

Easter Fayre
Saturday
11th April
12 noon at
Symonds House

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Guides get the benefit of fire safety tuition

THE youth engagement officer for the county's fire and rescue service is now based at Linton.

Twenty-year-old James Thorne, of the Grove, said: "The government has set targets for the fire service to impact on antisocial behaviour, domestic violence, criminal record bureau checks as well as fire safety and prevention."

James, who was a pupil at Linton village college, served as a retained firefighter for a year.

He now works full-time, largely involved with visiting schools and youth groups throughout the county, as well as being on duty for fire emergencies at Linton.



A group of 2nd Linton Guides was among the first to benefit from a fire safety presentation at Linton. James and retained firefighter Lee Allen began with a discussion on the three components of fire (as shown in the fire triangle above) and then covered personal safety.

This dealt with making a family escape plan from the home, fire prevention, the

importance of smoke alarms, what to do in the event of fire in the home or outside and noticing fire exits in public buildings.

The Microsoft power point presentation produced by James over four days last November used Heart Kids characters from the Cambridgeshire fire and rescue website.

The programme can be tailor-made to include particular aspects of fire safety. The Guides' presentation covered all clauses of their fire safety badge.

The final quiz revealed how much the girls had learned – and 25 were awarded the badge.

LNT



Keeping safe: James Thorne, right, and Lee Allen ready for their fire safety presentation

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Well done Louise!

CONGRATULATIONS to Louise Clark, pictured below, on her successful application for the position of head teacher at the infant school. She continues her leadership role with the huge enthusiasm and hard work she demonstrated during 2008 as acting head.

The reading helpers were one of Louise's initiatives, and we now have trained volunteers – parents and people from the community – who come in to listen to pupils read. This extra help is making a real difference. Thank you, helpers, and parent governor Emma Mason, who runs the training sessions.

Parents enjoyed an open afternoon at the school. All were welcome with the opportunity



to watch their children in class, view their work and the displays around the school.

Every term, parents are invited to have a school dinner. This term has been the most successful yet with every parent lunch day fully booked. (Well done Cambridge catering service, and Sil and Gail in the kitchen.)

The children and staff celebrated World Book Day in March by dressing in traditional costumes. Each classroom represented a different country, with local culture and artefacts on display.

Our thanks to the local police who came into school to give a road safety talk, followed by a road safety show in the playground.

The PSA has also been busy this term. A bingo and chips evening in March was a great success, enjoyed by parents and the community.

At the time of writing this report, preparations were well under way for Eco Week, but more news next time.

Linton wind farm: how the final decision will be made



Elegant or an eyesore ... it's time to make up your mind about a wind farm at Linton. These turbines are at a site near Coldham, Norfolk

Picture by Tracey Wilson

You may have received in your mailbox the consultation letter from South Cambs district council regarding the Linton wind farm planning permission. This project has been discussed recently in the local media, so we asked councillor John Batchelor about the process

THE planning application for an eight turbine wind farm near Camgrain off the A1307 has been received.

What happens now? The planning authority is the district council and it is their job to approve or reject the application; they have a target period of 16 weeks to get the job done. Before it comes to the district planning committee, there will be a period of consultation locally.

Linton parish council has the responsibility of making its own recommendation to the district. The planning officers take that recommendation together with the views of individuals and other organisations into account as they arrive to their own view. This forms part of the report that the officers prepare for the planning committee.

The final decision rests with the planning committee consisting of 12 district councillors. If that decision is a refusal, then the applicant has the right of appeal, which would be heard by a government appointed inspector. The inspector's decision is final.

is final.

Planning is a legal process and it is the committee's duty to make a judgement based on the requirements of planning law.

Applications cannot be refused just because you do not like the proposal; a strong legal case has to be made to justify any decision.

There will be opportunities for you to have your say. The parish council will be holding a public meeting at 8pm on 3rd April at Linton village college before it comes to its decision.

No doubt other interest groups will also be holding meetings.

You should make your views known to the district council planning officers and, of course, as your local councillors Trisha Bear and I want to hear what you have to say.

When it comes to the district council planning committee, both Trisha and I will be able to speak; Trisha is also a full member of the committee so she will have a vote.

This meeting is open to the public, so you are welcome to

come along. One nominated representative each from the parish council, the objectors and the applicant have a right to speak at the meeting.

This is the third application for a wind farm that we have had in the district in recent years. The first was at Boxworth next to the A14, the second was on land between the A11 and West Wrattling.

I was a member of the planning committee at the time when both those applications were refused. I fully support the principals of encouraging the production of renewable energy but, like any other planning application, the proposals must meet their legal obligations. These laws are there to protect individuals and communities.

In both those cases, the most important factor for me was the unacceptable environmental impact of the proposals.

They have both gone to appeal. The Boxworth appeal was refused, we are still waiting for the other appeal to be heard.

John Batchelor
County, district and parish councillor 892111

Two views on the subject

LINTON village hall hosted a meeting about the wind farm proposal on 24th March, attended by around 200 people.

The chairman of the Stop Linton Wind Farm group, Bill Thomas, outlined the proposal, giving detail of its location and scale. He also mentioned that Enertrag's assessment of the Linton area was that it was "without any specific landscape merit". As well as pointing out that the plans would be scrapped in Scotland due to the proximity to homes, Mr Thomas said the thought of the added distraction to the A1307 made his "blood run cold".

Mike Barnard, an expert in wind energy, suggested it was pointless putting in a renewable energy source when the drawbacks far outweigh the benefits. The cost of producing energy from wind was double that of current methods, he said. As existing wind farms run at only 26% efficiency, it seemed strange that one of the least windy areas of the country had been targeted.

A statement was read on behalf of Linton Zoo. Apparently, Enertrag has been unable to say whether their rare breeds programme would be adversely affected.

Dr Sue Robinson presented the audience with the findings of research into the health effects of living close to wind turbines. It is thought that the elderly, very young, people with middle ear problems, sufferers of migraines and multiple sclerosis are most at risk. Symptoms can include hypertension, headaches and migraine problems, thickening of blood vessels, insomnia and depression. A telling contribution came from Jane Davis, a Lincolnshire farmer with a wind farm near their farm. Her family experienced many health problems and their house is now unsaleable.

THE facts concerning wind energy are generally accepted by both sides of the debate. The world has a finite and rapidly dwindling supply of the fossil fuels used to generate electricity; furthermore these fuels give off unwanted greenhouse gases... the UK has virtually none of these fuels and is therefore economically vulnerable. Wind power is clean, renewable and free. So surely there can be no sensible opposition to wind farms?

Damage to the environment, the effect on human and animal health, reduction in local property values, noise, ruined TV/ radio reception etc must be weighed against our need for electricity. Many of these problems could be alleviated if the developers were confident enough to guarantee their claims of no nuisance or councils were able to demand them.

However there are more serious issues. The difficulties of coupling numerous small and unreliable (due to wind variability) generators into the national distribution grid may yet restrict wind power to offices blocks, schools, small factories etc.

Finally it is known that wind power (the best developed renewable energy source) is incapable of supplying more than 5-10% of our needs. So should the government concentrate on providing the next generation of nuclear power stations?

LNT

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

SHOULD anybody have been interested and had the time and inclination to study and comment on British children in the 1950s and 60s, in all probability they would have assessed them as amongst the happiest, healthiest, best educated and well mannered in the world. Today, internationally creditable statistics suggest that things have changed - regrettably for the worse. Our children are now amongst the unhappiest in Europe (if not the world), their educational and behavioural standards are rapidly being overtaken by others and there is a serious risk that obesity will reduce their life expectancy to less than that of their parents. No mean achievement in only two generations of regression which, we are now given to understand, is largely due to poor parenting!

Since 1960 the UK has been beset with a plethora of legislation, from Westminster and Brussels, aimed at protecting our children and improving their education - much of which now appears to have failed miserably. Our children are stopped from playing conkers, throwing snowballs, climbing trees and engaging in many of the games and activities enjoyed by their parents, because of some irrational fear that they may hurt themselves. Instead, they are obliged to spend much of their time alone, playing moronic computer games, communicating with questionable web sites or watching unsavoury DVDs.

The growth of career women striving to 'fulfil their potential' and unmarried mothers without stable partners (politically if not morally correct) struggling to survive, and breadwinners with enforced long distance commutes have inevitably resulted in parents having less time to spend with their children. This has forced greater reliance on fast (rather than good) food and, worse still, dramatically reduced parental assistance in teaching our children the basics of reading, writing and civilised behaviour. Increasing demands for more school tests and the statistics these generate (serving only to keep those who devise them in employment) has placed unnecessary pressure on teachers and pupils alike, and is causing many schools to reduce, or withdraw altogether, the extra support prescribed by law for the encouragement of brighter pupils. Finally, the soft sentencing of juvenile law breakers, at the behest of social reformers or political dogma and the outlawing of corporal punishment without acceptable alternatives, has left many parents and teachers struggling to find ways of controlling boisterous children and budding criminals.

