

Easter at Wylde Sky

WYLDE Sky Brewing will host its inaugural Easter Beer Festival from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th April 2026, promising four days of outstanding beer, street food and live music over the Easter weekend. The festival will showcase a curated selection of beers from eight local breweries, including at least 21 cask ales and their usual selection of 12 keg beers from the tap wall. A wide range of drinks including draught ciders, wines, cocktails, spirits, soft drinks, and low-alcohol beer and cider will also be available, ensuring there is something to suit every taste.

Food will play a central role throughout the weekend, with a rotating line-up of popular street food traders and onsite BBQs, complemented by live music and DJ sets.

Festival Highlights

- Thursday 2nd April–Lol's Pizza Food Truck
- Friday 3rd April–BBQ from Love to Cook BBQ (afternoon), Elder Street Food Truck (5–8pm), live music from Lairds Ceilidh.
- Saturday 4th April–BBQ (12–5pm), Steak & Honour Food Truck (5–8pm), live music from Cambridge Ceilidh All Stars.
- Sunday 5th April–BBQ (12–5pm), DJ set from Tom Root.

A spokesperson for Wylde Sky Brewing said, "As a Linton-based brewery, we're delighted to be hosting our first beer festival here in the village. We wanted to create something that brings people together over Easter, supports local producers, and gives residents a chance to enjoy good food, music and beer close to home."

Linton News Team

Mary's proves a hit

SINCE the launch last October, Mary's Community Kitchen has been welcoming people from across the whole of our community to a monthly lunch. We quickly outgrew our original location: numbers of volunteers and guests have now doubled.

The vision was to create a place where everyone would be warmly welcomed, enabling us to provide a safe space where we share good food and conversations. It has been wonderful to see that it has become a popular event and a valued opportunity to make connections and build relationships. We plan to continue to host Mary's Community Kitchen on the third Friday of the month, serving delicious homemade lunch. We hope that we can welcome you as one of our guests next time, Friday 20th March 12–2pm in Linton Village Hall, when you'll be able to choose from the delicious donated bread and homemade soups.

If you would like to find out more, become one of our Brilliant Bakers, Super Soup Makers or join the growing team of volunteers, please contact Sue Filby Sue.filby@stmaryslinton.org.uk.

Sue Filby

Children's Bookfest

• LINTON Children's Book Festival celebrates the fun of reading. Through reading in all its forms, we can dive deeper into topics we care about, go on adventures, learn more about ourselves and connect with others. In the National Year of Reading, we want to encourage everyone to read more.

• We know not every child in Linton will be able to join us at Linton Village College, 16–17th May, for our blockbuster weekend of free events with authors, illustrators and performers. So, this month, we are also providing author visits for all the local schools. Linton Heights pupils will meet author-illustrator Chris Mould. Children may know his award-winning illustrations for Ted Hughes' *The Iron Man*. Younger LVC students will be visited by comedian Helen Rutter, acclaimed author of the choose-your-own-adventure story *The Boy with Big Decisions*. Year 8 students will meet journalist and author Cathy Reay, who will also visit Granta School with her empowering children's book *How to be Disabled and Proud*. Linton Infants, plus infants attending Balsham Meadow and Abington schools, will explore the magic of stories with Really Big Pants theatre company.

Linton Bookfest 2026 is entirely run by volunteers. We are grateful to Arts Council England, Linton Parish Council, Wadlow Wind Farm Community Trust and PEM Charitable Trust for supporting our aim to encourage every child in Linton to be a reader.

We'll soon be updating our website, www.lintonbookfest.org. You can follow us on Instagram @LintonChildrensBookfest or sign up for our newsletter: <https://lintonbookfest.org/#mailing>.

Anna McMahon

Bartlow Walk

THE Bartlow 3 Counties Charity Walk is a cherished annual event that brings together the local community in support of three local charities. On Sunday 3rd May 2026 for the first time, we are really pleased that the Bartlow Walk is partnering with Cambridge Children's Hospital, alongside Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, and the fabric of beautiful St Mary's church Bartlow. Over the years this well-loved event has raised £250,000 for local charities. Last year we attracted 1,254 walkers of all ages, raising a record £23,223.

It is a great day out for all the family. There are walks for everyone; 6, 9 and 13-mile routes as well as a fun 1-mile music-themed activity trail for young and old alike. Dogs on leads are welcome on all the walks. There are refreshments in the farmyard and a bar. Children's activities are run in the afternoon with a bouncy castle. Parking is available on site. For more information and ticket sales see <https://www.bartlow3countieswalk.co.uk>

The walk organisers would welcome helpers. If you can spare an hour or two on the day to raise awareness of the charities' vital work or with other jobs, do contact Duncan Ogilvy (duncan.ogilvy@btinternet.com).

Hetty Findlay



Our dark past

THE aftermath of a battle or execution from around the 9th century AD has been discovered by Cambridge University archaeologists and students conducting a training dig as part of the university's undergraduate degree in archaeology. The discovery has been showcased in a *Digging for Britain* episode on BBC Two.

The burial pit, found on the outskirts of Cambridge, may date from a time when Cambridgeshire was a frontier zone in the conflict between the Saxon-run kingdom of Mercia and the kingdom of East Anglia, which was conquered by the Vikings in around 870 AD.

Unearthed during spring and summer last year, the pit contained the remains of at least ten individuals, including at least one who had been decapitated, and a man well over 6 ft tall—extremely tall for the time—with a trepanned head. Unusually, the mass grave held a mix of complete and dismembered remains, including a cluster of skulls without clear accompanying bodies and a 'stack of legs', as well as four complete skeletons, some in positions suggesting they had been tied up.

All the remains appear to have been those of relatively young men flung into the pit without care, leading archaeologists to believe this could be the wake of a skirmish or battle, or perhaps a mass execution, or a combination of both.

