

Check out what is going on at the library this month see page 4

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THE LINTON NEWS

www.thelintonnews.co.uk, email editor.linton.news@gmail.com

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E & E PLUMRIDGE
Design & Print
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A Happy New Year to all our readers



Could you help the News team?

WE are in our 33rd year of publication and have a wonderful team of volunteers who produce the paper and deliver it to you every month, enabled partly by financial support from local business advertising.

It starts with you, the public, who send in articles and information about events in the village – please send us more. We would particularly like feel-good stories about our residents and their achievements and also family reminiscences of earlier times in Linton.

It also helps us get the diary right if you put details of your events in the diary in the post office well before the due date. That can also help to avoid clashes of events. The diary is kept in a folder on the cash machine on the left hand side of the shop.

Speaking of past times, Garth Collard our historian has recently retired from producing his *The way we were* articles after 25 years. So if any local historian would like to take over that slot we would be more than happy.

We also have an author who writes the articles and an artist who draws the illustrations for the Country Matters pages.

Our editorial team of volunteers gather up the articles and photos (usually but not always sent by email) and edit them. They are then sorted and assigned to particular pages

of the paper. The next step is for members of the team to make up the pages using the desktop publishing software called InDesign.

Proof copies are produced for other members of the editorial team to check, looking for mistakes and typographical errors and marking the papers accordingly. If you feel you could edit or proofread articles let us know.

Making up the pages involves the use of computers and software and we could always do with more people who are au fait with computer packages. In addition, at the moment, we have a particular need for someone who is very savvy with the technical side of computers and computer packages to advise the editorial team.

Once all has been rectified, a copy is sent to Plumridges, the printer, who prints 2,500 copies and delivers them to our delivery managers, who sort the papers into bundles for each round and deliver them to volunteers in the village and to Bartlow and Hadstock.

Did you know it takes 68 people who each have a round of 10 to 50 papers to post the through the letter boxes?

Finally if you feel you could help in any way please let me know. We give training and loan computers where necessary. Fran Armes, Editor, 891517 Editor.linton.news@gmail.com

Didn't our GP Practice do well?

THE Care Quality Commission inspected our GP practice in October and has rated it as outstanding, a mark of quality that is shared with only five of the 88 GP practices in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough health system.

This is first and foremost an opportunity to remind ourselves how tirelessly all 165 Granta staff work day-in-day-out. Many of them are our neighbours in our communities. They all deserve a big Thank You Team Granta! Their jobs have never been easy and have become much harder and more stressful over the past decade. Funding for healthcare is not keeping up with growing demand and finding people who are prepared to serve their communities as doctors and nurses is becoming ever more difficult. Fewer GPs and nurses care for more patients. This trend makes small general practices very vulnerable. A couple of retirements or long-term illnesses can lead to the collapse and closure of a practice, as we have witnessed recently in our own vicinity.

Granta has been created over the past four years through a merger of four well-run independent practices at Linton, Sawston, Barley/Market Hill and Shelford for one reason only – to create a sustainable GP practice that is fit to weather the funding and workforce crises, is able to attract and retain excellent staff, and will continue to offer reliable services to our communities. Granta is now of the right size for a modern GP practice and will not grow further. The practice is big enough to survive and thrive but remains small enough to care for our communities and retain the team spirit that is critical for general practice. The CQC rating is an external validation that Granta has chosen the right path.

Granta's outstanding rating is not 'mission accomplished'. There is lots of work still to do. While the on-the-day access at Granta for urgent needs is excellent, access to bookable appointments at all sites needs to be improved. The merger has led to changes in the provision of local services and challenges local identity, which is a concern to both patients and clinicians. These issues have been raised by the Patient Participation Group, who are helping the Granta team to understand how to best respond to workforce pressures, maintain the local identities of our practice sites and continue to offer patients access to their preferred doctor as much as possible.

Granta is grateful to all patients who provide feedback on its service and offer suggestions for improvements, and particularly to the members of the Patient Participation Group, who act as critical friends. For us, Granta is more than a business, it is a community asset. Both patients and staff can be proud of the outstanding rating. This gives us the reassurance and motivation to continue the journey to making Granta one of the best GP practices in the country.

Dave Arnold & Anne Thompson
Co-chairs of the Granta Medical Practices
Patient Participation Group
Stefan Scholtes
Independent Patient-Chair
of Granta Medical Practices Board

Combat the excesses of Christmas

WE often start the New Year by summarising opportunities for doing sports in Linton. This time we recommend a gentle walk as good exercise for all ages after the excesses at Christmas and, at the same time, discover one of Linton's best kept secrets.

One of the nicest local walks takes in the scenic sites of the village and can be undertaken by almost anyone. Start at the village sign near the High Street bridge over the River Granta. Walk up the High Street and turn right into the short alley opposite the end of Coles Lane (A), and emerge into Church Lane.

Continue with the wall of St Mary's Church on the left and turn into the churchyard. Pause to enjoy the grounds which are kept so beautifully by The Monday Gang, a small group of volunteers.

Walk ahead from the gate until the paths cross and then turn right. Continue along the path, which leads out of the

churchyard and over a wooden bridge that spans the shallow Granta. Stay alert here, you may be lucky enough to see a kingfisher flash past.

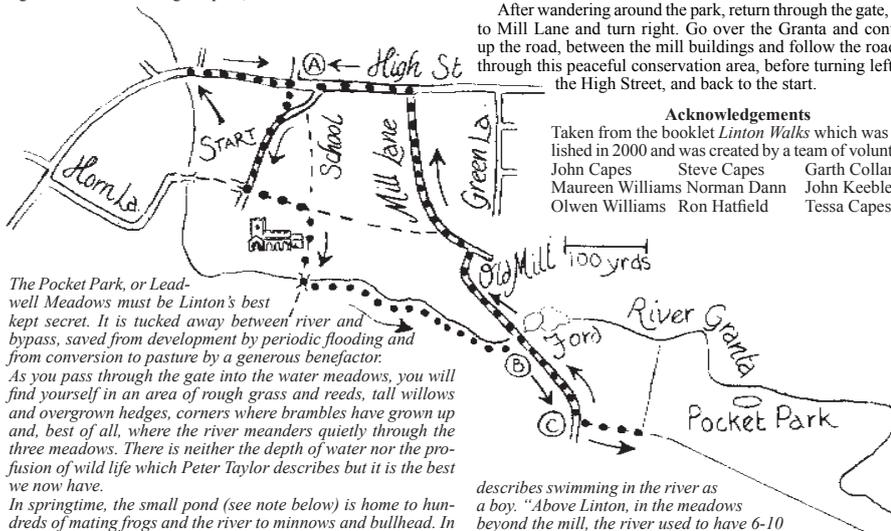
Turn left and follow the river bank, keeping the river on your left, until you reach Mill Lane where the Granta runs under the road (B). Directly ahead is the mill pond, with its wildlife residents, and to the left you can see the old mill buildings, now private homes.

Turn right into Mill Lane and walk about 200 yards. You will find a small track to the left (C), which leads to the Pocket Park. It is not signposted but, since it is the only one, you cannot miss it. The park is also known as Leadwell Meadows, since it is a series of three riverside meadows given to the parish and now maintained as a natural area rich with flora and fauna.

After wandering around the park, return through the gate, back to Mill Lane and turn right. Go over the Granta and continue up the road, between the mill buildings and follow the road left through this peaceful conservation area, before turning left into the High Street, and back to the start.

Acknowledgements

Taken from the booklet *Linton Walks* which was published in 2000 and was created by a team of volunteers.
John Capes Steve Capes Garth Collard
Maureen Williams Norman Dann John Keeble
Olwen Williams Ron Hatfield Tessa Capes



The Pocket Park, or Leadwell Meadows must be Linton's best kept secret. It is tucked away between river and bypass, saved from development by periodic flooding and from conversion to pasture by a generous benefactor.

