

## Singing at St. Mary's

FOR his first concert at the helm of New Cambridge Singers, James Potter has chosen a programme built around Chorales. These formed the bedrock of much of Bach's music and of Lutheran hymn singing and today are heard and much loved in a huge number of well-known works. Bach and his contemporaries (and sons!) knew and loved these powerful songs, using them as the foundation for much of their devotional music, from the grandeur of the *St. Matthew Passion* to smaller Cantatas. For Brahms, they were a way to connect his music to the baroque motets he so admired. Mendelssohn used one as the culmination of his Epiphany sequence describing the star above Bethlehem. Right up to the present day, English composers Philip Moore and John Rutter, and Norwegian Knut Nystedt, use chorales respectively as a vehicle for prayer, a celebration of light, and a timeless meditation on the eternal. This concert will present a rich tapestry of colour which the listener will find deeply rewarding. While there is a performance in Cambridge a week earlier, the concert in St. Mary's Church at Linton will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk), by telephone from Sue Ellis 01223 892257, or on the door: £15 for adults and £6 for students.

Linton News Team



The New Cambridge Singers in the Chapel of St. John's College

3 Counties, 3 Charities, get ready to walk again!

WE look forward to seeing you on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May for the 2024 *Bartlow 3 Counties Charity Walk*, Hills Farm, Bartlow CB21 4PW.

We are raising funds for three local charities. Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital, a new hospital uniquely poised to radically transform patient care, delivering hope and better health outcomes for millions of people. Tom's Trust, a local charity providing psychological support for children with brain tumours and their families. Bartlow St. Mary's Church, for restoration.

New for 2024, a fun one mile nature trail, suitable for all ages. In the afternoon, tractor and trailer rides on the farm, children's face painting and a bouncy castle, all included in the ticket price. We also have 13, 9 and 6 mile walks, and the *Tree of Recognition* to remember loved ones touched by cancer at the Langley Wood refreshment stop.

## Great British Spring Clean Up 23rd



FROG members on a previous litter pick

JOIN in the annual *Great British Spring Clean* on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March with Linton FROG and the Parish Council. Report to the Village Hall between 10.00am and 1.30pm to collect your litter-picking sticks for adults and children and your bin bags. Please bring your own gloves if you can, and wear appropriate footwear/clothing. All are very welcome; children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Pick litter wherever you like in the village (avoid roads with speed limits above 30mph) and bring your filled bags back to the Village Hall for sorting. Linton Parish Council is providing free refreshments for everyone who takes part. If you wish to be involved in another way, e.g. taking official photos or sorting the litter that can be recycled, please do get in touch. For queries and to register your interest please get in touch!

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## A Warm Welcome Awaits



The restaurant has been completely refurbished

WE have a brand new Indian and Bangladeshi Restaurant in Linton. The Bengal Lounge opened in mid-December serving delicious classic and speciality dishes in the fully licensed and air-conditioned premises on Bartlow Road. Hasnu Miah and his partner Shiplu Ahmed have a wealth of experience having previously run the Golden Curry in Cambridge and the Curry Palace in Cottenham as part of a family business. They intend to keep the family connection going strong as they are uncle and nephew respectively. Working alongside Ziaul Haque, Hasnu and Shiplu offer a warm and friendly service and are keen to have the support of the local community and expand the experience of a new clientele. They are very happy to advise customers with their authentic knowledge and are so proud of their chefs' skills and the variety and quality of dishes available. So for beautifully cooked and amazing dishes with Bengali

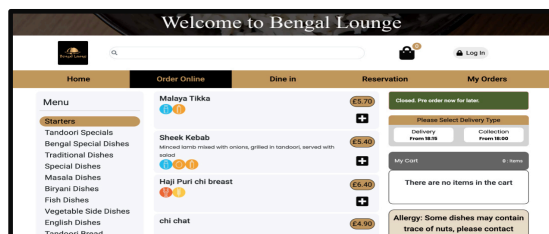


The Bengal Lounge team ready for service

Dishes being the house speciality, Shiplu and Hasnu urge you to come along and enjoy your local Bangladeshi restaurant. The restaurant is open 7 days a week 5.30 - 10.30pm. Booking, which is strongly advisable, can be made on 01223 893663 or 890030. The menu is available to view at [www.bengallounge.linton.co.uk](http://www.bengallounge.linton.co.uk)

Linton News Team

The new website now features online ordering, so your favourite dishes are no more than a click away!





# Readers Write

## Christmas Lights

We at 88 Finchams Close Linton would like to thank everyone who came and supported our giant Christmas Light display in 2023. The display raised an incredible £3030! All money raised will be going to the Norfolk Zipper Club who with 100% of the funds support the Royal Papworth Hospital by buying much needed equipment.

Again thank you to everyone for raising such an incredible amount of money!

Name and address Supplied

## A lost Peahen

The residents of Spur Road have had a peahen visiting in their gardens regularly for at least a few months now. I have not been putting food down in the hope that she will go and source food elsewhere. Being new to the village I'm at a loss as to who to contact to find its owner and I just wondered whether we could put a small article in the next Linton News asking anyone if they have lost one?

Name and address Supplied

## Green Lane- dog fouling and young children

As spokesperson for Green Lane on some issues, would you please put the following into the next issue of Linton News. Would owners kindly keep their dogs on a lead and young children off private property in Green Lane. There are our homes and dog fouling on our property is increasing. Thank you.