In view of the foregoing it is not surprising that our children have regressed so far. Undoubtedly parents must carry some responsibility for these problems but surely our legislation carries much more. So this rant is addressed to the learned sociologists, MPs, academics, psychologists, lawyers, etc who formulate our laws, many of whom seem far more concerned with professional and financial gain than with the harm which their mistakes may cause our children. Please have the common sense to review your handiwork regularly, recognise and accept your mistakes and then have sufficient respect for society as whole to amend or repeal unreasonable or unworkable legislation.

Positive steps towards a better service at the sports centre

FOLLOWING the user group meeting held in January, Mark Wilson, sports centre manager, and Duncan Clay, LVC governor, held a follow-up meeting to show the actions being taken. Some 18 issues raised in January have been reviewed, including health and safety concerns, shared use, staffing, security, bookings and the fitness suite.

The general consensus was that the sports centre is taking positive steps towards improving customer service. Feel free to make your comments to Mark when using the facilities. The next user group meeting is expected to be on the 4th June.

LNT

Remember to send details of your club or association to: lneditor@linton.info

New numbers for county council's Contact Centre

ON 2nd February, the Contact Centre began changing its telephone numbers, with 0845 numbers now beginning 0345. The rest of each number will stay the same, eg Cambridgeshire County Council's 'general enquiries' number will change from 0845 045 5200 to 0345 045 5200.

The 03 number range has been introduced by Ofcom as an alternative to 08 numbers due to public concerns over call charges. Call costs to the public ringing an 0345 number are the same as calls to geographic numbers (starting 01 or 02) and will be included as part of relevant inclusive call bundles or discount schemes that customers may have with their service provider.

Initially, both of these numbers will run in parallel before phasing out the 0845 numbers in August.

If you have any queries please email Nitin Pastakia at Nitin.Pastakia@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or Alistair Dunsdon at Alistair.Dunsdon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Care Service	New Telephone Number
Adult Health & Social Service	0345 045 5201
Adult Social Care	0345 045 5202
Children's Services	0345 045 5203
Blue Badges Disabled Parking	0345 045 5204
Occupational Health	0345 045 5205
Learning Disability Partnership/Sensory	0345 045 5221
General Community Service	New Telephone Number
General Enquiries	0345 045 5200
Switchboard	0345 045 5222
Trading Standards	0345 045 5206
Waste Management	0345 045 5207
Education Transport	0345 045 5208
Human Resources (recruitment line)	0345 045 5210
Online Payments Support	0345 045 5211
Streetscene (highways, transport, streets)	0345 045 5212
Library Services (includes auto renewals)	0345 045 5225
Citizenship	0345 045 5155
Family Information Service	0345 045 1360
Education Welfare Benefits Service	0345 045 1361

Turning Yellow Pages green

FOR the first time, you can recycle your old Yellow Pages using South Cambs district council's green box kerbside collection. Until now, high ink concentrations have meant that they were hard to recycle, but a reduction in the colour ink wash intensity has made it much easier to recycle them into high quality newsprint. See your latest South Cambs magazine.

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

FOLLOWING the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 23rd March, further police news and an interview with Inspector Chris Savage will appear in the next issue.



Attention! Proud cadets of 2523 squadron

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Patients ... and doctors stay fit at health centre



Scissors at the ready: Dr Hewlett does the honours

Picture by Roger Lapwood

APPROPRIATELY, Dr James Hewlett officially opened the second development of Linton Health Centre on 20th March by cutting the ribbon with a pair of surgical scissors.

Dr Hewlett said: "This health centre exists to look after its patients. I have no doubt it will continue as well as it has in the past and probably better."

He outlined the progress of the health centre from its construction in 1977 and thanked the health authority, now the primary care trust, for its support and encouragement during the improvement and development of the premises both in 1991 and again over the past year to provide the present state-of-the art facilities.

Children are well provided for in their attractive new play area and patients can book in for their appointments without bothering the busy receptionists.

A bonus for some of the doctors whose rooms have been built further away from the waiting room is that they can now keep fit by the longer

walk to call their patients!

Lloyds TSB, which provided financial support throughout the years was also thanked by Dr Hewlett together with the Marshall family who donated sufficient funds for a training suite for undergraduate medical students, newly qualified doctors and registrars.

Funds from the Bartlow Three Counties Walk were gratefully received and paid for much of the equipment for the minor surgery room.

Dr Jonathon Silverman paid special tribute to the staff at the health centre who coped so well with the inevitable problems of the building work during the past 16 months. "The fantastic premises are amazing but they are nothing compared with the staff who work here," he said.

After the opening ceremony Mr and Mrs Mick Sadler of Ashdon presented Dr Roger Bertram with a cheque for £575 raised at the 43rd annual Ashdon pumpkin show held last October at the Rose and Crown in Ashdon.

LNT

Cadets receive their awards

RECENTLY, cadets from the 2523 Linton squadron ATC had the honour of receiving their 2009 awards from Pte Chris Herbert who served in Iraq. Now the civilian committee is looking for new members from the local community, ex-cadets and parents who have an interest in the welfare of the squadron staff and cadets.

What is the commitment? There are between four and five meetings a year with the squadron commander to see where you can help. The next meeting will be held at the village college at 7.15pm on Tuesday 21st April. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact the committee secretary on 892073.

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Readers write...

Desperately seeking a PA system

Dear Editor
The committee of the Friends of Linton Heights is seeking the loan of a suitable public address system to use at the Linton Heights summer fair. The summer fair is the most important fund-raiser on the Heights calendar. We have been fortunate enough in the past to have been loaned this equipment but are unable to secure any for this year’s event.
If anyone has access to or knows of anyone who may be able to loan us this equipment for the fair on Friday 3rd July we would be most grateful. The loan of the equipment will enable us to ensure the funds raised will go towards benefiting the school’s children. If you can help, please call me.
Ian Coulson 07763 424945

OUR THANKS

Birthday money for a good cause

Dear Editor
I would like to thank everyone who helped me celebrate my 50th birthday last month. Instead of presents, I asked for donations to the Teenage Cancer Trust Appeal and raised £420. Thank you all for your generosity.
Sue King, address supplied

Helping charity with chairs ...

Dear Editor
Many thanks to the six of you in Linton who entrusted your chairs to me for re-caning. This kept me very busy during the long winter afternoons and, thanks to your generosity, I have £300 to give away.
I plan to give £100 each to ZANE (Zimbabwe Appeal for the National Emergency), MAF (Mission Aviation Fund) and St Barnabas Fund which supports persecuted Christians. The money will be gift aided.
Joanna Saunders, address supplied

The Ceilidh raised £300 plus

Dear Editor
Just letting you know how much the ceilidh raised: £327 profit! I’m so happy and this has helped me hugely; I’ll be able to pay the next instalment for my trip (see last month’s LN). I think the night was extremely successful and a lot of fun! I need to find another good cause so I will have an excuse to hold another one. Thanks to the Linton News for helping me by advertising - a big help, and thanks to everyone who came.
Lucy Sneezum, address supplied

A truly caring community

Dear Editor
Effie Formby and her family would like to thank the Linton community for the wonderful love and support you have provided John and all of us over the last few months. Linton is a truly loving and caring community for which we thank each one of you from the bottom of our hearts.
Address supplied

Too good for jumble ...

PLEASE could the lady who asked about the Morse videos telephone again as I have lost her number.
Now, how about a new chocolate fountain to celebrate spring? There is also a Performance 1800w chipper and shredder and a large modern wooden rocking chair on offer.
The 24in Panasonic TV with digibox, the three-tier electric steamer, glass shower screen with fittings, one-year-old Photosmart 7800 HP printer, 15in Dell computer, almost new Fisher Price baby bath, Casiotone CT 450 stereo keyboard with instructions (battery or mains operated) and the set of Morse videos with book about the stories are all still available.
The Adjustamatic bed raised £30 each for Muscular Dystrophy and Tree House for autism in children and the 14in TV/ DVD made £30 for Balsham Brownies. To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone me.
Kate France 891602
or email katefrance@linton48.freemove.co.uk

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Taking the weight off: villagers test the new shelter

Sitting pretty ... the WI and the council make it happen

THE new bus shelter opposite the Old Swan, now incorporates seating, thanks to the lobbying of the Linton WI.
There had once been a free-standing bench near the site but this had to be removed because of vandalism and the old shelter, in poor condition, needed a replacement.
The parish council members eventually agreed on what is now in place and the WI had some input into the design. The council is always happy to consider requests from the public and act on them where possible.
Linton WI president Ann Simpkin said: “Linton WI is very grateful to the council for financing not only the seat at the Swan bus stop but also a lovely new shelter.”
LNT

Just how observant do you think you are?

