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THE LINTON NEWS

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

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SOPHIE'S STILL FLYING HIGH



A moment of relaxation for Sophie Picture by Robert Lindsell

WE first met 13-year-old Sophie Clark in the Linton News last May and since then she has been training even harder to achieve her goal of diving at the Olympic Games.

Last October at a national open competition in Southampton she won three gold medals for spring board and platform and at the Luton invitation challenge, diving up an age group (14-15 year-olds) she won gold off the one metre platform. She also found the time to win a bronze medal at a national gymnastics competition in August.

All this activity means extra travelling for Sophie and her

family as, the facilities in Cambridge not being up to national standard, she now trains in Sheffield every Saturday as well as staying away from home at training camp, usually in Yorkshire.

In January she was selected for the national squad, and her next goal is the Great Britain championships at senior level against international divers. At this meet she will compete on the springboard, and also at synchro with Leeds girl Amy Walker, who incidentally is her main rival in individual events. Like tennis players who compete against their doubles partners it must be difficult to

remain friends at times. At the end of May, Sophie will be assessed to see if she is good enough to be trained for the Olympic programme but in the meantime she has just heard the result of the Cambridge Evening News Sportswoman of the Year competition in which she came second.

Whilst all this is going on, Sophie still has to keep up with her schoolwork. She says that her head of year at LVC is very supportive and puts an embargo on any unnecessary homework. Inevitably her diving commitments will affect the options she will take for future exams, but it is to her great credit that her work does not suffer and she is still on track to achieve her ambition of becoming a junior school teacher. She has to be realistic about this packed schedule, during which she sometimes suffers injuries, so she balances it sensibly with time off so she can still enjoy herself with friends.

Now for the bit that will make all females jealous – Sophie has to eat 3,500 calories per day to maintain the strength to achieve so much. She applies the same dedication to this as to her diving and often has to eat two dinners.

We wish Sophie the best of luck and hope that she fulfils her desires.

LNT

New lines for the market

THE first farmer's market of 2005 will be held on Saturday 5th February - with an exciting collection of new products.

The market is still going from strength to strength, especially now the car parking problems have been finally resolved after the extensive alterations at Linton Village College.

Over the past few months we have seen the introduction of new products such as garden planters and bird feeders handmade from recycled wood by Barry Frostick, who will be introducing wooden composters in the New Year.

Fresh and smoked fish now arrives direct from Lowestoft supplied by John Baxter and his daughter Gemma. They have the oldest smokery on the East Coast and all their smoking is done by a traditional method using oak shavings.

Elizabeth Crofts will also be there with her local honey and beeswax products and Jerry Brown has introduced cider from Gt. Shelford and beers from small local breweries across East Anglia.

Our latest addition is Michelle Maddren who supplies products suitable for people with intolerances to wheat and dairy products.

Jan Lupton

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
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: WEA class, 10-11.30am, Tuesdays VH
Weekly: Story Time, 2.15-2.45pm, Tuesdays Library
Weekly: IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6-10pm, Wednesdays VH
Weekly: Tots in Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Rock Cafe, 1.30-3pm, Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Little Acorns, 10am-11.30am, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays Cathodeon Centre
Lent lunch dates 9th, 16th and 23rd various venues

February

1 WI, 7.30pm Village Hall
3 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm The Crown
3 Parish Council Meeting, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
5 **Farmers Market 10am-1pm** LVC
5 Burns Night Ceilidh 7.30pm LVC
6 **Camera Club, 10am** Village Hall
6 Friends of S' Mary's, talk by Nick Warburton, 2.30pm Infant School
8 **Gardening Club, 7.30pm** Village Hall
8 VIP Group 2pm Chalklands
9 Disability Access Group, 11am Sawston Methodist Church
9 South Cambs Housing, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
12 Lib/Dem Jumble Sale, 2pm Village Hall
12 Aztec FC Valentine's Dance, C & W Band, 7.30pm LVC
13 **WWW group work day, 10am** Pocket Park
15 **Historical Society, 7.30pm** Village Hall
16 Camtad, 9am-12noon, Health Centre
17 Parish Council Meeting, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
18 **NACC Quiz night, 7.30pm** Hildersham Village Hall
20 **Linton Music Society concert, Trio Obbligato, 7.30pm** LVC
20 **Cambridge Glass Fair, 11am** Chilford Hall
23 South Cambs Housing, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
23 Citizens' Advice Bureau, 1.30-2.30pm Village Hall
26 Dads and Tots 9.30-11am Village Hall

Refuse collection: 7th, 21st.

Recycling collection: 14th, 28th

March

1 **WI, 7.30pm** Village Hall
2 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm The Crown
3 Parish Council Meeting, 8pm Cathodeon Centre
4 **Women's World Day of Prayer, 10.30am** S' Mary's
4 Linton Granta playgroup ladies' evening, 8pm Junior School
5 Linton guides' jumble sale, 2pm Infant School
5 Farmers' Market, 10am LVC

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

A small request from Linton guides

SO many people have given so generously to the tsunami disaster appeal that we hesitate to ask for your support, but before Christmas Linton guides decided to try to change the life of one child in Bolivia in 2005 by collecting 365 x 60p.

Please could you join us by choosing a day for your name in our Sponsor Diary; it may be a birthday, anniversary or a special day for you, and give 60p to sponsor Fidelia Cunurama Tola, a six year old girl living in a poor farming community, where children commonly suffer poor health and malnutrition through lack of clean drinking water and basic health services. At the year's end, we will post news of how our contribution has made a difference to Fidelia's life.

'Sponsor a Child Scheme' is run by a registered charity 'World Vision', to improve the living conditions of children in poor communities by providing safe water, basic health care, better food and an education for children and their families.

lies, to help them become self-supporting.

If you, or someone in your family was a brownie, guide or ranger, you know how we aim to have fun while making friends, learning new skills and helping other people as part of our weekly meetings.

We would appreciate your support for our village guides' project for this year by completing the form below. Please return the form (in an envelope) with 60p to 1 Joiners Road, Linton. Please do not send money in the post. Perhaps you could also get a friend to join you? 60p is all it takes.

More information readily available from:
Rosemary Turner 891925

Name

Address

Telephone No.

Contribution Day

Could you be a First Responder?

SOME of the residents of Linton will have already met us, some of you never will and we hope you never have to. We are run by MAGPAS (Mid Anglia General Practitioner Accident Service) and are agents for East Anglian Ambulance Trust. We are volunteers who give up our spare time to be on call day and night throughout the year to respond to 999 calls within the local community and provide life saving treatment pre-hospital care to those people at home who have a potential life threatening medical emergency in the few minutes prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

MAGPAS Community First Responder Schemes have been set up in some of the villages and rural areas of Cambridgeshire where it was identified that in life threatening situations an ambulance may not be able to get to the scene quickly enough to provide vital intervention which could save the life and reduce the disability of seriously ill patients.

Because a community first responder is based locally they are likely to get to an address much quicker than an ambulance, typically within three to five minutes, and can start to administer basic first aid and medical intervention very quickly after a 999 call has been made. This is especially important to some patients suffering cardiac arrest, chest pains, breathing difficulties, unconsciousness and choking. We try to provide a service 24 hours a day,

seven days a week though this is not always possible due to work and family commitments. We have a rota and respond from our homes.

How does the system work? All community first responders undertake basic first aid and then attend two rigorous days of training; a course which covers advanced first aid techniques, use of special equipment and everything a Community First Responder needs to know. We are qualified in the use of oxygen therapy and defibrillators. We are regularly assessed with update sessions to ensure we are competent.

When you dial 999 you will be asked questions about the patient's condition. Ambulance control will then call us if our assistance is needed. You cannot call us directly. We are automatically bleeped by East Anglian ambulance control if they decide we should go to your call. It is not always clear from a 999 call what the exact problem is.