The training excavation, led by Dr Oscar Aldred from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU), took place at Wandlebury Country Park, famous for its 'ringwork': a series of banks and ditches that mark an Iron Age hillfort constructed a millennium before the Viking era. Archaeologists say the Iron Age features at Wandlebury would have made it a renowned meeting place in the early medieval period, just as it is now.

The University's Department of Archaeology and CAU have worked with local charity Cambridge Past, Present and Future, which owns Wandlebury, to conduct student training digs on the site for several years, but this is their most significant find on the site to date.

"Before we uncovered the first remains, our best find was a 1960s Smarties lid", said Olivia Courtney, an archaeology undergraduate from Bath, now in her third year at Cambridge University. "I had never encountered human remains on a dig, and I was struck by how close yet distant these people felt. We were separated by only a few years in age, but over a thousand years in time."

These are the first human remains found at Wandlebury since 1976, when a storm uprooted a tree close to the recent dig site, and a cache of five skeletons also dating to the same time were uncovered. In the next issue of Linton News, we'll dig further into these discoveries and meet some of the intriguing people who had been flung into the pit all those years ago.

Louise Palmer

Photos: Cambridge Archaeological Unit/David Matzliach
above: A trepanned skull
far left: disarticulated remains
middle: the team carefully reveals more bones
right: An overview of the trench



Lent Lunches

A WARM welcome awaits you at the venues below as we celebrate Lent. The Lunches offer a choice of delicious home-made soups, cheeses and bread/baguettes.

Host	Day	Date	Address
Jo George	Wednesday	4 th March	89 High Street
George and Celia Fisher	Friday	13 th March	37 Back Road
Ann Fletcher and Andrew Spencer	Wednesday	18 th March	1A Granta Vale
Richard and Judith Tonry	Thursday	26 th March	10 Market Lane

The Lunches run from 12-2 pm. We are always able to sit for a chat and a coffee/tea after our soup. There is no charge, but donations are welcome to our chosen charity, *Addenbrookes Charitable Trust*. We do hope you and your friends are able to join us.

Celia Fisher 01223 893839

Linton Poetry Society



LAST year a number of people wanted to revive a dormant local society interested in poetry. As a result, two meetings took place in the Gallery Above, which attracted large numbers of enthusiasts. So much so that a change in location has become

necessary as we have already outgrown the gallery space. The new venue will be St Mary's church, by kind permission of Reverend Paul. The Society will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-9pm. Poets and readers who wish to participate must book in by email headed POETRY to rosiewellings@aol.com. On March 19th our theme will be *Spring and new beginnings*. Our theme in April will be *Surrealism*, in May *Romanticism* and in June *Shamans and Poetry*.

We hope this will inspire you to new writing, finding the inspiration to compose your original words and perform them. If not your own, you will be very welcome to read the works of others that have given you inspiration. Refreshments will be available and we look forward to welcoming everyone who loves to listen, to read and write poetry!

Wendy McGowan-Griffin,
Rafael Penas Cruz,
and Rosemary Wellings

Rosemary Wellings

Thank You

ON the 31st December residents of Chalklands held an *Afternoon Get Together* at the Community Hall with songs and dancing. Each resident supplied food and snacks and a raffle prize. The raffle, together with individual donations, raised £210. This has been donated to Cancer Research in memory of Mrs June Hall, who dedicated years of her time to the residents of the Community Hall. June passed away in 2025.

Myra and Brian Buttle

Headscratcher

Number 17

Consider factorials. A factorial is stated as a number multiplied by whole numbers less than itself. It is represented as the number followed by an ! For example; 1! = 1, 4! = 4 x 3 x 2 x 1 = 24. For any number n, n! = n x (n-1) x (n-2) . . . 3 x 2 x 1. All seems well, and most mobiles have a scientific calculator built in with the symbol marked F! Using this button find the value of 19!

So, what happens if the number is less than 1? Say, 0.95, ... reducing by 0.05? Find the value of 0.95 x 0.9 x 0.85 ... 0.15 x 0.1 x 0.05.

Aspasia

Answer to number 16

Using a much simplified Hohmann transfer I got the answers 261 days and 251 million kilometres.

Balsham Singers

REHEARSALS are well under way for the Spring Concert on Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from 1st April from Balsham Post Office and online www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers or from a choir member. Our last two concerts sold out fast so book early to avoid disappointment.

Jo Stinton

Balsham Picture House

ON Saturday 7th March we will be showing a recent (2025) British comedy which won BAFTA awards and was written by a local comedic playwright, Tim Key, who is a regular in BBC programmes and on the Edinburgh Fringe. The film is *The Ballad of Wallis Island* (12A). Eccentric widowed lottery winner Charles Heath (Tim Key), tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favourite musicians to perform at his home. Musician, Herb McGwyer (Tom Basden) half of former folk duo McGwyer Mortimer arrives but is surprised when Nell, the other member of the duo (Carey Mulligan) turns up with her new husband...

Doors open for refreshments at Dave's Bar 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm..

Richard Paden

Unused Tools Wanted

AS part of your spring cleaning, please donate unwanted tools of any kind including agricultural, gardening, building, carpenters, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, power, sewing, knitting and haberdashery to Saffron Walden Rotary, who are organising an April collection for Tools With A Mission (TWAM) - <https://www.twam.uk>: a Christian charity that refurbishes tools into trade kits for people living in extreme poverty. These tools, combined with training, help individuals start sustainable businesses and build long-term livelihoods. Full collection details will appear in the April Linton News. For more information, contact Tony Collett at tony.collett3112@gmail.com or 01223 893447.

Tony Collett

THE LINTON NEWS

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March bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 11th, 25th

Blue: Wednesdays 4th, 18th

Green: Wednesday 4th, 18th

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

To be included email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com
Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.

See <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/events-calendar> for more details of village events.

