko will soon be proud parents again.

Very soon you may well hear the sound of lions roaring in Linton again. In June 2002 "Lilly" the last of our elderly lions, a second generation lioness born at Linton passed away from old age, leaving us without lions for the first time in 30 years.

At the beginning of August 2003 we received a call from Woburn Safari Park requesting assistance with the rearing of an orphaned lion cub. We collected the tiny cub and brought him home.

With the help of the African embassy we named the new arrival "Riziki" which is Swahili for "Lucky". Karla also born at Woburn joined

Riziki a few weeks later.

Riziki will be one year old on 5<sup>th</sup> July; he is already growing a mane and looks quite grown up. It will not be long now before the pair will start roaring, so listen out during the quiet of the night - it is not your neighbour snoring but Riziki and Karla roaring!

We recently spent a couple of days filming here at the zoo with Helen McDermot and the Anglia team for a series called "Just the Job", scheduled to be screened on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

For the second year running Linton Zoo was voted "Best place for kids to visit in Cambridge" and again this year Linton zoo was voted "Cambridgeshire's family attraction of the year".

Throughout the school holiday period there is a full programme of events and activities to suit all ages and interests.

Visit our website [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com) for the latest news. Hope to see you soon. Kim Simmons

# LINTON'S LOCAL HEROES



GOING beyond the call of duty in everyday life is a rare thing, but a nurse at Addenbrooke's does exactly that each day at work. Nominated by three colleagues, Karen Norman, a ward sister on Ward R2 was voted winner of the Nurse/Care worker award.

According to her colleagues, Karen gives 110 per

cent to her work and on top of this demanding role she dedicates a significant amount of her own time and energy to fundraising for the ward and medical services. Last year she raised £3,500 by organising a lorry push from the hospital into the city and last month £2,000 by arranging a ball.

What makes her even more remarkable is that Karen battles with a serious painful illness of the immune system. However, now in remission, she says she lives a full life despite poor health. A former pupil of LVC, now living in Back Road, Karen describes her family as a tower of strength especially when she's ill. Her parents, brother James and all her relatives are very proud of her as she always thinks of others.

Karen says she is no differ-

ent from anyone else who works at the hospital and added; "I couldn't believe it when I heard I had been nominated. I don't do it to be in the limelight; I do it because I want to help the profession I work for. You have to love nursing to do the job - I am a real people person and with the range of skills involved it never gets dull. I started fundraising because for the last two years I have been in hospital and when I came out I wanted to give something back."

Karen, whose spare time is also taken up with her two horses and two dogs, was given a week's holiday for two in Salzburg as her prize. She said, "There are so many people I would have put forward as winners and I didn't think I would win. It's not often I am speechless but this time I am."



George Glover is another of Linton's unsung heroes. He drives for Cambridgeshire County Council, collecting the elderly from their homes and taking them to a day centre and back. More than just a driver, he is a friend, shopper and out-going organiser for them. George was voted a runner up in 'Beyond the call of duty'.

LNT

## A TRIP ON THE WILD SIDE

LINTON camera club fancied some wildlife photography so, safaris being in short supply in



What do you mean, I am smiling?

Picture by R Lapwood

the Fens, off we went on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Mole Hall Wildlife Park (not far from

Saffron Walden, off the B1383 at Newport) to take some shots. It's a lot easier not having to sit for hours and hours waiting for animals to come your way, but our efforts certainly made us appreciate what patience and skill there really is behind the professional wildlife photographs we see in magazines.

Our animals and birds were much more obliging and so we hope we have achieved some good shots of Sarus Cranes, peacock - yes, one did open his tail for us - otters, fallow and sika deer, not to mention a wonderful array of butterflies in the butterfly house. No tigers and lions but plenty to test our skill at trying to get the picture just before the creature in question moved off at speed or lowered a head to graze just as the camera was about to

click! The geese, waterfowl and flamingos were a little easier as they seemed to like staying still in the warmth of the sun.

As usual with our trips, we all had a great time while trying to brush up our skills on the pictures we took and again as usual, we managed to round off the morning with a cuppa before heading back to Linton.

