

A very Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year to all our
readers

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THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info e-mail lneditor@linton.info

Fabulous fireworks

LINTON'S bonfire night last month – themed on the *Golden British Summer of Sport*, turned out to be a roaring success. Once again a small army of volunteers gave their time and expertise to make the whole event a triumph.

Chair of the fireworks committee, Andrew Clark praised everyone who gave their time to help. Before the event, they were planning and training fireworks personnel, organising the insurance, risk assessments, catering, sale of tickets and advertising, lighting, first aid, and safety. On the weekend of the display, volunteers worked from early Saturday morning to late evening and a final clearance on Sunday morning.

Issy Gower, the 14 year-old village college student and 2012 torch bearer showed her Olympic torch to the waiting crowds before running a lap inside the safety perimeter fence and lighting the Olympic rings and bonfire to start the amazing firework display.

Many people declared the display the best ever and also supported the stalls, buying glow toys, hot dogs, burgers and bacon rolls as well as hot



Two of the many amazing fireworks at this year's bonfire night

and cold drinks.

Body Design and GP Construction sponsored the event alongside Camgrain, who support the event each year. Of the many voluntary groups working on the field this year, Andrew would like to highlight

the contribution of the ATC on gates and car parking duties and Linton Aztecs serving in the drinks tent.

Although it is too early to determine final profits, which are split between the parents and teachers' associations of

Picture taken by Graeme Beck

Linton village college, the Infant school and Linton Heights junior school, Andrew thought it was more than last year and may even be the best ever.

See www.lintonfireworks.co.uk for a full list of contributors.

LNT

Camera club exhibition best yet



The colourful elephant, one of the winner's choices.

Picture taken by Jo Leggo

THIS year's annual Camera Club Exhibition was the biggest yet, with our highest attendance ever – almost 300 people attended. We had changed the display method this year by mounting all of the photographs in identical cream frames and practically everyone agreed that it was an improvement.

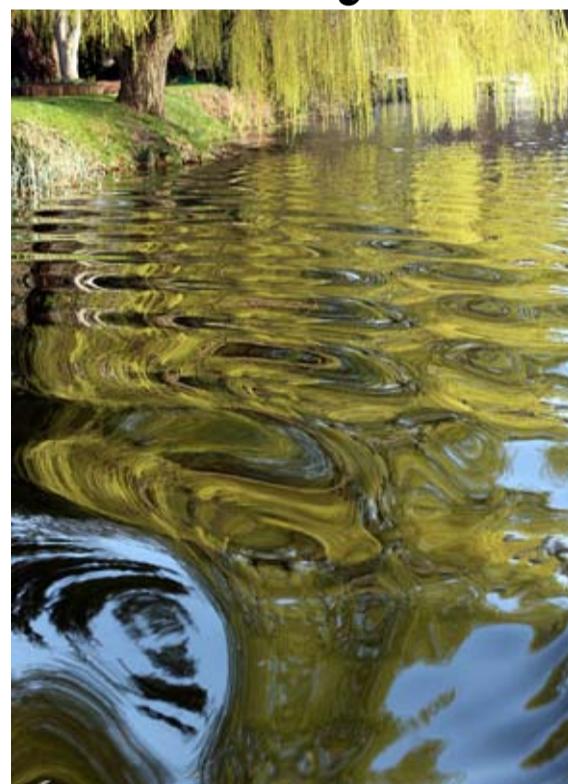
The card stall did very well; the proceeds of this, along with the refreshments, helped to offset the exhibition costs.

Once again we asked the visitors to select their favourite picture from the exhibition and the three picked out to win their choice in a frame were Rose Wallace who chose *Colourful Elephant* by Jo Leggo, Lizzie Fieldsend who chose *Murphy at the Seaside* by Hilary Schneider and Ivor who picked *Conkers* by Sheila Rantle; all those who won pictures were from Linton, although we had visitors from much further afield. *Reflections behind the boat* by Hilary Schneider was the most selected favourite.

Some members will be uploading their best entries onto our Flickr page, which can be accessed from the club website on www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk.

The last club night of the year will be our Christmas celebration (current members only). Please see the website for the start of next year's programme.

Tracey Wilson 891988



Reflections behind the boat was the visitors' favourite picture.

Picture taken by Hilary Schneider

Big curry night triumph

THE Linton Men's Curry evening was held on 19th October at the Crown in support of the Army Benevolent Fund Big Curry appeal (<http://bigcurry.org/>), the evening raised £206.46 before gift aid was added.

The Army Benevolent fund is The Soldiers' Charity. It gives lifetime support to serving and retired soldiers and their families.

Many thanks to those who

attended the evening and to those anonymous souls that put funds in the charity boxes at the bar. The evening went well thanks to the staff and chefs at the Crown and partly due to the well behaved curry eaters. In addition to individual contributions made during the evening, the heads and tails game provided a generous additional boost to the funds. Many thanks to those who participated and in particular to the winner for donating his winnings back to the fund. Considering that only 18

of the planned 30 attendees turned out, the outcome was impressive.

Due to the great evening had by all, there is a very high probability that John Kell will run this event again in early 2013.

J M Kell, 2nd Lieutenant, Sawston Detachment, 3 Company (Ironside), Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force.



A reminder

YOU will see on page three that the deadline for the January issue of the Linton News is 5th December. This is not a mistake. We deliver the paper between Christmas and the New Year and for this reason the deadline date is very early.

As always it is first come, first served, or in this case last in may not get into the paper!

We look forward to receiving your articles up to and including 5th December but the sooner the better.

Editor

Dec
2012
Vol. 26 N° 9
Publication date
Monday 3rd December

Need practical help after a crisis, illness or hospital stay?

CARE Network's Help at Home service can help.

Help at home is a free service that offers practical help in the home if you have just come out of hospital or are experiencing an illness or crisis at home. We can help by: collecting your prescription, getting your shopping, arranging services such as meal delivery or calling in to see you are OK. The service is short term (up to three weeks) and provided by volunteers.

We also offer help with one-off tasks to help you remain independent at home such as changing a light bulb.

All volunteers are trained, police checked and carry an identification badge.

