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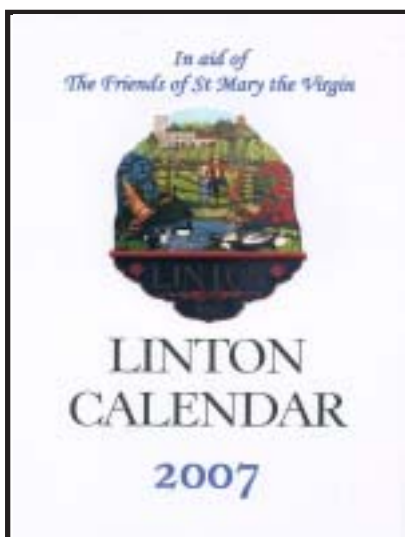
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2006**

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E & E PLUMRIDGE
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41 High Street
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You've all seen the book ... now here's the calendar



CHRISTMAS is coming and the Friends of St Mary's, Linton have thought of two ingenious ways of raising £10,000 for urgent church repairs. With the help of Linton camera club, a 2007 village calendar is being produced with a different village scene for each month. They are going "like hot cakes" and already 80 have been sold at £5 a time, £2 of which goes to the repair fund. Many of the people who buy them are villagers who want to send them to friends abroad.

As this is a first-time experiment, the calendars will be made to order and a sample will be displayed at the back of the church. Orders please to Alan Clarkson on 892988 or on the order form in St Mary's. Also in aid of St Mary's, a

Christmas quiz is on sale at the church for £2 each and at Hale and Jacobs newsagent. There are no overheads so all the money raised goes to the fund.

Don't be put off as no general knowledge is needed – there are 160 questions covering proverbs, book titles, names, sayings and much more. Each answer has a number contained within it. The first letter of each word is provided, together with spaces for the remaining letters – all you do is fill in the blanks. The prize is a £10 book token and entries must be in by Monday 1st January 2007. For further information, please contact:

Monica Clarkson 892988

Maggie will shave her head to help fund the trip of a lifetime

MY name is Maggie Orriss, I am 14 years old, a Linton resident and have been given the chance of a lifetime; to go on an expedition to South Africa.

The expedition is a three week trip for a team of 30 students from Linton Village College.

We will travel into the mountains, make camp and hike, plus other activities. Our itinerary is agreed and planned prior to travel. Once in Africa we will have the assistance of a local resident, but we will make our own decisions and take full responsibility for the outcome. However, we will have a leader with us to ensure that

we are at no time in danger.

To be part of this expedition I must raise £2,650.

I have agreed to have my head shaved to raise money towards my trip and I am hoping that people will come along and sponsor me at Boyz2Men barbers in Linton High Street at 3.45pm on 16th December.

Money pledged to date is £256. I hope this event will raise the amount to £500. If you want to know more about the trip or would like to sponsor me or give a donation towards the trip, please contact me on 891021 or email jaxmo@tiscali.co.uk.
Maggie Orriss



Maggie with a beautiful head of hair ... until 16th December
Picture by Tony Carlyon

Poppie is twice a winner



Lucky guy: Poppie with this year's winner

Picture by June Bunn

THIS year's winner of the best guy competition at the Linton fireworks' event was eight-year-old Poppie Chamberlain with a Guy Fawkes bigger than herself.

Her guy, resplendent in a black outfit and her father's socks – he still has not missed them – earned her £15 in book tokens, which were quickly exchanged for Christmas and fairy books.

It was a second celebration for Poppie; she won the competition last year with Ole King Cole. Family backing then included granddad Frank Bunn giving up his gardening trousers.

"My guy took two weeks to make," said Poppie. "I made his head with a balloon, paper and wallpaper paste – then I popped the balloon and painted his face."

Her grandmother, June Bunn teaches her craft and cooking at the Bunn's Linton home in Crossways. "We start thinking about the competition in July, decide what to make and then we have great fun collecting what we need and making the guy," said June.

Poppie's other interests include being a Linton brownie – though her family live in Balsham – with a badge for gardening, thanks to granddad Frank's tuition on growing a range of vegetables, being a junior member of the National Trust and acting in a Christmas panto. "She's interested in everything," said June.

Now, her guy which took two weeks to make, is just a lovely memory for Poppie and her family ... all her creativity and work went up in flames, true to tradition, on the firework display's bonfire. So now it is on to next year's effort ...

John Keeble for LNT

LINTON DIARY

To guarantee entry into this diary please ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

Details of items in **bold type** may be found elsewhere in this edition.

You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info

WEEKLY

Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays	Sports Centre
Slimming World, 7.30pm Mondays	Cathodeon Centre
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	Village Hall
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Mondays and Wednesdays	SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays	SC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
South Cambs housing surgery, 10-11.30am Tuesdays	VH (FF)
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Linton Granta bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays	Rear of pavilion
Linton Radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Tots-in-Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Little Acorns, 10-11.30am Thursdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Children's trampolining, 3.30-4.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm Thursdays	SC
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays	SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	Cathodeon Centre
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays	VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays	SC
Adult social tennis, 2-3pm Saturdays	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Boxercise/dance aerobics/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days, (call 890248)	SC

DECEMBER

2 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
2 Linton Granta playgroup Christmas fair, 2-4pm	VH
2 Infant school Christmas bazaar, 2pm	Infant school
3 Christingle service, 3pm	St Mary's
5 WI, 7.30pm	VH
6 Complementary health talk, 7.30pm	VH
6 Reading group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
7 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
8 Rhyme 'n Rhythm, 10.30-11.30am & 1.30-2.30pm	URC Hall
8 Storytime, 2.15pm	Library
9 Linton music society concert, 7.30pm	St Mary's
10 Linton camera club, 10am	VH
11 ACE outing to Scotsdales, 10am	Dog & Duck
11 Rhyme 'n Rhythm, 10.30-11.30am & 1.30-2.30pm	URC Hall
12 VIP group, 1pm	Chalklands
12 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
13 Police surgery, 6pm	Library
14 Luncheon club, 12.15pm	The Crown
16 Maggie's head shave, 3.45pm	Boyz2Men
16 Symonds House Christmas bazaar, 2-4.30pm	Symonds House
16 Balsham Singers concert, 7.30pm	Balsham church
17 St Mary's Christmas lunch	Infant school
17 Chalklands & Paynes Meadow children's party, 1.30pm	VH
18 Hildersham WI, 7.30pm	Hildersham VH
19 Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
20 CAMTAD, hearing help, 9am-12noon	Health Centre
20-23 Christmas party nights	Chilford Hall
31 New Year ball	Chilford Hall

JANUARY

2 WI, 7.30pm	VH
4 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
5 Blood donor session, 1-3.30pm & 4.30-7pm	VH
6 NO Farmers' market	
6 Friends of St Mary's coffee morning, 11am	VH

Refuse collection: 11th December.

Recycling collection: 4th and 18th December.

For waste and recycling dates over the Christmas period, please see the article on page 2.

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

Too good for jumble ...

THE oil painting kit has been snapped up for Christmas and raised £15 for the friends of St Mary's. Another possible gift for Christmas is a set of five cassettes of Gilbert & Sullivan operas. The bike for a 9-12 year old (needing small adjustment), the two silver engraved heart shaped lockets and silver padlock and the Epson printer with external CD rewriter are still available.

Also on offer are the waffle iron, a Canon Starwriter electronic portable typewriter/printer (uses 3in floppy disks), a 16in Philips TV, a BT Converse 300 telephone, a BT Converse 325 telephone with amplifier and the portable netball post. Offers in the region of £10 may secure any of these items. All profits go to a village or national charity chosen by the donor of the item.

All inquiries please to:

Kate France 891602, or email
katefrance@linton48.freemove.co.uk

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ACEs enjoy the Far East, tigers, Scotsdales and a Fair Trade tea. Whatever next ...