As you pass through the gate into the water meadows, you will find yourself in an area of rough grass and reeds, tall willows and overgrown hedges, corners where brambles have grown up and, best of all, where the river meanders quietly through the three meadows. There is neither the depth of water nor the profusion of wild life which Peter Taylor describes but it is the best we now have.

In springtime, the small pond (see note below) is home to hundreds of mating frogs and the river to minnows and bullhead. In the hedges, you will see robins, wrens, blue tits, little parties of long-tailed tits in splendid pink, black and grey livery. In summer they are joined by warblers such as whitethroat and blackcap. Chiffchaff and willow warbler are also heard here. In winter, fieldfares and redwing arrive to enjoy the hawthorn berries in the hedges. Moorhen and mallard are often around, herons stand silently, blackbird and the usual small finches – the bird list could go on and on! In the spring, white flowers predominate, with mayflower and elder in the hedges, hogweed, angelica and hemlock in the fields. There is always something different to catch the eye. Peter Taylor, a well known Linton resident who died in 1997,

describes swimming in the river as a boy. "Above Linton, in the meadows beyond the mill, the river used to have 6-10 feet of depth, as it was dammed back by the mill.

This meant that there were pools for bathing: the boy's pool, the men's pool, deep enough for diving and even the giant's pool, impossible to touch the bottom. At times of spate, the river below the road bridge overflowed and then ran through the osier bed and rejoined the main stream by the mill, forming an island of the field on the left of the river, hence its name, "The Island". Here were signs of otter, though not often seen, trout in the river, crested grebes and snipe nested, also moorhen."

Note: This description was written in 2000 and may be out of date now – for example we think the pond has gone now.

Too good for jumble...

ON offer this month is the ladies' Marlboro Corvette pink mountain bike (26in wheel), a child's bed approximately 2ft 9in x 2ft 6in and a cot with wooden sides (one side lets down).

The coffee machine raised £10 for Arthur Rank Hospice and the three Demi-johns raised £5 for the British Heart Foundation.

If you are interested in either of the above or have an item to sell to benefit a charity please email Kate France on kfrance@profsoundconsult.com or phone 891602.

NB: The donor chooses the charity to benefit.



Infant School

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all from the staff and children at Linton CE Infant School.

I am writing this before the Christmas performances have taken place but I know our shows are always eagerly anticipated by the children and parents. These performances are always so well supported by parents, grandparents and other family members, giving us an opportunity to raise money for chosen charities. Thank you to everyone for your support and generosity.

The children were served a delicious Christmas lunch thanks to our kitchen staff who work hard all year round and even Father Christmas made time in his busy schedule to visit the children, bringing gifts for each class.

As some of you may be aware, I am running the London Marathon this year, raising funds for the NSPCC. This well-known charity is somewhere we, as a school, often turn to for resources and workshops and I am honoured to be running for such a worthwhile cause. I will be organising some fund-raising events of my own to try and raise as much as I possibly can.

It was lovely to meet so many parents who are considering Linton Infants as the school for their child to start with in September 2020. The admissions window closes on 15th January 2020: any applications made after this date will not be processed until May 2020.

Kelly Harries Headteacher

Family Centre

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE Child and Family Centres run outreach groups, one of them being in Linton at the Cathodeon Centre. We have had a busy term so far, with our Stay and Play Group growing in numbers. This group is suitable for nought to five-year-olds in term time and, during the holidays, nought to eight years old; times are 10 – 11.30am on a Tuesday and the cost is £2 per session.

The Baby group is also popular: this is on a Tuesday afternoon from 1 – 2.30pm and is for nought to one-year-olds, again £2 per session. You do not need to book to attend these groups.

We are currently planning groups and courses for the spring term, including a new weekly Messy Play session on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm – 2.30pm starting on 9th January and again this is £2 per family. So please look out for a What's On. You can either pop into the centre for a copy or follow our Facebook page South Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres for more information.

Again, just a reminder that we will be closed from Monday 23rd December for Christmas. Our first group in Linton starts back on 7th January 2020. We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Emma Chipps, Business Officer
South Cambs District Early Help
People & Communities Directorate
South Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres



lintongrantplaygroup

Pre-school and toddler group
Linton, Cambridgeshire

PHEW! What a busy December and run up to Christmas it has been. The children have been having so much fun. Early in December we visited Symonds House to sing some Christmas songs with the residents and we would like to thank Symonds House for having us.

We also enjoyed having two special visitors who came to stay at our playgroup, Mary and Joseph. They arrived for a sleepover as they travelled around the village on their special journey.

The children were all very excited to receive an invitation from Linton Infants School to go and watch their friends, who had moved on, in their Nativity play.

They have enjoyed learning Christmas songs and performing them to the parents and carers at our Christmas concert, and having lots of fun at our Christmas party with a surprise visit from Santa.

Our Christmas Fair was a great success raising much needed funds for our playgroup to develop the ICT area. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us.

We would like to wish all our parents and carers and all the Linton news readers a very happy and healthy new year from all at Linton Granta Playgroup.

We still have spaces available on most sessions; we are also able to take the 30 hours extended funding.

To find out more please ring 07806 744864.

The Playgroup team

chestnut playgroup Linton Happy New Year

We would like to wish all of our families a very happy New Year. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones.

2019 was an extremely successful and busy year for the Playgroup and we are looking forward to exciting new adventures and welcoming even more children into the Chestnut family over the coming year. If you are thinking about an early years setting for your two-to-four-year-old, then please feel free to get in contact and arrange a visit to see the Playgroup in action. You will be warmly welcomed.

We are busier than ever before, so we are operating a waiting list for this academic year. Looking forward to September, we will have some limited availability for children due to start school both in 2021 and 2022 so please do get in touch if you would like to consider Chestnut Playgroup for your child/children.

Our opening hours are 9am to 2.30pm, Monday to Friday. We offer a range of morning, lunch and afternoon sessions to suit your family's needs. We are also accepting children who qualify for extended hours funding and can offer this up to the 27.5 hours a week we are open. Please contact our Administrator to arrange a visit or for further information go to:

admin@chestnutplaygroup.org.uk or ring 07342 900120.



Happy times as the younger and older generations meet

Photo supplied by the Playgroup team



An Inspector calls – at the Heights

ON Monday 14th October, I was happily mid-conversation with Miss Davies, assistant head teacher, when the phone rang. "That will be Ofsted," I commented – a remark that I have been making for the last two years, whenever the phone rang. Low and behold, my secretary popped her head round my office door and confirmed the worst. Despite my flurry of prayers that the inspector had made a mistake and it was actually Linton Infant School he was after, alas no mistake had been made.

On Tuesday 15th the inspector, Dr Nicholas Rudman, arrived and straight from the outset, his positivity and enthusiasm for the Linton Heights was evident. As per his promises he stuck to his timetable of teacher observations; staff and pupil interviews; book looks; subject leader and governor conversations, all like a train to its tracks.

Although the pupils' behaviour is usually impressive at the school, all of them, from Y3-Y6 behaved impeccably during the two day inspection. From a staff perspective, a *blitz-mentality* prevailed, with all employees rallying around and performing masterfully throughout.

Parents were overwhelmingly praising of the team's efforts and governors were, as usual, swift to provide much needed support and encouragement. My special thanks go to Adele Watson, Chair of Governors, who, even though in Ireland at the time, fielded inspector questions with impressive dexterity.

The Ofsted report is on the school's website; nevertheless, some of the notable comments include:

"Pupils at this popular junior school feel happy and extremely well cared for."

"As many parents commented, staff are welcoming, supportive and approachable."

"Pupils enjoy the topics they study, and talk confidently about their recent learning."

Although there are still areas to work on, pupils, parents, staff and governors are all delighted with the result.

James Puxley – Headteacher.

Editor's note: See the article on the Year 6 English Challenge success in the next column

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English Challenge Success

ON 4th December, we travelled to Ely cathedral to take part in the finals of the Cambridgeshire Year 6 English Challenge after winning our heat at Teversham Primary School.

