

Linton Flower Festival
Friday, Saturday
and Sunday 10th
11th and 12th June

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Bartlow

THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info. e-mail lneditor@linton.info

June
2005
Vol. 19 N° 3
Publication Date
Monday 6th June

E & E PLUMRIDGE
Design & Print
41 High Street
Linton
01223 891407

WILLOW CROCODILE MOVES INTO INFANTS SCHOOL



Debbie Hall with her living willow crocodile, where children will learn and play

Picture by Sarah Bowie

YOU may have noticed something new at Linton Infants' School on the grassed area behind the swimming pool. Is it a bush? Is it a tree? No it's a crocodile! Constructed from living willow, it has been very cleverly designed and planted by Debbie Hall of Linton based Salix Arts.

The crocodile has been built as part of Cambridgeshire County Council's "health promoting schools" initiative, for which Linton Infant School chose to focus on better provisions for the children at lunch-times and playtimes. The willow structure will provide a fun area for the children to play

and some much needed shade in summer. The staff will also be able to use the large shady central dome - the crocodile's 'tummy' - for outdoor lessons and storytelling.

A living willow structure allows the children to observe and appreciate the cycle of the seasons. Dormant in winter, the bare stems emphasise the structural shape. Early spring brings fat buds in anticipation of the new shoots and fresh leaves of late spring and the heavy covering that provides protection from the summer sun. Autumn sees the leaves drop and it all begins again. The willow also provides an excellent habitat

for all sorts of insect and bird life.

Willow blends easily into the natural environment. As well as individually designed willow structures for schools and nursery settings, Debbie also creates in-situ fencing and structures for private gardens. The flexible nature of the material permits the creation of pretty much any shape, and working on site means that the existing shapes and contours of a garden can be followed, allowing one part to flow effortlessly into another.

Debbie has been working with willow for almost 10 years and finds it very

rewarding being able to work outside with natural materials creating things that are at the same time both practical and beautiful.

If you fancy learning how to weave willow yourself, Debbie also runs workshops. The next one will be held at her house (89 High Street, Linton) on Saturday 18th June. Suitable for complete beginners, participants will learn to make their own beautiful plant supports and lanterns.

For further information please contact:
Debbie 893580 or 07736 952730 or email
debs@salixarts.co.uk

LINTON DIARY

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

Weekly: Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays Village Hall
Weekly: Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays LVC
Weekly: Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays Village Hall
Weekly: Story Time, 2.15pm-2.45pm, Tuesdays Library
Weekly: IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6pm-10pm, Wednesdays VH
Weekly: Tots in Tow, 10am-11.30am Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Rock Cafe, 1.30pm-3pm, Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Little Acorns, 10am-11.30am, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Bowls roll-up, 2pm, Wednesdays The Pavilion
Weekly: Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Ladies' netball, 7pm-8.30pm, Mondays Sports Centre
Weekly: Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm, Fridays VH

JUNE

5 Camera Club awayday, 9.30am Coles Lane car park
7 VIP, 2pm Chalklands Community Centre
7 WI, 7.30pm Village Hall
10-12 Linton flower festival S' Mary's Church
10 Bar-b-q and barn dance, 6.30pm Infants' School
10 Barn dance, 7.30pm Manor Farm, Horseheath
11 Recorder Concert, 7.30pm Balsham Church
12 Flower festival concert, 3pm S' Mary's Church
12 Tour of Cambs churches, 2.30pm Hildersham
12 Family picnic, 1pm Furze Hill, Hildersham
13 Historic walk, 6.30pm Hildersham church
15 CAMTAD Hearing help, 9am-12noon Health Centre
16 Parish Council meeting, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
18 Model railway exhibition, 10.30am-5pm LVC
18 Car wash and bric-a-brac sale, 2pm Linton Fire Station
18 Willow workshop 89 High Street, Linton
18 Summer fête, 12 noon Infants' School
18 Victorian society, 10am-5pm Lucy Cavendish College
19 Motor show, 10am-5pm Newmarket Racecourse
18 Hadstock village fête, Village green, Hadstock
22 Brownie charity walk, 6pm Infants' School
24 Midsummer safari, 6.30pm Infants' School
25 Midsummer madnes fundraiser, 8pm Infants' School
25 Victory fun day, 2pm Hildersham

JULY

1 Summer Fair, 5-9pm Linton Height's school
2 Farmers' market, 10am LVC
3 Fishing match, 9am-3pm Little Walden
5 WI, 7.30pm Village Hall
7 Open evening, 7pm Little Hands Nursery School
7 Parish Council meeting, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
9 Dads and tots, 9.30-11am Village Hall

Refuse collection: 13th, 27th, 11th July.
Recycling collection: 6th, 20th, 4th July

Library times: **Monday** Closed; **Tuesday** 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; **Wednesday** 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; **Thursday** Closed; **Friday** 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm; **Saturday** 10am-12noon.

All the fun of the fair

THERE will be fun for all the family at the annual Friends of Linton Heights summer fair which takes place in the grounds of Linton Heights Junior School, Wheatshaf Way, from 5pm to 9pm on Friday 1st July.

As usual, the children will be running a range of stalls at pocket money prices.

Other attractions include face painting, bouncy castles and a chance to try out your tennis and basketball skills.

The early entertainment will be provided by a taekwondo demonstration and a dog agility display, and the evening will be rounded off with a concert by Linton

Jazz. There will also be a barbecue and a licensed bar, as well as hot drinks, sweets and cakes.

The raffle has a top prize of £100 and there are many other fabulous prizes including your own personal family website designed by a local company.

This is the school's biggest fundraising event of the year and all the money raised will go towards new laptops and computer equipment.

Please come along to support your local school and put the date in your diary now.

Tony Kelly

Flowers and more



WE are looking forward to seeing you all at this year's Flower Festival and Fete. Throughout the weekend there will be many different events taking place, and details of the programme can be found on the flier that has already been distributed to most households in the village with the free paper, or on the church notice board at the top of Church Lane.

The flower arrangers (individuals and groups e.g. the primary school) will be using their skills and imagination to interpret their choice of hymn and the church will be open on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10th, 11th and 12th June. On Saturday afternoon from around 2pm you will see among other events the tug-of-war, and we

are hoping for a visit from a miniature railway courtesy of the Saffron Walden Lions. Also on the Saturday from 10am until 2pm at the Infants' School we are welcoming Business and Enterprise groups from Linton Village College, who will be selling items they have made.

On Sunday, students from Linton Village College will be putting on a concert at S' Mary's church at 3pm, after which the annual duck race will take place on the River Granta. Refreshments will be available on the Saturday and Sunday at the Infants' School, and the Friends of S' Mary's will be providing refreshments at the church on Saturday evening between 7.30 and 9pm, when you can relax and view the flowers. The Festival ends on the Sunday evening with "Songs of Praise" at 6pm in S' Mary's church.

For further information please contact:

Michael Holden
891418

Midsummer Mexican Madness

SEÑORAS y Señores! Slap on a sombrero! Slip on your salsa slingbacks! Linton Granta and Chestnut playgroups proudly present their annual joint fundraiser, Midsummer madness - this year with a Mexican twist.