Name and address supplied

## 2024 Governor Elections: champion the voices of the CUH local community and drive positive change

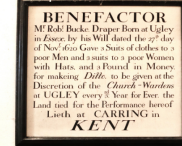
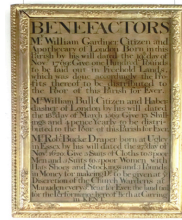
BECOME a patient or public governor to represent the diverse voices of our local community to the board of directors, ensuring their needs are heard and contribute to important decisions to improve the future of Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH). Nominations open: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Nominations close: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm. Positions available: three patient and public governor vacancies, all with a three year term of office. The full elections timetable can be accessed on the CUH website. The elections are run by Civica Election Service (CES), our independent electoral scrutineers, who will be providing the nomination forms and official guidance from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February at [www.cesvotes.com/cuh2024](http://www.cesvotes.com/cuh2024). The voting process will begin from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, when CES will begin distributing ballot papers to your work email address or home address. Please be assured that your data is secure and is being passed to our independent election administrators under the strictest information governance rules in order that they may send you your ballot papers. To opt out of the balloting process, please email [cuh.foundation@nhs.net](mailto:cuh.foundation@nhs.net) by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm.

Namoo Boodoo

Membership Manager CUH

# The Hundred Parishes Society

WE are fortunate we have a benefit system to help vulnerable people. In the past, the less fortunate relied on parish relief or the generosity of the better-off. Some wealthy benefactors left money for the provision of almshouses. You can see an article on almshouses on the Hundred Parishes website at [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). Other philanthropists helped the poor by giving money in various ways. Some churches record this benevolence on large benefactor boards. In St. Peters, Ugley, we are told that Robert Bucke, a draper, in his will of 1620 gave 'three suits of clothes to three poor men and three suits to three poor women with hats', to be given every third year for ever. In Little Hadham, the church of St. Cecilia has a board recording that Miss Ann Scott, in her 1865 will, left dividends to the rector and church wardens to distribute bread on Shrove Sunday each year, at their discretion, to the poor of the Parish. Hatfield Broad Oak's Church of St. Mary the Virgin has a brass plaque describing the generosity of John Gobert. He left £600 in his will of 1623 for the purchase of land, the proceeds from which were to be distributed in a variety of ways including £4 per annum to the town of Hatfield Broad Oak. His heir, Sir John Barrington, subsequently bought the manor of Keeres in Aythorpe Roothing to comply with the will. Please look out for more proclamations of generosity.



Above: A selection of benefactor boards from churches in the area

## Balsham Singers- advance notice

### BALSHAM Singers are busily rehearsing

for their next concert on **May 18th, this time in the evening at 7.30pm in Balsham Church. We hope to welcome as large an audience as we did at Christmas.**

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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Call 893619 for an audio version of the paper

## March bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

Blue: Wednesdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

Green: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

# Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

For entries, email: [diary.linton.news@gmail.com](mailto:diary.linton.news@gmail.com)

## MARCH

Sat 2	Farmers Market, 9am - 12pm	Village Hall
Tue 5	WI meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 7	Community Quilt Workshop, 2 - 3pm	Chalklands Comm. Centre
Sun 10	Mothering Sunday service, 10am	St Mary's Church
Sun 10	The Well, 6-7pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 12	Scrabble Club, 10am - 12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 12	Gardening Club, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Tue 19	Linton Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 21	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Cathodean Centre
Sat 23	Great British Spring Clean, 10am - 1.30pm	Village Hall
Sat 23	New Cambridge Singers Concert, 7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sun 24	Traditional Palm Sunday Communion, 8am	St Mary's Church
Sun 24	Café Church, 10am	St Mary's Church
Sun 24	Easter Lighthouse, 10.30am - 12pm	Free Church
Sun 24	Free seedlings, 2 - 4pm	14, High Street
Mon 25	Compline by Candlelight, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Mon 25	Community Quilt Workshop, 7 - 8.30pm	Chalklands Comm. Centre
Mon 25	Easter Refection, 7pm	Free Church
Tue 26	Scrabble Club, 10am - 12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 26	Compline by Candlelight, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 26	Easter Refection, 7pm	Free Church
Wed 27	Compline by Candlelight, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Wed 27	Easter Refection, 7pm	Free Church
Thu 28	Easter Refection with Holy Communion, 7pm	Free Church
Thu 28	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, 7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 29	Good Friday Messy Church, 10am	St Mary's Church
Fri 29	Good Friday Service, 10.30am	Free Church
Fri 29	Good Friday Music and Readings, 3pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 30	Easter Egg Hunt, 10.30am - 12pm	St Marys/Free Church
Sun 31	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, 7am	BT exchange/Rivey Hill
Sun 31	Traditional Holy Communion, 8am	St Mary's Church
Sun 31	Family Holy Communion, 10.00am	St Mary's Church
Sun 31	Easter Family Celebration, 10.30am	Free Church

# the Voyeur

Works by Judith Smith

21<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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## Spring at St Mary's

YOU are most welcome to join us at a range of different events this Spring:

A family-friendly service on Mothering Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10am (not just for families) with flowers and refreshments, and always a joyful occasion. Our monthly time of quiet reflection with music and only a few words – The Well – offers something a bit different that day, 6pm-7pm.

We mark the beginning of Holy Week on Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March with an 8am traditional Holy Communion and then at 10am Café Church, marking Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with music, discussion, and decent coffee. Compline by Candlelight is a short, gentle opportunity to reflect on the first Easter at 6pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March here in the ancient heart of Linton. On the evening of Maundy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30pm there will be a reflective service of Holy Communion, followed by a vigil (until 10pm).

We'll be marking Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, at the village hall for Messy Church at 10am, with activities, music, story and refreshments and everyone is welcome. Later that day we recall the events of the first Good Friday in Music & Readings for the Passion at St Mary's, 3pm.

We end the month with an uplifting celebration of Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 8am traditional Holy Communion and 10am Family Communion where we celebrate that with God, Love is always stronger than death and the new life of Spring always follows Winter!

