

Queen's Birthday  
Stories  
Tuesday 19th April  
2-2.30pm  
in the Library

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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

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## There was a Lion on the loose in Linton!



The lion and children from the Heights dressed as their favourite characters  
Photo by David Donnan



Meeting children at LVC

Photo by Ruth Keys

IN recent weeks there have been several sightings of a lion around the village – but don't worry, he hasn't escaped from the zoo, and people who've met him say he's very friendly.

Meet Brian, Linton Children's Book Festival's new mascot. In March he put in an appearance at St. Mary's Church, where the infants were celebrating World Book Day with a special service. Later that day he was spotted at the Heights Junior School, greeting pupils who were dressed as their favourite book characters.

Brian also made a brief visit to the Village College in February, to meet a fellow literary lion, Joe Craig. Joe came to talk to Year 7 students, and Year 6 children from nearby village primary schools. Author of the *Jimmy Coates* thriller series for kids, Joe aims to write books that keep the reader gripped from the first line to the last page. During his entertaining performance he cracked jokes and invented crazy stories with help from the audience, all the while passing on useful tips about the craft of writing. Joe Craig's visit was sponsored by the Children's Book Festival.

There will be author visits to the other three Linton schools during book festival week, 16th to 22nd May, and Brian the Bookfest Lion will be dropping into the playgroups and library to lend a paw at some special story times. Meanwhile, look out for Brian around Linton, and share in his adventures via [www.lintonbook-fest.org](http://www.lintonbook-fest.org) and the Linton Children's Book Festival Facebook page.

Anna McMahon 892525  
info@lintonbookfest.org



Above: the lion at St Mary's

Photo by Josephine Patterson



Author Jo Craig meeting children at LVC

Photo by Ruth Keys

### Walk this way

PREPARATIONS are well under way for the Bartlow Walk on Sunday 1st May and we promise a great day out for all the family.

With four walk options to choose from, there's something for everyone: the 13, nine and six mile routes have interesting changes from previous years and, as always, the one and a half mile nature trail is a treat for young and old alike.

Food, drink and family entertainment (including regulars, Linton Jazz Orchestra) will this year be based at Hills Farm, Bartlow. For information or to register online, go to [www.bartlow.org.uk](http://www.bartlow.org.uk)

In previous articles we have described our 2016 causes: Addenbrooke's Diabetes Team and their camps for young people with Type 1 Diabetes; and St Mary's Church Bartlow restoration fund. Now, on the eve of the walk, our third cause, the excellent Linton Health Centre, tells us what it will do with the money raised.

Dr Roger Petter, 2016 Walk Doctor, advises that, while not normally available in General Practice, they plan to put the walk money towards a handheld portable bladder scanner. This will be an invaluable tool for Linton's nurses and doctors, helping them to assess bladder problems and make decisions about care. It is safe and non-invasive, using sound waves in the same way as pregnancy scans. The two major groups of patients to benefit are those with incontinence and those needing a catheter. We envisage keeping the scanner at Linton Health Centre where it will be in regular use.

Please join us on 1st May (registration from 9.30am) and enjoy a great day out for three very good causes.

Graham Howat, Walk Coordinator



The 13th Bartlow Walk



### Marmen String Quartet concert

LINTON Music Society welcomes the Marmen String Quartet to Linton Village College at 7.30 pm on Saturday 16th April. Winners of several prestigious awards as regular performers of chamber music in the UK and internationally, they are a young and innovative group of musicians with a strong belief in creative programming. Their concert includes Beethoven string quartet – opus 95, Haydn string quartet, opus 103, Josquin 2 Chansons and Brahms String Quartet opus 51 No 2.

Tickets cost £12 for adults, £10 concessions, £2 students under 18, £25 family (two adults and two children) and are available on the door or from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street, 893480 or from Saffron Walden Tourist Office, 1 Market Street 01799 524002.

Linda Bird



The Marmen Quartet in full flow

Photo supplied by Linda Bird

### More on the farmer's market next month

LINTON has a vibrant farmers' market on the first Saturday of every month where you can get exceptionally fine quality goods not available in the shops.

For example healthy plants at reasonable prices, fish fresh from the coast and sometimes smoked, greek cheeses and olives, pies from an award winning pie maker (you have to get there early or order to get one of these).

Or how about individual chocolates or cards for that special day?

Then again we sometimes have the lady who knits garments - cardigans and sweaters - you can always ask for the size.

There are always people selling breads, cakes, meat and vegetables of a special kind.

The stalls may vary from month to month but there's always something of interest.

So why not come down and find out for yourselves? Next month we will feature individual stalls.

LNT

### Too good for jumble...

PERFECT for the spring growth, this month's offer is for a Qualcast Suffolk Punch petrol lawn mower with a 12 inch cut which is old but well cared for. The child's blue Raleigh Magic Learner/Balance bike is still available as are the Smith's Timeguard 24 hour time switch controller (as new), and a brand new large flat panel wall mount with tilt for plasma and LCD screens size between 37in and 61in.

The black glass TV unit raised £20 for cancer research.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact Kate France on 891602 or email [kfrance@profsoundconsult.com](mailto:kfrance@profsoundconsult.com).

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

# Local artist Linda Richardson finds depth in the ordinary

FROM selling pigs to abattoirs to exhibiting your own artwork – what could be more different? Linda Richardson felt unfulfilled in her job in the animal feed industry which she had had since leaving school, and at 22 left her Yorkshire home for the Cambridge area, designing office interiors for Heffers.

Having married Paul, whom she met at church, they moved to Linton to have more space for their family of three boys, two of whom are twins. As the children grew up she decided, as a mature student, to take a BA Honours degree in Fine Art at the Cambridge School of Art.

This experience made Linda reassess many of her values and, in her own words, opened her mind and let fresh air into her life. Her faith was challenged at a deep level but she says it is now much more real.

Linda now volunteers at the Arthur Rank Hos-

pice working creatively with patients in the Day Therapy Centre and visiting ward patients. She also leads a Linton meditation group as part of the World Community of Christian Meditation.

Regarding her artwork Linda says: "I am interested in making the ordinary world around us look profound. I take inspiration from many sources but I don't need to go much further than the fields and woods near home. I am especially drawn to winter themes when the earth is stripped of its coverings. Snow, frost and mist reflect the light and create dramatic colour and shadow. Light through a window falling on a face, this is the subject of my paintings".

Linda sometimes exhibits at the Darryl Nantais gallery in Linton and in December last year was named Artist of the Month. Look out for her work in the gallery.

Sarah Hurcum



Linda draws inspiration from local countryside

Picture by Sarah Hurcum

## Linton Infants looking forward to new kitchen and play equipment

THE second half of the spring term at Linton Church of England Infant School was unusually short, four weeks and three days in fact, but what a lot of learning we crammed in.

When you receive this issue, the children and staff will be enjoying the Easter break, but even though the children are not in, the school remains a hive of activity as the staff prepare for the summer term and our new theme of *The Ugly Bug Games*.

We are also busy making some major improvements to the school. Our kitchen is

converting to a production kitchen, which will allow us to produce our own meals on site. The existing kitchen is being extended to accommodate all of the equipment needed for this to happen. I am delighted to let you know that, with the support of the PTFA, we have at last raised enough for our new play equipment which will be installed over the Easter break. I'm not sure who is more excited about this, the children, the staff or the PTFA.

