

Firework Display
at 7pm
on Saturday
9th November
on
Camping Close

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THE LINTON NEWS

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A feast of music as the season starts with a bang....

LINTON Music's first concert of the season will be by our favourites, the Voskresenje choir of Saint Petersburg, who will be performing in the parish church on Saturday 9th November.

So that those who wish to attend don't miss the fireworks please note that this amazing choir will start the concert at 8pm.

This is the third visit of the Russians who were so popular with Linton audiences on previous occasions. Do come and hear them or, even better, welcome them into your home.

We would be very grateful to receive offers of accommodation for Saturday night for one or two choir members from Linton residents.

For more information please contact lindabird@waitrose.com or juliet@cambridgesummermusic.com or phone 893600.

Tickets are available as usual from Sweet Talk News or on the door. Price £12 adults, £10 concessions, £24 family ticket (two adults and two children), £2 students under 18.

Linda Bird



The Russian choir, Voskresenje

Picture supplied by Linton Music

...plus another string to their bow...



Children
enjoying
the drums
at a Linton
Youth Music
rehearsal

Picture supplied
by Linton Music

... and you can enjoy the history of jazz

AT 7.30pm on Saturday 16th November in St Mary's church the Memphis Jazz Band are returning to Linton. They have been giving concerts, mostly for charity, in East Anglia for over 30 years and last gave their acclaimed performance of *The History of Jazz* here about 20 years ago.

Pete, the clarinet player, will talk about how traditional jazz started in New Orleans and developed from there. The eight-member band will play tunes and songs from each period and from all the celebrated musicians.

All are welcome; refreshments are provided and tickets costing £12 for adults and £6 for children are available from Sweet Talk News, the post office and Mrs Judy Nightingale, 891806.

Proceeds will go to the Friends of St Mary's.

Margaret Cox

A special year

GORDON and Sheila Price of Emson's Close are enjoying a special year as club captain and lady captain of Haverhill golf club.

In their captains' year they have chosen Diabetes UK as their charity and are expecting to raise over a £1,000 before their captaincy ends on 31st December.

Haverhill golf club is recognised as one of the best courses in Suffolk, hosting both the Suffolk Amateur Championship and the Suffolk Match Play Championship this year. The club also plays a series of invitation games against other clubs, with an opportunity to play other courses in the area.



Gordon and Sheila

Picture supplied by
Kate France

Over 40 Linton residents are members of Haverhill golf club and several have held prominent positions. With so many residents playing, new members are bound to see their neighbours enjoying the golfing experience.

LNT

Correction

IN the October paper the email for Dave Brooker for the Poppy Appeal volunteers should have been dbrooker7951@gmail.com

Introducing your new editor

FRAN Armes has taken on the editorship of the Linton News following Wendy Foster's retirement.

She says: "Wendy will be a hard act to follow but she and all the members of the team are giving me tremendous support. I was so glad of the newspaper when I first arrived in Linton a little over two years ago and will try to keep up the standard."



LNT

Fran all set to go

Picture by Julian

How you can help your dispensary

WITH an ever increasing workload we have taken the decision to ask Linton patients who usually pick up their paper prescription from the dispensary to pick up from the reception desk instead. This will free up our dispensers to concentrate on their dispensing duties.

We have also taken the decision to close the dispensary for an hour between 12.30 and 1.30pm and close at 6pm in the evening with effect from the 4th November.

Talking of increasing workload, Christmas is coming. We only close for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Do make sure you have sufficient medication for the Christmas period but remember we are working between Christmas and New Year and we only close for the Bank Holiday days themselves. The vast majority of patients should not need to change their ordering pattern at all unless perhaps going on holiday for a week or so over Christmas.

Some facts about the dispensary:

We generate the repeat prescriptions for all our patients and dispense the medication for those living in the villages surrounding Linton.

We are not allowed to dispense for Linton patients. There are rules that protect community pharmacies and anyone living within a mile of a community pharmacy is not eligible to use a dispensing service within a GP surgery.

Between 9,000 and 10,000 items are dispensed every month.

We normally issue just one month's supply of medication at any one time in line with national and local guidance.

Sheila Griffiths, Practice Manager and Partner,
Linton Health Centre, 891456

Lovely for the ducks



Water,
water
everywhere

Picture
supplied by
Steven

IN a letter to the editor, Steven Christmas, who has recently moved into the Swan cottages, highlighted a problem with the new bus stop (next to the village sign) which was flooded in the recent heavy rains.

He is worried that this could happen every time there is more than a little rain. He wonders if the council workmen have blocked the drains when making the alterations.

LNT

Too good for jumble...

NEW this month are a Sebo vacuum cleaner with instructions +bags, Collins atlas of the universe, both in good condition, a boxed stainless steel 0.75 litre vacuum thermos flask and a pair of ladies TU navy blue trousers size 16R never worn.

Still available are the Hewlett Packard Deskjet 930C printer with set up disk, a pink security box with carry handle 11in high x 14½in wide and 8½in deep, the mobile computer work station with top plus three shelves 59cm wide x 51cm deep x 77cm high, a black plastic dustbin, two fireside chairs needing covers and the patio heater table model Hi-spot Minitex with refillable propane gas cylinder 19in high.

The set of imperial weights raised £5 for WaterAid, the security box was sold for £5 for the Foundation for the Study of Sudden Infant Death and a DVD player raised £10 for the Guides to donate to the Poppy Appeal.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact katefrance@profsoundconsult.com or call 891602.

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



Children show potential for finance

NOVEMBER is here, along with the darker mornings and evenings and the term is well under way. In fact, behind the scenes we are busy preparing for Christmas.

At the end of September, Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a great day out at Hunstanton Sealife Centre to tie in with our topic this term of *Life on an ocean wave*. The weather was very kind to them and the children had a fantastic day, visiting the seals, otters and penguins and learning about life in and around the ocean.

A big thank you to everyone who helped at our recent Helping Hands morning. Many hands make light work so the saying goes and this was certainly true. The workers were kept refreshed with hot drinks and bacon rolls and many jobs were completed, helping our school to remain spick and span.

The Year 2 children have been working on a financial capability project and the smell of cookies has been wafting through the school.

Ooh it's slippery

Photograph supplied by the school



The children have all enjoyed baking and then selling the cookies to their friends after school and during afternoon break. I am sure we will see some of them on Dragons Den in years to come. Our thanks to the local Co-op for their support in this project.

As mentioned last month, the admissions window will soon open for children due to start school in September 2014. If you are thinking Linton Infants is the school for your child we are holding open mornings for you to come and see for yourself. The sessions will run from 9.30 to 10.30am on Wednesdays 13th and 27th November and 4th December. Places on each session are limited so please phone the school office on 891421 to book a place.