The service is free for three weeks after your illness or hospital stay. It is also free if you are referred for help by a health or social care professional. For one-off tasks which help you to remain independent at home, eg changing a light bulb, we ask for a donation.

Just call your local Help at Home office: South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City on 714433, or visit www.care-network.org.uk and click on Help at Home.

We are also looking for volunteers in your area. Volunteering can fit around other commitments. Each case lasts up to three weeks and volunteers usually visit between three and seven times. We offer training and support and pay expenses. Do contact us if you would like more information. Telephone 714433.

Care Network is a Cambridgeshire wide charity which helps isolated and vulnerable people (over 18), living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent. We do this by our direct services – Information@GPs and Help at Home (Incorporating Welcome Home from Hospital) offering free short term practical help to people at home and by providing support for local groups and volunteers to set up new schemes. We will try to help with anything. Some examples are lunch clubs, social car schemes, village help schemes, mobile wardens and social groups. We have 98 of them in our countywide network to date.

For further information contact our head office on 01954 211919.

Claire Marsh, Help at Home Coordinator City and South

Linton's own Xmas-Factor

AFTER the success of last year's Xmas-Factor, Linton Music Society is repeating this event in the parish church at 2pm on Saturday, 8th December (please note change of time). The carol competition is open to all individuals, choirs, readers and musicians of all sorts and ages.

Details from Linda Bird, 141 High Street, 893600 or e-mail lindabird@waitrose.com

Don't be fooled by this call

Recently I have had two phone calls which were scams.

A very well spoken female voice saying something like: "To receive your refund you must immediately confirm your interest to be registered before the end of the financial year. To confirm your name please press nine, to deregister please press one."

I rang off.

I checked with the police who confirmed that I would have been charged an arm and a leg had I pressed either number!

Kate France

Too good for jumble ...

FOR something completely different we have a Nordic Track 7000 ski machine on offer this month, a new Homebase V series shower enclosure 710mm square by 1,900mm high, 24 bottle wooden wine-rack 18in x 26in, a Graco buggy in excellent condition, two bathroom strip lights with shaver points and a wooden towel rail. The silver teaspoon with an Indian head from Calgary and the BT answerphone Quartet 1500 with instructions are still available.

The winemaking equipment raised £10 for Arthur Rank and a car seat and two push chairs made £33 for Linton Cubs. To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Kate France 891602 or email kfrance@profsoundconsult.com.

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



Linton Heights pupils working with WaterAid

ON Wednesday 7th November, two representatives of the charity WaterAid visited Year 5 at Linton Heights. We invited David and Sue because we needed to know why and how we can raise money for people who suffer from diseases because they don't have clean water. Our Business and Enterprise project this year is to set up a small charity so that we can see what is involved.

David and Sue talked to us about different countries that don't have clean water. We compared how much water we use a day (about 150 litres) to countries that don't have much water, and they use one or two litres a day. People die of water-borne diseases every 20 seconds. One out of three people doesn't have a toilet either.

WaterAid helps people make cheap, simple toilets by digging a pit that just takes two to three days to complete. The pit is about two metres deep and it has a hut built around it for privacy. When it's full, they take the composted excrement out and use it to fertilize their crops. WaterAid also builds pipes that go deep underground as millions of people usually drink dirty water that has germs in it.

We learned a lot of facts about the work of WaterAid and we are now going to be more careful with how much water we use every day. We realise how lucky we are and are grateful for clean water that some people don't have.

Hannah, Saffron, Alfie and Jack (Year 5)

Look what you can do with leaves, grass and twigs



Well what have we found?

Picture by Debby Jepps

CONKERS Children's Centre has been embracing the great outdoors this autumn with a family fun Wildplay session. The weather was bright and crisp as the children and their parents/grandparents took to Linton recreation ground to become mini explorers discovering mini-beasts and examining them in close detail under the microscope. The children clearly enjoyed the freedom the outdoors provided whilst learning new details about the natural environment around them.

This was an opportunity for the family to do something together in a fun supportive environment enhanced by the sun making an appearance. The session ended with some craft that combined the theme of Wildplay and Halloween. The children developed their own scary spider's web using the leaves, grass, twigs and barks with the odd boggly eye peering through. Many of them were excited to put this up in their homes making their very own Halloween decorations. To find out when the next Wildplay session is or what other activities are taking place at the Children's Centre (all free of charge) then please call the office on 893594 or e-mail me:

Debby Jepps at debby.jepps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Tidying up and looking forward



ONE Saturday in October, many parents came into school to help do some of those jobs that just mount up. In a short space of time we managed to erect two raised beds, clear leaves, stain the gazebo, put up a new number frieze, fix notice boards and many other jobs to smarten the place up. Many hands do indeed make light work and our thanks go to all the willing volunteers and the PSA for the bacon butties.

After a late October half term, all the children and adults returned to school ready and refreshed for the lead up to Christmas.

Our theme for this term has been Mite and Mighty, looking for characters from the bible who show mightiness through their actions and on Wednesday 7th November, you may have noticed various bible characters around the village. All the children and staff came to school dressed as a bible character and we welcomed back John Hardwick who helped the children learn through role play, puppets, music and song. A great day was had by all.

November was bullying month which opened up some interesting discussions among the children, this went hand in hand with our theme of friendship.

I can't believe that we are already thinking about our intake for September 2013 but we had an open school for new intakes on 29th November. Another one is planned for 9.30am-10.30am on 10th January, if you have a child who is due to start in September 2013, why not come and see what we have to offer. Our current Year 2 children also enjoyed a visit to Linton Heights in preparation for their transition. Time flies.

Emma Penfold

Can you help a cancer patient keep warm this winter?

NEARLY one in five people with cancer turns off the heating, even though they're cold, because they're worried about paying their energy bills.

When you're diagnosed with cancer the last thing you want to worry about is money. That's why Macmillan Cancer Support can be there for patients struggling financially by offering a one-off grant to help pay for expenses such as energy bills. In 2011 Macmillan gave out £121,573 to 661 cancer patients in Cambridgeshire.