Of course, this is the time of year when staff start to think about their future and Miss

Baber is moving on to pastures new. She has successfully applied for a teaching post in the Bahamas and will be leaving us at the end of July.

We are currently collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers so please collect them for us. These vouchers really do make a difference to the equipment we are able to offer to the children.

The children return to school on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, refreshed and ready for the learning adventures the summer term will bring.

Louise Clark, Headteacher

## Calling all readers

*IT'S a Linton Children's Book Festival year – but why should the kids have all the fun? If you are a member of a book group, or just interested in meeting fellow booklovers for some literary chat, please come along to The Crown for an informal get-together on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, from 8pm. It'll be a chance to meet new people and find out about books that have made an impression on Linton readers. Please carry a book with you to show that you are here for this gathering.*

For more details, contact Anna, 892525 or [anna\\_k\\_mcmahon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anna_k_mcmahon@hotmail.co.uk)

## Historical Society talk on seaside resorts

TONY Kirby will speak about the History of English Seaside Resorts at our meeting at 7.30pm on 19<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall.

Our February speaker, Ken Drake, told his love of the capital's history began with a 1930s book of photos showing *Unknown London*. Concentrating on Trafalgar Square, he showed us how the area had developed over the centuries and continues to change.

His encyclopaedic knowledge was constrained by the time available, but we learnt many fascinating facts about the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Charles I's bronze statue, the restrictions on the design of the National Gallery and the precautions preceding the building of Nelson's Column, 35 years after the battle of Trafalgar.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

Pat Faircloth  
893928  
Secretary  
Historical Society

## WATERCOLOUR PAINTING

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## What has the Heights' School Council done so far?

WE are the school council at Linton Heights Junior School. There are eight of us, one from each class. We have been very busy and take an active role in shaping the day to day running of the school.

Firstly, we looked at the curriculum, which is all the different things we learn about in school. We went on to ask our class some questions and gave this information to Mr Puxley and the Senior Leadership Team. From there changes in the topics studied took place. Also in school council we have been asking what children would like to see in our new Design and Technology (DT) area. As a result of pupil views, a new DT cooking area was built. If you are visiting our school, please come in and see it. Another big thing that we all did as a school council was putting all the members of staff into houses. To do this we pulled names out of a hat. We even helped to choose the new house names: Chilford (Red), Granta (Blue), Rivey (Green) and Symonds (Yellow).

However, the most exciting thing that we did as school council was when we had to interview candidates to take on jobs at our school. For this we had to write questions about issues that were important to the school and had to ask the applicants various questions. Then we spoke to Mr Puxley about what we liked and what we disliked about the applicants. We chose the best person for the job. We wish all the best to the new school council members and hope they enjoy the role as much as we have.

2015 -16 School Council members



lintongrantaplaygroup

Pre-school and toddler group  
Linton, Cambridgeshire

IT'S been a busy few weeks for everyone at Granta Playgroup with lots going on. On our first day back after the half-term break we launched our new gardening club and were visited by several members of the Linton Gardening Club and Helena Marsh, Executive Principal at Linton Village College, who had the honour of cutting the ribbon to mark the occasion. With the ongoing support and knowledge we now have from the gardening club, our garden will soon be looking beautiful.

Due to its huge success over the past few years we organised another *Special Persons Afternoon Tea*. The children helped to bake biscuits and cakes which went down a treat with everyone who attended.

We also wrapped up and enjoyed a long walk around the village, stopping to take a look at the snowdrops and daffodils which could be seen popping up everywhere on the journey. The children spent time at the church and were joined inside by a friendly cat, which they all thought was very funny. On the way back we stopped off to feed the ducks who were all very hungry. Thank you to all of the helpers who spent the morning with us which enabled us to go on such a lovely walk.

Karen Thompson, Playgroup Leader

## Queen's birthday stories

THERE will be a special Storytime from 2 – 2.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at Linton Library to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Children can hear stories about queens and princesses and join in some royal handicrafts. All under 5s are welcome with a parent or carer.



Elizabeth Cox, Community Library Assistant

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## Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are 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.

### OUR THANKS



THE Linton Guides' Jumble Sale on 12 March raised £400, making a substantial contribution to funds for the two units to help towards the annual capitation fees. Thank you to everyone who turned out unwanted items and to

all those who supported us on the day.

Leader of 2<sup>nd</sup> Linton Guides, Liz Masters, said: "I certainly have a sense of satisfaction at doing my bit for the unit, as well as giving an opportunity for the community to dispose of unwanted items. It also helps those in the community who rely on the services of Jumble Sales, possibly to make ends meet. I think of this as being a win-win-win activity, funds for the unit plus recycling unwanted items plus fulfilling a need in the community."

Kate France, 891602

### Firefighters say thank you to Linton for clothing donations

LINTON Fire Station has ranked in the top 20 of a charity recycling competition – and we would like to say thank you. The national competition, in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity, saw fire stations from across the country compete to collect clothing and textiles in their yellow charity bin throughout the month of January. Linton raked in 810kg of clothing thanks to the generous donations from the public, which meant the on-call fire station generated £178 for the charity. In total, five Cambridgeshire stations made the top 20 nationally and generated over £1,000 to help support the work it does for fire service staff and their families. Residents in and around Linton are encouraged to donate their unwanted clothing and textiles into the big yellow bin at the fire station throughout the year.

Leanne Ehren, Media and Communication Officer

### Helping Hands

LINTON Helping Hands welcomes new clients and new drivers in the Linton area. If you are in need of assistance getting to the surgery, the hospital, shopping, or any other appointment, and are unable to use the bus, please phone me and we will add you to our list of clients. Leave a message

and I will return your call. You will then be sent the names of three drivers, and it will be up to you to phone one of them and arrange it directly. There is a charge for this service, as follows:

- Within Linton – £3
- Abington – £4.50
- Haverhill Sainsbury's – £7
- Saffron Walden – £8
- Sawston – £8
- Addenbrooks or Shelford – £9
- Cambridge Station – £10
- Brookfields, Brookside or Nuffield – £10
- Chesterton Hospital – £11
- Spire Hospital Impington – £16

If you know of anyone who might need this service but who may not read this paper or see the posters in the village, please phone me and I will contact the person.

Oriel O'Loughlin, 891357 or 07932 405541



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## This policeman's lot – from the Krays to the Crown



PETER Lawrence, our speaker, signed the official secrets act twice, so has only recently been able to talk about his work. The police force has changed radically over the years. At one time police only carried a whistle, a torch, a truncheon and two keys, one to open police boxes and one to open all AA and RAC boxes. Nowadays they are so loaded down with equipment they look like Robocop. Peter showed us police vehicles over the years, including the versatile Noddy Bike (which could even go up and down subway steps).

Peter's school was round the corner from the Krays' school, so he knew them and most of their gang. In the 1970s he joined a whole new department looking after embassies in London, and actually planned the Iranian Embassy siege enabling the SAS to storm the building. He was seconded to royal duties and has been beside the Queen at 13 Trooping the Colour ceremonies. Interestingly, on Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's first visit to Balmoral there were 10 constables and two sergeants and when the Queen had an intruder in her bedroom there were also 10 constables and two sergeants. For the royal weddings hundreds of miles of secret tunnels under London had to be checked.