Enjoy a two course Mexican meal, followed by dancing and a fun casino, plus other fabulous attractions. Go loco on a Bucking Bronco! Unleash your frustrations on the piñata! Or, just hang out with the other

hombres at the bar. Mexican dress optional - but moustaches could mean prizes.

Midsummer mexican madness hits town from 7.30pm on Saturday 25th June at Linton Infants' School. Tickets available from playgroup committee members, or ring Michelle 890048 or Anna 892977.

The event is generously sponsored by McKenzie & Haywards garage and Infinity Connections.

Anna McMahan 892977

Through the arches of time

ON Saturday 11th June there will be a concert in the church at Balsham. Heather Moger, Henrique Meissner and their students will play recorder music from the Renaissance to the 20th Century.

Heather and Henrique are both professional recorder players and teachers. The concert will start with the *Intrada* recorder ensemble which consists of their advanced pupils. The recorder trio *Triad Tibia* and the *Amarilli* Recorder Quartet will perform; both

ensembles won first prize in the Peterborough music festival in under-18 ensemble categories.

This will be a varied concert with music from different centuries played on all different sizes of recorder: soprano, descant, treble, tenor and bass.

Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection.

For more information please contact:

Henrique Meissner 893963
or email
henriquemeissner@onetel.com

Annual fishing match

THE annual fishing match for the Dog and Duck Trophy will be held at Home Farm Fishery, Little Walden on Sunday 3rd July 2005.

Fishing will commence at

9am and finish at 3pm. Entry forms are available from the Dog and Duck but numbers are limited. For more information please contact:

Frank Sweeting 890276

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FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

OWING to illness Tony is unable to provide his usual thought-provoking article this month. We wish him well and trust he will be back on form for next month. LNT



Progress of sports facility at LVC

pitches - available from September 2006; three floodlit tennis/netball court areas; sports centre changing rooms refurbished; bar/café refurbished.

Constructed primarily for the needs of football, the new astro pitch will be one of the best artificial surfaces for football in the country. Useful for training, five-a-side and fixtures, this area could be ready for use by the end of June.

We are now taking reservations for the astro pitch. Please contact:

Mark Wilson 890248 or e-mail mark.wilson@lvc.org

An African extravaganza

WHERE would you find wellington boot dancing, shadow puppets, a flautist, African music and campfire songs, all together in one place?

Well, it sounds unlikely but the answer is at the Linton District Guiding gang show on Saturday 9th July with performances at 2.30pm and 6pm in the hall at Linton Village College.

Profits from tickets (available from Pauline Newman 891086) from the refreshments, raffle and other stalls, will be split between Linton District Guiding and the Village College's link school in Boepathutse, South Africa; hence the African theme.

This should be a lively show and we would be delighted to welcome everyone to share it.

Pam Richardson 890921

Blackguards at the gunpowder mills



In combat with pikestaves and muskets

Picture by Tracey Wilson

IT took several months for me finally to make the telephone call to find out more about the Camera Club. I now wonder why it took me so long for I have discovered a friendly bunch of people all keen to pass on snippets of knowledge.

At this month's away day there were some ugly scenes that produced many interesting photographs. Men shouting insults to each other ("you blackguard") and combat with pikestaff and muskets, for we were at The Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey where we witnessed a Civil War reenactment. At this skirmish the

Cavaliers were the stronger force and the few Roundheads that remained standing had to beat a hasty retreat.

Established in the 17th century and acquired by the Crown in 1787, the Royal Gunpowder Mills has an important place in both the history of Great Britain and of its home town of Waltham Abbey. During WW1 more than 5,000 local people were employed by the mills. Now the mills hold a number of exhibitions and the unused canals which used to transport the explosives around the site are home to a large variety of plants, birds and animals, in

fact two thirds of the site has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It offers the largest colony of herons in Essex in addition to muntjac deer, bats and otters.

The next away day is on 5th June when members will visit the Bressingham railway museum and gardens near Diss in Norfolk, meeting in Coles Lane car park at 9.30am as usual.

For more information about the Linton Camera Club visit the club's website at www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk or contact: Roger Lapwood 891104

Maureen Williams

Show-offs needed



Picture by Ron Pitkin

Visitors make it a hive of activity at the garden club sale

THE sun shone on the Gardening Club for the annual plant sale which has become much more than just that. As well as plants there were the usual good things to eat on offer, also cards, pots and sundry items all kindly given to us to sell.

Proceeds of about £400 will be put towards the cost of staging our annual show, which this year will be held on Saturday 23rd July, so our grateful thanks go to everyone who gave or

bought, and to all who worked so hard to make the event a success.

This very enjoyable occasion was enhanced by the lovely surroundings of Susan and John's garden which browsers were able to appreciate as they had their refreshments.

May I give another reminder of the categories for the photo section in the show. These are: a flower or flowers on a single stem, stained glass, an action picture, hedgerows, a skyscape. The subject for the juniors is: my favourite photo taken by me.

Schedules for the show are available from Alex Todd, phone 892979 and Susan Anderson, phone 891623. We look forward to welcoming plenty of exhibitors and visitors on the day.

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Song for peace result

BACK from Tipperary with a crystal runner-up trophy, Helen said, "What a wonderful time we had at the International Song Contest and how proud I felt to have had my son Jack (Adrian Cooke) sing my song. Although we didn't win the top prize, it was an amazing experience and one which I shall never forget."

"The song was originally written to accompany one of my children's stories and then developed into something beyond that. It ended up being entered for the 'International Song of Peace Contest' and reaching the final 10 to be performed in Eire."

Whilst contemplating entering again next year, for now Helen wants to concentrate on finding a publisher for her children's stories. Each exciting and magical fable (seven so far), has a themed song to accompany it and is based on what Helen feels are forgotten values in today's world, covering such issues as love, hate, jealousy, bullying, forgiveness, togetherness, etc.

That doesn't mean she's not going to continue with other song writing. She is really pleased to have just been asked to come up with a song for Amnesty International's 'Imaginations' event which takes place in London from 25th November to 10th December this year. Helen Bonney 894887



A very proud Helen with her trophy

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Get tough on waste, say WI members



The decision makers take a break and enjoy a cream tea
Picture by Bel Griffith

A NATIONWIDE call for WI members to reduce waste and conserve resources in their own homes and communities has been made by Linton members.

They also want women countrywide to lobby manufacturers, retailers and decision makers to cut waste in production, packaging and the transportation of goods.

The call was made in a resolution presented by Marjory Blackman at the May meeting of the Linton WI when members discussed motions for delegates to take to the national WI conference in London on 8th June.

A second resolution presented by Linton WI president Trisha Lewis called on WI members to do all they could to raise public awareness of the unfair difference between the retail price of milk and the price paid to farmers.

The discussions, which were followed by reviving tea

and cream scones, went to prove that the WI is not just "jam and Jerusalem" but an organisation to be reckoned with. The meeting ended with a general knowledge quiz.