THE Far East came to East Anglia on 6th November at the ACEs' lunch. To link with Remembrance Sunday, John and June Keeble spoke to us about 'Life and death on the river Kwai'; the story of the Burma railway, its connections to the Cambridgeshire Regiment and life in the region today. The talk was illustrated with brilliant photographs, featuring the infamous bridge, the war graves and cemeteries. What I had not realised was that the huge loss of life to our prisoners of war was shared with Commonwealth and other soldiers, and the civilian population of Burma and surrounding countries. The cemeteries are now part of the tourist route, but so beautifully kept that the respect for the sacrifice is palpable; never to be forgotten.

As a bonus, John and June gave a second illustrated talk on the Tiger Temple of Kanchanaburi, a unique sanctuary for orphaned and rescued tigers. The sight of the abbot, monks and volunteers walking and relaxing with the tigers was astonishing, especially as the tigers are not domesticated and had been abused in early life. John and June were pictured showing no fear as they sat with the tigers, the calming influence of the abbot probably helping – so brave!

In January we will be having the fundraising event for the Warden on 13th, then a Fair Trade tea, organised by the Co-op, with a talk on the history of the Co-operative Society and the Fair Trade movement. We are hoping for samples and goody bags, as the chocolate is especially good ...

Our next event on Monday 11th December will be the annual trip to Scotsdales leaving Linton at 10am, in time for free mince pies with each coffee bought. As usual we will pick up at the Dog and Duck, then along Back Road. Please let Sue or Tina know if you are coming – telephone 891001 to book.

We look forward to seeing you – remember, everyone over 60 is welcome.

Enid Bald

Is that charity licensed?

ONCE again South Cambs is being targeted by unlicensed charity collections/leaflet drops. I have been told that the following company is circulating leaflets in our villages: **Helpmates Ltd - Company no. 05780892.**

This company has been investigated by Trading Standards and the Advertising Standards Agency who are currently trying to take legal action against them. They have recently collected in Haslingfield, but please be advised that the likelihood is that they have also dropped leaflets in several South Cambs villages over the past couple of weeks.

They are not licensed, so please do not part with items that could be given to genuine charities.

If you know of any vulnerable groups, or neighbourhood watch co-ordinators who may benefit from this information, please pass it on to them.

If you would like to check if a collection to be held in your village is licensed, please contact the Licensing Section on 08450 450063, and if you receive a leaflet which you suspect may not be legitimate, please report it to the above number.

Julie Stallabrass,
licensing section,

South Cambridgeshire district council

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PLODDING ALONG ...

A round-up
of police
matters in
Linton

THE next Police Surgery at the Linton library will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 13th December.

Supporting the elderly to beat the burglar:

Being the victim of a distraction burglary can be a frightening experience. Offenders tend to prey on the elderly and vulnerable, tricking their way into their homes and stealing from them.

This is a problem across the county and one that police are focused on reducing, so please look out for suspicious activity in your neighbourhood. Tell us about suspicious vehicles and people, and jot down the registration number and colour of vehicles and a good description of the people and what they are wearing.

What to do before winter driving:

It is always better and cheaper to prevent problems before they happen. Things you can do now to get ready for bad weather are:

- ** Add anti-freeze to your car radiator and a winter additive to your windscreen wash
- ** Keep your battery fully charged
- ** Make sure your car has had a service and is well maintained
- ** Make sure that all lights are working
- ** Your tyres should have the correct amount of air in them, and should have plenty of tread depth
- ** Change the windscreen wiper blades if they are worn
- ** Clean your windows and mirrors. The glare of the low winter sun can make it difficult to see through the windscreen
- ** Keep an emergency pack in the back of your car with ice scraper and de-icer, torch, warm clothes and blanket, food and drink, boots, first aid kit, battery jump leads and spade.

Don't be distracted:

A couple of worrying thefts have occurred in the High Street area. The most recent was when a woman in her car noticed a white van parked behind her. A man approached and opened the passenger door and said there was something hanging from her car. As he did this, the van behind was turning around. The man then closed the car door and jumped into the van which drove off. It was then that the woman noticed that while she had been distracted, her handbag had been stolen from the front seat.

Please be aware of suspicious persons and vehicles and remember to get a registration number. If you are worried about someone approaching your car, lock the doors and don't leave valuables on the front passenger seat.

Women who carry an attack alarm should keep it handy to ensure they can use it if they need to. If you don't have an attack alarm, contact us and we can supply one free. These can be kept in your car or your handbag. Please contact us with any information. Call us on 0845 456 4564 to report an incident or crime.

Dawn Brock PCSO

Join our theatre trips ...

WHY not take the hassle out of a trip to London to see a show and join Jenny Sargeant's theatre trips?

On 18th November, 53 people from Balsham and the surrounding area went by coach to see *The Lion King*.

The intrepid theatregoers amongst us ate a sandwich on the coach, which gave them time to brave the crowds and make a start on the Christmas shopping, while the less energetic took

the opportunity to have a leisurely meal before the show.

This was the latest of several trips that I have arranged from Balsham to visit a show in London, and if you would like to know of any future ones, call me on 290709.

The Sound Of Music and *Billy Elliot* are planned for next year along with other old favourites.

Jenny Sargeant

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Help us stay on top of waste and recycling over Christmas and New Year

SOUTH Cambridgeshire District Council has made the following waste and recycling arrangements for Christmas and New Year. We are also repeating recycling details to help us keep South Cambs as one of the leading recyclers in the country:

Wheeled bins

All bin collections will operate as normal up to 22nd December. There will be no collections between 25th-29th December. All collections from 2nd-6th January 2007 will be for black bins only. Green bin collections will resume as normal from 8th January.

Green boxes

Green box collections will operate as normal apart from Christmas Day and Boxing Day; these will be on 2nd and 3rd January respectively.

Calendar

Householders can check the waste collection calendar in South Cambs magazine, by calling 08450 450 063 or by downloading the calendar from www.scambs.gov.uk

Excess

Bags of rubbish left by the side of bins will not be collected under any circumstances. Please recycle all you can. Any excess waste should be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centres at Milton and Thriplow.

Not collected?

Call 08450 450 063 up to 8pm on the day your bin should be collected, or by 3.30pm the following day.

Recycling

Cardboard: Flatten all cardboard boxes and put them in the green bin. Put Christmas cards in the green bin for composting or look out for charities which recycle them. **Christmas trees:** chop up your tree and put it in the green bin, providing the branches/trunk are not more than three inches thick. Alternatively, take it to a household waste recycling centre for composting. **Glass bottles and jars:** rinse

and put them in the green box.

Kitchen waste: If you can't home compost, wrap food waste in newspaper and put in the green bin.

Newspapers and magazines: Separate into carrier bags and put in the green box.

Paper: Shred confidential household information, if possible, and put all paper, including junk mail, in the green bin.

Plastic: There are 20 plastics banks throughout the district for plastic with the 1, 2 or 3 logos. Rinse and flatten bottles first. Put lids in black bin.

Textiles: Take to textile recycling banks or donate to charity shops.

Tins, cans and foil: Rinse and crush these and put them in the green box, separate from newspapers/magazines and bottles. Don't forget to recycle aerosol cans in the green box.

Wrapping paper: Try to buy wrapping paper that can be recycled. The inks and the metallic content of some wrapping papers make it unsuitable for recycling or composting. If in doubt don't recycle or compost Christmas wrapping paper - please put it in the black bin.

Waste centres

Milton (860674): open 9am-4pm, Monday to Sunday;
Thriplow (839001): open 8am-4pm, Monday to Sunday;
Both: Christmas eve 9am-1pm; Christmas day – closed; Boxing day – closed; then open as normal until 29th December; New Year's eve – closed; New Year's day – closed.

Information

If you need further any further information about the holiday arrangements, please call 08450 450 063

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Readers write Readers write Readers write Readers write

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on Page 8. Please note: all letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited.