There are some conditions that may indicate a life threatening condition, such as shortness of breath, so we are requested to attend these incidents. We arrive wearing a fluorescent tabard bearing our ID over our normal clothes and carry a large red bag of equipment clearly labelled MAGPAS first responder scheme. We are there to provide intervention until the ambulance arrives. Even if you feel better, we will never cancel the ambulance or leave until you have been handed

over to the ambulance crew.

Remember the Linton and Balsham first responder scheme is in place to help save the lives of people in our community, so please help us to help you. Three quarters of our call outs are in Linton and at present we have only two responders in Linton. It takes six minutes for a Balsham responder to get to you; that may be too long.

Is there anyone in Linton who has a few hours when they could be on call? We need a few more Linton residents. Please phone me, Hilary Potter (co-ordinator), on 891211, or talk to Bob Hammett on 891372.

Community first responder schemes depend on charitable donations; £2000 a year to stay operational. Each scheme has to raise these funds. We have raised about £1500 a year for the past two years and we need to cover the shortfall. This is where anybody in the village could help. There are already a number of collection tins in village shops and we would be grateful for any change no matter how small.

For more information on the fundraising side of the scheme or details of becoming a community first responder, contact:

MAGPAS,
105 Needingworth Road,
S' Ives, Huntingdon,
Cambs, PE27 5WF.

Tel: 01480 371060
Fax: 01480 371059
www.magpas.org.uk

FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

WHEN I first started writing this column, this season of the year was known as 'Glummer'. I really had no idea at the time just how apt this word for the period between the end of festivities and the beginning of spring would be this year. There is so much sadness in the world.

Another interest of mine, the weather, has once again proved itself to be the only thing that we can never predict or indeed change. While there is much to moan about here in Linton, I for one am humbled by the problems other parts of our world are facing, and our petty grievances pale into insignificance compared to others.

It has been a busy month for me. I have had an article published in *Disability Now* magazine about access in rural areas, appeared on BBC's *Look East* signing the petition to try to get a CBM (Community Beat Manager) assigned to Linton and my alter-ego, Famous Dave has once again retired from singing which has caused much sadness (I think), but all this was somewhat overshadowed by my recent lottery win. I have chosen to invest some of it, and recklessly spend the rest on leading the good life until all the money is gone; but has it changed me? No!

Andy Booth reckons that after my television debut I will be approached to be on either *Big Brother* or *I'm a Celebrity get me out of here* but I have chosen to wait and star alongside Jeremy Clarkson on *Top Gear*, road-testing wheelchairs and reviewing the latest crutches, but of course I have to keep some time spare for any TV interviews which call for a 'Disability Expert'.

While I am on the subject of disability and access, please try not to forget the meeting at 11am on Wednesday 9th February at the Methodist Church, High Street, Sawston. Please try to come along; and if you get in touch with Gerri Bird at Directions Plus, she may be able to arrange transport if needed. We are trying to arrange a meeting in Linton as soon as possible.

The funniest things I have seen on the television recently were the interviews with a 'Monument Inspector' (I thought we all could be called one of those), and a 'Middle East expert' who I suspect may never have actually left Birmingham.

Life's steep learning curve ensures we never know everything about anything and one person's opinion, however well it is expressed, is exactly that, the opinion of one person. There will always be someone who disagrees and always be others that may know as much, if not more. I believe a real expert is one who has the ability to listen, learn and embrace all aspects and not to make another person's ideas or views their own without acknowledgement. That is why I do not think there are many true experts; only people who have the ability and are in the position to impress their views on us and others, or simply just like to hear the sound of their own voices.

Of course, all this does not bother me one jot now because of my recent winnings which have already had a profound effect on my life and out of the ten pounds I have won, I have £2.55 left to squander foolishly in any way I please. I am truly blessed.

Please take care of one another and yourselves, and I'll see you all next month.

Forum to give disabled people a louder voice

A NEW forum in South Cambridgeshire is aiming to give disabled people a louder voice.

The South Cambs forum of disabled people (Linton and Sawston area branches) is looking to help disabled people in gaining any information and help they might need and acts as a medium for expressing their views.

Directions Plus is organising an event with support from South Cambs district council. Gerri Bird, forum project officer, said "I really want to hit this area because there are so many people that are isolated. I want to show people that they have got a voice. It's for people of all disabilities, all ages and carers; nobody is excluded."

"There are probably people sitting at home who do not know what is available to them. This is what this forum is all about, giving disabled people the information they need and a means by which to make themselves heard."

Gerri is working with Sawston parish councillor David Percival and Tony Smith of the Linton Access Forum to get this event up and running.

The forum is meeting on Wednesday 9th February 2005. The first meeting will give people the opportunity to ask questions about services, rights, transport, access and employment.

For more details, please contact: Gerri 569601 or Tony 894023, or email: gerri_directionsplus@yahoo.co.uk or tony@tony-smith.me.uk

Lent lunches to benefit Traidcraft



A young girl making use of the borehole in Kapasulen

SINCE 1979, Traidcraft has been helping producers from poor communities around the world work their way out of poverty. This is done with them directly, by supporting them with training and information, and by influencing the policy makers to pull down the barriers preventing the poor from enjoying their fair share of world trade.

Traidcraft was set up by a group of Christian people with the aim of promoting greater love and justice in the trading process, without exploiting people.

Goods purchased from Traidcraft help poor farmers across Africa, Asia and Latin America build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Funds raised at the Lent lunches will be donated to the charity, Traidcraft Exchange. Many producers have little or no formal education so this practical support makes a real difference. Making a living

isn't easy, especially for hard working producers. They have to overcome huge barriers – including the rules which govern world trade.

Your support will help Traidcraft to challenge unjust trading systems which keep millions in poverty.

Up to March 2004, women and children in the village of Kapasule in Malawi faced a long trek to get water from a village a mile away. Now the village has its own borehole providing clear water. There are more than 500 people in the village, some farm the cane sugar, but all benefit from the clean water. When Traidcraft visited Kapasule, the village chief said that they hope eventually to have three boreholes in the village. These hopes rest on the continued support of consumers like you in the UK.

The sugar from the Kapasule farmers is used in Traidcraft's sweets, cookies and the best selling products, Geobars. Producers want to be

able to provide a decent home, healthcare and the chance of an education for their children. Traidcraft is making this possible.

Stories similar to this can be told in all the countries where Traidcraft operates. The money donated at Lent lunches this year will support this work of Traidcraft Exchange.

It will make a difference to some poor people. Likewise, regular purchases of fairly traded goods will help to make the hopes of the Kapasule people a reality.

Lent lunches begin on Ash Wednesday, 9th February and, this year, are in aid of the important development work run by Traidcraft.

The lunch venues are:

February
9th, Monica and Alan Clarkson, 4 Harefield Rise, off Bartlow Road.

16th, Jenny and Eric Purves, 25 Dolphin Close.

23rd, Judy and Keith Nightingale, Middleditch, Hadstock Road.

March
2nd, Sheila Salmon, 35 Wheat-sheaf Way.

9th, Rosemary and Richard Read, 8 The Furrells.

16th, Lesley and Andrew Gore, 38 Symonds Lane.

23rd, meet at Chalklands community centre to hear about the work of Traidcraft.

All are most welcome to come to some or all of the lunches. We are delighted that our Roman Catholic friends, who were much involved with Traidcraft when they worshipped at S' Mary's, are sharing in hosting the lunches.

For more information please contact me:

The Venerable Alan Clarkson, 4 Harefield Rise

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Colitis and Crohn's disease to benefit

HILDERSHAM'S fifth annual quiz night held in aid of NACC (National Association of Colitis and Crohn's disease) will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 18th February in Hildersham village hall.