The next meeting, on Tuesday 7th June, will be an illustrated talk, Peking to Paris, by M^{rs} Pat Dalrymple. New members are always welcome at meetings in the village hall on the first Tuesday of every month. For details, please call: Ann Simpkin 892090

Our verdict ...

GUILTY or not guilty? *What sentence would you give? Members of Hildersham WI were asked this by Cambridge magistrate Brian Payne, our guest speaker, who presented us with a thought-provoking true case on which to deliver an appropriate sentence.*

This was after giving a history of how he and his fellow magistrates were elected to this responsible position 35 years ago, explaining how they trained and gained knowledge while doing the job. Did we get the sentence correct? No we did not!

Pamela Parris

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Readers write

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters on page 8
Please note: All letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check their authenticity.

New wartime stories recorded

Dear Editor
The Cambridgeshire Local History Society on Saturday 16th April had a very successful launch to this year's anniversary celebrations of the 60 years since the end of WW2, with our story gathering event "Cambridgeshire's War - Reminiscences 60 Years On" at the Joint Ex-Servicemen's club in Barnwell Road, Cambridge.

It was very well received. The speakers were all excellent and although time was always going to be against us, it will finally result in around 25 new Cambridgeshire stories being recorded on the BBC's *People's War* website through a series of follow-up home visits and collection of completed BBC story forms that proved to be very popular.

There are so very many people to thank who have helped me promote this event, so I use this message to thank you all.

But special thanks go to Madeleine Forrester and the BBC *People's War* team, Ray Clark, Pam Mungroo and the Radio

Cambridgeshire Team, Irena Dingley for her excellent Radio Cambridgeshire website, Chris Elliott, Debbie Tweedie and everyone at the *Cambridge Evening News* and *Our Time* magazine and all the regional newspaper editors that supported us.

The *Cambridge Evening News* took some photographs for a later report in the newspaper.

I wish all the other groups every success with their individual events and am always willing to offer help and assistance if it is needed.

Out here in South Cambridgeshire, we are holding a series of events across the summer ranging from exhibitions, story-gathering days, victory dances and a flypast of Lancasters (West Wrattling group), street parties and photo identity days at the local old people's homes, the Forget-Me Not club etc, which are always very successful and very rewarding.

Andrew Westwood-Bate
Media & Publicity Officer

Is one way the right way?

Dear Editor
Recently a resident from Back Road called with a prepared list of perceived and actual disadvantages to the experimental one-way traffic system which was entirely loaded with the views of those living in the low-numbered section. We were asked to make representations if we agreed with these points, several of which can be solved or improved by consultation with and action by the parish council. It is extremely selfish of these people to react like this with no mention of the obvious advantages of the scheme. After all, they are only experiencing a small part of what the residents of the High Street have suffered for years. In a village of narrow roads like Linton everyone in the immediate vicinity of the scheme must be prepared to accept change and some inconvenience to a greater or lesser degree, in order to achieve acceptable traffic management for all. Name and address supplied.

Dear Editor
Thank you to everyone who donated to and collected for the house-to-house collection for Save The Children. A total of £1,752.27 was raised in the Linton area. Judith White Church Lane

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
Yesterday the county council election result was published and John Batchelor will represent us as county councillor, along with his other duties.

My congratulations to John, who takes on the responsibility so dutifully carried out by the late Terry Bear.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all

the supporters and people that contributed to the recent election. From my perspective, I met many wonderful people and enjoyed the process of learning about the issues that affect our lives at a local level.

Turning to the Parliamentary seat, we have re-elected Jim Paice as our MP, and I take great pleasure in working alongside Jim, who is also massively

supportive with issues that affect our communities.

I remain very much involved with the campaign to reduce the speed limit on the A1307 and to helping us to live in a safe, friendly community.

I look forward to the next opportunity to be of service to our community.

Peter Hase
Cambridge road,
Balsham

Dear Editor
I would like to say thank-you very much to all the people who supported the Chernobyl Children Appeal at Chalklands in April. The magnificent sum of £455 was raised which included £152 made up of penny collections and donations. A further £20 was given by a Braintree person. I have recently returned from Chernobyl where a sterilisation unit and a camera for dental equipment was bought for the children's hospital. J Whitby Chalklands

Dear Editor
I was too slow – and rushed at the end – to express my thanks to the parish councillors after the parish annual meeting on 5th May. Yes, some of us are occasionally critical of the actions or decisions of the council, but these moments of displeasure in no way detract from my gratitude to parish and district councillors and, of course, to dear Terry Bear, for the hours of work they put in on behalf of the community

of Linton. To all of them, many thanks, and to Gill Barker also best wishes for a pleasant and more relaxed future. Anna Newton Horn Lane

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Afternoon fun for all the family

THE Linton Infants school annual summer fair will take place between 12 noon and 3pm on Saturday 18th June in the school grounds.

There will be all the usual favourites; BBQ, refreshments, raffle, tombola, toy stall, lucky dip, face painting & tattoos, bouncy slide, crockery smash, guessing games, hook a duck, welly throwing, and much more. There will also be performances by the children throughout the afternoon.

Everyone is welcome, so bring your family and friends along for a fun afternoon. All monies raised at this year's fair will go towards equipment for the new school library.

Sarah Neale
01440 708102

Council's new city office

A POSTER campaign has been launched by South Cambs district council to let people know about their Cambridge city centre office.

The posters tell people that if they cannot get to the council's Cambourne HQ, they can call at the Cambridge office for answers to questions about council services from housing to environmental health.

The office is in Mandala House at 4 Regent Street and is open from 9am-5pm on Monday-Thursdays and from 9am-4.30pm on Friday.

For further information, call 08450 450500

Victory thank-you is summer's star event

THIS summer will be a hectic time for events in the Cambridge area.

One of the highlights will be at Hildersham on Saturday 25th June to commemorate the end of the Second World War.

Hildersham In Bloom is presenting a Victory Thank-You Family Fun Day, starting at 2pm with a host of events based around the village hall and recreation ground.

Features include a hog-roast and salad picnic lunch, wartime fancy dress competitions for children and adults, a Dunkirk small flotilla boat race, an "over the top" assault course, wartime recipes, make do and mend, a war years veterans' tea party, a photographic exhibition with 500

plus still and digitally projected pictures, and BBC People's War story-gathering sessions.

Another family day out will be on 12th June when a "bring and share" family picnic is being held at Furze Hill. Assemblage from 1pm at the entrance to Furze Hill (Old Sand Pit).

Lunch will be followed by a talk and nature trail over the Furze Hills with M^{rs} Donna Radley from English Nature.

Then at 2.30pm on Sunday 12th June, there will be a tour of three Cambridgeshire churches organised by the Historic Churches Trust.

Local experts who will be present include R^{ev} D^r Lynne Broughton, whose expertise covers church furnishings,

wall paintings, stained glass windows and symbolism, and Anthony Baggs, the architect for the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments and the Ely Diocesan architect.