Rev. Paul

## Granta School

AS February is the shortest month, it has certainly flown by and half term is already a distant memory. The staff and students enjoyed a restful break and returned raring to embrace the spring term ahead. Towards the end of February, our pupils were given an opportunity to become Palaeontologists, with a visit from The Education Group and their dinosaur workshop. They learnt about different dinosaur species, enjoyed digging for fossils and even got to meet a dinosaur too! We started March with our Creativity Week, which was packed with lots of fantastic activities for our students to take part in. On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will celebrate World Book Day, an opportunity for students to get creative and embrace dressing up as characters from their favourite books. I'm sure that the students will enjoy the day and that we will have an array of interesting costumes parading our corridors.

Dates for the Diary: Easter Holiday: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April.  
Inset Day, closed to students: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Emma Jennings- Communications Officer



Granta pupils at the dinosaur workshop

## Easter at the Free Church

### Family Activities

IN the lead up to Easter we have some family activities you can take part in:

- Easter Lighthouse, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 10:30-12:00. A fun-packed session for any primary-aged children.
- Easter Egg Hunt (Linton Churches Together), Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 10:30-12:00. A fun Easter Trail starting in the gardens of St. Mary's Church and finishing at Linton Free Church, where there will be refreshments and fun activities for children and their families.

### Holy Week

We have the following events happening this week and you're invited to join us as we prepare ourselves for the most important day in the Christian calendar, and in our common life as a church, Easter Sunday:

- Easter Reflections, Monday - Thursday at 7pm. Each evening during Holy Week there will be a short reflection in our main church building, with Communion on Thursday evening.
- Good Friday Service, 10:30am Friday. A reflective service.

### Easter Sunday

Join us as we celebrate the most important day in our Christian calendar - Easter Sunday.

- Sunrise Service, Sunday 7am. Join us at the old BT exchange at 7am as we then walk up Rivey Hill before sharing a short service at 7:30am at the top of the hill next to the bench overlooking Linton village.
- Easter Celebration, Sunday 10:30am. Celebrate Easter with us with an all-age family friendly service at 10:30am.

You are welcome to join our services in person or online using these details:

- Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/433582077?pwd=d2JvcY4K1cxU1A4ZWRRbjZFb3pNQOT09>
- Password: 010525
- Dial: 0208 080 6591 with Meeting ID: 433 582 077

Debbie MacBean

## Granta Medical Practices Don't Queue- We'll Call You!

YOU said, we listened! Our new 'phone system now allows you to stay in the queue whilst not staying in the queue! If you are holding on waiting to be spoken to, you will be given the option to request a call back. You can then come off the line and we will ring you back when it's your turn to go through to reception, keeping your place in the 'phone queue.

Don't forget though, you don't have to ring up at 8am to get an appointment. If your health condition is urgent you will be seen on that day, regardless of the time you ring. If you need a routine appointment you can ring any time of the day, you can book online (new appointments are released online at 8am and at 2pm daily), or you can use our online consultation tool, Accurx Patient Triage, a link to which can be found on our website. Finally, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you that have taken the time to give us positive feedback recently. All of our staff work really hard to provide the best possible service, in the face of increasing pressures in primary care. Every single compliment is shared with the entire team, and really makes a difference. Thank you.

Sandra East

## Infant School Pancake Supper

I AM writing this the day after a very successful fundraising event! Last night, over 100 adults and children joined us for a delicious Pancake Supper of jacket potato followed by pancakes with every topping imaginable. The evening was great fun and a great way to celebrate (nearly) the end of half term.

Early Years have visited the Sedgwick Museum and year 1 have a trip to Legoland planned next half term. There really is no substitute for real life experiences and travelling by coach with your friends: trips are invaluable in helping to consolidate the learning that takes place in the classroom. However, I think some children would be quite content with the coach trip, a packed lunch, then straight back to school! The governors are spending a day at school in March to really get an idea of how the school functions on a day-to-day basis, along with getting to meet the children and staff. They will be concentrating on various areas of the school development plan, and a whole day will allow them real focus. There is nothing like being in school during a normal working day to see the highs and lows of school life. We do have spaces in all of our year groups, so if you are moving into, or have recently moved into the village, please do contact us and we can show you all we do here!

Kelly Harries



## Two pound bus fare has been extended!

SUCH is the success of this fantastic price cap, it has recently been announced by the government that the highly successful programme will be extended for another year until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024. I have noticed that bus services in South Cambridgeshire which normally have low passenger numbers, have gained ridership! This is paramount for increasing bus usage and this extension will hopefully attract still more people from their cars to the bus! Please note: not all bus companies are participating in the government scheme. Smaller bus companies may stick to their original fares. Why use the bus over the car? Catching a bus is easier and more relaxing, you do not need to stress finding a parking spot! In addition a full double decker Bus can remove up to 75 cars off the road! Buses are constantly becoming greener; increasing numbers of electric and bio-fuel vehicles are entering service all the time. You can relax and unwind during your journey!

Oscar Anderson



Stagecoach has seen an uptick in passenger numbers since the government backed scheme was introduced

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## An anniversary of the arts: Cambridge Open Studios celebrates golden jubilee

CAMBRIDGE Open Studios, a thriving community of more than 500 artists, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the launch of its biggest and best ever *July Open Studios Art Festival*.



The organisation is hosting the famous festival across every weekend in July 2024 which it promises will be packed full of VIP events, studio tours and creative surprises.

The vast range of specialisms on display include painting, jewellery, printmaking, ceramics and pottery, glass art, digital art, drawing and illustration, woodwork and furniture, sculpture, textiles, photography, book art, lettering and calligraphy, mixed media and collage and much more.