Early start spoiled our evening

Dear Editor
Having three children, we bought a family ticket for the fireworks, starting at 7.15pm.
We decided to get there just before 7.15 so that the kids didn't get too cold. As we were walking past the Co-op, we thought 'Blimey, someone has some good fireworks going off'.
Little did we realise that someone had lit the fuse too early at the firework display we were meant to attend. We saw approximately three minutes of fireworks. Our children were very disappointed but, believe me, there were people who arrived just to see the words GOOD NIGHT spelled out in fireworks at the end of the evening. Unbelievable: it

Why the show had to begin before time

Dear Editor
It has been brought to my attention that some questions have been raised by some of those who attended this year's fireworks display on 4th November.
Specifically, questions have been asked concerning the timing and length of the display.
By way of explanation, may I say that hand-fired firework displays are not an exact science – it is possible to be

more precise using electronics, but only at much greater expense.
We are also only volunteers and despite regular annual training for safety reasons, we can only do our best. We have after all put on 16 years of excellent shows and have raised in excess of £80,000 for our local schools.
This year we can only apologise if any of those attending felt we had not met their expectations and ask

Is there a link between my great-grandmother and the Claydens of Barham Hall?

Dear Editor
Whilst researching my family tree on the internet, I came across your newspaper for Linton and wondered if you are able to mention in it my request for information relating to Barham Hall, Linton. At one time, it was in the occupation of the Clayden (or Clayton) family.
My great-grandmother, Eleanor Rosina Pollard, was a 17-year-old servant girl there in about 1867 before she married Joshua Woollard, of West Wickham.
Joshua's mother's

maiden name was Sarah Clayden. Perhaps there are some historian or genealogist readers who may be able to throw some light on this, and whether there is any connection between Sarah Clayden and the Claydens of Barham Hall?
If you are able to help, my email address is Sue@crowstone.co.uk.
If you cannot, then thank you for taking the time to read this anyway.
Sue Woollard,
33 Dolphins,
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex, SS0 0LD



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was one of the best displays so far!
So what happened, then? Did the fuse lighter want to get back to see the result of *X Factor* on TV?
Perhaps in all the organising of the event, which I am sure they all worked hard at, the organisers forgot to put their clocks back and they actually thought that they were running late.
PS Why state on the tickets 'Display 7.15pm'? I would suggest that for next year's event, the tickets read 'Get there soon after the gates open at 5.45ish. We might start at 7.15pm, all depending how the mood grabs us.'
John & Michelle Supcik, by e-mail 893903

Can anyone help me to trace my family?

them to accept that we had to:
1) Commence our display a few minutes earlier than planned and
2) Make the display a few minutes shorter than in previous years.
Perhaps we can admit to being a little over-enthusiastic on both counts – the adrenalin factor on these occasions may have got to us. We were also lulled into a false sense of security owing to perfect weather all day, only to realise that a heavy dew

was forming once the fireworks were removed from their rain-proof dustbin bags – hence an enforced early start.
We would however like to thank all of you who supported us and all our sponsors and helpers over the weekend. We hope the funds raised will be worth it. Don't forget, this is all done by volunteers and we always welcome more of those.
Alan King, fireworks' committee

Can anyone help me to trace my family?

Dear Editor
I visited Linton recently with my elderly mother who always believed that her family were Londoners.
It turns out however that her great-grandmother was born in Linton and I am hoping someone can help with further information.
I have looked at the censuses for 1851 and 1861 and have found Emma Peters living with her parents and lots of brothers and sisters, although I cannot find any of the Peters' family by 1871. The name of the street appears to be High Street No 42, but I cannot read the rest of the name which looks something like White Yard. Does this mean anything to anyone?
Emma Peters had an illegitimate son named Newell

whose father was her employer's son; a family called Cole living in Cambridge.
So when we came to Linton, we were fascinated to see a whole street named after the Cole family and thought there might be a connection. We loved Linton and were thrilled to find the stream.
My mother, who is in her 80s was able to imagine her great-grandmother playing there.
We had lunch at the Dog and Duck where everyone was so helpful so it was a really lovely day, but we couldn't find the house in the High Street. If anyone can help, I would be very grateful.
My email address is: maudsattic@hotmail.com.
Wendy (full name and address supplied)

News from old friends

Dear Editor
By the time our good friends and all the residents of Linton read this, Christmas will not be far away. So this seemed a good time to send our very best wishes to everyone – may you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.
It will be almost a year since we moved from Linton, but the time seems to have flown by. We are very grateful to receive the Linton News every month. It is such an excellent paper and a wonderful way to keep in touch with Linton.
Living in north-east Suffolk is very different from Cambridgeshire – so rural and it's very good to be only 20 minutes from the sea!
Halesworth is only one mile away; with a population of approximately 5-6,000, it has dozens of shops, an arts centre and a weekly market.
We do miss Linton at times but we have had lots of visitors over the summer and are beginning to make new friends.
Take care and keep smiling at each other. We will always remember Linton as a very friendly village.
Clare and John Neville, Holton, Suffolk

Stop and wait at Coles Lane

Dear Editor
Perhaps you could remind car drivers that Linton now has a one-way system.
Like it or not, certain drivers seem to assume that when travelling west along the High Street, they have right of way at the Coles Lane junction.
If they look as they approach the junction, they should see to their left a 'give way' sign. One should stop at this junction and let traffic travelling east along the High Street have right of way and not just barge through, assuming everybody else will give way.
At some stage this will not be the case, resulting in a head-on accident or something very close.
Anybody not sure of the traffic laws are quite welcome to borrow my Highway Code book at a very reduced rate.
Glenn Betchley, Chalklands

Make some leaf mould
Dear Editor
At this time of year Colin, the village custodian, has to bag up more fallen leaves than he can dispose of.
If anyone would like to take some for composting, please ring Colin on 892798 to arrange a point of collection.
Name and address supplied

Our thanks ...

Dear Editor
What a relief it was that no one was injured and nothing was taken when thieves raided the post office last month.
How lucky we are still to have this amenity, and even luckier that there are people brave enough to run it. It must have been a traumatic experience and I'm sure many have wished them well since the incident.
A huge thank you to Anne Willers, her husband Chris and assistants Sue Curtis, Dee Lyons and Hilary Angetter, who cheerfully provide such a wonderful service for Linton and the surrounding villages.
They deserve our continued support.
Name and address supplied.

Dear Editor
I wish to thank Jacqueline, Ian, Charlotte, Alice and all my friends at Chalklands for my wonderful birthday celebrations.
Bette Chapman, Chalklands



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Spooky winners on Hallowe'en night

WINNERS of a newly instigated contest in the village were presented with their prizes on the afternoon of Hallowe'en, watched by some surprised but interested Co-op customers.

The idea of a spooky-themed painting competition was thought up by manager Kevin Nichols and his staff, and was encouraged by leaders of the out-of-school club. More than 50 entries were submitted in age groups three to eight, and nine to 11.

The area manager was called upon to make the difficult choice between some excellent combinations of witches, pumpkins, bats, moons and stars, with a certain amount of blood in evidence!

As well as other connections, Hallowe'en was once associated with the celebration of the Celtic new year, and the giving of thanks for a good harvest. Food was prepared for the winter and the people



Prize painters: the winners of the competition and below, the manager of the Co-op with one of the lucky boys

Pictures by Roger Lapwood

invoked their gods for prosperity in the coming year. It was the Scots and Irish who took the tradition to America from where the idea of 'trick or treat' has been imported. The connection can be seen, although it has taken on a different, and sometimes unwelcome, guise.

Back in Linton, Lucas Jeffcoat, nine, won a paint and pottery wheel for his depiction of pumpkins and a bat under a title dripping blood, and the runner up was Laura-Jayne Free, nine, who won a case of drawing equipment for her ghostly pumpkin face.

In the younger group, Oliver Kellar, seven, received a giant art trunk for his scary witch

and her broom, closely followed by Jack Steward, seven, who was given a pencil case and stationery set for his pumpkin overlooked by a bat among the stars.

The children got a round of applause as they were photographed receiving their prizes. All who entered should be congratulated for their inspired drawings, as well as the club leaders and parents who supported them.

Co-op staff are planning another competition, probably at Easter, which they hope will attract many more local children to put their imaginations to work and showcase their talents. LNT

Stands the Church clock at ten to three? Unfortunately not ...

