

Linton WI

WE were pleased to welcome Barry Carter to our September meeting. Barry volunteers with Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue (CamSAR), which was founded in 2006 and has over 40 volunteers.

CamSAR is a member of Lowland Search and Rescue, and volunteers are trained to the national standard. They are called upon by the police when a high-risk person goes missing: that could be a child or someone with dementia or suicidal thoughts. To help with their search they use bicycles, kayaks, dogs, drones and a rough-terrain vehicle.

On completion of their training, new recruits need a kit, which costs around £300. The team raises its funds through various channels such as sponsorship, grants, raffles and is always grateful for donations.

On Saturday 20th September we held a coffee morning and tombola in St Mary's Church and were able to donate £279.55 to the church boiler fund.

Our meeting on Tuesday 4th November will be led by members Sue and Olly, who will show us how to bling up baubles for Christmas.

New members welcome. Visitors: £5. Enquiries: 07305 847437.

Camsight Linton VIPs

THE Cambridgeshire charity for people of all ages with sight impairment.

At our October meeting we were delighted to welcome the Reverend Paul Seaton Burn, the Team Rector at St. Mary's Church, Linton. Paul gave us a very amusing, interesting and thought provoking talk, encouraging the group to contribute with their own thoughts and experiences, which was most enjoyable. We all had a very jolly afternoon and we look forward to Paul's return. This was followed by our afternoon tea and raffle, with prizes donated by volunteers and members. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th November, at 2pm at the Chalklands Centre, when Adrian Cosgrave, the Resources Manager at Camsight, will bring and demonstrate a variety of personal and household aids to help people with sight impairment. If you would like further information about joining our group, please contact us at the Cambridge office on 01223 420033, or on 01223 893595

Macmillan Morning Thank You

THANK you for supporting our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September. We were delighted to offer a variety of drinks and a mouth-watering selection of homemade bakes. As usual, the Church was packed with the Infant School children, their families and friends for the regular Friday service, and after they had celebrated Harvest Festival our coffee morning began.

There was a lovely atmosphere all morning and we raised £558.95 on the day and further donations, using our unique QR code, have taken the total to £675.00.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for helping us to support Macmillan as they support those people living with cancer.



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Headscratcher

No:13

A problem has arisen with using a 'scientific' calculator on a mobile phone. It has to do with square roots. If 2 is entered, the answer is 1.414 to 3 decimal places. But don't all square roots have 2 solutions? What happened to -1.414? Try entering a negative number and use the square root function.

Cube roots have 3 solutions, so the cube root of 8 is 2, but not -2 as -2 x -2 x -2 = -8. Does 1 have cube roots?

Answer to No 12

The expression Sin (70°) / { 2Cos (50°) + Cos (70°) } is equal to Tan 30°.

Aspasia

Hildersham Christmas Fair

FRIENDS of Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham invite you to join them at the Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December between 5-8pm at the church.

There will be local craft stalls, mulled wine and mince pies, live music, raffle, crafts for children to make and plenty of festive cheer! Come along, find a few special gifts, enjoy the atmosphere, and celebrate the start of the Christmas season with friends and neighbours. For more details contact Revd Hannah revthrealfall24@outlook.com or Nettie Long - Jeanetk@yahoo.com.

Revd Hannah Threalfall

ACE Festive Buffet

ACE looks forward to welcoming old friends and new to their very popular Festive Buffet, in the Sports Pavilion on Linton Recreation Ground, 12.30pm on Thursday 27th November.

The price is just £6 to cover the cost of the buffet. There will be the usual festivities and raffle. We hope to see you at our final event for 2025 and set your Christmas celebrations off well.

Sue Filby

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025

REFRESHMENTS at the recent Farmers' Market in Linton – Fairtrade coffee, tea, sugar and biscuits were served by David and Anne Parry-Smith (pictured below) with help from Hilary Angetter and her granddaughter, Bella. All these products were from the local Co-op. St Mary's, Linton has recently renewed its certification as a Fairtrade Church, is committed to using Fairtrade products wherever possible when serving refreshments at any church event or other events on church premises. We also now use Fairtrade communion wine.

Anne Parry-Smith



THE LINTON NEWS

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November bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 5th, 19th

Blue: Wednesdays 12th, 26th

Green: Wednesday 12th, 26th

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

To be included email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com
Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.
See <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/events-calendar> for more details of village events.