If just 19 people make a £10 donation to Macmillan we will be able to help a person living with cancer heat their home when they really need it.

Simply visit www.macmillan.org.uk/donate or send a cheque to Macmillan Cancer Support, Supporter Services, FREEPOST LON15851, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ, to help keep a cancer patient warm this winter.



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Post and email addresses and deadline for letters on this page.

All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested.

Dear Editor

I was interested to see the article on the Small Gift shop in the November issue. This mentions Brian's jewellery repairs.

My mother had a gold heart shaped necklace which had been accidentally badly crushed. It had been given to her by her grandmother and was very precious to her.

Over the years the necklace had been taken to all the top jewellers around. "Impossible", they said!

Brian took one look and remarked "normal repairs don't take long, miracles take a bit longer." Within a month it was beautifully, professionally repaired and looks like new.

A correction with our apologies

THE article about the Pulse 3K run in last month's LN was incorrect, it should have read as follows. ON Sunday 7th October we ran in our age categories through Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens on a lovely (very muddy) sunny morning running the Pulse 3K run to raise money for the Bone Cancer Research Trust in loving memory of Jessica Gower who died age 14 with primary bone cancer. Our team name was Team Jess

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Camsight explained



MRS Alison Bourne our speaker in November, spoke about Camsight, a charity supporting local people with sight loss, which was started 100 years ago as a weekly social club teaching handicrafts.

In 1912 cataracts were the main cause of visual impairment (a term used rather than blindness as very few people have no vision at all) whereas these days it is AMD (age-related macular degeneration), diabetes and glaucoma.

Camsight's resource centre now has up to 900 ingenious gadgets such as a reader which scans print, a talking clock, a device which beeps when boiling water reaches the top of the cup and many others.

Computer skills are taught using touch-typing and speaking screens. Many activities, social clubs, home visits and benefit advice are organised by around 300 volunteers.

Alison passed around glasses doctored to simulate various sight loss conditions, along with several objects, such as socks to match up, food packaging to read and so on.

Linton has its own support group meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at Chalklands Centre. New members are always welcome.

For an audio version of this paper look above the weekly list at the top of the *Linton diary* on the right of this article.

Our next talk by Mrs Pat Welch, entitled Circle Dancing, will be on 5th February 2013, members and visitors very welcome. Please note there will be no January meeting

Sally Probets

Applications invited for the Anderson Trust

THE trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2013. The aims of the charity are as follows:

To sustain the work and worship of St Mary's church, Linton.

To promote education for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton, in particular within the church school and any other charitable purpose for those living in or resorting to Linton.

In 2012 seven grants were made, ranging in value from £50 to £5,000 covering varied activities supporting all ages across the community.

Applicants need to complete the 2013 application form, which contains further details of the application process. The form is available from Gill Powell, Chair of the Trustees, on 893664 or by email at the address below.

Applications should be sent to 7 Harefield Rise, Linton, CB21 4LS by the deadline of Friday, 8th February 2013. Email applications may be made to powellz@talktalk.net. The trustees will meet in early March to consider all applications.

Gill Powell 893663

LVC workshops

A CHRISTMAS design floristry workshop suitable for complete beginners will take place on 15th December.

We hope to run the following in the New Year:

Become Inspired, writing Drawing Indian Head massage Mosaics

To book your place on the Christmas design workshop and for further information and an enrolment form please contact Adult Community Business at Linton village college. email Jane.Carpenter@lvc.org or tel 891233 ext 303

Sawston adult education classes

MANY courses will continue in the new year but we also have some new ones planned such as celebration cakes and cookies, sustainable eating, the Victorian household and more.

Our next Saturday workshops are planned for 2nd February and 16th March. Visit our website www.sawstonadulted.org for more information or contact us on 712424 or community@sawstonvc.org

If there are any subjects you would like us to offer, or you could teach, please contact us. Wendy Worby



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THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 7th January 2013

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NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 5th December

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER

Limited space on waiting list for Linton businesses

Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse

email: addslinton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR

Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office

Editor: Wendy Foster email: lneditor@linton.info

phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office, failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here.

You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info.

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY

Conkers childrens centre, 9am-12noon, Mon-Thurs call 07768 008919 CC Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH

Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Mondaystertime CC

Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays Pavilion

Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701) WEA, Tuesdays, 10am, termtime VH

Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays CP

Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30-11.30am Tuesdays LVC

Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm alternate Tuesdays (term time only) Library

Granta bridge club, 2pm Tuesdays VH

Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (893509) CC

Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays VH

IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC

Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only VH

Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH

Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH

Table tennis club, 7.30pm CP

Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays CP

St Mary's church choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays St Mary's

Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC

For sports centre courses please call LVC sports centre on 890248

DECEMBER

1 Farmers' market, 9am LVC

1 Linton Granta playgroup Christmas Fair, 2pm VH

1 Family craft afternoon, 2-4pm URC

1 Cocktails and Christmas cheer, 8pm Windmill, Long Lane

2 Jazz at the Dog & Duck, 3pm D&D

4 **WI, members only** VH

5 Reading Group, 8pm D&D

6 Baby massage free taster session, 10.30am Spotted Giraffe Café

Old Red Lion, Horseheath

6 Luncheon club, 12noon CC

6 Parish council meeting, 8pm

8 **Music society, X-factor, 2pm** St Mary's Church

10 Camera club, members only CC

11 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands

11 Gardening club, 7.30pm VH

13 ACE festive buffet, 12.30pm CP

15 Balsham singers concert, 7.30pm Balsham Church

18 History society, 7.30pm VH

19 CAMTAD hearing help, 9.30am-12noon HC

Police surgery, 3pm Police Office at Fire Station

JANUARY

2 Reading Group, 8pm D&D

2 **NO WI** VH

3 Luncheon club, 12noon Old Red Lion, Horseheath

5 NO Farmers' market, LVC

3 Parish council meeting, 8pm CC

5 **Friend's of St Mary's, mince pies and coffee, 11am** VH

8 **Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH

For Cathodeon Centre bookings contact Sue Mudge, 07765 369266

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

Library times: Mon closed; Tues 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.