For more details about this disease go to www.nacc.org
Tickets available from:
Jean Morton 894739

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Family Resource Centre

Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton
Wednesdays during term time

Tots in Tow
Pre-school Baby & Toddler Group, 10 to 11.30am

Rock Café
A Café for the Community
1.30 to 3pm

Hosts for SCDC Housing
Surgery & Citizens Advice.
See our calendar for dates
www.lintoncornerstone.org
or ring Tracey 894656

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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. Any letters without these details will not be printed.

Nobody told LNT Linton needs to clean up its act

Dear Editor
As I read through my January edition of your excellent paper I was a little disappointed to find there was no mention of the show put on at the Village College on Monday evening 6th December by the Drama Community Support Group - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

It was amazing to see so many young people of varying ages thoroughly enjoying what they were doing to entertain the audience of mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and friends.

We were greeted with a numbered programme which gave a chance in the interval raffle. As I waited for the show to start I was a bit apprehensive, but I need not have been; it was an excellent show given by children who go to a two-hour drama class once a week.

During the interval we were served sherry, cold drinks and mince pies, we pulled our crackers and put on our hats and waited impatiently for the second act, which was as well presented as the first.

I will mention no names but express my admiratin of the narrators – their singing was beautiful and so clear.

There were no beautiful clothes except for the hired coat of Joseph - money does not allow for this. This was a free show so that family and friends can see what the young people do at drama class.

Thank you all for such a lovely pre-Christmas entertainment. I hope there will be another in 2005.
Name and address supplied

Can you tie an Obi?

Dear Editor
For 2nd Linton Guides international Thinking Day meeting on 22nd February, I would like to demonstrate dressing one of the girls in a Japanese kimono. I would be very glad to hear from anyone who can teach me to do the correct kimono folds, and particularly how to tie the obi.
Kate France - 891602

Dear Editor
My husband, baby son and I have recently moved to Linton from central Cambridge, wanting to retreat from the noise, pollution and dirty streets. However, the streets in Cambridge are as nothing in comparison to Kingfisher Walk, our new home.

When we bought our new house, we fondly imagined our toddler son running safely down the path and playing games on the grass. However, this will just not be possible because of the dog excrement every few feet along the path (God knows what the grassy area is like!).

Every day I have to wash my pushchair and wellies with bleach after negotiating my way past all the foul deposits. If people want to take their dog along this path to empty and exercise it, why can they not be civilised and clear up after it?

Large areas of the recreation ground are also covered and an otherwise enjoyable walk up Rivey Hill was marred for the same reason. Dog owners of Linton, be very ashamed.
Gillian Lee
Kingfisher Walk

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
Our grateful thanks to the people and businesses of Linton and surrounding villages who donated raffle prizes and cash for our Charity Dance in aid of Cancer Research UK on 24th September last.

Thanks to John and Shirley at the Waggon and Horses for the knockout pool competition for the Nigel Darling Memorial Shield, won by Steve Collier this time round.

Together these events enabled us to send £2,936.99 to Cancer Research UK. To all the people to helped to make this possible on the evenings involved, we sincerely say thanks again.
Family of the late
Nigel Darling

Dear Editor
Who is the anti-social person who leaves his/her baby's used nappies in and around the litter bin on the corner of Back and Balsham Roads? If there is a property in Linton which has not been supplied with a black bin, I'm sure SCDC will oblige.

It is a fact that landfill sites are being overwhelmed and space is at a premium, and in recent years disposable nappies have added greatly to this problem. It seems that the majority of parents are too idle to use washable nappies which would help to alleviate this worrying situation.

These dumped items constitute a health hazard, and why should the village custodian have the unnecessary and revolting job of handling them? If anyone catches this person in the act, please challenge them and report him/her to the Environmental Health Officer. Name and address supplied

Dear Editor
I wonder if people really think what they are doing when they have been for a good night out at the pub, stopped in the take-away for a bag of chips and then decided they don't really want to eat all of them and throw them on the pavement. Not only is it unsightly, but it is a sure way to attract vermin. A member of my family was walking down Green Lane one Sunday in December at 7.15am and was confronted by a huge rat sauntering (not running) away from a half eaten bag of chips, and it just disappeared into somebody's garden. I wonder if the person who had thrown the chips down would have done this if it had been outside his/her own house and known it might have attracted a rat, which could now be living in their shed; I know I wouldn't like to know that I had furry neighbours. It only takes a bit of thought to keep the litter in your hand until you reach a bin (there are many in Linton) or take it home with you. Please have more pride in our village.
Name and address supplied

New Community Beat Manager for Linton

Dear Editor
I would like to thank all the individuals and businesses that supported the campaign for a replacement Community Beat Manager, and to all the helpers with the petition, and special thanks to the maker of "Arnie", our home-made beat bobby.

I am writing the week after the highly successful newspaper, radio and television campaign when the Chief Constable relented and agreed a replacement would be found in the next few weeks. So, hopefully, by the time this article goes to press, we will have our new CBM.

Since writing the above I have now received confirmation that a new CBM dedicated to the Linton area, PC Addison-Atkinson, will be in place and working out of Linton police station as of Monday, 24th Jan. Roger Hickford
Linton Parish Council

Well I never!

Dear Editor
I read your piece in the Linton News called Down Under. My sister was a good friend of Judith when she lived in the village. They wrote to each other regularly, then my sister lost her address when she moved. She asked people in the village if they wrote to Doris but had no luck. She joined Friends Reunited and tried to trace her that way but still had no luck. She also tried a site that traces people, and then heard of someone in the village who writes to Doris so she put a letter in with theirs and got a reply before Christmas. She was very pleased that in last month's paper was not just the address but also a photo to which we both said, "Well I never!"
I. Thomson, Hillway

Linton Pubs Raise £740 for the Tsunami Appeal

The Dog and Duck, Waggon and Horses and the Crown all participated in a collection for the Asian Tsunami appeal. By simply placing collection pots on the bar the three pubs raised £740 in one week. A big thank you to the generosity of all involved. Debbie Goode

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Dear Editor
I would like to tell your readers about the Linton Community Beat Manager campaign, bearing in mind the Linton "beat" covers Balsham and surrounding villages.

In summary, the previous Linton CBM left us in May 2004 and since then we have been receiving police cover from Sawston and Fulbourn. While policing has not been bad, we are paying for the Linton-based CBM.

Furthermore, Linton has been the subject of an Anti-Social Section 30 order and has had the Co-op ram raid, all without a local "copper". Add to that the ongoing traffic issues with the

A1307, not filling the post of a Linton CBM seems a little strange. Therefore Roger Hickford and I raised the profile of this issue by several means.

On Friday 7th January, when we were interviewed on Radio Cambridgeshire it appears that the chief constable was listening; not only did he agree with our points, he also called the Steve Riches show to commit "live on air" to the appointment of the Linton CBM. As you can see from Roger's letter we now have a CBM,

If you would like to know more, please call me
Peter Hase 892564

Because of limited space the whole of this letter is on the website.

Hypnosis and other alternative treatments on the NHS

ACCESSING alternative therapy can be problematic. Firstly one needs to find a properly qualified therapist. Secondly one needs to see how one 'feels' with her/him. Finally the cost of therapy is an important consideration.

This article is about getting help funding psychotherapy/other alternative therapies through your GP.

As a member of the NHSTA (NHS Trusts Association) I have received some information which I hope you will also find useful, especially if you are considering undertaking therapy but are finding the cost prohibitive.

Once you have found a therapist you are happy with who is a member of the NHS Directory of Complementary and Alternative Practitioners, see the website: www.complementaryalternatives.com, go to your GP and ask for a referral to that person. The NHSTA argues that if enough patients go to their NHS GPs or specialists and ask to be referred to an alternative therapist this will very likely raise the level of awareness amongst GPs that patients are gaining benefit from their chosen treatment.