Peter told a delightful story about watching Doctor Who with his small grandson. When the Tardis police box appeared, Peter said: "Granddad used to write reports in one of those", to which his grandson replied: "were you a time lord then granddad?"

At our next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April the speaker is Steve Lester, the talk entitled *Victoria to George V – in 45 Minutes*. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Sally Probeta, 891021

## The overlooked glories of bark and berries

AUBREY Barker of Hopleys Plants brought a fabulous array of photographs to the gardening club's March meeting. They showed an inspiring collection of trees and shrubs that merited fresh attention for their bark or berries. Classics such as the birch with the stunning white bark grouped to great effect at Anglesey Abbey were present along with various colourful Prunus, Acers and Salix. Aubrey reminded us to plant trees where the sun goes down behind them to make coloured bark shine in all its glory.

However texture too played its part with tales of boys venting their frustrations on lines of giant Sequoia at school rather than on each other, explaining why this tree is known as punch bark. Many other treats included the unreal purple of berries on Callicarpa bodinieri and the strange bladder shaped seed pods of the Golden Rain tree.

Please note that the A4 photography class in this year's annual show depicting architecture should be a black and white borderless photograph.

As spring brings its rush of new life please consider donating any spare plants from your garden to the club's plant sale in



Our speaker Aubrey

Photo by Roger Lapwood

May. Donations are most welcome and enable us to fund the village show each year, whilst finding local homes for your plants to enjoy. Thank you.

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April a different view of your garden is offered by Gwenda Kidd as she presents her fascinating talk, *People and Plants; Molecules, Medicines and Mischief*. We look forward to welcoming both members and visitors at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Kirsten Newble, 892425, lgsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

### Parish Visiting

If you, or anyone known to you, would like to see someone from St Mary's Church, please contact Rev Maggie Guite (890273) or Rev Lesley Gore (891970) and a visit will be arranged.

Lesley Gore

### Is planning a party or club on your 'To Do' List?

Did you know?  
**Linton Heights Junior School** are now hiring out their hall and facilities

If you are planning a party or club then please get in contact with the School Bursar, Rebecca McKenzie; office@lintonheights.cambs.sch.uk where she can offer you a fantastic hourly hire rate.

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**THE LINTON NEWS** Next Publication 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016  
**DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April**  
**NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
**Limited space on waiting list for Linton businesses**  
Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse  
email: adds@linton.info

**ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR**  
**Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office**  
Editor: Fran Armes email: lneditor@linton.info  
phone 891517

**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 email 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 in this edition.

- WEEKLY**  
Seedlings, alternate Mondays 1.15-2.45pm CC  
Netball, Monday evenings, 6.30pm junior, 7.30pm adult LVC  
Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Mondays term time CC  
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays Pavilion  
Men's keep fit, 8-9pm Mondays LVC sports centre  
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)  
WEA, Tuesdays, 10am term-time VH  
Linton Air Cadets Mon and Thurs 7-9.30pm (07717801056) LVC  
Scrabble Club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays CP  
Linton Granta playgrp, 9am-12noon Monday-Friday LVC  
Linton Granta Toddler grp, 9.30-11.30 Tuesdays term time LVC  
Linton Granta playgrp, 12.30-2.30pm Mon-Fri, NOT Tues LVC  
Storytime, 2-2.30pm Tuesdays, term-time Library  
Granta Bridge club, 2pm Tuesdays VH  
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays VH  
IT club-computer help, 7pm Tuesdays CC  
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (893509) CC  
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time only VH  
Jelly Beans playgroup, 9-11.30am Thursdays URC  
New Beginnings (with Baby Sensory), 1.15-2.45pm, Thursdays CC  
Computer buddies, 2-4pm, Thursdays Library  
Dance Fit, 6.45pm, Thursdays from May LVC Dance Studio  
Cricket club, 6-8pm Thursdays RG, LVC  
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH  
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays CP  
Stay and Play, Fridays 10am – 11.30am CC  
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

- APRIL 2016**  
**2 Farmers' Market, 9am** LVC  
**4 Camera Club, 7.15pm** CC  
**5 WI, 7.30pm** VH  
5, 12, 26, Bell Plates, 7.45pm URC Hall  
6 Reading Group, 8pm VH (upstairs)  
7 Linton Lunch Club, 12 for 12.30pm Red Lion, Horseheath  
10 Lighthouse, 10.15am URC  
11 Whist drive, 7.30pm VH  
12 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands  
**12 Readers Meeting, 8pm** The Crown  
**12 Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH  
13 Community navigator 10-12noon HC  
**14 ACE soup and rolls lunch, 12.30pm** Sports Pavilion  
15 Daylight readers, 10.30am Library  
**16 Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm** LVC  
17 Walking group, 11am Church Lane  
17 Messy Church, 2.30pm St Mary's  
**19 Storytime special, 2 – 2.30pm** Linton Library  
**19 Historical Society, 7.30pm** VH  
20 Cambridge hearing help, 9.30am – 12noon HC  
20 Coffee morning for Queen's birthday, 10.30am URC  
21 Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm CC  
**26 Open Day, 10.30am – 2.30pm** Symonds House  
**26 Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm** VH

- MAY 2016**  
**1 13<sup>th</sup> Bartlow Walk, 9.30am** Hills Farm, Bartlow  
**1 May Day cricket and music from 1pm** Sports Pavilion  
**2 Camera Club, 7.15pm** CC  
**3 WI, 7.30pm** VH  
**KEY:** CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LIS Linton Infant school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reform church, VH village hall.  
**Library times:** Mon closed; Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.  
**Linton refuse collection: 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Linton blue and green bin collection: 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April**

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## An afternoon of opera favourites

IN memory of Mike Kennedy 1974–2014, who was supported by the Arthur Rank charity, sopranos Lisa Kennedy and Rachel Godsill, accompanied by pianist Anne Bradley, will be performing popular arias and duets by Mozart, Puccini and Verdi. All proceeds will go to the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, Hospice at Home.

The concert will take place at 3pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May at St. Mary's Church, Linton and will be followed by a fundraising afternoon tea. Entrance is £7 for adults - pay on arrival, children are free. All are welcome to support this fantastic cause! Donations can also be made via [www.justgiving.com/Lisa-Kennedy7](http://www.justgiving.com/Lisa-Kennedy7). Go to [www.arhc.org.uk](http://www.arhc.org.uk) to find out more about the event, Mike's story and about the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

Contact me at [lisajayne.kennedy@googlemail.com](mailto:lisajayne.kennedy@googlemail.com) for more information.

Lisa Kennedy



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

## PLODDING ALONG An update on police matters

AT the beginning of March there were thefts from shed/garages in the High Street, Hildersham. Sports equipment/fishing gear/power tools were taken from one address. Nothing was taken from the second address but damage was done to padlock and hasp.

Also at the beginning of March there was an attempted burglary in Hollybush Way. Two males wearing dark clothing attempted to gain entry to a property during the early hours but were disturbed by the occupants of the property.

If you have any information regarding the above crimes please contact us.