Linton refuse collection: 3rd & 17th December, 2nd January

Linton recycling collection: 10th & 24th December

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A magnificent man and his flying machine

HOW often do you have to move an aeroplane so you can set the table for dinner? "You must be joking," I hear you say but in the Leggo household that is not unusual, for aeroplane building is the hobby of Dr Peter Leggo, emeritus research fellow in the department of sciences at Cambridge University.

For over a decade Peter has been working on a new unique concept of fertilisers which he has developed. These fertilisers are purely biological and use natural minerals called zeolites which absorb ammonia. The idea is that famine stricken countries which have plentiful supplies of farmyard manure can use this fertiliser which, after testing on bare sand, has been able to grow peppers, maize and chillies. This is a conceptional idea completely new to Western Europe and as yet it has not been taken up, but the possibilities for solving world hunger problems are slowly being recognised.

But that is only Peter's day job, because when he comes home after a hard day at the compost face he relaxes with his hobby of aircraft building. Peter obtained his pilot's licence in 1968 and has already built two planes including a four seater Robin which he often takes over to France. He is now working on a Luciole, a single seater low wing monoplane designed by Michel Colombe. The major work takes place in his outdoor workshop but the wing building is happening on the dining room table with the added difficulty of translating the plans, which are all in French. A mammoth task indeed but one which will definitely take off.

Sarah Hurcum



Peter working on his wing

Picture taken by Sarah Hurcum

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Crime prevention at Christmas

CHRISTMAS is a busy time of the year for everyone including the criminal. However, a high percentage of crime is opportunist. This Christmas we are seeking your assistance in preventing this type of crime.

Your Car -

Keep presents and other possessions out of sight. If they can be seen they can be stolen. Always close windows, engage steering lock and lock all doors. Never leave keys in the ignition even for a short period of time, especially if defrosting your car in the morning.

Take all bank cards, mobile phones and sat nav systems with you. These items are on a car thieves' shopping list. Park in a well lit area or an attended car park. Look for the Park Mark aware logo for safer parking - check out the website www.safeparking.com.

Your home -

Ensure all doors and windows are locked. Keep presents out of view and never leave car keys and handbags on display.

Dispose of present packaging as this will advertise you have new goods inside. If you go out for the evening make it look as if someone is at home. Use timer switches. If you are going on holiday ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house. Join a Neighbourhood Watch or Countryside Watch scheme.

Your property -

Mark your property using an ultraviolet pen or forensic marking solution. Register your property (anything with a serial number) free on www.immobilise.com. Make sure you are insured for the value of goods in your home.

Do not carry large amounts of cash, be alert and make sure your purse/wallet is secure and hidden from view. Never keep your chequebook and card together. Keep your pin number confidential.

If you are offered a quality product at a bargain price, ensure the source is genuine.

If you see anybody or a vehicle acting suspiciously in your area, please do not hesitate to report it to the police. 101 for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

PCSO Leanne Fisher

From flower to table

The fascinating journey of honey

 STEPHEN Poyser kindly helped the gardening club this month when our original speaker cancelled at short notice. Stephen was a most welcome speaker, having enthralled the club two seasons earlier with his excellent talk on bees. This time he treated us to his follow on talk regarding honey's voyage from the flower's nectar to our honey pot.

Bees collect a staggering 200-300lbs of nectar annually to ensure a colony's survival. Flowers producing nectar with the highest sugar content are the bees' favourite as this reduces the work needed to concentrate the nectar.

Honey must not contain more than 20% water or it will ferment, so the nectar has its water evaporated by the bees

to preserve it as honey.

The hive remains the same temperature at its core all year round to allow the evaporation to happen. The beekeeper removes some of the honey, extracts and filters it to make sure we don't find a lump of wax in our honey jar.

The club next meets on 11th December when, in addition to our normal festivities, we will all try to make some beautiful paper flowers and decorations for Christmas.

The Christmas meeting starts at 7.30pm in the village hall, all are warmly invited to join us. Please remember to bring a glass with you. All donations of mince pies etc. for us to enjoy with the mulled wine will be gratefully received.

Kirsten Newble, 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

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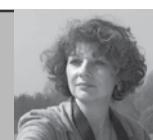
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Linton Country Diary by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams



Nature's lesson: Maintain the balance

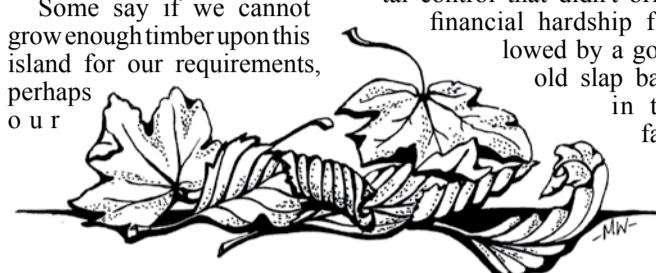
TRUNDLING down Coles Lane, kicking the beautiful fallen leaves, I recalled one day last month when I saw a buzzard, a crow and a magpie merrily dining on the frill of a field, upon what I know not. Each stood neatly forming a strategic triangle bathed in golden sunshine - 'twas a treasured sight to behold, instilling the thought 'All is well in the English countryside'.

But not quite, for here we go again on the brink of devastation by fungal disease which it is said threatens to wipe out millions of ash trees and their dependent wildlife.

Sounds serious but is it? Can we control it or are we humans meddling once again with nature? If we are arrogant enough to believe we are any match, try asking the population of Vargas in Venezuela where in 1999 mud swept 10 per

cent of its people into the ocean, or the people of Pompeii buried beneath volcanic ash.

Some say if we cannot grow enough timber upon this island for our requirements, perhaps our



needs

have outgrown the natural limitations of its support system. We cleared hedgerows to get dust, isolated wildlife by deforestation, leaving species to inbreed within limited gene pools and paved over land to get floods!

Don't be too hasty to slash and burn every ash tree suspected of being infected by *Chalara fraxinea* as my guess is there's more to it than meets the eye.

Furthermore, I can't recall any such successful environmental control that didn't bring financial hardship followed by a good old slap back in the face

from

Mother Nature.