Gabriella del Valle, Chair of the Cambridge Open Studios Management Team, said:

*We are thrilled to be celebrating our golden jubilee by delivering an extra-special edition of the July Open Studios Art Festival. The free event attracts thousands of visitors each year and this July will be no different. It offers not only the chance to embrace, celebrate and engage with the artistic community of Cambridgeshire, but also to purchase an exclusive piece of art, hand-crafted by a local artist or artisan. We hope to see you there!*

To find out more visit: <https://camopenstudios.org/>

## Linton Heights at Young Voices

ON the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Linton Heights Junior School Choir went to the London O2 arena where we sang songs accompanied by 9000 children! We had been practising the songs for many weeks so were totally prepared when the day finally came!

On the day, we had a slightly earlier lunch at 11:30am and left school at 12:00pm and the journey was approximately an hour and half. On arriving at the O2 arena when we went to a rehearsal (during which we met all of the special guests and conductor) and had dinner at 5:30pm.

The concert itself started at 7pm. Gigi Morley – the television broadcaster – was our presenter. One really cool feature was at the side of the stage where the entire concert was expressed in British Sign Language. All of the choir sang medleys and singles including a Moana Mashup, Matilda medley and The Moment.

That evening there were also performances by Urban Strides, MC Grammar, Lydia White (Miss Honey in the West-End production of Matilda) and Nandi Bushell, who is only 13 years old and has gone on tours as a drummer with many artists including the Foo Fighters. We found out that Andy, the head of the group Urban Strides, has actually danced for Beyonce. Without a shadow of doubt, we would happily recommend Young Voices to anyone interested in singing.

If we had to sum up the experience in a few words, it would be "terrific", "amazing" and "once in a lifetime"!

Phoebe, Macy and Naomi, Year 6 pupils

On another note the school is urgently looking for a school librarian. If you are interested in this voluntary role, please contact the school office on 01223 892210.

## Everyone loves something for free...

WHEN did you last use your library card? If it's sitting neglected in a wallet or coat pocket, bring it along to the library so we can get you borrowing again. Or using our computers. Or downloading eMagazines and eNewspapers. Or using research websites such as Britannica Online and Ancestry. All for free!

Visit a warm Linton library for our Monthly talk, **Build a life-enhancing Pond**, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm until 3.30pm. It's free but please book your place by contacting the library or by email to [cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). There's also **Knit and Natter**. Bring along any craft project you're working on, 2pm – 3pm on Tuesdays 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. **Daylight Readers**. Our Book Groups meet on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm, and always welcome new members! We also have **Games Afternoon**, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – 4pm, meet new people and try new games (you can even bring your favourite with you).

If someone you know has difficulties getting to the library come along to our **Library at Home Service** drop-in session on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> from 1pm until 2.30pm to find out more.

Our monthly drop-in **Beano Comic Club** is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, 10-12pm. Our friendly group for 0-4-year-olds, **Storytime – Rhyme-time – Duplo-time**, 10am – 11am, every Tuesday (in term time) for stories, songs and Duplo play.

We are open Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4-7pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm. Customer Services (regular office hours): 0345 045 5225 [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

Ann King and Melanie Symonds,  
Community Library Assistants, Linton Library

## Marsh Mail

THIS term we have seen some noteworthy successes in one of our whole school values, that of having an inclusive cultural environment. Run by the Panathlon Foundation, a team from LVC came first in the Panathlon Xtend multi-skills event at Comberton Village College. The LVC team will now represent South Cambridgeshire in the county finals in March. Panathlon Xtend is a programme for children with disabilities and special needs in Key Stage 3. Panathlon started Xtend programme in January 2019 to make sure they helped keep such pupils active and engaged after they leave primary education. We wish our team well.

Another LVC success has been with our Dog Mentor Ralph. The Dog Mentor Programme was devised by Jenny Duckworth, the Dog Mentor programme founder. The programme has built upon the 'benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially'. Our very special Dog Mentor Ralph won the 'You had me at hello' award this month. Ralph trained to be a Dog Mentor in the Summer of 2022 and lives with our assistant special educational needs coordinator Katie Tooke. Ralph spends his Thursdays bringing positive experiences to pupils and staff alike at LVC. Asking Katie what is so special about Ralph, she said 'it's the smile he puts onto pupils' faces, it's absolutely priceless!'

For more information on the Panathlon Foundation visit [Panathlon.com](http://Panathlon.com). And for more information on the Dog Mentor Programme visit [thedogmentor.co.uk](http://thedogmentor.co.uk).

Helena Marsh, Principal

## Make do and mend

AMANDA SUTHERLAND, our speaker, has worked in TV, films and the West End as a wardrobe assistant and now has her own business making fashion accessories. With the aid of a mannequin she showed members how to make a new item of clothing from several garments cut down, and used a glue gun to make a brooch from a man's tie.

Amanda doesn't waste anything she cuts down, showing us a shoulder bag with a strap made from a man's tie, and various other accessories, also made from charity shop finds. A tip for buttons is to use the originals coloured with nail varnish. She showed aprons she had made from men's cut down shirts, and boleros made from cut down leggings. 2 large scarves made a lovely kimono type cover up over swimwear.

Her latest creation is an evening dress for her daughter's school prom, the bodice made from upholstery material and the skirt from black satin table cloths from the market for under £30.

Many of Amanda's accessories were for sale, including hats, some made from coke cans and plastic milk bottles, pendants made from flowers pressed in resin. These were eagerly snapped up by members. During the Covid pandemic Amanda made 4,600 face masks.

Our next meeting, on 5<sup>th</sup> March, is our AGM, for members only. Look out for April's speaker on the parish notice boards at the beginning of the month. New members and visitors are always welcome.