There is a too common practice hitting our roads. Drivers are being flagged down by (almost always) a male who is claiming to have broken down or run out of petrol. They will put on an act worthy of an Oscar pleading desperately for money for petrol because they need to get somewhere for some sort of emergency. They will probably offer something in return for the money such as jewellery. This will be worth *diddly squat*. When we catch up with these guys it is very difficult for us to prove any wrong doing. If you have given them money in return for something there may not be an offence. So, with that in mind, we are urging you not to stop in the first place. If, however, you do and you recognise the banter I have described DO NOT part with any money. You will not get anything in return and you will never see this person or your money again.

PCSOs Julie Hajredini and Chris Wiseman, Sawston police

## Hannah is running London marathon for spinal research

ANYONE who knows me will know that I am not really a long distance runner. However, on April 24<sup>th</sup> I will be dragging myself the 26.2 (eek!) miles in aid of spinal research.

My Uncle Tiny broke his neck playing rugby in 1983 and was left unable to walk, so spinal research has always been a cause very close to me and my family. Big strides are being made towards spinal cord repair and in our life-time people with severe trauma and injury will have their lives dramatically improved and their future prognosis will be immeasurably better than today.

If you would like to sponsor me, you can do so via my just giving page, [www.justgiving.com/hannahthe spannerward](http://www.justgiving.com/hannahthe spannerward).

Thank you – every penny helps.

Hannah Ward



Hannah and her very special uncle

Picture supplied by Hannah Ward

## May Day music, merriment and cricket

THERE'S fun for all the village on the May 1<sup>st</sup> bank holiday weekend. Linton Village Cricket Club will be playing a 30 over charity match from 1pm that afternoon, followed by a concert at the Pavilion with local music legends *The Accelerants*.

The aim of events on May 1<sup>st</sup> is to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and to support local kids' cricket. There will be something for everyone in the village during the afternoon, including: traditional high teas, gourmet burgers by *Steak & Honour*, drinks from the Pavilion or a special *Pimms and Prosecco* zone and top quality prizes to be won in a raffle drawn on the day.

The whole village is invited to pop down during the afternoon to join in the fun. Tickets for the concert that evening will be available from outlets around the village. They are likely to sell fast - so buy them early to avoid disappointment.

Darren Leech, [Linton.village.cc@gmail.com](mailto:Linton.village.cc@gmail.com)

## Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care

WHEN someone you love dies, it can feel as though a piece of you has died too. But you don't have to go through it alone. Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care is your local branch of the voluntary national bereavement care organisation. Established in 1965, CCBC now has over a hundred specially trained volunteers working in Cambridge, Fenland, South Cambs, East Cambs, Uttlesford, Ely, Newmarket, Saffron Walden and Haverhill. CCBC operates in your parish

Cruse provides well trained, understanding bereavement support volunteers to whom you can talk in complete confidence. Our volunteers are able to give support over a period of time appropriate to individual needs. There is no charge.

Donations towards the £70,000 cost of running Cruse services in 2016 are very welcome. We depend on local support almost entirely.

Get in touch: Cambridge Cruse Helpline 633536 Cambridge Cruse Office (admin only) 302662.

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## Bags of help for Cambs community projects

DO you know of a local community green space project that would benefit from up to £12,000? If so, there is Bags of Help at hand. The money raised from the 5p bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities across the UK. Grants of £8,000, £10,000 and £12,000 are on offer through the scheme.

Community charity Groundwork is administering the funding and you can find all the details on our dedicated website: [www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco)

In total the Bags of Help programme will support around 2,500 projects each year across the UK – about 40 of those are in Cambridgeshire. There will be two funding rounds per year over the next three years, meaning that around £700,000 will be given out in grants.

The next round of applications opens online on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss your chance to benefit. All information about the scheme is on the website but you can also contact your local Bags of Help Enabler for further information about applying:

[katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk) or 07736 132870.

Maddie Kershaw

## Fire service champions needed

WOULD you like to help your community stay safe and learn more about safety? Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for volunteers in your area to join their successful community champion scheme. Community champions encourage local residents to carry out fire safety checks in their homes, visit community groups and educate about fire safety and escape plans.

We will train you, give you a uniform and provide you with a wide range of activities to choose from, all of which will help to keep our communities safe from the risk of fire. Local charity Groundwork coordinates this scheme on behalf of CFRS.

Anyone interested in becoming a community champion should call Kate Dean on 01480 587140 or 07736 132870. You can also email at [katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk)

Don't forget to test your smoke alarm, and that of elderly relatives, by pressing the test button on the device.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, please call 0800 9179994. You can also log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk) or find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

CFRS

## Local police panel report

The aims of the police panel area meetings are:

1. For the police to highlight trends in crime and anti-social behaviour and to discuss these in a public forum

2. To listen and take note of concerns by individuals, parish councils, volunteer organisations, elected members, residents and local groups

3. To identify areas of concern for the community and the police to consider prioritising as part of local planning

4. To provide an update on the actions taken

At the last panel meeting concern was raised over the crossroads on the A1307 by the Gog Magog farm shop. A site risk test was carried out and it was decided that there would be no change to the layout.

Another issue raised was that of cyclists riding in large groups on country roads. Cycling clubs were contacted and asked to remind their members to cycle in single file.

Since the beginning of the year PCSOs have been working overtime conducting patrols in the village on problematic parking issues.

The next panel meeting is to be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at Sawston Village College.

LNT précised the February Sawston Police Panel Report

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## LINTON COUNTRY MATTERS

Illustrated by Maureen Williams



### Strange noises in the night

HAVE you heard an intermittent barking sound at night? Was it a fox, or an unusual dog? It was probably a muntjac, more specifically a Reeves muntjac, *Muntiacus Reevesi*. It takes its name from John Reeves, an assistant inspector for tea for the East India Company. Muntjacs originated in SE China and Taiwan and were introduced to Woburn by the Duke of Bedford in around 1810. They are now widespread and have almost reached the Scottish border.

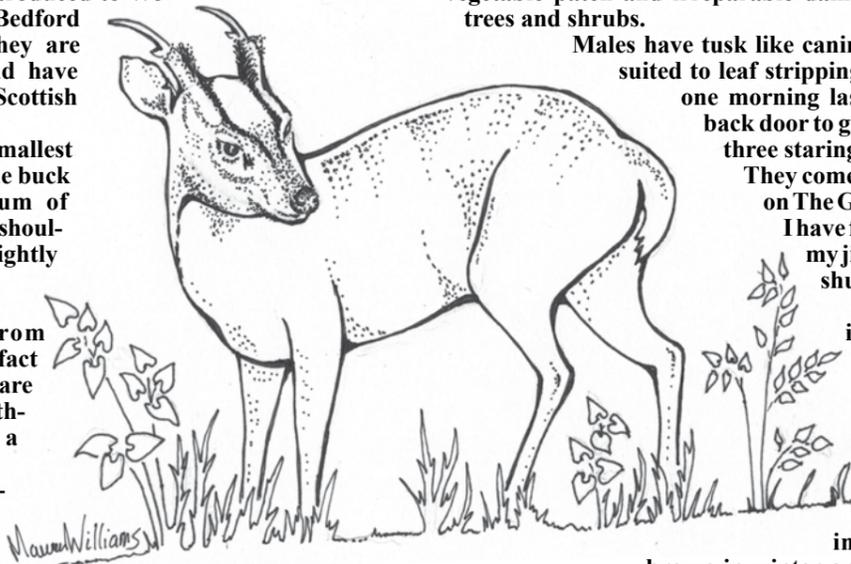
Muntjac are the smallest of the deer family, the buck reaching a maximum of 18kg and 52cm at the shoulder and the doe slightly smaller.