MARCH

Sun 1	Organ Recital, 3pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 3	Scrabble Club, 10-12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 3	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Wed 4	Lent Lunch, 12-2pm	89 High St
Thu 5	Linton Roots Meeting, 6pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Sat 7	Farmers Market, 9-12pm	Village Hall
Sat 7	Free Bike Repair Session, 12-4pm	Coles Lane Car Park
Sat 7	<i>The Ballad of Wallis Island</i> (12A), 7pm	Balsham Church Institute
Mon 9	West Wickham History Club, 7.30pm	W.Wickham Village Hall
Tue 10	Camsight Meeting, 2pm	Chalklands Comm. Centre
Wed 11	Coffee Morning, 10-12pm	Linton Free Church
Fri 13	Lent Lunch, 12-2pm	37 Back Road
Mon 16	West Wickham Gardening Club, 7.30pm	W.Wickham Village Hall
Tue 17	Scrabble Club, 10-12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 17	Linton Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
	<i>The Walton Family</i>	
Wed 18	Lent Lunch, 12-2pm	1A Granta Vale
Thu 17	Linton Poetry Society, 7pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 20	Mary's Community Kitchen, 12-2pm	Village Hall
Fri 20	Daylight Readers, 10.30 & 2.30pm	Library
Sat 21	FROG Litter Pick, 10-12pm	Village Hall
Sat 21	Coffee Morning, 10-12pm	St Mary's Church
Thu 26	Lent Lunch, 12-2pm	10 Market Lane

APRIL

Thu 2	Linton Roots Meeting, 6pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Thu 2	Wyde Sky Beer Festival, 4-10.30pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Fri 3	Wyde Sky Beer Festival, 4-11pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Sat 4	Farmers Market, 9-12pm	Village Hall
Sat 4	Wyde Sky Beer Festival, 12-10.30pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Sun 5	Wyde Sky Beer Festival, 12-10pm	Grip Industrial Estate
Tue 7	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall

WEEKLY

Mon	Mini Movers, 10-11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30-11am	Library
Tue	Granta Bridge Club, 2-4pm	Village Hall
Tue	Knit and Natter, 2-4pm	Library
Tue	Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7-8pm	LVC
Wed	Tots in Tow, 9.30-11am (term times)	Village Hall
Wed	Warm Hub, 1-4pm	Sports Pavilion
Wed	IT Drop in, 5-7pm	Library
Wed	Lets Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10-11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1-2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2-4pm	Library
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10-11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7-9pm	Sports Centre, LVC
Sun	Said Holy Communion, 8am	St Mary's Church
Sun	Parish Communion, 10am	St Mary's Church
Sun	Church Service 10.30am	Linton Free Church

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The Marsh Mail

AT Linton Village College, students' wellbeing is central to our caring ethos. We are proud to offer a broad range of support for learners with diverse needs to support all of our students to feel understood and ready to succeed.

Our Wellbeing Mentor, Mrs Hill, is working in partnership with The Beacon Youth Trust and Romsey Mill to deliver a range of one-to-one mentoring, group sessions and a recent initiative run by Cambridge United Foundation with a focus on developing positive, respectful relationships.

Mrs Hill also leads our Wellbeing Hub, a calm space which is open at break and lunch for students seeking a quieter environment. Activities such as 'Knit and Natter' and weekly yoga sessions offer time for creativity and reflection. Mrs Hill offers mentoring support for young people alongside a YMCA counsellor who supports students with more complex emotional needs.

Our Henry Morris Centre (HMC) is another key provision, where a dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants supports our students with additional needs. The HMC coordinates initiatives including The Dog Mentor programme, with Ralph, our school dog, offering



Ralph at Forest School

emotional and sensory comfort to students who benefit from his gentle presence.

The HMC also works with Woodventurers to run our Forest School programme, helping students reconnect with learning through the calming and motivating effects of nature. Looking ahead, plans are in place to renovate the site house to provide an alternative provision space featuring sensory areas, smaller learning environments and outdoor-based opportunities.

Helena Marsh

Super Miles runs 31 miles

OVER the Christmas holidays, Miles in Year 3 set himself a challenge: to run 31 km in January to raise money for the school. Inspired by a desire to support his school community, Miles approached the challenge with determination, enthusiasm, and commitment.

He made an excellent start, completing an impressive 4 km before returning to school. Throughout the month, he continued to build on this momentum by running at weekends and taking part in the school's Wednesday afternoon running club. His dedication, resilience, and positive attitude served as a wonderful example to his peers and staff alike.

On Sunday 31st January, Miles completed his final run. In an outstanding achievement, he exceeded his original target, running 50km in total, the equivalent of 31 miles. Thanks to his hard work and the generosity of friends, family, and supporters, Miles raised £755 for the school.



Miles was joined on several runs by some of his friends, which helped keep him motivated along the way. Their encouragement and teamwork added to the spirit of the challenge.

Caroline Webb, Headteacher, said, "We are incredibly proud of Miles and grateful for his dedication and generosity. A huge thank you to everyone who supported him. The money raised will help us fund much-needed refurbishments to our school hall, creating a better space for assemblies, performances, and PE for all our pupils."

A huge congratulations to Miles on this fantastic achievement and wonderful contribution to the school community.

Caroline Webb

News from the Infants

FEBRUARY half term, the half way point during the school year, has been and gone. Here we are with the prospect of longer and warmer days on the way.

Over the February half term we set the children a Kindness Challenge to coincide with Random Acts of Kindness Day. Each child was challenged to carry out simple acts of kindness such as holding open a door, helping to empty the dishwasher, writing and posting someone a cheery letter; the possibilities are endless! We really look forward to hearing how the children have shown kindness.

March is always busy in school and this March is no different. We have school trips planned to Legoland and the London Eye, along with celebrating World Book Week, Parent Lunches and a Day of Governor Business where the governors join us for the whole day. All of this as well as all of the fabulous learning that takes place every day!

