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## VISITORS' LINTON [Top](#)

More than 3m people visit our district in a year. What do we offer them? How do we win their business? Appointment of a local councillor as the area's 'tourism minister' is focusing minds on those questions



**'We are well placed ... we need to do better'**

## What the 'Tourism Minister' says

*John Batchelor who has just been appointed to develop tourism in the District*

SINCE the changes in the way we run our affairs at South Cambridgeshire District Council I have joined the eight member Cabinet with the portfolio for Sustainability and Community Strategies. I discovered that part of my responsibility was to look after tourism in the district.

This is an area that has clearly not been a high priority; we only have one member of staff directly involved in promoting tourism. A surprising position when you consider that we have more than three million visitors a year to our district, producing £87 million in turnover and supporting efforts employing 2,300 people.

The argument is that we do not need to promote the area because it sells itself.

There is a measure of truth in this as the Cambridge city is an obvious draw as is a major attraction like Duxford. But where we are missing out is in achieving the best return for our villages.

The vast majority of visitors are day-trippers. If our villages are to benefit we must encourage visitors to

stay.

The way to do that is to develop high quality bed and breakfast facilities to add to those already open for business.

At the moment there are only around 1,000 beds in total available within the whole district. We need to do better if we are to encourage visitors to stay.



Linton is very well placed to do more as a tourist centre. We have Chilford Hall and Linton Zoo on our doorstep. Just down the road there is the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and we are within easy reach of Cambridge city.

What we need are more people to come forward and start up B&B businesses. There is money to be made; it will help to keep our village viable and there is help available to get you started.

The main Tourism Information Centre in Cambridge can provide marketing facilities, both here and abroad, and can act as your booking agent.

If you would like to know more give our Tourism Officer, Clare Roberts, a ring on 01223 457572.

## **‘I have never seen a village as organic’** [Top](#)

### **What the visitor says**

Albert Adams, a London artist working for a week at Chilford Hall, stayed at Springfield House B&B I AM originally from South Africa and England has a real fascination for me –particularly the villages. But I have never seen a village as organic as Linton — if you go round, the buildings themselves seem to have a life of their own.

It seems as if the inhabitants come and go but the buildings live on. In the High Street, I get the idea of the buildings breathing: I see the undulating lines with the windows and doors simply having to conform to the structures.

I’ve been to other historical villages and towns but in Linton, the village is original, it is real. It has not been over done-up; the people just paint their beautiful houses for themselves. It gives a feeling of people living here and not, like in many places, just coming for the weekend.

I sat in the churchyard during one evening and watched the people coming and going, and listened to the bellringers practising. The churchyard is beautiful, with the old yews, and I was interested in what was happening.

People in the village have told me about the buildings; how the Guildhall timbers do not need any weatherproofing; and I went to the Dog and Duck and was made very welcome.

The village is so different from where I live and I want to come back. Why don’t more people know about Linton as a place to visit?

## **‘for me, this is a great business’** [Top](#)

### **What the B&B owner says**

*Judy Rossiter, who runs the Springfield House B&B in Horn Lane*

OUR visitors come from all over the world and that’s lovely. But most come from the UK. Many travel to Linton for family occasions – weddings, birthdays, anniversaries – and it is very nice to be involved in such happy events.

Others come here because there is so much business. They have to spend a few days and choose a B&B to

stay in. Some stay so that they can visit or work at Chilford Hall and a lot of parents bring their children to Cambridge's language schools and stay a few days.

The Internet brings in a lot of people worldwide – my recent visitors have included Koreans, Scandinavians, Americans, Canadians, people from New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong, Singaporeans and an Israeli.

For me, this is a great business because I am either making money with people staying or I am free to do other things. I tend to have my free time during the days, when I can get things done for the village, but people coming in the evenings can be a tremendous tie.

There are several B&Bs in the village and we all offer something different. This works because visitors are different and they want different things. Some look for ambience, some put comfort first, and others just want the cheapest.

There have been far fewer visitors from abroad this year with the strong pound and the bad publicity about the foot and mouth disease-putting visitors off coming to Britain. Usually we have a lot of visitors from the Benelux countries who stop here on their way to Wales or Scotland. They haven't come.

It can be very hard work at times. You have to be nice to everyone. If you like the people, it's great. But sometimes, when you don't, you think 'well, never mind, they'll soon be gone'.