The NHSTA argues that whether doctors presently believe in the treatment sought or not, if their patients are gaining benefit, surely doctors are obliged to pay attention. I quote from the NHSTA newsletter: 'The Association [NHSTA]

therefore suggests that members should encourage their private patients to ask their doctors for referrals to you via the NHS and give their doctor the website details so they can verify you are a member of the directory. If the doctor refuses to refer the patient to you, the patient is entitled to ask for a reason. If the patient is not satisfied with their doctor's response, the patient can take up their dissatisfaction with the local Primary Care Trust via the Patient Advice and Liaison Co-ordinator (PAL). We believe that this action will create a groundswell of opinion from the grass roots level up, putting the therapy you practise on the NHS agenda. Further, by helping Primary Care Trusts to gauge the true extent of the public's demand for a therapy, they will be better able to plan and cost local healthcare needs. The NHSTA has drafted a "model" letter for patients to send to the PAL in cases where they are encountering difficulties in obtaining complementary therapy. (This can be downloaded from the NHSTA website [www.nhsta.org.uk].

We have also prepared an information sheet about the Directory for doctors (again, downloadable from the NHSTA website) that you or your patients can give to their GP. It is up to all of us to become more active to get what we want.
www.catherinepain.co.uk.

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Restoring a Victorian garden

ON a very wet and windy January evening the village hall was packed with members and visitors for the first meeting of the year of the historical society. The speaker, Mike Thurlow, head gardener of Audley End kitchen garden, gave us a most comprehensive description of the restoration of the Victorian kitchen gardens, with slides of the derelict vinery, peach house and orchard house – and views of the present state of the area and the fruit and vegetables they grow in the two acre garden.

The gardeners were helped by the find of a diary by William Cresswell, who came from Grantchester, with great detail of the vegetables and fruit grown and the methods used when he was there from 1873-74. The present garden uses mainly those old-fashioned varieties. Plants were grown from cuttings rather than seeds, and all started in pots and potted on. Strawberries were grown in pots under glass on soil, with the roots growing into the soil and periodically cut back.

Some fruit and vegetables were grown in rotation in glass-houses so that there was always fresh produce following on for use in the kitchens. The garden provided all the fruit, vegetables and flowers for the house, and produce and flowers were sent many times a week to the London residence of the owners. The vineries were in a very dilapidated state

and had to be completely rebuilt, but much of the original structure was used. The vines were cut back drastically, but now all are recovered and producing well.

The outside garden was restored to its original plan, with the south facing wall covered with espaliers and fan fruit trees. On the opposite side was the ‘bothy’ where the journey-men and labourers lived – they were unmarried and shared a room between two.

There were many gardeners and labourers employed, and in the spring young boys were hired to run up and down the garden in the early morning to scare off the birds. By July and August when the plants were established, the boys were no longer required and paid off.

An unexpected and welcome visitor, a descendant of William Cresswell, arrived at Audley End just to see the ‘bothy’ after a television programme had broadcast a snippet of the restoration of the garden.

Clare Neville gave a vote of thanks and many will be encouraged to revisit Audley End specifically to inspect the Victorian kitchen gardens.

At the next meeting on Tuesday 15th February, Chris Jakes will continue his description of Cambridge in old photographs. Everyone is welcome.

Joan Pearman
890746

A trip to Central Africa

ILLNESS and rain probably kept some members away but even so the hall soon rang to “Happy New Years” as members greeted each other. I had a friend staying with me and as she had been our WI secretary 20 years ago before she moved to Hereford, she came along with me. It was lovely that five members remembered her and she was able to have a chat with them.

After the normal business one member gave an account of the recent WI organised holiday to Malta which she obviously much enjoyed.

A photo of members taken by the recent speaker Captain J Kirby was admired. It had come out really well.

Finally Alex Todd, a member’s husband, gave a most interesting illustrated talk on Central Africa with wonderful shots of the Victoria Falls and the Kariba Dam. Mr Todd started with maps to show us first where everything was, including an excellent idea of superimposing Lake Kariba on a map of England. It stretched from London to Exeter which really indicated its vast size!

Next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st February, at the village hall – Doll’s Houses and miniatures. Everyone is welcome.

Clare Neville
893251

Anything is possible

THE message which came across at the club’s January talk on Courageous Gardening was to keep an open mind and explore all possibilities when planning a garden. Stephen Anderton, a TV presenter and garden writer and former head of gardens for English Heritage, held a large audience captive with some very novel ideas.

Using styles discovered all around the world, his slides showed examples of old techniques or plants used in a new way. A huge temple built by a postman in his garden in France was an amazing edifice constructed from local materials, and a fantasy patchwork in a topiary garden in Cumbria was a complete contrast.

Stephen had some very definite views which included taking a swipe at styles and layout of seating in some RHS gardens, and he encouraged us to think along modern scientific lines rather than the classical. Everything that he demonstrated was extremely thought-

provoking including a contemporary wall in his own garden in Newport which is a wonderful background for the range of shadows cast upon it.

He was thanked by our president Judy Nightingale who had used his book for inspiration to redesign her garden 20 years ago, and applauded loudly by members and the welcome visitors from the Abington and Balsham clubs.

For those thinking of entering the photo competition at the show on 23rd July the five categories are: a flower or flowers on a single stem, stained glass, an action picture, hedge-rows, a skyscape. The subject for the juniors is: my favourite photo taken by me.

The next meeting on 8th February will feature a talk and demonstration by Sandra Barker on the many uses of willow, with audience participation if time allows. Everyone welcome.

Gloria Fidler
891800

Celebrate 5 years of fun and learning

LINTON Out Of School club (LOSC) will soon be celebrating its 5th birthday. Set up with the aid of a national lottery grant the club, based at the village’s Cathodeon centre, offers out-of-school care to four-11-year-olds. LOSC would like to say thank-you to the Cathodeon trust and parish council for the new play equipment which has given the children hours of fun in the garden.

Children are collected from the local schools, walked back via routes planned with the help of the Cambridgeshire county council safer routes programme, to the Cathodeon centre where a constructive care

environment awaits. They are encouraged to join in outdoor play and group games to help maintain a friendly enjoyable atmosphere. The staff are trained in play-work with emphasis on structured activities.

The club is open daily from 3-6pm during term time, and 9am-6pm through the school holidays and school closure days. Play plans are now available for the half-term holidays and bookings are already being taken. The club currently has vacancies on all weekdays and you can contact the club coordinators:

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566931

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Bring your tools and get stuck in

THE 3Ws Group is happy to report that Bambi has been returned to his home – appropriately enough the noah’s ark in the children’s corner of S’ Mary’s church!

The small group of volunteers who meet most Wednesday afternoons always feel a great deal of satisfaction in what we achieve in a couple of hours (rescuing Bambi was a bonus) but there are some major tasks which require much more help.

The group is planning a working party in the pocket park on Sunday 13th February and any able-bodied volunteers will be very welcome. We need to dig out some ditches to ensure good spawning habitats for the frogs that will be return-

ing to their traditional sites at the end of the month. The area around the pond also needs a major amount of work to remove some of the willows, which are rapidly taking over.

It would be inappropriate to use heavy machinery at this time of the year as the frogs will already be carrying eggs and just waiting for a warm sunny day to plop into a ditch or the pond and spawn. So, spades and saws will be the required tools, in addition to forks and loppers and suitable clothing: waterproof boots, thorn-proof gloves and plenty of enthusiasm.

See you there, any time after 10am.

All enquiries to:
Judy Rossiter 891383

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Linton plays its part in overwhelming response to the tsunami disaster

**"No man is an island ...
Every man's death diminishes me, because I am
involved in mankind ..."**

THESE words, written some 400 years ago by John Donne were borne out last month by the response of people after the Asian tsunami disaster. Many people locally donated through the Disasters Emergency Committee.

As the full extent of the tragedy dawned, members of Linton and District Save The Children branch committee and friends raised £3000 with a collection at Haverhill Sainsbury's.