They are easily distinguishable from other deer by the fact that their haunches are higher than their withers and they have a longer nose.

They have unbranched small antlers, a white chin and throat and a black stripe along the nape of the neck. They live for around 17 years. Their white tails lift when disturbed.

They are most active at dawn and dusk and appear to be able to get into any garden, fenced or unfenced.

They are not protected – far from it. Apparently they are



actually last on a United Nations list of endangered species.

They eat deciduous and coniferous trees, all manner of undergrowth and thrive in overgrown urban gardens. They cause little harm to agriculture or timber but anyone who has seen them in their garden can testify to carnage in the vegetable patch and irreparable damage to young plants, trees and shrubs.

Males have tusk like canines and long tongues suited to leaf stripping. They are brazen – one morning last year I opened the back door to get the milk and found three staring unconcerned at me.

They come off the railway bank on The Grip where we live and I have frequently gone out in my jim-jams to get them to shut up in the night.

They have no breeding season and a doe can conceive within days of giving birth. Gestation is seven months and does can breed at seven months old.

They are brown in summer but grey brown in winter and usually solitary or in pairs. A tiny fawn left, as is customary while the parents feed, curled up in a sheltered spot in our garden, with white spots on its back, might soften one's views. Not my husband's though.

Oriel Laws

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### Hildersham news

#### It's teatime

COME and join us for tea from 3pm to 4.30pm on April 7<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall to celebrate longer days with the clocks springing forward on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone is welcome. Tea and cake costs £1.

#### Hildersham lecture

THE next lecture will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> April when Martin Beazor, specialist in antique furniture, will give a talk on the *History of the Chair*. If you have a chair that may have an interesting history do bring it along.

Doors open at 7.15 pm for light refreshments before the lecture at 7.30pm. Entry £5, U18s free

#### Hildersham heritage day

SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May at Hildersham Church: celebrate the heritage of the village and the completion of the building project. There will be a programme of events throughout the afternoon:

- Brass-rubbing and creative activities from 2pm
- Guided tour of the wall paintings at 3pm
- Teas, archaeological display, penny pathway
- Organ recital at 5.15pm

Evensong with the Dean of Ely Cathedral, the Reverend Canon Mark Bonney, at 6.00pm.

For further information please contact me on 892848 or catherinemyer43@btinternet.com

Cathy Myer

Nina, Carl, Nicola, Helen and Sophie welcome you to

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## POT POURRI 133

### How many days until I gave up?

FROM the odometer on the bicycle, I always cycled 40 km/day. Getting older, I decided to reduce the distance by 1km/day until I gave up completely.

After some days I did not cut down any further. So I carried on cycling at the distance I had cut down to for as many days as I had been reducing. Then came the day when I had achieved my quota having completed a reduction of 20km/day and decided to give up altogether with 20km left.

If the last day of reducing was the same as continuing at 1km/day, how long did it take for me to give up?

### Solution to 132 – Area of Wildlife

The area left for wildlife in the field was 1194 square metres.

Urania

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fun and games at our centre

SYMONDS House is having a day centre open day from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

This event is to inform the local over 65's of an opportunity for company, games and other activities in addition to a three course home cooked meal which is available on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Symonds House.

Julie Cleland, Manager, 891237

### April events at Wandlebury

FOR most of the events below children must remain accompanied throughout and booking is essential. Bring a drink and a snack and dress for being outside. Meet at the Wandlebury Stable Rooms. For more information and costs email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on

**Iron Age Wandlebury.** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 11am to 1pm for children over 6. Tour of evidence of the Iron Age hill fort and build and decorate your own model roundhouse.

**Fairy Fun.** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 11am to 1pm for ages 3-6years. Hunt for the fairies in the new den building area and make stick fairies, construct their homes and then toast marshmallows over a fire.

**Survival Wednesday.** 6<sup>th</sup> April from 2 to 4pm for ages 6-8 years. Children guided through the basics of building a shelter, collecting water, tracking, making fire and cooking.

**Unaccompanied Fun.** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 4pm for unaccompanied children aged 8-12 years. Build shelters, collect water, make fires and cook. Also learn how to set and follow trails and make pea-shooters or whistles. Bring a packed lunch to eat around a campfire.

**Bat Appreciation Evening.** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm to 9pm adults only. Join a bat expert to learn about and detect our local bats.

**Climate Change and Chalk Landscape Talk.** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Brian Eversham, Chief Executive of local BCN Wildlife Trust will give a talk followed by questions and light refreshments. Free event but places are limited so booking by 14<sup>th</sup> April at latest advised.

**May Day Morris Dancing.** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May from 5.30am to 6.30am. Meet on the picnic field to greet the summer sun as it rises over the Wandlebury woodlands, accompanied by a bacon roll and hot drink whilst the Devil's Dyke Morris Men perform traditional English folk dances. Note this is a free event, but bookings must be made in advance for refreshments, available for £2.50. Donations greatly appreciated.

Lorna Gough



# The Marsh mail



THE relative status of subjects taught in schools has become an increasingly politicised issue, not least because of recent government changes to accountability measures that inherently place different levels of importance on them.

The new Progress 8 measure gives a double weighting to maths and English and expects students to take four EBacc subjects (including languages, sciences, geography and history). The emphasis on this kind of traditional curriculum has led to rhetoric about the sidelining of the arts in schools. Some institutions are making significant changes to timetabling and option choices to reflect this new emphasis.

While I welcome a commitment to an inclusive and challenging curriculum and the focus on science and technology, this should not be at the expense of a broad and balanced education. Neither should there be an assumption that it is only STEM education (science, technology, engineering and maths) that will open doors for future employment opportunities, or that the arts provide a softer, less rigorous option or a light relief or distraction from academic achievement.

At Linton we strive for all students to have access to a holistic education that enables them to be innovative, creative and passionate across disciplines. An enriching and varied education should complement the three Rs, not undermine them.

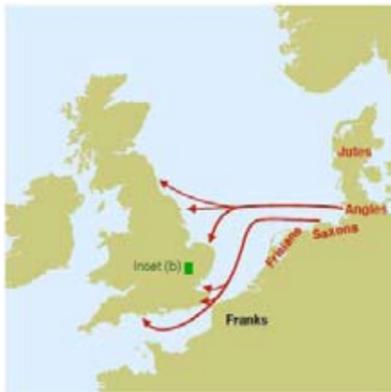
I am saddened when I hear of schools that have removed arts experiences from their curriculum or sidelined enrichment to focus on their core subjects. Anyone who visited our school show last month will have appreciated the sheer talent and culmination of skill that makes the involvement in such a performance an incredible achievement. Many will also appreciate how the determination, grit, resilience and relationships developed through this kind of experience will complement and support other studies.

