

## Friends run for Petals

AT the beginning of March, 10 childhood friends from Linton came together to take on the Cambridge Half Marathon. What began as an idea in the pub became both a personal challenge and a fundraiser for a cause close to them. In the UK, one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage, one in 200 babies is stillborn, around 5,000 pregnancies are terminated for medical reasons each year, and 24 babies die shortly after birth every week.

Over the years, many within their friendship group have experienced the heartbreak of baby loss. This motivated them to support Petals, a charity providing vital counselling and support for families affected. After months of training and early mornings, they reached the start line together and completed the race together. So far, they have raised over £9,000, enough to fund a full package of Petals specialist counselling for over 18 families this year. They are grateful for every single donation and message of support received. There's still time to donate via the link ([www.justgiving.com/team/cambhalf](http://www.justgiving.com/team/cambhalf)) and help raise even more for this important cause. Every contribution will go towards supporting families who need it most.

Chris Ellis



The team cross the line together

## Wandlebury burial pit, part 3

IN the past two issues of the Linton News, we have been following the story of the fascinating Viking finds by Cambridge University archaeology students at Wandlebury Country Park. They discovered a 9<sup>th</sup> century burial pit containing the complete and partial remains of at least ten young men—some flung into the grave carelessly, yet others with bones stacked carefully into piles. In this article, we'll look at what was going on in Cambridgeshire at the time, and look to the ongoing research that hopes to shed more light on this find, and how it fits into our region's history.

Initial radiocarbon work dates some of the bones found in the pit to around the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century: a time when Cambridgeshire was a frontier zone between Saxon- and Viking-run areas. However, with no associated grave materials more research is required to establish if these bones were those of Saxons or Vikings.

Cambridge in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century was under the control of Offa, ruler of the kingdom of Mercia, but in the late 9<sup>th</sup> century (874–875 AD), half of the Viking Great Army set up camp close to Cambridge, and sacked the town. Cambridgeshire was then incorporated into the Viking kingdom of East Anglia, and stayed under Viking control until the early 10<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Danelaw agreement.

"Cambridgeshire was a frontier zone between Mercia and East Anglia and the continual wars between Saxons and Vikings as they clashed over territory across many decades", said Dr Oscar Aldred, from Cambridge Archaeological Unit, who led the dig. "We suspect the pit may relate to these conflicts."

Historic England, which is supporting the excavation and monitors archaeology on protected Scheduled Monuments such as Wandlebury, has commissioned a new geophysical survey of the area that archaeologists hope will reveal more about the site surrounding the burial pit.

Tony Calladine, East of England Regional Director, Historic England, said, "Wandlebury is an important natural and historic resource for the people of Cambridgeshire. The extraordinary discovery there speaks to the story of our nation and the lives of ordinary people living during turbulent times."

Future work from the Cambridge team will include bone analysis including ancient DNA and isotopic work to investigate health, kinship and ancestral links, which will help to establish if these are Viking remains. The archaeologists will also attempt 'refitting' to see if any dismembered remains can be reconstructed to determine how many people were thrown into the pit.

"I would never have expected to find something like this on a student training dig. It was a shocking contrast to the peaceful site of Wandlebury," added Grace Grandfield, a Cambridge undergraduate from York who took part. "Several of the individuals we uncovered were a similar age to me, and it was a sobering experience to identify ever more disarticulated bones and realise the extent of the suffering that had taken place."

Louise Palmer, Cambridge Past, Present and Future  
Photos- Cambridge Archaeological Unit- David Matzliach

Students unearthing remains



## A wonderful weekend awaits!

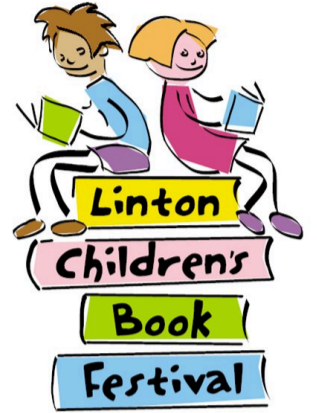
LINTON Children's Book Festival is nearly here! Get your free tickets on [www.lintonbookfest.org](http://www.lintonbookfest.org) - places are filling fast for our weekend of entertaining shows and creative activities for families. The fun takes place at Linton Village College, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May. Activities run from 10am to 3.30pm, with a final main event each day ending at 4.30pm.

Take a supervillain's tour of the Universe with Matt Bothwell, go dream-hunting with Nazima Pathan, or discover Jamie Littler's amazing fantasy worlds. Solve historical crime with JT Williams or become a junior journalist with Cathy Reay. Laugh with comedian James Campbell and marvel at James Mayhew painting to live music. Enjoy workshops in poetry, horror writing, drama, manga, dragon drawing or Chinese paper cutting. Add theatre, music, dance, and stories with live animals - and that's still not all that Bookfest has to offer!

Pre-booking is highly recommended, but if you don't book you are welcome to come and enjoy drop-in activities including collage, printing, typewriting, eco-crafts and story-times. Last-minute tickets are usually available for our main events: just ask at the welcome desk.

Norfolk Children's Book Centre will sell books for signing by your favourite festival authors and illustrators. Thank you to Arts Council England, Linton Parish Council and Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund (via Cambridgeshire Community Foundation) for funding the festival. We welcome donations via our website to go towards future festivals and author visits to our local schools, so we can keep inspiring children to love books and reading.

Anna McMahon  
Linton Children's Book Festival



## Air Ambulance urgent appeal

CAMBRIDGE Airport - home to our Cambridge crew - will be closing, cutting our air ambulance service in half with just one base left in Norfolk. With no crew in the centre of the region, times to patients, who are facing time-sensitive, life-threatening emergencies, will increase dramatically - putting local lives at risk. Every day, five people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk need our specialist critical care team.

People like baby Clayton who was born at just 26 weeks. Clayton's Mum, Mia, recalls "I looked down and saw a tiny baby boy gasping for air". Our Anglia Two crew, Dr Liam Neale and Critical Care Paramedic Jon Locke, were dispatched from our Cambridge base. When they arrived, Clayton was alive but extremely unwell. They began treating Clayton immediately, providing critical care in the moments he needed it most. Against all the odds, Clayton survived. We need your help to relocate and build a new base. Our crews deliver hospital-level care 24/7, 365 days a year, to people facing sudden medical emergencies. We're not just a fast transfer to hospital; we bring the emergency department to the scene, giving people the best possible chance when every second counts. But right now, this lifesaving service is under threat.

As a charity, every mission we attend is only possible thanks to public donations. Please act now and donate £30 to protect the future of lifesaving care in East Anglia: [eaaa.org.uk/base](http://eaaa.org.uk/base).