We always welcome new members so if you want to find out more contact John Keeble 894948 or [jkeeb@clara.net](mailto:jkeeb@clara.net) or look at the club website [www.camclub.info](http://www.camclub.info). If you are new to the village it's a great way of getting to know Linton and the surrounding area as we try to get as much variety in our trips as we can.

Jan Shambrook 892424

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# THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

A MONTH ago we had a visit from two colleagues from South Africa. They both work in the Education Department which looks after Soshanguve schools and therefore our partner school Boepathutse. They were here to see for themselves how English schools work and to explore the possibility of linking their Education Department, Tshwane North with ours, Cambridgeshire LEA.

In these strange days when we seem to be becoming more entrenched in our separateness as a nation, when the essential importance of understanding and sharing our common humanity regardless of race, creed or colour still has not been grasped, this brief visit seems very important. After all, if LVC and its students had not taken our link with Boepathutse to heart as they have, our friendship with that township school 6,000 miles away would have withered long ago. As it is things have continued to grow and develop and we are currently looking forward to 15 LVC pupils and four teachers living and working in Soshanguve at the end of July.

Since four very courageous Boepathutse children travelled here on their own in 2001 and stayed for 9 weeks with local families, the two schools have cherished the idea of a reciprocal visit. Now it is about to become a reality. Our students, equally, if not even more courageous, will stay with families in the township, living as citizens of Soshanguve and working as teaching assistants in our partner school. This time it will be a short stay so that we can gauge the issues they will have to face but I am certain they will be generously and very warmly welcomed and cared for, and will return home proud of their achievements and immeasurably enriched as global citizens.

And as they grow older and take their places in our society, perhaps that experience will help them influence our country and our world for the better, for it is only through sharing, caring and understanding that we can avoid the fractures and tensions that so damage our planet.

Clive Bush, Principal

## NEW TOWN UPDATE

JOAN Smith and Patrick Orme have delivered a petition to the office of the Deputy Prime Minister opposing the new town proposals. In less than a week around 500 signatures were collected from the people of Great and Little Abington.

At the recent elections there was an opportunity for Linton residents to register disapproval and to date 300 have signed up.

A meeting was held in mid-June between District and County officers and the government's consultants. One piece of good news from that meeting was that the consultant's own work shows that the local road infrastructure would not support a new town at Abington.

The next step will be for the consultants to report their findings to government followed by a round of consultations on the firmed up proposals. Locally we should be organising an effective defence. The best way forward would seem to be to let the SANT group (Stop Abington New Town) take the lead again. To get involved contact Patrick Orme on 892671 for further information. Joan Smith 892904 John Batchelor 892111

## LINTON COUNTRY DIARY

by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

NEXT time you or a friend buys a new car you will most likely and suddenly notice dozens of the exact same model or make on the roads! Likewise, when a small amount of red valerian *centranthus ruber* grew in a friend's garden I began to see it growing abundantly in our village. The warm summer of 2003 combined with this year's damp early months to provide favourable conditions for self-setting seeds of all kinds, and so generally we are enjoying colourful gardens almost everywhere. However, it appears this sudden awareness has been overridden by parochial accounts indicating the plant is indeed enjoying a renaissance. The name Valerian may have come from the latin word *Valere* meaning 'to be in health' or possibly from Valerius who some experts claim was the first to use the plant as a medicine. Good ol' Mr Culpepper wrote of the value of valerian, but one elderly lady remarked when I pointed it out in her flowerbed! "No no young man, that's lovers Lilac". Now, I can see a similarity to lilac in the shape of the bloom and leaves but my research revealed no such common name. In fact, valerian has been used

as a medicinal plant certainly since mediaeval times. The plant's virtues were held in such high esteem that it was known as 'All Heal'. Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis* from a distance resembles pink cow parsley and grows here and there in some of Linton's wet meadows. Tests have shown this tall perennial to have properties of anti-tumour activity, whilst the root can be used



Red Valerian

in the manufacture of some perfumes. In homeopathy, preparations made from Red valerian are commonly recommended to treat nervous problems.