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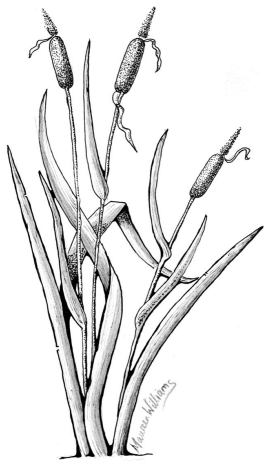
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# Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



## Biopuff?

NEVER heard of Biopuff? It's a product resulting from paludiculture. None the wiser? Step forward the Cambs Great Fen Peatlands Progress Project, aiming to link the two fragments of original fen, Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen at Speechy's Farm. This is the 120-acre site on which the Wildlife Trust, scientists, business people and land managers are coming together to put into practice a sustainable alternative to drainage-based agriculture. The aim is to combine reduction of greenhouse gases through rewetting, but continuing using the land for biomass production. So now we are practicing paludiculture, to sow, grow and harvest in wetlands, providing an income stream for growers. The money for the project has been provided by the Paludiculture Exploration fund, and is administered by DEFRA and Natural England.

There are about 80 different types of crop which can be grown in bog, but this particular project, like others in different parts of the UK, is concentrating on bulrushes. These are now being planted in huge quantities and harvested by an emerging material science company called SaltyCo, one of many companies trying to make the fashion industry less damaging to the environment. One of their products is Biopuff, an alternative to goose-down and polyester. It takes 20 bulrush seedheads to make one jacket, and is a real competitor to polyester filled jackets, which shed toxic micro fibres and are derived from petroleum products.

Who will be the first person in Linton to strut down the High Street wearing bulrushes?

## Linton Gardening Club Diary

THE February meeting of Linton Gardening Club was cancelled as the speaker became unavailable on the day.

The club still needs a new Chairperson, a new Secretary and committee members. Please contact me if you are able to help out at this critical time for the club.

Climate and the weather dictate gardening practice. The last few months have been particularly soggy with almost double the average rainfall recorded in our garden since October. With the soil so wet, one of the first reliable indicators of Spring, the buzzing of the lawnmower releasing the scent of freshly cut grass could be delayed. Catkins, daffodils and, by month end, tulips and hyacinths should be on show, providing essential early sweet nectar for foraging bees. If mild enough, I'll sow

tomato seeds in clean trays of fresh seed compost on a warm windowsill and cover with plastic. Dahlias can be brought out of winter storage and potted up but must be kept frost free. The early strong shoots can be used for cuttings if you want to bulk up your plants for free.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of March with Jim Paine, *Trees for All Seasons*. This talk ranges widely including both ornamental and productive trees in a garden setting. The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton, starting at 7.30pm, including teas, a raffle and bring-and-buy. Free entry for Members, £3 for Visitors.

Jim and Helen, Linton Garden Club  
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk, 01223 893577

Photographs L-R: Tulips, Catkins, Narcissus poeticus, Hyacinths at Waterbeach



## Free seedlings for keen Linton gardeners

WE are glad to see people's interest in this opportunity. We will carry on offering seedlings in the coming months at 14 High Street, Linton, CB21 4HS (opposite the Crown Inn), but it will be on the fourth Sunday of each month.

With the weather getting warmer, it would not always be easy to tell in advance what seedlings will be available each month. So, please send an email to [yxseedlings@gmail.com](mailto:yxseedlings@gmail.com) by the third Sunday of that month if you are interested, and we will send you the list of seedlings available.

For 24<sup>th</sup> March, we will still have primroses, autumn-flowering cyclamen, foxgloves, campanulas, scabious, lady's mantle, rose campion and lenten roses. We should also have Chinese chives, wild garlic (both very tasty), and some annuals.

Yali Xue and Chris Tyler-Smith

## Linton & District Historical Society announces...

OUR next meeting is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 when Neil Dickerson will tell us about *'Arsenic's Toxic Legacy'*; *People, Places & Peppermints. History, Horror & Humour!* How arsenic's compounds appeared to offer marvellous solutions so long as a blind-eye was turned to the problems of its dreadful toxicity. The meeting starts at 7.30pm, Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. There is easy parking in the Health Centre car park opposite. There will be refreshments and a raffle. All welcome – visitors £5.

For further details of the LDHS, please email [ldhscams@gmail.com](mailto:ldhscams@gmail.com) or 'phone 01223 893915 or 01223 678835

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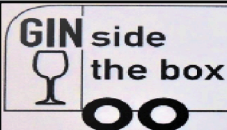
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## District and County Councillors' Report – February 2024

### Civil Parking Enforcement

AS previously reported the local authorities in South Cambridgeshire have spent the last few years preparing and applying to the Secretary of State to take parking enforcement powers away from the Police and manage locally. The new traffic wardens are now active, out on the street, and issuing parking fines. There were certainly some unhappy people at Whittlesford Station first week of Feb.

The County Council have a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry with support from Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where parking is really an issue, do let him know directly.

On a related note – the Councils are now also going through the formal process to take bus lane enforcement away from the Police and manage this in-house as well.