Maybe there was no honey for tea but it was still a wonderful few hours spent at The Orchard

Picture by Mike Clay



SUNDAY 12th November saw the Camera club taking advantage of yet another glorious day to visit Grantchester meadows. We enjoyed blue sky and sunshine, lush meadows surrounded by mellowing colours on the trees and visibility so clear that King's College Chapel was in view in the distance (together with the great cranes towering over the new Grand Arcade in Cambridge).

We wandered through meandering paths in a small wood down to the river which was gleaming enough in the sun to try a few reflective shots. Judging by the number of people around, the charm of the Grantchester depicted in Rupert Brooke's poem has not diminished, and is still undoubtedly a picturesque and tranquil place for strolling, relaxing and enjoying on any day of the year. Between us all, we did seem to find plenty of subjects to photograph.

Everyone found their way to the church and no, the clock does not still stand at ten to three but most people would like it to. And, there may not be honey still for tea but cer-

tainly at The Orchard we found an excellent cup of coffee, and with magnificent restraint avoided the huge slices of what appeared to be home-made cakes and sponges, apple pies and other delights.

Judging from the old photos dotted around the walls, it does not seem to have changed its wonderful genteel old-fashioned look since the day it opened, and this is undoubtedly what attracts so many visitors. I had missed a few days out with the camera club but managed this one, and how glad I am that I did – a good morning out, good company and, hope-

fully, a few good pictures too.

The next club meeting will be at 10am on Sunday 10th December in the village hall. It will be our annual Christmas get-together incorporating the AGM, subscriptions, and a review of pictures taken at Grantchester.

If you are tempted to join us and want to know more, look on our website at www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk, or contact Roger Lapwood (891104) or Tracey Wilson (891988). We'd be glad to see you, and 2007 promises some good activities.

Jan Shambrook

Join Jane for Pilates classes

DESIGNED for dancers, Pilates is of benefit to all. Concentrating on engaging deep abdominal muscles to enhance core strength, it will improve posture, tone the body and increase flexibility and mobility. It also works wonders with post-natal recovery!

I also work at the physiotherapy clinic in Haverhill with referred patients who have back, neck and shoulder problems.

I am a fully qualified personal trainer and sports massage therapist, trained at the Pilates Institute in London. I have practised Pilates and yoga for years and love it!

Classes will be starting soon in Linton village hall on Monday mornings. Why not come and join me?

Jane Forsey 07949 959879



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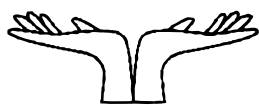


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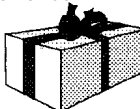
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Gardening club hits the jackpot with its speaker

A MAN who is obviously one of Scotsdales' greatest treasures kept the Gardening club audience in thrall until 10 o'clock at its meeting last month.

Peter Jackson spoke on the propagation of perennials and shrubs, and was pronounced by one of the members "absolutely brilliant" – and I missed it! Many thanks to Peter Thomas who took notes

to enable this report.

Although commercial growers specialise in only a few species to ensure a profit, Peter encouraged members to try out anything they fancy. He first covered growing from seed, then the taking of cuttings illustrated by an excellent demonstration.

Next came grafting, with the sound advice to keep some plasters handy, and the exciting news that promising new root

stock will facilitate the growing of acid-loving plants in our limey soil – the first available being a rhododendron.

After refreshments came the *tour de force*, a slide show of the most popular plants for propagation during which Peter advised on the avoidance of common pitfalls, and passed on many tricks of the trade.

The consensus was that we had hit the jackpot with our choice of speaker and subject,

and as a high proportion of members had turned up, I think Peter's reputation must have gone before him.

The meeting this month is a social evening enhanced by Cynthia's mulled wine. Please bring a glass if you can, and any donation of mince pies or jam tarts will be most welcome. We hope to see as many people as last month, all getting into the Christmas spirit.

Gloria Fidler 891800

Flowers brighten a November evening

Margaret Holmes with her Christmas arrangement

Picture by Wendy Foster



A COLD dismal November evening outside, but we were all cheered up and enchanted by the beautiful floral arrangements created by Margaret Holmes.

The three arrangements were all very different and were created while Margaret told us how the WI was responsible for her career in floral art. A friend had suggested she join a course run by the WI. She enjoyed it very much and found she had a flair for it, and hasn't looked back since, even being asked on two occasions to do arrangements at Westminster Abbey.

The flowers were raffled at the end of the evening and were won by Brenda Clark, Brenda Smith and Lottie Cooke.

Our quiz team of Barbara, Anne, Cynthia and Jean took equal first place with the team from Over WI at the recent Cottenham quiz night. They will share the cup.

Wendy Foster reported on a beading day she and Jean had attended and showed us the lovely pendant she had made.

Val Spencer has been on a hygiene course and is hoping to receive her certificate soon.

The catering committee will meet on 24th November at Ann Simpkin's house to finalise the Christmas menu. Members were reminded to bring cutlery and a wine glass to the party on 5th December. A knit-in has been arranged at Val Spencer's home to make baby wraps for the special care baby unit at the Rosie.

Outings for 2007 are being arranged by Bel on 21st March, 2nd May and 2nd June.

Joan Pearman is moving to Sheringham in Norfolk; she was thanked for all she has done and presented with a gift token and card. Our next meeting will be at the Christmas Party at 7.30pm on 5th December.

Tricia Lewis

Come and join us to celebrate Christmas

WHAT is Christmas all about? Everyone's got a different answer.

One of the things which most of us appreciate about Christmas is the wonderful story of the manger, the angels, the kings, the shepherds and, best of all, the baby.

Many of us have sat, listened to and sung carols in the candlelight, watched the children in the Christmas pageants and been refreshed again at the wonder of it all.

Every year, our Churches Together group delivers Christmas cards to every household in the village giving details of all the special Christmas celebrations in each of the

churches. Choose which services are tailor-made for you; there is a blessing waiting.

If it's a while since you came to church, why not come along alone or with your family? You can be sure of a warm welcome.

The "carols by candlelight" is always a favourite as are the late-night services on Christmas Eve. It might not be a great inducement to say that we will be waiting for you, but it might be if we say that Jesus is waiting for you.

This village is a very special place and really celebrating Christmas can only make it better.

Sarah Devereux 894267
Linton Churches Together

Linton cricketer nominated for BBC award

LINTON Cricket Club has nominated John Richardson for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year's 'Unsung Hero' award.

John, known to all his many friends as JR, has been an invaluable driving force behind cricket in Linton since the 1970s.

He served as club secretary from 1978 to 1985, when the club temporarily folded. He was then instrumental in re-

forming the club in 1990, serving once again as secretary from 1990 to 2005.

He has also served as captain of a number of the club's sides and led Linton's single Saturday side from 1978-81 and from 1991-92. Overall, he has led his teams to numerous championships and other triumphs.

But it is fair to say that JR's contributions off the field have

been at least as significant. During his 25 seasons of secretarial dedication, he has raised more than £13,000 from the village community in order to keep the club going.

In addition, he has served as the club's groundsman since 1994, a position he still fills despite having passed on the secretarial baton. He also carries out groundsman's duties for the village football club,

Linton Granta, and they wish to add their support to our nomination of a genuine unsung hero.

However, it is in the cricketing arena where there are no means great enough to thank John for his contribution. It is no exaggeration to say that there would be no Linton cricket club were it not for John Richardson.

Hans Pinkard

POT POURRI (24)

The Buying of Items
IF I should buy some wine at £15 per bottle, some spring water at £1 per bottle and several packets of peanuts at 25p each, with the total number of items bought coming to 100 and the total cost being £100, how many bottles of wine, spring water and packets of peanuts would I be buying?
Solution to No 23 - The Perfect and Amicable?
The perfect number is 284 and the amicable number is 496, hence the sum is 780.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Evening of carols old and new



THE New Cambridge Singers under conductor Chris Brown will be presenting their Christmas recital at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th December in St Mary's church in Linton. As well as traditional Christmas carols and music from the 16th to the 20th centuries, including Gabrielli and Howells, the Singers will be performing newly commissioned settings of the mediaeval text *Adam lay ybounden* along with the well-known setting by Boris Ord. The composers will include the choir's president Tim Brown and others who have links with the choir. For a brochure or concert tickets, please contact 894460 or 897983.