Last week it seemed as if the volume had been turned up on the dawn chorus, but today on 17<sup>th</sup> June the backs of the popular tree leaves fluttered and

flashed to a strong breeze, indicating rain or damp weather ahead. The birds became silent and a stropky cat returned home with a few unwelcome life forms amongst the silky hairs picked up from another summertime escapade! Now until Marcello Malpighi's dissection of a silkworm in 1675 using the then new fangle dangle microscope regarded as an evil tool of witchcraft, it was universally believed that such small creatures had no internal organs.

I cannot imagine any cat following the example of the cunning fox who backed into a pond holding a piece of lambs wool. The fleas crawled up through the fur and onto the wool which was then set adrift by the fox once he was submerged! This story, sworn to be true by so many, was reported in an American newspaper as recently as August 1944. It also appeared in John Swan's *Speculum mundi* Cambridge 1643 and is nothing more than natural history nonsense. The wiley fox apparently seen running off with a wheelie bin in Linton was simply trying to open the lid from the front, his own weight causing the bin to roll backward!! Whatever next?

### DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

LINTON (including Bartlow and Hildersham).

**John Batchelor**

Liberal Democrat 839 Elected.

**Colin Brown,**

Conservative 441

**Michael Gale,** Labour 175

**Peter Hase,** Conservative 441

**Joan Smith,**

Liberal Democrat 794

Elected.

### A NEW TEAM MEMBER

WE have a new sub-editor: Alan Judge has recently moved to the village and brings with him a great deal of experience having just retired as a sub-editor of the Evening Standard.

Alan has already helped us by doing an article for this month's paper. We are all looking forward to working with him and learning from him.

LNT

## OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW



Demolition before new building work at Flaxfields

Picture by C Sneezum

FOR those of you who seldom walk through Flaxfields, the above picture taken on 24<sup>th</sup> May could come as a shock.

The bedsit units on the north side have been knocked down, and the community room (only built five years ago) has been demolished too. Hereward Housing Society has already

started construction of four new bungalows on this site.

Across the road the old garage block has been flattened, and a new bungalow being built by the Papworth Trust is almost complete.

Hereward Housing are also in negotiation to build a new care home at Flaxfields, con-



New housing development in Back Road

Picture by Tracey Wilson

sisting of 32 flats for people who need assistance to remain living at home.

If you walk along Back Road you will see eight new semi-detached houses which have recently been constructed specifically for local families.

The back gardens are part paved and part lawn and are

furnished with a garden shed, the latest 'must have' according to the national press! The front gardens are landscaped and each house has its own parking space. A very welcome addition to the village and some of the lucky new tenants have already moved in.

LNT

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/1099/04/F M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Supcik, 8 Bawtree Crescent, Linton, Extensions.

S/1175/04/F M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> G Devlin, The White House, 85 Bartlow Road, Linton. Extensions.

S/1202/04/F C Faulkner & P White, 2B Bartlow road, Linton. Change of use from Financial & professional Services (Class A2) to Acupuncture & Alternative Therapy Clinic (Class D2).

S/1241/04/LB M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> A Morris, 3 Holtumms Yard, Linton. Alterations - Infill door opening between hall and kitchen and create opening to dining room. Removal of internal partitions to cloakroom and hall and reinstatement of fireplace in enlarged lounge area.



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**THE LINTON NEWS**

Next Publication Date 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2004

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Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004

ITEMS FOR THE

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**VIEW FROM THE CHAIR!**

THE VOICE of Jasper no longer echoes down Symonds Lane...No, he is fine, but he howled along with John's accordion; was this was singing or cries of torment? His new keyboard has a sympathy mode (a mute key) and the spotty dog sings no more.

Apart from a little rain, the weather for Linton Flower Festival was splendid, as were the displays. There was even one for my favourite saint, the Venerable Bede, accurately in Sunderland colours! Teddy Bears parachuted, music played, Garth amused us with a jolly talk, there was food, stalls, plants, ducks, games and the Brownies were very inventive with their human fruit machine. Everyone works so hard, putting much love and effort into the church and village - true community spirit. That is what makes Linton home and a joy to live in; a treasure worth preserving.

At the CCC planning meeting regarding the proposed Special Needs School, I felt that village concerns were not given sufficient recognition; current plans will proceed with few alterations. This could be a disaster for the village and users of the A1307. The absence of our County Councillor was noted by the Chair of that meeting; the support of County and District councillors would have been welcome. Local democracy is a vital force and I would like to say that I saw it in action over these plans, but I feel the voice of Linton was **not** given a proper hearing. Parish Councillors, at least, will continue to fight for the village. It ain't over 'til the fat dog sings....