More collectors, mainly young mothers and not-so-young grandmothers, raised £671.55 in front of Haverhill Co-op in aid of the SCF tsunami appeal.

The same group of mothers ran a coffee morning and bring-and-buy at Linton Free Church in aid of the same ap-

peal. The event, which was well supported, raised £585.88. Then after a BBC Look East report, a few telephone calls were made to friends in Linton, Brinkley, Balsham and Horseheath.

This resulted in five cars – one a 4-wheel-drive – filled to the brim delivering cotton clothes, specially for children, basic toiletries, shoes, blankets, sleeping bags, bandages, plasters, candles, sugar and rice to Letchworth Buddhist Centre, 69 Pix Road, Letchworth (Registered Charity No: 1076765).

The centre has already sent by air a large load to the east coast of Sri Lanka. The rest will go by boat. The Reverend Akumala Samitha, whose town was totally destroyed, expressed immense gratitude to all donors of goods and cash



Jo Anderson in charge of one of the stalls at the bring-and-buy sale

for transport. The Buddhist Centre now has many projects, such as building shelters and an orphanage for 100 children in the same area, where they have many contacts – and can deliver help "people to people" as Rev. Samitha put it. I have full details of their

plans if anybody wants any information.

The ongoing dreadful world suffering, often avoidable, such as that caused by unfair trade laws, preventable famines and poverty, can be alleviated if we all work together and overcome our feelings of

impotence. Dare we hope that the movingly generous worldwide response to this cruel disaster is an indication of an increasing global awareness that we are "all [members of governments included] involved in mankind".

Anna Newton 891770

'Boxing Day will never be the same again ...'

THE Tonks family from Abington were due to leave their holiday hotel in Sri Lanka at 8am on Boxing Day. They were half-an-hour late – 30 minutes that probably saved their lives.

Joanna Tonks, 27, in an email sent after the Asian tsunami struck on 26th December, said the first massive tidal wave hit the island at 9.10am.

"If we had been on time, it would almost certainly have obliterated us, along with the rest of the cars, trains and houses that were swept away," she said.

The family had been on their way to Galle in the south of the island when news of what was happening started filtering through.

Joanna writes: 'We drove from town to town, heading for the Yala Safari Lodge where

we had a reservation. The villagers who had previously greeted our vehicle with warm smiles, were shell-shocked as sad expectation hung in the air as they gathered in groups waiting for news.

"Slowly the news dripped in, first four dead, then 400, an entire old people's home was washed away and now, an army camp.

"Passing through small villages, many even too small to be mentioned on the map, we stopped countless passers-by to ask for directions as we escaped the tsunami.

"Then came the news of the second tidal wave at 5pm, which, in one devastating blow had washed away the safari lodge at Yala at its foundations drowning all staff and guests.

After 14 hours of driving on precipitous mountain paths, we

reached the pilgrims' town of Tissamaharama. Three local policeman flagged us down and asked for a lift to their station as they had spent the day removing corpses out of the sea and now the streets were eerily quiet due to the curfew.

"We drove past the local hospital which was crowded with people at the gates, waiting for friends and loved ones, many of whom were children who had been playing on the seashore.

"Shortly, we reached a hotel and fell thankfully into our beds, watching the scale of the disaster unfold on the television, realising that all too easily we too could have also been at the local morgue.

"The next day, we visited the hospital to see what assistance was needed. The numbers of dead bodies being brought

into the hospital were overwhelming.

They were stacked into vans by men who looked like terrorists with their black balaclavas to ward off the stench and risk of infection. Since the hospital was well-stocked, the officials directed us instead to a refugee camp, hosting about 3,500 people.

We brought sacks of rice, milk powder and lentils, delivering these first and then after speaking to the village leader, soap, disinfectant and toothbrushes. We were the first foreigners to bring any aid as the international organisations had yet to reach these inaccessible parts.

"My lasting memory is of the calm and quiet inside this camp. Although all were in deep shock, there was crying or hysteria, only resigned sor-

row. Sri Lanka is often referred to as the island of 'Serendipity' – meaning the land of happy, unexpected discoveries and surprises. How cruel this description now seems.

While the world grieves the countless dead after the worst natural disaster in history, my parents and I surely must ask ourselves whether our repeated delays can only be credited to "good fortune" or "coincidence".

Given the fragile nature of human existence, our previous worldly worries do not even register on our "emotional Richter scale".

As I write on 31st December, Sri Lanka's national day of mourning, the bells toll out and we must all pause to think what gives our lives meaning.

Joanna's email can be read in full on our website

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Page 6

January jumble moved to February

“WHAT happened to the Liberal Democrats” January jumble sale?” someone asked.

It’s not surprising the question was asked because it has been a January fixture for so many years. The answer is simple: it’s going to be in February instead - at 2pm on Saturday 12th February at the village hall. Have you got some jumble you’d like to get rid of? for more information or to arrange the collection of jumble please phone:

892656 or 892904

Chairman re-elected

At its annual general meeting, the Linton and district branch of the Liberal Democrats re-elected Andrew Gore as their chairman. Ian Wallace was elected the vice-chairman and Jill Phillips the branch treasurer. With county council elections scheduled for May and a general election widely expected the same day, the chairman said that 2005 would be a busy year for the branch. For more details please phone 891970

World day of prayer

THE Women’s World Day of Prayer Movement will celebrate its annual Day of Prayer on Friday, 4th March 2005. This year’s service has been prepared by women from Poland, with the theme ‘Let Our Light Shine’.

In Linton, the service will be held at 10.30am at St Mary’s church. Sarah Devereux, of the United Reformed Church, will be our speaker. Coffee will be served after the service.

Poland is situated in the east central Europe. Over 75% of the country lies 200m beneath sea level and historically has been an area of conflict because of the flat terrain and lack of natural barriers on the North European plain.

Women, men, children and young people in more than 180 countries and from many different backgrounds will celebrate this Day of Prayer.

Joy Button 892300

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Twin transport: the tamarins are ferried around their enclosure before being returned to mum for feeding

The tamarin twins make for monkey business at the zoo

RECENT babies at Linton zoo include Cotton-top tamarin twins. Cotton-tops are a small species of monkey found only in Colombia. They are threatened with extinction due to habitat destruction and alteration.

The twins were born in October and have just started to venture around the enclosure. Sometimes they are difficult to see as they are carried around on the backs of father Bert or their older brothers and sisters. They are then handed back to their mother Dolly for feeding.

The three Amur tiger cubs born in July are growing well and still look cute and cuddly, but if you want to see them while they are still small, you will have to visit soon as you will be amazed at their rate of growth. Our tiger group has a huge fan club and many people visit on a regular basis to watch their progress.

The three cubs, two males and a female, are part of an important international breeding programme aimed at saving them from extinction and will move to new homes later this year. But for now their antics keep visitors entranced and their mother

Deja busy keeping order.

This month, the zoo will be running its half-term educational programme from 12th-20th February . Daily activities will be:

At 12 noon tapir feed and keeper talk; 12.30pm owl encounter; 1.30pm tiger conservation talk; 2.30pm snakes, bugs and little beasties; 3.15pm bird flying display.

Some activities may be affected by the weather, so make sure you check before you visit.

Kim Simmons 891308

Your chance to relive VE Day and VJ Day

THIS year is the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with Victory in Europe Day on 7th May and Victory in Japan Day on 15th August.

The Cambridge Local History Society is hosting an oral history seminar on Saturday 16th April at the Joint Ex-Services Social Club in Barnwell Road, Cambridge.

The plan is to use experts as a catalyst to help guests recall and retell their wartime experiences and to record those experiences for posterity.

Their reminiscences will be recorded, which will also provide local historians with a chance to improve their oral history recording techniques.

There is only a limited amount of space, so early booking is important. If you are interested, call the Cambridge Local History Society on: 892430

Three centuries of glass in a day

IF you ever wanted to find out more about glass, you have a chance later this month.