East Anglian Air Ambulance



## Thank you Margaret

LONG time and well known village resident, Margaret Cox has devoted herself to caring for St Mary's Churchyard, the green heart of Linton, with dedication, warmth, and quiet wisdom for over 27 years. Her work, alongside many different folk has nurtured both nature and community. As Margaret retires from leading the hardworking band of volunteers 'The Monday Gang', her legacy will continue to flourish for years to come.

Our churchyard is a much-loved part of our village and we want to make it even more of a haven of biodiversity. We depend on volunteers who help to maintain it for everyone. (See Linton Churchyard Day on page two) If you would be able to offer some time or other support for nurturing this wonderful place, please contact Revd Paul at [rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk) or on 01223 455098. Thank you.

Revd Paul

Right- Margaret and her trusty trug



## Rising stars visit Linton

THIS month, Linton Music Series welcomes the Karelia String Quartet to play *Grieg's String Quartet no. 1 in G minor*, and the *String Quartet in F major* by Ravel. Working under the mentorship of our own Alex Redington at the Royal Academy of Music, this young and exciting ensemble already has two first prizes in prestigious chamber music competitions to their credit, along with performances at Wigmore Hall, St James's Palace and Apsley House, and they have quickly established a reputation as the ones to come and see. The concert is at St Mary's Church, Linton on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.45pm. Ticket prices are adults £15, concessions £13, young person (to age 21) £3, and are obtainable from [lintonmusicseries.co.uk](http://lintonmusicseries.co.uk) or on the door.

Linda Bird

## The Northwest Passage

A ONCE impossible journey comes to life this May as Rosey Feuall shares her remarkable voyage through the legendary Northwest Passage.

Carving its way through the frozen Arctic, the Northwest Passage links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans via a maze of remote Canadian islands. For centuries, it lured explorers in search of a shortcut to Asia, only to defeat them with impenetrable ice and extreme conditions. Today, as the ice retreats during the summer months, this fabled route is opening up, revealing a landscape of stark beauty, fragile ecosystems and powerful history.

Through stunning images and personal insight, Rosey brings this extraordinary region to life, capturing both the physical challenge and the emotional pull of travelling through one of the world's last great frontiers.

The illustrated talk is paired with one of St Mary's renowned afternoon teas, the perfect combination for a memorable afternoon.

Join us on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May in St Mary's Church at 3pm. Tickets are £12.50 and are available from Sue Ellis (01223 892257) or Charlotte Dodd [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk). Booking is essential.

Charlotte Dodd

## Linton churchyard day

FOLLOWING the successful churchyard day last autumn, we're pleased to invite you to join us again on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Volunteers from across the village, of many different ages and backgrounds, made a real difference last time, and all are welcome to take part. Please bring secateurs, gloves and other tools if you have them. Tasks will include pruning lime suckers, mowing margins by paths, and other bits and bobs. You do not need prior experience to take part!

Whether for an hour or longer, your help would be greatly appreciated between 10am and 3pm, and refreshments will be provided in the Pavilion. It's a great way to meet new friends too.

Revd Paul

## Balsham Singers

TICKETS are now on sale for our Spring Concert on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. Tickets are £12 and under 16s are £1. They will be available online at Balsham and Abington Post Offices, choir members, or from <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers>.

Jo Stinton

## Headscratcher

Number 19

Three runners start at a 400 m track. Runner A takes 78 seconds to complete a lap, Runner B 104 seconds and Runner C 156 seconds. Runner A is first to complete, and that as he is near the finishing line, all the runners are abreast. If the runners complete each lap as stated, how many laps were run and what was the winning time?

Answer to 18

When you use numbers less than one 0.5<sup>0.5</sup> is 0.7071 or 0.1<sup>0.1</sup> is 0.794. The smaller the number the closer the expression is to 1.

Aspasia

## Open Gardens

EIGHT gardens are opening for this year's National Gardens Open Garden Scheme on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026, from 2-6pm. Gardens, both formal and informal, include: Queen's House (16 High Street), 94 High Street, The Hollies (36 Symonds Lane), 30 Symonds Lane, 25A Back Road, 15 Balsham Road, Chalklands Community Garden, and 36 Wheatsheaf Way. Tickets can be purchased by cash or card at Queen's House and other gardens. Tickets cost £8 and provide entry to all the gardens.

In addition, there will be homemade teas and refreshments available in the Maltings Courtyard (94 High Street) and in St Mary's Parish Church (Church Lane CB21 4JX). The Peace Garden next to St Mary's is open and there is an accessible toilet in the pavilion behind the church.

All the money raised by goes to various charities (see <https://ngs.org.uk/> for details).

Michael Wilcockson  
[m.wilcockson@hotmail.com](mailto:m.wilcockson@hotmail.com)

## The Friends of St Mary's Linton

THE Friends of St Mary's was founded on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1988, two years after The Linton News, to restore, preserve and maintain the Parish Church building. This secular charity is financed through a membership scheme, fundraising, and income from a bequest made by the late Richard Godel.

St Mary's Church is the only Grade I Listed Building in Linton and, like many medieval buildings, is expensive to maintain. Over the past 15 years The Friends have spent over £250,000 on repairs and improvements, including work to the roof, stonework, windows, heating system, floor tiles and belfry, as well as a new sound system, redecoration and improved access through the north door. Larger projects include a new lighting system installed in 2022 at a cost of more than £62,000, and over 80% of the cost of two new boilers installed earlier this year.

The Parish Church receives no money from the Diocese of Ely, the wider Church of England, or central government or local government. This means the charity needs continued support to pay for vital repair and maintenance work on this important village landmark.

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18, regardless of where they live or their religious beliefs. A membership form can be obtained by contacting the secretary at [info@friendsofstmaryslinton.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofstmaryslinton.co.uk).

Donations are always welcome and can be made through the website: [www.friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk).

Judith Tonry - Secretary  
Friends of St Mary's Linton

## THE LINTON NEWS

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Call 01223 893619 for an audio version of the paper

### May bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

Blue: Wednesdays 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

Green: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<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).

Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.