This was the first time Linton Heights had got this far so we had no idea what to expect. When we arrived it was explained that there would be three rounds. The first was a team round where we were asked lots of questions about books, their characters and authors. The second round was a cathedral round where we had to answer questions about artefacts located around the cathedral. The final challenge was a relay round where we had to answer a variety of mind-boggling questions in a short amount of time. These questions included homophones, plural nouns, prefixes and silent letters.

We had done all we could but didn't think it was enough to come in a top place as we were competing against another 22 teams from a total of over 100 schools who had entered. But then the announcement came: we had won. This meant we took home the title of *2019 Cambridgeshire English Challenge Champions* and a massive shiny trophy too.

It was completely unexpected and also very special as it was our teacher, Mrs Cassidy's last time competing with the school.

We would like to give a big thank you to Mrs Cassidy for giving and supporting us through this opportunity.
Hannah Gilbert, Lizzie Howden, Rebecca Hine and Eva Duckett

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We are ready for the New Year

WELCOME back and a very Happy New Year to you all. What a busy run up to Christmas we had, Nativity Plays, visit to the Pantomime, a visit from Father Christmas and our Christmas Lunch.

After a much-needed break our students have returned refreshed and ready for the term ahead. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and supported our Christmas Fayre. A total of £1,341.00 was raised, which will be spent on resources for our children.

We are still running the Sun Newspaper Book for schools campaign. Vouchers can be collected from the Sun newspapers up until 8th February. Sweet Talk News in Linton is collecting them for us, alternatively they can be sent through our front office.

Dates for the diary: Half term: 17th – 21st February 2020
Emma Jennings, Communication Officer.

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Peter White MBAC, MSc, DipAc.
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Readers write...

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

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

Position of 30 mph sign in Horseheath Road

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my concerns over the position of the above sign. Before explaining, I have to say that I do not live in Linton, but I do visit on a regular basis to this side of the village.

I feel that the 30mph limit sign should be moved back towards the A1307, at least to the beginning of the property on the right as you come into Linton on the Horseheath road. The reason being is, that as you hit the 30mph limit you immediately come to Lonsdale which is on your left. If you didn't know Linton you would miss it and also those who are Lintonians do not slow down coming off the A1307. This is a blind spot as it is also on a bend in the road.

It is even more fraught if you are trying to turn right out of Lonsdale due to the blind bend, along with the speed of traffic coming round that bend.

Although I have not heard of any incidents or accidents in this area, I am sure there is one waiting to happen.

I would like to know how you and your readers feel about this situation and the ensuing extra traffic that is going to be generated on the building of more housing.

Steve of Sawston, (name and address withheld)

A Christmas puppet tale

the WIL THE Village Hall was bright with tinsel, ivy and candle-light for our Christmas social. Members enjoyed mince pies and mulled apple juice and got thinking over a table quiz on puppets. Our speaker, Angela Collins, was assisted by her husband David who sat behind a screen and provided sound effects and the occasional joke.

Angela told us she was born at Alexandra Palace in London and trained as a hairdresser, then worked in a factory making jeans. Whilst there she started making puppets out of foam and scraps of material and got someone to make her a puppet theatre.

In between demonstrations of the puppets and how they were made, Angela gave details of very sad events in her life. She said laughter is the best medicine and doing the shows helped her to become the cheery soul she is, giving joy to hundreds of children.

Whilst working for the Woodland Wildlife Trust, she made puppets such as badgers and gave us a rap rendition of *Pop goes the weasel* with hoodie badgers.

Angela demonstrated her skills as a puppet maker and puppeteer with a DJ show of various Father Christmases which finished with two snowmen singing *A White Christmas*. Finally members sang along with *We wish you a merry Christmas*.

At our next meeting on 7th January, Lesley Challands will give a talk on ACWW (Action for Countrywomen Worldwide) where our money from the flower collection goes. She will also give a demonstration of Tunisian crochet. New members are always welcome, or have a taster by coming as a visitor for a small fee. Sally Proberts, 891021

Error

THE item on *Events at St Mary's* by Pam Richardson in the December issue of the Linton News was shown as being from the Friends of St Mary's.

Actually Pam is Chair of the fairly recently formed St Mary's Social Committee and is not a member of the Friends.

The Friends events are organised separately from those of the Social Committee although they work together to make sure events don't clash. Apologies to Pam and everyone for the confusion. Editor

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Linton Garden club

At the December meeting, garden club members enjoyed a social evening with Christmas decoration making demonstrations followed by nibbles and mulled wine.

Looking back, 2019 was another good year for the club. The monthly meetings covered an interesting and informative range of topics including *Wildflower & Wildlife Gardening*, *Seasonal Container Gardening* and *The Restoration of Wimpole Hall Gardens*. The club's June visit to the Music Maze Garden in Balsham was superbly hosted by Hilary and Jim Potter. The Plant Sale and Annual Show were, as usual, enjoyable and successful occasions. The club also took part in the Scarecrow Festival. Many thanks to everyone who helped at these events including those who donated plants, bought plants or entered exhibits in the show.

The club is now looking forward to 2020. The Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 16th May and the Annual Show on Saturday 25th July. There is an interesting variety of talks planned for the monthly meetings including *Friends and Foes in the Garden*, *Tree Identification in Summer*, *Winter, Grasses and A History of Gardening in Britain*. Each meeting is advertised in the club's Linton News articles and on posters around the village.

The first meeting of 2020 will be on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall where Peter Jackson will be talking about *Companion Planting*. The club looks forward to welcoming members, both current and new, and visitors. Please contact me for more information on the club and its activities.

Jim Forrest, 893577 lgsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

News from St Mary's

WITH the Christmas celebrations over, we look forward into the New Year. In fact, we are planning quite a long time ahead for an exciting event in 2020:

In the afternoon of 3rd October, we hope to stage a mediæval Mystery Play in St Mary's, involving members of the Linton community of all ages.

The chosen play is *Noah*, taken from the mediæval cycle originally performed in Chester but with modernised language. The director, Gordon Cummings, staged this play 20 years ago as a Hadstock community event and this is the spirit in which we'd like to put it on in Linton.

We need not only actors but also people to help with props, set construction, costumes, lighting, production management and administration, advertising, front of house.

We will also need musicians and singers, because we should like to incorporate musical items into the play, some with audience participation.

We are at a very early stage of planning, so now is your chance to get on board if this appeals to you. We're already in conversation with some of the local schools about their participation. Anyone else who would like to take part please contact me and I will send your email on to the director.

For those interested in acting, there will be auditions for speaking parts from 10.30 to 12 noon on Saturday January 18th, in St Mary's Pavilion, behind the church. Please let us know if you would like to come and put the date in your diary.

Maggie Guite (Rector) rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Come & Sing at St Mary's

CALLING all singers. Please reserve the following date. We will be having a Come & Sing from 1pm - 7pm on Saturday, 7th March. The event is to raise funds for St Mary's, Linton.

Works to include Fauré's Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré). The cost will be £13 to include tea. See @LintonComeAndSing Facebook page for more information.

David Parry-Smith
Director of Music at St Mary's, Linton, 894715
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DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 13th January
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 15th January

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LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office; failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here. You may also email your event details to diary@linton.info

Call 893619 for an audio version of the Linton News.
Details of items in bold type may be found in this edition.