Bruce Conochie 894460

Bach and Berlioz at Balsham

THE Balsham singers' Christmas concert will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th December at Balsham church and will feature Bach's *Wachet Auf* and snippets from Berlioz's *Childhood of Christ*, accompanied by orchestra. Unaccompanied, we will also be singing Poulenc's *Four motets for Christmas*. As usual, we will have the traditional carols which we hope the audience will all sing heartily too.

It should be a fun evening for families and friends – do come along and support this local event. Tickets are available in advance from Balsham Post Office or on the door. For more information, please contact: Eleanor Whitfield, 07952 686520 or e-mail Eleanor@ebi.ac.uk

Lighting up Lonsdale ...

ONCE again Terry and Wendy Bishop and their neighbours will be switching on their Christmas lights in Lonsdale from early December. The lights have been creating a grand display for the past 15 years and are well worth a visit. This year donations will go to the Arthur Rank hospice. Please note that the box collection will be emptied every day.

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Flu sidelines our Woman of the Year



Laid up: Joanna Delaforce, Linton Woman of the Year, had to miss the annual lunch

Picture by Wine and Spirits Trade Association

IMAGINE being chosen and invited to attend the prestigious Women of the Year lunch at a posh London hotel. Then when the great day dawns instead of keeping an appointment with the hair stylist, carefully dressing for the occasion and tripping off to the capital, you are laid up with the flu.

As the former first female chairman of the Wine and Spirits Trade Association, Joanna Delaforce was invited to the lunch at the Millennium Hotel on 16th October but was too ill to attend. In fact she has been selected for the Women of the Year lunch four times previously, but this year she was only able to look back and remember meeting a wide range of women with variety of expertise, from a farmer's wife who set up a successful business making outside bras to Mary Archer, chairman of the board of Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Joanna, who lives in The Grip, speaks fluent Portuguese and Spanish, has a 'good palate' and what many would consider a really jammy job. She

is a wine consultant selling, marketing and tasting port and madeira wines. She is brand ambassador for Delaforce's 'His Eminence's Choice', a 10-year-old tawny port and 'Curious & Ancient', a 20-year-old tawny port, two of the oldest brands in the trade, as well as UK brand manager for Henriques & Henriques madeira. Additionally she is an international judge of wines and spirits.

Joanna was brought up in Portugal where the Delaforce family produced port from grapes grown in the Douro region, but she is now the only member of the family directly involved in the Delaforce trade.

Although the English were once the biggest consumers of port, which gentlemen traditionally drank after dinner passing the decanter with the right hand to circulate to the left, Joanna says Portugal now exports larger volumes to France, the US and Canada, and in particular, Delaforce ports to Germany, Holland and Belgium.

Kate France 891602



Clockwise from top left, baby mongoose lemur, hatching sulcatas, baby spectacled owl and tiger cubs



Seasonal greetings from all at Linton zoo

AS the year draws to an end we reflect over the year's activities. We have had some very pleasing births and hatchings including several lemurs, tiger and lion cubs, many species of owls, parrots, macaws and baby parma wallabies.

The tortoises have done particularly well with Indian starred and Aldabran giant tortoise eggs still in the incubators. We now look forward to the new season ahead and hope to report even better success in 2007.

During 2006 we have continued with our popular Outreach programme, visiting schools and birthday parties with our little zoo animals, and we have also introduced our mini "keeper experience" sessions for those who want a little bit more than just a zoo visit.

We have continued with our conservation fund raising activities and have been able to contribute to field projects for both tapir and tigers. The sale of tapir and zebra poo for garden compost and the donations of used stamps have helped towards the money raised.

If you have visited the zoo this year, or if you have contributed in some other way to the zoo, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your support.

We wish everyone a merry Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year. We leave you with some of our favourite baby pictures from 2006 including the most recent arrivals, newly hatched Sulcata giant tortoises.

Kim Simmons 891308
www.lintonzoo.com

K-Club enters its ninth year

OCTOBER saw the start of the ninth year of the K-Club, Linton's own lottery, with 231 members signing up. Prize money of almost £1,500 is to be distributed over the coming 12 months, with Linton Action for Youth benefiting by the same amount. Numbers are just a little down on last year, but it is gratifying to see so many loyal members supporting such a worthy cause.

Winners of the November monthly prizes were:-

1st prize (£50) **B. Chapman** (No.111)

2nd prize (£25) **D.W. George** (No.356)

3rd prize (£10) **Edwin Green** (No.048)

Many thanks to all contributors to the K-Club, and good luck in the many prize draws to come.

Peter Dixon.

Helping Hands' plea for more drivers

THE AGM of Linton and district Helping Hands was held on 17th November. The transport co-ordinators reported a significant increase in demand for the services of the voluntary drivers compared to last year.

During the summer months it proved difficult to cope in Linton, as the pool of drivers has reduced from 23 to 15. Abington currently has seven drivers. Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, Horseheath and Weston Colville have one driver for each village.

The team of volunteer drivers and co-ordinators give their time free and are given either a fixed pre-set fee or a set fee per mile. The service covers trips to the hospital, health centre, dentist, opticians and a variety of other calls for those who have difficulty getting transport.

More volunteer drivers are required as this would mean that no one is called upon too often. If you feel you could help this very valuable service as a volunteer/driver, please contact:

Alex Todd 892979

January deadline for Anderson charity grants

THE trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2007.

The aims of the charity are as follows:

**** To support the work of St Mary's Church**

**** To promote education and any other charitable purpose "for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton".**

Please contact David Parry-Smith, chairman of the trust-

tees, on 894715 for further information. If you represent a group, you will need to include the latest financial statement when you apply.

The deadline for applications at 4 Fairfield Way, Linton CB21 4YP is Thursday 25th January 2007.

Email applications to Anderson@parry-smith.co.uk The trustees will be meeting in February 2007 and will let all applicants know the outcome shortly after the meeting.

Anne Parry-Smith

Hildersham WI welcomes local Antiques Roadshow expert



OUR usual meeting day for WI in October was postponed for two weeks and rescheduled for Monday 30th October. Our apologies to anyone who turned up on the 16th expecting to see antiques and finding the lights off and no one at home. Hildersham's guest speaker for the revised date was Mr Barrie Stevenson who was asked to return to oversee another Antiques Road Show.

Mr Stevenson arrived superbly dressed in an immaculate suit and, warming to his subject, began by saying as he looked at the table covered with a wide variety of antiques: "This is going to be an interesting talk." All the objects, many of which had been handed down through the generations, were brought by members and guests. Each object was given a detailed appraisal comprising their age, origin and how they were made.

There was a special emphasis on the Victorian and Edwardian eras. It was certainly fun finding out where in the world each piece had started out from, as our collection included items from England, Scotland, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Russia and Japan. Articles brought to the meeting included various beautiful pottery pieces, hand-decorated plates, figurines, a jug, a case, a selection of different sized rare prints, cigarette cards, a year clock and a group of sparkling silverware.

Thanks were given to Mr Stevenson for a superbly informative evening.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 18th December at Hildersham village hall, with guest Mr John Whitmore speaking on 'Magic, mulled wine and mince pies' - mmm. Visitors will be very welcome to join us for the evening.

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Charlotte's Chatroom

RECENTLY, awareness of breast cancer has become more and more in the public eye. It's not because the statistics have increased for the number of people contracting this terrible illness, it's because more than ever people are fundraising for this deserving cause. From smaller towns to the bigger cities everyone is getting involved.

For example, on 10th November at the Cambridge Corn Exchange, an event was held to raise money. This took the form of a catwalk show where up-and-coming fashion designers in the Cambridgeshire area showed off their new outfits, whilst the dancing was choreographed by Bodywork.

However, more locally something else has been done. In Hildersham on 7th October Jenny and Mark Logan were the hosts of an evening of wining and dining in aid of a close friend, Angela Finlayson who has recently begun treatment for breast cancer. The evening started with guests being greeted with a glass of champagne (pink to suit the theme) given to them by three first-time waitresses – one of whom was myself. Three rooms were decorated to accommodate all the specially invited guests, and a professional chef (also a close friend of the Logans) was hired to provide the food.