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

MAY		
Sat 2	Farmers Market, 9-11.30am	Village Hall
Sun 3	Bartlow Walk, from 9.30am	Hills Farm, Bartlow
Tue 5	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 7	Linton Roots Meeting, 6-7.30pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Fri 8	FROG Outing, 1pm	RSPB Fowlmere
Sat 9	Illustrated Talk with Afternoon Tea, 3pm	St Mary's Church
Sun 10	FROG, Creepy Crawlies of R. Granta, 11am	Linton Rec.
Mon 11	W. Wickham History Club, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 12	Scrabble Club, 10-12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 12	Camsight Meeting, 2pm	Chalklands Centre
Wed 13	Coffee Morning, 10-12pm	Linton Free Church
Wed 13	Big Life Talk, 6.30pm	Abington Institute
Fri 15	Mary's Community Kitchen, 12-2pm	Village Hall
Fri 15	Daylight Readers, 10.30 and 2.30pm	Library
Sat 16	Children's Book Festival, 10-3.30pm	LVC
Sat 16	Christian Aid Coffee Morning, 10-1pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 16	Pop-up Charity Shop, 10-1pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 16	WWGC Plant Sale, 10.30-12.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Sat 16	Beacon Youth Trust Quiz, 7pm	Free Church Hall
Sat 16	Balsham Singers Concert, 7.30pm	Holy Trinity Church, Balsham
Sat 16	FROG Bat Walk, 8.15pm	Pocket Park, Mill Lane
Sun 17	Children's Book Festival, 10-3.30pm	LVC
Tue 19	Linton Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 21	Karelia String Quartet Concert, 7.45pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 26	Scrabble Club, 10-12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 26	Faith, Fire and Fury, 7.30pm	St Andrew's Church W. Wrattling
Sat 30	Linton Churchyard Day, 10-3pm	St Mary's
Sun 31	Open Gardens, 2-6pm	Various Locations
JUNE		
Tue 2	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 4	Linton Roots Meeting, 6-7.30pm	St Mary's Pavilion
WEEKLY		
Mon	Mini Movers, 10-11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30-11am, (term time only)	Library
Tue	Granta Bridge Club, 2-4pm	Village Hall
Tue	Knit and Natter, 2-4pm	Library
Tue	Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7-8pm	LVC
Wed	Tots in Tow, 9.30-11am (term times)	Village Hall
Wed	Warm Hub, 1-4pm	Sports Pavilion
Wed	IT Drop In, 5-7pm	Library
Wed	Let's Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10-11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1-2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2-4pm	Library
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10-11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7-9pm	Comm. Sports Centre, LVC
Sun	Church Service, 8am and 10am	St Mary's Church
Sun	Church Service, 10.30am	Linton Free Church

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## Walking & Talking

Walking the Peddars Way artist Dea Fisher

Walking the Thames artist Ian Welsh

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## The Marsh mail

LINTON Village College values its close links with the local community, working with families, volunteers and partner organisations to support students and shared activities.

We are grateful for the support of our Trust Fund, established in 1987 to help meet the welfare needs of individual pupils and to widen access to extra-curricular opportunities. Over the past year, more than £3,200 has been donated, helping over 40 students. We would like to thank John Batchelor and Scilla Harvey, who recently stepped down from the Trust Fund committee after many years of dedicated service.

The Friends of LVC is our PTA. We are very lucky to have a dedicated team of parents and carers supporting the College through fundraising and community events.

The annual *Friends' Quiz Night* takes place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the main school hall. Tickets are on sale online for teams of six and are available via the school website on the 'Linton Village College - Parents - Friends of LVC' page. Tickets are £15, and include a fish and chip supper. There will be a bar and a raffle with donations from local businesses. Money raised will be invested in enriching LVC students' school experience.

We are excited to be hosting the Linton Children's Book Festival on the 16-17<sup>th</sup> May (see page one). It's a free family event celebrating reading with reading-themed and creative activities for children aged 0-11, including talks and workshops with children's authors and illustrators. Tickets can be secured in advance via the [lintonbookfest.org](http://lintonbookfest.org) website.

Helena Marsh

## Illustrator sparks excitement

ON 17<sup>th</sup> March, Linton Bookfest arranged for the wonderful illustrator Chris Mould to visit us at Linton Heights Junior School, and it proved to be a truly memorable experience for everyone involved. The whole school gathered for a captivating hour as he shared stories about his own school days, reflecting on how his love of drawing developed into a successful creative career. His enthusiasm and humour immediately engaged the audience, making the session both entertaining and inspiring.

A highlight was watching Chris bring a drawing to life before our eyes. Step by step, he created an impressive 'Iron Man' illustration, demonstrating techniques and sharing helpful tips on how we could improve our own drawing skills. It was fascinating to see how a professional illustrator approaches their work, and many pupils left feeling motivated to practise and develop their own artistic talents.

We were also given the opportunity to ask questions, which Chris answered thoughtfully, offering insight into his creative process and experiences. It was a valuable chance to learn directly from someone working in the creative industry.

Visits like this are always inspiring, and Chris encouraged us to think more deeply about the people behind the books and images we encounter every day. We would like to extend our thanks to Caroline Derbyshire, Mike Murray, and of course Brian the Lion for making the visit so special. We are so lucky to have the Bookfest in Linton, and we cannot wait for Bookfest weekend!

Caroline Webb



## Praise for the Infant School

AS mentioned in the last issue of *Linton News*, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 an Inspector visited the school to carry out a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). We are delighted with the report, which clearly illustrates the strengths of the school. A full version is on our school website. However, I would like to share a few extracts with you.

*"Dedicated leaders and governors ensure that the Christian vision to 'let your light shine' is embedded in the life of Linton. This inspires pupils and adults to both value themselves and care for others, enabling the school community to flourish."*

*"The exceptionally strong partnership between the school and the local church provides a rich and varied programme of collective worship. Consequently, this provision impacts very positively on pupils' spiritual development."*

*"The school's Christian values underpin a nurturing ethos. This creates an inclusive environment that often leads to transformational change for pupils and their families."*

*"The curriculum is creative, challenging and relevant. It is engaging, and offers opportunities to broaden their experience, fostering a love of learning."*

*"Inspired by the vision, leaders have designed a curriculum to enable pupils to flourish."*

I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff and governors for supporting me in ensuring the whole school continues to thrive and the children flourish.

Thank you also to our wider community for their support.  
Kelly Harries

## Linton Roots news

WE are turning our attention to nature and, with the approval of the Parish Council, will plant yellow rattle plugs on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Funded by the council, this plant reduces grass growth, allowing wildflowers to establish. We are also identifying areas where wild daffodils could be planted.

We will soon survey local hedgerows, recording their type, location, and associated plants and wildlife. The results will be mapped. This is particularly important in light of village developments.

Thanks to a local volunteer, bird boxes have been installed in Pocket Park and Kingfisher Walk. He has also planted several native trees in the Kingfisher Walk area, with more to be planted in the autumn, supported by the Woodland Trust.

### Events for your diary

- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Linton Children's Book Festival. Visit the Linton Roots drop-in activity to make a finger moth or wildflower seed ball.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 6pm in St Mary's – Screening of *People's Emergency Briefing*, presented by Chris Packham and featuring experts from across the UK, focusing on climate and nature.
- Repair Café – Following the success of the first event, another is planned for November.