You may remember last month we told you about the new audio-visual boards for each of the classes. Our next projects are upgrading the Wi-Fi, and a new audio-visual system for the hall.

Watch this space for events and how you can support us! We have our Summer Fair currently being organised, along with a fantastic afternoon of music provided by Linton Jazz. Book the date in your diary: Saturday 18th April.

Kelly Harries

News from the Library

HAVE you spotted some welcome signs of Spring yet? If you need help identifying flowers or anything in nature, we may have the book you need!

In the National Year of Reading (www.goallin.org.uk) we want to encourage everyone to get into reading. There's no better way to get little ones off to a flying start than with stories. Bring your children along to our free Rhythm & Rhyme, held regularly on a Tuesday morning.

Daylight Readers: Our Book Groups meet on Friday 20th, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. Book groups are a great way to make new friends, discover new different authors and titles and get more enjoyment from reading. Two groups meet at Linton Library every third Friday, and the morning group would love to welcome new members.

Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesday mornings 10.30-11am for 0-4 years (term time only), followed by Duplo. We would love to see you and your little ones there!

Knit and Natter: every Tuesday, 2-4pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

IT Drop In: every Wednesday 5-7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with Information Technology.

Games Afternoon: weekly, Thursday 2-4pm. Come and meet new people, board/card games provided; or bring your favourite to share.

Lego/Duplo: Friday 10-11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0-4-year-old.

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King,
Community Library Assistants, Linton Library

Congratulations to Joshua on Motorsport Success

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Joshua Smith, a student at Linton Village College, will take on a full-season role with Liam Atkin Racing throughout the 2026 motorsport season as both a Professional Driver and Driver Coach.

Alongside competing professionally on track, Josh will work closely with younger drivers, supporting their development through coaching and structured feedback. A key focus of his role is data analysis. By reviewing lap times, driving lines and race data, he helps drivers understand where improvements can be made and how to build consistency and confidence.

Josh brings a strong competitive record to the role. He has won over 100 trophies and five championship titles, including the Junior English Championship. He also holds a lap record at Red Lodge kart circuit, where he first started racing at the age of eight.

During the 2026 season, Josh will be competing nationally at circuits across the country and is hoping to add further trophies to his collection. This will include racing at the brand-new Silverstone kart circuit, located at the home of British motor racing.

Liam Atkin Racing has a strong reputation for developing young talent, and Josh's appointment reflects the team's commitment to mentoring drivers both on and off the circuit. Balancing school life at Linton Village College with a demanding racing and coaching schedule, Josh is gaining valuable experience in communication, analysis and leadership.

Josh says he is looking forward to the challenge of the 2026 season and to helping younger drivers progress while continuing to develop his own racing career.



Andy Smith

Julie & Jo's

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100 Parishes



Triangulation Pillar at Castle Camps

NOW that Spring is on its way, the weather should encourage us to make more use of bridleways and footpaths. Around 150 walk descriptions are available to download free from our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk. As well as saying when to turn left or right, our route descriptions aim to point out things of interest along the way. Some of these will be marked on the local Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

Ordnance Survey has been the UK's official mapping body since 1791 AD, having originated for military purposes. Its activities have left various physical markers which may still be encountered, albeit that mapping techniques have moved forward in recent times with the satellite-based GPS.

The two historic OS markers that are most likely to be encountered are 'triangulation pillars' and 'benchmarks'. Several thousand

triangulation pillars (also referred to as trig points) were installed all over the UK - solid concrete pillars about 4 ft tall, usually erected at a high point with a clear range of vision. Each has a place on top for positioning a map measurer's tool, a theodolite.

OS surveyors also left 'benchmarks' in thousands of strategic locations. These are additional altitude reference points, a horizontal line indicating height above sea level - chiselled into a wall or milestone from around 1840 until the 1990s.

Please look out for trig points and benchmarks. If they are on a Hundred Parishes walk route but not yet mentioned in the description, please let us know.



Metal benchmark plate on Clavering Church Wall
Ken McDonald, Secretary

440 Jazz Rocks Free Church

LINTON Free Church was rocking with melodic tunes and songs on the evening of Saturday 31st January. Again 440 Jazz again performed and surpassed themselves as they took the audience through a range of jazz numbers and styles. Several guests were introduced, including a band debut for Willow Ogborn, a Year 11 student living in Saffron Walden. Remember her name she has a great voice! Everyone present agreed.

There was certainly foot tapping, but at times this developed into full-blown dancing. In certain cases, this was quite a sight, and the hope is that all video evidence has been destroyed! A really great time was had by all the 120 people present, and we were all deeply grateful to 440 Jazz. Due to their generosity (not charging for their performance and asking for a local charity to be supported), nearly £1,200 was raised for the Beacon Youth Trust, the charity that oversees the provision of youth work in the Linton area.

Given that this was the third consecutive January the band has performed at the Free Church in Linton, we agreed it is now a tradition. So, look out for the concert next January. In the meantime, the next fundraiser for Beacon Youth Trust will be the annual Quiz held in the hall at Linton Free Church on the evening of Saturday 16th May. Further details will be provided in due course.



Steve Munday, Chair of Trustees, Beacon Youth Trust

Linton and District Historical Society

ON Tuesday 17th March our next speaker will be Charmian Thompson who will be speaking about *The Walton Family*. The world of the Walton family is a saga woven with triumph and tragedy. From the battlefields of the Peninsular War to the distant outposts of the army in India, their journey spans continents and centuries. Inheritances shaped fortunes, while ties to slavery in Barbados cast a shadow. At the heart of it all, stands a grand house in a quiet hamlet... and the crack of leather on willow. Howzat!

The meeting is in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments and raffle. Visitors and new members always welcome.