ANN Simpkin welcomed all to our March meeting. The new bus shelter is now up (see above) and being used. The only problem now is litter but we are on the case!
Last month’s walk went ahead despite the terrible weather. It turned into a flood watch by the four stalwart members. A special celebration buffet lunch has been arranged at the Cambridge Masonic hall at 12.15 on 14th May. Names of those wishing to attend to be given to Ann.
The Federation visit to Denman will be on 12-14th February, 2010. The outing to Manningtree, Old Harwich and Beth Chatto’s garden will be on 25th June starting at 9.15am. The cost is £27 for members; names to Bel Griffiths (see In Brief column).
We will be completing application forms for ‘Awards for All’ to enable members who have not been to Denman to go.
Ann explained that ACWW stands for Associated Country Women of the World and how the money collected for this charity helps women worldwide to be self-sufficient and support many schemes in third world countries.
The speaker for the evening was Paul Sherville; his subject was ‘And now for something completely different’.
He distributed quiz sheets to all members and then showed a slide which was removed after one minute. He then asked a question about what we had observed. This was quite a revelation as it became obvious that we all think we are a lot more observant than we are.
In all he showed 23 slides. The police say half a dozen witnesses to an event will all have noticed different things, but all will have interpreted it differently.
Our next meeting at 7.30pm on 7th April will be the annual meeting with carpet bowls.
Trisha Lewis 893609

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication Date **4th May 2009**
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 13th April
NEWS ITEMS Friday 17th April

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER
Priority is given to Linton businesses
Our advertising Manager is Judith Rouse
email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR
Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
Editor: Stephane Toussenet
email: ineditor@linton.info phone 890941

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

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LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.
You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info.
Details of items in **bold type** may be found elsewhere in this edition.

WEEKLY	
Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	VH
Yoga, 7-8.30pm Mondays term time	Hadstock VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men’s all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays	SC
Ladies’ netball, 7.15-8.30pm Mondays	SC
Cempa wu-shu karate, 7-8pm Mondays (age 5 upwards)	LVC
Aquacise Mon, Tues and Wed tel 890248 to enrol	Granta School
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	Dog & Duck
Linton Granta toddlers, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time	LVC
Hadstock toddler group, 2-3.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hadstock VH
Ladies’ football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies’ badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
Bowls roll-ups from 2pm Weds from 8/4	Bowls pavilion
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men’s keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays(call 892076)	
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 9.45am & 11am Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time	URC
Buffy bus, Fridays 11am-12.15pm	Hadstock village green
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays	SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC
Adult tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays term time	VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays	SC
Mini kickers, 10-11am Saturdays term time	LVC
For Sports Centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248	

APRIL	
1 Lent lunch, 12noon	89 Bartlow Road
1 Reading group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
2 Luncheon club, 12.15pm	The Crown
2 Parish council, 8pm	CC
3 Wind farm open meeting, 8pm	LVC
4 Farmers’ market, 9.30am	LVC
5 Camera club awayday, 9.30am	Coles Lane car park
6 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
7 WI, 7.30pm	VH
8 Lent lunch, 12noon	Church pavilion
9 Music Matters spring special, 10.30am	VH
6-10 Tennis sessions, 9.30am-12.30pm	Cambridge LTC
11 Easter fayre, 12noon	Symonds House
14 VIP meeting, 2pm	Chalklands
14 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
15 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon	HC
18 History conference, 9.30am	Abington Institute
21 ATC committee meeting, 7.15pm	LVC
21 Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
23 Parish council, 8pm	CC
23 ACE lunch, 12noon	Church pavilion
25 LIFE talk, 10am	VH
25 Flower festival coffee morning, 10.30am	Church pavilion
25 Chestnut playgroup jumble sale, 11am	Infant school
25 Chestnut playgroup disco, 4.30pm	Infant school
25 Linton music society concert, 7.30pm	St Mary’s church
26-2 May, Save the Children house to house collection	
28 Blood donor session, 10am	VH
30 Annual parish meeting, 8pm	CC
MAY	
2 Farmers’ market, 9.30am	LVC
3 Bartlow 3 counties walk	Bartlow
4 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
5 WI, 7.30pm	VH

KEY: CC Cathodeon Centre, HC Health Centre, LVC Linton Village College, RG Recreation Ground, SC Sports Centre, URC United Reform Church, VH Village Hall.
Library times: **Monday** Closed; **Tuesday** 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; **Wednesday** 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; **Thursday** Closed; **Friday** 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; **Saturday** 10am-12noon.

Refuse collection: 14th, 27th April
Recycling collection: 6th, 20th April, 5th May

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Weighing up the pros and cons with SCAT

SOUTH Cambs Against Transfer, a group made up of experienced tenants and councillors, strongly advises tenants to vote against the transfer of their homes to a housing association in the forthcoming ballot, says Dave Kelleway, SCAT chairman.

"The council has spent nearly £1m of our rent money on bombarding us with one-sided misleading propaganda over the past year," he goes on.

"Tenants should be aware that there can never be a return to council control if we transfer, and a recession is the worst possible time even to consider it.

"We would urge tenants to ask themselves what transfer will really mean? Higher rents? Housing association rents in South Cambs are on average 11% higher than council rents. The housing

association's assured tenancies offer less protection in law than council secure tenancies.

"The proposed housing association would have to borrow £50-60 million in order to get off the ground.

"The repayments plus interest will have to be paid from our rents before any promises can be met.

"Housing associations charge additional 15% VAT but councils are VAT free.

"After transfer, many housing associations demolish sheltered schemes to replace them with blocks of flats. For more information contact me."

Dave Kelleway, 293743
Following the information received from South Cambs District Council, tenants affected should make up their own minds as to which option best suits them.

LNT

Double diamond celebrations



From left to right: Marion and Tony Worrell, daughter Pat and husband Murray, and May and Jock McKenzie

Picture submitted by the McKenzie family

LOCAL couple Murray and Pat McKenzie have had a very expensive month, with both sets of parents celebrating their 60th wedding anniversaries. First to celebrate were Pat's parents Marion and Tony Worrell who were married at St Mary's church, Saffron Walden on 18th February 1949. A surprise party at Chalklands community centre with friends and family was topped off with a congratulatory card from the Queen.

Murray's parents Jock and May have lived in Linton for nearly 50 years and are well known for the many successful businesses they have set up; the latest being Linton Cabs. Their own celebrations followed a week later with a meal out for family and friends to celebrate the anniversary of their wedding on 26th February 1949 in Southend. They were also pleased to receive a card from the Queen.

Between both families they have seven children 19 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren with another on the way. Pat said it was amazing that she and Murray were able to share in such a wonderful double celebration. Pat and Murray will be hoping to follow on this great achievement next year, when they celebrate 40 years of marriage. Murray had better start saving!

Judith Rouse

Local lads excel in Rock



Going strong: the five members of Party Visual

IT has been just over a year since the Linton News last heard from local rock band Party Visual. Since then, the passionate five-piece has been going from strength to strength.

The young musicians have released a debut album titled *Forever In Question*. The CD is available online at www.myspace.com/partyvisual or through the band members themselves.

It includes 15 explosive tracks which were recorded at Three Circles Studios just outside Saffron Walden.

So far the album has been received very well by fans. The new material has not just

been successful on CD but has also excelled on the stage. During the last year, Party Visual has enjoyed playing many live shows, with appearances at Strawberry Fair and well recognised London venues such as The Cross Kings and Tommy Flynn's music bar and many other places.

The band has recently played a couple of important support slots at Man on the Moon in Cambridge, supporting The Morning After on their warm-up tour for Hammerfest 09 which will be headlined by legendary rockers Saxon. They have also played their most high profile show to date supporting

Picture submitted by Rob Taylor

talented British metal bands Exit Ten and Forever Never.

The band was ecstatic to share the stage with acts that have played Donington's famous Download festival and have toured with great metal acts such as 36 Crazyfists and Stone Sour.

2009 has already brought a lot of positive news for Party Visual. The band is really enjoying being creative, making music and performing.

To find out all the latest news, please check the band's website www.myspace.com/partyvisual

Rob Taylor
band member

Budding young MPs speak up in the Youth Parliament

ON Friday 27th February, Granta School was proud to host the first sitting of The Speaking Up Youth Parliament for the Eastern area. This is a new and exciting project aimed at giving youngsters with learning disabilities a voice to improve services and attitudes within their area and to lobby on these issues.

Representing those youngsters aged 14-25, the young MPs were all voted for by their peers and had individual manifestos which they articulated clearly at this first session. Two of the youth MPs, Jake Lochrie and Alan Tomalin, represent Granta school.

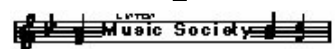
Local MP Jim Paice was on hand to welcome the new young parliamentarians and kindly invited them to join him at the Houses of Parliament for a day in May. The Mayor of Huntingdon, Cllr Jeff Dutton, then presented all the young MPs with their badges of office after which they read out their individual manifestos.

Following this session they broke up into four groups for everyone to work in more detail on individual topics, on which they reported back before lunch. In the afternoon, the professionals who attended and who represented a wide range of local organisations, all made pledges to help to work and improve many issues. These were then voted on by the youth MPs.

The session finished just before 2pm and it had been a very successful first Youth Parliament and airing many topics. This was the end of another great day for Linton, for Granta School and for the Youth Parliamentarians.

Linton Granta school

A return for the Doric quartet



THE Music Society is delighted to welcome the Doric string quartet's return to Linton on Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm at St Mary's church.

The quartet recently won first prize in the 2008 Osaka international chamber music competition in Japan.