## **'Cooperation benefits all'** [Top of Page](#)

### **What the B&B organiser says**

*Monica Clarkson, who runs a B&B at 4 Harefield Rise*

SINCE coming here just over two years ago, with the encouragement of Clare Roberts of South Cambs District Council, I have helped to set up a local group of those who do Bed and Breakfast, to provide mutual support and a better service to visitors. The group extends from Balsham and Shudy Camps to Duxford. Cooperation, rather than competition, benefits us all.

In choosing accommodation visitors look for a good, clean, friendly home. They tend to ignore the national grading systems, which offer little guarantee of quality. Having found somewhere to stay, the first question is often "where can we eat?" Fortunately Linton provides a good choice.

The opening up of the Park and Ride has been helpful to those wishing to visit Cambridge but the fact that it does not operate on Sundays and closes early in the evening is a drawback.

I hope Linton will continue to welcome overnight visitors in good, reasonably priced accommodation and that our local Bed and Breakfast group will help to support and promote this.

The joy of providing Bed and Breakfast is in the people I meet. In 30 years I have welcomed visitors from more than 40 nations and all walks of life.

## **The PARISH COUNCIL Reported by GRAHAM POTTER** [Top of Page](#)

### **Parish projects under way**

Restoration of ford in Horn Lane; traffic restriction order for Roman Road; restoration of Clapper stile; advice to be obtained on erosion of river bank; five street lights in Rivey Way, Palmer's Close, the Rec (2), Granta Leys; extension to Tarmac path to Kingfisher Walk along river; improvements to junctions on A1307; assessment of Stansted flights over Linton; investigate access for safer route for infants' school; costing of flashing speeding signs for A1307; bollards at junction Coles Lane/High Street; inquiries about possible allotment land; replace viburnum bush near village sign; replace broken trees in area of Granta Leys; cemetery bike stands; and allowable decoration of grave plots.

### **Council wish list for when funds or policy allows:**

More dog waste bins and grit bins; litter bins at Hillway, Mill Ln, Bridge/Grip Meadow path, Stantons

Lane Bridge area; shrub planting by Clock House Wall; grit bin Joiners Rd, Fairfield Way/Millers Cl and Chalklands (nr No. 64); compatible fencing Chalklands cemetery; gravel path south side of Horseheath Rd, east of junction with Lonsdale; skate park facility; car park entrance to recreation ground.

Please note the above are requests and may never happen, due to finance or objection from the parishioners.

## **Parish Council's August meeting** [Top of Page](#)

A Member of the public asked what impact the new recycling scheme would have on the bottle and paper banks and money the council received from recycling. It will be 12-18 months before the Parish knows because credits from the new recycling scheme are paid in arrears. The amount of bottles and paper at the car park collection point has declined since the recycling scheme started and the District council plans to phase out the car park bins.

Councillors were alarmed at the number of trees reported as being strimmed through their bark and killed. This is to be investigated.

The venture playground improvements have been completed and the new/replaced equipment is being well used. But the work has brought stones to the surface and these are to be dealt with.

Granta Leys residents had asked for excavated soil to be used to build a mound, with trees, between them and the play area to reduce noise. But, since being built, the council has received a written request to remove it – because it has become a new play attraction. The Council is to write to the residents concerned and ascertain whether they want it removed and trees planted at ground level.

The cemetery is to have bike stands: two will be suitable for small wheels and one for mountain bike tyres. It was reported that no one had contacted the council over neglected graves and they will be filled up to ground level so they can be mown.

The Council was informed of a Linton News article about Clapper stile repairs. If the contractor cannot complete the work, the work will be put back out for quotations.

It was agreed to purchase another hedge pack to continue the one planted last year on the A1307.

A letter requesting a grit bin in Chalklands was discussed and placed on the 'wish list' (see left) of things the Council would like to do. A request for support for an Astro-Turf surfaced area at the college was support but the Council needs information on its siting before any agreement on finance or planning .

The council agreed to a requested updating in its donation to the Parish Charities and passed it to the finance committee for consideration.