As the night began, guests were taken to the separate rooms to start on the first of three expertly cooked meals. Red and white wine flowed throughout the courses, and once everyone had completed their meals, a raffle was held in the main room. Unfortunately the most important guest, Angela couldn't be there, but a grand total of £1,677.82 was raised and a great night was had by all.

Charlotte Westdijk

Journey to hell and back
Liesl Alexander tells her story

LIESL Alexander is now the wife of the vicar at Oakington but at one time her life was very different. She was a drug addict, certified mentally insane and was kept for many years in a secure mental institution.

On Friday 27th October she came to the village hall in Linton to tell of how, as a teenager, she had a morbid fascination with death, which led to suicide attempts and eventually to a complete mental breakdown. However, as people told her of God's love and power she was completely healed and set free to live a normal life.

The churches in Linton invited her to tell of her experience and about eighty people gathered to hear her speak. Afterwards she prayed for many who themselves needed healing.

If you would like to hear more of Liesl's story she will be speaking at the United Reformed church in Horn Lane on 26th January and 23rd February at 8pm.

She will again be willing to pray for any who would like it. Refreshments will be served and everyone is very welcome.
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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams

How bonfire night fun can be deadly for our wildlife

IN 50 years I could not remember the 5th of November being such a magnificent evening. It was as if all the gods had conspired against all the odds to create weather so perfect for bonfire night. As I drove along the deadly main road into Linton the sunset blazed in a fiery brilliance, burning a holographic-like image across the windscreen. Superimposed was the wild glare from a full moon already hanging laughingly large over our village.

And whilst all that was going on up there in the heavens, I and millions like me were whizzing about in our oily little machines, homeward bound to deal with this particular evening in our own particular way. The word 'bonfire' probably comes from 'bone-fire', an old Celtic festival when animal bones were burned to ward off evil spirits. Our night however, is already crafted out of history, moulded in ever more mystery, and every year I ask myself the same question.

What exactly are we celebrating? This year I made a point of asking around, and to my great surprise only a few people had any inkling other than that a certain gunpowder plot back in the 'olden days' had been foiled. When I asked what was the intention by burning an effigy of a devout Catholic, oppressed and persecuted under the reign of queen Elizabeth I, their eyes simply glazed

over. By the time I'd mentioned the plot being an attempt to rid the nation of its Protestant leaders and restore the Catholic faith, well, you get the picture, their eyes had shut tight. So it seems that the most publicised act of treason against our monarchy has been overtaken by a fervent interest in pyrotechnics. I suspect most

of you share with me a kind of morbid interest in fireworks; their beauty and shocking magnificence decorating our winter skies, the untold excitement of the crackle and bang, and sparks and coloured flames and flares.

Sadly I didn't hear any calls for a penny for the guy, what with inflation and interest rate rises children today may feel more comfortable with a credit card payment into their *Paypal* accounts. Nevertheless, I'm still concerned we are doing something without really thinking through the consequences, perhaps like the Chinese chef who back in the 6th century accident-

tally stuffed a bamboo shoot full of charcoal, sulphur, potassium nitrate and saltpetre, later known as gunpowder, and changed the balance of power overnight in his kitchen. Then, a lot of things died!

As a boy, much of my time was taken up by caring for our animals. Mainly chickens, goats and rabbits though destined for slaughter, their lives until that final resting place upon a dinner plate were to be the best that we could make. Guy Fawkes night was about lifting the piles of rubbish in order to free the hedgehogs, shuttering the hens and more about bangers and mash and toffee apples than, well, 'bangers'.

The small dog trembled, no owl nor pussy cat to be seen. The almighty blast rattled my crystals and would have blown me out of bed had I not been one of those people who, in the face

of man-made or natural disasters, remain perfectly calm. It was 2am and I lay there wondering if one of North Korea's nuclear fireworks had malfunctioned. When I heard another fizz I got up and went outside. In the distance I could hear laughter. The next firework exploded above the trees in the cemetery behind my house and I couldn't help but marvel at its geometrical sparkle.

With my lamp I spotted two pigeons and a dove on the ground by the fence. They huddled stunned, confused, disorientated and obviously scared out of their wits. Is this the tip of untold misery caused by the plot? Some campaigners of the 'ban the bang' attribute the decline of the house sparrow to the misuse of fireworks. Excessively loud explosions can and do kill many small creatures, simply from shock. Animals often drown attempting to cross rivers as they flee in panic and fear of the noise.

Unfortunately, the open spaces chosen to have these displays are often the very places where our wildlife thrives. Perhaps next year we could take out the 'bang' and put in more colour, but for now, this season, a few extra nuts for the birds and a little food (not milk) for the hedgehogs might go a long way towards repairing the damage done by our fun.

And on that philanthropic note, I bid you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.
Darryl Nantais



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The Derbyshire Post

THE new inspection framework for schools truly reflects the way in which the management of schools should have changed over the years. When I was first teaching, inspectors swarmed in and took up residence for a week. They looked at lessons and policies and interviewed everyone. It was like being under siege and knocked most schools for six. When an inspection was over, you were told how good your school was and then a very dull report was written which was hard for everyone to interpret.

Nowadays the process is quite different. Schools need to have powerful self-evaluation procedures in place which are kept on-line and regularly updated. We have to describe all areas of school life and then grade ourselves accordingly. This document, called the Self evaluation form (SEF), can be viewed by the Ofsted inspectors at any time. Therefore inspections become a very different experience. What is inspected is largely this: "Does the school know itself and does it have the capacity to improve?" An inspection can last as little as a day, with one inspector visiting only a dozen lessons. They come to test out what the SEF shows them and go away satisfied if things seem right.

The reason I say that this shows how leadership in schools has changed is that at the heart of the SEF process is the community itself; a major section refers to the views of 'stakeholders'. The 'stakeholders' in question are the staff, the students, the parents, community users and the wider community (those of you reading this article). It is no longer possible, or indeed desirable, to run a school without regularly consulting people as you go. The old style of headteacher from my childhood, who ran their own school according to personal philosophy is well and truly defunct.

Consultation is now part of daily life at Linton Village College. If I reflect on the last week I note:

1. I've received and replied to more than two dozen letters from parents in response to our consultation over tutor group arrangements
2. We have organised student consultation over the same issue next week

3. We've had a parents' forum on the subject of homework which was buzzy and well attended
4. We've consulted staff over sanctions
5. We've consulted governors over premises priorities.

The benefits of consultation are many. The biggest is that you draw on the ideas of a large group of people and can take the best forward. Secondly, you involve people and build strong relationships. Thirdly, the views of others force you to reflect on your practice and change it if necessary.

There are problems with it however; some people confuse consultation with democracy. If you put out a questionnaire people wrongly think it is an election, with winners or losers rather than a genuine attempt to see what the variety of views are before you make a decision based on professional judgement. Schools are not democracies, and sometimes a headteacher will still make a decision even when they know it isn't universally popular because they believe, on the balance of evidence, that it is the right way forward.

Consultation is also unsettling; some people worry that they are being presented with a *fait accompli* so get very cross about an issue even before a decision has been made. Conversely, it can also raise expectations about a change which, following consultation, may not happen.

However, in my professional judgement, the benefits outweigh the difficulties and I have found an open approach to decision making to be successful, and I'm glad that Ofsted think so too.

On a final note ... I gather many of you did not receive the Broadening Education Partnership programme last July. It was sent out with the free papers. A spring term programme packed full of exciting courses will be published shortly – it isn't a booklet, but an A4 fold, so look out for it with your papers and in your letter boxes. If you do not receive one, phone the college. Don't miss out.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/1979/06/LB Mrs S Bennett., The Shrubbery, 8 Mill Lane, Linton. Alterations, replacement of cellar steps, remove walls to kitchen and store to create enlarged kitchen and formal dining room and install new door to hallway. Create new lead roofed bay window in dining area. Block opening to drawing room and former larder. Convert part of garden store to WC and extend to create covered way (verandah) to back hall and new study/garden room, with rooflights in lead flat roof. Install new windows in lean-to shed to form workshop. Provide window at first floor in bedroom 4. Install new roof structure to barn.