- WEEKLY
Beacon Astro football, Mondays, 3.05-4.30pm LVC
Netball, Monday evenings, 6pm junior, 7.30pm adult LVC
Linton Granta football bingo, Mondays, 7pm Pavilion
Men's keep fit, Mondays, 8-9.30pm LVC sports centre
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)
Linton Air Cadets, Mon and Thurs, 7-9.30pm (07717 801056) LVC
Scrabble club, alternate Tuesdays, 10am-12noon CP
Chestnut Playgroup, Monday-Friday, 9am-2.30pm CC
Linton Granta Playgroup, Mon-Fri, 8.30am-2.30pm LVC
Linton Granta Toddler grp, Tuesdays term-time 9.30-11.30 LVC
Stay and Play, Tuesdays, 10am-11.30am CC
L.A.L.A., Tuesdays, 10-11.45am term-time. VH
Bumps to babies, Tuesdays, 1-2.30pm CC
Storytime, Tuesdays, 2-2.30pm, term-time Library
Granta duplicate bridge club, Tuesdays, 2-4pm VH
Beacon Red Zone youth club, Tuesdays, 7-8.30pm LVC
IT club-computer help, Tuesdays, 7pm CC
Linton chess club, Tuesdays, 7.30pm CC
Tots in tow, Wednesdays, 9.30-11am, term-time only VH
Walking netball, Wednesdays, 6-7pm, LVC sports centre
Jelly Beans playgroup, Thursdays, 9.30-11.30am URC
Computer buddies, Thursdays, 2-4pm Library
Beacon drop-in club, Thursdays, 5.30-7pm RG
Cricknet club, Thursdays, 6-8pm LVC
Art Factory, Thursdays 1-3pm from 9th Jan URC
Linton Army Cadets, Thursdays, 7-9pm LH
Beacon Youth Group, Fridays, 7-8.30pm, URC
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, Fridays, 9.15-10am CP
St Mary's choir, Some Fridays, 7.30-9pm ring 894715 St Mary's
Linton Bridge club, Fridays, 7pm, CC

For sports centre courses please call LVC sports centre on 890248

JANUARY 2020

- 6 Camera club, 7pm, VH
7 **Womens' Institute, 7.30pm** VH
9 Luncheon club, 12 noon, Red Lion, Horseheath
11 **Jazz and Sparkles part 2, 7.30pm** LVC
12 Lighthouse, 10.15am-12noon URC
13 Whist Drive, 7.30pm VH
14 **VIP group, 1pm** Chalklands
14 **Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH
15 Cambridgeshire hearing help, 9.30am-12 noon HC
16 Parish council meeting, 7.30pm CC
17 Daylight readers, 10.30am Library
18 **Mystery play auditions, 10.30am-12noon,** CP
19 Walking group, 11am, Church Lane
19 Messy Church, 4pm, St Mary's church
21 **Historical Society, 7.30pm** VH
27 **Engage Talk by Margaret Moore, 2pm** Library

FEBRUARY 2020

- 1 Farmers' Market, 9am-12noon VH
3 Camera club, 7pm, VH
4 **Womens' Institute, 7.30pm** VH
6 Luncheon club, 12 noon, Red Lion, Horseheath
9 Lighthouse, 10.15am-12noon URC
9 Film, Paddington 2, time TBC, St Marys
10 Whist Drive, 7.30pm VH
11 **VIP group, 1pm** Chalklands
11 **Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH
13 **ACE Soup & rolls & talk, 12noon to 2pm** RG Pavilion

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LIS Linton Infant school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reformed church, VH village hall.
Library times: Mon closed; Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.

Bin Collection Dates
Linton refuse collection: Tuesday 7th and Monday 20th January
Linton blue bin collections: Mondays 13th January and 27th January
Linton green bin collection Monday 13th January

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Courses and workshops at Linton Village College

LOOKING for something new and interesting to do in the New Year? Want a new skill / hobby and the opportunity to meet new people? Look no further than Linton Village College where you can sign up to one of our daytime or evening courses or a one-day Saturday workshop.

- In addition to our regular programme of courses, we have four exciting new courses starting the week commencing 13th January:
- Japanese for Beginners : 10 week course, Thursdays 7 – 9pm
 - Reiki Relaxation and Stress Management : five week course, Tuesdays 7 – 9pm
 - Sewing for Beginners : five week course, Mondays 7 – 9pm
 - Cookery Course : five week course – Mondays, 7 – 9pm

On Saturday 8th February we will be running one-day workshops as follows:

- Vegetarian Indian Delights – cookery workshop, 10am – 4pm
 - Skincare and Facials – hands-on workshop, 10am – 4pm
 - Pies and Pastries – cookery workshop, 10am – 4pm
- For more information on our course and workshop programmes please visit our website at www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk or contact us via email at:

adult.education@lvc.org or telephone 891223 Ext 303 or 317.
Margaret Kiddy,
Adult Education & Lettings Manager

Sawston Village College Adult Learning

WE would like to thank all our learners and tutors for their continued support during the autumn term. Most of our weekly classes will begin week commencing 13th January.

We have some brand new courses planned for the spring term, including Mindfulness and Meditation for Wellbeing, and Vegan Cooking.

Our Saturday Workshops will continue in the New Year with courses planned for 18th January and 14th March.

- Courses available on 18th January are as follows:
- Creative Writing
 - Different Ways to Cook Fish
 - Drums for Beginners;
 - Fused Glass Jewellery;
 - Indian Feast for Friends
 - Patisserie and Willow Weaving

We are also starting an exciting new venture running Adult and Child Workshops. The first will run on Saturday 7th March. More details to follow.

As always, if there is a subject you would like us to offer, or something you could teach, we would love to hear from you. For more information on all our courses, please visit our website www.sawstonadulted.org, email community@sawstonvc.org or telephone 01223 712424.

Mrs Claire Walpole
Lettings & Adult Learning Administrator

Italian History and Culture

GREAT BRADLEY WEA's course beginning in January is aimed at people with an interest in everything Italian. There is so much history, so this is an overview of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance period, the historical *Risorgimento* (unification) and will include modern day politics, some geography and modern culture.

The course will run from Wednesday, 15th January to 26th February – that is seven weeks of two hours from 10am to 12noon in Great Bradley Village Hall, CB8 1LH and the cost is £55.

The course reference is C2226805. To enrol please either book on line at enrolonline.wea.org.uk or telephone 0300 303 3464 (phoning is easier) Fees can be paid at the first meeting but WEA HQ would appreciate knowing numbers before the course begins, so please do enrol before you come. For further information ring me.

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Historical Society

A CAPTIVE audience with many questions and answers summed up an excellent talk on *Everyday Life in the 18th Century*, given by Ken Sneath at our meeting on 19th November.

Using comparisons of population and probate inventories, Ken took us through a *consumer revolution* of the items people had in their homes during this period of time.

A lot of research has been carried out on inventories where items are carefully listed and given a value. A fine example given was Bodsey House, Ramsey where some of the items in an early inventory remain in the house today.

Many inventories have an assortment of goods grouped together with a single value. Knives alone frequently appear in records; the two pronged fork was seen as a symbol of the devil.

Clocks were usually itemised. 40% of the population owned a clock between 1750-1800. A single hand clock by Samuel Chadwick costing 45/- (shillings) in 1757 could be purchased by paying 6d (pennies) a week. Reliance on hearing the church clock strike really came to an end with the coming of the railways when standard time had to be introduced across the country.

With the arrival of coffee and tea in Britain, coffee houses became popular, a lot of information can be found in the diaries of John Evelyn and Samuel Pepys. Around 1650 the average wage was £1 a month (20 shillings), with the price of tea at £6 10s per lb (a pound, approx ½ kilo); tea was a drink for the elite and their tea caddies were kept locked. However, all this was to change over time and tea became an everyday commodity in all homes.

Indeed, a portrait of *Cottage Interior*, 1793, shows a widow surrounded by most of the owner's goods – clock, tea-set, warming pan, chair and table. It is a visual inventory.

On a final note, at the bottom of inventories there often appears these words *Things forgotten, value 10/-*.

A thoroughly light-hearted and entertaining evening, those present learnt an awful lot.

Our January meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st in Linton village Hall.

Margaret Creek, 893915
email ldhscamb@pobroadband.co.uk

New memorial bench

THERE is a new bench outside Chalklands Community Centre. This was put as a memorial to my nana (Joan Franklin) who was born in Linton in 1931 in Green Lane and moved to Chalklands in 1954 when they were building the estate. She passed away on 2nd June 2019 after a short illness.

We have placed the memorial bench outside the Centre as this was one of her favourite places to go with her friends.

We would also like to thank June Hall and Banjo Fowler for supporting her through her last years of life.