Josephine Paterson

Linton joins Facebook

MICHAEL Harmer has set up a community group page on facebook called "Linton past and present memories". This group page aims to bring the Linton community closer together.

It has been set up with the intention that the people of Linton can share their memories in just one place. The idea is that people can post up pictures of Linton events and share comments with each other.

The group page is only in its infancy at the moment with 260 members, nearly all of whom were either brought up in Linton or have lived in Linton.

The page can be found by typing Linton past and present memories in the top search bar on people's facebook profiles.

Please feel free to have a look and see what you think. For more details of how you can help contact Michael Harmer on mickeyah2000@live.co.uk, 07976594123

Editor's note: The above group is completely independent of the Linton News



School newspaper will raise funds

AT Linton Heights, each year group takes part in planning and carrying out a Business and Enterprise project. Last year we were involved in projects such as raising money for WaterAid and a fairtrade cafe.

At the moment Year 6 pupils from Linton Heights are making a fantastic Christmas newspaper. This newspaper will contain funny jokes, top 10 worst presents, a murder mystery story, winter sports, a Where's Santa? page (similar to Where's Wally? but with Santa) and a problem page with our own Dr Quinn: medicine man. We have been given £100 and we must return that money to Miss Malone when we have sold our newspapers. The profit will be ours. We all planned together, as a whole year group, in one classroom (it was quite a squeeze). Some of the ideas for the name of the newspaper are: *The Snow, The Linton Times, Santa Banta, An Early Present and Santa's Strike Out News*.

We are writing letters to local businesses at the moment to try and gather some sponsorship in return for advertising in our amazing Christmas magazine, which is a lot harder than we thought. We all have different tasks to complete, which we are all taking very seriously and often use our lunchtime, break time and time at home to work on. Everyone in Year 6 will have input into this magazine and we can't wait to get selling!

Class 8, Year 6

The great cookie bake-off



Just some of the bakers from St Mary's

Picture supplied by Sue Filby

OUR mission was to bake 500 Ginger Snap cookies, but we were not competing to see who could make the biggest or the best; consistency was absolutely vital.

The Kairos Christian Mission at HMP Whitemoor in Cambridgeshire packaged these cookies, along with oatmeal and choc chip cookies baked by other churches, and gave them to the prisoners.

Kairos volunteers show God's love, grace and mercy to the participants in a real and profound way. Following their weekend experience, participants/guests are encouraged to take responsibility for their

life choices and their relations with God. As the Kairos community inside a prison grows and begins to gain influence, the incidents of violence decrease. Participants who are then released re-enter the outside world with a God-centered perspective and focus on becoming productive citizens.

A team of volunteers came forward, each one being given the recipe and prayer instructions, as these cookies were being made and given with our love. We hope that the prisoners will come to know God's love and to be touched by Jesus as the Kairos team work in the prison.

The St Mary's bakers made over 900 cookies; our contribution to an initiative that can really make a difference to some of the most unloved and marginalised in our society.

For more information go to <http://www.kpmifoundation.org/>

Sue Filby, 891291

Heralding the new term

THERE was an afternoon of fun at the Spotted Giraffe for the children and parents of Chestnuts Playgroup on Monday 7th October.

We thought it was a nice opportunity to welcome in the new term by gathering together. It gave the children and the parents a chance to get to know each other better as well. The children really enjoyed interacting outside their usual setting and some even enjoyed the treat of staying for tea.

If anyone is interested in signing their child up for a place at the playgroup then please contact us on 07817 069696 or view Linton Chestnut's website.

Julia Calver

Christmas Fair

THE Friends of Granta School are holding their annual Christmas Fair from 1.30pm to 4.00pm on Saturday 16th November at the Granta School (in the grounds of Linton village college). As usual we will have many stalls providing gift ideas ranging from jewellery, candles, cards, chocolates, jams and pottery to name but a few so please come along and start (or finish) your Christmas shopping. There will also be the usual stalls such as tombolas, raffle, lucky dip, refreshments and delicious homemade cakes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annette Leeman
01799 528107

Applications invited for the Anderson Trust

THE trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2014.

The aims of the charity are as follows:

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

To promote education for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton, in particular within the church school

Any other charitable purpose for those living in or resorting to Linton.

In 2013 five grants were made ranging in value from £150 to £5000 covering varied activities supporting all ages across the community.

Applicants need to complete the 2014 application form, which contains further details of the application process.

The form is available from Gill Powell, chair of the trustees, on 893664 or by email at the address below.

Applications should be sent to 7 Harefield Rise, Linton, CB21 4LS by the deadline of Friday, 7th February 2014. Email applications may be made to powellz@talktalk.net.

The trustees will meet in early March to consider all applications.

Gill Powell, 893664

All Soul's day

AS is our tradition, St. Mary's Church will be commemorating All Soul's day. This is traditionally the time when the church remembers those who have died. The service will be at 6.30pm on Sunday 3rd November. We will be holding a special communion service and we invite family and friends to join us.

During the service a candle will be lit for each person being remembered. In addition to this act of remembrance, the names of those we wish to remember will be read out during a period of prayer. We hope that this time of reflection during a communal act of worship will prove to be a healing experience for us all.

Sue Filby, 891291

Goose pimples for Isobel

ISOBEL Blakeley who has lived in Linton for 30 years, took part in a chilly 1.5k open water swim in October to raise money to support an Education for Deaf Children project in Rwanda where she will be volunteering for two years with international development charity, VSO.

Isobel hopes to raise £1500 for the project where she will be working as a Deaf Education Methodology Advisor.

Isobel said: "I will be working closely with the Umutara School for the Deaf, and also learning Rwandan sign language so that I can teach it to families and teachers."

You can still sponsor Isobel through her Just Giving page, justgiving.com/Isobel-Blakeley, or through supporting her friend who is raising money with her for the project. Julia Tebbs works for Barclays bank, which has kindly agreed to match Julia's fundraising pound for pound so if you donate through her page virginmoneygiving.com/JuliaTebbs, VSO will get twice as much.

To speak to Isobel about VSO and her role in Rwanda call 07940777225.

To find out more about VSO, please contact the VSO Media Team on 020 87807624 or email press@vso.org.uk

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Storytime
UNDER fives storytime is held from 2 – 2.30pm at Linton Library on Tuesdays during term time. Bring your youngster along for half an hour of stories and fun. It's free and there is no need to book but parents/carers must stay with their children. Storytime is organised by volunteers and Cambridgeshire Libraries.
Anne Worthington
0345 0455225

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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for articles 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.