M^r Baggs has written descriptions of many of our local parishes and churches in the *Victoria County History*.

The churches will be visited in the following order: S^t Botolph at Stow Longa, S^t Andrew at Kimbolton, and S^t Andrew at Great Staughton.

Refreshments will be served at the last church and people will be welcome to stay for the celebration of evensong.

Next on 13th June at 6.30pm, there will be a historical walk around Hilder-

sham with an in-depth look around Holy Trinity church, with its exquisite Victorian "Tree of Jesse" east window and chancel wall paintings by Clayton and Bell.

Local historian Andrew Westwood-Bate will lead the tour.

Finally on 25th June, the Cambridge Local History Society has arranged a special evening private viewing of the Cambridge Botanic Garden with Professor John Parker, the garden director.

Places will be limited and booking will be on a "first come first served" basis.

For more information on all the above events email: c.l.h.s@btinternet.com or call 892430.

Victorian study day

IF the Victorian era fascinates you, then make sure you keep 18th June clear in your diary when the Victorian society will be holding a study day in Cambridge at Lucy Cavendish College from 10am-5pm.

Speakers include Peter Guillery, author of *The Small House In 18th Century London*, who will be talking on "improvement to slums in late Georgian London".

Other speakers include David Heathcote, a design and architectural historian, on "late 19th century developments" and D^r Sue Berry, a lecturer in landscape studies at the University of Sussex, on "the development of the Victorian planned estate in seaside resorts."

Other topics being discussed include planning and the arts and crafts movement, and the Victorian destruction of Tudor buildings. Refreshments and lunch are included in the cost of the study day. For more information please contact:

Michael Pearson,
Primrose Cottage,
Catmere End,
Saffron Walden,
CB114XG.

Christian youth work is growing in Linton

ON the evening of Sunday 8th May around 120 people gathered at S^t Mary's church to take part in a service of celebration and commitment to Christian youth work. The service was sponsored by Linton Churches Youth Project, a joint initiative by the churches in the village.

After a warm welcome from R^{ev} Mark Mills-Powell, the service began with a time of worship led by John Thorne and Adrian Rose on guitars ably assisted by Andy on bass, Luke on guitar, James on sax and Steve on drums.

The R^{ev} Alex Jacob explained how delighted the

churches were at being able to appoint Louise Woolcock as their youth worker last autumn. Louise is studying for a degree in "Youth and Community Work with Applied Theology" at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, and has a youth work placement in Linton over the next three years.

Louise spoke of some of activities she has been involved in with young people since arriving in Linton. Most notably, helping with the Christians In Schools (CIS) at LVC, organising a Youth Alpha course, and introducing "Impact" a weekly event for students in year seven and above.

Louise then introduced Emily and Naomi who explained how they had been encouraged to take a leading role in the CIS at LVC. Then Jessica and Harry spoke of how much they had enjoyed the Youth Alpha and were looking forward to Impact.

After a short address by R^{ev} Mark Mills-Powell, there was an opportunity for people to commit to supporting the Linton churches youth project in prayer and by pledging regular financial support.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all after the service, and some of us wondered how long it would be before talent scouts approached the Worship Band to offer them a recording contract...

Ivor Morgan-Jones
892684

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Episode 4 : Fame academy - Indian style

AFTER our second day at the bamboo workshop we returned to the hotel for the evening. A guy called Chinni, who is in charge of current bamboo building works in Nagaland, invited me to meet a friend of his called Wati, also attending the workshop. Wati is from Dimipur in Nagaland but, more importantly, is a talented guitarist and singer. As Chinni had to attend a dinner with some of the big dignitaries involved with the workshop, the rest of us would be left on our own, but he assured us he would join us all later that evening.

As the hotel had no bar I suggested getting some beers from outside and having a jam back at the presidential suite. Gerry, another mate from the course, was still at the hotel so he too was invited, and a porter from the hotel was sent off to acquire the amber nectar. As the party was running the risk of becoming too testosterone fuelled we decided to invite a couple of the girls on the course who were in the room next door.

There was Maria, a young

Colombian-born Canadian, and an Indian girl who lived not too far from Chennai called Poonam, whom I christened Poo. She thought this was an affectionate shortening of her name when in fact it meant I could shout "Poo" loudly during the workshop under the guise that I was trying to attract her attention. Not very mature, I know, but quite amusing for me.

Anyway, the music played and the singing volume increased with the beer consumption and in no time the party was in full swing. At around midnight there was a power cut, not an unusual event in these parts, and the party became a mellow gathering as Wati continued to play by candlelight. The songs slowed and ballads were sung, just as Chinni arrived back at about 1am to help draw the night to a close.

He sat down amongst us and just as Wati began to play another calming tune Chinni decided to accompany him on vocals. Well, I know I'm not the best singer in the world but this guy was really awful! I

glanced around the room and everyone was looking on, politely smiling, as Chinni screeched and wailed painfully. I tried to be equally polite but it eventually became too much and after another verse I couldn't fight it any longer and burst into uncontrollable laughter.

This seemed to open the flood gates for Wati who, up to that point, had maintained commendable composure on the guitar. In no time Wati and I had tears rolling down our cheeks and any attempt to restrain ourselves was thwarted by a quick look at each other. This continued for at least 10 minutes, during which time Chinni carried on, unperturbed by our outbursts, until finally none of us could take anymore and Chinni was kindly requested to wind up.

This signalled the end of the party and everyone returned to their rooms, and I climbed into bed still chuckling to myself.

Next time - back to Chennai as work hots up at the orphanage.

Gary Dixon

Guides' small request

"DON'T come. You'll hate it," my sister-in-law, Margaret, wrote from Jimma in Ethiopia where she and my brother Phil were teaching at Jimma University, working for the Voluntary Service Overseas. Her description of no electricity two days a week (government rationing), spasmodic supplies of electricity and water, limited food, almost no meat and poor selection of vegetables, living in a compound with security guards, and a privy in the yard with black rats running across the tin roof and occasionally falling through, made Jimma seem an unlikely place for a holiday.

For me, these comments and subsequent stories painted a depressing picture of daily life in one of the five poorest countries in the world.

Despite the great response from local people to the tsunami appeal, 196 chosen dates

have already been covered for the Linton guides' project to sponsor a child through World Vision. Four-year-old Tigist Semeneu was born on 17th November 2000 and lives with her unemployed parents in Yilmana Densa, northern Ethiopia, about 450 kilometres from Addis Ababa.

For the moment we know little more about Tigist, who is reported to like collecting things, to be in good health but is presumably too young to go to school even if there is such an opportunity for her. We have been invited to send pictures or cards with simple sentences (to be translated by the local staff) about our life, and ask about hers.

World Vision has a development programme for this rural area, where most families rely on farming to survive. However, as successful farming needs rain, families often find themselves struggling in times of

drought. The aim is to provide a safe, clean water supply, expand the existing health centre and encourage self sufficiency.