Jasmine Franklin



A fitting reminder of Jasmin's nana, Joan Franklin.

Photo supplied by Jasmine

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Linton Library News

CAN Linton Library help you with any New Year's resolutions?

Learn a new skill: borrow *how to* books, or pick up leaflets about local courses. Drop in to learn computer skills at the Tuesday evening IT club.

Look after your health: we have a wide range of books to help you with your physical and mental health.

Start or develop a business: support is available from Cambridge Central Library's Business & IP Centre (we have information about it in Linton).

Expand your reading: explore all our shelves or ask us for reading recommendations. You can download library e-books too.

Create space at home: donate unneeded, as-new books to the library for others to enjoy.

Appreciate culture: check out our display.

Volunteer: we're always seeking volunteers to help with events, story-times and our Library at Home service.

Make new friends: drop into your friendly library for a chat, join our monthly book group or find out about local clubs and societies.

Inspire young people: bring your children to the library and help them become life-long readers.

Keep fit: carry books to and from the library!

Support your local community: by joining and using the library you support a service for the whole community. Membership is free.

Our next Engage talk is 2pm on Monday 27th January. Author Margaret Moore brings to life East End characters during WWII. There'll be an opportunity to purchase her book, *Almost Full Circle*. Free talk with £1 donation for refreshments appreciated. Please book in advance at Linton Library or call 0345 0455225.

The Ding Dong Belles choir brought festive cheer to a Christmas community café at the Cathedown Centre on 14th December.

The friendly and enjoyable event was organised by the Daylight Readers book group. Other local groups interested in hosting a similar café on any second Saturday should contact Anna McMahon at Linton Library.

Anna McMahon, Community Library Assistant
anna.mcmahon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



The Ding Dong Belles perform at the library in December
Photo taken by Wendy Foster

Local carers sought

WE are seeking enthusiastic local care workers who would enjoy a rewarding role in providing care to a lady with specified healthcare needs. You will be part of a team of care workers and work alongside a Live-In care worker at all times.

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Sarah Marrone Service Manager,
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COUNTRY MATTERS

Text by Oriol O'Loughlin and illustrated by Maureen Williams



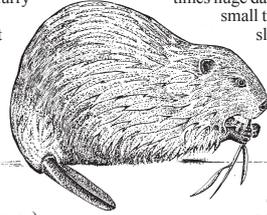
Beavers are back

THE Eurasian beaver is our largest rodent, the size of a Labrador, robust, weighing between 18 and 30kgs, with light brown fur, world class teeth, a flat and scaly tail, short legs and small eyes and ears. Its Latin name is *Castor Fiber*, which sounds more like something we're urged to eat than a furry ecosystem engineer.

400 years ago beavers lived in the UK but were hunted to extinction mostly for their fur and meat. Now they have been reintroduced, not without controversy, for the purpose of flood control. There are colonies in Argyll, Tayside, Wales and in an enclosed area on the River Otter in Devon. And much nearer to home, there are now a pair in a large fenced area just down the road at Spains Hall this side of Finchingfield.

In partnership with the EA (Environment Agency), the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, Atkins and the Essex Wildlife Trust, the estate at Spains Hall has put together a natural flood management scheme for the area above the regularly flooded Finchingfield. It took 18 months of planning before the release happened earlier this year.

What this really means is a system of beaver built leaky dams and channels to redirect water back on to the old water meadows.



The estate runs tours to see the site, starting again next spring. Beavers need deep water to move and feed in safety. Where there is no deep water, they create it.

They make small dams with mud and plant roots and sometimes huge dams 40 metres long and one metre high, made of small trees, earth and sticks. They also create dams to slow the river and make sure their lodges are not washed away. They dig canals to explore their territory in relative safety – these start as tracks through wet ground which are then widened and dredged. They make complex ponds and these benefit other species such as water vole, amphibians, dragonflies and birds, earning them keynote species status. They can fell really quite large trees, especially willows, for food. In summer they eat aquatic plants, leaves, blackberry vines, fennel, grasses, ferns and shrubs and in winter they eat more woody species and the inside of bark.

One other interesting aspect of beaver behaviour is tail slapping – this is done as support when standing up to chew trees and also as a warning to approaching predators. So next time you're on Horn Lane bridge and you hear a peculiar sound, it could just be a Finchingfield beaver on the loose.

Linton Food & Wine shop will make you nostalgic for the corner shop

MONIKA and Adam Hass are delighted to invite the local community of Linton and surrounding villages to our new grocery shop, Linton Food & Wine, at 10 Bartlow Road in Linton, next to Linton Tandoori. The opening hours are 7.30am – 10pm seven days a week.

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to our customers for their continuous support and we would like to assure you that we will be trying to provide the highest standard in all possible ways.

For people who do not know us yet, we are a small family run business which offers an extensive range of products such as American soft drinks, Polish foods, wine, beers, sweets and tempting cakes as well as essentials that you might need for your breakfast or a quick dinner.

Fresh milk along with a variety of bread and rolls are delivered here every morning. We can also offer coffee and other hot drinks served from our brand new Tchibo Exclusive coffee machine. We stock pet food and household essentials such as tea strainers, vegetable peelers and much more.

Tobacco and spirits are also



Monika and Adam outside their new shop

Picture by Roger Lapwood

stocked as well as stationery items, baby essentials, health and beauty and cleaning products, including laundry powders and pods along with fabric conditioners.

Our customers can also pay their bills and top-up their mobile phones, gas and electric cards via our Pay-Point machine. Additionally, in January, we will be a *collect*

plus store, which means that you can drop off and collect your parcels from our shop, including Amazon orders. We also will be selling newspapers very soon.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Linton News editor for providing us an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the local community.

Monika & Adam Hass

1st Linton Scout Group

FOLLOWING an AGM on 21st November, Mike Calver, Ed Groenhart (Chair), Sarah Knight and Ian Vaughan were voted in as members of the committee (Nick Sales remains as Treasurer). Many thanks to the outgoing committee members, in particular outgoing Chair Dougie Taylor.

Recent events that the group has attended include a full turnout at the Remembrance Sunday Parade, a Beavers Hike to Balsham from Chilford Hall and getting soaked whilst cooking sausages and burgers at the Linton Fireworks.

We are grateful to all the volunteers, as well as for the many mum / dad / grandparent taxi services getting the boys to and fro. As with most groups of this kind, 1st Linton Scouts is run entirely by volunteers.

In order for the boys to get the most from their experiences with the group, we are looking to add to the warranted leader pool, most notably for the Scout group at present. Full training is given, and the regular commitment is a mere hour or so one evening a week.

Ed Groenhart (Chair)
edgroenhart@hotmail.com

POT POURRI 178

How many days spent Christmas shopping?

THE credit card bill listed the days I spent shopping. I began on the first day with £49.59. Every day following, a different amount was spent and the spending stopped when for two days the same amount was spent.

Treating the daily expenditure as a four digit number ie starting with 4959 and rearranging the digits to form the largest number and again as the smallest number, we then do a subtraction, large number minus smallest. The result is the expenditure for the next day expressed as the first two digits for pounds and the last two digits for pence. Repeat the method and stop as mentioned before.

How many days did the shopping last and what was the total amount spent during those days?

Pot Pourri 177 – The Fastest Reindeer is?

The fastest reindeer was Dancer, Blitzen was second, Vixen third and poor Comet last.

Urania



Jazz and Sparkles Part 2 on 11th January at Linton Village College

ENJOY an evening of Jazz Music from Linton Jazz, Linton Village College Jazz Band, The Belles Choir and Hannah Horton.

This is the second in a series of concerts hosted by this group. This year they are splitting the proceeds between LVC Music Department and Reach Charity which helps people with issues relating to poverty with debt advice, food banks and pastoral care.

Portable Pizz will be providing a bar on the night serving his real ales, fizz and soft drinks.