### Home Energy Support

THE District Council is in a partnership with 6 other local authorities in Cambridgeshire, called Action on Energy. This partnership is aimed to help people create more energy efficient homes, therefore making them cheaper to run. There are various grants available which many people aren't aware they may be entitled to. Full information, and links, can be seen here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

### Housing Strategy Consultation

THE Housing Department at the District Council launched a public consultation last month, January, asking for people's views on how the Council should approach the types of housing it asks for and the issues that people come up against – these comments will help shape the new Strategy before its adoption. Link here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/housing/the-greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2024-2029>

### Air Quality Strategy

SIMILAR to the item above, the District Council are currently running a public consultation on their draft air quality strategy. Please do comment - <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/air-quality-strategy>

### Cambridge 2040

FOR those of you wanting to keep abreast of this – there is currently a proposal from the Minister for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove, to build circa 150,000 houses (it was originally 250,000) in Cambridge to support the growing tech and life science sector in the region. This has hit some stumbling blocks. Namely the lack of water in Cambridgeshire with no concrete plans to improve this before 2030, as well as the fact that South Cambridgeshire has a lot of land called 'Green Belt' which is a protected area that can't be developed on, usually at the edge of cities. In spite of these issues, the plans remain on the table and

the local authorities - South Cambs District Council, Cambridge City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council - are fighting to stay at the table to maintain some influence on the proposals, if and when they come to fruition. Lots more to come on this.

### Budgets

FEBRUARY is always the time when local authorities set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year. The County Council needs to find around £20m worth of savings whilst maintaining the services they provide, not an easy task. The District Council is in a much healthier financial position and won't need to make savings this coming year.

### Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

THE two planning applications for biodigesters in our area, Acorn in Haverhill and Streetly End Farm in West Wickham, are edging closer to a decision. If you'd still like to comment upon either, email the planning officers directly:

1. Acorn, Haverhill – [andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk)  
<http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE&fbclid=IwAR0aj4d4JMd9Yr3cP-Etp9xdR4kKDwvzX0wMyHkfOomG45fCq0khXRbyrE>
2. Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End, West Wickham – [helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
<https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYK NQ00>

### Weed Killing Policy

SOME may recall that last year the County Council altered its weed killing policy to move away from using chemicals to kill weeds in every situation. This policy has been reviewed after a year of being in effect and is likely to be altered, although the Council will be asking for people's views on this via a public consultation on the change to policy. Keep an eye on our reports for the link to this in coming months

### Contact Details

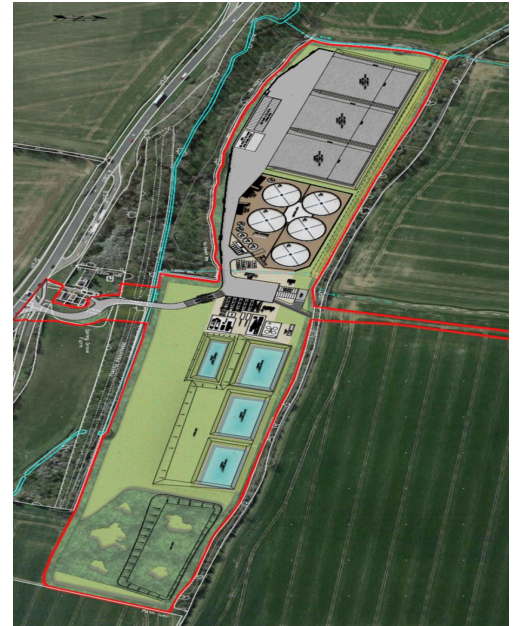
District Council – John Batchelor – [johnbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johnbatchelor23@gmail.com)

District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

## Planning Applications

**Planning** – Application Summary correct as of 19<sup>th</sup> February

24/0179/ITCA | T1 - Laurel - crown reduce by 2m to maintained level of hedge at 3m in height. G1 - understory of mixed conifer and yew trees (under mature ash trees). Cut to a hedge height of approximately 2.5m to match conifer section maintained by client. 6 Church Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JX



The proposed Acorn Digestion site will sit alongside the A1307 as you enter Haverhill.

### The Darryl Nantais Gallery

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Darryl Nantais



Peter Carr



Magdalena Morey

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### WHAT'S ON March.....

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Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz	7:30pm
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Patricks Day with Sam Herbert	4pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo	7:30pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Live Entertainment - Chris Wilson	8pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Music Quiz	7:30pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Live Entertainment – Abba Tribute	8:30pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Raffle	4pm

Tuesday - Sunday Happy Kebab Burger van from 6pm



## Speedwatch Summary June - December 2023

THE Linton Speedwatch Team has 10 volunteers and conducts sessions on all key roads within the village. Each one hour session is completed either early weekday morning, mid afternoon or on a Saturday. Here is a summary for the period from mid June - mid December 2023.

A total of 111 sessions were delivered which included three marathons. A Speedwatch marathon is defined as multiple sessions being completed during the same day across different locations. The speed of 14,247 vehicles were checked with 1,323 recorded as speeding (9.3%). A number of vehicles were recorded with excessive speed on more than one occasion within the 6 month period.

Balsham Road recorded 22% of vehicles speeding, followed by Hadstock Road at 16%, High Street (which to remind you has a limit of 20mph) at 9%, Back Road 6% and Horseheath Road 4%. Session times and days varied across all locations, with a clear pattern emerging for each location which will help the team in planning future sessions.

Many positive comments were received by Speedwatch volunteers from local residents and some suggestions for the team to consider. The team are only able to operate during daylight hours and in dry weather. All feedback is listened to and will help to fine tune sessions during 2024 which have now started.

Additional volunteers are always welcome to join the group with 40% of the current team joining in June 2023. Please make contact with the Parish Council Office if you would like more information on joining the team. Even one hour per month can make a difference helping to increase speed awareness in our village.

It's not only cars, vans and bikes that exceed the speed limit. On one quiet Saturday afternoon session on Hadstock Road last year, the roar could be heard for several seconds before the Red Arrows passed overhead. One of those memorable moments.

Cllr Carl Cieluch

## Annual Meeting of the Parish Save the Date!

THE Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This meeting is held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

At the meeting, the Parish Council will share essential information and will give presentations on activity in the village over the past twelve months, along with future plans. Grants will be awarded to local organisations and groups, and the recipients of funding who will give an overview of their projects.