For some, including myself, there is an English dream - little more than owning a small strip of land to grow a few home crops, raise a few chickens and perhaps keep a pony and trap. Oh, and a shed to conduct my secret meddling scientific experiments in the hope of accidentally discovering, by ignorance or typical English eccentricity, something

so amazing that nobody on this earth will ever suffer hunger or cold again. And, while I'm busy toiling, to remember the lessons learned from ancient cultures never to take out more than you put in - plus, caring for the wildlife and readdressing the balance where others show no regard or care.

Rudyard Kipling begins his poem *The Glory of the Garden* by stating

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,

Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues.

I'm certain he knew the pleasure of strolling carefree, kicking up the golden leaves on his way home for tea and scones.

Merry Christmas -- and thanks to all those who tirelessly replenish our village with trees.

Singers under new management

THE winds of change are blowing around Balsham and we are proud to announce that we have a new musical director, John Clenaghan.



The Balsham singers with their new director, John Clenaghan, in front

Picture taken by Valerie Hefford

be the Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams.

He has chosen music that he felt would be both pleasing to the choir and enjoyable for the audience: "There's so much great music around for Christmas specifically, it was hard to leave things out," he said.

"I was keen not to overdo the seasonal, but have just enough for people to feel we are celebrating it in our own way."

Tickets are available for £7 in advance from Balsham Post Office, or on the night for £8. Concessions £7 and family ticket £20

Valerie Hefford

the UK, performing works by Mozart, Britten, Handel and Rutter.

He has also accompanied nationwide and has experience in the musical theatre. Having spent 20 years teaching music in prep schools, including four years as director of music at St Faith's in Cambridge, John is now a freelance accompanist, pianist, and teacher of piano, singing and theory.

He is currently music director at St James church, Cambridge, and conducts other Cambridge choirs.

Our first concert with John is at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th December in Balsham church. The centrepiece will

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POT POURRI 93

How much water?

AN irregular-shaped pond in both area and depth is required to have its volume determined. Ten mC of a radioactive isotope of sodium in the form of sodium chloride was introduced into the unknown volume of water. Sixty hours later, a 100-litre sample of water was taken and found to have a strength of 0.01uC. Assuming mixing is complete and the isotope has a half life of 15 hours, how much water was in the pond? NB: Radioactivity is measured in Curies. 1 mC = one thousandth of a Curie and 1uC = one millionth of a Curie.

Solution to 92 - What is the dog's path length?
The dog's path is a curve and it travels a distance of 225m. Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stand up to cancer

90% of us will be linked to cancer in some way – so we can all help to combat it.

Thank you – to all those who generously donated and undertook a Health MOT.

To find out how you can get involved contact Pamela Phipps MSc, RGN, OHA, 897858
Director of: www.community-health.co.uk

Recycle ... and win £100

SIX lucky residents will win £100 each in a paper recycling competition run by South Cambs district council this winter. Sponsored by Amey Cespa, it aims to reward residents who regularly recycle paper in their blue bin paper caddy. Look out for the winter South Cambs magazine, hitting doormats from 26th November and turn to the waste and recycling pages to find the competition entry form and details on how to take part. For more information, call 03450 450 063 or visit www.scamps.gov.uk/papercompetition

Want to stop smoking?

CAMQUIT can help you stop smoking for good. We will arrange Nicotine Replacement Therapies at prescription only cost, and if you don't pay for prescriptions these are free. Free clinics are available at Comberton Surgery, Linton Health Centre and Brookfields in Mill Road Cambridge.

Call 0800 018 4304 or visit our website www.camquit.nhs.uk

You can stop smoking.

Test your wits with a quiz

A CHRISTMAS quiz comprising 100 questions on general knowledge, composers and church people is now available from Monica Clarkson. It costs £2 and there is a prize of £10: call 892988 for a copy. All proceeds to the Friends of St Mary's. The winner will be announced and answers available from 11am -12.30pm on Saturday 5th January at a coffee, mince pie and savoury morning in the village hall along with second hand books, raffle and bring-and-buy. Entrance £4 to cover all you can eat.

Margaret Clark, 892093

Christmas at the gallery

THE Christmas exhibition at the Darryl Nantais gallery starts on Saturday 24th November. As well as work from our regular artists, I am delighted to have work from six new artists. We also have a wide range of paintings, prints, photographs, gifts and Christmas decorations.

Karl Backhurst

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The Derbyshire Post



WHO would have known that the under-16 population of our villages spend so much of their leisure time dressed up as cows, tigers, penguins and zebras? Well, in the privacy of their own homes, apparently they do! It seems that a very high proportion of our children own a *onesie* and on our whole school sponsored walk they were not afraid to show it.

If you are not acquainted with a *onesie* it is a soft brushed cotton all-in-one suit which zips up from head to toe rather like a babygro. *Onesies* come in many shapes and sizes but the most popular seem to be the animal versions which have ears on the hood and animal markings on the main body of the garment. Hundreds of our students were dressed in these and other costumes as they set off around the local countryside during the sponsored walk: from a distance it must have looked as if someone had left the cages open at Linton Zoo.

They were walking for a very good cause: to help us to raise money for the restoration of our community school hall which is in a state of disrepair. The walk raised £6K which, when added to the £17K already committed by the school and the Friends, gets us well towards our target amount of £35K.

Following the walk, the students returned to their form groups to plan their enterprise activities for the Christmas Fayre which we hold on the last day of the autumn term. Once more the students themselves will decide which charities they wish the money they raise to go towards. In the past we have supported Great Ormond Street, Macmillan, the Teenage Cancer Trust and our link school in South Africa. It is fantastic that, even in the midst of a recession, we are in a position to help others as well as ourselves.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal



Students in their animal costumes cross the fields near the Roman Road.

Pictures taken by Tony Kelly

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/2094/12/FL Mr Mark Haining, 117 Cambridge Road. Fence and gate.

S/2150/12/LB Mr & Mrs Keith & Hilda Whiting and Palmer, 1 Mill Lane. Alterations – re-roof lean-to extension in slate, re-lead bay window, remove windows at sitting room and block, replace metal windows in bay with timber, works to rooms in loft including replacement window, install shower room, rooflight.