If you would like to find out more or get involved, the group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6-7.30pm in St Mary's Pavilion. All are welcome.



Yellow Rattle

## News from the Library

**NATIONAL Year of Reading** is about inspiring people to read more. Whatever your passion, we have something for it. If you visit to use the computer, find a quiet space or borrow a jigsaw, why not explore our shelves too? Membership is free and we have books, CDs and e-lending for every age and interest.

Never been to the library? This is the perfect time to discover what is waiting for you. Our library is a friendly community space for reading, creativity and connection.

Discovered a new favourite author at **Linton Children's Book Festival**? Pop in to see what books we have.

We'll be celebrating **Local and Community History Month**, so come and learn something new about our village.

**Daylight Readers:** our book groups will meet on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May; one at 10.30am, the other at 2.30pm. The morning group would love to welcome new members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Linton News Team

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# 100 parishes - vineyards



THE Romans introduced wine making to the UK, and vines were cultivated to some extent until World War I, when land was needed for growing food.

Viticulture (the process of growing grapes) began to revive in the 1970s with warmer summers and the development of grape varieties suited to English conditions. Today, we have several successful vineyards in The Hundred Parishes.

One of the first was Chilford Hall in Linton parish. It was run by the Alper family for 50 years before changing hands in 2024. The new owners continue to manage the 20-acre vineyard alongside their Grillo Outdoor Kitchen business.

In Great Bardfield, Great Lodge produces its own wines from six different grape varieties. The vineyard is open to visitors midweek from May to September, and there is also a wedding venue on site. Website: <https://www.greatlodge.co.uk/vineyard/>.

In Farnham, Hazel End Farm has been growing grapes for over 30 years. Their sparkling white wine is sold as *Three Squirrels*. This celebrates the fact that the Gosling family who own the land once had a bank in Fleet Street, where a sign above the door read *Ye Three Squirrels*. Website: <https://www.corylet.com/>.

In Saffron Walden, the first vines were planted at Saffron Grange in 2008. The family business is now well established, producing white sparkling wines and offering vineyard tours for small groups from mid-April. Website: <https://www.saffrongrange.com/>.

Left - Henham Vineyard in August

Ken McDonald

## Good news travels

IN March we hosted our sixth Mary's Community Kitchen lunch. We welcomed lots of guests to share a selection of homemade soup, freshly baked bread and lots of good company. Two new volunteers joined our team, and we were delighted to have had some new faces around the table, including Peter, the Director of Mission and Ministry from Ely Diocese. Peter had overheard a conversation about our community lunches between me and a fellow student, and was intrigued to know more. He was delighted by his experience! Receiving a warm welcome, he joined our guests around the table, shared conversations and mischievously told people that his job is to "try to keep students like me, in order".

We do not charge for the lunch at Mary's Community Kitchen; you can make a donation if you wish. Peter noticed that one of our guests asked if they could donate using a card; we don't have a card machine so Peter has offered to try and get one for us. So it was a mutually beneficial visit.

Peter sent a card saying "I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your team for what you do to serve the parish of Linton and for making me so welcome when I visited. It is much appreciated and we will keep the work in our thoughts and prayers!"

Would you like to experience good food and excellent company for yourself? We would love to welcome you to the Village Hall between 12-2pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.



Peter and Sue

Sue Filby

## Pawmotion wins big

OVER the past month, PawMotion Rehabilitation, run solely by Aimee Plumb, has received two prestigious awards, Outstanding Pet Rehabilitation Centre of 2026 and Highly Commended Animal Therapist of 2026.



PawMotion Rehabilitation provides specialised rehabilitation services for animals, including hydrotherapy, laser therapy, and mobility sessions. As a fear-free professional, I focus particularly on supporting reactive dogs and take a calm, compassionate approach, incorporating holistic treatment tailored to each individual animal.

For a small, independently run business, receiving these awards is a huge milestone and reflects the dedication to improving the wellbeing and recovery of animals in the local community.

Aimee Plumb-Joy

## Camsight VIPs

A VERY jolly meeting was held in April when Adrian Cosgrove, our Camsight Resources Manager brought various aids and devices in to demonstrate and try out. These are designed to help people with sight loss to read print more and do hobbies, more easily, and to help with household tasks enabling them to stay independent in their own homes.

Sadly, our members were told that our monthly meetings at Chalklands will finish in June. However our volunteers will continue to visit and support the members on an informal basis and they will still be able to benefit from the advice, resources and services offered by Camsight.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm at the Chalklands Community Hall, when we will sing along to many of our favourite old songs. If you would like further information on our group and the work of Camsight, please contact us on either the Cambridge office number, 01223 420033 or on 01223 893595.

Jean Mannion

## Big Life talks

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm, Abington Institute

THIS is the first in a series of engaging public talks and discussions that we hope will continue throughout the year and are open to everyone. Each event will feature a brief talk addressing important life topics, delivered by leading figures from scientific, medical, technology, and theological fields. The session will be followed by a Q & A session and complimentary refreshments. The first speaker will be Professor Robert (Bob) White, whose talk will be titled 'Are natural disasters inevitable? Insights from science and religion'.

Prof Bob White is a Fellow of St Edmund's College Cambridge, having been Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society and his work at sea has taken him to the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. His research group is currently investigating the internal structure of volcanoes in Iceland. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and was awarded a Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of a lifetime's achievement in research. His scientific work is published in over 350 papers and articles. The talks are being organised by Abington Churches as part of the Scientists in Congregations initiative and funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

For more information, please contact either Revd Hannah Threlfall or Tony Collett - [tony.collett3112@gmail.com](mailto:tony.collett3112@gmail.com).

Tony Collett

## An evening with Julia Ball

A CROWD of art lovers gathered at *Gallery Above* on 12<sup>th</sup> March for an evening's entertainment, admiring and critiquing the works of artist Julia Ball plus a special treat: listening to the memories of Jim Anderson, local artist and proprietor of Linton Art Gallery and Studio, who was taught by Julia in 1983 on his Art Foundation Course at Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, now Anglia Ruskin University. He has a vivid memory of the first time he met her, when she appeared in the studio carrying a mysteriously damp-looking brown paper bag, the contents of which she up-ended onto the stand in the middle of the room. It was a big pile of sprats, and she said, "Here are your models for today!". Jim subsequently learned about other behaviour patterns of his new teacher: her deep rooted habit of painting the light and shimmer of the landscapes and waterways of Wicken and Quy Fens; her hobby of kayaking, and her passion for the soaring gothic spaces of Ely Cathedral. She was also inspired by overseas landscapes, and travelled to Crete, Africa and the Arctic in search of inspiration.