This year the Parish Council will include a session inviting the public to discuss Hot Topics. This will give you the opportunity to suggest ideas and raise concerns directly to the team. It could be that you are passionate about parking and would like to know more about Civil Enforcement or perhaps you would like to be involved in preservation of the River Granta.

The discussions will be led by you, the residents, and there are no restrictions on what you can raise. All we ask is that you let us know which topics you would like added to the agenda for discussion by the end of April 2024.

Please contact the office with ideas on enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Clerk

## New Councillor Welcome to Tony Smith



HAVING lived in Linton for 40 years and always been interested in how our village is organised I approached the Parish Council with a view to joining and contributing to the process of nurturing our community.

I'm Tony Smith, now retired after a very full and varied working life. I have done many things in my time, served our late queen in the Army and then the Metropolitan Police, worked at an agrochemical research and development site, as a manager of a Drain Center, part of Wolseley Centers (yes, it's spelt this way) and finally as a Development Manager for hospice charities with particular responsibility for Trust and Legacy income.

I have a deep passion for photography and a growing interest in astronomy and astro-photography. I'm chair of the local photography club committee and chair of trustees for the village hall.

A parish council is a civil local authority found in England, which is the lowest tier of local government. And it's true to say that on its own, it has limited powers to make decisions. But it does have to ability to negotiate with and effectively influence those other organisations that do make the final decisions. This at all times representing the best interests of parishioners. All this activity is backed up by a committed and hardworking staff who do all the backroom stuff needed to keep things going. I'm looking forward to being part of this process and hopefully, making a difference.

I do have a short message for parishioners (that's you), if there is an issue troubling you or a suggestion that you feel the parish council may be able to help with or even resolve please do get in touch, you can e-mail, write or even 'phone. The contacts are in a box on this page. Please don't use comments and requests on the various facebook pages as a contact, they may not be seen and therefore not actioned.

Cllr Tony Smith

## Understanding Precept 2024-2025

THIS is the line on your Council Tax bill that says Linton Parish.

Precept pays for all sorts of stuff including the electricity bills for the street lights; emptying public rubbish & dog-poo bins; cutting grass areas such as Camping Close & the Recreation Ground; removing graffiti; repairing the bus shelters; keeping an eye on the trees; inspecting, maintaining and insuring play areas & equipment; processing planning applications; maintaining the cemetery; ensuring money is spent within the rules that Parish Councils must follow. Also keeping appropriate records and obviously paying the Parish Council office staff to make sure all this continues.

Every year the Councillors and Officers go over every proposed cost and discuss what we must spend and what we would like to spend. We look at where we can save money and where we have to spend money to keep Linton as a desirable place to live. To support this aim we give grants to groups and societies that promote sport (eg netball, football and cricket) or welfare (eg Beacon Youth Trust, Age UK Community Warden and Relate) or safety (eg Speedwatch, MSIDs). Each request for a grant is scrutinised to see how it supports Linton parishioners.

We are acutely aware that we are spending your money (and ours, as we get Council Tax bills as well).

As with most things in life, apart from rain, this year's precept is going up. However, we have endeavoured to keep this year's budget as tight as possible. At the end of the day, if your property has a Council Tax Banding C, this will mean you will pay an extra 22p/week – less for bands A & B, and slightly more for bands D to H.

The public is always welcome to come to the Finance Committee Meetings, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, where Councillors review invoices, quotes & contracts and ensure, together with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/Clerk that our spend aligns with the budgets that have been set, and also if there are any unforeseen changes that have cost implications. And you can always read the Minutes on the Parish Council website or by appointment, at the Parish Council Office, to see where your money is going.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

## Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Community Warden Service

LAST month I wrote a piece in Parish Matters and I got some of my facts wrong, so I would like to write some corrections.

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a local independent charity, meaning it is responsible for raising all funds to deliver services to local older people, however, they are a brand partner with Age UK National

The point of the article was to bring attention to the fact that this Community Warden Service exists and that the Parish Council gives money (£6,236 last year) along with other funders, to help make sure it continues to exist as we believe it is a valuable resource. The money goes direct to Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough who are responsible for the management and delivery of the service.

The Community Warden assists older people to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) The service is flexible to individual need, usually consisting of a daily phone call and 2 visits a week on average. This community warden service is specific to residents in Linton. At the moment our community warden is supporting 11 households and has capacity to support more. The support can be on a short- or long-term basis.

At present the scheme is able to offer a 4-week FREE trial (usually 2 weeks) and thereafter, a weekly fee is payable: £10 per week for single person and £12 per week for a couple. If you would like to know more about the service, please contact Chrissy on 07931852019 or email [wardens@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:wardens@ageukcap.org.uk)

Plus, it was also to encourage more people to help to the ACEs, which fulfills a vital social function for our elderly Parishioners. So, I apologise for getting my facts wrong but please continue to use the Community Warden Service & support the ACEs.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

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ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Cathodeon Centre.

#### Chairman's Comment.

The Chairman welcomed Anya and Tony as new members of the Parish Council and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Congratulations were also given to Cllr Chris Hine as he had recently become a governor for Linton Village College (LVC).

The Chairman invited suggestions for changes to the format of the Annual Meeting of the Parish to encourage attendance by parishioners. It was suggested that in addition to the annual reports from the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chair of the Planning Committee an annual report be submitted by the Chair of Finance. Also, reports on key topics of interest to the public such as Traffic, Neighbourhood Plan etc.

Parishioner engagement would be encouraged and interaction with the parishioners prior to the AMP to help format the meeting to reach the target audience. The Clerk was requested to publicise the event, using all available formats, in good time for the meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

#### Clerks Report

UPDATE on the ownership of Coles Lane Car Park and permissions received to re-instate the right of way access for 83 High Street. **For Information.**

The Clerk advised that following the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, SCDC has granted permission for the right of way to be re-instated and the work was scheduled to be carried out imminently.