S/2203/12/FL Mr & Mrs Andrews Morris, 28 Lonsdale. Single storey rear extension.

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£925 raised for Accuro Saturday playclub

Following Joanna Harling's exhibition The Life of Things in August, Joanna has asked that we publish the following.

JOANNA'S paintings were enjoyed, and bought by many in Saffron Walden during the summer. Locals loved recognizing local landscapes and carers empathized with the poetry and writings accompanying the paintings.

The money for Accuro (a charity which was created by the amalgamation of three local charities, each of which was established by separate groups of parents of children with a disability who were dissatisfied with the services available to them) was raised by raffling one of Joanna's pictures and selling cards at the packed private view and through the 10% of sales made through the exhibition.

Joanna Harling would like to thank the library staff and everyone who helped to raise this great sum for such a worthwhile cause. The Saturday Playclub in Saffron Walden is a fantastic resource for the town and surrounding villages.

Joanna Harling said: "My son, Sasha, does not go to playclub anymore but still benefits from the confidence he gained there. I wanted to raise money for them to help other children get the benefits that he got from the wonderful club."

Sasha and Joanna presented the cheque to Cath Read, manager of the playclub, on Saturday 29th September at the club in Dame Bradbury's School.

Joanna Harling,
joannaharling@aol.com

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Mandy Norris - Nursery Manager : 01223 897945 e-mail: lh-bartlow@btconnect.com

Little Hands is also at Bourn, Melbourn and Newton, visit the website at www.littlehands.co.uk

The Way We Were by Garth Collard

The history of the co-op site in Linton

BETWEEN 1600 and the 1850s there were four cottages on this site at 104 and 106 High Street. In 1853 the premises were purchased by the Brook family who were bakers and this was the largest Linton bakery.

In 1893 the business of Mrs Ann Brook was sold as a going concern to the Linton branch of the Ancient Order of Shepherds who rented the site to the Sawston Co-op in 1904. By 1910 the Co-op owned the site and the business was a bakery, drapery, grocery and ironmongering shop. It sold goods under the Wheatsheaf brand. Co-ops attracted the poorest section of the population because they sold basic produce without additives designed to increase the weight and all members were shareholders who received an annual dividend.

The shop part was quite small, dwarfed by the large white brick house called Jubilee House built at 104 High Street (on the corner of Green Lane) in 1897 to celebrate Victoria's golden jubilee.



A picture of the Co-op circa 1908

Picture supplied by the Cambridge Collection

The shop prospered under the management of William Dyson from 1908 to 1920. His eldest daughter Gertrude married Edgar Morley, the stationer of 115 High Street. She had been a postmistress and the couple took over the post office licence in 1920. Older readers will remember No 115 as Edgar Morley's post office and telephone exchange. His telephone number was Linton 1.

The Dyson family suffered a double loss in September 1916 when their two sons, William

aged 21 and Arthur aged 26 were killed in the latter stages of the battle of the Somme. A year earlier William, a member of the RAMC had received the Military Medal for his bravery in evacuating the wounded whilst under heavy fire.

In more recent times the Linton Co-op became part of the Manchester nationwide co-operative. The premises have been continuously updated and re-branded since 1997 when it was called Co-op Local.

Garth Collard

Heritage Lottery Fund grant successful for Hildersham's history

THE Linton and District Historical Society talk for December will be a celebration of *Christmases Past* and



LOTTERY FUNDED

will have a wide range of contributions. It will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th December in Linton village hall. We will be having a Christmas raffle and festive refreshments. All are very welcome.

The society is very pleased to announce that its secretary has made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their *All our stories* scheme, which was linked to the BBC's *Great British Story* television series with Michael Wood in the summer. The project that will be undertaken is entitled:

Hildersham - A century of change between 1800 - 1900

A village transformed

Hildersham was the last parish in Cambridgeshire and one of the last in the country to have its fields enclosed in 1896. This

meant that when the way tithes were collected was changed in 1837 under the Tithes Commutation Act, a small doomsday book style survey was carried out of all the land and property in the village, which identified who lived in which houses at this time.

With the help of Hildersham's children we intend to look back at who lived in their homes in the past and for them to help create an archive of then and now.

On behalf of the Linton and District Historical Society we greatly thank the Heritage Lottery Fund and we look forward to working on this project and sharing the results with you all in a wide variety of events.

For more information contact info@hildersham.org.uk

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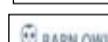
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Parish Council Matters

Planning matters

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

What to do with a garage?

WHAT do you do with your garage? An interesting question. How many of us actually put our cars in the garage? It seems most of us now leave the car on the drive or on the road, and the garage has become a home for the bikes, the tools, the old paint, the BBQ, garden furniture and the stuff we just don't want to throw away or the piles of paper work that we are supposed to keep. Some garages have been turned into habitable extensions to our homes - far cheaper than moving. Some become studios and workshops.

Well, there is an existing block of ten garages owned by South Cambridgeshire district council at Chalklands in Linton and it is proposed that four one-bed council houses will replace the garages after a council survey showed that they were under utilised.

This is all very good news and these Linton plans are the first to be announced under the new initiative to build up to 1000 new council-owned and affordable properties in the district over the next 30 years. Mind you, that's a long time to wait for a council house!

The planning application should be determined shortly and hopefully these proposed houses will meet a high standard of sustainability.

Complex and confusing sustainability codes of practice

It is all rather complex and confusing trying to understand these codes of sustainability. What are they all about? And how will the new council houses fare? Generally speaking council houses are built to a very high standard.

There are six sustainability codes officially launched in 2006 and introduced as a voluntary standard in England in 2007. Note the word voluntary. Level one the lowest and level six 'the business.'

The code for sustainable homes is an environmental assessment method for making and certifying the performance of new homes in England, Wales and N.Ireland. It is a national standard for use in the design and construction of new homes with a view to encouraging continuous improvement in sustainable home building.

Sounds good doesn't it ... that is if you've not switched off by now.