## **A DOZEN THINGS FOR THE VISITOR TO DO** [Top of Page](#)

- 1 Stroll in Pocket Park
- 2 Take an historic Linton walk (see Linton Walks booklet)
- 3 Drink in Dog & Duck garden
- 4 Visit Chilford Hall vineyard
5. Marvel at the Clapper stile
- 6 Enjoy St Mary's churchyard and the church itself
- 7 Walk up Rivey Hill and down the other side
- 8 Eat at the Indian restaurant or the Crown pub
- 9 Visit the zoo (allow two days if crossing the A1307)
- 10 Linger at the old ford bridge in Horn Lane or the ford in Mill Lane
- 11 Watch the village go by while you wait for Barclays Bank to open
- 12 Get your 'I was here' snap at the village sign

**What do you suggest? Let us know for the next issue**

## **SCORING FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS** [Top of Page](#)



DESPITE one cancellation because of the foot and mouth crisis, players, families and friends of Linton Granta Football Club were finally able to stage their Fun Run from Wandlebury Park back to Linton along the Roman Road. In doing so they raised £950 for Cystic Fibrosis Research and a similar amount for their new kit and equipment.

A cricket match between the Football Club and the Cricket Club (guess who won?) along with a barbecue, raffle and some dedicated drinking swelled the total to £1,090 for each cause.

I would particularly like to thank Terry (Ted) Wright for his wonderful work in organising both events, Les Westlake for securing over £400 in personal sponsorship and to everybody who participated, contributed and helped in any way.

Whilst the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis has improved dramatically over the last 20 years, the search for a cure relies upon voluntary funding and I am very grateful for the continued support that CF receives in Linton.

Harriet Goodman Secretary, CF Help

## **LINTON CAMERA CLUB PROPOSED** [Top of Page](#)

ARE you interested in forming a Linton camera club? email [jkeeble@clara.net](mailto:jkeeble@clara.net).

## **RECYCLING IS DIFFICULT FOR THE ELDERLY** [Top of Page](#)

### **Dear Editor**

While I think the Linton recycling programme is an excellent idea, I feel that it has not taken into account the elderly frail residents.

My mother is in her 92nd year and lives in a bungalow in Tower View with a long front garden. For her, trying to put papers into a bin and transporting it to her front gate is an enormous task.

Now other recycling initiatives are being discussed, has the programme identified the problem occurring to this group of people and does it set an action plan for helping those like my mother with no local family, no daily carers and no warden to help move the recyclable waste to their gates?

For my mother, the effort of the present programme is barely sustainable even during the summer months. When autumn and winter arrive, I fail to see how she will cope.

Mary Butler

## **In Loo Of Better Answers** [Top of Page](#)

## Dear Editor

Alcatraz is, of course, one of the most popular tourist attractions of San Francisco. Did you know that thousands of visitors each year seek to be photographed therein, preferably seated on the lavatory? How about a similar, village-enhancing feature here in Linton – sited perhaps on the bridge with the appropriate auditory backcloth? If any local entrepreneur feels motivated to develop such a project, I have a spare lavatory.

I have considered recycling it as a plant container, as a bird bath, as an additional garden seat (cushioned, of course), as a nesting site for next year's ducklings, as a Lucky Dip container to raise funds for ... Alternatively, the Council will take it away at a cost to me of £35 plus VAT.

Josie Buxton



## Dear Editor:

So this is what they do to us elderly ones once we have passed our 'sell by' date. Or does it mean 'Lovers leap for old fogies'?

Andy Booth, 9 Chalklands

## Thanks For Scientific Journals For Africa [Top of Page](#)

### Dear Editor

The Journals Project, with which I am involved, is most grateful to the donors, including several Lintonians of sets of recent professional, scientific and technical journals which are sent at present to Ethiopia, to enable professionally qualified Africans working in deprived, isolated rural areas to keep in touch with developments in their field. They, and their institutions, could not otherwise afford to do so. At least twice, sets of scientific journals have been left, anonymously, on my doorstep. I should like to thank the donor and hope he/she will make him/herself known!

I shall be glad to give information about the project to anyone interested.

Anna Newton

## Did You Phone The K-Club To Offer Your Help? [Top of Page](#)

### Dear Editor,

Around the 10th September I received a very generous offer, via an ansaphone message, to assist in the "K Club" - Linton's own local lottery. The name given was not recorded very clearly but sounded something like "Doreen Cox". Unfortunately the caller didn't leave a telephone number, and so I have no way of contacting Doreen (?) to accept her assistance.

If there is somebody out there whose name sounds a bit like Doreen Cox, and is wondering why I haven't been in touch, please ring me (again!) on.