Jim and his fellow students were also impressed by Julia's social activism, including her presence at the protest camps at Greenham Common. Clearly, Julia was not only a brilliant and unforgettable teacher but also a memorable role model for the young people under her tuition. Jim's memories massively helped to illuminate her art works on display in the gallery.

Rosemary Wellings

## Lamb Sunday at Hildersham

THANK you to all who attended our Lamb Sunday. We are delighted that with your support and generosity. We raised £1,385.64. This will be split equally between the UK Sepsis Trust and Holy Trinity Church Hildersham. We hope that you enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did.

Jeanette Long

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# Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



## FROG in May

THERE is a free guided walk at RSPB Fowlmere to see the River Shep, a pristine chalk stream - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm at RSPB Fowlmere.

Not everybody locally has seen a beautiful, gin-clear chalk stream: the very first time I saw the stream at Fowlmere I was bowled over. It's so helpful for our residents to know what we are aiming for in our projects to improve the River Granta, and to marvel at a pristine chalk stream. Rob Mungovan, conservation officer for the Wild Trout Trust, has kindly agreed to guide us. Rob previously worked as an ecologist at South Cambs District Council and has 20 years' experience in river improvement. He is a passionate campaigner for river conservation. To book, visit: <https://LintonFROGRSPBFowlmereWalk.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Creepy crawlies: The invertebrates and other small creatures of the River Granta - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 11am on Linton Rec.

So many amazing minibeasts live on the Granta riverbed and yet we hardly ever see them. We'll show you what's there, and you can help us find more bugs and identify the different species. Children (and adults) love this session and are amazed how much there is to see. We will meet on Linton Rec, along the path that follows the river towards Little Linton, not far from the white footbridge. All welcome.

Go Batty with Bats - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 8.15pm, starting at the gate to Pocket Park off Mill Lane, Linton. Back by popular demand! Last year this event attracted 100 people of all ages, fascinated by what flies above our heads at night. Bats are amazing; they are the only mammal able to actively fly, rather than glide, and can live incredibly long for such a small mammal. They fly using echolocation, which builds a 3D picture using sonar. This walk will last 1.5 hours and will be led by Rachel Bates from the Cambridgeshire Bat Group, which carries out baty research, conservation, and public engagement and education. Please visit the link to book: <https://LintonFROGSpringBatWalk.eventbrite.co.uk>.

FROG is a volunteer group that runs litter picks, conservation and citizen science monitoring tasks, and events to promote a love of our natural world. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact us at [lintonfrog@gmail.com](mailto:lintonfrog@gmail.com) or visit us at [https://www.facebook.com/LintonFROG/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/LintonFROG/?locale=en_GB).

Jonathan Silverman, Co-chair, Linton FROG

## Don't let a garden spring clean lead to fire

STAYING safe outside is just as important as keeping your family safe from fire in your home.

As the spring weather (hopefully) begins to arrive, many will take the opportunity to get out in the garden and give it a tidy. There are a few simple things to do which will help reduce the risk of having a fire:

- Dispose of garden waste using either a local waste pick-up service, or by taking it to a recycling centre. Do not light a bonfire!
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground – the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire

If you are planning to have a BBQ:

- Use barbeques on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing
- Put disposable barbeques on bricks; do not place directly on grass.

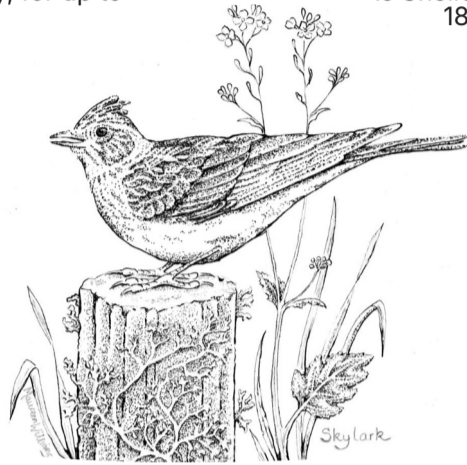
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

## Skylarks

ONE of the only downsides of having an interest in birds is reading gloomy articles about the decline in numbers of so many bird species in the UK. The skylark is one of these, now apparently in the red zone category of conservation. However, if you walk up The Grip past the Zoo in the next few weeks and turn right onto the footpath, I can guarantee you will hear skylarks. You may not be able to spot them until you get your eye in, but they will be there. They rise from the ground like a teeny harrier jump jet, soaring up to 300 metres, a little dot hovering, apparently effortlessly, for up to an hour, and then parachuting down again. As with so much birdsong, your blackest mood can be instantly lifted.

A skylark is larger than a sparrow and smaller than a starling, the archetypal *Little Brown Job* but with a crest on its head when alarmed. Unlike most small birds, it walks rather than hops. It sings all year, but is at its best between February and July, in its efforts to attract mates and establish territory. It prefers open farmland, dunes and saltmarsh. It lays its eggs on the ground, no nest, just a shallow depression easily disturbed by dogs, or trodden on by us. It can produce four broods each summer, but these can be adversely affected by the switch from autumn to spring crop sowing, and the loss of winter stubble. Its Latin name is *Alauda arvensis*, and it lives for only two short years. Frankly, it is not much of a looker, but what it lacks in beauty it more than makes up for in song.

At the top of every classical music favourites list is Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, and you definitely don't want the likes of me describing this piece. But alongside this are the poems written about larks, and what they have come to symbolise. Even its various collective nouns are evocative – an exaltation, an ascension, or a happiness of larks. The lark is a symbol of desire, joy, freedom, a bridge between heaven and earth, the promise of a new day, or the chance to free oneself from earthly ties. The best known is Shelley's *Ode to a Lark*, written in less than a day in 1820. It is too long to quote in full but here are my two favourite verses:



*Higher still and higher  
From the earth thou springest  
Like a cloud of fire  
The blue deep thou wingest  
And singest still dost soar  
And soaring ever singest.  
Better than all measures  
Of delightful sound  
Better than all treasures  
That in books are found  
Thy skill to poet were,  
Thou scorner of the ground.*

Isn't that great – the scorner of the ground? Shelley felt the contrast between his own earthly struggles and emotional pain with the joyful uninhibited nature of the skylark. There are so many memorable lines in this and other poems about larks. We should all try not to let the summer pass without having a regular lark fix, available on our doorstep.

## A hive of activity!

WE are veritably buzzing with energy in the Gardening Club this month after a packed village hall welcomed Hawk Honey for our final talk of the season to answer the question... Wasps: malicious or misunderstood?