We need to celebrate and protect the importance that sport and the arts have in comprehensive education and recognise how such subjects enable and enrich students' personal development and success, regardless of the current political agenda.

Helena Marsh, Principal

## 2000 year old woman rewrites history

GENETICISTS from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute at Hinxton and their collaborators from all over the world, have analysed ancient DNA from an Iron Age Linton woman's skeleton, along with other ancient samples from Hinxton and Oakington.



Map of mass migration

Map supplied by Chris

DNA sequences, we were able to answer a long standing question in British history: was there a mass migration and population replacement by the Anglo-Saxons after the Romans left 1600 years ago?

From 2004 to 2010, archaeologists had excavated at Linton Village College before new buildings were constructed. They discovered Neolithic pits, a Bronze Age enclosure and an Iron Age settlement associated with a burial and metalworking. There was a Roman field system and a possible animal powered mill, and a number of neonatal burials. Later remains included five Saxon burials (a possible execution cemetery) and 17th century items perhaps related to a Civil War skirmish.

The bones remained in storage for years until new genetic analysis methods were developed to analyse the tiny traces of damaged DNA they still contain. Even so, only one of the Linton skeletons yielded data: an Iron Age woman 1.58m tall, aged over 50 when she died sometime between 360 and 50 BC.

All of the ancient and present day genome sequences were very similar, but using a new method developed for this work, we were able to detect subtle changes over time. "Comparing these ancient genomes with sequences of hundreds of modern European genomes, we estimate that 38% of the ancestors of the English were Anglo-Saxons," said geneticist Stephan Schiffels. So the Anglo-Saxon migrations left a lasting genetic legacy, discovered with the help of Linton woman.

Chris Tyler-Smith, Sanger Institute, Hinxton, cts@sanger.ac.uk

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

THIS year's show from Linton Village College was the famous comedy by Shakespeare. There are several intertwining or colliding stories; the marriage of the duke of Athens, Theseus, to Hippolyta; the putting on of a play for this by the fumbling artisan workers led by the arrogant Bottom; the four young lovers in a love quadrangle with the parents' of one trying to force an unpopular marriage and the quarrel of the fairy leaders Oberon and Titania.

Three of these groups collide in the wood when the lovers run away, Oberon puts a spell on Bottom giving him an ass's head and gets his servant, Puck, to get a magic juice to put on Titania's eyes to make her love the first thing she sees on awakening - which is the ass's head. The juice also gets put on one or two of the young lovers eyes in a typical mix-up.

However this version was given a modern twist. The fairies, instead of having pretty flowing robes, were dressed in black tunics and tights but had luminous paint on their faces and arms - in blue and green and orange. This together with an abstract forest in front of a harvest moon gave a ghostly atmosphere to the night scenes. The other cast were in everyday clothes.

As the play was performed in the round we, the audience, felt very close to the emotions played out as the two pairs of lovers suffered first under their parents' wishes, crossed love and lastly



The fairies with their ghostly glitter

All pictures by Tony Kelly of LVC the cruel tricks of Puck and Oberon. In addition poor Titania was fooled into making love to an ass. As in all good fairy tales (apart from Grimm's) it had a happy ending and we had a double wedding.



The wall with moon and forest



Titania in love with Bottom

It is always pleasing that LVC young actors and dancers give such polished performances with exceptional ones given this time by the main leads and the actress playing Puck. The abstract scenery gave the finishing touch.

LNT

## The Anderson Trust

THE Anderson Trust was established in 1998 as a result of the sale of Church Cottage in Linton, the former home of Professor Charles and Mrs Mary Anderson. According to the terms of the Trust Deed the purpose of the Trust is to promote the Christian religion in and from the Parish of St Mary's, Linton; to sustain the church of St Mary's and worship therein; to promote education for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton, particularly for the benefit of the Church School and of religious teaching in Linton and for any other charitable purpose for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton.

At their meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Trustees approved the 2016 distribution of £12,446 interest, received from investments, to the following applicants:

£5,000 to the Beacon Youth Trust towards the salary and on-costs of a Youth Worker; £1260 to St Mary's Church towards Children's ministry, wedding and funeral ministries and music diversity; £3956 to Linton Infant School for an outdoor playboat; £1000 to Linton Heights Junior School towards the development of a woodland wildlife zone and classroom headphones; £330 to Chestnut Playgroup for role play equipment; £400 to Granta Playgroup for gardening equipment and £500 for Linton Children's Book Festival to fund authors for school visits.

Gillian Powell, Chair of Trustees, 893664



### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/0072/16/FL, Mr Burgess, **Factory adjacent to 29 Cambridge Road.** To demolish the existing commercial building and replace with 2 new dwellings.

S/0431/16/FL, Rayment, **52 Balsham Road.** Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extension to house.

S/0433/16/DC, Clock House Dentistry, **2 High Street.** Discharge of Condition 4 (cycle storage) of permission S/0226/14/FL.

S/0434/16/FL, Clock House Dentistry, **2 High Street.** Proposed variation of Condition 3 of S/0226/14/F to allow improvements to disabled parking and access.

S/0495/16/VC, Chilford Hundred Limited, **Chilford Hall, Balsham Road.** Variation to Condition 3 of application S/0448/13/FL.

S/0506/16/FL, Mrs Sarah Coles, **16 Bawtree Crescent.** Conversion of and extension to rear of existing garage to form further ground floor accommodation.

S/0551/16/FL, Ms Michelle Rhodes, **4 Market Lane.** Retain existing door to front elevation and widen proposed/approved side extension.

S/0575/16/PO, Mr Impey, **142 High Street.** Discharge of planning obligation under planning permission S/2694/14/FL.

S/0623/16/OL, Mr John Loveday, **1 Horseheath Road.** Outline planning permission for demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of 9 dwellings all matters reserved except access.

S/0651/16/VC, Clock House Dentistry, **2 High Street.** Variation of Condition 3 of planning consent of S/0226/14/F (change of use from a dwelling to a dental practice) to allow improvements to disabled parking and access.

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# Parish Council Matters

## City Deal, A1307 villages - and devolution?

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

At recent meetings of the A1307 Villages Forum and on the City Deal, attended by representatives of Linton parish council, the A1307 was the main topic for discussion. Reports on both meetings are available.

A briefing meeting of City Deal Stakeholders, arranged by Lucy Frazer MP, presented *The A1307 Haverhill to Cambridge Transport Study*. This seeks to prioritise strategies to deal with growth and development in our area, which is mainly around the edge of Cambridge, then to the northwest.

The review looked to evaluate ways to improve reliability, safety and speed of movement along the A1307 corridor, focusing on public transport. Here is a brief summary of the presentations and comments:

Reopening the railway between Haverhill and Cambridge was considered too expensive, although the costing might well be questioned as most of the route remains intact. A petition to reopen the route was supported by 3,500 people. The route from Shelford to Haverhill could perhaps be considered?

Separated or priority bus lanes, for rapid transit to Cambridge, were a possibility, with some road width changes and new bus lanes near Linton. More cycle and walking routes were to be promoted.

A park & ride site is proposed near Fourwentways, although at both meetings a park & ride nearer Haverhill was considered more viable and helpful to our villages. It must be made attractive to get out of the car and onto public transport; it was suggested that an efficient bus service might reduce the need for other initiatives.