S/1980/06/F Mrs S Bennett, The Shrubbery, 8 Mill Lane, Linton. Extension.

S/1983/06/PNA SCS Taylor, Little Linton Farm, Linton. Extension to agricultural building.

S/1998/06/F Mr & Mrs C Hewett, Railway End, 44 The Grip, Linton. Extension.

S/2105/06/F Hereward Housing Association, 17-33 (Odd) & 24-34 (Even) Flaxfields, Linton. Sheltered housing scheme, including 42 flats, communal areas and car parking following demolition of existing dwellings.

S/2147/06/F Dr J Hewlett & Partners, The Health Centre, Coles Lane, Linton. Extensions and reorganisation of car park (amendment to approved planning application ref S/0357/06/F to include revised rear extension design).

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PLUMBLINE

The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

When Empire Day was celebrated locally



Teachers pose beneath the union flag on Empire Day 1909

Picture courtesy of Gwen Samuels

IN the last few years there has been an attempt to revive interest in patriotism, especially among the younger generation. Politicians have sought to "cash in" on potential votes by espousing the idea of citizenship. This is nothing new and reminds me of an earlier group of politicians who, soon after Queen Victoria's death in 1901 sought to commemorate her reign, glorify the British Empire and engender a sense of pride in the younger generation.

Their object was "to cherish in the young true patriotism

and citizenship". When the idea was first put to the county education committee in 1905 it was rejected as being too American, too showy and totally unnecessary.

Nevertheless, pressure from the Royal Colonial Institute in association with the Empire Day Movement (non racial, non party, non aggressive and non sectarian – or so it said), won the day, and schools were given suggestions about what to do. The union flag was to be hoisted in school yards and the national anthem sung,

preferably on 24th May, Queen Victoria's birthday. A visitor or the local vicar should address the children about the duties and responsibilities attaching to British citizenship.

Celebrations were noted in our local school log books. Empire Day was a feature of the school year in Cambridge-shire from 1906 and was introduced at Linton school in May, 1908. The photograph shows the staff assembled around the flagpole in the school playground in 1909. The Linton children sang a special chorus to the national anthem, "We salute thee and we pray, God to bless our land today" and they saluted the flag each time. Empire day also featured in other local schools.

At Horseheath in 1907 flags and greenery decorated the school, and a new flag was acquired the following year; in the Abingtons from 1908 a flag was flown from Great Abington church tower, and in Hildersham in the same year, 43 pupils each wore a daisy buttonhole, sang songs and watched the unfurling of a 9ft-long union flag. The vicar gave each child a coin and a bag of sweets.

On Empire Day in June, 1927 Miss Gladys Fordham led 210 Linton pupils in patriotic songs before an assembled group of parents. Miss Gwen Samuels told me that lessons ended at morning play and the children were able to display their flags and sing patriotic songs. George V's speech was heard on the radio and then there was the half day holiday. The head teacher had to ensure that the vicar had given his official permission.

The whole idea was abandoned after India became independent in 1947, and the next year Empire Day was abolished and redesignated Commonwealth Day.

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THE LINTON NEWS

Next Publication Date 1st January 2007

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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.

A plea for courtesy

As I drive around the country, I see many acknowledgements from other drivers – friendly ones, I hasten to add... On motorways, it tends to be a flashed light, in towns a raised hand or smile, but in the more rural areas or less demonstrative counties, this can be a raised forefinger or barely perceptible nod. It is amazing how a little consideration – to let someone out of a junction, or into a space, or allow a pedestrian to cross – can help someone else and ease their day. Sometimes someone will even do it for me!

Linton still has its traffic problems, but could considerate driving solve any of these? Allowing cars to join the traffic flow from side roads helps others and does not cost you much time. The junction of the High Street and A1307 may have improved with the new traffic lights, but is still prone to congestion. Access is limited by the parked cars, so some thought is needed to avoid blocking the progress of other traffic.

When travelling from Cambridge, why not pause to allow cars waiting to enter the High Street to cross the junction, or let cars exit onto the A1307 in front of you. A build up of stationary traffic, fumes and temper could be prevented for the cost of a moment of your time. Giving way to buses – they do not have your acceleration – speeds the journey for passengers, so give them a chance. Why do some drivers insist on overtaking the queue at the new lights? The driver of a red hatchback pulled out for no apparent reason, without looking, nearly hitting a motorbike – that could have been a death caused by selfishness, and for what gain?

Parking with a little thought can save many problems, too. Parking restrictions and double yellow lines are there for a purpose. How often have you seen



gridlock because some selfish person thinks their convenience is more important than the law? Or parking on the road when there is a drive or parking bay provided? Please keep the roads clear and free up space for those with nowhere else to park.

So often cars and vans are parked with two wheels on the pavement, blocking the path for pedestrians, especially those with buggies, walking aids and wheelchairs. Where is the sense in this? It doesn't help traffic flow and makes life really dangerous for those who have to walk in the road to get past them, especially those less able villagers. There is also the problem of cyclists on paths.

Traffic on the path, pedestrians forced into the road – not a good idea. As one local builder says to me: "what goes around, comes around". Perhaps a little

Council minutes

Minutes of the meeting of LINTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 19th October 2006 at the Cathodeon Centre

Present: G Potter – Chair, M Clay, Ms E Cornell, M Gee, A Gore, Mrs P Kenyon, T Krarup, J Linsdell, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White, D Willingham, Mrs K France – Press, Mrs S Parry – Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bald, Cox, Hammett and DC /CC J Batchelor

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th October 2006. The minutes were approved and signed.

Report from the Police. PCSO D Brock and a colleague were in attendance.

The crime figures for the month are:

- 2 thefts from vehicles,
- 1 theft of a 4x4 vehicle later used in a ram raid in Suffolk,
- 2 burglaries from garages,
- criminal damage to 1 house and 1 green house,
- 1 shoplifting from the Co-op,
- 2 cycle thefts,
- 3 criminal damage to vehicles and
- 1 possession of cannabis.

PCSO Brock was asked to clarify 'Immobilise'. If you are unfortunate enough to lose or have property stolen, want to increase the chances of getting it back and if stolen help the police to catch the thieves responsible then you should visit www.Immobilise.com.

Immobilise is a national register and is part of a linked series of secure databases. It is the result of a continuing close working relationship between the Home Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Mobile Phone Industry and the Police. Designed originally to tackle the rising problem of mobile phone theft, the Immobilise Register is now capable of recording details of all identifiable property including car music systems, cycles, computers and mobile phones. The register currently has over 20 million items registered including over 750,000 cycles. So far nearly 15,000 people have registered in the CB postcode areas.

PCSO Brock confirmed that PCSOs were allowed to direct traffic. However when an incident occurs on the A1307 their main priority is to clear the traffic from the area as soon as possible. It is not in their remit and they certainly do not have the time or resources to explain to every driver the best route to use. Traffic officers will attend an incident if there are no PCSOs on duty. There are no plans for any extra officers for this area.

Report from the County Councillor. Cllr Batchelor was not in attendance but had confirmed that Tower View and Rhugarve Gardens were due to be resurfaced. No decision has been made regarding Emsons Close.

Reports from District Councillors. Neither was in attendance.

Written reports from Council representatives. Written reports had been received from Cllr Cox regarding the Churchyard work and the Clerk regarding the CALC QPS workshop. Cllr Rossiter had reported on the CALC AGM and warned that many changes are likely. Many of the proposed changes are aimed at larger towns and cities by the creation of new smaller councils and the procedures by which these will be funded. However the existing Parish Council structure is also



Repairs to Church wall

There were considered no points raised.

Consideration of Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 7th September 2006. These were considered no points were raised.

Correspondence for discussion

John Cobb and Sons re quotation for remedial work to path to clapper stile. We are awaiting clarification that a site visit has been made before any decision is taken. It was agreed to obtain quotations to tarmac the path.

Royal Mail post code changes – It is unlikely that Royal Mail will concede on this issue. However Cllr Willingham will pursue this on behalf on the Parish Council.