They will be playing pieces from: *Bach's Art of Fugue*, *Beethoven's Rasumovsky String Quartet Op 59 No 1* and *Mendelssohn's String Quartet Op 44 No 3 in Eb Major*.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance from Sweet Talk News (893480).

Ticket prices: adults £9, students £2, family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £16. For a brochure or concert tickets, please contact 894460 or 897983.

Hayley Donnan

We hope your boots are made for walking!

THE sixth annual Bartlow three counties charity walk on Sunday 3rd May is fast approaching.

Local businesses are showing their usual generosity, with all proceeds being divided between Linton health centre, Addenbrooke's hospital neurology department and Bartlow church restoration fund

Advertising rates and minimum sponsorship levels remain unchanged and we hope residents and friends will obtain sponsorship forms, secure the support of family, friends and neighbours and walk for our good causes.

We offer a prize for the most sponsorship raised by an individual and a family group, and winners in both categories have historically raised between £400 and £800.

Sponsorship forms can be obtained at the Linton health centre and many of the Linton and local village pubs, or by visiting www.bartlow.org.uk, or phoning 891732. Volunteer helpers should also call this number.

We are always working to improve the event. We intend that the 2009 Bartlow Walk will be the biggest and best ever. In particular, the two mile junior nature trail is having a make-over and will be packed with fun activities and experiences to delight our youngest walkers, and their parents.

The nine and 13 mile routes will have more en route hospitality than ever before, both for walkers and their dogs, and new signs will make the route easier to follow.

Back in Bartlow, when the walking is over, we hope that young and old alike will stay and have a glass or two of whatever they find refreshing at the beer tent, run by the Three Hills, who will also be offering an inexpensive early supper for walkers.

The raffle (with one amazing prize) will be drawn after most walkers have returned.

Many participants on the walk remark that they had not realised what beautiful countryside we have on our doorstep. Come and enjoy it on 3rd May. It promises to be a great day out.

Graham Howat

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Guides’ hard work pays off



Alice and Rachel with their well earned awards

Picture by Roger Lapwood

TWO Linton Guides were presented with Baden Powell (BP) awards, the Guides’ highest achievement, by district commissioner Edith Osborn at the Thinking Day ceremony in St Mary’s church on 22nd February.

Fourteen-year-old Alice Nicholas of 2nd Linton Guides surveyed the Fair Trade products in the area for giving a talk at Guides. She organised a cooking competition for each patrol to produce a three course meal in a specific time awarding marks for food value, taste, presentation and team work. She also visited a city farm and helped with the Shadwell Wood project as well as designing a poster to highlight current global issues.

Among her 10 different challenges, 14-year-old Rachel West of 1st Linton Guides picked 200 apples in a day last autumn. She sold the apples and raised £65 to pay for the BP challenge weekend where she designed and made new clothes and accessories from unwanted clothes, she visited the MaizeMaze, a farm-style zoo while on holiday in America, helped cut down a small willow tree and took part in a training session to raise fitness awareness for young people.

Kate France 891602

It’s flower festival time again

SPRING is nearly here and our thoughts turn to flowers and the beauty of the world around. Therefore it must be time to make a date in our diaries for the annual Linton fete and flower festival. The dates are the 5th, 6th and 7th June and the theme this year is ‘The teaching and work of Jesus’.

We have several new attractions this year on the school field; Sumo gladiators and bouncy castle, army obstacle course, plus family entertainment, dog show, fancy dress, Linton Jazz, LVC wind band and many more. On Friday evening 5th June there will be a barbeque and barn dance.

On 25th April, there will be a coffee morning from 10.30am-12 noon in the church pavilion. Do come and join us, especially those who would like to have a try at doing an arrangement. You don’t have to be an expert – help and advice is available and an allowance is made towards the cost of the flowers. We hope to raise enough at the coffee morning to cover some of these costs and look forward to seeing you all there. More details of the festival will be published nearer the time

Tricia Lewis 893609

Book your stall at the history fair

CHERRY Hinton Festival is an open air festival to be held on the recreation ground on 19th September. This year, we are pleased to announce the first Cambridgeshire History Fair which will be held alongside the festival.

It is a fantastic opportunity to promote yourself or your group, network with other like-minded people and organisations and have a great day out. Stalls for the history fair include a diverse range of related disciplines.

The fair covers history, archaeology, local history, archives, family history, architecture, natural environment, museums, re-enactment and much, much more ... For more information, go to www.cherryhintonfestival.co.uk.

To book a pitch contact Michelle Bullivant, 2 Leete Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, CB1 9ET (07999 853907 or email michelle.bullivant@talk21.com)

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Come and hunt for our hidden Easter eggs

ON Saturday 11th April there will be an Easter Fayre at Symonds House in Symonds Lane, Linton.

With a tabletop sale at £7 per pitch indoors and £4 for pitches outside, participants are asked to set up 11am for the midday opening.

Many stalls will be offering a variety of things and you are all welcome to join us.

The Easter egg hunt will take place in the grounds of

Symonds House and it will start at 2pm.

For those wishing to participate in finding the hidden eggs, there will be a small charge of £1.50 per person. All the money raised will go to the day centre fund and the sensory garden project.

Please contact Mrs Shani Bradley on 891237 during office hours to book your pitch.

Carol Robson

Two charities will benefit from talk by puppy walkers

AT 10am on Saturday April 25th in the village hall, Linton Initiative for the Elderly will hold an event with a talk by guide dog puppy walkers, John and Diana Reynolds. Proceeds from the sale of refreshments, cakes and crafts will be shared between Guide Dogs for the Blind and LIFE.

LIFE is a volunteer befriending scheme for isolated and more housebound older people. As well as visiting for an hour or more if requested, other jobs undertaken have been for example:

- Escorting patients to, and during hospital appointments
- Assisting and encouraging clients to visit shops if asked
- Light gardening and planting of window boxes
- Liaison with council departments for essential housing repairs and clearing overgrown gardens
- Facilitating a visit by an optician to housebound clients
- Assisting a client’s move to sheltered accommodation
- Provision of essential kitchen equipment in exceptional circumstances.

LIFE is recognised by Cambridgeshire Care network and all volunteers have been CRB checked. Some of the volunteers are retired from professional backgrounds with much experience in care fields.

For enquiries about volunteering or more details, contact us.
Geoff and Miriam Reynolds 892645

Women’s world day of prayer

ON Friday 6th March, people from the churches of Linton and district joined more than three million others worldwide in celebrating the interdenominational annual Day of Prayer.

Services took place in more than 170 countries, beginning with sunrise in Tonga and finishing at sunset in Western Samoa.

Glorious sunshine after a frosty start graced our service, which took place at St Mary’s church, Linton with the theme ‘In Christ there are many members yet one body’. This year the material for the service had been prepared by Christian women of Papua New Guinea.

Our service was led by Sue Filby, and the speaker was Sharon Whittle of the Beacon Trust. In total 35 people gathered

together from different congregations for the enjoyable and uplifting service, plus we were delighted to welcome some of Year 2 from the infant school for part of the service.

Afterwards we chatted over refreshments. It is always good to meet and worship together.

The collection, which was £85 will be sent to further the work of the Prayer Movement for Christian Literature societies, and for Christian Educational projects.

Many thanks to all those who took part in the service, both in the preparation and on the day itself.

It is not certain who (if anyone) will be organising the service next year, so if you would like to be involved please get in touch soon.

Ann King 897832

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POT POURRI (51)

Mathematical circles

START with a triangle with sides of unit length (*l*). Circumscribe it, then draw a square touching this circle (hence becoming an inscribed circle). Now circumscribe the square, now a pentagon, circumscribe again, now a hexagon etc until we end with circumscribing a nonagon (nine-sided polygon). All polygons have equal sides. (A note of interest: What would happen if we kept this up forever?)

What is the ratio of the nonagon’s circumscribed circle’s radius to that of the triangle?

Solution to No 50: How many days?

Let a = £4 days, b = £3 days, c = £2 days and d = £1 days
Then a + b + c + d = 28 days and 4a + 3b + 2c + d = £60 and a - b = b - c
Hence d = 13 (No of days £1 was spent).

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Join us on a grand day out

WHY not join Linton WI on a day out? On 25th June we leave Linton at 9.15am, travelling to Manningtree in Essex for coffee and to meet our professional guide, who will point out places of interest. We will visit Old Harwich, where there will be an opportunity for lunch, and then drive to Beth Chatto’s garden for the afternoon.

Beth, a Chelsea Flower Show winner, is best-known for her pioneering ecological approach to gardening and at her home in Elmstead Market we can enjoy the garden where plants and teas will be on sale. We will leave for home at 4.45pm. Contact me to book a place (cost: £28).

Bel Griffiths 894149

Save the Children collection

THERE will be the annual house-to-house collection for Save the Children between 26th April and 2nd May. Your support is always greatly appreciated for this worthy cause.

Bernadette Milner, Linton and district branch 290335

Work off all those Easter eggs

THE sports centre will remain open over the Easter weekend during the following hours: Good Friday 10th April 7.30am-10pm, Saturday 11th 8am-5pm. Easter Sunday 12th 8am-5pm; Bank Holiday Monday 13th 7.30am-10pm.

