

Guides' Jumble sale  
2pm, Saturday  
8<sup>th</sup> March,  
Infant School

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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

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E & E PLUMRIDGE  
Design & Print  
41 High Street  
Linton  
01223 891407

## Linton's very own birdman prepares to take off



Is it a bird, is it a plane or maybe a birdman? Not yet. It's George Glossop of Meadhaven, on the Camping Close practising ground handling his wing, without an engine on his back. In April he goes to Spain to complete a paramotoring course and collect an engine to strap to his back to give lift-off.

We will follow his progress and hope to have a full article when he returns from Spain with his paramotoring certificate. Watch this space!

Picture by Roger Lapwood

## The return of the Wacky Races

EVERY year since 2002 the village of Linton has been host to the Wacky Races. Following a break last year, this year will see their return! They will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, starting at the Crown Inn and finishing at the recreation ground with entertainment for all the family, including junior wacky races.

Everyone is welcome to be part of it. Without runners and 'chariots' there is no event, so don't just sit there, do something! Over previous years it has benefited many charities, both local and national. In total the event has raised in excess of £13,500.

This year the beneficiaries will be Multiple Sclerosis and Linton junior school. It costs £10 to enter a homemade chariot, no engines allowed. If you raise over £100 in sponsorship money, your entry is free and whoever raises the most sponsorship money will get a cash prize! This year, entry on the starting grid is on a first come first served basis, so don't delay, reserve your grid space now.

If you are part of an organisation which would like to get involved, we have many pitches for stalls available at the recreation ground. These are available at £5 and all the money you raise on the day will go to your organisation.

If you would like to be involved, or if you would like any more information please contact Joel at the Crown in Linton on 891759. Entry forms and sponsorship forms for the adult and the junior race are available there.

Joel Palmer

## Too good for jumble ...

FOR something really different, sets of 1950s Meccano magazines are on offer this month, a ledged external door 2'6" x 5'11 1/2" with letterbox, and a collection of seven large volumes Encyclopaedia of Birds of Britain and Europe. There are also two coffee tables each approx. 4ft x 2ft – one pine and one teak, and a glass fronted teak display cabinet 32"h x 16"d x 17"w.

The Belswick hopper bike, new pump station iron, JVC TV with remote control and a Toshiba music centre are all still available.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact me:

Kate France 891602 or email  
katefrance@linton48.freereserve.co.uk

## Worth waiting for: a village landmark looking good

THE Dog & Duck re-thatching is finally finished! And doesn't it look fabulous as you drive down the High Street

Not only has the outside had a facelift but also the restaurant a redecoration and hopefully the new ambience will activate your taste buds! We will have our new chef, who, with the existing team, will raise the quality of the food to new heights. The small room is now a 'snug' with Chesterfield sofas, books and magazines where you can relax in comfort. This can be hired for small group meetings, private or business. Outside there's a new smoker's pavilion and the patio and riverside garden are there for you and your family to enjoy.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February we held an official opening of the newly thatched pub, serving champagne and gateaux to all who were there. Throughout the duration of the thatching we have had a pub competition to 'Guess the number of bundles of reeds used in the rethatching'. Half the proceeds went to the local charity ACE, the Linton Age Concern Charity that helps the elderly remain in their own homes and half to the person guessing correctly. Barry Gifford of Greene

King brewery and councillor Enid Bald were there to present the winner of the competition with their cheque. A total of £86 was raised. The winner was David Whippet of Linton who guessed the correct number of 1753 bundles of reeds.

Burns Night was a real Scottish night. Andrew Ballard from the Royal Cambridge Scottish Society piped the guests into the pub and, in traditional style, piped in the haggis carried by chef Alison Thomas. Local Scotsman, Stephen Inglis, was our chairman and poet for the evening while several guests contributed reciting Burns' poetry. Alison Inglis entertained us with her brilliance on the violin.

We also celebrated the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Rat – with a traditional Chinese menu and held a Red Rose Valentine's dinner. More speciality nights are planned – check out what's on via our website [www.dogandducklinton.co.uk](http://www.dogandducklinton.co.uk), pick up a dates for your diary leaflet or call the pub on 891257.