Our sponsorship started on 1st April. We have received sufficient funds to sponsor Tigist for six and a half months. If you would like to help with this project, please think of special dates you would like to celebrate and deliver 60p for each with the completed coupon below to Rosemary Turner at 1 Joiners Road, Linton. (Please deliver the envelope rather than post it.) Thank you for your help.

Kate France 891602

Name _____

Address _____

Tel Number _____

Chosen Date _____

A strange pet being cared for by a vet

A BICYCLE, probably with a history, is lurking behind the practice shed of the Belgrave veterinary surgery in Linton.

Valerie Urwin is anxious to contact the owner, who may have been searching the area for sometime for this unusual pet.

With a black frame, curvaceous midriff and squidgy tyres, this elderly cycle has clearly been around. It was first seen by David Urwin languishing outside Linton Co-op about a year ago.

David is of the opinion that someone or maybe two, may

have taken a fancy to joyride round the village, as this runabout was next seen skulking down the side of the Co-op.

In just a few turns the cycle was soon across the road and hiding in the vet's back yard.

If the owner does not come forward to claim this antique masterpiece by 12th June, Valerie will paste a found notice in the window and offer it free to a good home.

All enquiries to: Valerie Urwin, Belgrave House Veterinary Surgery, 139 High Street. Tel 893720.

Kate France 891602

Junior firefighters!



Firefighters of the future? Children try out the engine

ON Tuesday 26th April a fire appliance and four firefighters from the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visited the Little Hands Nursery School at the Station House on Station Road in Linton.

During the visit, designed to raise awareness of fire safety issues, 14 of the nursery school children, along with three mums, sat in (and on) the appliance.

They tried out the crew and driver's seats for size, investigated all the fire fighting equipment and tried on a firefighter's helmet.

They even sprayed water using the appliance's fire hose, delighting in the large puddles

this created in the car park. At the end of the visit the firefighters made a spectacular exit, leaving the car park with lights flashing and siren wailing.

The visit was a tremendous success with a great time being had by all; children, parents, "Little Hands" staff and firefighters alike.

Little Hands Nursery School, will be holding an informal open evening to meet existing and prospective parents.

This will be held at 7pm on Thursday 7th July at Little Hands Nursery School.

For further information please contact: Marion 897945

POT POURRI (6)

A Horizon and the Height

STANDING on the shore overlooking a calm sea, I managed to calculate the distance to the horizon. Next to me was a raised platform, and standing on top of it, I noticed that the horizon was three times further away than before. Now, in terms of my height, how high is the platform I am standing on?

N.B. A little numerical common sense is advisable in the solution.

Solution to No.5- A Strange currency

THE note value is 24. The answer may be found by factorisation of the divisor product. $331776 = 24^4$.

Urania

K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of the May K-Club monthly draw:

- 1st prize (£50) **R Bruce** (No.010)
- 2nd prize (£25) **D Parry-Smith** (No. 087)
- 3rd prize (£10) **Rachel Bohanna** (No.116).

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Playgroup's May Day fun as rain stays away

IT was fingers crossed at the Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers' traditional May Day party on Friday 6th May when a series of dark clouds drifted over – and thankfully carried on by without any interference.

Most of the children came dressed as May kings and queens, many wearing hats and headdresses that they had helped to make themselves.

Prizes were awarded to the following: for the playgroup, Alexander Marsh and Shannon Russell; for the

toddler group, Saffron Barnes and Joshua Matthews. These royal winners posed for photos on a throne specially decorated by the toddler group.

After a 'bring and share' lunch, many of the children joined in dancing around the maypole, while others preferred the rival attractions of the slide and climbing frame.

A great time was had by all and thanks must go to our wonderful playgroup staff and to all the parents who helped.

Frances Reynolds

Strictly Maypole dancing: children gather round the maypole while, above right, royal winners pose for photos

Join the Shellshock campaign to save our turtles

TURTLES and tortoises have been on the planet for the best part of 250 million years. Mankind is a far more recent arrival - but in the space of less than 30 years, it has almost wiped them out.

We have exploited the species for centuries – for their supposed medicinal value and as a source of protein. However the liberalisation of foreign trade in China has escalated the trade and eating of turtles and tortoises to an unsustainable and fatal degree.

But the problem is not confined to the mass trade in China and the South-East Asia region. Throughout the world, habitats are being degraded, fragmented, destroyed and developed.

It is our

own human race which is driving many species to extinction. It is humans that must act now and quickly if we are to save them. The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), of which Linton Zoo is a member, launched the Shellshock Turtle and Tortoise campaign in September 2004. The 290 EAZA zoos and aquaria have come together to try to save these ancient and gentle creatures.

The Shellshock campaign has three main aims: to raise awareness of the crisis; to bring turtles and terrapins into the safety of the "Turtle Ark" - a special captive breeding programme set up in zoos, aquaria and private collections around the world to prevent the animals' total extinction; and to raise funds to support the conservation of turtles and tortoises in the wild.

Turtle and tortoise conservation is not

expensive. Saving a species from extinction costs less than the price of a second-hand car. There is a Turtle Ark at Linton Zoo, which has always been involved in the breeding and conservation of tortoises.

Linton is considered one of the leading zoos in the care and breeding of tortoises and terrapins and already has several established breeding groups of the endangered species selected for the Turtle Arks.

With the current scale of the global conservation crisis, the only short-term hope of survival for many species is in Turtle Arks, which preserve these animals for a time when circumstances have changed sufficiently to allow them to be reintroduced into the wild.

Linton Zoo started its Shellshock fundraising at Easter and will continue throughout the year. Visitors to the zoo can

find out more about the crisis at our Shellshock talk which takes place at the giant tortoise paddock at weekends and daily during the school holiday period.

Zoo staff have organised lots of fundraising activities but will need some help. So if anyone has an hour or so of spare time occasionally and would like to help either to staff an information stand or to help collect money, please email the zoo at mail@lintonzoo.com or call us on 01223 891308.

We are also collecting used British and foreign stamps (we can get most money if the stamps are on a single layer of paper not a double thickness of envelope and with a small border of paper. Stamps can be dropped at the zoo reception from 10am-5pm, or phone us and we can collect.

Kim Simmons 891308

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Sat	9-3 pm	Wednesday & Thursday



The beauty and passion of Brazil are captured in this necklace from Tereza Votre

Artists join forces to stage Windmill exhibition

FOUR artists have come together at Linton this summer to mount their first exhibition. The four - Tereza Votre, Susan Tutton, Nicola Collard and Alistair Burgass - will be showing their work at Windmill House, Long Lane, Linton, between 10am-4pm from 16th-24th July including the weekend.

The Summer Exhibition at the Windmill will represent the first exhibition at Windmill House. For the event, Brazilian born Tereza Votre has created a range of gold and silver jewellery mounted with various semi precious stones expressing the colours, beauty and passion of Brazil.

She is also showing examples of traditional and contemporary silversmithing which exemplifies the individuality of her work. Her work is predominantly by commission, each piece being unique and to the client's specification.

Susan Tutton began seriously working toward developing her pottery about 15 years ago. She has always been attracted to the versatility and tactile nature of clay and in particular the technique of burnishing and smoke-firing.