Members are working hard preparing their plants and seedlings for our most popular event of the year: our annual plant sale, to be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am to 12.30pm at West Wickham Village Hall. Anyone generous enough to bring seedlings and plants for sale (or cakes for the tea stall), please bring

your labelled pots between 9.15-10am or deliver plants to Janet Morris at 21 High Street before the day. If anyone would like plant labels or pots, again, Janet can help you!

As always, tea and cakes will be available for visitors to enjoy, and we accept card payments as well as cash for plants and merchandise, and at the tea stall.

Summer garden visits are being planned, and this year will include a trip to Wisley. Plus, we have now a full autumn programme for members to enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about our club and our activities, then we'd love to hear from you.

Membership is £8 with new members welcome to join throughout the year. Contact Sally Collins on [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org). For information about the plant sale and the Club's Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits, contact Janet Morris on [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com).

Sally Collins  
West Wickham & District  
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# District and County Councillors' report - April 2026

## Cambridge Growth Company

TO manage this growth, and to identify areas to build new houses, the government has set up the Cambridge Growth Company, which will end up morphing into the Development Corporation (DevCo). There was a public consultation about this, which ended on April 1<sup>st</sup> about this. The results of this will, or won't, shape the DevCo and how it proposes to operate.

## Food waste collection

Starting this year all local authorities will have to collect food waste separately from other green waste. This means we will all get a new separate food caddy into which all food waste must be put. This will be collected every week alongside the usual bin. For most of us this is on Wednesday.

We are expecting the new caddies to reach us by September, as our area is one of the last to receive them.

## Electric vehicle cable channel trial

The County Council are embarking on a trial in an attempt to help people that have electric vehicles but no driveway to park and charge them on.

The trial will offer up to a certain number of people in our district the chance to apply for a channel, which runs from their charger within their property, across the pavement, and connects to their vehicle. It's made clear that the homeowner will need their own charging system. All the trial provides is the channel to cross the pavement. There will be costs involved, depending on your personal circumstances.

For further info and to register your interest - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/electric-vehicle-charging/electric-vehicle-cable-channel-trial>.

## Oil fund

The council has received £708,000 from the Government, which is ring-fenced to support households struggling with the cost of domestic oil heating. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. This fund is intended for Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top up their tanks as a matter of urgency. To receive this support, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Live in Cambridgeshire.
- Rely on heating oil to heat their home and/or water.
- Have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application.
- Receipt or be eligible to receive one of the following means-tested benefits- Universal Credit, Pension Credit or Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Applications to the fund opened on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. The link to apply is at: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>.

## Life skills

The County Council's Skills team are offering a number of classes called life skills. These are designed to help people pick up a variety of new skills that could help with day-to-day living. Depending on an individual's circumstance, most of these classes could be fully funded.

Full information can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/cambridgeshire-skills-adult-learning>.

## Elections

We are both seeking re-election to continue as your District Councillors in the District Council elections this May. The District Council becomes the new Unitary authority in 2028.

If you aren't registered to vote in local elections here (you may have just moved to the area), you have until April 20<sup>th</sup> to do so - <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

District Council – John Batchelor – [johndbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johndbatchelor23@gmail.com)  
 District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

# Driving change: Cambs bus operator slashes its carbon footprint

SINCE rolling out its electric strategy in 2018, Stagecoach, parent of Cambridgeshire's biggest bus operator, Stagecoach East, has announced that it has reduced carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions by 50,230 tonnes.

Stagecoach plans to have a zero tail-pipe emission fleet by 2035. Since beginning its environmental strategy, the operator has made an operational carbon reduction equivalent to removing around 34,000 cars off the road for a full year.

Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said, "The conversation around public transport is changing. It's no longer just about getting from A to B; it's about the impact we have on the way". Today's buses are maintained by highly skilled professionals who smoothly accelerate and brake to offer a more comfortable ride, even in traffic. For passengers reading a book, scrolling on a phone, or simply watching the world go by, the journey has never been as refined.



Since April 2022, Stagecoach has committed to purchasing 100% renewable electricity for its operations. This measure alone has reduced carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions by around 10,000 tonnes.

This commitment to sustainability recently earned Stagecoach an 'A-' leadership rating from CDP for climate disclosure, placing it in the top 6% of road transport businesses globally. In 2023 Stagecoach proudly became the first UK bus and coach operator to join the United Nations Global Compact, underscoring its dedication to universal sustainability principles.

Steven Kiely

# Planning applications from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> April

**25/04808/CONDB** Submission of details required by condition 5 (Window Details) and 7 (Roof Details) of listed building consent 25/04808/LBC. Fulwells 97 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/01304/OUT.** Outline planning application for the erection of up to 75 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and Sustainable urban Drainage System (SuDS) and vehicular access from Back Road. All matters reserved except for means of access. Land North West Of 12 The Woodlands Linton Cambridgeshire. Validated: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/01187/TELNOT** Installation of 120m of external cabling and 1 No. Non-concrete drill. 43 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HS. Validated: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/0300/TTCA** T1 - Yew - Reduce crown by 2-3m to contain size of tree T2 - Laburnum - Fell leaning against house. 97 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March.. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/00779/HFUL** Construction of replacement single storey link structure between the S.W. corner of the Granary Barn and the adjacent outbuilding in conjunction with the installation of 2 No. Velux conservation rooflights at the Granary, Long Lane, Linton CB214NS. The Granary Long Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4NS. Validated: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/00780/LBC** Replacement single storey link structure between the SW corner of the Granary Barn and the adjacent outbuilding in conjunction with the installation of 2 No. Velux conservation roof lights. The Granary Long Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4NS. Validated: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/01033/HFUL** Rear extension to existing garage. 13 Trout Beck Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4AU. Validated: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Status: Awaiting decision.

**26/01010/HFUL** and **26/01011/LBC** Single storey rear extension and associated works. 148-150 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Status: Awaiting decision.

# Stagecoach urges drivers to ditch the car

WITH the cost of petrol and diesel continuing to rise, many households are looking for more predictable and affordable ways to travel. Stagecoach East says the current range of fares means bus travel is one of the most reliable and affordable options available, especially for commuters and families.

Customers can use the Stagecoach app or website to identify the best value tickets for their journey, helping to plan and manage travel costs more effectively and budget ahead with confidence.



Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said, "We know that local people are feeling the impact of rising fuel costs, and, for many, the cost of driving is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Bus travel offers an affordable alternative, with single fares capped at £3 and great value options for those travelling regularly."

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# Parish Council matters



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

## Quarterly Police liaison meeting report

THE quarterly Police Liaison meeting took place on line on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Anyone can ask to join the Community meetings by emailing CAMBRIDGE to communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk.