NOVEMBER

Sat 1 Balsham Picture House, Lee, 7pm

Tue 4 Scrabble Club, 10-12pm

Tue 4 W.I., 7.30pm

Sat 8 Collection for Ukraine, 9-12.30pm

Sat 8 Firework Display, gates open 5pm

Sun 9 FROG Litter Pick, 9am

Sun 9 Linton Remembers, 2pm

Sun 9 Linton Remembers, 3pm

Tue 11 Camsight Meeting, 2pm

Sat 15 Coffee Morning, 10-12pm

Mon 17 W. Wickham Gardening Club, 7.30pm

Tue 18 Scrabble Club, 10-12pm

Tue 18 Historical Society, 7.30pm

Fri 21 Daylight Readers Book Group, 10.30 & 2.30pm

Sat 22 Christmas Crafty Café, 2-4pm

Thu 27 ACE Festive Buffet, 12.30pm

Fri 28 Xmas Lights Switch On, 6pm

Sat 29 Cambridge Makers Festive Fair

Sun 30 Cambridge Makers Festive Fair

Balsham Institute

St Mary's Pavilion

Village Hall

Abington Primary School

Camping Close

Camping Close

St Mary's Church

War Memorial

Chalklands Centre

St Mary's Church

W. Wickham Village Hall

St Mary's Pavilion

Village Hall

Library

DECEMBER

Tue 2 W.I., 7.30pm

Fri 5 Christmas Fair, 5-8pm

Sat 6 Balsham Picture House, 7pm

At World's End,

Village Hall

Hildersham Church

Balsham Institute

WEEKLY

Mon Mini Movers, 10-11.30am

Tue Rhythm and Rhyme, 10-11am

Tue Granta Bridge Club, 2-4pm

Tue Knit and Natter, 2-4pm

Tue Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7-8pm

Wed Warm Hub, 1-4pm

Wed IT Drop In, 5-7pm

Wed Lets Run Girls, 7pm

Thu Stay and Play, 10-11.30am

Thu Baby Group, 1-2.30pm

Thu Games Afternoon, 2-4pm

Fri Lego/Duplo, 10-11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)

Fri Badminton Club, 7-9pm

Cathodeon Centre

Library

Village Hall

Library

LVC

Sports Pavilion

Library

LVC

Cathodeon Centre

Cathodeon Centre

Library

Library

Comm. Sports Centre, LVC

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News from the Heights

THE start of the new academic year has brought some exciting changes to Linton Heights – not only in terms of building work (though this has unfortunately experienced some delays!). Following consultation with parents and pupils, we have updated our school values for the first time in over a decade. While we continue to uphold the principles of kindness, respect, honesty, and resilience, we are delighted to introduce two new values: creativity and self-belief. Together, these six values will continue to guide everything we do as a school community.

Creativity, in particular, will be a key focus this year. Our children have always enjoyed events such as our annual Creative Arts Week and other arts-based opportunities, but we are now committed to embedding creativity more deeply across the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

As part of this initiative, we are keen to strengthen our links with the local community. We know there is a wealth of talent within the village, and we would love our pupils to be inspired by you.

Later this year, we are hoping to host an event highlighting careers in the arts, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be able to contribute.



More broadly, we welcome any time and support that members of our community can offer. If you are able to help in any way, please contact us at office@lintonheightsjunior.org. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Caroline Webb

November at Linton Library

COME in for cosy reads on dark days. You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome here. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, find a new author or use our free WiFi.

Do you know someone who uses a walking aid? As the paths become slippery, please spread the word that the library can supply free ferrules (rubber feet) for walking aids to keep them in safe condition. Just ask library staff.

Daylight Readers: Our Book Groups meet on Friday 21st, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. The morning group has space for new members.
Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesday mornings 10.30–11am for 0–4 years (term time only). We would love to see you and your little ones there!
Knit and Natter: every Tuesday, 2pm – 4pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.
IT Drop In: every Wednesday 5–7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with Information Technology, including how to use the Addenbrookes MyChart patient management software.
Games Afternoon: weekly, Thursday 2–4pm. Come and meet new people, board/card games provided or bring your favourite to share.
Lego/Duplo: Friday 10–11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0–4 year old.

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am to 5pm;
Wednesday 4–7pm; Thursday 2–5pm;
Friday 10am to 5pm; Saturday 10am to 1pm

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King
Community Library Assistants
Linton Library

News from the Infants

NOVEMBER is here, along with the darker mornings and evenings, and the term is well under way. We are already entering into the Christmas spirit by designing Christmas cards and drawing self-portraits for gifts. The children's artwork is amazing!

A huge number of items was donated at our Harvest Festival Service, 151 kg of food! We were also delighted with the amount raised through the Macmillan coffee morning. Thank you to all our staff and families who generously donated.

We are already thinking about the intake for September 2026 as the admissions window is open and we are pleased to be able to offer some small group tours on Monday 10th November at 10am, Monday 17th November at 1.30pm, Thursday 20th November at 10am, Monday 24th November at 1.30pm and Thursday 27th November at 10am.

During the sessions you will have a chance to look around the school and ask any questions you may have, along with seeing for yourself all of the fabulous things we do here at Linton Infants! The places on each session are limited so please phone or email the school office to book a place (01223 891421) office@linton-inf.cambs.sch.uk.

Kelly Harries

Linton Lionesses looking for new recruits

THE Linton Lionesses have been enjoying relaxed weekly kickarounds since May 2023 and are always looking for new players.

We offer a non-competitive have-a-go environment for women of all ages (16+) looking to play football. All abilities are welcome, it really is just for fun, a bit of exercise and an excuse to get out with like-minded women!