S Hurcum email re various issues. The Clerk will inform SH that item 1 is not the responsibility of the Parish Council and any problems should be directed to Environmental Health. Item 2 regarding the car – as it is not on the Highway, is on private land it does not need to display road tax.

Mr Jeffries re bridge and dogs not on leads. The work on the bridge at the ford was undertaken by CCC and the Parish Council were not forewarned. Apparently the bridge needed to be replaced as a matter of urgency. The fibreglass decking was chosen for safety reasons; it is non slip, will not be damaged if submersed in water and will not rot

when covered by fallen leaves. However it is still in a temporary state and will have wooden planks fitted along the sides to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Owners of dogs are asked to keep them on leads on the recreation ground but this is not a legal requirement. It is unenforceable as we have neither dog warden nor bye laws. The Clerk will contact CALC regarding the current model bye laws and contact other Parishes

Cont page 10



Church fencing on Camping Close

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Cont from Page 9

to see how they address the problem.

Herald Contract Services quotation for various works in Pocket Park. Cllr Gore proposed, it was seconded by Cllr Clay to accept this quotation subject to funds being available. This will be passed to finance for their consideration.

Mr Orton re 38 High Street. It was agreed that Cllrs Cox and Gore will check the Market Square file and respond.

Set date and venue for Precept meeting. The meeting was arranged for Thursday 11th January at 8pm upstairs in the Village Hall.

Review of Wish List prior to Precept meeting. The Wish List was reviewed, changes were made and an updated copy will be circulated.

Matters arising from the Minutes of meeting of 5th October not already listed

It was reported that the beeper unit on the pedestrian crossing on the A1307 was faulty but the tactile cone system was working. A report on the A1307 will be available shortly. Cllr Willingham reported that he had spent an evening on patrol with PC AA a report will follow. Cllr Gore and Urwin had met with two representatives from SCDC regarding Coles Lane car park. Several issues were raised and a report will be available by the end of the year. The Clerk confirmed that references had been received for the tree work on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to formally offer the work to Cambridge Tree Surgery.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

It was suggested that the notice board at Swan Bridge was in need of repair. The Clerk will obtain quotes for a new one.

It was agreed in principle, to replace the light on the skateboard ramp subject to costs.

Parish Matters – decision regarding possible extra hours for admin assistant

That the Clerk and the assistant clerk will be invited to undertake the compilation of Parish Matters. Full training will be given. This will equate to an extra 5 hrs per month. This is on the understanding that all copy is received prior to the monthly deadline.

This was agreed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

Minutes of the meeting of the Linton Parish Council held at the CATHODEON Centre on Thursday 2nd November 2006 commencing at 8 pm

Present: G Potter – Chair, Dr B Cox – Vice Chair, Mrs E Bald, M Clay, Ms E Cornell, M Gee, A Gore, B Hammett, Mrs P Kenyon, T Krarup, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, D Willingham, Mrs K France – Press and Mrs S Parry – Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Linsdell and White.

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2006. The minutes were approved and signed

Consideration of the minutes of the Planning meeting of 19th October 2006. These were considered no points were raised.

Reports from Co-ordinators:

i) Open Spaces - M Clay reported that the grass verges had been cut on Horseheath Road up to the A1307 junction.

ii) Recreation Ground - Mrs P Kenyon reported that a litter bin had been upended and required reinstalling with a larger concrete base.

iii) Cemetery - M Gee. Cllr Cornell responded for the cemetery committee and reported that it was in need of a good tidy up. A small sapling has been removed from alongside a gravestone following a complaint. Cllr Cornell had spoken with some regular visitors to the cemetery and they had reported that the grass cutting had not been up to the usual standard. Small rubbish heaps are appearing. Work had begun to tidy up, dead wood is being piled up close to the railings for collection to be burned on Guy Fawkes evening. Cllr Cornell had also spoken to a Chalklands resident who did not wish any of the trees to be lopped or removed. It was agreed to write to all residents whose homes border the cemetery to ascertain their views. A tree plan would also be provided so that they could identify any tree they considered required attention.

It was agreed to remind Herald to do a tidy up in preparation for Remembrance Sunday.

iv) Rights of Way - Dr J Rossiter – nothing to report

v) Venture Playground - B Hammett reported that following reports of vandalism to the skate ramp he had made a site visit but it appears to have been repaired. GP will contact Mr M Coxall, LA4Y to ascertain whether he has done this work.

vi) Leadwell Meadows - Dr J Rossiter – nothing to report

vii) Glebe Land - Dr J Rossiter – nothing to report

viii) Churchyard - Dr B Cox had issued notes on

the meeting with the Archdeacon, representatives from Diocesan Advisory Committee, Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, SCDC Conservation and Planning Departments, Church Architect and various others. The visiting group were satisfied with the work that had been done on the railings by Croftons. In relation to the Kissing Gate, it was suggested that rather than modifying the old frame a gate should be installed, in the line of the railings directly to the south of the kissing gate. A suitable gate of the same design as the reclaimed railings was being held by Croftons until a decision was made as to the ultimate form of the kissing gate area. The original kissing gate would be restored to its former position and the entrance path widened. Council was pleased to note this. Part funding for lighting in the churchyard may be forthcoming from Safer Routes to School (SRS) initiative.

ix) Communications - M Gee reported that work on the web site is ongoing. At the moment there are 20+ pages completed. It is hoped that it can be launched in January along with a name change to .gov.uk. Cllr Gee will prepare an article for the January edition of Parish Matters.

x) A1307 - E Cornell had issued a report. The road is currently being assessed for speed.

Proposal : That we write to both Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire County Council requesting they deliver as high priority a recommended diversion route with clear signage and a police or PCSO presence within the village when this takes place. Proposal carried

Consideration of Payments The cheques were signed by Cllrs Cox and Gore. It was agreed to withhold payment to Croftons until the work had been completed.

Correspondence list – of particular interest P Griffin/S Hughes email re Dalehead Foods – this had already been raised and dealt with at a previous meeting

CCC A Frost re one way system – It was agreed that the Traffic Working Party (TWP) meet on Saturday 4th November at 2pm at the Fire Station to note any missing signs etc. Mr

Frost will be asked to chase up items 1,2 and 3. A meeting will be arranged to assess the situation and respond to CCC.

G Dye and Sons quotation re installation of litter and dog bin. This was agreed and passed to Finance Committee

CCC re congestion meeting on 14th November. Cllr Gore hopes to attend.

CCC re questionnaire on Highway services – noted and Cllr Bald will respond .

J Cobb and Sons quotation re tarmacing path to Clapper Stile £1780 + VAT. The clerk reported that she had contacted English Heritage to ascertain whether the path specification had originated from them. They replied that they did not usually give advice other than on buildings. However if we write to them outlining the situation and attaching photographs they may be able to help. After much discussion it was agreed to await their reply before any further action was taken.

CCC re footway repairs - noted

SCDC re Code of Conduct training. Much discussion took place regarding this training. It was agreed to contact the Standards Committee to invite them to a meeting however Councillors were reluctant to travel to Cambourne for training.

Taylor Vinters re open space at Chalklands – Cllr Gore reported that Taylor Vinters had suggested that we have been delaying a response however we have, for several weeks, been awaiting a response from them.

Matters arising from the Minutes of 19th October not already listed. Cllr Willingham reported that he was trying to contact Royal Mail but their email system had not been operational. Apparently the change of post code had meant Argos customers are experiencing delays with deliveries.



The clerk reported that Mr Orton had again been into the office regarding parking on the Market Square. Cllr Gore reported that he would call into the office to collect the Market Square file.

Reports from Councillors (for information only). Cllr Gore reported that the S106 at Granta Vale relates to Mr Impey for as long as he owns the land.

The meeting closed at 21.40

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: C. 891001
www.lintonpc.org.uk
Clerk to the Council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon, & 4–6pm,
Tuesday–Friday 9am– 12noon
Or by appointment
Office Closed 25th December – 1st January 2007
Dates for full Council meetings:
December 7th 2006, January 4th 2007
All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre
commencing at 8pm



Repairs being carried out to Church boundary

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