Enid Bald

# Parish Council Matters

## SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL DECISION TAKEN

I HAVE been asked several times what the Parish Council has been doing about the plans for the LVC site - not just the SEN school, but the provision of sports fields and the effects on traffic. Well, we have been very busy, actively informing the village, establishing what would be best for Linton, then arguing for the plans to be amended to meet needs of the village.

The Parish Council feels that it was not consulted sufficiently and early enough; plans have been in development for nearly 2 years, but it was not until February that we officially knew of them. Despite the sports facilities having been provided and funded as "dual-use", we were not invited to the meetings where they were discussed. The two public consultations by CCC in the village were given with very little publicity; we were not invited. So, we arranged our own public meeting, to which we politely invited CCC, the other groups involved and residents. It was our duty to involve all of Linton, as we are the ones most

affected by the plans.

As plans came before LPC, we commented on all aspects. Our concerns were many. They increased following the public meeting and the written views of residents. We had strong feelings about the traffic, mir-

pollution by idling traffic and the effect on the High Street exit. The internal road layout is poor, wasting land and increasing light and noise pollution. Pedestrian use of and access to the site is unsafe. Poplar Drive will be lost in the first phase of

space is inadequate even for current use. Space for the long desired 25m community swimming pool has not been confirmed. We lack sufficient sports fields; the proposals will disrupt their use for years and could see the end of the Aztecs. Environmental issues were not neglected - inappropriate design and building materials, no water/flood management, loss of mature trees, lack of sustainability and increased pollution. There are many more issues, but you will have to read the minutes to see them all.....

The Parish Council was not negative - we proposed alternative plans. We suggested access west of Linton at the Camgrain/Little Linton junction, a safer entrance to the site, providing safety for Camgrain and Dalehead Foods traffic, and an excellent way to manage traffic for Linton. We even suggested how this could be funded. Our site plans would increase the number of sports pitches. We had no objections to the development in principle, but believed that the

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

concerns of LPC and residents needed to be taken into account

On Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, the planning application for the SEN school was heard by CCC Planning and Development Committee and passed virtually unamended. This was despite our objections and arguments, letters and e-mails, the views of the public and the excellent input of our MP, James Paice. C<sup>llr</sup> Orgee spoke for us on the effects on the A1307. Some of Linton's concerns were discussed, but debate failed to touch the heart of the matter and the vital points were not nailed. There was dismay at the decision, feeling that alternatives to the proposed plans had not been taken seriously nor fully investigated.

This is an opportunity for the site and village, and to obtain best value for the £14 million of our money to be invested in it. It has must not be wasted.

Following the LPC meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June, we have decided to fight on.



Bus exiting Linton High Street

rored in the Access A1307 article. Other concerns included the effect of traffic lights, tailbacks and increased 'rat-running' through the village, the

construction, with parking for 30+ cars. It could be kept for construction traffic; safer for the site and stopping overspill parking in the village. Parking

### ESTHER CORNELL REPORTS ON BEHALF OF THE ACCESS 1307 GROUP

THE Access 1307 group objected to the planning application although it does support the development of a Special School at Linton Village College. The concern is that the proposed road system may exacerbate the problems for village residents.

Looking at the traffic levels and future predicted traffic levels we are concerned that the traffic lights will result in fur-

ther problems in exiting the village of Linton. Many of us rely on the High Street junction as the safer exit from the village. With traffic lights at the Village College the traffic from Haverhill to Cambridge will come to a halt and although this may allow 1 or 2 cars or perhaps even a bus to join the flow, at the present time 200 vehicles per hour leave this junction at peak times and we believe that drivers already on the A1307 will be less willing to let cars out, if they are trying to get to the traffic lights before the lights change. The result of this is that cars and buses will not be able to exit left or right and lengthily queues will result in Linton High Street.

We also believe that the delays caused by the lights may cause serious rat running through Linton.