On Sunday, 20th February, the fifth Cambridge Glass Fair will be held at Chilford Hall vineyard from 11am- 4pm.

Despite being a recent addition to the glass calendar, this fair has quickly established itself as one of the best, with many added attractions which do not feature at similar events elsewhere.

The Foyer Exhibitions, highlighting different collecting areas, are especially popular, and the next one, focusing on a collection of Powell drinking glasses loaned by Robert Marris, promises to be of particular interest.

Glass figures very heavily in the pages of interiors magazines and in the homeware sections of department and specialist stores, and has an important role to play in increasing public awareness of life-style and design.

This fair caters for all levels of interest, and the exhibitors, drawn from across the country, are knowledgeable and experienced.

Included on the exhibitor list are the Sweetbriar Gallery and Just Glas, offering paper-weights, Paul Calver, specialising in *Lalique*, and Ged Selby from Skipton, who will be exhibiting a wide range of drinking glasses from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Walking into a glass fair is a little like entering Aladdin’s cav; wherever you look, you will find something to catch your eye, from fine early English and Continental glass through to the exciting contemporary pieces offered directly by the artists themselves, and everything in between.

There is free parking, with food available in the bistro and bar, as well as lunchtime music provided by a string quartet.

Paul Bishop
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www.cambridgeglassfair.com

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Work in progress: new showers for the changing rooms

The new-look sports centre on target to be ready by late summer

WORK on Linton's new sports centre is progressing well towards its target date of being open by the end of this summer.

At present all of the changing rooms are being refurbished and the foundations are being laid for the fitness suite extension. The changing rooms will feature more space with new showers and lavatories.

The fitness suite extension, which will double the size of the existing facility, will include new gym equipment and a padded area for weights, sit-ups and similar work.

The new centre will also include a relaxation conservatory for members to use before they start their work-out or to take a

well-earned rest afterwards. A new feature will be a separate day-time entrance to the fitness suite as well as the existing entrance and reception area, and this month a start will be made on a floodlit (rubber crumb) astro football pitch.

Sports centre manager Mark Wilson said: "Work on these new facilities is progressing well and we look forward to welcoming existing and new members from the local community."

Danielle Pike 890248

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A voice, a viola and a piano to start the season

LINTON Music Society starts an exciting new year with two attractive programmes.

At 7.30pm on Saturday, 19th February in Linton Village College, Trio Obbligato will perform a programme of well-known music.

This will include two songs by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, *Silent Noon* and *Water Mill*, and piano preludes by Rachmaninoff, plus his beautiful *Vocalise*.

It promises to be a diverse and delightful evening's entertainment by accomplished artists; Emily Bauer-Jones, contralto, Christopher Wellington, viola, and Alan Brown, piano.

Then on Saturday 29th March, the ensemble Sambuca, comprising Michael Copley on flutes, recorders, panpipes and other woodwind instruments, and Peter Martin, on lute, guitar and theorbo, will perform in S'Mary's Church, Linton.

Sambuca play an intriguing mix of old and new, classical and traditional music in an authentic and thoroughly entertaining way.

The programme includes music by Bach and Vivaldi, and from diverse countries such as Albania and Venezuela. The recital will begin at 7.30pm.

Booking is through the Cambridge Arts Box Office on 503333 or at the door.

Trisha Bear



Keith Day, who has been church organist at Hildersham and Abington for many years

YEARS of hard work and dedication to the National Health Service have been rewarded by the award of an MBE in the New Year's honours to Keith Day, a leading figure at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Mr Day, Trust Secretary at Addenbrooke's, has spent 40 years working in the NHS, many of them at the Cambridge hospital.

Mr Day, from Hildersham, said: "I am honoured to receive this acknowledgement. I have been fortunate to work in such a first-class hospital as Addenbrooke's, and this award is a testament to the hard work and commitment of all the colleagues I have had the pleasure of working with over the years." Mr Day joined the NHS

in 1964 as an administrative trainee with the Harlow Group Hospital Management Committee, and since then has worked in a variety of commissioning and management roles, arriving in Cambridge in 1978.

His many achievements at Addenbrooke's include overseeing the closure of the old site, transforming laundry, estates and general district support services, redeveloping the chaplaincy and complaints services and steering Addenbrooke's towards Foundation Trust status.

He retired from his role as executive director in April 2004, and since last July, has been working on a part-time basis as secretary to the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Malcolm Stamp, Addenbrooke's chief executive, said: "We are all delighted that Keith's many years of dedication have been recognised in this way. Keith set a gold standard for us in the way that patients should be treated."

"As the hospital's ambassador and main spokesperson over the years, Keith is a familiar face in our local community, and it is because of this that Addenbrooke's enjoys the public's trust and affection and has such a positive media profile, an achievement that deserves the highest praise."

"The NHS has benefited from a true and faithful servant and it's been our fortune that he has been with Addenbrooke's for so many years."

Dig this! An opportunity to compost for the county

HERE is your chance to compost for the county ... the Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is looking for new recruits.

The Programme is run by HDRA Consultants in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and all the district councils. Now in its fourth

year, the programme aims to promote home and community composting by training volunteers to work as Master Composters, providing local advice to people who already compost and those who want to start.

There are currently 150 volunteers who have contributed

more than 3000 hours in promoting composting across the county ... and we're looking for more.

As a volunteer, you will receive training in home composting and related environmental issues, a Master Composter resource pack and several training trips, includ-

ing visits to a composting site and one of HDRA's organic gardens. All training expenses will be paid for you; you only need to provide your time.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Composter, please contact:

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THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

THE New Year has opened with tragedy both on a global scale with the continuing aftermath of the tsunami disaster and in the college with the death of David Sillery who taught here for more than 17 years. We have to look forward however and it is how we respond to such tragedies that matters in the end. It will be clear from what I have said elsewhere in this edition of the Linton News, that the reaction by staff and students at the College to both events has been remarkable and just as we will not forget Mr Sillery, so we will not turn away from the tsunami survivors when the first flush of fundraising is over. Supporting people in the rebuilding of shattered lives is a long haul and it is important for the future citizens of the developed world to understand this.

Part of that learning is to understand the need for human beings to work together to resolve issues no matter what your language, race or colour. That is why the college places such importance on its international dimension and why it welcomes visitors from all over the world. At the end of January for example, sixteen Taiwanese school pupils and their teachers spent time with us and the mutual learning was remarkable. Our partner school in Sweden is planning their next visit here in the early summer and over the next few weeks we will welcome school pupils from France and Germany. War, intolerance and religious hatred dominate our news but we must never simply resign ourselves to the inevitability of human conflict. When you see, as I am privileged to see, young people from this comfortable part of the world speaking to students, teachers and headteachers about how their visit to South Africa has fundamentally changed the way they think of the world and their place within it, you realise that there is most definitely hope for a better world.

In addition to the above though, the day-to-day work in the classroom has to continue and at this time of the year we are looking long and hard at the likely achievements of those students who will be leaving us in the summer. Overall their reports make impressive reading and we have high hopes for them. Our Business and Enterprise specialism has provided a focus for particular developments and we are pleased to say that the college has put itself forward as a Centre of Excellence for Enterprise, entirely appropriate for a school in this part of the country. This will lead to close collaboration with several national agencies as well as the University of Warwick. Such recognition and the links that go with them enhance and deepen the work we do and sometimes also bring in much needed resources to the college.

And it will be soon be budget time and the annual battle to improve school funding will begin again. I am pleased to say this year though that the signs are much better. It probably still won't be enough, but the government does at least seem to have noted the obvious unfairness of last year's settlement and granted some of the millions they withheld from Cambridgeshire's schools. Time will tell.

Clive Bush

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/2561/04/F Mr & Mrs Brown, **20 The Grip, Linton.** Extensions.