Ian Creek

Valentine's Day TLC for Teddies and More

Linton Roots' first Repair Café was an outstanding success! There was a great turnout, with over 40 items brought in for repair ranging from teddies to turntables. It was an amazing team effort with 30 volunteers, including locals new to the role and supporters from experienced repair Café teams. Feedback was extremely positive with people commenting on the lovely welcome and helpful advice and all enjoying the buzz of the event as well as the delicious offerings from the Café. We will have a further update in the next Linton News but we just wanted to say a huge thank you to all involved. If you are interested in finding out more about Linton Roots, please contact us via linton-roots@outlook.com or check out the diary section for our monthly meetings. On the 5th March come and hear what Duxford has achieved for nature in their village.



Yannick Auckland

Linton Camsight VIPs

AT our February meeting we had an entertaining and amusing talk by Marion Mansfield, who has worked with Camsight for many years. A nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital with a growing family, Marion unexpectedly lost her eyesight completely through retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic condition of which she had been unaware.

Accompanied by Jonno, her black Labrador guide dog, Marion brought a selection of items to describe her daily activities. Some were for practical use around the home, whilst others were for her leisure activities, including a jumper she is knitting. She also showed what she calls her 'high-vis' jacket: a beautiful, colourfully embroidered and decorated jacket made by her goddaughter, a textile design student, which she modelled on a catwalk with her guide dog.

Marion is truly inspirational in the way she has coped with her sight loss and has helped many people going through similar challenges. Her visit was greatly enjoyed by our members. We ended with our usual raffle and afternoon tea.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th March at 2pm at the Chalklands Community Hall. If you would like more information about our group, please contact us at the Cambridge office on 01223 420033 or on 01223 893595.

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Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams

Is spring too early?

SNOWDROPS and winter aconites are beginning to show across Wandlebury Country Park, prompting the familiar seasonal question of whether spring is arriving early.

At Wandlebury, these flowers have been quietly emerging from their bulbs since late autumn. While mild winters can encourage earlier growth, wardens say it's about noticing what is already there. Peak snowdrop season is still expected in the first week of February and during half-term week.

"Snowdrops and aconites are the bright harbingers of longer days," said Hannah Warren, Wandlebury Warden. "Our display is unfurling, and the coming weeks offer a chance to discover early signs of spring."

Two snowdrop species are established at Wandlebury. *Galanthus nivalis* forms delicate drifts through the woodland, while *Galanthus plicatus*, larger and earlier-flowering, is most noticeable in the walled garden. Keeping the snowdrops company is the winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), whose bright yellow flowers appear while the ground is still cold. Other early signs include tiny pink hazel flowers among catkins, small green flowers hidden beneath the leaves of spurge laurel, and stinking hellebore.

Wandlebury Country Park, cared for by Cambridge Past, Present & Future, lies on the Gog Magog Hills just south-east of Cambridge. Known for its sweeping views, woodland walks and layered history, including the earthworks of an Iron Age hillfort. The park offers space for winter walks that reward attention to detail as much as spectacle.

Louise Palmer, Communications Manager
Cambridge Past, Present & Future
marketing@cambridgeppf.org or 01223 243830

A Snake in the Grass

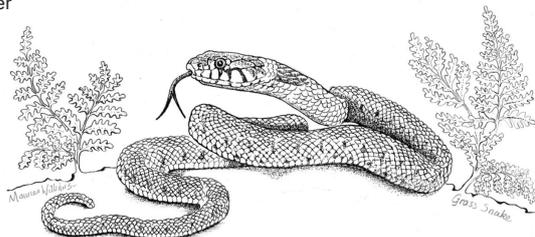
AROUND 52% of Brits are scared of snakes, suffering from ophidiophobia, our new word of the day. Is it just because they're just so slithery with an alarming tongue, or is it the evil serpent in the Garden of Eden, or the asp that bit Queen Cleopatra? Snakes are associated with lies, evil, temptation and paganism, and have been of great cultural importance over the centuries. Fear of them is second only to fear of spiders in this country.

But is this all a lot of fuss about our humble grass snake, *Natrix helvetica*, also known as a water snake or a banded snake? We only have three types of native snake in the UK: the grass snake, the smooth snake and the adder. Only the grass snake is common and widespread. Far from your vision of a massive python descending from a tree in the *Jungle Book*, the grass snake is an itty-bitty thing. It grows to a maximum of a metre long, and weighs less than a standard packet of butter. It is greenish on the top, pale cream underneath, with a distinctive yellow and black collar, and round eyes. It is occasionally confused with a slow worm, which is actually a much shinier legless lizard. It lives for between 15 and 25 years, and females are larger than males. They live in areas with fresh water available, around tree roots, in ditches, garden ponds, in rabbit warrens and in compost heaps.

They can move easily through just about anything. Far from being frightening it is very shy, and minds its own business. However if it is cornered it can play dead or start puffing and hissing. If you're rash enough to pick one up, it will emit a garlic smelling substance that would put off all but the most hardened naturalist.

Snakes are cold blooded, meaning they rely on the temperature in their environment to regulate their own metabolism. The rest of us animals and birds are warm blooded, meaning we regulate our body temperature through internal processes. If you're reading this in March our snake will be waking up from its winter brumation, a form of hibernation, and beginning to search for food and a mate. They eat spawning fish in the spring, and newts and frogs and toads in the summer, with the occasional small bird and mammal. The snake swallows its prey whole; no messing about with manners. Its predators are foxes, badgers, pheasants, hedgehogs, and domestic cats, and it is vulnerable to degradation of our rivers and ponds.

When I wrote above that there are only three types of snakes in the UK, this is somewhat contradicted by the approximately 700,000 pet snakes of all shapes and sizes, a number which is on the up every year. If anyone can tell me why I need a pet snake, I would be very grateful.



Perennial Pleasures

WITH last month's talk giving us inspiration for self-sufficiency in our gardens, this month the spotlight falls on ornamental planting to enhance our pots, beds and borders.