There was a crime update given from the period of December 2025 to February 2026. The figures in brackets are from this time last year. Drug crimes - 1,956 (1,719), Criminal Damage - 190 (177), Weapons - 39 (12) and anti-social behaviour Public Order Offences - 118 (113).

There were a number of activity updates including 8 Community Protection Orders which have been issued to encourage offenders to change their behaviour. 4 Community Protection Orders have been issued following breaches of a Community Protection Warning.

There have been more high visibility patrols around rural areas and hare coursing sites following concerns from the rural community.

The acquisitive crime updates for this period are as follows:

### Recovery of Stolen property to the value of £25,000

Two people arrested from an Organised Crime Group for theft of chocolate. Over £7,000 worth was recovered. Stolen plant equipment was recovered in Whittlesford. Another vehicle was recovered after theft of plant equipment.

One person was arrested in the Histon/Impington area. Three shoplifters were arrested for theft of £11,500 worth of goods from one shop.

Four were arrested for theft from Milton Recycling.

### Anti-social driving including speeding updates.

25 E-scooters were seized from all over the area. One Dispersal Order was issued to stop car meets at Park and Ride sites. A Public Space Protection Order is being written (now in public consultation) for Babraham Park and Ride. A number of parish councils are involved in this process. Speed checks are being carried out throughout various villages with tickets. No 'words of advice' issued. There have been increased patrols on the Guided Busway to prevent anti-social behaviour. One vehicle has been seized after a fail-to-stop incident.

### Drug updates

One person has been arrested in Whaddon for possession with intent to supply Class A and B drugs (they are now on bail). One person was arrested in Melbourne for Possession with Intent to supply Class B drugs. There have been 14 cautions issued for possession of Cannabis. One person has been arrested for cultivating cannabis. One warrant was issued for drug possession in the Guilden Morden area with a positive outcome. Two warrants were issued in Melbourne with three arrested and one held on remand - enquiries are still ongoing.

### Phone scams

Please be very vigilant as scams on the telephone, via messages and emails, are on the increase. One of the scams doing the rounds is a romantic scam where vulnerable people are contacted and in return for affection, money and vouchers are demanded from the victim. If you are the victim of a scam please contact the Police online or on 101 for help and support.

### Social media

Another issue that causes great distress to so many people, and is on the increase, is posts on social media where individuals are named and shamed for various reasons. Because it is written and can be traced even if the messages are deleted, they can still be found. When it is written it is called 'libel' and if it is spoken it is called 'slander'. If these messages are proved to cause stress and upset to the individuals targeted it can lead to police intervention.

### The Herbert protocol

If you have an older relative who has dementia, the Herbert Protocol is a UK-wide police initiative designed to quickly locate missing vulnerable people, particularly those who suffer with dementia, by having a pre-filled information form ready. This enables the police to start searching within minutes if an older person has gone missing. This form can be filled in online from the police website or by searching for 'The Herbert Protocol' and it is stored securely with partners such as Medic Alert.

Every resident can have their say by filling in the Police Survey online. This survey then gives the police community priorities for the coming three months. Please consider filling it in.

Cambridge Constabulary can be contacted online or by phoning 999 if the crime is in progress or there is a risk to life, or 101 to report any crime.

If you are in danger but can not speak, phone 999 then press 55 or tap when prompted by the officer, your location can then be traced.

Cllr Karen Sanderson

## Focus on potholes

JUST what you want – an 8pm meeting about Potholes – the bane of every motorist's, cyclist's, biker's and even pedestrian's life.

This meeting was called by Alex Beckett, Chairman of Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridge County Council, to explain to Parish Councils what they are doing.

I have to say I felt for the chap. He has been in the role for 3.5 years and the first thing he faced was a legacy software problem in that none of the systems talked to each other, so he had no idea of the extent of the problem. Plus, some of the criteria they have to adhere to is set by HM Government in the guise of the Department of Transport, which can skew their targets or they lose funding. East Cambridgeshire problems are different to our problems in South Cambridgeshire because of the underlying soil conditions. And he admitted they do not have full confidence in the contractors they use to actually carry out the job to the required quality. The contracts are to be renewed in 2027 so they are working on this.

They have ramped up the number of crew and machines trying to fix the problem – they now have four crews and two Dragon Patchers. They spend £3m on repairs and 25% are triggered by reports as opposed to their inspections. They acknowledge that some urgent repairs are temporary and will quickly deteriorate and look like a 'botched job'. This is supposed to be until a proper repair can be carried out.



Dragon Patcher

They acknowledge the reasons repairs fail, including not being carried out properly, the weather and the age of the road surface.

They have to repair 40,000 to 60,000 potholes per year. They only inspect around 5% of repairs and of those at least 10% need reworking. (With contractors this would be at their expense.). Therefore they inspect 2,000 to 3,000 potholes per year of which 200 to 300 need re-doing. However, if this is extrapolated, 4,000 to 6,000 need repairing again. Therefore an 3,800 to 5,700 are paid for twice which they are not tracking.

My conclusion is – keep reporting: keep pressure in the system – this is not going to be a quick fix. Plus I would advise applying private industry quality control methods such a Statistical Process Control or 6 Sigma.

I would like to thank County Cllr Henry Batchelor for prompting this meeting. It was more interesting than it sounds.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

### Annual Meeting of the Linton Parish

Tuesday 12th May 2026  
at Linton Village Hall  
doors opening at 6.30pm

An opportunity to hear updates from the Parish Council and groups active in the parish and to share issues/concerns or suggestions/ideas you may have relating to the local community.

Meeting commences at 7.30pm with Parish Council - Information and Reports

- Meet your Councillors
- Annual Report by the Chairman
- Annual Reports by the District & County Councillors
- Annual Reports from the Committees
- Grants for the Community Groups

### Hot Topics for 2026 - Updates available

- Traffic Matters including Local Highways Improvements, MSID, 20mph scheme and more.
- Future Housing Developments Proposals
- Environment Projects
- Highlights from 2025

Refreshments available



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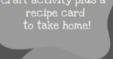
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# Parish Council minutes

**LINTON**  
PARISH COUNCIL

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

ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Cathodeon Centre.

## Chairman's comment

The Chairman advised of the Election papers provided at the meeting to all councillors and reiterated that these must be completed and returned to the office by 02.04.2026 as they need to be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer of SCDC in Cambourne. The Chairman also advised the public consultations on Local Government Reorganisation and Cambridge Development corporation are still open and encouraged all councillors to complete these.

## External and internal meetings

Update following the Local Government Reorganisation online seminar held on 25.02.2026.

Cllr Kell provided an update explaining that South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Councils voted for Option B as the GDP in each new region would be similar, providing a better balance moving forward with population numbers. Noted. Written report following the S106 meetings held on 02.03.2026 with representatives from SCDC. Written report available. For information.