S/2578/04/F Mr & Mrs Savill, **34 Wheatsheaf Way Linton.** Extension.

S/2597/04/LB Greene King Pub Partners, **The Dog & Duck, Linton.** Alterations-installation of kitchen extraction and air input system (retrospective) and louvred screening panels.

S/2598/04/F Greene King Pub Partners, **The Dog & Duck, Linton.** Kitchen extraction system (retrospective) and addition of louvred panels to surround the system.

S/2605/04/F SCDC, **Adj 1-7 & 2-4 Chalklands, Linton.** Reconstruction of steps and construction of disabled persons ramp.

S/0021/05/LB Mr & Mrs Brown, **20 The Grip, Linton.** Alterations- rebuilding of single storey lean-to, hall, bathroom and cloakroom with extension for ground floor bedroom and first floor en-suite, etc.

S/0027/05/F Mr Palmer, **115 High Street, Linton.** Extensions.
S/0051/05/F Westbury homes, **Land off Fairfield Way/R/O 1 Horseheath road, Linton.** 10 Houses and garages.

K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of the January K-Club monthly draw:
1st prize (£50) **Simon Turner** (No. 077)
2nd prize (£25) **Mrs S Reynolds** (No. 181)
3rd prize (£10) **Mrs G Thomas** (No. 405)

Balsham Botanic

THE Balsham Horticultural Society talk at 7.45 pm on 1st February in the Meadow School is to be given by Professor Parker about the Cambridge Botanic Garden. Visitors are warmly welcomed.
Hilary Potter 891211

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Obituary: David Sillery

IT is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Dave Sillery, a much respected member of the LVC teaching staff for over seventeen years. He died suddenly as he was leaving the College at the end of the day on 19th January.

Mr Sillery retired from full time teaching last year and had returned to undertake some supply teaching with us. Although he was enjoying his retirement immensely, he told me he was also very happy to be back working with friends and colleagues at the college. In these days of instant electronic communication many of Mr Sillery's former students knew of his death very quickly and the tributes have come in from all over the country. Our own students have shown a quiet respect and sadness and have set up a 'book' of condolences on the college website. It is said that you never forget a good teacher and it will be a very long time indeed before the memory of Dave Sillery even begins to fade.

Clive Bush

Catching up and planning

THE Linton Camera Club held their first meeting of the new year in the village hall on Sunday 9th January. The members present discussed what we did last year and the programme for this year with some suggestions for future awayday visits. The meeting was concluded with a viewing of some of the pictures taken during the last year.

Our next meeting will be at 10am on Sunday 6th February in the Village Hall. If you would like to meet us please come along; alternatively check our web site on www.camclub.info to see who we are and what we do. We welcome all ages, ladies and gentlemen of any ability; we are all amateurs. For more information please contact:

Roger Lapwood 891104 or
Ron Pitkin 891845

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

Hooliganism in villages - village college responsible

- a headline of yesteryear



Linton village college in 1937 and another view in 1950

NOT everyone welcomed the opening of the Village College at Linton in September, 1937. For over three decades the Church of England had struggled to retain its control of the majority of our Cambridgeshire village schools, and Henry Morris was regarded as a major threat to Church religious education.

As chief education officer for the county, he was the architect of the village college concept and was anxious to modernise the poorly maintained Church schools. The Church lost control of Balsham to the county in 1931 and a non-denominational religious education syllabus replaced that of the Anglican Church. It seemed only a matter of time before Linton mixed school, the present Infant school building would succumb to a secular takeover.

Henry Morris wanted all pupils to benefit from vocational courses which would train them for life and employment in the rural community. In those days 90% of children left school at the age of 14 years. The Church could not afford to finance cookery and woodwork facilities in each of its small village schools. It seemed more sensible to build larger secondary schools for a local area to educate the 11 to 14-

year-olds; hence the village college. Linton cost £21,000 which was regarded as an enormous sum in 1937. The loss of the older pupils seemed to many to be a threat to the fabric of local society and to make the smaller five to 11-year-old schools unviable. This fear for their long term future was justified since seven local schools were closed by the early 1970s. They were too small, partly because there were no older pupils.

Three quarters of the village college children were bussed in every day, and returned to their villages where local school teachers no longer exercised their former authority. Canon Walter Williams, rector of Balsham was an arch opponent of the village college system and launched a vitriolic attack on Linton village college in May 1939. A poster of Christ Crucified was placed on the Balsham church notice board on Good Friday. The rector came to remove it on Saturday and found it "riddled with the pellets of lads' catapults!" The rector said he had been a Minister of Christ in many places all over the world, but never until he came to Balsham had he found a place where youths would make a cockshy (target) of the Crucifix.

This outburst led to a series of even more abusive letters in the Cambridge Independent Press. Canon Williams blamed the episode on deteriorating behaviour in the villages since children left them at 11 for the village college. The moral influence of the resident schoolmaster had been removed. Pupils "returned in uncontrolled busloads to employ their spare time and holidays without any responsible leadership; they were hooligans".

He claimed that the village schoolmasters instilled patriotism, religion and common decency, whereas children at the village college lacked discipline, manners and used unbecoming language. Their teachers were described as "glorified nursemaids who gave their charges swollen heads". The village colleges were "palatial whited sepulchres miscalled colleges."

The college warden, Mr Tomlinson only bothered to write a brief response and commented that the canon had never visited Linton to see the college pupils at work. Some Balsham opponents of the college were probably motivated by sour grapes since many people in Balsham had originally campaigned to have the new college located there!

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Parish Council Matters

Our Community Beat Manager – a Parish Councillor's battle!

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



Roger Hickford at start of campaign

YOU WILL now be aware that we have won our battle for a replacement Community Beat Manager.

PC 666, Martin Addison-Atkinson takes up the position of Linton CBM on 24th January. He knows the area and local issues from his current role as the Fulbourn CBM and can be contacted on 07740 734974 or e-mail martin.addison-atkinson@cambs.pnn.police.uk. As Police Liaison Officer for the Parish Council, I warmly welcome him and offer my assistance whenever and wherever needed.

Since joining the Parish

Council, I have realised the importance of active representation on local issues at a local level, and was pleased when the Parish Council gave me authority to organise a campaign to have this key post restored. At the centre of the campaign was our Petition, backed by our MP Jim Paice, which attracted over five hundred signatures. To my knowledge, only four people refused to sign, giving a level of support of over 99% of those approached. This is a resounding victory and shows the strong feelings in Linton over this issue. More importantly, this was a great example of how indi-



**Linton's Community Police Force
CBM Martin Addison-Atkinson and PCSO Judi Di Bon
outside Linton Police Station**

viduals within a community can have a say and work together to make a difference and influence decisions. Everyone who signed the petition should take credit for this and feel reassured that the voice of the people can be heard.

The Parish Council campaign consisted of letters, e-mails and questions to the Police Authority at many local consultation evenings. After initially disappointing responses from the Police, I was grateful for the help of Peter

Hase. Although he is not a Linton resident, he attends Parish Council meetings as a Conservative representative, and gave a real boost to the campaign. Linton Parish Council has no affiliation to any political party, but that doesn't mean

we should never speak to or seek help from anyone of an obvious political persuasion. Through him we gained newspaper, radio and television exposure, but it was the response to our petition by the people of Linton that gave the greatest leverage.

Thanks are due to Jim Paice MP, Peter Hase, and above all to everyone who worked on the petition, signed it, and delivered the successful outcome. Roger Hickford, Parish Councillor for Police Liaison

Chairman's View

Roger has proved a very active and influential new member of the Parish Council; all praise is due to him for the efficacy of this campaign. He had already proved himself by pushing through the Section 30 order on Copperfields.