A new road or a bypass to the south of Linton were also considered poor value for money. A southerly bypass to Haverhill with links to the M11 (especially for HGV traffic to Harwich and Felixstowe) was reiterated at both meetings. South Cambridgeshire

district council (SCDC) is promoting Northstowe and Cambourne as their preferred housing settlements so the A14, A428, A505 and other roads have higher priority than the A1307, although the A1307 is significant to Haverhill for its development.

The proposed devolution of this region might give a different view on the traffic situation, looking at it as a more regional problem for both Suffolk and Essex rather than an issue to be dealt with by South Cambs. Developer s106 contributions are meant to be used to mitigate the ill effects of development. The money from Haverhill developments goes to help Suffolk, not to the area suffering from its unsustainable growth - South Cambs and the A1307 corridor.

The comments at both meetings were rather similar; it was interesting to find that representatives of Haverhill were also opposed to the unsustainable development of Haverhill, and all were concerned by the expansion of Saffron Walden, without suitable infrastructure. Both towns plan to send their traffic onto the A1307, with consequences for our villages along the route.

City Deal funding of £500m will be released in tranches with £39m budgeted for the A1307 corridor. As some traffic data is considered to be limited and flawed (some villages have also carried out their own surveys), Suffolk are to carry out a full traffic survey. A review will go to public consultation in June.

Meanwhile, the A1307 Villages Forum will try to alert each other to significant planning applications, including those at Haverhill and Saffron Walden, having an impact on A1307 traffic, will continue to oppose the unsustainable development and promote a practical road scheme that is the product of a strategic regional view of traffic management, rather than of a narrow county-based view.

Cllr Enid Bald

## Annual meeting of the parish

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016

THE annual meeting of the parish is to take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the village hall. The annual meeting of the parish is not a council meeting, it is a meeting of the parish electorate.

The purpose of this meeting is for the parish council to communicate and explain its various involvements over the last year. It also enables the electors to have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of Linton. The council will review its activities from the previous

12 months, and will also present its audited and unaudited accounts for the year.

Local groups who received a charitable grant from the parish council in 2015 will be invited, so that they can report on what they used the money for. Also invited will be the successful applicants who have been awarded grants in 2016, and their cheques will be presented at the meeting.

All are welcome, please come along - your attendance would be appreciated.

Parish council

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**Clerk to the council** – Mrs Marilyn Strand  
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*Or by appointment*  
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 21<sup>st</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
 All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre commencing at 7.30pm

## Decision time - Horseheath Road

FINALLY we have a date for the South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) planning committee to decide on one of Linton's two large planning applications. The application, by the Diocese of Ely for up to 50 houses and 30 allotments off Horseheath Road S/1969/15/OL, will be heard on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, at SCDC offices, Cambourne, starting at 10am.

The application was assessed in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment review and rejected as having no development potential. The plans include the legally required affordable housing, 10 'intermediate' housing units, with the remaining 30 units being larger houses - as expected from a developer, not those hoped for to meet village

needs. Allotments would not be owned by the village, so are again likely to be lost to the village. The revised outline design is now more dense and the internal road encourages expansion of housing into the allotments area.

As previously reported, and as detailed in our planning comments, the scheme appears to be not deliverable, and remains not sustainable.

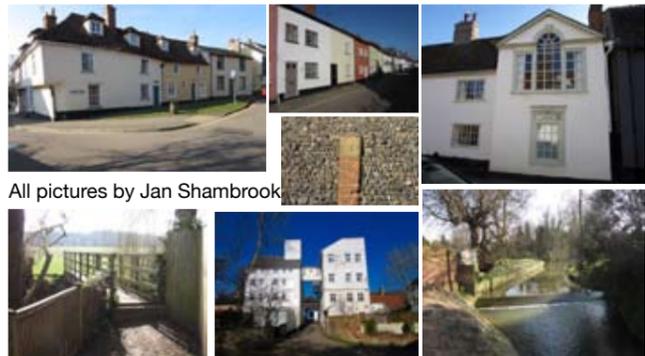
Linton parish council will oppose the application, and there is also a place for a resident to present. If you would like to speak, please contact Ian Senior on: Ian.Senior@scams.gov.uk copying in the parish clerk.

However, even if you are not called to speak, your support would be most welcome.

Cllr Enid Bald

## Neighbourhood Plan update

COMMENTS on the Linton and Hildersham Neighbourhood Plan (NP) draft policies were received at a South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) meeting held in Cambourne on the 8<sup>th</sup> March with SCDC planners Alison Talkington (NP co-coordinator) and David Roberts (principal policy officer). The meeting had taken longer than originally hoped due to the extremely high workload being experienced by the SCDC planning department at the moment. However, the meeting was very positive and SCDC were full of admiration for what the combined Linton and Hildersham NP working groups had achieved.



All pictures by Jan Shambrook

Heritage views around the village

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# Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton parish council (LPC/PC) meeting held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Enid Bald (chairman); Cllr Paul Poulter (vice-chair); Cllr David Champion; Cllr Brian Cox (Dr); Cllr Simon Hill; Cllr Brian Manley; Cllr Graham Potter; Cllr Amy Smith; Cllr Beatrice Ward (Dr). Clerk: Marilyn Strand. District & county Cllr Roger Hickford. Members of the public: two.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Merrie Mannassi and Alison Walker. District Cllr Henry Batchelor.

**Councillor vacancies:** LPC has four councillor vacancies.

**Councillors' declarations of interest:** Cllr Hill declared a personal interest in the allotments item.

**Chairman's comment:** The PC has recently been made aware of a threat to the bus service in the High Street due to considerable damage being done to bus tyres as drivers try to negotiate their way around badly or illegally parked vehicles. The PC is working with Cambridgeshire county council (CCC) and Stagecoach to mitigate damage to the buses but we call on all residents to please park considerately.

**Open forum for public participation:** Cllr Hickford responded to Cllr Bald's comment at the last meeting regarding the PC's mandate to oppose the dualling of the A1307 between Haverhill and Horseheath, and asked for clarity on the practical alternative put forward by the PC. A frank exchange took place in which Cllr Hickford stated that he did not believe the PC's mandate to oppose the scheme had the backing of residents, since no public consultation had been carried out by the PC on such a large issue. Cllr Poulter responded by saying that it was not possible to hold a referendum on every issue within the village, and that the PC had to act in what it believes is in the best interests of its residents. Cllr Bald confirmed this and said that as this would affect Linton's portion of the A1307, the PC had the right to comment, object and offer an alternative. The PC's proposed alternative to the dualling is a road from Haverhill direct to the M11.

Cllr Ward joined the meeting at 7:48pm.

**Planning matters:** Update on planning applications for developments at Horseheath and Bartlow Roads: PC comments submitted as objections and holding objections are now confirmed to be full objections to these planning applications.

To consider payment of consultancy fees for responses to planning applications: The clerk updated councillors that consultancy fees for planning applications paid to date were £1,600. It was proposed by Cllr Champion that a further £800 be paid for the consultant to help finalise the PC's response to the recent amendment to the application on Horseheath Road, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith. Councillors voted six in favour, one against, one abstention and the proposal was carried.