Update on the grit bins to be installed at Rivey Close and Horn Lane. Verbal update from the Clerk. **For Information.**

The Clerk advised that following numerous attempts to secure the date of installation of the grit bins, the County Councillor had directly contacted the Highways Manager to mitigate any further delays. The Winter Maintenance Team at CCC to be contacted again for an update.

#### Planning

##### Bartlow Road

IT was confirmed that a small number of houses on the development were now occupied.

##### Horseheath Road.

It was advised that a digger had been carrying out work in the infiltration basin today.

##### Neighbourhood Plan update.

THE next meeting for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is scheduled to take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. It was noted that external assistance be sought and action taken to contact those recommended by Ashdon Parish Council.

#### Finance

##### Grants and Funding

PERMISSION for the RFO to release the S106 payment from the 20 Cambridge Road Development to Linton Village Hall to the value of £5,673.28.

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds suggested that details of the projects funded by the S106 funds be publicised to ensure parishioners are aware of the valuable improvements taking place.

It was noted that the Trustee Committee would also include details in the annual report for Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed that the S106 payment to Linton Village Hall be paid. Cllr Brian Cox seconded. **Agreed.**

#### Budgets & Precept 2024-2025

CONSIDERATION of the grant applications for S137 funding. **Open discussion and Decision required.**

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds proposed the S137 grant applications be approved, excluding those with outstanding application queries, which would be brought back to Full Council for approval. Cllr Anya Sparks seconded. **Agreed.**

Consideration of the grant applications for Independent Grant funding. **Open discussion and Decision required.**

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds proposed the Independent grant applications be approved, excluding those with outstanding application queries, which would be brought back to Full Council for approval. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. **Agreed with one abstention.**

Consideration of the overall budget and proposed precept, as recommended by the Budget Working Group, following the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

#### Open discussion and Decision required.

Cllr Chris Hine proposed that the budget and proposed precept for the financial year 2024-2025 be approved and submitted to SCDC by the RFO. Cllr Carl Cieluch seconded. **All Agreed.**

#### Policies and Regulations

CONSIDERATION of the Equality and Diversity Policy. **Decision required.**

Cllr Guy Ennew proposed the Equality & Diversity Policy be adopted. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. **Agreed.**

Consideration of the Safeguarding Policy. **Decision required.**

Cllr Brian Cox proposed the Safeguarding Policy be adopted. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. **Agreed.**

#### Risk & Maintenance

##### The Meadow Recreation Ground

CLLR Helen Lawrence-Foulds raised that there is graffiti of an unacceptable nature on the Skate Ramp. The RFO was requested to contact the insurance company and installers of the Skate Park to seek advice and implications of the suggested solution to disguise the graffiti by way of organised "painting" of the structure. All options to be explored and the item to be brought back to the next Full Council meeting. In the interim the RFO to request that LHS attend to remove the graffiti.

#### Cathodeon Centre

NOTIFICATION of a vacancy on the Cathodeon Centre Trustee Committee and invitation for Parish Council representation. **Open discussion and Decision required.**

Cllr Merrie Mannassi proposed that Cllr Anya Sparks be nominated to represent the Parish Council for the Cathodeon Centre. Cllr Chris Hine seconded. **Agreed.**

#### Traffic & Highways

##### Highways

IT was noted that the speed survey will be in place on Hadstock Road from 15.01.2024-29.01.2024 and data will be available in due course.

The Clerk advised that the Traffic Working Group would re-focus on the 2025-2026 bid and consider pedestrian crossings on main school routes, Horseheath Road and

Balsham Road. A public consultation will be completed and data collated throughout 2024 in support of a bid to be considered by the Full Council in due course.

#### Open Spaces

##### Glebe Land

NOTIFICATION of letter of termination of tenancy of the Glebe Land sent 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, expiring 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

#### Camping Close

CONSIDERATION for a request from a parishioner to remove the brambles and weeds up to the boundary of St Mary's Church on Camping Close. **Open discussion and Decision required.**

Cllr Carl Cieluch proposed that the natural habitat be preserved on Camping Close to protect the environment for wildlife. Cllr Tony Smith seconded. **All Agreed.**

#### River Granta

UPDATE following the Chalk Stream Project Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Written report available Verbal update from Cllrs Kell and Hill. **For Information.**

It was noted that a further meeting would be required, the Clerk to arrange.

#### Youth & Groups

##### Beacon Youth Trust

CONSIDERATION of the Monthly Report for December 2023 and Quarter Summary from the Beacon Youth Trust. **Written report available. For information.**

It was requested that validation of attendance be investigated and any exclusions be reported.

#### Meeting Dates

THE next Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Cathodeon Centre at 7.30pm to which all Councillors will be summoned. **For Information.**

#### Noted. Market Square

Consideration for any further action to be taken in relation to the future use of the Market Square. **Open discussion and Decision required.**

Cllr Carl Cieluch proposed that Holmes & Hill be advised that full costs incurred in relation to the First Registration of the Market Square be pursued on behalf of the parish. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. **All Agreed.**

Cllr Chris Hine proposed that the Clerk request, in writing, the neighbouring properties remove all obstructions from the Market Square with immediate effect, on condition that the solicitor agrees with the timing and content of the correspondence. Cllr Carl Cieluch seconded. **All Agreed.**

Full Minutes are available on the Parish Council website.  
**Clerk**

The Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,  
 Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001  
**Clerks to the council – Jenny Seaward & Kate Dyer.**  
**Email:** enquiries@linton-pc.gov.uk  
**Website:** www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/lintonpc  
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