Spring is on its way, the daffodils are coming out and the ducks are quacking merrily. We look forward to seeing you soon. Chris Varian



The Dog & Duck with its re-thatching complete

Picture by Roger Lapwood



# THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

THERE are times when one has to wonder whether the right people are in charge of the national purse. Of the billions raised each year from the long-suffering motorist, only about one quarter is invested in the road network. Some of the remainder will apparently be used to help gentlemen of a certain faith to maintain up to four wives. Pardon me, but the last time I looked, bigamy was a crime in this country, punishable with a gaol term. Not being a reader of the Daily Express, however, I have more pressing concerns regarding the misuse or wastage of public funds.

Our part of the country is not a traditional stronghold of the party in office, and it is therefore not very surprising that the insufficient funds allocated to this area from central government keep our council tax high. One of the symptoms of meagre funding is cutbacks in services. Over recent years, Linton has experienced the 'effect' of these cutbacks – hence the build-up of road detritus and minimal policing, for example.

Cambridgeshire's Chief Constable, Julie Spence, was so concerned about the lack of cash for her force that she felt compelled to ask publicly for help.

Linton has experienced an upsurge in crime in recent years. Burglaries, thefts and criminal damage are occurring with alarming frequency. In the same period, police cutbacks have surely given those intent on causing distress and misery to others a much easier ride than they are entitled to. The gangs of youths that featured in the lives of many in this village last year have not gone away. Smaller groups, not hibernating with the rest over winter, have continued the vandalism and under-age drinking, confident in the knowledge that they would be incredibly unlucky to be apprehended. It seems unlikely that the parents of these feral youngsters are oblivious to their actions, especially as some of them claim to get their alcohol from them!

A common complaint of the younger generation is that they have nothing to do. This is true, if you rule out sports, scouts, guides, youth groups, TV and radio, community projects and computer games, which don't involve getting drunk.

We are fortunate in that the local PCSOs are putting in an enormous effort in trying to avoid a repeat of last year, and the parish council is, at long last, getting involved. The pavilion on the recreation ground, a target several times in 2007 of the exuberance of some misguided revellers, has been afforded the protection of a CCTV camera. Who was the bright spark that decided a changing room with a bar in it should get watched over ahead of the houses and property of the villagers?

One of the jobs of the police and the parish council is to serve their community in a way that gives protection to the people in residence. Having heard how ridiculously expensive these cameras are, I'm amazed that all that money could not have been put to better use – another PCSO for example or even... wait for it.. an actual police constable – with the power to arrest everyone from the cocky, tanked-up teenage hooligans to their speeding, highway code-ignoring parents.

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**Sorry**

*Our apologies to Little Explorers whose telephone number disappeared from the ad in last month's issue. We appear to have some technical problems which we have corrected this month.*

**Editor**

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# Worried about crime? Help is at hand

*Enjoy a coffee morning with the Bobby Scheme*

## The Bobby Scheme...

THE Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme provides a free service to victims of burglary aged 60 or more who live in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and it also helps many older people who are not yet victims but who are at higher risk.

The Bobby Scheme employs a co-ordinator and four mobile carpenter/safety advisers to provide the service in a cost-effective way.

The Bobby Scheme carpenter/safety advisers will repair minor damage caused by the criminal and then install locks, bolts, peepholes and door chains, etc. They will not turn a home into a fortress but they will provide practical help, reassurance and peace of mind at a time when it is needed most.

Their website is : [www.cpstrust.org/bobby.htm](http://www.cpstrust.org/bobby.htm)

## ...the coffee morning

FOLLOWING the recent distraction burglary at Hildersham and elsewhere in the area, I have arranged a coffee morning with the Linton Neighbourhood Policing team and the Bobby Scheme and hopefully the Community Safety Unit.

This will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at Hildersham village hall; everyone from the village and surrounding villages is welcome.

Please pass the message to your friends and neighbours; it would be nice to see as many people as possible there.

If anyone would like to help making cups of coffee it would be appreciated.

Andrew Westwood-Bate, Hildersham Parish Councillor  
 892430 or e-mail [info@hildersham.org.uk](mailto:info@hildersham.org.uk)

## ...more on the recent robberies

THE recent series of incidents, largely in rural areas where elderly residents have been burgled, has had extensive publicity and you will recall the suspects either entered homes through insecure doors and windows or used bogus stories to gain access. For example, they claimed to be police officers or used a variety of stories to justify their presence.