At the present time a route study is being undertaken on the A1307 and this involves

the collation of a large amount of traffic data. This data will be entered into PARAMICS intelligent simulation software which will show traffic flow on the road and the effect of junction changes, on rat-running, congestion and queuing traffic.

This route study is nearly complete and at the Development Control Committee we were disappointed to find that none of the highways officers present had seen this simulation, although they believed the results did not show high levels of congestion. The Committee then took this multi-million pound decision without having this information available to them.

We have since found out that this simulation has not yet been undertaken, so the full effect of the traffic lights is not known. We feel this simulation must be undertaken as soon as possible (or even a physical trial), so that if our worst fears were realised, al-

ternative traffic control measures could be investigated. Traffic lights have been identified as proposed solutions in the past, only for them to be switched off as soon as they are installed as traffic chaos results.

Let us hope that someone starts listening soon, if not in 2006 when there will be no chance to look at the alternatives, we could be faced with yet another traffic nightmare!!



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# Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

THE ANNUAL General Meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2004. Apart from 14 Parish and 2 District Councillors there were only a press representative and 2 PCSO's present. The first order of business was the internal elections and appointment of offices. C<sup>llr</sup> Bald was duly re-elected as Chair with C<sup>llr</sup> Potter as Vice. The various appointments remained as last year other than C<sup>llr</sup> Hickford was duly appointed as Police Liaison. Full information on offices held by councillors is available from the Parish Office.

In public participation, M<sup>rs</sup> France queried the response to the consultation, held recently, regarding the cemetery trees. The Clerk reported that this had been poor. M<sup>rs</sup> France commented that this was due to the layout of Parish Matters, deterring people from reading it. It was agreed that the possibility of training for staff would be investigated.

The report from the Police was made by PCSO Judy diBon, in attendance with the PCSO for Fulbourn. PCSO diBon explained the duties of the two PCSO's and also re-



ported they were currently covering for 52 villages within the Sawston sector. There should eventually be 6 PCSO's in this sector but 4 were yet to be recruited. The basic duties were dealing with parking offences, anti-social behaviour, exceeding speed limits, attending schools and visiting victims of crime. These duties kept them very busy. They were still managing to 'patrol' but not as

often as originally. She further reported that CBM Dave Hall had now left and a replacement CBM had yet to be found. Councillors were concerned to note that no official notification of this had been made to Council. There was particular concern with regard the open space area at the front of Copperfields. A meeting was supposed to be organised to which the Police would attend to discuss the issue. PCSO diBon agreed to investigate these concerns with her superiors and report back.. C<sup>llr</sup> Hickford queried usual procedure with regard cars parked on double yellow lines. He was particularly concerned to note recently cars parked outside the Co-op whilst the PCSO's were parked in their own car at Linton Fire Station, and yet neither of the cars outside the Co-op were given tickets. PCSO diBon reported that both PCSO's had issued tickets to cars outside the Co-op. However, they would usually give the owners the opportunity to leave immediately on a first offence. C<sup>llr</sup> Hammett reported concern over usage of the double yellow lines outside the Post Office. This area was being monitored.. Councillors agreed that it was surprising the two PCSO's managed to spend as much time as they did in the village considering the area they were expected to patrol. It was obvious that Linton was lacking a Community Beat Manager. C<sup>llr</sup> Gore noted that the remit of a CBM was not conducive to them remaining in the job very long. They required a great deal of support from the management within the Force to carry out the job. C<sup>llr</sup> Alper proposed that a letter be forwarded to the Chief Superintendent firstly expressing this Council's concern that we

had not been notified that CBM Hall was leaving, and secondly expressing concern at the conditions under which both the CBM's and PCSO's have to work, stating that both should be better supported. This was agreed by the meeting.

The Chairman then reported there had been 10 crimes reported in Linton during April and these were categorised.

There was no report from the County Councillor received at this time.

M<sup>rs</sup> Smith, for the District Council, reported that the appeal to SCDC regarding whether Wheatcroft in Linton could have black bag refuse collection instead of wheelie bins had been lost. As they had a small area of grass at the front of their houses they would have to remain on the wheelie bin collection. She further reported on the organising of the Linton Swimming Pool feasibility study. This was proceeding, and M<sup>rs</sup> Smith reported that CCC had confirmed the possibility of a 20 or 25 metre pool at Linton Village College.