Incidentally, K Club renewals and new memberships are rolling in for the New Year, commencing 1st October, with the bumper draw (first prize £800!) for the current year scheduled for September 29th at the

Infants' School Barn Dance. Many thanks to all past, present and future members for their support.  
Peter Dixon [Email:Peter@peterdixon.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:Peter@peterdixon.freeseve.co.uk)

## **AUGUST K-CLUB WINNERS WERE:** [Top](#)

1st prize (£50) (No 363); 2nd (£25) (2); 3rd (£10) (159)

## **GARDENING SHOW 'A REAL VILLAGE EVENT'** [Top](#)



THE Gardening Club's annual show on 28th July was a "real village occasion" with exhibits and displays from our regular members and many welcome non-members.

The children's section was again well-supported with a range of skills on show. Paintings, models, dinosaurs and much more competed to catch the judge's eye. As expected a poor growing season due to the weather was responsible for fewer vegetable and flower entries, and disappointingly there were fewer pieces in the adult handicraft section which cannot be blamed on the weather.

However, the home produce section showed the usual mouth-watering selections and there were more flower arrangements, so the tables were still covered.

We were pleased to see the hall – at the Social Centre – pretty full at the prizegiving as many visitors had called in to view the showpieces and sample the home-made refreshments.

We aim to make it a fun day and hope more people will enter next year's show or maybe join the Gardening Club.

Members will reunite on 7th October for the AGM followed by the bring and buy plant and produce sale. Please let the secretary know if you wish to stand for the committee or have suggestions or items for discussion.

We look forward to seeing everyone and hope you will enjoy the new season's programme.

Gloria Fidler

## RECYCLING? WELL, I CAN TELL YOU ... [TOP](#)



Most people seem to like the scheme. Tracey Wilson, who reports their views, likes it so much she chased the collectors in her pyjamas

Here is what selected residents of the following roads said:

**Bartlow Road** I think the recycle bins are a good idea. I have never recycled before, and will put out my bin every fortnight. I am happy with how it has been arranged.

**Finchams Close** It is a good idea, and I don't know why it was not done sooner. We should recycle a lot more, and I hope once we are in a routine, the scheme can be expanded to include plastic and compostable waste. The only downfall is because not all of the houses in Finchams Close have a road next to them, it looks a bit messy with piles of bins and bin bags on collecting days - maybe that needs sorting out.

**Granta Vale** I was on holiday for the first collection, so when they came for the second collection, my bin was quite full. Unfortunately, they missed the whole of our road, so my neighbour phoned them and they came back on the Saturday. Funnily enough, the normal bin men have missed our road a couple of times too. The collection has certainly cut down on the amount of rubbish I put out on a Thursday.

**Hadstock** (which, under an Essex council, has had a recycling scheme for some time) We are happy with the service, but, although we can recycle cardboard (unlike the South Cambs scheme), we cannot put out glass

**Hildersham** There are good and bad things about the recycling. It would be nice to be issued with a bucket for glass to be collected in. A lid would be nice to stop wasps going after jam jars, etc - I washed one in my dishwasher and the label came off and blocked the filter. I am a bit fed up that they do not collect cardboard, after all, it is just compacted paper.

**Rivey Way** I am really pleased with the scheme. My bin has been full each time, and having a family of six, I have phoned to ask for an extra bin. The scheme has made me think a lot more about recycling, and

now I also put more things on the compost heap. Now I only put out one bin bag on a Thursday instead of three or four. A cardboard collection would be good.

**Tower View** I have only recycled newspapers so far. I have never recycled my home waste, but at work we have separate bins for glass and cans. I will also try to include drinks cans from now on.

**The Grove** I am quite happy with the system, and pleased that the council is doing something for the environment. The boxes could be a bit bigger, but it has saved a trip to the Linton car park with my papers and bottles. Also I am pleased that I can now recycle steel cans. It would be nice if something could now be done about garden waste, as I have to make a trip to Saffron Walden.

**The Woodlands** The idea seems a good one, but I think the bins are too small and should have lids. I have seen full boxes tipped over, making the road messy, and the collectors are not too careful where the empty boxes land. They are also very noisy when collecting. I think the scheme needs more thought. I don't think I will bother.

**Wheatcroft** I am very happy Linton is now recycling, and I hope we can also have a green waste scheme as in Cambridge, for garden waste. When I went on holiday recently, I plugged the holes in the bin and put in my hanging baskets to keep them alive for when I returned. It worked wonderfully!