Please come along to use the fitness suite, play tennis, badminton or team sports. Phone us on 890248 to reserve your place.

Mark Wilson

Where Lent lunch money goes

THE Teenage Cancer Trust is a national charity which provides hospital wards and facilities for teenagers suffering from cancer. Teenagers are too old for children’s wards and too young for adult ones. The Trust is hoping soon to build a teenage ward in Addenbrooke’s hospital.

The Lent lunches run by St Mary’s church are raising money for this excellent charity. We have already raised more than £500 with more to be included in the final total. If you are unable to join us but would like to support this worthy cause please send cheques, made out to ‘Teenage Cancer Trust’, to Alan and Monica Clarkson at 4 Harefield Rise, Linton. We would like to be able to send at least £1,000 to the Trust.

At our last lunch on Wednesday 8th April in the church pavilion there will be a speaker from the trust to tell us more about its work. Do come if you can – all are welcome.

Alan Clarkson 892988



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Sunshine, tractors and heavy horses ...

TEN Camera club members travelled to the Heavy Horse Show held at the East of England Showground in Peterborough for our away day in March.

The sun shone for us again as we drove up to the showground. This three day spectacular, organised by the Shire Horse Society, is held annually to raise much needed funds to support shire horses, which are now considered a threatened breed.

There were hundreds of Shire horses on show, beautifully presented and dressed in their finery, along with dressage displays, carts, vintage tractors, a display of blacksmiths making and fitting horseshoes and a dog agility display.

The actual judging was under cover in a huge sawdust ring but we were able to walk around the stables and watch some of the horses being prepared and

also to see how much time, trouble and love is lavished on these beautiful animals.

Another popular part of the day was being able to sample and purchase fine examples of local food direct from farms.

The Monday club night last month featured 'light writing' which involves opening the shutter on a digital camera (in the dark) for up to 30 seconds, waving a light source (ie torch, sparkler etc) in front of it to make a pattern but making sure that your body is moving so that the camera does not pick up your image.

This was a technique encouraged by Lynn and Dave Cole, assisted by Lynn's dad, a visitor to the club. We had varying degrees of success which will be shown at the next club night on Monday 6th April at the Cathodeon centre. We will also be trying our hands at still life



Taken for a ride: Ron Pitkin enjoys himself on the gallopers

Picture by Mike Crofts

photography.

The next away day will be on 5th April – probably at Cambridge Botanic Gardens. For more information, please call

Roger on 891104 or Tracey on 891988. Please also check our website on www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk

Tracey Wilson 891988

The dos and don'ts of good design

WELL, we have all made a few mistakes but those wishing to avoid further ones were to be found listening to Graham Pavey at last month's gardening club meeting.

His 21 years as a garden designer proved to offer many interesting points to remember. For example, he encouraged the audience never 'be afraid of a curve' but if you do use

curves, they must be done properly in good sweeping lines.

Many helpful tips included alternatives to the traditional pot disguise for manhole covers, where best to put paths (and obstructions!) and advice on the depth of borders and the spacing of plants.

Next month our speaker is Joe Sharman, from Monksilver Nursery, who joins us to talk on variegated plants.

All are welcome to join us in the village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th April.

Another date for your diary is the annual plant sale on Saturday 9th May. If you can donate any spare plants, produce or cakes for the sale, it would be most appreciated. Any contributions can be delivered to 3 Mill Lane on Friday 8th May. Thank you.

Finally, a brief reminder of

the photographic subjects for this year's show will hopefully provide you with the inspiration to get snapping. The categories are: any flower or flowers, a boat or boats, wildlife and garden tools.

A maximum of three prints not larger than 7in x 5in or 35 square inches (to allow for panoramic photographs) may be entered per category.

Kirsten Newble, 892425



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Little Hands - home and dry

WITH barely enough time for the paint to dry after relocating to their new home at Three Hills Farm in Bartlow, Little Hands found themselves facing an their first Ofsted inspection, their first under the Childcare Act 2006.

Since losing their lease at the Station House in Linton, Little Hands were operating out of shared temporary accommodation in Granta Park when, in spring 2008, Bartlow Estates came to the rescue.

A joint project to renovate and refurbish a redundant farm building on the Three Hills Farm ensued, and two relocations and a major building project later, Little Hands – Linton and Bartlow opened their doors.

Just 12 weeks of term time after opening and with the Little Hands management and staff still finding their feet in their new home, the Ofsted inspector came calling.

The result: one of the best reports by the newly introduced inspection criteria to be given to pre-school setting in Cambridgeshire, with Little Hands judged outstanding in seven of the 14 areas assessed and good in the rest.

Little Hands offers morning, afternoon, lunch and late-stay sessions from 9am-4pm for all children aged between two and five.

Pre-school sessions prepare our older children for infant school and holiday clubs for two-eight year olds run during the main school holidays.

A high staffing ratio ensures quality of care, so to find out what Little Hands has to offer you and your child, contact Marion on 897945 during nursery hours or by email on lh-bartlow@btconnect.com

Steve Marshall

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Little Hands Nursery School Linton & Bartlow

"Little Hands", recently judged "OUTSTANDING" in 7 areas by Ofsted, offers Morning, Afternoon, Lunch & Late Stay Sessions from 9.00AM 'til 4.00 PM during term time for all children aged between 2 and 5 years. Pre-School sessions (to prepare our older children for infant school) are available and Holiday clubs (for 2 to 8 year olds) run during all the main school holidays. A high staffing ratio ensures quality of care so join us at Three Hills Farm, Bartlow to see what "Little Hands" has to offer you and your child

For further information please contact either
Marion : 01223 897945 (school time) or Jane : 01223 503972 (other times)

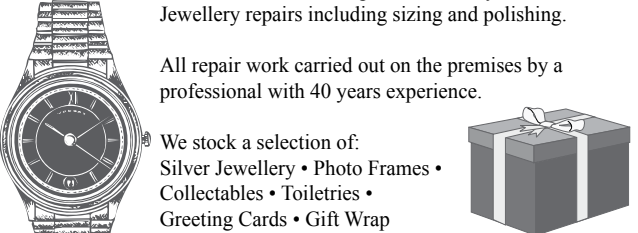
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Chef's corner

Why not try one of my favourite dishes

THERE are few perks in my line of work but every now and then one presents itself and I accept the challenge. Going to London was a real trial when I worked there, but visiting now allows me fully to understand the pace and unforgiving nature that London seems to encapsulate.

The "eating out" thing has become one of the most looked forward to and talked about moments of some people's week.

"Where did you go at the weekend?"
"Oh, we went to that great new place on Covent Garden you know, with Jo Bloggs the TV chef that sets fire to himself mid-session and make a career from being rude! You know!"
"Yeah right."

Baked black cod with yellow miso

Anyway, going to different restaurants and sampling the new trends alongside the perennial favourites is something that I really relish.

So allow me to bore you with one of my favourite restaurants dishes (I'm supposed to come and try different things but I can't resist the black cod ...)

Rokka is a high street restaurant on Charlotte Street just off Tottenham Court Road. It's a Japanese restaurant that punches way above its weight, albeit at a cost, but the reason I seem to find myself waffling on is that it is so perfectly simple.

Just find the best fish that is possible, that's all you need. Not too far from here, Mill Road in Cambridge, one of our local secrets is an Oriental supermarket called Choi Mai. From here, buy some yellow miso paste, and a small bottle of rice wine.

With one tablespoon of the miso paste, mix in a little of the wine to give it a porridge texture plus a teaspoon of white sugar.

Marinate a thick piece of white fish – obviously cod is the best but halibut or haddock would be fine – for 36 hours.

Warm an oven-safe pan on the hob and put in the fish, skin side down, with a little of the marinade for about three minutes.

Place the fish in a moderate oven (200C, gas 4) for a further 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to rest for a couple of minutes.

Serve flesh side up with a little steamed pak choi or a pre-prepared noodle salad.

Simplicity is the key here. Why do we need to mess about with the fruits we are given when it is staring us in the face?

I would always accompany this with an ice cold Asahi beer, it's wonderful. **Kanpai!**

Joel

Don't forget you can access all Joel's recipes at www.chefs-corner.co.uk

I ♥ the 80s

DUST down your leg warmers, spruce up your shoulder pads and get ready to be transported back to the Eighties in aid of Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers.

Ryan will be playing the good, the bad and the ugly of 80s' music from Rick Astley to the Cure, Breakdance Party, Flashdance and Buster Blood Vessel and many more.

Following the success of last years 70s' themed disco, we have moved on a decade and will be holding a disco at Linton village college on Friday 15th May.

Last year's event raised £562 with which we bought new educational equipment

for pre-schoolers and tots. This year, we hope to raise enough to purchase new outdoor equipment for our new permanent home at the college.

Tickets are available in advance from Linton Playgroup, Tots in Tow in the village hall on a Wednesday morning or Sweet Talk News, priced £5.

So wind up your Swatch watch, fill your mouth with Pop Rocks and come and join us at 8pm on 15th May - late, fancy dress optional.