Free entry for members and £2 per visit for non-members. Annual membership costs £8 with new members welcome to join throughout the year.

For more information, please contact:

- Sally Collins on wddac@westwickham.org for further information about the club.
- Janet Morris on jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com for information about the club's plant heritage and RHS membership benefits.
- Alice and Andy Mitchell on photo@westwickham.org for information about our annual photo competition.



West Wickham & District Gardening Club



Snowdrops at Wandlebury

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District and County Councillors' Report-February 2026

Grange Farm: At the end of 2025, the District Council published its draft Local Plan, outlining where housing and commercial development could take place over the next 20 years across South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. Thank you to everyone who has responded to the consultation. This is the most important stage to have your say, as the plan could bring significant change to our area. The Council will now review feedback before publishing the final version.

Local Government Reorganisation: Local authorities in Cambridgeshire have submitted their preferred options for new unitary authority boundaries and we now await the Government's response. District Council elections will go ahead this May as scheduled.

Kingsway Solar Farm: Kingsway Solar has launched a targeted consultation on proposed amendments to its plans, including concentrating panels and battery storage away from heritage assets such as Roman Road and Weston Colville Church. Details can be viewed at: www.kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/consultation/.

20 mph Scheme: The County Council has reopened applications for parishes wishing to introduce 20 mph limits. The window remains open until the end of March. Full details are available at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/applying-for-20mph-funding.

Potholes: With wet and cold weather, pothole season has returned. Water enters cracks in the road surface, freezes, expands and breaks up the tarmac, leading to damage across the network. The County Council is responsible for repairs where potholes meet the required 'intervention level' in size and depth. Smaller defects may not be fixed immediately if they are not considered an immediate risk.

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes via: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults.

If a pothole poses immediate danger, it can be reported as a Highways emergency during office hours on 03450 455212 or via: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/report-a-highways-emergency.

Outside office hours, the police non-emergency number 101 can be used.

The County Council has allocated over £73 million for highways maintenance in 2025/26, with a further £20 million planned for 2026/27, and has increased repair crews from 8 to 30. A local news article on this can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czej21qg817o

District Council—John Batchelor—johnbatchelor23@gmail.com
District and County Council—Henry Batchelor—henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Planning Applications from 14th January to 11th February

26/00309/HFUL Alteration to the existing garden wall to add wicker fence/panel on top of the existing wall. 21 The Grip, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4NR. Validated Tue 10th Feb 2026. Status: awaiting decision.

25/04969/HFUL Two storey front extension. 3 Joiners Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4NP. Validated: Mon 26th Jan 2026. Status: awaiting decision.

26/0048/TTPO Yew x 2 (*Taxus* species) - crown reduction of both yew trees by up to 2 metres, pruning back to suitable growth points in accordance with BS3998. The two yew trees are located in close proximity to one another and are competing for light and space. The proposed crown reduction will help rebalance the canopies, manage size, and prevent further encroachment over the neighbouring fence, while ensuring the long-term retention and wellbeing of both trees. 4 Beech Way, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4LA. Validated: Mon 19th Jan 2026. Status: awaiting decision.

26/00018/LBC Installation of a home EV charger. 88 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Mon 19th Jan 2026. Status: awaiting decision.

26/00157/FUL Demolition of existing flat roof rear addition, replacement single storey rear extension and alterations to existing beauty salon. 12 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Fri 16th Jan 2026. Status: awaiting decision.

Increase to New Park & Ride fares

NEW fares for Cambridge's Park & Ride services will come into effect on Sunday 22nd February, offering cheaper travel into the city. Adults can get into the city for less than the price of a high-street latte and, often, for less than parking in Cambridge city centre.

Adult Returns on Park & Ride services will now cost just £4.50, offering free parking for up to 18 hours and allowing up to four children under five years old to travel for free. A child return for ages five to 15 will cost £1. Return tickets are valid on the Park & Ride service that they are purchased on. If your journey will use more than one bus, a Town Zone DayRider will cost £6.50.

For trips out with friends and family, a Small Group DayRider allowing travel for up to three people will be only £9, while a Large Group DayRider will cost £13 for up to five people.

Short-hop returns between Babraham Road Park & Ride and Addenbroke's Hospital, and between Newmarket Road Park & Ride and the Abbey Stadium (on match days), will cost £3.80.

Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said: "Traveling by bus will always provide outstanding value as a way to get out and about and, with our great new fares, you can park and travel into the city for less than the price of a high-street coffee!"

Stephen Kiely

Cambridgeshire bus drivers recognised

AN OUTSTANDING 201 drivers from Cambridgeshire's Stagecoach East have been recognised for their high driving standards and dedication to road safety throughout 2025. This represents approximately a third of the company's local drivers.

Driver safety specialists GreenRoad monitor performance and award 'Fleet Elite' status to drivers who maintain consistently high safety scores. In total, 66 local drivers have reached 'Grand Master' or 'Master' Fleet Elite status for having maintained the highest standards of safe and fuel-efficient driving for 10 and four years, respectively.

Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said: "These are really impressive results that show how much effort our teams have put in to ensure we run a safe and smooth bus service each and every day. Huge congratulations to everyone who has achieved Fleet Elite status!"

"As a bus operator, the safety of our staff and passengers is our number one priority, so I am extremely proud that such a huge number of our drivers have been recognised for their driving excellence."

"We know that our customers rely on us, so we cannot get things wrong when we are out on the road. Our drivers continue to demonstrate their commitment to achieving the highest standards, day in day out."

To find out more about local bus routes and services, to buy before you board, and to track your local bus, you can download the Stagecoach Bus App from <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/national/stagecoachbusapp>.

Stephen Kiely

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Parish Council Matters



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

Public Notice

SAFETY INSPECTION & ASSESSMENT OF MEMORIALS

LINTON CEMETERY



IN accordance with guidance from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, the Government's Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Linton Parish Council's safety programme, all memorials at Linton Cemetery are to be inspected.