We meet on a Tuesday evening between 7 and 8pm at Linton Village College. Please come along and give it a go to see how you like it, even if you've never kicked a ball before! Contact Lou for more details at LintonFootball@outlook.com.



Louise Eiffler-Moore

Become a Governor at Granta School!

WE ARE looking for governors to join our governing board! It's an opportunity to support our school, the children and young people in our community.

No special qualifications are needed; the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work. We would be especially keen to hear from you if you have a background in business, finance or health and safety.

The Marsh Mail

WE'VE had a brilliant start to the new academic year here at LVC. Our new Year 7 cohort members have settled in really well and are already an integral part of our school community. It's amazing how quickly they adapt to new routines.

With the new school year also come some exciting changes at Linton. One of the key developments is the relaunch of our *Linton Learner* ethos. Originally introduced around 10 years ago and based on six core values, we've taken the opportunity this year to refine and focus the concept. After careful consideration, we've distilled the *Linton Learner* values down to two: caring and independent. We believe these truly capture the essence of what it means to be a learner at LVC.

The newly appointed Junior Leadership Team at LVC is passionate about making a meaningful impact. From enhancing students' wellbeing and communication to improving facilities and celebrating creativity, Head Students Ruvi, Declán, and Sree are committed to fostering an inclusive, inspiring school environment where every student feels valued and empowered to thrive.



LVC Junior Leadership Team

It was great to open the school to visitors for our open evening at the end of September. We are also offering morning tours during the school day for prospective families ahead of the secondary school application deadline at the end of October. Please get in touch via reception@lintonvc.org to arrange to visit.

Our trip to the Peak District for the expedition is perhaps the most exciting part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Participants plan, train for and undertake this journey in a group. This section is designed to build teamwork, resilience and a sense of adventure. Our students went on two day-long hikes and then spent the nights camping and cooking their own food.

We have recently been awarded a certificate from the scheme praising the 429 voluntary hours that our students have given to the local community this year. Well done to all of you!

Helena Marsh

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TeaTime at Gallery Above

October 29th to November 29th 2025
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Wednesdays to Saturdays

Afternoon teas will be kindly served in the gallery by our friends at Jigsaw Bakery from 3.00pm-5.00pm. Booking essential!

The artists are:-

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Clare Padfield

Ophelia Redpath

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100 Parishes - Station Walk

ON a fine September day, I caught an early train to Ware before tackling the longest walk on the Society's website. Station Walk number 18 covers 17 miles (28 kilometres) between Ware Station and Stansted Mountfitchet Station. Although I walk regularly, it was some years since I last covered that distance in a day so I carried a mobile phone just in case.

An advantage of this route is that it heads north for several miles and then turns east, so for much of the way the sun is behind to give the best views.

After leaving Ware, the route is all in lovely countryside, passing through eight of our hundred parishes: Wareside, Standon, Thundridge, Braughing and Albury in Hertfordshire and then Farnham, Manuden, and Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex. Through these parishes, only Standon and Stansted contributed much more than the occasional farmhouse. They, along with Gravesend in Albury, also offered opportunities for refreshment.

The route follows a series of good paths and tracks, rising and falling between river valleys. It passes over the River Lea just after the start, spends several miles along the



Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill



Patmore Heath in Aldbury

Rib valley, and crosses the Ash and the Stort.

The journey crosses the Greenwich Meridian, the original route of Roman Stane Street and the former Buntingford railway line. It passes beside Barwick Ford, Standon Lordship, Patmore Heath and Stansted Windmill, and there are sightings of distant churches, water towers and much more. But the best views are of unspoilt, rolling countryside and occasional wildlife.

I completed the walk, accompanied for the last 6 miles by my wife Janice, after lunch in Gravesend. Altogether, a most enjoyable day – and the legs only ached a bit for the next few days! Having completed this challenge, I can return to the many shorter routes on our website.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Thundridge - Barwick Ford



Near Latchford in Standon Parish

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER



We welcome Richard Adams who will give us an insight into the history and what remains of the important airfield
R.A.F. Wratting Common
LINTON VILLAGE HALL
COLES LANE - 7.30pm
Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

Balsham Picture House

OUR November film evening doesn't clash with Bonfire Night for once and will be on 1st, November when we will show the film *LEE* (15) starring Kate Winslet as the renowned Vogue model turned photographer who became an acclaimed war correspondent/photographer for the US Army in WW2. She recounts her life in 1977 in a series of flashbacks and her reckoning of her past. Doors open at 7pm and the film begins at 7.30pm.

Advance notice for the Christmas film evening which will be Saturday 6th December. We will celebrate Christmas early with all drinks and festive nibbles on the house, so please come along and enjoy the evening. In a departure from our usual genre, we will be showing the last and best of Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy. At *World's End* is the jolly choice for the evening and stars include Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley and Geoffrey Rush – a swashbuckling fantasy adventure film that won lots of Oscars. It's rated 12, so bring the kids along as well! It's a longish film so we will have a mid-film break to refill our glasses, etc!