For more information, please contact Linton Granta Playgroup on info@lintongrantaplaygroup.org.uk.

Natalie Morris

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Dressing up brings youngsters' favourite characters to life

CHILDREN at Chestnut play-group enjoyed a week of stories and dressing up to celebrate World Book Day in March.

On Friday the children were very excited to visit Linton library where they listened to stories. The librarians gave them a library card to use in the playgroup role play library. They were as quiet as mice and really loved the chance to go somewhere different.

The children dressed up over a number of days and throughout the week brought books in books of their favourite stories to share with their friends.

Hayley Donnan 893357



Jacob Hine, Jack Howard Lilley, Hayden Appleby, Thomas Orton, Sophie Cox and Tilly McManus dressed up as story-book people

Picture by Fiona Gains

Better qualifications for junior cricket coaches

High achievers:
Gavin Bowie,
Ian Martin,
David Rouse
and
Steve Foulds



Picture by
Guy Ennew

BY the time you read this article, hopefully a large number of our young cricketers in the village will have attended the registration day of Linton Village Junior Cricket Club and renewed their membership for the coming season. If not they can still do so by contacting the coaches (details on www.lvjcc.org.uk)

Many of the youngsters have already been involved in nets training over the winter months and our coaches have been in training too. All our coaches undertake regular training in first aid and coaching courses run by the England and Wales Cricket Board on a rolling programme, but this winter four of our coaches have achieved new levels of qualification. Steve Foulds and Gavin Bowie passed their Level 1 Assistant Coaches qualification and Ian Martin and David Rouse hope to pass the Level 2 Full Coaches Course.

We are looking forward to a great season of cricket and are delighted to have secured this year very generous sponsorship from Lloyds bank this year and a substantial donation from the Anderson Trust.

In order to boost our funds we are hoping to repeat the success of last year's Race Night with another at 8pm on Friday 8th May. As before this will be held at the infant school and admission will include a fish and chip supper and licensed bar. Tickets are available from Esther Cox (891499).

Last year, this event raised a phenomenal sum in excess of £2,000 which was used to purchase a bowling machine. With your support we hope to beat that total so that we can achieve our aim of purchasing a Flix Coaching Pitch. This is a specialist mat which can be used on the astro pitch to allow consistent bounce and pace, thus helping to develop the children's batting and bowling skills. It allows batsmen to improve judgment on length and assists bowlers with line and length.

Esther Cox

Superstitions and folk cures

A FASCINATING history conference is being held this month at the Abington village institute in Great Abington from 9.30am on Saturday 18th April.

Organised by the Linton Historical Society and the Cambridgeshire Local History Association, the all day spring conference will cover traditions, superstitions, customs and folk cures and will feature some of the county's leading experts.

Pam Fitzgibbon-Hall will talk about Cambridgeshire folk tales; Peter Carter will describe 'A life on the Fens', Brian Jones will tell you what you should and shouldn't do over the weekend and Tom Doig will speak on some Cambridgeshire and Fenland folk cures.

Please contact Andrew Westwood-Bate on 892430 or e-mail info@calh.org.uk for a booking form.

Andrew Westwood-Bate

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

Spectacular jewel in Cambridgeshire Crown

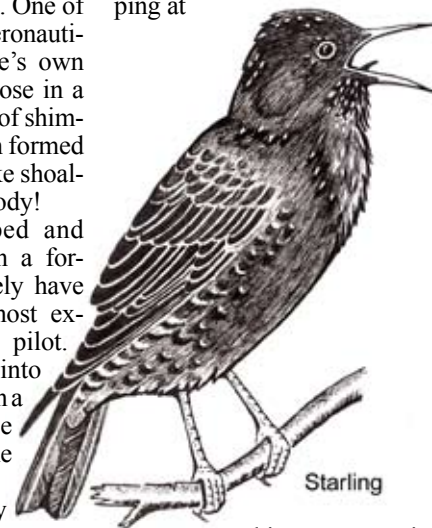
IF good fortune favoured you looking skyward from Linton on the evening of 12th March then a treat was abroad. One of the most spectacular aeronautical displays, by nature's own avionic department, arose in a spellbinding gathering of shimmering starlings, which formed to create an illusion, like shoaling fish, of one large body!

They wheeled, sped and swooped and dived in a formation, 'it would surely have enthralled even the most experienced Red Arrow pilot. Spinning themselves into strange dark shapes with a hue of violet iridescence against a backdrop of the setting sun – but why?

Yes, we know they are gregarious! So much so that some find their clustering annoying. They raid gardens, with a nervous nodding disposition and an uncanny knowing, scaring competition such as blue-tits and blackbirds; considered more discerning and deserving underdogs.

But, they are afraid. Very afraid. For these comical little chaps are targeted by almost any bigger bird and therefore the starlings want to show their powerful presence. The buzzards, kites and kestrels can cause havoc, not to mention the persecution by rooks, crows and

jays. However, there are at least two sides to a story and many have witnessed starlings stopping at



Starling

nothing to acquire food and best breeding sites. Having said that, our *Sturnus vulgaris* is seriously in decline and, like many other species, are desperate for the reintroduction of their habitat.

You know, I've always professed Linton to be the Cambridgeshire crown – geologically, zoologically, ornithologically and even ecumenically! Our habitat is a rich fertile countryside haven trapped between denuded, dead or dying yet paradoxically ever-expanding cities and towns. Our village is bursting at the seams with

clever, interesting and intelligent people with a parish council worthy of note and dedication, but the needless tree felling, hedge stripping and concreting over grassy corners goes on, little by little, devouring our valuable jewels. The trouble is, we really don't know what we've got 'til it's gone!

Most live here not to frighten off the grey squirrel, but to buy them an occasional bag of walnuts.

Not to exchange the charming visitations of deer and partridge for a few penny blooms, but to enhance their well-being, and a small bag of peanuts brings the simple joyous company of tits.

Visitors are uplifted, feeding wild ducks – a more than magical moment for children – and I even know of a number of residents who secretly sow wild flowers along walk and bridleways bringing untold therapeutic rewards.

I have access to funds which could secure for the village even the tiniest green triangle or strip of land. Essential conservation areas even for a small hedgehog haven, but sadly – to date not even a square metre has been offered. Remember – this is our habitat too! We are the gardeners of this little corner of earth, and for those who love this village, we could make it so beautiful.

Enjoy yourself by helping others

MENCAP is seeking volunteers aged 16-30 to support young people with learning disabilities. You could assist someone to go to the cinema, attend a youth club, go swimming, play sport, or do any number of fun activities. Your support could help develop the young person's self confidence, social skills and level of independence in the community. If you can spare a few hours every fortnight, find out more by contacting Robert Wallace, volunteers' support co-ordinator, on 883140, by texting 07835101621 or by emailing robert@cambridgeshiremencap.co.uk

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The Derbyshire Post

LINTON Village College is changing its flavour. We've been a Business and Enterprise specialist school for a number of years, but from April 2009 we will also become a specialist in Applied Learning. This second specialism ties in very closely with our current specialism; both relate to the learning that we do for the demands of the future world and place emphasis on useful and transferable skills. We want our students to apply their learning, but we also want the learning that they do to be applicable.

The impact that this second specialism will have on LVC students will be seen in a number of ways. Firstly, we will have a little more money to spend on them, which has got to be a good thing. Secondly, we have gained some matched funding for a modest refurbishment of applied or vocational teaching facilities and thirdly we will continue to develop the range of courses that our students can take. The diet for Key Stage 4 students is already quite varied. In recent years we have added BTECs, Young Apprenticeship courses and AS levels to the usual offer of GCSEs that students study in Years 10 and 11 (our 14-16-year-olds), but in the future we will add the new Diplomas to these choices.

The final way in which the second specialism will be seen is in the way we look. Signs and letterheads have to change, so we thought we'd take the opportunity to refresh the image of the college at the same time by altering our logo. Staff, students and governors have been discussing a range of different designs, so by the time of my next Derbyshire Post I should be in a position to share our new look with you. With a fantastic new building due to open in July, we hope the logo brings a sense of the new flavour with it.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/0225/09/F Mr & Mrs Barthorpe & Rhodes, 4 Market Lane, Linton.

Conversion of outbuilding for form garage/store with annexe above

S/0232/09/F Enertrag UK Ltd. Land to the south-west of Little Linton Farm, Cambridge Road, Linton.

Installation of 7 wind turbines and associated infrastructure (to include access tracks, crane hardstandings, temporary construction compound, switch house and cables)

S/0288/09/LDCF Mr & Mrs H Huynh, 2 Market Lane, Linton.

Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of annexe as dwelling.

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The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Linton's links with the University of Cambridge

THIS year's celebration of the 800th anniversary of the foundation of Cambridge University made me think that readers would be interested in the close connections which Linton has had with the university since 1440.

Pembroke College was founded in 1347, the sixth college to be established in the university. By 1412 the college was so poor that it only had nine fellows, and in the 1430s its income was reduced by a third following devastating floods on its land at Tilney in Essex. Fortunately for the college three of its fellows held vital positions at the court of King Henry VI, one as chief minister, another as chaplain to the queen and the third as physician to the young king. They persuaded the crown to come to the assistance of Pembroke College.