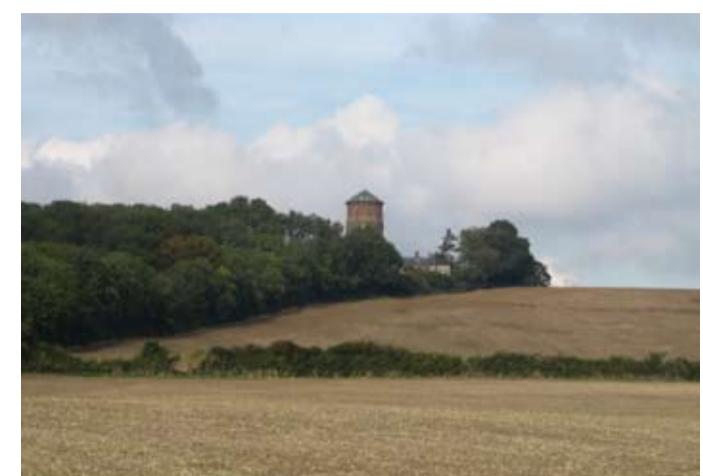
There are simple and inexpensive ways of gaining credits, like specifying compost and recycling bins and costly methods such as installing photovoltaics.

This is actually quite interesting. A visit to the show houses at the new development at Trumpington Meadows in Cambridge gives an insight into how developers are meeting certain code levels. These houses are having solar thermal panels fitted. That is good news. It is great to see that solar panels will be installed in the new Linton council houses too.

Some houses have a water saving bath and restrictor. Sounds good. But really it's no more than a hip bath and only for the skinny person. No lying down and having a good soak then. Luckily they have installed good showers.

A rain water butt, a rotary clothes dryer - or space for one, a composter and somewhere to store the bikes are provided and these all add points.

But for an enhanced sustainable home with photovoltaic (PV) panels and a mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) system you will pay extra. Hopefully one day all this will be included in future home building. Sadly, at the moment, that raises the cost of homes to a price beyond most of our purses.



Linton's landscape

Pictures by Trysha Hunt

Loosen the green belts

The above headline was in a national paper recently. The argument was that by freeing up more land it would bring down the price of housing. Do we agree or are we against?

The green belt originally stemmed from the industrial revolution and the horror that cities were spreading over the countryside. And so green belts were created to keep development within the cities. Village boundaries were also created for similar reasons.

The Cambridge green belt was created in 1954 and reviewed in 2006 with parts taken out to accommodate future development, other boundaries were extended to the south.

A green belt is not a statutory protected area like a nature reserve, national park or site of special scientific interest (SSSI). It is no more than a planning zone designated by the local authority under the enabling 1947 legislation. Village boundaries can also be changed.

The days of regarding the green belt as sacrosanct are over.

Over the past five years or so, a total of 1,181 acres of green belt around Cambridge has been stripped of its protection and handed over to developers.

Cambridge is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, driven by the needs of the high-tec sector.

Around 40,000 people are commuting to Cambridge every day

and they are 'jumping' the green belt from outlying towns and villages, simply because they cannot afford to live in Cambridge, where house prices are 9 or 10 times the average salary.

You may be thinking: 'What has Cambridge's green belt got to do with us?'

You may be thinking: 'We've enough problems with the A1307 and the traffic coming from Haverhill, without thinking about Cambridge's green belt.'

And you are right, the A1307 is a huge factor against major development in Linton.

Currently the only proposed housing, other than the council houses in Chalklands, is a new development to replace the old police houses and a development on the scrappy parcel of land adjacent to the old police houses.

None of this takes away any of our green spaces and farming land. And no doubt we all would like this situation to remain.

Every village, every town, fights against new development in their 'borough.' But what of the future? New towns? New villages? Some fear that the necklace of villages around Cambridge will merge into one big sprawling "Greater Cambridge." Goodbye green belts. The Gog Magog Downs will stand proudly between us.

Cllr Trysha Hunt

Chalara fraxinea - ash tree dieback disease

CHALARA dieback of ash is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called Chalara fraxinea. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and it can lead to tree death.

The infection has travelled across from Europe, seemingly through the nursery trade. However in October 2012 a small number of cases were confirmed in East Anglia in ash trees which do not appear to have any association with recently supplied nursery stock.

Chalara fraxinea is being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures and it is important that suspected cases of the disease are reported. Please report any suspected cases to the Chalara helpline 08459 335577 (open 8am-6pm every day) or online at plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk the website gives a pictorial guide to recognising the main symptoms of infection.

Government scientists have set out the most up-to-date understanding of the disease and concluded that: the spores are unlikely to survive for more than a few days; spore dispersal on

the wind is possible from mainland Europe; trees need a high dose of spores to become infected; the spores are produced from infected dead leaves during the months of June to September; there is a low probability of dispersal on clothing or animals and birds; the disease will attack any species of ash; the disease becomes obvious in trees within months rather than years; wood products would not spread the disease if treated properly; once infected, trees can't be cured; not all trees die of the infection, and some are likely to have genetic resistance.

Government scientists are working with their counterparts in other countries to learn from existing and emerging research and practical experience in combating the disease in countries which have had it for longer than the UK. Government scientific experts are also approaching companies with proposed treatment solutions for Chalara to rapidly evaluate their research to see if they have potential for further testing and development.

Parish council office
Information taken from the Forestry Commission website

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of Linton parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 18th October 2012.

Present: R Hickford (chairman and district councillor), Mrs E Bald (vice chairman), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Mrs S Dew, P Poulter, K Wakley, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). District councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were also in attendance together with five members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cox, Hunt, Manley, Mannass, Penfold, Potter and Walker. County councillor Batchelor.

Public participation: Mr Jeff Smith read out a response from Amanda Mays, road safety manager at the county council, regarding safety issues on the A1307 at the Dean crossroads. It stated that given the worrying trend of two high severity crashes in the past 18 months and the fact that it had been two years since the site had been reviewed, accident investigation engineers would review the junction to see if any feasible measures to reduce risk could be undertaken. It was agreed that the council would write to Ms Mays in support of Mr Smith and welcoming the review. Mr Smith applauded Cllr Cornell on her tireless work to make the A1307 a safer road.