Richard Paden

Just a Minute

HILDERSHAM Church Council and the Friends of Hildersham need some assistance; could you help us?

We need someone working as a self-employed contractor, to help us produce agendas and documents, take minutes of meetings and maintain membership records for the Friends, along with other administrative tasks. Meetings are held in the evenings, approx. one per month, and last two hours.

You need to be able to provide your own equipment and office and, other than when attending meetings, organise how you provide the agreed contracted service. We will pay an agreed fee for the service provided, based on an indicative rate of £14.50 per hour. Interested? Please contact Keith Day at keithdday@btinternet.com or 01223 891527 for further details.

Keith Day

A busy autumn at the Linton Free Church

IT'S been a busy, challenging and exciting autumn at Linton Free Church. We had a fantastic evening when the young people presented what they did on their trip to Uganda, each reflecting on what impacted them most from the trip. Our Junior Church families enjoyed an autumn picnic in the church garden.

By the time of reading, both churches will have put on the annual Light Party for children, with around 100 children and families.

A new youth group has started and they have been doing the Youth Alpha Course. Look out for details of our next Alpha Course for adults early in 2026.

Next month we'll tell you all about our Christmas services and activities but we just wanted to give an early notice for two events:

We are launching a new monthly coffee morning on the second Wednesday of every month. The first one will be on Wednesday 10th December, 10am to 12 noon and will of course include carols and mince pies. All are welcome.

Our Christmas Lighthouse family event will be on Sunday 7th December, 3–4.30pm in the Free Church Hall. All children, aged 4–11, and their families are welcome. Christmas themed crafts, stories, games and snacks. ALL FREE and LOTS OF FUN!

Check out our website for more details:
Lintonfreechurch.org.uk.

Ian Burns
Church Secretary

Christmas Gift Appeal

WE are collecting presents for refugee children and children in emergency social care this Christmas. Please bring your gift, unwrapped, in a gift bag with a label stating the age of the child or young person to:

Hildersham Village Hall on Monday 17th November where there will be afternoon tea 3–4pm or St Mary's Church, Little Abington on Sunday 23rd November where there will be afternoon tea 2–4pm.

A huge thank you from the Children's Church Council, the Churches and Love Abington.

If you would like further details or you are unable to deliver your present on that day, please ring. Rosemary Mead (01223 891718) or Amanda Palmer (01223 894316) to make other arrangements.

Amanda Palmer

Balsham Singers

REHEARSALS are well under way for our 30th Anniversary Christmas concert on Saturday 13th December in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham at 4pm.

Tickets, to include seasonal refreshments, at £12 and under 16's £1, are available NOW at Balsham and Abington Post Offices and online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers>.

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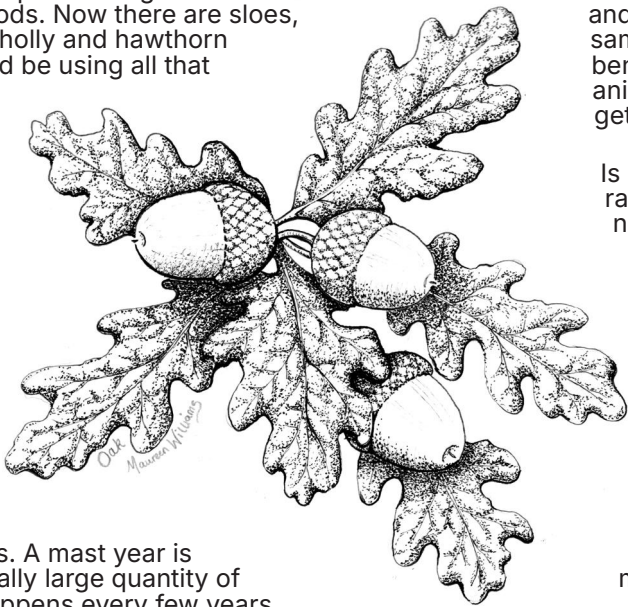
Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



A Mast Year

THESE days, every time you listen to a rural sort of programme or read wildlife articles, you hear about 2025 being a mast year. This is not yet another mobile phone mast appearing on the Rivey tower, but is instead a natural phenomenon. In the summer, the hedgerows were laden with early blackberries, and there was a glut of apples, figs, plums, crabapples, damsons and bullaces. Even our wisteria has produced giant sized runner-bean-lookalike seed pods. Now there are sloes, conkers, chestnuts, rosehips, holly and hawthorn berries in profusion. We should be using all that nature provides for us - hawthorn berries are reputed to taste like avocados; I'm afraid I wasn't convinced. Rosehips are full of Vitamin C. We have been the lucky recipients of all sorts of produce this year, including greengages and pickled walnuts. But the biggest crops of all have been acorns and beech nuts, and it is these that make 2025 qualify as a mast year.

The word mast comes from the old English word *maest*, meaning nuts from forest trees. A mast year is when trees produce an unusually large quantity of fruits, nuts and seeds. This happens every few years, caused in part by specific weather conditions such as the right combination of heat and rainfall in the spring. The bumper crop is a feast for wildlife, while providing enough leftovers for new trees to sprout.