Written report following the Allotments Q&A Forum held on 09.03.2026. Written report available for information.

Notification of the Quarterly Police Liaison Meeting held on 11.03.2026. For information.

The written report by Cllr Sanderson was circulated at the meeting. Written report available.

Cllr Sanderson advised of the online survey for all to complete in relation to topics to be raised at the Quarterly Liaison meetings, and advised of a confidential meeting with the PCSO to discuss an ongoing incident in Linton.

Written report following the meeting held for LPC and LGFC on 12.03.2026. Written report available. For information.

Written report provided by the Kingsway Solar Alliance for the meeting held on 24.02.2026. Written report available. For information.

## District & county councillors report for March 2026

In addition to the written report, District Councillor John Batchelor added the following: In reference to the proposed Development Corporation SCDC response was to welcome a corporation that deals with utilities but oppose the strategic function of the planning process.

## Planning

Recommendation from the Planning Committee for the additional comments to be submitted in relation to the planning application for Land off Horseheath Road 26/00415/OUT. Decision required.

Planning Committee recommended to Full Council: Object and do refer to the District Planning Committee. Cllr Smith proposed the additional comments shared be submitted directly to the Planning Officers for the proposed developments at Little Linton and on Horseheath Road. Cllr Mannasi seconded. All Agreed. Recommendation of the Planning Committee for LPC to send a letter to the MP regarding the impact of speculative planning applications on Linton and the Emerging Local Plan. Decision Required.

Cllr Smith proposed that a request be made to Pippa Heylinds MP to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing requesting that the Planning Inspectorate be required to adhere to the criteria as outlined in the current Local Plan and to consider the emerging Local Plan in relation to all decisions on proposed development. The amount of time and cost spent on speculative development proposals at all levels of local government to be raised as a cause for concern. Cllr Cox seconded. All Agreed.

## Finance

### Quotes & Contracts

Quotations received to conduct the required *Legionella* checks at the Pavilion. Decision required. Cllr Sanderson proposed to accept the quotation from SMC Ltd to conduct the required *Legionella* checks at the Pavilion. Cllr Smith seconded. All Agreed.

### Compliance & Risk

#### Compliance

Quotations received for the insurance renewal due on 01.04.2026. Decision required. Cllr Hine proposed the quotation for a 3-year schedule from Zurich be agreed. Cllr Singh seconded. All Agreed.

#### Risk

Adoption of the *Legionella* Management Policy. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed the adoption of the *Legionella* Management Policy. Cllr Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Approval of the Written Scheme of Control for *Legionella* at the Pavilion building. Supporting documents in councillor packs. Decision required.

Cllr Hine proposed the Written Scheme of Control for *Legionella* be approved with the addition of the System Management Consultants Ltd as the competent contractor. Cllr Singh seconded. All Agreed.

### Traffic & Highways

MSID YTD reports. For information. Noted.

Consideration of the proposed reinstatement of the village sign on Bartlow Road. Decision required.

Cllr Kell proposed to accept the quotation for £109.50 for the replacement roundel speed limit sign and £256.50 for the relocation of the gated sign, and for the work to be included in the installation programme for the 20mph scheme. Cllr Cox seconded. All Agreed.

Notification of the CCC proposed prohibition of U turns on the A1307. For information. Noted.

Consideration of the maintenance and access request to the bench area on Rivey Way and allocation of a maximum budget. Decision required.

Cllr Sanderson proposed gaining permission from CCC and a quotation be sought for post and chain fencing for the area and a separate request be made to CCC to cut back the hedge with the support of CC Henry Batchelor. Cllr Singh seconded. All Agreed.

### St Mary's Churchyard

Consideration of the request for the repair/replacement of the gate situated in St Mary's Churchyard and of the requirement of listed building consent and permission from diocesan faculties. Decision required.

The Clerk advised of a request to St Mary's Church Fabric Committee to investigate the listed building consent and faculty permissions required. The Clerk also advised that the refurbishment/rebuild of the structure is being investigated.

Cllr Cox proposed to defer the item pending further information. Cllr Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Request for the refurbishment of the entrance gate on Church Lane from St Mary's Church. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed that with reference to the quinquennial report, no action be taken for redecoration and repairs at this time. Cllr Hine seconded. All Agreed.

Request for changes to the landscaping adjacent to the Noticeboard at St Mary's Church. Decision required.

Cllr Hine proposed to inform St Mary's Church that LPC give permission. Cllr Kell seconded. Agreed with one abstention.

Request to install privacy screening adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance at St Mary's Churchyard. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed that the request to install privacy screening be declined as it would obscure the view of the Grade I Listed Church from Church Lane. Cllr Singh seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

## Open Spaces & Environment

### Paynes Meadow

Request to install a litter bin at Paynes Meadow and for regular maintenance of the perimeter hedges. Decision required.

The Clerk was requested to provide full costings for an additional bin in this location to be presented at the next meeting.

### Recreation Ground

Pitch Licence renewal terms and fees for 26/27 for LGFC and LVCC. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed the Pitch Licence renewal terms and fees for 2026-2027 for LGFC and LVCC be approved with the charges held at £75.00 per annum. Cllr Cox seconded. All Agreed.

Concerns raised in relation to the environmental impact of the removal of the leylandii hedge at the MUGA and request for details of a replanting project. Decision required.

This item was deferred to the Environment Working Group for recommendations to the Full Council in April.

### Leadwell Meadows

Notification of statutory works by UK Power Networks required for trees in the Leadwell Meadows to reduce proximity to the power lines. For information. Noted. Request to use a metal detector at the Pocket Park. Decision required.

Cllr Cox proposed the request be declined. Cllr Smith seconded. All Agreed.

### Community Buildings

#### The Pavilion

Notification of YTD Income and Expenditure in relation to the Pavilion building. *Supporting document available in councillor packs.* For information. Noted. Inventory list provided by LGFC in relation to the fixtures and fittings available for purchase by LPC. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed the payment previously agreed of £2,000.00 be paid from the Parish Council to the Linton Granta Football Club against the inventory list, as agreed with the Chairman and Treasurer of LGFC on 12.03.2026. Cllr Hine seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Job specification for a Community Building Facilities Caretaker for the Pavilion building. Decision required. Cllr Smith proposed the job specification for a Community Building Facilities Caretaker be approved with the addition of the following:

Remedial action to be taken in the event of an emergency call out.

A request to be made to the LPC office to contact the relevant qualified contractor for work outside the remit i.e. electrical, plumbing etc.

Cllr Cox seconded. Agreed with three abstentions.

Clerk

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

### Linton Parish Council

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