Whose is this sleeping bag?

Dear Editor

On Christmas Eve 2012 a kind lady assisted us after a car accident on Back Road. Please would she contact us on 892011 as we have a sleeping bag belonging to her.

This plea is much delayed because I tried various means of finding this lady without success before thinking of the Linton News and my recovery from this accident has taken longer than expected.

Hilary Challis

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor

Thank you from Linton Brownies to all those who gave donations and helped on the day for the jumble sale. Almost £400 was raised.

If there are any adults who would like to volunteer with Girl Guiding in Linton, please contact me.
Ann King, 897832 District Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service November bulletin.

FIREWORKS and bonfires can be plenty of fun for all the family to enjoy. CRFS recommends going to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home. However, if you do use fireworks or light a bonfire at home, we would ask residents to take on board our safety advice to ensure it is just their fireworks that go off with a bang:

- Keep fireworks in a closed box and always follow the instructions
- Light them at arms length using a taper and stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Don't light bonfires in unsuitable weather, particularly windy conditions
- Don't leave bonfires unattended
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, fences and hedges
- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire and never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres or batteries
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.

For further information please contact me at Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service on 01480 444558 or 07747113255.

Leanne Ehren, Media and Communications Officer

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WI enjoys a hearty supper



OUR Harvest Supper on 1st October was well attended with members bringing along a selection of tasty savouries, salads and desserts for a buffet meal enjoyed by all.

After supper, Mrs Paula Dolan gave a very funny and lively talk on growing up in the 40s and 50s. Her mother had been left a widow after the war and times were hard. Paula read a poem she had written about her resourceful mother making clothing from other people's cast-offs. Other poems were about household products no longer used such as blue bags for the laundry, her schooldays when she was mortified about doing ballroom dancing in her vest and knickers, the prefab she lived in and going to the cinema when she once set fire to a woman's beehive hairdo while smoking with a cigarette holder.

A thoroughly entertaining talk which many of our members could identify with.

Our next meeting is on 5th November when the speaker will be Pete Edwards on Romany life and history.

Sally Proberts

It's not just reshuffle season in Whitehall



THE Gardening Club's new season started with the AGM. Another busy year was highlighted along with the interesting programme of events planned for this year. Thanks went to Gloria Fidler as she stood down as our chairman after giving the club years of effort and enthusiasm.

Wendy Foster was voted in as our new chairman. Thanks too went to Ron Pitkin for his long-standing commitment to the club as vice-chairman as he too stood down. Jim Forrest was voted in to succeed him. Thankfully, both Gloria and Ron have offered to stay on the committee and continue to help with the running of the club so their expertise is not lost to us.

After the AGM business was completed the club was treated to a brain teasing quiz as we caught up with each other after the summer break over a glass of wine. Thanks to Ron Pitkin and Roger Lapwood for producing cheers and groans in equal measure. They certainly caught us out on a few occasions as the photographs revealed what we had missed.

The club next meets on Tuesday 12th November for a most interesting talk by John Walker entitled *The Humble Spud*. This most familiar of vegetables is a member of a very varied family which ranges from tomatoes to deadly nightshade, so no doubt John will be expanding our view of the potato family considerably.

If you are considering an allotment this may well be of interest too. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the village hall and both members and visitors are most welcome.

Kirsten Newble 892425 lgsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

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Mandy Norris - Nursery Manager : 01223 897945 e-mail lh-bartlow@btconnect.com
Little Hands is also at Bourn, Melbourn and Newton, visit the website at www.littlehands.co.uk



THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 2nd December 2013

DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 11th November

NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 13th November

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.

Please refrain from putting commercial/business dates into the Linton diary, these will not appear in the Linton News. Only dates for clubs and groups will go in.

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

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY

Cricket practice sessions, Sunday 1pm & Thursdays 6pm	LVC
Conkers childrens' centre, 9.30am-12.30pm, Wed-Fri	CC
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Mondays	termtime CC
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays	Pavilion
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, Tuesdays, 10am term-time	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30-11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Storytime, 2-2.30pm	Library
Granta bridge club, 2pm Tuesdays	VH
Table tennis club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	URC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (893509)	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time only	VH
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays until October	Pavilion
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Bumps to babies, 1.15-2.45pm Thursdays	CC
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
St Mary's church choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays	St Mary's
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call LVC sports centre on 890248

NOVEMBER

2 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
3 All Souls' Service, 6.30pm	St Mary's
4 Linton Camera Club, 7.15pm	CC
5 WI, 7.30pm	VH
6 Linton Reading group, 8pm	VH upstairs
7 Linton lunch club, 12noon	Red Lion Horseheath
7 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
7 Police surgery, 10-11am	Linton police office
9 Mothers' Union nearly new children's toy/book sale 11.30am	VH
9 Fireworks display, 7pm	Camping Close
9 Linton Music Russian choir, 8pm	St Mary's
10 The Light House club 5-11yrs, 10.15am	URC hall
12 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
12 Scrabble Club, 10am	CP
12 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
13 Open morning, 9.30-10.30am	Infant school
14 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
15 Quiz & chips, 7.30pm	LVC main hall
16 Christmas Fair, 1.30-4.30pm	Granta School
16 History of jazz, 7.30pm	St Mary's
17 Linton walking group, 11am	Church Lane
17 Messy church, 2pm	St Mary's
19 History society, 7.30pm	VH
26 Scrabble Club 10am	CP
20 CAMTAD hearing help	HC
27 Open morning, 9.30-10.30	Infant school
28 Library Friends, Talk by Graeme Gardner, 8pm	CC

DECEMBER

3 WI, 7.30pm	VH
4 Open morning, 9.30-10.30	Infant school
5 ACE festive buffet, 12.30pm	CP
5 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
7 Farmer' market, 9.30am	LVC
7 Christmas crafts & puppets, 2pm	URC

For Cathodeon Centre bookings contact Sue Mudge, 07765 369266
KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reform church, VH village hall.

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

Linton refuse collection: 4th, 18th November & 2nd December
Linton recycling collection: 11th and 25th November

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In your own time

Animal lover and doctor

WHEN Dr Roger Bertram moved to Linton as a small boy in 1950 he could never have imagined that one day he would be keeping a menagerie to rival Linton Zoo. His father had a smallholding at Linton House where he kept goats, ducks and hens for meat, eggs and milk.

After his parents moved out of the house Roger became more interested in ducks and 10 years ago made several ponds for them. He now has about 30 varieties of duck including the distinctive blue winged teal and the Carolina. Mallards and Australian black swans also add to the numbers.