She enjoys the more sedate technique of hand building as this enables her to produce the larger work which she enjoys making.

For Nicola Collard, the human figure has always been an inspiration and she enjoys experimenting with a variety of mediums and the way in which she uses them. Line and colour are key channels for her expression. She says the simplicity of a sketched pencil line provides the inspiration and basis to a lot of her work. She uses colour in limited palettes and unusual proportions and combinations. With obvious connections to her fashion training, this has always been important in creating an impact of mood.

Following a degree course in fashion design and textiles, she went on to work with designer name collections through a fashion buying career at Fenwick in Bond Street. Well-known names she has worked with include John Galliano and Jasper Conran.

Within Alistair Burgass's work, there are two main interlock-



One of the distinctive pots from Susan Tutton's workshop

ing avenues of study. One takes design and functionality as a starting point, the other pursues a relationship of form-based sculpture. The ideas in both areas are predominantly figurative and realised through the direct carving of wood.

Alistair graduated from Cheltenham College of Art in 1986, most recently exhibiting with the 812 Gallery at S' Peter's church in Cambridge and Parkside School. His work is in collections in the UK, Denmark, Australia and Canada.

LNT

Brownies on parade for charity

THE Linton Brownie group will be doing their bit for charity on Wednesday 22nd June when the youngsters will be going on their charity walk.

Everyone is welcome to join the group. All the money raised will go to Professor Heyhoe's Leukaemia Research fund. The Brownies will also be collecting pennies for RSPCA.

The walkers will be leaving Linton Infants school at 6pm and the route is to Hildersham and back. Do please come along and join in.

Daphne Brazier
892276

Take your partners for a Barn Dance

FANCY an evening of dancing and music ... and all in aid of a worthy cause?

Then your chance will come on Friday 10th June when there will be a Barn Dance at Manor Farm, Horseheath. Turn up and enjoy the evening with music by Rob Rudout and *Fen Dragon*. All money raised will go to Save The Children.

There will be a bar and raffle and things will get going at 7.30pm and carry on until midnight.

Tickets, which also include a supper, are available from Judith White on 894447.

Bernadette Milner
Save The Children

LVC's Greens are good for you

THE General Election has been fought and won but did you know that Linton Village College staged its own election on 5th May - and the Greens won!

The LVC election result was Jamie Harris (Green Party) 88 votes, Melissa Powell (Lib-Dems) 76, Ben Powell (Conservative) 64, Daniel Ardley (Labour) 22. The turnout was even less than in the real election; some pupils hadn't even noticed it was happening. Candidates did their own electioneering.

The winning candidate, Jamie from year 10, said he was not really interested in politics before as he was too young during the last election, but he was interested in recycling and environmental matters due to these issues being covered in geography and chemistry lessons.

He logged on to the Green Party website and read their manifesto, and found he agreed with most of their policies. He wants to bring them to the attention of fellow pupils, so that when they are old enough to vote, they will remember what caring for the environment is about.

As he had agreed with so many points from the Greens website, he used these as a basis for his own manifesto, adding some policies from other political parties he agreed with, but made them more green.

This covered climate, transport, education, health, environment and food and



Victory smile: "Prime Minister" Jamie Harris

farming. He made posters and rosettes, which were distributed around the school.

Unfortunately, many were quickly torn down by supporters of other parties, but the official Green Party posters which arrived on his doorstep on the day of the election, were luckily mostly left in place.

Jamie believes his policies did help to win votes but, like in the General Election, there was an element of candidate popularity, which had nothing to do with any manifestos (or chocolate bribes). He felt while he was campaigning that as he had chosen this particular political party, he was a bit isolated.

His ambition was not to come last ... and he well exceeded this aim.

The new Prime Minister does not anticipate going into politics full time, as he would like to study architecture when he leaves LVC to go to sixth-form college, but he would like to include Government and Politics in his choice of subjects.

LNT

REAL ELECTION RESULT

THE result of the Cambridgeshire County Council election on 5th May for the Linton Ward was:

John Batchelor (Lib Dem)	2298
Peter Hase (Cons)	2023
Michael Gale (Lab)	696
William Quinn (Green)	240
Turnout was 73%	

The winning candidate, John Batchelor, writes: Many thanks for your votes, and congratulations on a very good turn-out. I am here to serve the 11 parishes that make up the Linton Ward. If I can be of help, please get in touch. You can phone me on 01223 892111 or e-mail on john.batchelor@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Motor show hits top gear

THE Two Counties Motor Show, organised by the Lions clubs of Newmarket, Ely and Cambridge, is the annual showpiece in the local motoring calendar.

Now in its sixth year at Newmarket, and once again at the Rowley Mile racecourse, this year's event falls on Father's day - Sunday 19th June. The

show runs from 10am-5pm.

At least 30 marquees of cars are expected to be displayed by local dealers, with dozens of gleaming models to admire. There'll be a good turnout of classic cars too, and a wide range of trade stands to satisfy any keen eyed bargain hunters.

In addition to the cars, there'll be plenty to keep the whole

family entertained.

All proceeds from the show go to support local charities, which this year include the British Heart Foundation, Dial-a-ride (Cambridge) and the Arthur Rank Hospice.

For information contact: Joel or Cheryl on 812405 or e-mail jnc@weyr19.co.uk

LINTON GRANTA FOOTBALL CLUB
Training starts for the coming season at 7:30pm on 5th July
Linton are looking for a manager of its reserve team
Fancy having a go then please call Graham Potter on 893226 or come to the pavilion at 8:00pm on 30th June or to the training sessions on Tuesday evening starting 5th July

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THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

THIS is the time of the year when the experience of school for one batch of young people changes radically. Those in there last year of compulsory education say goodbye to timetabled lessons and hello to timetabled examinations. In between those examinations their time becomes their own and, we hope, is largely filled with the dreaded revision. One of the side effects of this transition changes the face of the College quite significantly. Many of you who spend time here will have noticed that almost every available wall space in the main corridor and entrance hall is covered in art work. Colours and shapes leap out at you in abstract and figurative form and at the corner of each is a small piece of paper containing a name and number. This artistic outpouring is the result of the GCSE art course where a final exhibition by each student must be mounted for the visiting examiner. It is good for students to see their work so displayed and it is undoubtedly good for the college and all who use it to be surrounded by their art.

Few of us would disagree that the arts in all their forms are very important to our lives. Too few of us think about what this means though. It is easy to forget what a dull and drab world we would live in if the arts did not exist. Imagine if we had no music, or if there were no drama to watch on the TV, or even if the directors of advertisements or documentaries had no sense of the art of photography or film.

We do tend to leave it to others to do the work though, and we have got rather used to receiving our art remotely through the television, computer or MP3 player. Live art, once so much a part of ordinary human life, particularly in rural areas, is becoming rarer each year and that is a great loss to our institutions and communities. At the College we are trying to do something about that. One example is the collaboration we have with the Curwen Press at Chilford Hall. Through this partnership, our students become printmakers and their art is professionally produced, framed and exhibited for purchase or loan by individuals or companies. Our current exhibition at the cricket pavilion, Granta Park has been very successful.