A large oak tree can produce 10,000 acorns in a mast year. It can't do that every year, or its growth would be stunted, and there would be a plague of rodents. The strategy is known as predator satiation. In normal years, the seed-eaters consume most of the crop. In a mast year, all the mice, badgers, jays and squirrels can't eat that number of acorns, so seeds inevitably escape the feeding frenzy and grow into new saplings. At the same time, predators such as owls benefit from the increase in small animals, and woodland generation gets a huge boost.

Is it temperature, pollen exchange, rainfall, underground communication networks, chemical signals between trees or who knows what, that enables trees to act in unison in a mast year? The one thing scientists agree on is that it is to do with the weather at the time the trees are flowering. Both beeches and oaks rely on wind blown pollen reaching female flowers. If all the beech and the oaks in a wood flower at once in warm windy conditions, the chances of mass fertilisation must be greater.

You can never be bored if you're remotely interested in the natural world - there's always something more to learn.

Calling all gardeners!

A QUICK reminder, to all those green-fingered gardeners among you, that Linton is holding its Open Garden Day on 31st May 2026 as part of the National Garden Scheme. All the money raised by opening our gardens goes to various charities (see <https://ngs.org.uk/>).

If you would like to take part next year, do contact Jenny Marks (jenny.marks@ngs.org.uk), our regional coordinator. No garden is too small, and as everyone knows a garden is always a project in hand, so it doesn't have to be perfect. If you contact Jenny, she will advise.

Michael Wilcockson

FROG News

LINTON FROG is very proud to have won the Green Award in this year's BBC Radio Cambridgeshire *Make a Difference* awards! Six FROG members represented the group at the inspiring awards ceremony held on 19th September at Cambridge Corn Exchange. It is wonderful to be recognised for our work to protect and enhance our local chalk stream and to promote a love of our precious green and blue spaces.

None of this would be possible without our committee members and volunteers, from regulars at every litter pick and Riverfly survey to those attending our one-off events, so thank you all - we couldn't do it without your involvement!



FROG representatives, and the Make a Difference Award

Thanks also go to our funders (RiverCare, Linton Parish Council, the Co-op Community Fund and Cam Valley Forum) and to all of the environmental organisations and individuals who have supported us with their time and expertise, including The Wildlife Trust BCN, The Wild Trout Trust, Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project, and The Riverfly Partnership.

We've had great turnouts at our summer events this year, including the moth trapping, bee and butterfly walk, and the hugely popular bat walk which attracted over 100 people - and not quite so many bats.

We are planning more events for next year, so if you have suggestions for a subject for a walk, talk, workshop, etc. in 2026, please do get in touch.

Our last litter pick of the year will be on Sunday 9th November to help to tidy up any remaining litter after the ever-popular village fireworks display. Join us at 9am at Camping Close; you will be most welcome! Please wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring your own pickers if you have them. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Helen Brookes

Chair, Linton Friends of the River Granta (FROG)
lintonfrog@gmail.com; Facebook = LintonFROG; X = OfGranta

Everything's coming up dahlias!

IT WAS terrific to see so many members at our AGM last month and to celebrate the success of our growing club together. The evening gave us an opportunity to share ideas for talks and activities to make the coming year even more special. Thank you to everyone who attended.

With the dry weather, we have had a fantastic display of drought-tolerant dahlias - a perfect plant for our changing climate.

Consequently, we are delighted to be welcoming flower grower and floral designer, Kim O'Brian to talk to us about Growing Dahlias as Cut Flowers on Monday 17th November at 7:30pm in West Wickham Village Hall. Entry is free for members, £2 for non-members. Kim won a gold medal for her debut show garden at the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair. You might also have heard her on the BBC radio Cambridgeshire gardening programme.

For club information or if you'd like to help at one of our events, please contact Sally Collins at wwdgc@westwickham.org.

Sally Collins
West Wickham & District Gardening Club



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District and County Councillors’ Report - October 2025

Local Government Re-organisation AS requested by central government, the process to merge District and County Councils into Unitary Authorities in England, is proceeding. The latest is that all local authorities in Cambridgeshire must submit their suggestions for how best they see a new local government structure working in the county.

Three proposals were originally on the table:

- Option A:
- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & East Cambridgeshire
 - Fenland, Huntingdonshire & Peterborough
- Option B:
- South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City
 - East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland & Peterborough

- Option C:
- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & Huntingdonshire
 - Fenland, Peterborough & East Cambridgeshire
 -
- We then had a late submission, spearheaded by the MPs in Peterborough, for a fourth option:

- Option D:
- An expanded Peterborough
 - Fenland, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City

The District Council's preference is Option B, which would leave us in an administrative partnership with Cambridge City only. This is largely what currently happens, with many services already shared between the two authorities. Ultimately, central government will make the final decision so the business cases being drawn up will be highly important in influencing this decision.