**Wheatsheaf Way** (that's me!) On the first day of collection, I was sitting at my computer composing an email to the editor about the recycling when I heard a clatter outside (7.10am). They were here already and my box was still in the back garden. I ran down the stairs, scooped my various collections from their respective hiding places, and ran through the house and up the road to hand my box to the bemused collector (I was still in my pyjamas). This has prompted me to set my alarm clock for 6.45 on collecting days.

**South Cambs council reports** a very good start to the scheme but if you have a problem, phone (01353) 863971 between 7.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (or leave a message outside these hours) for help and advice.

## **CHANGING ROOMS TO PURPLE PROSE** [TOP](#)

If you have been drawn to this item because you watch the Changing Rooms television programme, read on. This could change your views too ...

I am sure you are familiar with the concept of the film about the film. My favourite was the one about making Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Ñ but the film was just not the same afterwards when, at the critical moment they were making their death-defying leap from the cliff into the water, I could picture the scene from the Ômaking' film ... and they were leaping into a swimming pool.

Now you can discover what TV productions like Changing Rooms can do to the people who take part and the communities where they live. But this time it is a stage play about a TV programme.

The Linton Arts Forum is promoting the production - latest in the series of professional productions being brought to the village - by Arts in Cambridgeshire on Tour (ACT).

The play, called Papering Over, tells what goes on behind the scenes of a Changing Rooms-type programme. It strips it bare and paints it purple in a bitter-sweet comedy drama tracing the uproar when the low-budget production team arrives in a village. Would it be the same in Linton? Who knows?

In this production, the red and blue couples are crumbling under the strain. The TV spotlight finally explodes the tension but does this mean there is a happy ending?

You will have to see the show, at Linton Village College at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th October, to find out. The performance is recommended for adult and teenage audiences.

ACT will be returning to Linton in January with a pantomime for the whole family: details nearer the time.

As usual, tickets can be purchased at Sweet Talk News Judith Rossiter

## **RIVEY HILL, DRY AT LAST** [TOP](#)

WORK has started on assessing the measures needed to stop the all-year water problem on the footpath up

Rivey hill.

The surveying has been carried out, with the surveyors carefully picking their way over muddy spots - conditions this year are far better than in previous years.

The county council is working on the flooding problem, but the water authorities are apparently in the background urging that precious water resources are not wasted.

The water, streaming from the hill opposite the woods, floods the path for most of the year and causes problems in an adjacent field.

One attempt has already been made to solve the problem and hopefully this will be a permanent solution.

LNT

## **NEW FUN WITH OLD ENJOYMENTS AT THE REC**



HAVE you seen the improvements to the children's playing area on the Recreation ground?

The western side has been redesigned, with a new tarmac area (pictured above) for organised sports and

everyday fun like skateboarding and a path plus improved play facilities for children of all ages (several are pictured right and left).

Enjoy Linton's facilities while the good weather lasts. Visit the improved recreational ground. If only to watch the swinging and climbing ...

## **WI GETS A BODY SHOP MAKEOVER** [TOP](#)

THREE visitors were welcomed to the WI's August meeting and received posies made by Brenda Smith. Members were asked to sign up for contributions to next month's Harvest Supper. Helpers were requested for the WI Marquee at the Fenland Fayre.

There will be a coffee morning for volunteers taking part in the sponsored 'knit-in' in aid of The Winged Fellowship.

The next Group meeting will take place at Hildersham on 17th October, when there will be a magician.

The Autumn Council Meeting is on 29th October, when the speaker will be the first woman prison governor. The Federation Dinner will be on 30th November at Girton Golf Club.

Members were informed about the 'Home Bobby' scheme, a free service for the over 60s to help with home security and were reminded that security pens are available on loan at the WI to mark valuable items.

There are several interesting forthcoming events arranged by Federation, including Gardeners' Question Time at Whittlesford on 28th September and an information evening about Alzheimer's disease on 18th October in Coton.

The evening's speaker was Bridget Dore, a self-employed consultant with Body Shop Direct. She gave a presentation on Body Shop products, none of which is tested on animals. Samples of the products were passed round and Bridget Dore then made up June Bunn to show off some of the make-up available and gave tips on how to achieve the best results. The vote of thanks was given by Clare Neville.