M<sup>r</sup> Batchelor, for the District Councillor, reported that SCDC Cabinet had met today. An emergency item had been discussed regarding Planning. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) had just released details of a scheme for an extra 18,000 houses in this area. They were investigating 3 options: 1) distributed over existing towns in Herts and/or Essex; 2) creating two new smaller towns, with 5 different areas to choose between, a) A10 between Cambridge and Ely; b) A505 between Cambridge and Royston; c) A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon; d) A120 between Stansted and Braintree and e) M11 corridor between Stansted and Harlow; or 3) ONE new

town taking all 18,000 houses and the favoured possibility for this would be Great Abington with a new road between Linton and Gt Dunmow. All of these houses would be to provide homes for workers in Stansted and London. M<sup>r</sup> Batchelor went on to report that SCDC was organising a Press Release regarding this for 21 May and would then be organising to protest. Councillors expressed their deep concern and dismay at this information. It was queried why build a new road between Linton and Gt Dunmow when the M11 and the A120 were already available? What would the timescale for this be? M<sup>r</sup> Batchelor reported that this would need to be strongly opposed as of now. Councillors noted that there was an apparent surplus of housing in the area at the moment. It was agreed that this would be brought back on the Agenda as and when required.

The Planning and Finance minutes were considered with no queries as was the Payments Due list which was then agreed by the meeting with C<sup>llr</sup>'s Cox and Potter signing the cheques.

The Licence renewal to enable the Linton Granta Football Club and the Linton Granta cricket Club to use the Recreation Ground was duly granted at the usual fee.

Both the Traffic Working party notes and the Notes of the recent Steering Group (Traffic) meetings were considered. C<sup>llr</sup> Gore queried the status of informal consultation with Church Lane residents regarding a trial one-way system for the High Street. C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell reported this was incomplete at present. The results should be available for the next Steer-

ing group meeting in June.

The provision of a Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground was then discussed. C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor reported that, once again, M<sup>r</sup> Creedy



was to be applauded for managing to obtain full funding for this item. This was generally agreed by the meeting. Discussion took place over placement of the Shelter, groundworks required, the small additional funding by this Council for security fencing whilst the Shelter was installed and the colour option most suitable. As a result it was agreed that the shelter should proceed as per the plan shown, with security fencing during installation. The colour chosen was blue and silver. Consideration was then given to organising further waste bins for the area. It was agreed that this should be added to the current Wish List. All Councillors then agreed to forward their congratulations to M<sup>r</sup> Creedy for his efforts and hard work on this issue.

Council then considered the lease being offered on land known as The Glebe. Discussion took place regarding the wording of the lease and as a result C<sup>llr</sup> Gore proposed that subject to clarification of which, and how, the boundaries were to be maintained, and allowing that the land could be kept in a 'natural' condition this Council should proceed

with leasing the Glebe Land. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Of the correspondence received on List 21, May (2004) the following were of particular note:- The Chairman noted numerous items of post regarding copy letters from residents to CCC Planners regarding the proposed SEN School; CCC Planning department had forwarded further plans regarding the SEN proposals. The Chairman reported that these had resulted in an

extraordinary Planning meeting being held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Minutes of which had been circulated to the Planning Committee this evening; The Parish Paths Dept., at CCC had sent a Rights of Way Questionnaire. C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter had been requested to complete this; The Home Office had provided a copy of the original 'Order In Council' showing that the Churchyard was closed. The Chairman reported that as this was now in PC possession, this item would return to Full Council shortly; A copy letter from M<sup>r</sup> Fairey to CCC/P3 regarding the bollards installed at the Tower end of Rivey Lane; A response from CCC regarding this Council's comments on SEN proposals and how CCC intended to proceed; CCC/P3 - Confirmation of full grant this year; Details from Imperial War Museum at Duxford regarding an event to commemorate D Day.

In AOB C<sup>llr</sup> Hickford reported he had two complimentary tickets for the Aztec fundraiser on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, involving the Arsenal Celebrities team. C<sup>llr</sup>'s Kenyon and Bald took up the offer. Thanks were expressed to Aztecs and the Chairman called for everyone to support them on this day. The meeting closed 21.44

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