- The current timeline on this is:
- November 2025 – Councils must submit their preference and the corresponding business case to government
 - May 2026 – District Council elections take place on the current local authority boundaries
 - May 2027 – Elections for the new ‘shadow’ unitary authority take place
 - May 2028 – The new unitary authorities come into power

Kingsway Solar Farm The applicants (Kingsway Solar) of a new solar farm in the vicinities of West Whratting, Weston Colville and Carlton are pressing ahead with their proposals. Kingsway Solar has just released some detail (not just lines drawn around fields on a map) into the public domain. A Formal Consultation was underway for public discussion. This was an important stage since the responses form a part of the planning application. This development will affect us all in some way, regardless of our proximity to the solar sites. The consultation closed on October 29th. All documents can be viewed on the Kingsway Solar website: <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/>.

Kingsway have indicated that they are due to begin preliminary archaeological surveys (digging trial trenches) in some of the fields where solar panels are proposed. If anyone sees this kind of activity, it's very likely to be this.

Acorn Biodigester For those who tracked the planning application for an anaerobic digestion plant just outside of Haverhill, you may recall that Suffolk County Council refused the application in June this year.

The applicants, Acorn, have indicated they are planning to appeal this decision and have instructed their planning agents to do this. So, we can expect this to resurface in the coming months. Watch this space.

Council Tax Consultation The District Council is consulting on the Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2026/27 financial year. This is an opportunity for anyone to give their views on the working age section of the scheme. This specifically looks at levels of discount available to various groups who receive support.

Grants A raft of community-focused grants is available via the District and County Councils. Rather than list them all here, they can be seen on their respective websites:

District Council: <https://scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding>.

County Council: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/communities-service/community-service-small-grants>.

District Council – John Batchelor - johndbatchelor23@gmail.com
District and County Council – Henry Batchelor - henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Planning Applications

25/1150/TTCA T1: Goat Willow (tree overshadowing garden) - Pollard at 5m T2: Apple (oversized for location) - Crown reduce by 2m to obvious break in canopy, leaving a height of approximately 6m. 10 Green Lane, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4JZ. Validated: Mon 13th Oct 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/03873/LBC Alterations to the driveway and creation of hardstanding area for vehicles. Electric car charging point and alteration to the drive includes change of materials. Queen's House, 16 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Mon 13th Oct 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/03872/HFUL Alterations to the driveway and creation of hardstanding area for vehicles. Electric car charging point and alteration to the drive includes change of materials. Queen's House, 16 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Mon 13th Oct 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/02754/CONDC Submission of details required by Condition 5 (Insulation System Details) of Listed Building consent 25/02754/LBC. 26 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Fri 10th Oct 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/02754/CONDB Submission of details required by condition 5 (insulation systems drawings at a scale of 1:20) of Listed Building consent 25/02754/LBC. 26 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Tue 30th Sep 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

25/02754/CONDA Submission of details required by condition 3 (methodology for the removal of the render and sample area of removal of existing render) of Listed Building consent 25/02754/LBC 26 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Tue 30th Sep 2025 Status: Awaiting decision.

25/1022/TTCA 1 - Beech - Fell 2 - Oak - Crown raised about 2 metres. Reasons for the work: (1) The beech tree has outgrown the space available for it, growing substantially into three nearby trees (an oak tree, a walnut tree and a cherry tree), preventing all from growing freely. We have considered the alternative of only removing a few branches, but this would not be adequate. (2) The oak tree has some long branches nearly touching the ground which are potential safety hazards for any garden work nearby and we would like to raise the crown by removing these at the trunk to provide space underneath it. 14 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Mon 22nd Sep 2025. Status: Awaiting decision.

An update from your local MP, Pippa Heylings

OVER parliamentary recess I took the opportunity to meet residents and organisations in South Cambridgeshire. One issue has dominated: the serious funding cut facing the Arthur Rank Hospice. This wonderful organisation, which provides end-of-life care for the terminally ill, is being forced to plan to close nine of its 23 beds: a reduction of 40% of its capacity. At the time of writing, the hospice is facing a funding deficit of £829,000.

I have visited the hospice several times and heard from their CEO Sharon Allen, their amazing staff, and the patients and families who treasure this resource.

Together with Cambridgeshire’s LibDem MPs Charlotte Cane and Ian Sollom, I have started a petition to call on the government to save these vital beds. Over 14,000 people have signed, with 4,500 signatures in just the first 24 hours! This is a resounding call to action that has been well reported in the media.

Given the level of concern and response, our petition is now addressed directly to the Prime Minister, as well as the Secretary of State for Health. If we can get more signatures, we plan to deliver the petition to 10 Downing Street, so please do sign it here www.pippaheylings.org.uk/campaigns/save-arh-beds, and share as widely as you can.

If you would like to help the hospice further, you can find details to donate to their Protect our Care campaign at www.arhc.org.uk/donate.

Alongside this campaigning, I've been out on doorsteps listening to residents, holding surgeries and meeting constituents at my ‘meet your MP’ events. These are just a few things I've been working that I wanted to share. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter, available at www.pippaheylings.org.uk/newsletter.