Updates on A1307 and City Deal: A transport study and concepts report have been received and circulated; see County Cllr Hickford's report, below. The PC has been asked to add its name to letters drafted by local action groups opposing the dualling of the A1307 from Haverhill to Horseheath and it was agreed by all that it would do so.

**District and county councillors' reports & business:** Cllr Batchelor had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted. District and county Cllr Hickford had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted and discussed. Cllr Hickford gave a verbal update on the A1307 City Deal Haverhill to Cambridge Report.

Cllr Manley joined the meeting at 8:10pm.

**Local handyman services:** To consider quotations for work on Horn Lane/Lady bridge: It was proposed by Cllr Poulter to accept both quotations for work on Horn Lane: To trim back brambles and nettles adjacent to flint wall and treat with SBK to allow the later soil preparation and turfing using Meadow Mat wild flower turf - £529.59. To buy and lay clay bound batts in Church Lane and Horn Lane where the road leads to the river (see previous reports) and compact as necessary - £348.00. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Potter. All agreed.

To agree to repair pothole in churchyard path: It was proposed

by Cllr Ward that the repair be carried out by Local handyman services and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith. All agreed.

**Website maintenance:** Cllr Poulter said that the website might need to be maintained and updated professionally and that there is a budget available for this. The clerk said that she often receives ideas for the website from residents with links to other sites of interest, and would like to be able to run these past an email working group for suitability. Cllr Poulter offered to look at ideas and a website protocol will be created for future reference.

**Community Orchard:** To agree and sign grounds maintenance licence with South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC): Local handyman services had quoted approximately £72 (three-four hours work) three or four times per year as necessary to keep the area trimmed and tidy. It was proposed by Cllr Ward to accept this quotation and to sign the agreement with SCDC, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Hill. Agreed (one abstention).

**Grounds maintenance contract:** The report from the working group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated before the meeting and was noted and discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Cox that the grounds maintenance contract be split into three sections, as suggested by the report, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith. All agreed. It was agreed to continue with the PC's current contractor for up to a year whilst the contract is restructured and tenders are requested.

**Swan bridge:** Cllr Ward had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted and discussed. Following inspection by councillors and also by Stephen McGee, bridge engineer at CCC, it is clear that remedial action is needed to bring the paintwork on the bridge up to a sufficient standard. It was agreed that a formal letter be written to Steve Jackson (contractor) informing him of Mr McGee's findings and inviting him to a meeting with the PC to discuss what remedial action needs to be taken.

**Update on s106 allocations:** A report from the working group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted and discussed. To agree the submission of projects for future s106 contributions: It was proposed by Cllr Poulter to accept the list of projects put together by the working group and to submit it to SCDC with PC's comments on planning applications. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

**Update on the Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Poulter had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted. Cllr Poulter said that in total residents of Linton and Hildersham had contributed over 240 working hours and that their commitment and expertise had been outstanding. Draft policies on all five key themes had been submitted to SCDC for examination the previous day and a further meeting with officers there is scheduled for two weeks' time. Council now has enough evidence to draft its Neighbourhood Plan. The chairman congratulated Cllr Poulter on the excellent progress and thanked him and all involved for their commitment and hard work.

**Update on Leadwell Meadows:** A report from the meeting held with contractors on 11<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted and discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Ward to go ahead with work to fit handrails on three bridges so that they meet safety requirements for school parties, at a total cost of £60 (materials only, AJ Prentice has agreed to fit these for free) and also to purchase two lengths of drainage pipe at a cost of £410+VAT and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Poulter. All agreed.

**Update on Beacon Trust:** Following further information received it appears that the Beacon Trust has secured funding from all of its sponsors meaning the service will be able to run for the next three years. It was proposed by Cllr Poulter to agree in principal to the PC's contribution of £15,000 per year for three years subject to further discussion with the Trust on terms and staged payments to reduce the PC's financial risk. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Manley. Agreed (one abstention).

**Churchyard matters:** To consider quotations for repairs to western boundary wall: It was proposed by Cllr Cox to accept

the quotation from Landmark Restoration for £10,200 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Manley. All agreed.

**Cemetery matters:** To agree updated cemetery regulations: It was proposed by Cllr Ward to adopt the amended cemetery regulations and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Manley. All agreed.

To consider revised cemetery charges: It was proposed by Cllr Cox to adopt the revised charges and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Poulter. All agreed.

Confirmation of one-off arrangements for scattering of ashes and planting of rose bush: Mrs Meeks had sent a report which had been circulated before the meeting and this was noted and agreed. The chairman thanked Mrs Meeks for her work on the cemetery revisions.

**Traffic matters:** Update on High Street bus service: Cllr Manley said that since the PC's meeting with Stagecoach and CCC, Stagecoach had appeared to have had a complete turnaround on its assurance that it does not want to cut the service to the High Street. Stagecoach is pushing for a resolution to the problems with tyre wear giving a timeframe of just two months. Following advice from Cllr Hickford, it was agreed to respond to Stagecoach to say that the PC would not be able to respond to such complex issues within the timeframe given. The PC will also contact Sonia Hansen at CCC to clarify Stagecoach's contractual obligations regarding this service, copying in Cllr Hickford who offered to help further.

Update on PCSO parking initiative: Sgt Sandra Davison had reported that three parking tickets had been issued to vehicles in January following patrols by the PCSO.

Cllr Hickford left the meeting at 9:40pm.

To agree changes to parking regulations outside the Co-op and at the junction of the High Street and A1307: Cllr Champion proposed to reinstate double yellow lines outside the Co-op. The proposal was not seconded and no vote was taken. It was agreed to monitor results of the PCSO parking enforcement before proceeding with changes to parking enforcement measures.

**Consideration of correspondence received:** Linton Village Cricket Club request for grant for roller: It was proposed by Cllr Manley to award a grant of £3,000 from the PC's s137 allocation for the purchase of the roller and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox. Agreed (one abstention).

Wicksteed Playgrounds regarding quarterly inspections 2016/17 at £90 per inspection: It was proposed by Cllr Poulter to accept Wicksteed's quotation for quarterly inspections and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith. All agreed. Cllr Potter thanked the clerk for progressing the necessary repairs.

Secretary to St Mary's PCC regarding churchyard vegetation: A response will be sent reiterating the comments made at the last meeting regarding the church and concerns over the effect of current planting on the walls.

Clerks & Councils direct subscription to Local Councils' Update and online access, annual cost £60: It was proposed by Cllr Potter to subscribe to the publication and online access and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion. Agreed (one abstention).

Mr A Foote regarding planting of trees and bin provision on Camping Close: A review of all village litter bins will take place later in the year. Cllr Ward advised that new trees should not be planted before the grass contract has been decided due to potential damage being done to the young trees by strimmers.

Secretary to the Cathodeon trustees regarding quotations for new fencing around the children's play area: It was proposed by Cllr Potter to agree to accept the quotation from Jack Arnold for £3,515.64 (to be ordered by the PC but paid for by Cathodeon trustees) and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

Mr J Lucking request to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition system in the village: It was agreed that it is outside of the remit of the PC to provide this. Mr Lucking will be advised to contact CCC.

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

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