Also, through our partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council, Linton and its surrounding communities now has an Arts Development officer in the form of Dan Schuman. Dan has already initiated a number of events in Linton, the most recent being live theatre at the college in mid-May and there are many more activities and events on the horizon. These activities do need your support though, as does Dan, so please keep an eye out for arts activities and support them wherever you can.

Clive Bush

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/0767/05/O M^r & M^{rs} Holden, Land at 99 High Street, (Access via Back Road) Linton. Chalet bungalow and garage.
- S/0773/05/LB M^r Paintin, The Old Reading Rooms, 38 High Street, Linton. Extension and conversion into dwelling.
- S/0775/05/F M^{rs} Herbert, 2 Essex Gardens, Linton. Conservatory.
- S/0799/05/LB Greene King Pub Partners, The Dog & Duck, 63 High Street, Linton. Installation of six signs (two inc. lighting) and three new lanterns. Replacement of car park sign, illuminated pictorial hanging sign and three lanterns (Retrospective).
- S/0800/05/A Greene King Pub Partners, The Dog & Duck, 63 High Street, Linton. Signs (Retrospective).
- S/0816/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Palmer, 115 High Street, Linton. Extensions.
- S/0824/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Fieldsend, 33 Chalklands, Linton. Extension.
- S/0884/05/LB M^r Paintin, The Old Reading Rooms, 38 High Street, Linton. Internal and external alterations including removal of toilet and window to create kitchen/dining room with garden casement doors and new pitched roof. Installation of partitions at first floor to provide two bedrooms and bathroom.
- S/0927/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Kinsey, 13 Meadow Lane, Linton. Conservatory.
- S/0937/05/LB M^r & M^{rs} Harrison, Weathercock Barn, Little Linton Farm Barns, Linton. External alterations - infill pantiled lean-to to create quiet room and construct single storey weatherboarded and pantiled extension for garden room incorporating fireplace and flue.
- S/0938/05/F M^r & M^{rs} Harrison, Weathercock Barn, Little Linton Farm Barns, Linton. Extension.
- S/0981/05/F M^r Jackson, 1 Stantons, Linton. Extensions.

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

When Ortona buses ruled the road in Linton



Picture courtesy of the Cambridge Collection

THE railway came to Linton in 1865 and remained the dominant form of transport in our area until the 1920s. A few local roads were partially tarred in 1911, but most were not properly surfaced until the early 1920s. This made most forms of bus transport impractical outside of the main towns.

Buses operated in Cambridge before the First world War, but were a rare sight in the Cambridgeshire villages. In August 1907 a James Walford from Egham in Surrey founded the Ortona Bus Company, named after an Adriatic cruise ship. The early Cambridge trams had not been a success and buses now replaced them. The Ortona fleet was painted in a leaf green livery with red wheels and red trimmed body-work.

Buses then were very different from those of the present day. They were under half the length of modern vehicles, and produced less than 25 percent of the power output. The seven mile journey from Cambridge

to Sawston took more than 50 minutes, and vehicles were restricted to 12mph until 1918.

The Company expanded its bus fleet in the 1920s and began to develop new routes into the Cambridgeshire countryside. The first advert for a bus service to Linton appeared on 17th October 1923.

Service 13 was to cover the Cambridge to Haverhill route in 75-80 minutes, almost twice the journey time by rail. Buses set out from the Senate House depot and transported passengers via Babraham, the Abingtons, Linton and Horseheath to Haverhill. The Cambridge bus depot moved to Drummer Street in 1925.

The steep hill at the Gogs presented a major obstacle to the early vehicles, and the late George Seaman-Turner told me that some buses even had to use their lower ratio reverse gear to ascend the steep incline! The Ortona Company operated a fleet of Straker-Squire and Leyland SG vehicles and they were usually double deckers, with the stairwell and top deck open to the elements. Single decked Leyland SGs were introduced from

1924 and these then became the standard "Out Station Vehicle".

Buses were garaged in the villages where the drivers lived, and Linton's Ortona bus garage was located in a building behind the former Swan Hotel.

The first buses to Linton arrived at the Swan bus stop some 50 minutes after leaving Cambridge. The Linton to Haverhill section took a further 30 minutes.

There were three buses a day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays linking Haverhill to Cambridge. These departed from Linton at 9.10am, 1.50pm and 7pm. In addition, there were four more buses on these three days which only ran on the Linton to Cambridge section of the route. These left Linton at 8.05am, 10.45am, 2.25pm and 5.30pm. Return times can be seen on the printed timetable.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays there were four buses per day in total, and these only ran from Linton to Cambridge.

The poor quality of the Thursday service was a constant cause of complaint right up to the outbreak of war in 1939.

Fares from Cambridge to Haverhill were 2/- (10p) single and 3/- (15p)

return, and from Linton to Cambridge the cost was 1/3d single and 1/9d return. Service 13A was started in 1924. On Tuesdays, the new service route linked Linton with Haverhill and Saffron Walden. On Fridays, buses conveyed passengers to Haverhill from Horseheath, West Wickham, Balsham and the Camps.

In 1928 Ortona introduced Leyland and Titan closed double deckers and more modern single deckers came into service at the same time.

An early innovation was a parcel service and the local parcel agents in the 1920s were: M^r Camping at the Swan in Linton, M^r Simpkin the Horseheath ironmonger, M^r Hunt of the Three Tuns in Abington and Messrs. Wesson, the Haverhill newsagents. Parcels were priced 4d for a 5lb package and 1/4d for parcels up to 56lb in weight.

In 1931 the Ortona Company was taken over by the red liveried Eastern Counties Company and the Linton services were renumbered as the 136 (now 13B) and 113 (now 13 and 13A).

		SERVIC HAVERHILL—LINTON— Mondays, Wednesdays, Sat				
	dep.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
HAVERHILL	dep.	8.40	1.50	7.00		
WITCHFIELD CORNER		8.45	1.55	7.05		
HORSEHEATH		8.50	2.00	7.10		
BABSTON CORNER		9.00	2.10	7.20		
BABSTON			10.30		2.10	
BALSHAM			9.10	10.45	1.50	2.35
LINTON		8.15	9.50	10.55	2.00	2.55
ILLINGHAM CORNER		8.20	9.55	11.00	2.05	2.60
ABINGTON		8.25	10.00	11.05	2.10	2.65
BABSHAM CORNER		8.30	10.05	11.10	2.15	2.70
SWAN GOLF LINKS		8.40	10.15	11.20	2.25	2.80

A tour through the many changes in Linton

AT the final Historical Society meeting before the summer break, Garth Collard gave us another of his most interesting excursions through Linton showing with slides the many changes of the various shops and properties during the past 25 years. Of the numerous stores of the past many have now been redeveloped into private houses.

We saw the extensions to

the village with the Copperfields estate built on the site of the Cathodeon Crystals factory, Lonsdale, Paynes Meadow, Granta Vale, filling in of various vacant sites, and the extension to the health centre.