Please remember that we are unpaid, most still work hard for a living and we put a great deal of our own resources and time into the Parish Council. We often get little recognition for our achievements and credit is often hijacked by other parties. The superb outcome of this campaign proves how effective the volunteers and people of Linton can be in influencing high-level decisions. Credit is due to Roger, those who did the "leg-work" and all who signed the petition.

View from the chair!



NOTHING on this planet is as powerful as the force of

nature. It can create awesome beauty or devastation; we have had examples of both in recent weeks. Village response to the Tsunami victims has been generous and heartwarming. We have all been touched by this tragedy, especially those of us who know people in the area or have affectionate memories of the region. Closer to home, we had floods in Carlisle and I witnessed the effects of storm damage in my native area. It puts the Linton flood of 2001 into global perspective, but many here are

still affected when they sell or insure their homes. Development in Linton, particularly any affecting drainage or the flood plain, has to be considered carefully; nature will not be easily subjugated.

My work involves a great deal of travel. It is intriguing to see different scenery and styles of building, how others manage their traffic and how village facilities compare. Good ideas can be gleaned and you can learn by others' mistakes. However, I am always glad to return to Linton - you

don't have to be born here to know this is home! It is reassuring to walk through the village, see familiar faces and exchange greetings. Acknowledgement of others leads to a sense of belonging to a community. But as one treasured lady's father reminded her, no one will greet you if you don't greet them. Smiling is free, can brighten your day and forge new friendships; resolve to give it a try!

You may have noticed trees being pruned or felled in the cemetery. This is work for

safety purposes mainly, but it might encourage discussion about other trees in the village. Professional advice is being sought on the condition of trees under our care and your views would be helpful, especially regarding the trees in the cemetery. Perhaps we could also think about the safety and appearance of our own trees and how they affect the neighbours. Our Chestnut tree has recently been thinned and looks so much better. I hope that it will also create less work for me; there is never

ending sweeping of petals, buds, leaves and conkers, but this is worthwhile for its beauty. As an unexpected bonus, the "Gardenworks" gentleman has promised to give a talk at an ACEs lunch - his knowledge of trees is fascinating.

On a positive note, Spring is on its way with snowdrops and aconites making a brave show and you can tell that Christmas is well and truly over...we have Easter eggs in the shops!

Enid Bald

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Council minutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilmin

MINUTES of the Linton Parish Council Meeting held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 6th January show 9 Councillors present to hear Peter Hase, of Balsham, who was a participant in C^{llr} Hickford's petition currently circulating the village for a replacement Community Beat Manager (CBM), give Council an update on the campaign so far and he also outlined the future strategy. He noted that there were in excess of 500 signatures to date and that there had been coverage of the campaign that evening in the Cambridge Evening News. He reported that there was to be a radio interview the next day and that at the end of the month it was planned for the petition to be handed to the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Tom Lloyd, by C^{llr} Hickford, himself and James Paice, the local Member of Parliament.

The Chairman thanked M^r Hase for the update and congratulated C^{llr} Hickford and all concerned on the campaign so far.



Linton Village College

Under Matters Arising from the previous minutes, C^{llr} Kenyon reported having represented this Council at an awards ceremony at LVC for anti-bullying. She noted that these were national awards from the Princess Diana Anti Bullying Campaign and that 30 individual awards had been bestowed on students at LVC. She also advised council that of these 30 only 3 were awarded to boys. The event was very pleasant.

The Planning Minutes from 2nd and 20th December, 2004 were considered with no queries.

Reports from Co-ordinators followed with C^{llr} Kenyon reporting that New Years Eve and New Years Day had been uneventful with regard to the Recreation ground.

Rights of Way Co-ordinator, C^{llr} Rossiter, reported she had been in verbal communication with the County Council Rights of Way officer, John Cooper, and discussed comments received on the proposed alterations to local paths with him. It was apparent there may be a short delay on this matter as the CC department was currently understaffed. John Cooper would keep Council advised.

Leadwell Meadows – The Clerk reported, further to queries raised by C^{llr} Rossiter, that Herald Contractors considered that the quoted additional works to the value of £615 recently agreed by Council had now been completed. It was apparent that C^{llr} Rossiter was unhappy with the quality and content of the work and it was agreed that she would take this up with C^{llr} Cox, the Co-ordinator who had agreed the works originally, on his return from holiday, before any complaints to the Contractors was made.

C^{llr} Rossiter thanked who-

mended that CC/Highways should be specifically requested to reply regarding the anomaly in the modelling, and also to show same with intermittent lights at the Bartlow Crossroads roundabout to gauge whether this assisted in less queue formation', this



Repairs to High Street Co-op Frontage

meeting agreed both recommendations.

With regard to the recommendation under Item 7 – recommending a letter to the Police regarding lack of enforcement of the double yellow lines outside the Co-op in the High Street, this was also agreed by the meeting.

Council then considered the payments due. The list had been circulated. The Clerk reported on each item. C^{llr} Batchelor proposed that the payments, as listed, be made. This was seconded by C^{llr} Gore and agreed by the meeting with Councillors Batchelor and Gore signing the cheques.

All correspondence received was then reviewed with the following of particular interest:-

Item 17 – Hereward Housing – Invitation to view newly built housing for the elderly. The Chairman and C^{llr} Clay had attended. C^{llr} Clay reported that the properties were well built and nicely finished and that he had spoken with prospective occupants who were thrilled to be moving in.

Item 18 – CC/Library Development meeting. The Chairman had attended and the report on this had been reviewed

at the previous meeting.

Item 25 - BT – Letter advising proposal to remove public telephone kiosk at junction of High Street and Horseheath Road. Discussion took place regarding this and councillors in general were alarmed and concerned that BT should be considering removing this. It was also noted that Linton was notorious for a bad signal for mobile phones. There was a large residential area in the immediate vicinity which this public call box served. The



Horseheath Road PUBLIC Phone Box

nearest one to this was at Church Lane, some considerable distance away in the case of an emergency. It was agreed that a reply would be sent voicing this council's objections to the removal.

Items 30 & 31 – Comments

on Rights of Way proposals which had been forwarded to C^{llr} Rossiter.

Item 36 – M^r Westlake – Copy letter to SCDC Planning officers regarding planning problems with his business premises which had become a



Listed Building - Sweettalk News

Listed Building since his original purchase. It was noted that this had been discussed at Planning, who were recommending a letter in support of M^r Westlake and his efforts to maintain a vital business in the village.

Item 39 – Victim Support – Letter requesting donation. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Council's policy of only supporting items specific to the village would be passed on to them.

Items 42/43/51 & 52 – All being dealt with under the Confidential Item at 197.

Item 54 – Moore Stevens. Letter regarding incomplete audit. The Clerk reported that this Council's Annual Return and copy of accounts had been mislaid by the external auditors. A new copy had now been received by the office and had been completed again and was being returned by registered post.

Item 24 - C^{llr} Rossiter requested a copy of this.

Council then considered a Confidential Item. The Chairman noted that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. He also requested that Item 198 be completed first. This was agreed by the meeting.

Under Any Other Business C^{llr} Hickford requested that any completed petition forms be handed to him prior to leaving the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.51.

Offices held by individual Councillors

Full Council and Committee Chairmen

Chair of Council - Enid Bald
Vice Chair of Council - Graham Potter
Chair of Planning - Mike Gee
Vice Chair of Planning - Mike Clay
Chair of Finance - Graham Potter
Vice Chair of Finance - Simon Alper
Chair of Traffic - Val Urwin
Vice Chair of Traffic - Esther Cornell

Further details of Council representatives to outside bodies and co-ordinators for specific areas will follow next edition

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB1 6JS. Tel: C. 891001
www.lintonpc.org.uk
Clerk to the Council M^{rs} Gill Barker
Email: clerk@lintonpc.org.uk
Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon & 4–6pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon
Or by appointment
Parish Council dates for Full Council meetings: February 3rd & 17th; March 3rd and 17th

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Sat	9-3 pm	

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