In 1440 the priory lands of the Benedictine monks at Linton were granted to the college together with the great tithes of the Linton rectory. The Rectory farm (based at the Guildhall from 1694) was leased to tenants from 1440 until 1912 when the college sold the Guildhall farmhouse for £600. The 100 acres of tenanted rectory land



A painting of old Barham Hall which was demolished in 1832

Source:
Pembroke
College

was then incorporated into the larger Barham farm leases. Pembroke fellows would often use the Guildhall as a refuge during the outbreaks of plague in Cambridge. Areas of Linton, once part of the rectory lands, included the fire station site and the Crossways and Rhugarve estate.

Some 202 years ago, the Pembroke College stake in Linton was dramatically increased when Mrs Sarah Lonsdale of Barham Hall, who died aged 92, left her 1200 acre estate to the college. This acquisition included all the land to the east of the water tower as far as the Roman road, Horseheath Hall and Bartlow village. Barham Hall is located on the right hand side of the road to Bartlow close to the crossroads.

Sarah Lonsdale (nee Millicent) and her husband, the Rev Christopher Lonsdale (died 1783), greatly admired William Pitt the elder, the prime minister responsible for the conquest of Canada in the Seven Years War (1756-1763). Pitt was a Pembroke man and the couple believed the college would safeguard their estate from the aggressive Keene family, lords of Great and Little Linton.

The college could not believe its luck. It was in a very poor state in 1807, admitting only 12 undergraduates yearly compared with the 50 or more at Trinity. Thereafter, until the end of the Great War in 1918, Linton provided over 10% of the total Pembroke income. In 2009 the college still owns the Barham Hall estate, now let to

the Fairey family.

In Cambridge, the college commemorated the gift by displaying the Millicent coat of arms on the hall fireplace and the south front of the old lodge. All the Barham archives dating from the 15th century are stored in the college library. An annual Barham feast is held for college tenants.

Pembroke fellows paid for a memorial to be placed in Linton church in order to show their gratitude to their benefactors. It cost a mere £88 and is located in the curtained-off Millicent chapel by the organ.

Pembroke were hardly generous. Their net yearly income from the Barham estate in 1807 was over £340 (the average farm wage was then £20 a year). The college inherited over 40 pieces of exquisite silver and the use of the mansion at Barham Hall as a residence for the master. This latter bequest was never instituted and the old hall was pulled down in 1832. The present red brick farmhouse called Barham Hall dates from 1836 but does incorporate some earlier features within its walls.

Next month: Trinity College links.

Marathon man Alistair keeps on running

LOCAL runner Alistair Cooke, who is taking part in this year's London Marathon, was able to raise almost £185 towards his fundraising total of £1500 in Saffron Walden in January.

Alistair was joined by his wife Trish, his brother Craig and nephew Max, as well as good friends Kerry and Nicola Finniear who were also seen to be braving the icy temperatures handing out balloons, stickers and wristbands to the local public.

Alistair wanted particularly to thank Mrs Benson at the Toy Box, Saffron Walden, and Roger at Evergreen Florists on George Street, also in Saffron Walden, for the kind donation of helium for the balloons.



Left to right: Craig Cooke, Alistair Cooke and Kerry Finniear

Picture submitted by Alistair

Anyone who would like to sponsor Alistair can do so via a secure/online website at www.justgiving.com/allycooke

You can also read about his training progress at <http://ally-cooke73.spaces.live.com>

Alistair Cooke

Ladies walking on the moon...

Linton ladies partying together before they walk together



Picture submitted by Jane Rootes

LINTON ladies Sue Golding, Jane Rootes and Su Matthews will be doing the Playtex Moonwalk on 16th May in aid of the "walk the walk" uniting against cancer charity. This is a charity that is very close to our hearts and we are looking for as much sponsorship as possible to enable us to reach our target of £1,000. While you are all tucked up, warm and cosy in your beds, we will be walking a grand total of 65 miles between us starting at midnight through the streets of London. If you would like to sponsor them, you can donate through our justgiving website www.justgiving.com/susangolding5 Alternatively, you can meet the ladies at Linton Infant school in the playground. We really appreciate your support.

Jane Rootes

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Parish Council Matters

Youth club returns to Linton

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

Youth Matters – Questionnaire

FOLLOWING on from the successful meetings with our young people during the last year, the Youth Working Party wanted to discover the thoughts, ideas and concerns of as many young people as possible for the forthcoming year. So in December 2008 we issued a Youth Questionnaire to year six at Linton Heights junior school (the Heights), and to all year seven to year eleven at Linton village college (LVC). The questionnaire was also available to download online.

This was an ambitious project and could only succeed with the help and cooperation of the Heights and LVC. The distribution and collection was a great success and of the 850 actually dispatched almost 500 were returned. I have spoken with the locality team (made up of youth workers and agencies) and LVC and we feel it would be a great idea to make the questionnaire an annual event.

As an immediate response to the results I was able to show the locality team that closing the youth club at LVC three years ago was a mistake, and it has now been agreed that the youth club will reopen this September.

Although the questionnaire was youth specific, when asked what general issues most concerned them, the A1307 was by far the number one concern followed by speeding traffic and street lighting. I think this proves what a community we still are. It is very interesting and poignant that some of the general issues for our young people are the same as for the rest of the community. Here are the full results of the youth questionnaire.

Cllr Roger Hickford



Cllr Roger Hickford

**Annual Parish Meeting
to be held on
Thursday 30th April 2009
in the village hall
commencing at 8pm**

165 responses from Linton
Responses are shown as percentages apart from where questions may not have been relevant to all age groups.

Male: 45% Female: 44% Not indicated: 11%

How do you use your spare time?

Seeing friends:	71%	Watching TV:	67%
On the Internet:	58%	Sport:	55%
Music:	50%	Computer Games:	49%
MSN messenger:	49%	Hanging out (in the village):	39%
Walking:	32%	Reading:	32%
Attend village clubs/societies:	29%	Cycling:	27%

Youth facilities

What youth activities do you go to in the Linton area? (actual number out of 165)

Aztecs Football:	44	Cricket Club:	40
LA4Y (The Drop In):	12	IMPACT:	11
Guides:	11	Mocha Cafe:	9
Scouts:	8	Taekwondo:	6
Air Training Corps:	4		

Do you attend? Balsham youth club: 14
Camps youth club: 25
Abington youth club: 0

Would you attend a youth club in Linton that is run like the other village youth clubs?

Yes: 35 No: 28 Possibly: 67

Do you think there are enough facilities for young people in Linton? Yes: 71

Popular suggestions for other facilities: youth club, more youth shelters.

Recreation Ground

What is your main reason for using the Recreation Ground?

Meet Friends:	54%	Hang Out:	46%
Play sport:	37%	Walk the Dog:	19%
Use play equipment:	16%	Use Drop In:	7%

Do you think there should be more/different play equipment? Yes: 39%

Popular suggestions: roundabout, climbing frame, slides.

Do you use the current youth shelter on the Recreation Ground? Yes: 18% If not why not:

Don't need to:	67	Did not know about it:	34
Too uncomfortable:	14	Don't want to:	5
Too young:	4		

Do you think the youth shelter is in the right place? Yes: 60%

If no, where do you think another shelter should be sited?

Most popular answers: more in the middle of the village, Camp Close.

If you could have one extra facility on the Recreation Ground what would it be?

Better Shelter:	29%
More benches/sitting areas:	27%
Goal Posts:	22%
Ball Wall:	12%

Camping Close

Do you spend time down the Camping Close (field near the Infant School)? Yes: 45%

It has already been suggested we put tables/benches near the river and goal posts south of the path. Is there anything else you would like to see there? Yes: 28%

Most popular suggestions: youth shelter, rope swing over the river.

Do you spend time down the Glebe Land (gate near ducks in Horn Lane)? Yes: 29%

Other

Which town(s) or village(s) do you most travel to at weekends?

Cambridge: 84%
Haverhill: 33%
Saffron Walden: 22%

Do you use the No 13 Cambridge/Haverhill bus? Yes: 72%

Do you use the No 19 local bus? (The 19 bus links Linton/Camps/Balsham and other villages). Yes: 5%

Do you use the public library? Yes: 33%

Do any of these local issues concern you? (please rank where 1 is the most important and 8 the least important)

1 The A1307	5 Nowhere to go
2 Speeding traffic in villages	6 Graffiti
3 Litter	7 Not enough street lighting
4 Anti-social behaviour	8 Noise

Do you think any of the issues below could be improved in Linton?

Litter picking:	42%
Graffiti removal:	20%
Grass Cutting:	19%

Do you think recycling is important? Yes: 83%

Do you try to recycle where possible? Yes: 80%

Are there enough recycling bins? Yes: 39%

What is the most important issue to you that your village is not meeting? The A1307 was the leading issue, followed by speeding traffic and lack of street lighting.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry
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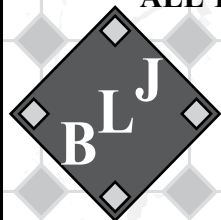
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ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 5th February 2009.

Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin and Mrs S Parry (clerk to the council). Mrs K France (Press) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr’s Cox, Daly and Gee.

Declaration of interests from members: Personal declarations of interest were received from Cllr Linsdell for the Parish Charities, Cllr Bald for the mobile warden scheme and Heritage Trail, Cllrs Hickford and Cornell for Junior Cricket Club, Cllr Gore for Linton Music Society and Cllr Rossiter for Linton Action for Youth.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January: Cllr Bald confirmed that the new wings at Stanton’s Lane bridge would be white to match the existing structure.

The clerk reported that the county council would consider the request to add Wheatshaf Way to the gritting list after the end of the current gritting season.

Reports from co-ordinators:

Open Spaces: Cllr Bald had issued a report updated from 2007. Her suggestion that the council seek permission to paint the sub station by the village sign to match the new bus shelter was agreed by the meeting.

Recreation Ground: Three quotations to concrete the base of the youth shelter and 5 benches were considered. It was agreed to accept the quotation R F Goodwin, subject to confirmation that all debris would be removed from the site. Cllr Potter was concerned about vehicle damage to the recreation ground and it was agreed that the work should not be carried out until the ground conditions were satisfactory. The clerk is to liaise with the contractor regarding a time scale for the work. An email had been received from Linton village college regarding the electricity supply to the Drop In centre. Cllr Hammett reported that a new cable from underneath the skate ramp to the centre was required. The main problem appeared to be that the circuit breaker on the temporary supply to the centre was not sufficient and the village college did not wish to replace it. It was agreed to liaise with the village college and PC Electrical in order to get the work done.

Cemetery: Cllrs Gee and Rossiter had issued reports and an email had been received from the district council’s tree officer regarding the same meeting. It was noted that an independent condition survey was recommended for the cemetery trees before any further work was undertaken.

Rights of Way: Cllr Rossiter reported on the lack of information and action received from the county council regarding the Parish Paths Partnership (3Ps). The council’s recommendations for improvements sent to the Countryside Services Team in 2004 had still not been addressed. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of complaint.

Allotments: A letter had been received from Mr Balaam which appeared to contradict the information received from SCDC and confirming that his family’s proposal was for a development involving both allotments and housing. It was agreed to acknowledge Mr Balaam’s letter and to write to Alison Talkington and Ray McMurray at SCDC asking them to confirm the district council’s position within 14 days. It was agreed to send copies of the whole correspondence to ACRE, asking for their help to resolve this matter.

Youth: Cllr Hickford had issued a report regarding his meeting with Ms Derbyshire, the principal of Linton village college. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the apparent lack of police presence in the village, especially youth policing. Ms Derbyshire had confirmed that a double room would be available at the college from September for use as a Youth Club.

Concerns were also expressed that the steps from Stanton’s Lane to the college had not yet been adapted for disabled use, the county council having stated in November 2007 that this problem would be addressed within two to three years. It was agreed to contact the county council to remind it of its stated position.

Cllrs Hickford and Cornell had met Julie Bristow, Linton

Locality co-ordinator to discuss funding for Linton Action for Youth and a Youth Club at the village college. Ms Bristow had confirmed that funding was available for both projects and as a result it seemed very likely that a Youth Club would open at the village college by September.

Correspondence received and for discussion:

A request for a grit bin in Hollybush Way had been received. It was agreed to ascertain the proposed position for the bin and to consider adding it to the wish list for review when a decision on Wheatshaf Way gritting was known.

An email had been received from CCC highways department seeking the council’s priorities for resurfacing work. It was agreed to send the council’s current list.

SCDC had requested the parish council to progress the transfer of Coles Lane car park. It was agreed that the clerk should instruct the council’s solicitors to act for it on the proposed transfer and that Cllr Gore should contact the senior partner at the Health Centre to confirm their current position.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 19th February 2009.

Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, M Gee, R Hickford, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin and Mrs S Parry (clerk to the council). District councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (Press) were also in attendance together with one member of the public.

Public Forum: Ms T Hunt of Holttums Yard advised the council that the WI were not in favour of Camping Close being enclosed and supported the views expressed by members of the parish council at a previous meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Daly, Hammett and Krarup and county and district councillor Batchelor.

Declaration of interests from members: Cllr Rossiter declared a personal interest under the item for discussion on Camping Close.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: A letter from the chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Authority acknowledging the council’s preference for the Police Station to be based at the Fire Station site was noted.

Cllr Hickford reported that PC Parkin would try to ensure that in future a PCSO attends parish council meetings.

PCSO Julie Abbott joined the meeting and reported on a seizure of alcohol at the village college on 13th February following an event for the pupils. The parents of two girls had been called to escort them home. Cllr Cornell reported on graffiti on the new bus shelter. Cllr Bald reported on and had cleaned off graffiti on the noticeboard. Cllr Hickford confirmed that a rolling calendar of village events would be produced and sent to the police to assist them in arranging attendance. PCSO Abbott left the meeting.

Camping Close: A report from Cllr Hickford on a further meeting with the Infant School had been circulated. Cllr Rossiter left the meeting. Cllr Bald proposed that village green status for Camping Close be sought. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gee and agreed unanimously by the meeting. It was agreed that the clerk contact the relevant county council department to begin the process. Cllr Gore advised that if Camping Close was designated as a village green it would remain in the ownership of the county council who would be liable for maintaining it as now. Cllr Rossiter rejoined the meeting.

Noise: Cllr Bald reported that following complaints from residents regarding noise concerns relating to Camgrain some steps had been taken to minimise noise, but she considered them to be insufficient. Cllr Bald had contacted the local government Ombudsman who had advised her that the district council claimed that in an undated conversation with the environmental health officer, the chair of the parish council had said that noise was not a significant issue in the village. The chair refuted the claim and agreed to write a letter to that effect. Cllr Bald said that a number of residents had complained to the district council and it was felt that this matter was not being taken seriously. It was agreed to send extracts of the council’s minutes where the issue of noise

from the Camgrain site had been discussed to the Ombudsman. Cllr Cox suggested that a petition be sought from residents who had experienced noise nuisance.

Report from the district councillor: Cllr Linsdell requested a sign be placed at the end of Rivey Close which included signage for house numbers. Cllr Bald reported that the Palmer’s Close sign had been burned and needed to be replaced and that replacement signs for Symond’s Lane and Joiner’s Road were still awaited.

Consideration of motion on notice proposed by Cllr Rossiter: ‘Linton parish council

1 is satisfied that the footpath running between Kingfisher Walk and Stanton’s Lane has been enjoyed by the public as a footway as of right and without interruption for a full period in excess of 20 years and that there is no sufficient evidence that there was no intention during that period to dedicate it as a highway;

2 considers that the northern section of the path (the section between the end of the metalled path running behind Granta Leys and Kingfisher Walk) is not in a satisfactory condition for the use being made of it by members of the public;

3 considers that despite taking reasonable steps to establish ownership of the northern section of the path or the identity of any person responsible for it has been unable to identify any such person;

4 accordingly resolves pursuant to section 50 Highways Act 1980 to undertake the maintenance of the northern section of the path and in particular to lay tarmac or similar surface along it;

5 agrees to request cambridgeshire county council as the highway authority for the parish to assume responsibility for the future maintenance of the footpath as a highway maintainable at public expense’.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Cox. There were eight votes in favour of the motion and one abstention.

It was agreed to suspend standing orders to allow Mrs France to advise the meeting that she had attended to report on a meeting of The Grove Residents Association during the 1970s at which an attempt by some residents to acquire land to extend their gardens to the river bank had been rejected. It was agreed to restore standing orders.

It was agreed that prior to a contract for the works being placed, the council’s solicitors be asked to carry out a further land registry search regarding ownership of part of the land in question.

Written reports from council representatives: Cllr Gore reported that the county council and the Cathodeon trustees were investigating the possible setting up of a Children’s Centre on the Cathodeon site.

Correspondence received and for discussion:

Mr S Toussanel had put in a request to hold a festive event to mark the first day of summer. Councillors thought that this was a good idea in principle, Mr Toussanel is to be reminded that should he wish to use parish council land permission would need to be obtained.

A review of the Lavenham Forest design plan, to include Borley Wood, had been received from the Forestry Commission. It was anticipated that the wood would be managed to allow its reversion to deciduous native woodland. Councillors agreed that it was an excellent proposal.

The parochial church council had requested funds for a new lawn mower. It was agreed to defer consideration of the request until costs were known.

J Cummings had requested renewal of white lining at the top of Coles Lane. It was agreed to pass the request to the county council highways department.

Further to a letter from Stop Linton Wind Farm (SLWF) Cllr Potter expressed concern that if a public meeting was held and interested groups like SLWF gave a presentation, there would be no evidence that the views expressed were just those of Linton residents. It was agreed that the clerk write to the district council requesting an extension of the consultation period for the parish council to eight weeks. It was agreed that the chair, vice chair and clerk draft a questionnaire for circulation to all councillors.

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



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