Cllr Hickford reported that he now had the remit from the county council to restart the safety meetings. Cllr Hickford reported that there would be an initial meeting for local parish councils and residents. Recommendations would then be taken to a meeting attended by Cambridgeshire county council, South Cambridgeshire district council, Suffolk county council and St Edmundsbury district council. Sir Jim Paice MP has already stated his intention to attend such a meeting. This second meeting should take place before Christmas.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October: Under the village college noticeboard item the clerk confirmed that a noticeboard had been ordered.

Under the correspondence item the clerk confirmed that, following public consultation, a request for costings for double yellow lines in Meadow Lane had been sent to the county council.

Under the CCTV upgrade item the clerk confirmed that work to update the CCTV system should commence very soon.

Written report from county councillor: Noted.

Written reports from district councillors: Noted.

Linton Action for Youth (LA4Y) draft lease: Cllr Poulter led the discussion in respect of comments and clarification received from the council's solicitors in response to areas of concern raised by LA4Y. Several amendments were made to the draft and it was agreed to forward this to the parish council's solicitors for action as a matter of urgency.

Written report - Neighbourhood policing meeting held on 18th September: A report from Cllr Walker was noted.

Pavilion draft lease update: Cllr Poulter explained that he and Cllr Manley had attended a meeting with Football Association (FA) funding representatives on 11th October. The FA representative confirmed that the FA do normally require a 10 year term when considering funding applications of this scale. However, he was hopeful that as the grant application was being made in the joint names of Linton football club and Linton parish council that this might not be a problem - if supporting evidence was also provided to show the potential extra cost and delay of issuing a 10 year lease. The FA will make a decision, he hoped, on the overall security of tenure offered by the lease and the good faith and longstanding relationship between the parish council and the football club.

Correspondence received for consideration: South Cambridgeshire district council had proposed the permanent closure of the footpath link to Bridleway 20 due to the redevelopment of Chalklands garage site. Cllr Cornell proposed that the following response be given: "Naturally the parish council was disappointed to receive the news of a loss of a footpath however it understood the necessity and was pleased that new council homes were to be built. It was now very important to ensure that the footpath adjacent to number 90 Chalklands was kept accessible and in good condition". The proposal was seconded by Cllr Walkey and resolved by the meeting.

Cambridgeshire county council had written detailing their winter gritting scheme, offering refresher training for last year's volunteers and compulsory training for any new volunteers. It was agreed to advertise for new volunteers.

Consideration of quotations to cut back hedges alongside pathways in Pocket Park: Cllr Wilson proposed that the quotation from Atlas Tree Surgery Ltd for £280+VAT be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Dew and resolved by the meeting.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of Linton parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 1st November 2012.

Present: R Hickford (chairman and district councillor), Mrs E Bald (vice chairman), Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, G Potter, P Poulter, Mrs A Walker and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was also in attendance with five members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Champion, Penfold, Mannass, Wakley and Wilson.

Declarations of interest: Cllr Walker declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest under the allotments item as an employee of Camgrain of which Mr Fairey was a director.

Chairman's Comments: The chair reported that two dog bins had been irrevocably damaged by fireworks being placed inside which had caused them to explode. Both will need to be replaced at a cost to this council.



Remains of dog waste bin: one of the two vandalised

Picture by Sue Parry

The receipt of the grant of £12,100 from AmeyCespa for the new play equipment was acknowledged with grateful thanks.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October: Under the public participation item, Cllr Hickford reported that he had arranged a preliminary meeting with neighbouring parishes and concerned residents to discuss safety on the A1307 for Tuesday 27th November at 7.30pm in the village hall.

A resident, referring to the minutes of 20th September printed in the November edition of the Linton News, asked if they were correct as she had been appalled by county councillor Batchelor's response to the question asking him to relay the parish council's concerns about safety on the A1307 to the dedicated department.

Cllr Batchelor had replied that he would "consider it." Another member of the public who had been present at that meeting confirmed that was what Cllr Batchelor had said.

Mr Smith thanked Cllr Hickford for arranging the meeting.

Financial regulations review: Discussion took place and Cllr Cornell and the clerk were tasked to provide any proposals for changes to procedures, to be submitted for future consideration.

Linton Action for Youth (LA4Y) draft lease update: It was noted that the draft lease was with LA4Y for consideration.

Pavilion update: Cllr Manley reported that the tenders had been returned for analysis. Grant funding was also being sought.

Allotments update: A letter had been received from Mr Fairey in response to the council's statement on allotments. A draft response had been formulated and would now be sent.

Consideration of parking proposals outside the Co-op: The clerk had issued a report and plan of the proposal following her meeting with David Lines from the county council highways department. It was agreed to consult with the Co-op and police initially and also businesses and residents in this section of the High Street. Green Lane residents would also be consulted to ascertain their opinions on the proposal.

A bid to Cambridgeshire county council's jointly funded minor highways improvements scheme for this project would be made.

A resident spoke and reported there were still severe problems relating to illegal parking on double yellow lines, the blocking of driveways and the storage trolleys in Green Lane. Cllr Champion would be asked to speak to the PCSOs requesting action.

A meeting with the Somerfield distribution centre in Huntingdon would be requested to discuss the problems relating to the unloading of deliveries.

LIPCOMS (communications) update: Cllr Poulter reported that he had had meetings with both Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and Talk about Local, to discuss communication strategies with the facility for a website with online consultation and response. It was essential that the parish council had their say in the planning process and spacial strategy. Training would be provided so that it would be maintained by the council. It was agreed that Cllr Poulter would seek formal costings and report back to council.

Correspondence received for consideration: A resident had requested more marked road crossings in the village. This item was forwarded to the vice chairman and clerk for investigation.

A resident had requested safety barriers in Coles Lane car park. Discussion took place and it was agreed that no action would be taken at present but it would form part of a larger review of the car park as a whole.

Matters for future consideration: Cllr Bald reported that the community payback team would shortly be working in the village. Please advise her of any work that was required to be done.

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

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry

Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

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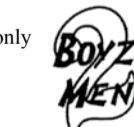
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