The inspections will commence in May 2026, and it is hoped all inspections will be complete by September 2026. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has no choice but to secure any loose monuments. Inspections will be undertaken by certified inspectors and follow the Parish Council's Management and Safety of Memorials Policy.

Any memorial that does not meet the health and safety requirements will be provided with a notice and be temporarily supported or taped off. A letter will be sent to the registered holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial for the grave giving details of the action required to make the memorial safe.

Memorials remain the responsibility of the owner to keep in good, safe order. Any action taken in the interest of public safety will be carried out as sensitively as possible.

For your own safety and that of all visitors to the Cemetery, DO NOT attempt to test the memorials yourself. Any work to repair memorials MUST be undertaken by a qualified memorial mason.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact the Parish Council on 01223 891001 or email the Parish Clerk via enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk.

We thank you in advance for co-operation.

Linton Parish Council

Garth Collard Archive - Update

THE GARTH Collard Collection is now available to view on the Linton Village Directory website. The archive consists of hundreds of photographs of Linton's buildings and villagers starting from the early 20th century. You can find it under 'Local Info' at <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com>.

We are pleased to see photographs and stories are being shared on social media pages and hope that the collection has helped contribute to conversations about the memories and history of the village. If you have any additional information to add to the Garth Collard Archive, please contact the office who will create an addendum to the collection.

LPC Office Team

A Voice for Sport & Youth

HELLO Linton News Readers,

My name is George Leech, and I recently joined Linton Parish Council in December. I'm 20 years old and am very fortunate to have lived in Linton my entire life. Growing up here has given me a real appreciation for what makes our village special, not just the place itself, but the people, the community, and the way Linton comes together to support one another.

I was educated locally, attending school in Linton from the Infants School right through to Linton Village College. Having spent my whole life here, I've seen first-hand how important local services, facilities, and community groups are to residents of all ages.

Professionally, I am currently enrolled as a Project Management Apprentice at Amazon, working within AMXL (Amazon's supply chain network that focuses on the delivery and handling of oversized items). This role has given me practical experience in planning, communication, problem-solving, and working as part of a wider team to deliver results.

Sport has also been a massive part of my life and, I believe, a real cornerstone of village life in Linton. I've had the privilege of playing for both Linton Village Cricket Club and Linton Granta Football Club. Being involved in local sport has shown me how much it contributes to community wellbeing—bringing people together, supporting young people, and creating lasting connections across the village.



Cllr George Leech

I'm honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council, and I'm really looking forward to contributing to the work being done on behalf of residents. I'm keen to listen, learn, and support the projects and priorities helping Linton continue to thrive. If you see me around the village, please do feel free to say hello, and if you'd like to get in touch, contact me at G.Leech@lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk.

Be Aware - Can you hear me?

"Can you hear me now?" "Is this you?" "Are you there?"

If you're asked this at the beginning of a phone call from a random phone number, you should be wary. Just say nothing and hang up, if a call is from someone you know they will call you back.



The scammer may record your voice saying "yes" or "no" and this can be used to access telephone and online banking.

Please alert friends and family of this latest scam, which several parishioners have received, and reported in recent weeks.

Linton Parish Council

Eco-Activity Update

LINTON Parish Council is pleased to report that active steps are being taken to promote environmental projects in the village.

We are privileged to work with two like-minded organisations, Linton Friends of the River Granta (Linton FROGS) and Linton Roots, who are keen to address environmental issues and increase knowledge and understanding about nature and wildlife.



Linton FROGS is a volunteer group whose aim is to protect and enhance our local river, the Granta, a rare chalk stream. The FROGS run regular litter picks and carry out conservation tasks to improve the habitat and biodiversity of the Granta.



The aim of Linton Roots is to raise awareness of sustainability and environmental matters locally, to facilitate effective action and encourage more sustainable lifestyles.

Linton Roots held its first Repair Café

in February as a key part of encouraging action to reduce waste and therefore lower carbon emissions in our community, whilst supporting broader conversations about sustainable living in a friendly and supportive environment.

Linton Parish Council is committed to improving Biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices which will promote biodiversity.
- Support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of minimal impact practices.
- Support residents and local organisations' activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

The Linton Village Directory has an Eco-Activity calendar, which has news of all events happening locally and also details of National Events and Awareness Campaigns.

Key Events in Linton for March include:

On **Saturday 7th March** a Free Bike Repair Session with Dr Bike will be held in the Coles Lane Car Park, Linton from 12-4pm.

On **Saturday 21st March** a regular Linton Litter Pick run by Linton FROGS will take place, meeting at the Village Hall for a 10am start, equipment and refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to get involved please contact Linton FROGS, Linton Roots or the Parish Council office for more details.

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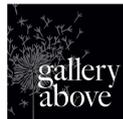
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Parish Council Minutes



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ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council (LPC) meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Councillor Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies for co-option on the Parish Council.

Open Forum for Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the council.

A participant spoke on agenda item 260/25/26(a) Recreation Ground—the removal of the hedge at the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) stating that they would not like to see the hedge removed due to the visual impact and negative effect on the habitat for birds and small mammals.

The Chairman responded, explaining that requests were received from members of the public to remove the hedge to improve visibility and in turn increase use of the facilities. Noted.

External and Internal Meetings

Consideration for the written report following the Police Liaison meeting held on 10.12.2025. Written report available.

Consideration for the written report following a meeting of representatives of LPC and Beacon Youth Trust (BYT) on 11th December 2025

Clr Hine gave a verbal update of the meeting.

Consideration for the meeting report following the internal community building WG Meeting held on 6th January. Written report available.

District and County Councillors report for January 2026.

Written report available.

In addition to the written report the following points were raised.

County & District Councillor Henry Batchelor spoke on the Local Plan and advised that a further public meeting on the Grange Farm development at Great Abington is being scheduled.