In a rapidly expanding village we now have a baker, florist, gift shop, pharmacy, electrical store, post office, the Co-

op, hairdressers, two newsagents, the Indian restaurant and three flourishing pubs. New to the village are an alternative therapist and a beauty therapist.

Some of the buildings have, in the last 25 years, been redesigned or moved several times, for one reason or another. Although too numerous to mention all the buildings individually, we had a nostalgic jour-

ney bringing back many memories to long-standing Linton residents.

Notice was given of the AGM to be held on Tuesday 20th September, at which a new secretary will need to be appointed together with a new press reporter, so please come along and ensure the society continues to flourish.

Joan Pearman 890746

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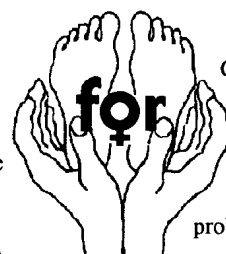
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THE LINTON NEWS
Next Publication Date 4th July 2005
**DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 13th June
and for NEWS ITEMS Friday 17th June**

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Parish Council Matters

A Grave Problem!

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

View from under the chair



Jasper from under the chair!

HMMPH! My lifestyle is under threat. No, not Stansted expansion or the traffic on the A1307, but "her that feeds me" has done her time as Chairman of the Parish Council. She says that she will now have time to take me for long walks and to visit people (probably those with dog creatures, when she knows I am a people, just furrier than most...). What is going to happen to my afternoon naps, watching the football with Chris, my favourite person, and my 23 hours' beauty sleep? I already have dark bits under my eyes. I will have to get her occupied some other way - ACEs or the PPIH forum or even better, extra work yes, then she can buy me more treats! She says I am a dreadful little beggar (I think that's what she says), but I think I am an expert, having had much practice. At Christmas, I got a whole box of treats from "The Staff", so at least they have my status right.

She did it again. I was quite happy on my morning walk, sending wee-mails, sniffing out all the news. I saw my new friend, PC A-A, and the Rector, but I can't get too snuggly as I shed hair on their smart clothes. Then she turns up the High Street. We normally avoid it at this time, dodging the cycles and the vehicles on the pavement and the litter (my mate Colin, gathers a whole trolley of smelliness from there) but now it is quieter; is this due to the one-way system? Then it dawns on me - we are going to the Vet. Brakes on; try to escape to left or right,

or both at the same time - what a thing to do. Poor me.

I have my yearly service, booster vaccines and lots of poking about. I suppose this is 'cos she loves me but there are nicer ways to show it. David says I am fat. What a thing to say to a pedigree! I would be offended, but she gets the blame that's fair. She and the Parish Council get the blame for most things.

David had a good idea, an exercise area for people and dogs. I was just contemplating putting my people through their paces when I realise that he means the dogs are to exercise that's different! I know some dogs who would love a romp, to jump and run, but their people have nowhere to take them. Playing would be good for them and get them fit, but I like my sleep

Cracker's person is taking over as Chairman, so I suppose he will have to write these pieces now. The woman has enjoyed her time as Chairman, even if it has been very busy and eventful. When she has had to leave me to go to meetings, I sit on the stairs by the window and gaze after her, so she feels guilty - then take over the bed until she gets back. She hasn't caught me yet!

Gill is leaving too and we will all miss her greatly - I used to get biscuits from her, which is more than the woman ever did. Quite right, too. Just a word of warning, Cracker - it is a busy life under the chair, so brace yourself!

Jasper Bald - another unpaid volunteer...hmmph.

SOME time ago, you may remember, a young boy was injured by a toppling gravestone while playing in the Linton Cemetery. Of course he shouldn't be playing there but youngsters do these things. He suffered a broken leg, which was bad enough but the consequences might have been very much worse.

It was around that time that the Government decided that general regulations (Health & Safety and Risk Assessment) were needed to avoid an increasing number of similar incidents throughout the country. That is where the Parish

Council and its Public Liability insurance comes in. The Cemetery is our responsibility and we have to carry out Government edicts, like them or not! If we do not, our Insurance could be void. In other words we have no choice.

Newer gravestones, made and set-up to Government guidelines seem to become loose more quickly than the old, which were sunk deep into the ground. We are under an obligation to test gravestones - basically weight is applied and if they move, then something has to be done. Unfortunately that is where the real problems

begin. The Parish Council has to be able to deal with any damage/wear and tear as soon as possible to remain covered under insurance.

Unfortunately it is not as easy as that.

Should policy be; lay of-fending headstone down, contact owner (if there is one and we have address) and insist repair carried out within a certain period of time. If so how long. What if the PC can't get an answer from the owner? What if the owner's address has changed? What if any one family doesn't own the plot? Is the simple answer that the PC should just organise the repair?

Unfortunately there are complications. Some grave plots are purchased (Grant of Exclusive Right) and the owners are responsible for repairs, and some are not. Some purchasers remain local and some do not - and do not necessarily advise of change of address? One 'owner' has already made it clear they do not want a Council Officer even checking his family's headstone and has been threatening. So if their headstone crashes down and injures someone, who is responsible?

The PC problem will be discussing an 'overall' policy on

how to deal with this problem, remembering we may not have more than 24 hours to tackle the situation. The main points are:

- 1.If we can contact the owner, we explain the work that needs to be done and discuss whether we do it or they do.
- 2.If we cannot contact the owner, we do what is necessary and pass on the cost if the owner is known and can be contacted.
- 3.Have a policy of Precept for a general budget to deal with the problems as they materialise? This would mean all residents would pay a little more, by way of Council Tax, to cover all repairs required.
- 4.How would current owners who do diligently tend their graves feel about this?

Perhaps a Notice Board with a map of the cemetery (i.e. gates, plot numbers, water availability, refuse area, top soil provision, rules for what is allowed and what is not by way of plot decoration; details of who to contact in case of emergency etc) would be of help? What do you think?

If you have any views on the above, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk

Cllr Mike Gee



The Cemetery

Out With The Old - In With The New

AFTER seven years as Clerk to the Parish Council, Gill Barker leaves at the end of May.

She was recently presented with a beautifully inscribed plaque commemorating her service. She was also presented with a card with personal messages from all she worked with, whom will miss her immensely. She was a great source for information and help to all who asked.

She would like to thank Councillors and residents for seven very happy years helping to look after the village.

As of the 1st June, the post of Parish Clerk will be taken by Sue Parry.

Sue has lived in Linton for

almost 30 years and during that time has been Secretary at the Infants School for 12 years. Sue has 2 children, both currently at University. She is looking forward to contributing to the community as Parish Clerk. All Councillors offer their support and wish her well.

Sue is looking forward to the challenging role. She hopes that residents will continue to call into the office with any concerns that they may have relating to village issues and hopes to be able to help to the best of her ability.

She has enjoyed working with Gill during the 'hand-over' period and feels that Gill is a hard act to follow.



Gill says 'Goodbye', Sue says 'Hello'



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