A large aviary houses a mass of budgerigars, zebra finches, golden pheasants and a pair of rare Himalayan Monal pheasants which lay eggs each year but sadly, have so far been unsuccessful in hatching young.

Dr Bertram senior always kept peacocks and they are Roger's favourites, in his opinion being the most domesticated and the most beautiful. Rheas strut around the ponds. They are certainly not kept for their eggs as they lay only 7 a year, albeit each one the size of 10 hens' eggs.

Sarah Hurcum



Roger with Incitata his miniature shetland pony

Picture by Sarah Hurcum

Roger had always kept horses but gave them up some years ago. However, he now has two miniature Shetland ponies for his grandchildren to enjoy. Three European tortoises complete this sanctuary.

Roger is still only 25% retired, working at nights and out of hours and running a telephone counselling service for doctors on a voluntary basis as well as caring for all his birds and animals. Maybe he should change his name to Dr Dolittle!

Sarah Hurcum

Hail to the goddess of hygiene

TUCKED away in the Grip industrial estate is the firm Point Contact Hygienesis which celebrates its 40th anniversary on 1st November this year. Something of a record in these times. It is now owned and run by partners Teresa Franklin and Robert

Smith both former long term employees who took over from Mr and Mrs Bruce on their retirement in April.

The unusual name is derived from Hygieia the Greek goddess of health, cleanliness, and sanitation. In addition the firm is the point of contact for many commercial organisations throughout East Anglia who wish to source cleaning items. The latter include dishwasher chemicals, cleaning products, paper disposables such as toilet rolls and hand



Staff members outside the premises

Picture by Roger Lapwood

towels or rubber gloves and refuse sacks.

The firm is a happy friendly place with two other longstanding members of staff Brian Smith and Wendy Abrams. Normally they only supply commercial customers such as restaurants, schools or nursing homes. However they have been known to supply the odd Linton resident who has dropped by with a request for dishwasher salt or a cleaner for a pet emergency.

LNT

In the trenches



Gas men at work joining the old and the new

Picture by Roger Lapwood

IT seemed to me that the traffic lights in Bartlow Road were always red – well, perhaps not always red – but they seemed to turn to red as soon as I wanted to cycle into the village past the three trenches being dug by National Grid Gas at the Horseheath Road junction.

When walking past I stopped to see how the work was progressing. Apparently a water pipe had been damaged and a mini swimming pool rapidly appeared, which held up the work. Shortly after the water was cleared, digging revealed a large iron pipe running between the three pits. James Fisk, one of the gas engineers told me the previous two weeks' work – not including the flood – was all aimed at replacing this section of ductile iron pipe with new yellow plastic pipe. This surprised me as Linton has only had gas for about 40 years.

Mr Fisk said a number of leaks had been reported along the section, which had flagged up the need for replacement. The new pipe was joined to the old at the Horseheath Road end and fed through the trenches to be joined to the original pipe by the shops. The work was expected to take about two weeks but it took longer.

Apart from the inconvenience of the traffic lights, it was interesting that there were no problems for local residents – not even a drop in gas pressure during the changeover.

LNT

In Touch with District and County Council Matters

Report from Roger Hickford. District and County councillor for Linton

THE 20mph and 30mph roundels for the approaches to the village have now been painted on the roads. The Right Turn Only sign is installed on Coles Lane opposite the car park access.

The width restriction along Back Road will not progress after seeking the views of residents. The more popular proposed weight restriction will now go out for public consultation.

Three improvements for the High Street are progressing; designated loading bay outside the Co-op, pavement widening with a change of priority at Balsham Road junction and pavement widening opposite Church Lane.

The Swan bus stop improvements have been made. The shelter has been ordered at a cost of £14,000, and is an L

shape to accommodate more passengers waiting, wheelchair access and more standing room.

The Parsonage Way bus stop improvement will start in the New Year.

In response to the recent Transport Strategy consultation a letter was sent, signed by myself and three MPs, highlighting the issues on the A1307 overall and at Linton specifically and a meeting is being arranged.

The new-build council houses in Chalklands are on target to be completed and occupied before Christmas.

At the allotments meeting on 24th September, the overwhelming response from residents was not to include development alongside allotment provision. A real positive from the meeting was that residents did give the mandate not only for compulsory purchase for al-

lotment land, but also for extra recreational land.

The contract for the new/ revised 19 Bus Service has been awarded to Go Ride, and will commence on 28th October.

Roger Hickford, 890770
Roger@RogerHickford.com

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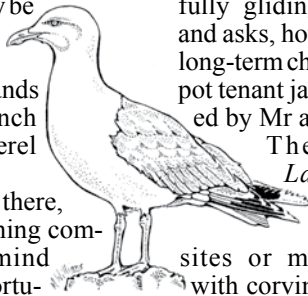
Linton Country Diary by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams



Tales of the Herring Gull gliding in a mackerel sky

THE human brain is a strikingly genuine marvel of natural engineering.
Yours truly admits to having a clunky old retrieval system so tardy 't would be overtaken by a timber-doodle, so named as perhaps the world's slowest bird (American woodcock). I can wait days, weeks, months even years for requested information to be coughed up.
However, it's all there, every last morsel and minute molecule of knowledge to which I've been exposed..
My saving grace is my personal processor, hidden somewhere inside the boney dome, which works on autopilot at warp speed once all components are visually assembled.
One such pile of facts consisted of mackerel, herring gulls, contrails and *nuage*

moutonneux. The latter translates as sheep-like floating things (not the black squiggly lines in my eyes) although fluffy clouds may be a more accurate description, until one understands it's also a French term for mackerel sky.
I could end there, returning remaining components into mind space, but unfortunately more and more people are demanding the return of skies of blue.
It turns out I'm not alone noting the gradual increase in hazy weather. On a number of recent occasions, Lintonians looking up recognised serious sunblock due to aircraft vapour trails spreading out, imitating shoals of pelagic fish*.