Pippa Heylings MP

Julie & Jo's



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Parish Council Matters

LINTON

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Remembrance Sunday

REMEMBRANCE Sunday is an opportunity for the nation to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life, and to give our thanks and respect to those who do so today.

On Sunday 9th November 2025, we will remember those from our village and beyond.

A dedicated service will be held in St Mary's Church at 2pm, followed by refectation at the War Memorial in the Cemetery at 3pm. Hospitality will be provided at the Village Hall from 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



We will remember the armed forces and their families, the role of the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

We will remember the challenges faced by families who lost their loved ones, the ultimate sacrifice, because they were protecting the freedom we have now, which at times we all take for granted.

We will also remember the service animals, who supported those who put themselves in danger for the protection of others, many of whom did not return.

Such sacrifice is difficult to for us imagine.

Imagine saying goodbye to someone you love, knowing that at best they will be away for years. Imagine saying goodbye, knowing that if they return, they will be changed forever by what they have witnessed. Imagine saying goodbye, knowing that the person you love may never return home.

We will remember them.

For the Fallen
They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Linton Parish Council

Community Venues

MANY venues are available to hire in Linton; please see below the contact details of each to help you plan events in 2026.



The Sports Pavilion – The Recreation Ground – Linton.
Contact: Linton Parish Council at enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk to book.

The Linton Village Hall – Coles Lane – Linton.
Contact: Linton Village Hall Trustees at information@lintonvillagehall.org.uk.

The Cathodeon Centre – Horseheath Road – Linton.
£16.50 per hour.
Contact: Linton Parish Council at enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk to book.

The Church Pavilion – St Mary's Church – Linton.
Contact: St Marys Church at admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk to book.

Linton Free Church – Horn Lane – Linton.
Contact: Linton Free Church at hello@lintonfreechurch.org.uk.

For further information and additional local venues please visit the Linton Village Directory at <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/places-to-hire>

For upcoming community events in Linton please visit the events calendar at <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/eventscalendar>

Clerk

Spring is in our sights!

IN EARLY October, volunteers from Anglian Water were busy planting spring bulbs at the cemetery and on the recreation ground.

This activity was organised as a thank you to the village for being patient while work was carried out on the pumping station. Whilst the Parish Council is pleased to accept this type of community pay-back, these projects are few and far between.

In the spring, we will all enjoy the results of their hard work. We should see crocuses and daffodils coming through.



In discussions held during October, the Environment and Open Spaces Working Group has been discussing projects for 2026.

As a community, we must all play a part in protecting and promoting biodiversity, and environmental projects to preserve our beautiful village for future generations.

Initial ideas include further planting and the adoption of locations, tree-planting and ongoing care, litter picks and more.

If you are interested in getting involved with Linton Friends of the River Granta (FROGs), Linton Roots, or as an individual please contact us on 01223 891001 or by email at enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk.

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Parish Council Minutes

LINTON

PARISH COUNCIL

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

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 18th September 2025 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Chairman's Comment
The Chairman formally thanked James Lake for his contribution as a parish councillor and wished him well in his new job, adding that the council very much hopes he will be able to return to the role in the future.

Clerk's Report.
Consideration for the concerns raised by parishioners following the displaying of the St George flag in the village.

Cllr Karen Sanderson thanked County Councillor Henry Batchelor for his supportive email in relation to the display of flags in the village, which had assisted with responses to parishioners. County Councillor Henry Batchelor advised continuing to report the matter on the CCC website and confirmed the flags placed on publicly owned structures would be removed by the Highways team.

External Meetings
Update following the Flagship River Project meeting held on 26th August 2025.

Cllr Kate Kell gave an update following the Flagship River Project meeting explaining the project is not part of the Chalk Stream project but runs alongside. The purpose of the project focuses on the weirs in the River Granta in Linton and is looking to improve the watercourse with the parishes consent and support.

Consideration of the District and County Councillors Report for September 2025.
In addition to the written report County Councillor Henry Batchelor added the following points.

Local Government Re-organisation
Cllr Batchelor encouraged everyone to be involved in the process. South Cambridgeshire District Council prefers Option B due to locality. Cambridgeshire County Council prefers Option A. Each local council will present a preferred option with a business case to Central Government in November, adding that comments are welcomed from members of the public as well as parish councils.

Kingsway Solar Farm
Cllr Batchelor confirmed that the public consultation opened on 17th September 2025 He encouraged the parish councillors and public to review the proposal and comment due to the proximity of the solar farm and the potential impact on the surrounding area, and confirmed the consultation is open until the end of October.

Neighbourhood Plan
Update on the Linton, Little Linton & Hildersham Neighbourhood Plan following the working group meeting held on 2nd September 2025.