Cambridgeshire Police have set up Operation Promenade in response to this series of crimes. The operation consists of high visibility patrols, detectives assigned to the operation and preventative measures and advice by the Police Crime Reduction Unit and partner agencies.

We have received a number of very helpful telephone calls identifying vehicles and sightings of possible offenders (we have a photo-fit ID for one suspect and footprints from another site). These are providing us with useful lines of enquiries – so do please continue to be vigilant and keep calling. (See end).

The Crime Reduction Unit, the Distraction Burglary and Rogue Trader Task Group (see article on this page) and South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership have all made significant contributions towards raising awareness of the problem and the simple steps you can take to keep safe.

If you would like a talk from one of our Crime Reduction advisers, please do call Hilary Conner, manager of the Police Crime Reduction Unit on 823479.

Thank you for your continued support and please continue to help us to keep our communities safe. We must keep up our guard.

Here is a reminder of a few simple steps that you can take:

- Ensure your front and back doors are locked (to prevent anyone just walking into your home)
- Ensure all windows, especially those on the ground floor are fitted with locks
- An intruder can gain entry through an opening no larger than 9" (22cm) so please take care with open windows
- When answering the door to a caller remember the following:

**Locked:** Before opening the front door, ensure the back door is locked.

**Stop: Think** – Do you normally get callers at this time?

**Chain:** Always put the door chain or door bar across before



**Members of the Bobby scheme**

Picture submitted by Andrew Westward-Bate

you open the door. (This presents a physical and psychological barrier which shows the caller that you are in charge)

**Check:** Never assume that what the caller is saying is true. Always ask for their ID, take your time to check it and feel free to close the door whilst the checks are being made. Be aware that a bogus caller will have bogus ID so don't always believe what is on the card e.g. telephone numbers, especially mobile numbers.

Always use the phone directory to authenticate identification. Remember a genuine caller will not mind waiting or will call back at a more convenient time.

If you are still not sure, don't open the door.

If you or a neighbour have any information about suspicious callers/vehicles in your area please call the police on **0845 456 456 4** quoting **Operation Promenade**.

If you feel you are the victim of a crime and the suspect is still in the vicinity or you are witnessing a crime dial **999 immediately**.

With your help we can put a stop to these despicable crimes.

Hilary Conner  
 Crime Reduction Unit Manager  
 Parkside Police Station  
[hilary.conner@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hilary.conner@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

## ...and an introduction to Cambridgeshire Registered Trader Scheme

UNSCRUPULOUS traders who prey on vulnerable people and steal their life savings are being targeted as part of a groundbreaking joint initiative in Cambridgeshire.

A special list of approved traders has been compiled to stop conmen, from bogus builders to pilfering plumbers, being employed by older and vulnerable people.

The Cambridgeshire Registered Trader Scheme was launched in March 2005 by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Distraction Burglary and Rogue Trader Task Force.

Cambridgeshire County Council Trading Standards has compiled a list of approved traders, including electricians, builders, tilers and plumbers who have been subjected to stringent checks before being included in the scheme.

The scheme, managed jointly by Cambridgeshire Police, Trading Standards and Cambridgeshire Age Concern, aims to help older and more vulnerable members of our community find reliable and honest traders to carry out maintenance and repair work on their homes.

The idea behind the Registered Trader Scheme is to give these people the opportunity to have necessary work carried out without the fear of crime. This can result from rogues who have 'cold called' on them in the past and taken advantage of their trusting nature. By using a registered trader they can be assured that they will not be conned. We want to drive out the rogues who have operated in Cambridgeshire.

Graham Clarke  
 Registered Trader Scheme Co-ordinator  
[Graham.Clarke@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Clarke@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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**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.

**Has the Environment Agency got it wrong?**

Dear Editor,  
As I worked merrily in the glorious February sunshine to pay my tax bill, Parliament spent the day discussing national flood defence. I suppose in the current trend of fear and concern, almost everyone will want to live on a hill, so I feel like shaking the apple tree a little harder!

The market value of your house or the rent on it may depend on how high your property is above sea level! The Environment Agency, having spent a small fortune on surveys, has given Linton a rating for the likelihood of flooding as 'LOW' or 0.05% or in betting terms 200 to 1. Erh! Somehow, I think they may have that wrong. What do you think?