Emerging from mackerel-like skies an inquisitive mind considered the increasing number of herring gulls gracefully gliding over rooftops, and asks, how long before my long-term chatterbox chimney pot tenant jackdaws are evicted by Mr and Mrs HG?
The omnivorous *Larus argentatus* delight in scavenging waste products or mingling merrily with corvines, especially on autumn and winter's freshly ploughed fields. By the way, their scientific name breaks down into *Larus* being Greek for seabird and *argent* (silver) plus *tatus* meaning ornamentation, from where I suspect we get our word tattoo.
The gargantuan gulls can measure 60 centimetres long, with a wingspan, I suggest,

of a metre and a half. As such, these gulls may reach speeds of around 30 miles per hour, coming in from Southwold in approximately two hours. And furthermore, our HGs may live for over a quarter of century.
One old black capped, flat-footed seafaring man named Eric told me when I was a boy, he'd watched the same one legged gull every morn' on the breakers for 40 years. Such memories indeed.
Honestly, there's one upon my studio roof *semper fidelis* (always faithful) *resinus plasticus* often mistaken for the genuine article.
Oh, before I sign off, a solitary bird tucks one leg up close to its body to reduce heat lost through its legs and feet. Mystery solved?
*Note: pelagic fish live near the surface of the water

The Oxfam walk raises £12,000

A BEAUTIFUL autumn day helped swell the numbers taking part in the 46th Cambridge Oxfam Walk, which took place on Sunday 6th October, starting at Chilford Hall.
About 435 people, including families, groups of friends and workplace teams, walked distances ranging from four to 26 miles, to raise money for Oxfam's Emergencies Response fund. When all the

sponsorship has been collected, the walk is expected to raise around £12,000.
"Great walk today, well organised" is typical of the many positive comments made by walkers on feedback forms or on Facebook or Twitter. But that organisation relies on the help of the many volunteers who plan the routes, arrange refreshments, distribute posters, put up route signs (and take them down afterwards), transport equipment, act as marshals on the day and generally undertake the myriad tasks that ensure the walk happens.
If you are able to help with the 2014 walk in any way, whether you're looking for a

major organisational challenge that will enhance your CV, or you're willing to give a few hours on an occasional basis, in a fun and friendly atmosphere please don't be shy about coming forward.
Please contact me, the Oxfam fund-raising manager for East Anglia, at ECrossley@oxfam.org.uk or phone 0779 533539.
Emma Crossley

Editor's note: The Linton News and other local newspapers were not informed of the event ahead of time and I have suggested that if we are notified next year the number of helpers and participants may increase.

Make a Sunday mess

ONCE a month, usually on the third Sunday of the month, St Mary's hosts Messy church. This is planned especially for children and parents or carers.
Our Sunday get-togethers last about one hour including a Bible reading, worship songs and creative activities which are all linked to the theme, and are different every month. In November, for instance, we are thinking about Jesus being the Good Shepherd.
Messy Church gives the opportunity to learn and play together.
There is a mixture of learning styles used; reading and exploring a bible story, games, creative arts, songs and other group activities.
Of course, there is always plenty of food to eat at the end.
Our time together is for adults and children to enjoy and everyone is very welcome.
Why not come along to St Mary's at 2pm on 17th November or 2.30pm on 8th December, which is our Messy Christingle Service and see for yourself?
Sue Filby, 891291.

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NEWS IN BRIEF
World's biggest coffee morning
THE Nichols Court Macmillan Coffee Morning was a friendly and enjoyable morning with numerous stalls, luscious cakes, wholesome hot dogs, bacon rolls and a raffle.
We were entertained by Nick Rumble who sang a song or two, which helped to raise even more pounds.
All in all it was a great success raising over £1586.00.
So thank you to all those who worked hard on the day and those who gave so generously.
Bel Griffiths

Quieter but still a success
THE coffee morning was quieter this year possibly due to the incredible success at Nichols Court. However combined with Rhyme and Rhythm who enjoyed coffee and cake as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning we raised £402 which is a lot of Macmillan time.
Thanks to all who helped and took part.
Fiona Tideswell fionatideswell@hotmail.com

Cards for good causes
ONCE again Saffron Walden Library at 2 King Street is hosting a Cards for good causes multi-charity Christmas card shop from 5th November to 18th December.
The shop opening times are 10am until 4pm from Monday to Saturday and 9.30am until 12.30pm on Wednesdays.

News from Hildersham
It's raining rabbits
WHILST walking her dog from Linton to Hildersham, a Linton resident stopped at Hildersham Bridge to enjoy the view. Suddenly she was startled to hear a thud nearby. On turning she saw a small rabbit on the path looking decidedly dazed.
Wherever had it come from? Maybe it had escaped the claws of a buzzard and had had a lucky landing, or maybe with climate change it's now raining rabbits.

The Hildersham lecture
THE speaker at the November lecture, entitled *Addenbrooke's; I didn't know that* will be Keith Day MBE, former Administrative Director of Addenbrooke's hospital. The lecture starts at 7.30pm on 29th November in Holy Trinity Church. Tickets at £5 including refreshments will be on sale at the door.

It's a Fairtrade teatime
THERE will be the opportunity to buy Fairtrade ingredients for Christmas baking at teatime in the village hall on 7th November.
There will also be a selection of Christmas cards – and Divine chocolate for chocoholics.

Hildersham quiz night
THERE is still time to book your place at the Quiz Night in Hildersham village hall on 8th November.
The quiz will start at 7.30pm, doors open from 7pm to give time to find your place and do the table quiz. Tickets are £10 including a hot supper during the interval.
Bring your own drinks – glasses will be supplied. To book call Jean Morton on 894739 or Cathy Myer on 892848 or email jeanmorton22@gmail.com or catherinemyer43@btinternet.com

Have a turn out for Emmaus
AT 7.30pm on 20th November John Gall, Community Manager of Emmaus at Landbeach, will speak about his work with the community.
Listen to a fascinating talk with a glass of mulled wine and mince pies. The following week, on 26th November, there will be a collection of items for Emmaus. Please have a good clear out before Christmas and bring anything you no longer have a use for, but which could be restored or sold in the shop, to the village hall between 6pm and 7.30pm.
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The Derbyshire Post



IT is a difficult time for English teachers at Linton village college and every other school in the country. Everyone knows how important getting a grade C or better in English GCSE is to students and their futures and pressure is mounting.

In 2012 the exam boards put the grade boundaries up higher to make the C harder to achieve. First of all they did this with coursework (or controlled assessments as they are called) and then last year they also did the same with the English exam.

In August, half way through the current Year 11 course, the exam boards threw in another bombshell; that the speaking and listening assignments that students had already worked on, as specified in the exam syllabus, would no longer count towards the final exam. Effectively, children and teachers across the country had wasted weeks of work.

What sensible Heads of English quickly worked out was that there was one last chance for these assessments to count and this was in the November 2013 exam window, so, with relief from the students, schools entered children for English in November.

Unfortunately the story does not end there. In the first week of October, an announcement came from the Department for Education to say that it did not approve of early exam entry and in order to discourage schools from pursuing this practice it explained that 'first entries' to an exam would be the ones counted in the performance tables in other words, that schools might risk Ofsted scrutiny for weaker results because retakes in Year 11 would not be counted in the tables.