Cllr Kate Kell confirmed that the response to Liz Lake Associates is being compiled and had provided an update to the office on the stages of the Neighbourhood Plan to assist with responses to correspondence.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed the Assistant Clerk request copies of all available maps from South Cambridgeshire District Council in relation to the area of the Neighbourhood Plan, request the data source for the updated census and provide confirmation that the source is acceptable as evidence to support the plan. The Assistant Clerk to update the LPC website, confirming that Regulation 14 submission had been completed and the plan is progressing to Regulation 15. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

Kingsway Solar Park
Information on the proposed Kingsway Solar Park and an update on the PC Alliance. Cllr Chris Hine proposed that no financial contribution be made as the parish council had not yet taken a decision in relation to the application, but to encourage parishioners to comment on the consultation running from 17th September 2025 to the end of October 2025. Cllr Tony Smith seconded.

All Agreed.

Finance
Quotes and Contracts
Consideration for the quotation from Salvum Ltd to carry out the Bi-annual Legionella Assessment at the Pavilion. Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed the quotation for the Bi-annual Legionella Assessment at the Pavilion be accepted. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the quotations received to repair and resurface the parking bay at the Cathodeon Centre, damaged by the tree root. Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed to accept the quotation submitted by City Surfacing to repair and resurface the parking bay. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the requirement to address the damage caused to the Cathodeon wall by a parishioner. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed to approve in principle for the office to seek quotes to redesign the parking bays at the Cathodeon Centre and incorporate three bike racks and to relocate the disabled bay to a more suitable position. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

External Audit
Notification of the conclusion of the External Audit for 2024/2025. For Information.

The Council congratulated the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) on an outstanding audit result and thanked the RFO on behalf of the parishioners.

Compliance & Risk
Risk
Consideration for the design and cost of liability signage plus installation, required for the Market Square. Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed to approve the signage, with a maximum £150.00 budget set for the purchase of the signage and installation, removing all full stops from the wording. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Community Buildings
The Cathodeon Centre
Update in relation to the Cathodeon Centre. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed to arrange a working group meeting with the Cathodeon Centre Trust to discuss the future of the trust. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

It was requested that the constitution be circulated to all councillors.

Consideration for the request from the Linton Library to plant a tree on the Parsonage Way Green. Decision required. Cllr Chris Hine proposed to give permission for the planting of a library tree on Parsonage Way Green providing a Memorandum of Understanding be agreed. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the acceptance of two quotations in respect of the new servery at the Cathodeon Centre. Decision required.

This item to be discussed at the working group meeting re. Agenda item 149/25/26(i).

Events
Remembrance Sunday
Consideration for the request to provide financial support for the Remembrance Sunday refreshments to be served at the Village Hall on 9th November 2025. Decision required.

Cllr Kate Kell proposed a maximum budget of £100.00 for refreshments for hospitality on Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for a maximum budget of £250.00 for memorial items to be purchased on behalf of the parish for Remembrance Sunday by way of a donation to the Royal British Legion. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed a maximum budget of £250.00 for memorial items for Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the request to display Remembrance poppies on the Cemetery railings between 10th and 15th November 2025. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed to allow the display of poppies on the Cemetery railings for Remembrance Sunday on the dates as above. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Consideration for a request from St Mary's Church for volunteers to assist with steward duties (traffic control) on 9th November 2025, between 3.15-3.30pm. Action required. Cllrs Jasvir Singh and Kate Kell offered to assist.

Linton Fireworks
Consideration for the request to hold the Linton Fireworks at Camping Close on Saturday 8th November 2025. Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed that permission be given for the Linton Fireworks event to take place on Camping Close with a post event inspection to be carried out. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

Notification of referral to CCC for the request to close the PROW 146/13,14,15 and 16 to prevent pedestrian access for the duration of the fireworks display. For information. The Clerk advised that the Fireworks Committee had been advised to liaise with the County Council to seek the required permission. Noted.

Village Enhancement
Notification of bulb planting by volunteers from Anglian Water on 5rd October 2025 and consideration for the best location. Decision required.

Cllr Tony Smith proposed the following locations be approved. Cemetery railings internal bank, Recreation Ground riverside bank and adjacent to the foot/cycle path. Cllr Jasvir Singh seconded. The Clerk to ensure grounds maintenance contractors are aware not to cut whilst the flowers are in bloom. All Agreed.

Notification of an expression of interest in volunteering to water trees in the village. Decision required.

Cllr Kate Kell proposed holding an Open Spaces Working Group meeting to discuss the extent of the potential work involved. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Defibrillators and Bleed Kits
Consideration of the quotation received for a defibrillator and cabinet installation for the telephone box on the High Street. Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed the quotation for the defibrillator for the telephone kiosk be approved. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. All Agreed.

Linton News
Notification of articles for the November Edition of the Linton News to be submitted to the Clerk by the deadline of 15th October 2025. Action required.

The Clerk advised of the following articles planned for the November issue of the Linton News to include information on Grant Applications, Remembrance Sunday, and Community Venues available to hire.

The Clerk requested any articles to be submitted for December that were not date sensitive.

Full Minutes and written reports are available on the Linton Parish Council website.

Clerk

The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001
Clerk to the council – Jenny Seaward
Email: enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lintonpc
Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - noon.
By Appointment Only
Full Council meetings are held at the Cathodeon Centre, commencing at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month.

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