The next meeting is the Harvest Supper at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 4th September in the Social Centre, Coles Lane, Linton. All are welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith

## **NEARLY NEW LOOK FOR CHILDREN** [TOP](#)

THE Mothers' Union nearly new children's clothes and baby equipment sale will be on Saturday 6th October in the Social Centre. Details will be given out through the Linton Infants' and Junior Schools, the Chestnut and Granta Playgroups. If you do not have a child at the above, please phone Sue Mudge,. There are wonderful clothes at ridiculous prices so do come and buy! Sue Mudge

## **BOOK NOW FOR JABS TO BEAT WINTER FLU** [TOP](#)

ONCE again we are planning our flu vaccination programme at the Linton Health Centre.

Last year we ran three Saturday morning flu clinics. On each of the Saturdays we had two nurses and one doctor giving the injections, with admin staff recording the details on the computer and filing all the medical records away at the end.

Although we had more than 250 patients through the doors on each Saturday, the clinics ran extremely smoothly. Appointment times were staggered over the morning and many patients did not even have a chance to sit down in the waiting room before being called in!

We are planning to run three Saturday clinics again this year on the 6th, 13th and 20th October. Once again these sessions will be purely for flu jabs. It would help us enormously if patients could book in for these Saturday slots as soon as possible.

Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone over the age of 65 plus those patients with diabetes, asthma, heart problems, kidney disease or a weak immune system.

To make a flu clinic appointment, please telephone the surgery on 892555 (after 11am if possible to leave the phone lines free for those wanting more urgent appointments) or call in at Reception. Sheila Griffiths

## **THE BUSH TELEGRAPH** [Top](#)

THE debate about what children do in their spare time moved up a notch recently with the publication of some research into the effects of computer games on brain activity. For several years two opposing views have been loudly broadcast. One says that computer games are good because they encourage mental agility, hand-eye coordination and are fun. The other says computer games limit the imagination, are predominantly violent and aggressive and produce socially isolated young people.

We know much more about the brain than we did five years ago and the new research draws on this knowledge. We know for instance that the front parts of the brain are associated with creativity, reasoning and practical intelligence. We know that when these areas are working a wide range of learning is taking place and that much of this learning is about making connections between things, understanding complex situations and developing socialising skills.

Nowadays you can connect a scanner to a head and literally see the brain in action. Parts of it light up on a screen as they are being used. Interestingly, reading aloud and doing basic arithmetic in your head are two activities which make the frontal lobes of the brain get really busy - they flash and flicker at a great rate. As children grow older, the flashes and flickers of brain activity develop predictable pathways through the millions of nerve cells - their brains "hot wire" themselves so that when a similar stimulus comes along in the future, they know what to do. This is why learning a foreign language is dead easy for a four-year-old and so hard for a 14-year-old. The latter's brain is "hot wired" to his or her native tongue. Creating new pathways becomes increasingly harder the older you get.

Back to the Nintendo. When you connect a brain to a scanner and give it a computer game to play, the lights go out in the frontal lobes. The process of playing the game shuts the brain down and it does not seem to matter what the game is.

The worrying conclusion is that we are producing a generation of youngsters whose brains are not being stimulated for significant amounts of their spare time, indeed they may even be being harmed. As a consequence, their general ability to reason, think, act socially, understand complex situations and display practical intelligence may be seriously impaired.

To make matters worse, such people are more likely to be aggressive and intolerant and find concentration and study difficult. During this season of examination results and the continuing high achievement of girls, it may come as no surprise that 95% of those who own and regularly play a Nintendo or similar are boys!

C R Bush, Principal

## **LVC PUPILS HIT EXAM HEIGHTS** [TOP](#)

WE knew we had done well last year when we hit the unprecedented 73% higher grades in GCSE examination results at LVC. We were a little worried about the current year group at Christmas - especially about the boys who seemed to be heading for the national expectation of under-achievement. We put some pressure on, deployed a number of tactics and I am delighted to say they responded.

What all this means is that we have again hit 73% higher grades a superb result when set against a national average of around 50%. Boys and girls have done equally well but the five top pupils, all of whom have achieved nothing but A and A star grades, were boys.

Our highest achieving pupil is James Newton with a staggering 10 starred A grades - simply the best results possible.

Once again, tremendous congratulations to all our pupils and their families and a resounding thank you to their teachers!

C R Bush, Principal

## **GALLERY OPENS** [TOP](#)

THE Darryl Nantais Gallery opened in the High Street recently to wide acclaim for artist and gallery. An article about the event, efforts to promote local artists and possibly a Linton arts festival was too late to

use at length in this issue and has been held over until October.