This is all ridiculous. We are now left with no confidence at all in the fairness of the exam system. School exam results can no longer be compared in any reasonable way. A grade C at GCSE isn't the same as a grade C in iGCSE (grade boundaries for the iGCSE have not been touched), a Welsh grade C isn't the same as an English one (the Welsh exams are easier), and you can't tell if a school has entered children at age 15 or 16 for exams and yet they are viewed the same in the tables.

I do understand that the government wishes to overhaul the exam system. But did they really need to make such a dog's breakfast of the qualifications that our children are currently taking.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Note: iGCSE is International GCSE

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S/2066/13/LB Mr C Fairey, Little Barham Hall, Bartlow Road, Listed Building Addition or Extension

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The Way We Were

By Garth Collard

37 to 39 High Street: from tailors to post office to butchers' shop

THE building is largely 18th century in date but has several 17th century features. The chimney stack dates from the late 18th century.

In 1600 Robert Thorpe owned a small close, house and barn on this site and by 1640 Thomas and Emma Law conducted a tailoring and glove making business here. They had nine children and Emma lived to 88.

In 1775 the premises was owned by Robert Pitt who also owned 30 & 32 High Street. He operated his business as a stationer, bookseller and pharmacist from numbers 37-39 High Street. He was also a surveyor and the leading auctioneer for house contents and property. He used sheds on the site of number 30 to store items for sale.

Items sold in the shop included Hallam's anti-bilious laxative pills. The Cambridge Intelligencer Journal published



Miss Nottage outside the Post Office in 1903

Picture from Garth's collection

from 1800 advertised medicines stocked by Robert Pitt of Linton. There were adverts for such items as skin lotions, medicines to purify the blood or cure venereal complaints. A cordial balm of Gilead priced at 10/6d was advertised as a medicine for nervous consumption or feminine weaknesses. Manns approved cough mix-

ture cost from 3/- to 18/- (15p - 95p) a bottle.

Robert Pitt let part of the property to the local builder William Day who also owned 41 and 43 High Street - currently the premises of H J Paintin Ltd. When Robert Pitt died in August 1812, the sale catalogues listed his household effects which included Wilton

carpets, excellent feather beds, mahogany tables and an 8-day mahogany cased clock.

From 1871 the premises was divided into two cottages; number 37 let to postal workers and number 39 let to William Day for his insurance and corn Chandler business.

Richard Holtum became postmaster in 1869 and operated the new post office parcel service and telegraph system. In 1892 he bought 37 and 39 High Street for £155 to house his business as the Linton postmaster, formerly housed in his grocery store.

From 1896 he let number 37 to Marianne Nottage, the new postmistress and number 39 to Alfred Whiffen, the mail cart driver.

Miss Nottage married William Moore, a postman, in 1906. She retired in 1920 after suffering a stroke. Her three-wheeled carriage appeared on several Linton postcards.

Aztecs U15s all kitted out

AZTECS U15 squad would like to thank both MPI Services and the Barbershop Company for continuing their sponsorship of the team home and away kits this season.

Team Manager Mick Linsdell said: "We have been very

fortunate over the seasons to have such wonderful backing from our sponsors and on behalf of the team I would like to thank Trevor, Marion and David for their continued and valued support."



Resplendent in the new away kit

P by Mick Linsdell

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Mick Linsdell, Manager

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Some allotment facts

MANY of you will have seen or heard various things about allotments recently, much of which is misleading or just plain wrong.

The Parish Council has an obligation under the 1908 Allotments Act to provide allotments if at least six parishioners request them. They have to assess need, but the vote in favour at the public meeting of 24th September can leave no room for doubt.

Those attending the public meeting expressed a clear preference for the compulsory purchase of land to avoid the need to do a deal with the landowner and permit building outside the village envelope.

This has another benefit as once a plot has been compulsorily purchased, a future PC could not change the use without the approval of the Secretary of State. The land therefore becomes an asset to the village in perpetuity.

The Linton Allotment Association (LAA) has over 50 members and many more expressions of interest both from individuals and groups, including two of our village schools.

Allotments are more than recreational. A standard plot of 250 square metres can provide food for a family of four for a year, which is nutritionally superior to packaged food and can be totally organic if required. This is obviously a great help to those with a limited income, especially pensioners.

Allotments are open to all who live in the parish, thus providing a forum for meeting neighbours.

People of all ages work allotments, many for decades, and it often becomes a family effort. It also provides good exercise and a safe place to enjoy the fresh air.

The Council can borrow money at special rates to fund allotments and there are grants and rents for the establishment and upkeep of the site.

We have much more information so if you have specific questions you can email Terry.redgrave@quantumbinders.co.uk who will do his best to answer.

Terry Redgrave, Chairman

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Parish Council Matters

Allotments

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

LINTON once had about 50 allotments on land rented from South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC), but in 1994 SCDC sold the land for housing – we gained Granta Leys but lost the allotments. The parish plan of 2004 identified the need for allotments and the latest SCDC outdoor playspace survey of 2013 confirmed the need for more community recreational space, with a shortfall of around 18 acres.

Linton parish council (LPC) has contacted landowners several times - the colleges, farmers, estates - to ask for suitable land for our needs and aspirations, without success.

Under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908, if there is sufficient demand, it is our duty to try to provide land for allotments. When, in 2007, six residents made that request, LPC was legally bound to assess the need for allotments. Approximately 40 residents responded, clearly identifying the need. Yet again we hunted for sites, contacting all known local landowners. One landowner responded, but wanted planning permission for housing and other developments in return.

In June 2009, we discovered that the owners of a strip of land on Back Road also owned the field leading up to Rivey Hill, and were willing to negotiate with us. A second landowner then offered a site. Neither field was ideal, but once land had been offered we felt duty bound to follow it through. Following official valuation, the owners wanted more money than we could legally offer.

Linton Allotments Association (LAA) was formed in 2012, and now has around 50 members. They identified three pockets of land that they thought suitable. One would have impact on a site of scenic value, one has traffic problems, and we are considering the acquisition of their preferred site, off the Horseheath Road, behind Lonsdale. LPC had concerns that this might breach the village envelope leading to further applications for development - against LPC and village opinion, and against the SCDC local development plan which LPC has commended and endorsed.

The owner, the Diocese of Ely, was approached and there were initial discussions. Following valuation by an independent body, LPC offered the Diocese more than the assessed value, in the hope that this would be acceptable, but they were not willing to sell us the land.

After much discussion and reflection, LPC decided that, as this was the site the LAA wanted, then the route of compulsory purchase (CP) would have to be followed to obtain it.

people (of whom 33 signed-in) from the village as a whole, and not just one specific group.