Doors open from 7.30pm and tickets are on sale via ticket source online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/linton-village-college-jazz-and-sparkle/2020-01-11/19:45/tmkymer

Or you can scan this QR code to buy tickets.
Natalie Morris, Brick Marketing Ltd



LAST month I wrote about the squadron's annual inspection and I am delighted to say that this went very well. We are covering all the areas of the cadet training syllabus effectively and we passed with flying colours.

The dining-in night was a huge success and it was great to see the cadets suited and booted for our annual meal with disco. It was great to see everyone relaxing and to see our Commanding Officer at the front of the conga.

Cadet Corporal Coates completed the wing Senior NCO course, culminating in the issue of his silver leadership badge. Congratulations! This is a two-day course and a big achievement.

There were further staff courses through December which enabled us to provide more training than ever on the squadron. We look forward to being able to deliver courses in first aid, leadership and radio in the new year.

In the office, planning for 2020 is well under way. As well as the first aid, leadership and radio qualifications, we look forward to a bumper year of Duke of Edinburgh awards, with more bronze and silver awards coming to fruition in the new year. The 2020 camp schedule has started to be announced and we look forward to these too.

Before Christmas, we still had to squeeze in two more flying allocations from RAF Cranwell.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and make your new year's resolution to join 2523 ATC.

Cl Bradley Wright, Training Officer 2523
07943 873272 training.2523@aircadets.org

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The Marsh mail



MUCH of the magic of Christmas are the traditions that serve to remind us of the important things in life, family and community; Christmas lunches appear, Carol services take place, decorations festoon our homes and mulled wine keeps out the cold. It is no surprise then that Christmas is a key time in the College calendar for expressing those values.

The Music Department, led by Helen Jukes, is integral to Christmas at Linton Village College. Holy Trinity Church, Balsham was packed to the rafters, on 10th December, for the Christmas Service. Students from all years performed a wide range of favourites including Elgar's *The Snow*, *Chanson de Nuit* as well as carols by Britten and Rutter. The Year 7 choir also put together a Christmas medley with a big band. It was a truly heart-warming sight to see proud parents, grandparents and excited students together in church celebrating and enjoying the festive spirit. It is a huge event to organise and our thanks go to Mrs Jukes for her leadership, and Holy Trinity Church for hosting and making the service such a success.

As if that wasn't enough, the following week the Drama and Music Departments also hosted a Live Lounge for Cambodia evening of music and drama to raise money for the Year 11 expedition to Cambodia. The set included performances from Mrs Clark's Music Theatre and a preview of The Caucasian Chalk Circle as well as some solo items. A busy Christmas indeed for the Arts Faculty.

It is sometimes easy to forget that Christmas traditions don't just happen. They require nurture, love and hard work to maintain them. This year one LVC tradition lapsed, which we will restore for Christmas 2020. 25 years ago, Jenny Pullin, Head of Food Technology and Lead Tutor, hosted an afternoon tea for 20 members of the community as part of a Year 9 project. It grew. Since then, Mrs Pullin (now in her 36th year at the College) organised the Coffee and Carols morning each December in the College hall, complete with music, decorations and Year 9 students serving food and refreshments to over 120 members of our local community. To see three, sometimes four, generations from the villages sharing Christmas was a wonderful example of the Village College community ethos being lived out and has often brought out the odd sentimental tear in staff, guests and students alike. Charities including CLIC Sargent, Haverhill Food Bank and Anglia Air Ambulance have also benefited from the event's raffles through the years.

Mrs Pullin continues to be Exams Officer at LVC but, as part of her phased retirement, has relinquished leadership of the event. In the words of Austria's most famous pensioner though: Coffee and Carols will be back for 2020. Our thanks to Mrs Pullin for all her hard work during the last quarter of a century in organising such an important event for so many people

LVC's annual Charities Fayre on the last day completed the autumn term. Students raised money for a number of local charities through an array of different stalls and activities. The students' entrepreneurial skills were very much on show in a celebratory atmosphere. It is a wonderful way to end the term in the Christmas spirit and to remind everyone of the values of giving, family and community.

Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/3931/19/DC, Mr & Mrs Dener, 4, The Ridgeway, Discharge of condition 3 (Details of Materials) of planning permission S/4152/18/FL

S/3950/19/FL Mr Michael Southall, 3, Lonsdale, Two storey side extension. Garage & loft conversion with dormer windows S/3988/19/TC, Holden, 99, High Street, Ash remove deadwood and broken branches throughout crown crown lift to clear roof of adjacent property by 2m

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ACE Festive Lunch

ACES had their Christmas Lunch on 3rd December. The room was so full that towards the end we had to put up extra tables. Fortunately we had more than enough food in great variety to feed everybody.

Enid brought everyone up to date for plans to increase the flow of the River Granta which includes removing weirs. These methods should reduce the likelihood of flooding in times of heavy rainfall. She also brought us up to date with the progress of the latest planning applications; that is Bartlow Road, Horseheath Road and Paynes Meadow. It is a constant battle to get the type of housing we need, ie affordable houses and bungalows, not tall houses which are unsuitable for a village setting.

At the end we had the raffle with numerous prizes, many of which were donated by ACE members.

The next meeting is at 12noon to 2pm on 13th February with soup and rolls to eat, after which we will have a talk by Isobel Blakeley on her work with deaf children in Rwanda. Isobel is a lively and interesting speaker and shows slides of the children and teachers in Rwanda.

We will also take names and payment for our trip to Norwich on 23rd April.

Colleen Lockstone

What's on at Wandlebury

Part of Cambridge Past, Present and Future



Work in progress on the new pond at Wandlebury
Picture supplied by the Comms Team at CPPF

Winter Tree Walk

THIS takes place from 10am - 12noon on Wednesday 15th January and is a guided walk around Wandlebury, with one of our Wardens. Meet at the noticeboard in the car park. It is free but donations are welcome.

Volunteer Work Party

This takes place between 10am and 1pm on Tuesday 28th January. Help us care for green spaces and their wildlife - get active, meet others and enjoy learning.

All instruction, equipment and tools are provided. Wear tough clothes and footwear and bring packed lunch. No need to book, just turn up. Meet at the car park noticeboard.

Weekly Walking for Health walks at Wandlebury

These take place every Thursday with either a 10am or 10.30am start and are led by an enthusiastic group of trained volunteers. The first is slightly faster while the second is more leisurely, accommodating people who are not so fit or are newcomers to the group. Each walk lasts around 30 minutes and covers about 1.5 miles. Teas and coffees are available afterwards.

NB: Free of charge and no need to book. If you want to take part for the first time then please arrive 10 minutes early to register. The meeting point is the Stables Education Centre.

New pond

Work has started on creating a new 400m² pond. Volunteers have been preparing the site and contractors, Miles Water Engineering, are now shaping the profile of the pond. Glenn Mulleady, Head of Estates at CPPF, said, "The new pond will provide wildlife habitat, be an attractive landscape feature and an essential resource for our successful outdoor education programme."

The first stage of works has been funded by a grant from Mick George Limited but the charity still needs to raise funds to purchase native aquatic plants, which will be planted by volunteers at the end of winter. Cambridge Past, Present & Future is encouraging people to make donations via its website www.cambridgeppf.org

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Memories of Linton, Part 6 Recollections

Get a Grip

ON one occasion my Nan took me to visit some relatives at Grip Farm (now covered with houses) on the Hadstock Road. The farmer was Claude Burgess, whom I found out decades later was one of my grandfather's nephews.

I only have one abiding memory of my visit there - and that is of being absolutely fascinated, as only an innocent child could be, at seeing the lady of the house openly breast-feeding her baby whilst we partook of afternoon tea.

Adjacent to the farm was a railway bridge, and in those pre-Beeching days there was still a railway service from Cambridge to Colchester and on to the seaside at Clacton.

Between Linton and Cambridge there was a section of single-line track and to prevent the risk of head-on collisions the train driver could

only enter the single-track section if he was in possession of a special key, or token as it was called. This was handed to the train driver by the signalman at one end of the section and then handed back to another signalman at the other end, ready to hand to the next train going the other way - and so on.