Henry Batchelor also spoke on the Kingsway Solar farm proposal and the request for comments on the alterations to the proposal following assessment by Heritage consultants.

District Councillor John Batchelor confirmed the local elections for SCDC will be going ahead in May 2026 with elections for a Shadow Unitary Authority taking place in May 2027.

Planning

Consideration for the recommendation from the Planning Committee for comments on the planning application received in relation to land north of Cambridge Road. Decision required.

Clr Kell proposed the Planning Committee request an extension of the deadline for comments on the application to 20th February, due to the volume of documents and that some have not been accessible.

Preliminary objections to be submitted as follows:

- Development outside the current and proposed Local Plan
- Development outside the village envelope
- Linton is a small rural centre where development should be limited in size
- Lack of accessible amenities, the closest being Linton Village College which is over a kilometre from the centre of the proposed development

The Planning Committee has scheduled a remote working group meeting on 19th January for further comments to be discussed. Clr Kell raised the matter of known missed notifications to neighbours, namely Granta School and Pilgrim Foods. Clr Smith seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration of the recommendation from the Planning Committee for comments to be submitted on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan before the deadline of the 30th January 2026. Decision required.

Clr Kell proposed to defer comments until after the Additional Full Council meeting scheduled to take place on 22nd January. Clr Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Finance

Quotes and Contracts

Consideration for the quotations received to remove the hedge at the MUGA. Decision required.

Clr Hine proposed CH Home & Garden Services be awarded the contract to remove the Leylandii hedges on two sides of the MUGA and that the work be completed by the end of March 2026. Clr Cox seconded. All Agreed.

Consideration for the quotations received to complete complex tree works. Decision required.

Clr Mannassi proposed the Shire Trees be awarded the contract. Clr Smith seconded. nine in favour, one against with three abstentions. Motion carried.

Grants and Funding

Consideration for the Independent Grant Applications. Clr Hine proposed a grant of £500.00 be awarded to the Linton Granta Football Club (LGFC). Clr Allen seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Consideration for the £137 Grant Applications. Clr Gardner proposed a grant of £2,500.00 be awarded to the Linton Free Church for refurbishment of the kitchen. Clr Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Precept 2026–2027

Review of the overall budget and consideration of the required precept value and percentage change.

Supporting document in councillor packs.

Decision required.

Clr Mannassi proposed amendments to the final 2026/27 precept of a 7% increase on the 2025/26 precept at an amount totalling £302,444.26.

Clr Gardner seconded. All Agreed.

Compliance

Consideration for the recommended amendments to the LPC Grants Policy and application form. Decision required. Clr Singh proposed the revised Grants Policy be adopted. Clr Cox seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Traffic and Highways

Consideration for the Local Highway Improvement (LHI) Bid for 2026–2027 to be submitted by the deadline of 16th January. Decision required.

Clr Kell proposed that with suggested amendments the LHI bid be submitted. Clr Singh seconded. All Agreed.

Notification of the public consultation for the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Cambridge Road from 40 mph to 30 mph. Decision required.

Clr Mannassi proposed to support the reduction of the speed limit on the Cambridge Road but to simplify the changes by omitting the 40mph section. Clr Gardner seconded. Agreed with five abstentions.

Open Spaces & Environment

Consideration of the grant of a free commemorative tree from SCDC to mark the COVID pandemic. Decision required.

Clr Smith proposed the grant of a commemorative tree be accepted and that the location of St Mary's Church be considered. Clr Hine seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Recreation Ground

Update on the removal of moles at the Recreation Ground and response to concerns raised by LGFC. Response required.

The Clerk provided an update from the contractor advising that further attempts to remove the moles would be taken once the weather allows and shared the information provided by the contractor that activity was high due to the river levels.

Community Buildings

The Pavilion

Update on the year-to-date income and expenditure, including the private hire report for the Pavilion. For Information.

The Chairman requested the following financial summary be minuted.

Year to Date Income: £1691.25

Year to Date Expenditure: £29,693.19

Notification of responses received in relation to dogs no longer being permitted in the Pavilion. Response required.

The Chairman explained the following: The Risk Assessment recommendation to mitigate risks to all users, in relation to allergies, injuries and illness, was to exclude dogs, with the exception of assistance dogs, from the premises. The vote was carried on the basis of this information. Due to the expenditure year to date (£29,693.19) the Parish Council must consider all potential users of the venue and therefore uphold the decision to encourage usage.

Notification of the removal of LPC signage without permission and consideration of any action required. Decision required.

Clr Smith proposed the office review the CCTV to investigate the removal of the signage and write to LGFC with the requirement that the signage is confirmed to be in place prior to and at the end of every hire period and to comply with the conditions of hiring the building. Clr Kell seconded. Seven in favour, two against with three abstentions. Motion carried.

Consideration for the concern raised in relation to the Food Hygiene Certificate at the Pavilion which has been awarded to the LGFC following an inspection on 29th November 2025. Decision required.

Clr Smith proposed that LGFC remove the Food Hygiene Rating and be permitted to display it only whilst providing hospitality at the venue. Clr Singh seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Consideration for the request from LGFC for an update on the full redecoration of the Pavilion.

Clr Smith proposed the redecoration of the Pavilion be postponed due to the priority of outstanding Health and Safety issues which need to be addressed, and due to the spend year to date. Clr Allen seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Consideration of the request from LGFC for an update on the replacement floors in the changing and official rooms at the Pavilion.

Clr Hine proposed that the replacement floors be addressed before the redecoration of the venue following the completion of priority Health & Safety issues. Clr Gardner seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Consideration for the request from LGFC to install a trophy cabinet in the main room of the Pavilion. Decision required.

Clr Smith proposed to consider all options to display trophies and awards for all clubs following the redecoration of the venue. Clr Singh seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

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

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