All parties were given the chance to speak, ask and answer questions. Terry Redgrave, chairman of LAA explained their criteria for considering possible allotment sites, and why the land adjacent to Lonsdale had been the preferred site. He reminded those present that if land was purchased for allotments it would be protected as allotment land in perpetuity.

Mr Burkitt, for the Diocese, explained that their remit was to raise enough to pay the stipends of the 180 vicars in the Diocese, provide vicarages, the Diocese office etc. The main source of income was from stocks and shares, with some rent from Glebe land. To maximise income, land was only sold for development. Although they had rejected the LPC offer to buy five acres of land, they wished to find a route to achieve all parties' objectives. For example, if LPC were to support housing development on part of the field and persuaded SCDC to approve it, it might generate sufficient capital for a donation of some land for allotments. (It was noted that this was outwith the powers of LPC).

As part of the general discussion a number of issues and questions were raised by parishioners, as follows:

The cost was estimated at around £80k for five acres of land and £5k for ancillary costs, financed through a low cost, long-term public works loan. Grants would fund some ancillary works. Allotments would be self-financing through rental income.

Why buy and not lease? Outright acquisition would give Linton a valuable asset for future generations. Previously allotment sites had been leased and then sold. LPC wanted security of tenure of an asset with further potential. Even a 99year lease - a long time in personal terms but not in the life of the village - would not be cost effective given the input the site would require.

Would CP impact on other projects, support for local schools or medical services? These service budgets were ring-fenced and not part of LPC budgets. Purchase of land would not impact on other budgets or projects.

What size of development was proposed by the Diocese? Possibly 25-30 houses on 3.5 acres and 3.5 acres to be given for allotments. Concerns were raised about the impact on the village envelope, road safety of allotments or even a small development, and access issues.

The view from the floor was that if there was building outside the village envelope it could open up further land for development - in fact, it would be very difficult for SCDC to refuse it. Bidwells had already outlined plans for 400-700 houses on adjacent land. This correlated with LPC concerns.

Why five acres? There were 50+ residents needing allotments. In addition, access, parking, screening, pathways between plots, access for the disabled, communal storage etc gave an area of five acres.

Conflicting advice had been received as to whether, under CP, community amenity land could be incorporated on the site - eg community orchard, trim trail, wild flower meadow, dog walking route etc. If in a few years, interest in allotments declined, the land would revert to community use for recreational purposes. Similarly, if more allotments were needed, more land could be available. Benefits of allotments to health, well-being etc were noted - for all ages.

I then asked the meeting to address the formal consultation questions. These were:

Should we buy land for allotments? Response "Yes" - by an overwhelming majority.

Is this the correct site? Response "Yes" - by an overwhelming majority. The LAA was set up to choose the site and we should accept their opinion.



Field on Horseheath Road adjacent to Lonsdale: preferred site for village allotments

Picture taken by Anne Meeks

As part of that process, there must be public consultation. We must have regard to the views of the village, but LPC is not legally bound by the views emerging from the consultation, as we have a statutory duty to provide land for allotments. Articles were written in the Linton News, minutes of meetings posted on the website, and we have heard the views of many people. A public meeting was held on 24th September, attended by 48

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LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
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Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry

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Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

Office hours: Monday 9am–12noon and

4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon

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Dates for full council meetings:

7th and 21st November, 5th December 2013

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VACANCY village custodian needed to cover temporary absence. Involves a variety of work to keep the village tidy. Hours flexible and by negotiation.

Please contact the parish council, details as above, by 11th November 2013.

THERE are currently three vacancies for parish councillors. If you are interested in being co-opted onto the council please come along to a meeting.

Should we explore the CP of community/recreational land alongside the allotments? Response "Yes" - by an overwhelming majority.

Would this be a good use of public money? Response "Yes" - by an overwhelming majority, as it would bring health and economic benefits and improve the quality of life for villagers, as well as securing a valuable community asset for future generations.

Should any surplus be used as community land? Response "Yes" - by an overwhelming majority.

Do we want to consider a small development alongside the allotments? Response "No" - by an overwhelming majority. There was a risk this could trigger other development proposals.

It was a lively meeting, with varying opinions robustly expressed. From this meeting, LPC has received a mandate to proceed with buying allotment land (in line with our statutory duty) with the possibility of additional recreation space. We will continue to consult you, as it will be your money that will be spent, and your asset in perpetuity, if we succeed.

Meanwhile we will continue friendly negotiations with all parties, especially landowners.

Cllr Enid Bald

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 19th September 2013.

Present: Mrs E Bald (chairman), D Champion, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, R Hickford county and district councillor - arrived at 8.40pm following attendance at another meeting, S Hill, B Manley, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter, K Wakley, Mrs A Walker and Mrs S Parry (clerk). District councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Wilson. Cllr Poulter was also absent.

Declarations of interest: Cllr Hill declared a non pecuniary interest under the allotments item.

Chairman's comments: Communication was important and recently the PCSOs had acted on information passed to them by the public via the parish council and had apprehended youths in the cemetery, who were acting unlawfully. It was a great shame that the district council had not communicated with council on the demolition of the garages in Palmer's Close. The community payback team were in need of work – possible jobs for them should be sent to the clerk. It was with regret we heard of the resignation of PCSO Chris Pulley, we send our thanks and a huge vote of appreciation.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September: Under the update on parking outside the Co-op item, Cllr Potter asked for clarification and detailed plans for the proposed change of priority at the junction of Balsham Road and the High Street.

Under the county council and winter gritting item, Cllr Potter reported that he had attended the winter gritting training course.

Under the update on pavilion refurbishment item, Cllr Manley reported that work on the pavilion would commence on 7th October.

Written reports from district councillors: The chairman thanked the councillors for their information. Cllr Bear had been at the unveiling of South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC)'s rural living eco home in Weston Colville. This property included air source heat pump, external insulated wall cladding, solar pvs, solar thermal panel, under floor heating and double glazing. This house could become a forerunner for SCDC properties.

When questioned Cllr Bear denied any previous knowledge of the demolition of garages in Palmer's Close. She was aware however of a review of garages in the district some years previously which had appeared to be abandoned due to lack of funding.

Cllr Hickford reported that SCDC had clarified their stance on Linton parish council's applications for important countryside frontages. None of the parish councils applications had been approved to be included in the local plan, but instead it was thought current planning laws would suffice to protect them.

Written report from county councillor: Cllr Hickford reported that he had asked the police to continue speed checks in Hadstock Road and Balsham Road. He had also asked them to try to carry out checks on Back Road for traffic approaching from Hildersham, although safety for police officers conducting checks was an issue there. They would also keep an eye on parking outside developments on Back Road.