To enable this handover to be done swiftly without stopping the train, the token was carried in a small stiff leather pouch, which had a big, rigid, loop handle. The whole thing looking like an oversized, unstrung, tennis racket.

As the train approached, the giver would hold it out so the big loop was in the correct orientation and at a suitable height. The recipient would hold their arm out, rather like a Nazi salute, and deftly hook it through the approaching loop, without the train having to slow down.

Go west my son

In 1955 I passed my Eleven-Plus and went to Cambridge Technical Grammar School for Boys, on Parkside, adjacent to Parker's Piece.

After a couple of years, the school moved to brand new premises in Queen Edith's Way, Cherry Hinton.

Then, shortly after that, I moved with my family, to Fulbourn; which was handy for the Premier Travel bus for school but less convenient for getting to Linton, even though actually nearer

as the proverbial crow flies.

Roughly a year later we left dear old Cambridgeshire altogether when my Dad got a job near Hitchin in North Hertfordshire.

Having no family car that, effectively, was the end of my holidays in Linton. They really had been some of the happiest times of my life.

Redrafted by the author. Brian Goodliffe, July 2017
Note: Permission to print has been granted to the Linton News.

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Happy New Year

LINTON Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Parishioners a very happy new year. We hope that 2020 brings all that you are hoping for and would like to thank all our residents for all of your support over the past year.
Clerk

A new opportunity for a new year.....

WITH each New Year that rolls around, ever so slightly more quickly, I am often left wondering the age old question..... am I going to leave a mark and make a difference?

I am sure that I cannot be alone in this thought. If you think you are of a similar mindset and often wonder how you could get involved in your local community and help make changes for the better, then becoming a Parish Councillor could be a viable option for you.

The way in which Parish Councils work is changing, and for Linton Parish Council in particular, we are becoming increasingly involved in issues which affect the quality of life for residents on a day to day basis. Issues such as traffic management and Highways schemes, which are under the jurisdiction of the County Council, LPC is now putting forward for Local Highway Initiatives Schemes, and Public Funding Highway Initiatives. These allow us to have a say and put forward how residents feel schemes should be implemented, in order to help solve real problems that affect Linton: an example being working closely with Cambridgeshire County Council to action much needed path and road repairs within the village.

Linton Parish Council is also extremely active in responding to planning applications and elements which will affect the day to day use of village amenities.

Village Enhancement is a current focus. We are looking to implement new bins and benches to improve the accessibility of the village to all residents. As well as large projects such as the skate park and playground equipment at the Meadow Recreation Ground.

Improvement of aspects such as caring for the River Granta, reduction in noise pollution, flood prevention and working on improved disability access as part of our Inclusivity project are also all elements that the Parish Council is involved with.

Not forgetting, general grounds maintenance and repairs as well as daily management of the village.

The Parish Council works closely with the Beacon Youth Trust and Romsey Mill to help provide a Youth Worker and activities for the youth of the village, a key element of our society.

If any of these elements interest you, you have knowledge which can be useful or ideas of new projects that you think could improve the parish, then becoming a Parish Councillor is a great way to allow you to contribute in a meaningful way.

You can become as involved as you wish, with some councillors choosing to attend just the full Council meeting and some that wish to get actively involved on Committees and Working Groups. There is also an opportunity to attend meetings with the other local authorities such as Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

If you think this may be something that interests you, then please contact the Parish Council office for more information, with no obligation. Alternatively, if you do not feel you have the time to commit to become a Parish Councillor, there are many Working Groups which you could be co-opted onto to allow you to work closely with the team and be involved in projects, without the full commitment of becoming a Councillor.

Clerk

Money, it's on everyones mind.....

EACH year, the Parish Council reviews its budget. This covers general running costs, the cost of current and future projects and includes the grant requests from local groups and organisations within the Parish.

Once the budget is set, the Parish Council then does a cross comparison, comparing what we think will be needed financially for the next year and deduct the amount that we estimate we will be holding in the accounts by the end of the current financial year.

The difference becomes the amount that the Parish Council submits as a precept for the next financial year.

The precept budget is then submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council who will add this as a separate line onto parish-ioner's council tax bill.

This year, despite the many projects planned, the Council has made the decision that, due to the high reserves held, we are able to keep the precept increase to a minimum and are subsequently only looking to put forward an increase of 0.9%. So, this should be good news to all residents.

Included in the precept the Parish Council has been considering the many grant applications that have been received. This year 23 have been received from local organisations and groups that are looking to help fund activities within Linton.

The precept is had its final review at the full Council meeting of the 12th December 2019, which means the full list of grants agreed will be confirmed and included in the February's edition of Parish Council matters. Look out for the listing.

Clerk

December planning updates

LACK of action on enforcement issues are a cause for concern.

Recent changes to SCDC policy require the address of submitted comments to be uploaded to the website. LPC feels that this was implemented without due consultation nor consideration of the effect on those commenting and their data protection. This could identify the writer and lead to fewer planning comments being submitted. Letter of concern sent to SCDC.

13 and 15 Green Lane – The rebuilding the chimney between cottages, using traditional methods and materials was welcomed.

Symond's Lane – Further restoration work and addition of a studio. Plans commended.

Bartlow Road – The major planning issue is the proposed development at Bartlow Road – a situation complicated by the many applications that have been submitted and to be decided. Despite the many reasons for refusal submitted by LPC, application s/2502/19/RM was approved by SCDC.

LPC do not feel that the process was correct and are seeking to have the decision called in. The application was almost identical to the previously refused application, which is at appeal – it was actually worse and did not answer the reasons for the previous refusal. However, we thank the SCDC councillors who know Linton and understand the issues for supporting us.

See local newspapers for good reports on the proceedings. and my interview on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on November 14th at 5:50 pm. The fight continues.

Enid Bald

December's Reports Roundup

Document review meeting for planning documentation held at the SCDC offices

Present: Cllr Enid Bald, Corrie Newell from CN Historic Inspectorate for Bartlow Road application S/2487/18/RM. This application had been refused by SCDC and is currently being appealed by the developer. Here, we realised that many documents had not been forwarded to nor shared with LPC. These were requested to be placed on the SCDC website.

LPC has submitted their documents to the Inspectorate, in good time they are in the office if you would like to see just how much work we have done on this appeal procedure.

Chalklands Residents Association

Present: Cllr Enid Bald, kindly invited by residents.

Update given on the planning application for 26 social houses on Paynes Meadow exception site, S/0670/19/FL. LPC continues to oppose this, as do residents. Reasons for LPC opposition were discussed including the effect on the valued landscape and setting of Linton, flooding, housing mix and designs. Residents had many more reasons and are encouraged to send these to SCDC.

Conservation Area Re-appraisal

Present: Cllr Enid Bald, Angharad Hart, Senior Conservation Officer

The new format of the appraisals will have interactive maps and overlays. These will include not just listed buildings but other heritage assets of social, historic, landmark or rarity value or other merit. The importance of local character and distinctiveness will be recognised and a management plan implemented to improve and enhance the area.

Horseheath Road – Planning Committee meeting with Crudace, the developer.

Changes to the design and layout had been made following input from LPC at the previous meeting and the Design Group. The current draft designs are displayed in the foyer of the Village Hall. The RM application is expected in the New Year when we can all comment on the plans. Draft Plans are displayed on the notice board

GCP/City Deal

Present: Cllrs Hine, Campbell, Enid Bald, Paul Hinsley, Mark Mathews for GCP

Updates given on bus lanes, cycle ways, new signals at the top of the High Street, tree planting to replace those lost, Bartlow Road roundabout, etc. A major concern is that the proposed Traffic Hub might be refused planning permission. This site was first proposed by LPC; the need for it to reduce P+R parking in the village centre was stressed, for the benefit of residents and local trade. Letters of support for the transport hub would be appreciated.

Enid Bald

Note from the Chairman.....