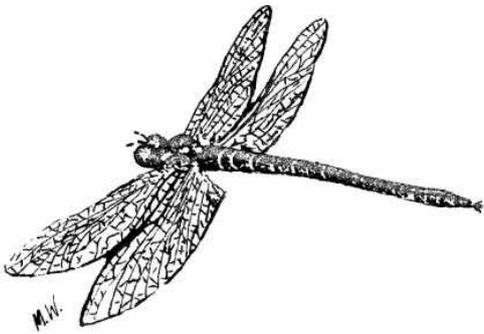
## **PLAY THERAPY** [TOP](#)

COME and play badminton on Friday evening and release the week's frustrations. Linton Granta Badminton Club meets at the Community Sports Centre, behind Linton Village College. Phone me for more information or turn up around 8.30pm. We have a good standard of play without league pressures. Sue Mudge

Could you write the Linton Country Diary?  
Either every month or as a guest columnist?  
Phone Sally Simmons

## **LINTON COUNTRY DIARY BY OLWEN WILLIAMS** [TOP](#)

Saturday 18th August 2001 Illustrated by Maureen Williams



I AM constantly amazed at the accuracy of the weather forecast. At five days distance, it seems possible to predict when will be a good day for harvesting; a fine evening to attend an outdoor Shakespeare performance or wet and windy and no good for apple picking.

It is the season for blackberries and dragonflies. The first blackberries were ripe at the end of July and the crop continues to be impressive. Indeed, it is a good year for berries altogether, including haws.

Elderberries are beginning to ripen and the earliest apples have appeared. Over the river, bright blue damselflies with a lot of black in the wing seemed most likely to be banded demoiselle.

Anyone creating a pond and aiming to attract these lovely insects should try to provide a combination of clear water, emergent vegetation and some shelter from wind.

Among the plants where I saw dragonflies were common fleabane, harebell, quaking grass, vervain, greater spearwort and the ripening fruits of guelder rose and spindle. Here too was deadly nightshade: an amazing plant with yellow-purple flowers and fruits ripening from green to shiny black. This one is thoroughly poisonous!

On 5th August, a solitary swift made me realise that there had been none for several days. On 14th, there were a few more stragglers, but the majority have gone. Swallows and martins are gathering and an attendant hobby had been noted at Fowlmere, this miniature hawk migrating with its prey to warmer climes for the winter.

In the garden, the nasturtium leaves have an infestation of blackfly, which are visited by the ants, who farm them, and hoverflies. Since these are nectar feeders, I assume they come for the honey dew. The other visitors are the ladybirds, who regard aphids as an important item of their diet.

## **ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN FALL TO CLUB ATTACK** [TOP](#)

SUNDAY 5th August was the date of the annual challenge match between the Cricket Club and Mrs Marianne Larcombe's President's XI, which was also her 10th year as president.

The President's XI, captained by David Larcombe, fielded first which meant the Cricket Club batsmen having to face the all-out pace attack of Alan Campbell, Mark Gooden, Mike Morris, David Larcombe and David Rouse.

Needless to say, all the batsmen found runs hard to come by and at the end of the Cricket Club's allotted 40 overs were 169 for five, with PJ Richardson 58, John Spencer 37, and David Moule 29 not out.

In reply the President's XI set off at a cracking pace with Alan Campbell smashing two sixes and a four in the first over before being bowled in the fourth over by the cagey David Gleeson for 21. David Gleeson claimed two more wickets, Alec Lavery three and John Richardson two, leaving the President's XI 131 all out.

The club would like to thank all those who gave their time and effort in the numerous fund-raising activities during the afternoon which helped to make it the most successful President's match yet. John Richardson

If your sports club - or any other organisation has not supplied details for the new village directory project, please phone Gloria Fidler

## **BOWLS CLUB SUSPENSE**    [TOP](#)

THE Bowls Club had a month of mixed weather and fortunes in July/August. At one time we were top of the Steeple Bumpstead League, then third and then fifth. Our latest position is not yet known but the result is imminent.

One of our teams got through to the semi-finals of the Steeple Bumpstead Mixed Pairs Competition, but failed to win. A team from the Men's Pairs failed in the quarter finals by a quarter of an inch.

We have had good friendly matches. We lost by one point at Melbourne, were drenched at West Wratting and Birdbrook, and won at home to Quendon.

Club competition finals are at 2pm on Sunday 16th September. Come and watch!

Arthur Gore

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