Update on allotments: The clerk advised that conflicting advice had been received from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) and the legal department at SCDC regarding the acquisition of allotment land.

Update on Co-op parking scheme and safety improvements to the High Street: Cllr Hickford had confirmed that he had enquired as to how the loading bay outside the Co-op might work with respect to parking for residents. The loading bay could be time controlled, reverting to resident parking. To stop cars parking very close to Green Lane, a 'Keep Clear' could be put across the entrance to Green Lane and the corner along the High Street. This would cost a little more but was still well within budget.

Agreement was required that the parish council would contribute up to £1,000 towards road safety schemes, instead of the £1,000 already agreed for a Co-op specific scheme. These schemes were in their infancy and would require a safety audit. Cllr Cox

proposed that £1,000 be contributed towards the schemes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Wakley and agreed by the meeting. Proposal carried.

Update on the bus stop improvements: The council supported the revised plans for both the Swan bus stop and Fire Station/Parsonage Way bus stop. At a meeting with Brian Stinton and Eric Routley (from the county council) on site at the Swan bus stop, bus users were asked for their thoughts on the improvements and the responses were very positive, adding that a wide roof on the shelter would be good so people having to stand, which was very frequent, would be better protected.

The parish council agreed that access protection marking on the north side opposite the new dropped kerb would allow unhindered access from this side of the High Street but would still allow resident vehicle parking.

Written reports: The tree survey had been received. It was agreed that Cllrs Bald and Cox along with Mrs Anderson (tree warden) and the clerk would meet to discuss this and agree a maintenance plan. CGM, council's grass maintenance contractor, would be contacted to ensure hedges were cut properly this year, and damaged trees replaced.

Correspondence received for consideration: Rob Mungovan, SCDC ecology officer, had devised a project to protect part of the river bank from erosion. Cllr Cox proposed that the project be supported. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Walker. Proposal carried.

A resident had written regarding various issues. It was agreed that the clerk would respond. Several councillors had noted that a resident was regularly parking inconsiderately on the Market Square. It was agreed to write to them requesting that more care and consideration be shown when parking in this area.

SCDC had sent clarification on leaf clearance in the absence of the village custodian. Discussion took place and it was agreed that council would advertise for a temporary custodian to cover current sickness leave.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 3rd October 2013.

Present: Mrs E Bald (chairman), P Poulter (vice chairman), Dr B Cox, S Hill, G Potter, Mrs A Walker and Mrs A Meeks (admin assistant to the clerk). Mrs K France (press) was also in attendance with two members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Champion, Dew, Hickford, Manley, Wakley, Walker and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Cllr Mannassi was also absent.

Declarations of interest: Cllr Poulter declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest under the Carter Jonas public exhibition item as a resident of the adjacent site.

Chairman's comments: Congratulations were voiced to the Granta playgroup who had received an outstanding result in its recent Ofsted inspection. All were reminded that any PCSO issues should be sent to the police and crime commissioner. All to be aware that postings on the forum site being attributed to council were misleading and incorrect. Emails containing deliberate misinterpretation and inaccurate statements were going to be ignored.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September: Under the update on the bus stop improvements item, Cllr Cox advised that the contractors had found that the gully taking rainwater ran into the culvert. He was concerned that sinkage might occur further up the High Street towards Church Lane if the gully had worn away there.

Under the update on the bus stop improvements item, it was reported that the heritage trail map stand base would have to be shortened from a square to a rectangle to accommodate the works. SCDC conservation would be advised of this.

Under the correspondence item, Cllr Bald reported that SCDC's ecology officer, Rob Mungovan, would be progressing with his river bank project. He would meet concerned parties regarding ideas to prevent flooding at the upper river reaches and restore Leadwell Meadows.

Under the written reports item – Hayden's tree survey, Cllr Bald advised that a tree works tender was being compiled, with some work being identified for the community payback team. The tender would need to include tree works recently identified in the cemetery. Cllr Cox requested that contractors were asked to quote for each village area separately, also advising that the churchyard works should enable the kissing gate to be reinstated.

Update on pavilion refurbishment: It was agreed to contact the project manager, Alan Lamb, with the following requests: That there should be no traffic movements between the school day hours of 8am-9am and 3pm-3.30pm for the safety of school and playgroup children (this was a safer route to school), that all traffic using the footpath should be limited to a maximum speed of 5mph for the safety of all pedestrians etc entering the path at various side access points. Confirmation would also be requested that any damage incurred to the footpath would be rectified. **Consideration of council's stance and response to the local plan consultation:** It was noted that the responses to the transport strategy and community infrastructure levy had been completed and submitted.

The policies in the local plan were described, highlighting development strategies, the retention of village envelopes (S4), and that Linton developments should not exceed 30 houses (S9). Cllr Poulter commended SCDC on its work and proposed that council supported the local plan. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bald with all in favour. Proposal carried.

Arrangements for meeting to discuss the neighbourhood plan: Cllr Poulter had issued a report which was noted. A meeting with Bartlow and Hildersham parish councils was scheduled at which their possible participation in a joint plan would be discussed. It was noted that council would have more powers if it had a neighbourhood plan.

Consideration of the report from Carter Jonas following the public exhibition in February 2012: Carter Jonas had advised they no longer had any involvement in this site (field adjacent to Lonsdale on Horseheath Road) and the Diocese of Ely had passed it to another company. Council noted that the report gave a lot of feedback, including that allotments and children's play/informal open spaces were community facilities most wanted by the circa 300 attendees.

Consideration of the development proposals and request for a meeting from Carter Jonas regarding land at 14 The Old Manor House and 8 The Green, Green Lane: These were noted. It was agreed to canvass the views of nearby residents on this outline proposal (plan available to view in parish council office) and get general comments. Council could listen to these but not comment due to pre-determination rules. Carter Jonas would be advised of this, and if any meeting was to be organised with them, after the next council meeting.

Consideration of changing the January meeting dates: It was agreed to change the meeting dates for January 2014 to the 9th and 23rd, acknowledging that some councillors would not be able to attend on dates other than the usual first and third Thursdays of the month.

Consideration of the report from the external auditor: The following response was noted: 'In the completion of section 4, the annual audit report, and their detailed report, the internal auditor has drawn attention to significant weaknesses in relation to the council's assessment of significant risks. The body must ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner.'

Cllr Potter noted the proper practice on the valuing of assets.

Correspondence received for consideration: Mr Taylor had written several times regarding village issues. These were noted and it was reiterated that the view of the council was not necessarily as purported to be.

Mr Batchelor had written regarding allotments. His comments were noted, along with his factual error; the council was not an unelected body, it had been returned unopposed.

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

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