FIRSTLY, happy new year 2020. 20 years into the new millennium! Who'd have thought it? The millennium bug, a distant memory of a non-event (if you don't know what this was, ask anyone over 40.) Anyway, lets see what this year brings – hopefully we shall see progress on benches and the skate park and improvement on the exit from Green Lane. There maybe some new faces around the council table. Wishing you all the best.

Chairman Merrie Mannassi

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Parish Council Matters - Council Meeting Minutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting of Linton Parish Council held at The Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 21st November 2019 to review the precept for the financial year 2020/2021.

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm.

Present: Cllr Merrie Mannassi (Chairman); Cllr John Bald (Vice-chairman); Cllr Chris Hine; Cllr Paul Poulter; Cllr Enid Bald; Cllr Lee Gardner; Cllr Simon Hill; Cllr Kate Kell; Cllr Amy Smith

Apologies for Absence; Cllr Carole Campbell and Cllr Brian Cox (Dr)

Councillors' Declarations of Interest; Cllr Enid Bald declared a non-pecuniary interest pertaining to the Grant application submitted on behalf of the Ace's, item number 124/19/20a on the agenda.

Cllrs Merrie Mannassi, Lee Gardner and Simon Hill declared a non-pecuniary interest pertaining to the grant application submitted on behalf of the village hall, item number 124/19/20a.

Chairman's Comment; The Chairman thanked the Dog and Duck Public House for always looking after the Village Custodian, offering warm drinks in winter and cold drinks in the summer to help keep him going. It is very kind and shows true community spirit.

Cllr Mannassi also noted the success of the recent Remembrance Service, it was very well attended and a great way for the village to come together to show their respects.

Consideration as to whether LPC should take any further action following the decision made at the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee meeting to approve planning application S/2501/19/RM, Bartlow Road.

Chairman Mannassi introduced this item with a thanks to Cllr Enid Bald for all of her hard work, and for speaking on behalf of the Parish Council against the development at the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee meeting.

Cllrs Kate Kell, John Bald and Amy Smith were also thanked as well as Corrie Newell from CN Historic. District Cllr John Batchelor spoke against the design elements of the application.

Cllr Enid Bald then advised that at the South Cambridgeshire District Planning Committee meeting, the Chairman's summing up was unacceptable and the decision-making process was not dealt with appropriately.

As a result, the Planning Committee has sent notice to Stephen Kelly, Director of the Planning and New Communities of the District Council notice that Linton Parish Council are considering a potential Judicial Review.

Corrie Newell, from CN Historic that worked with LPC as a Planning Consultant, has drafted a formal letter requesting a call-in with the Scrutiny Committee at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) stating that 19 errors in process have been found. The appeal process is currently still open for the first reserve matters application for Bartlow Road, S/2487/18/RM, and the Planning Committee at SCDC were not advised formally of the appeal which they did not appear to know about.

The applications are nearly identical which could be considered to make this unlawful. The solicitor to SCDC and the Chairman should have notified the committee of this.

There have been some enquiries into the legalities with professionals. The LPC Planning Committee would like to recommend that a couple of hours be spent with a solicitor to see if the decision can be overturned, this would lead to this being heard at appeal.

If this is heard at appeal, and refused, then the outline would have expired and there is little chance this would be regranted now that the Local Plan is in place.

Cllr Enid Bald proposed that LPC arrange to consult with a solicitor with a budget of up to £2,000 for legal advice to see

if there is a good case to progress with this. Cllr Lee Gardner seconded, put to a vote and Agreed. **Agreed.**

Finance Matters
Funding requests

CPRE Membership renewal request. Correspondence item November 6 refers. Cllr Enid Bald proposed £100, this was seconded by Cllr Amy Smith. **Agreed.**

Fields in Trust Membership renewal request. Correspondence item November 28 refers. Cllr Amy Smith proposed £65.00 and Cllr Chris Hine seconded. **Agreed.**

Consideration of the precept for the financial year 2020/2021 To allow for free and open debate, standing orders (k)-(p) shall be suspended at the commencement of the below items.

Consideration of the S137 funding requests and Independent grants received. The information was reviewed and it was suggested that Grants is one area that the Parish Council should really continue to support the local groups and organisations and with this in mind, £16,850 was proposed to be awarded in S137 grants and £30,000 was agreed to be awarded as Independent Grants.

A full breakdown of the assignment of funds can be found attached to the minutes in the office as supporting documentation as a matter of record.

Consideration of the budget for the 200 cost centre codes. (Working costs). The information and budget recommendations made by the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) were reviewed and it was discussed that the 200 cost codes for general running, maintenance and utilities would be budgeted to a total of £265,175. The full budget breakdown that was reviewed is available within the Parish Council office as an attachment to the minutes.

Consideration of the budget for the 700 cost centre codes (Active projects). The information was reviewed and it was discussed that a total of £64,819 should be allocated to active projects over the next financial year. This also included the contingency budget. The full breakdown that was reviewed is available within the Parish Council Offices as an attachment to the minutes.

Consideration of the budget for the 900 cost centre codes (Long term projects). The information was reviewed and it was discussed that £176,079.53 be allocated to long term projects that Council will build reserves for future projects.

The full breakdown that was reviewed is available within the Parish Council Offices as an attachment to the minutes.
Review of the overall budget in its entirety and confirmation of the percentage increase on the precept year on year.

Following the initial reviews of each element of the budget independently, the council then reviewed the budget overall in its entirety.

It was proposed by Cllr John Bald that whilst the council is holding a relatively large reserve, the precept increase should be kept to a minimum. Taking into account the total of the budget codes and the estimated cash value held by 31st March 2020, the precept would need to be a total of £177,078.89 which would be a 0.9% increase on the precept from 2019/2020. Cllr John Bald proposed this as an acceptable increase, this was seconded by Cllr Lee Gardner and put to a vote. **Agreed.**

Notice that, with Council's permission, a full council meeting will be reinstated in December due to the cancellation of the meeting on the 14th November 2019. Should council agree this, the next meeting shall be held on Thursday 12th December 2019. Cllr Enid Bald proposed that if the legal advice pertaining to Bartlow Road has been received in time, then a meeting be agreed to be held on the Thursday 5th December, however, if this is not received in time then the meeting be arranged for the 12th December. Cllr Kate Kell seconded this proposal, put to a vote, agreed with one abstention. **Agreed.**

The meeting was closed at 9.57pm.

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2020.....

FULL COUNCIL meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Cathodeon Centre commencing at 7.30pm

Full Council Meeting Dates

- Thursday 16th January 2020
- Thursday 20th February 2020
- Thursday 19th March 2020
- Thursday 16th April 2020
- Thursday 21st May 2020 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)
- Thursday 18th June 2020
- Thursday 16th July 2020
- Thursday 20th August 2020
- Thursday 17th September 2020
- Thursday 15th October 2020
- Thursday 19th November 2020
- Thursday 26th November 2020 (EX-Ordinary Precept)
- Thursday 10th December 2020

Planning Committee Meeting Dates

The Planning Committee meetings are held on a the Third Thursday of the month, at the Cathodeon Centre prior to the full council meeting.

Please note that the time these commence will vary, dependant upon the length of the agenda. The start time for each meeting will be listed on the agenda, available for viewing in the public notice boards and on the Parish Council Website.

Finance Committee Meeting Dates

The Finance Committee meetings are held on the Third Wednesday of each month at the Linton Parish Council offices in the Village Hall and commence at 7:30pm, unless otherwise specified on an agenda.

Personnel Committee Meeting Dates

The Personnel Committee meetings are held quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month, with the first meeting commencing on the 8th January 2020, at the Linton Parish Council offices in the Village Hall and commence at 7:30pm, unless otherwise specified on an agenda.

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish shall be confirmed shortly. Look out for this in the next edition of Parish Council Matters!

All agendas are posted in the public noticeboards and are also available on the Parish Council website along with all minutes of meetings. Councillor reports are available as well as information on village amenities, contacts, links for both the Disitret and County Council services, Parish Council updates and much much more. Take a look at the website for further information at www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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