Let's just look at the situation in simple terms. Linton is built in a valley. A valley with a river running through it and a natural floodplain. The remaining glacial moraines rise higher than the surrounds which tends to mean clouds burst to pass over, or, depending on air pressure and wind direction, settle in the valley. There have been a number of floods in the last 50 years, and Linton has a history of some very serious ones. The river has breached its banks several times in the last 15 years.

With the now obvious climate change (ask any gardener, weather-watcher, child or anyone with a brain) and with absolutely no change to our flood defence I leave my conclusion to your good selves.

Living with nature is one thing, but don't get drunk on official statistics and fall asleep with a hungry serpent. I know I share my passion for our community, village and wildlife with many. Oh, and further building on the hillside will only add to an already precarious situation, whilst the developers take their profits and live elsewhere leaving us to cope with their mess.

Any thoughts?  
Darryl Nantais, Chalklands.

**A warning to all dog owners**

Dear Editor,  
My terrier dog was taken to the vets the other night for an emergency operation. He was very ill and would have died if it wasn't for Mr Urwin and his capable staff, but he is now on the mend.

The cause of the problem was a rope toy which he had for Christmas, and over the weeks he had been swallowing the pieces of string. I urge all dog owners to throw all rope toys away; it could be your dog next time, and you might not be so lucky.

Miss Thomson, Hillway.

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**OUR THANKS**

Dear Editor,  
Although it is more than six months since my mother, Kathleen Carlton, passed away, I would like to thank everyone who sent kind donations to the Alzheimer's Research Trust, which amounted to £435. She would have been so pleased to be able to help this particular charity. Once again thank you. Joan Searle, Castle Camps.

**Light among the trees**

THREE new members plus visitors joined us for our February meeting and were entertained by an interesting talk entitled Light among the trees. Cynthia Norris chaired the meeting, as our president, Ann Simpkin, was enjoying "break-fast in Australia".

The minutes of the January meeting were read, and reminders given out about the coffee mornings, (the March one will be on 7<sup>th</sup> at Vera Weatherly's). A visit to Cambridge University library, Spring lunch on 5<sup>th</sup> March, Spring council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April, group meeting at Abington on 12<sup>th</sup> May and the East of England Show in June gives us plenty of events to keep us very busy.

Our speaker Peter Beale, a

retired conservation officer, gave us a marvellously entertaining talk about his work and interest in wildlife over many years, especially butterflies - his slides were beautiful.

He showed that by cutting down some trees and clearing undergrowth you open up an area in which wildlife and plants can flourish as they get more light. He encouraged us to create ponds in our gardens, a wonderful habitat for wildlife providing hours of entertainment. Peter has a reserve in Godalming named after him - a great honour.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> March when Peter Lawrence will be speaking about 'London Dockland. It is an open meeting so do come and join us.

Trisha Lewis 893609

**Choosing wines for food**

CHRISTMAS is over and sitting on the dresser are a number of bottles of wine which have been very graciously received via friends and relatives. They bear wonderful labels from different parts of the world. There is one question that must come to nearly everyone in this situation. Which wine does one drink with what kind of food?

This is where Hildersham's guest speaker came to the rescue for those who are not connoisseurs and feel totally inadequate about making the right choice.

Alison's subject Choosing wines for food was not only enjoyable when we tried five different wines, but was also an enlightening experience when tried with different kinds of food. A very interesting evening was had by all who participated.

Pamela J Parris

**Granta School has come a long way - Ofsted**

GRANTA School in Linton has come a long way since opening and already has some good features, according to Government inspectors.

The special school, which caters for pupils with complex needs, opened in September 2006 and had its first inspection from Ofsted - the Office for Standards in Education - last November.

Inspectors said headteacher Lucie Calow had quickly gained the confidence of staff and parents. "She has strengthened the staff team in response to growing numbers of pupils and is clearly bringing out the best in her staff. This is a significant achievement and there is a strong sense of energy and passion amongst managers in key positions," they added.

"Managers are very reflective practitioners and prepared to be innovative in their quest to develop Granta into an outstanding school," their report said. "The school has received outstanding support and challenge from the governing body."

Inspectors particularly praised provision in the Foundation Stage. "Children are making good progress in response to good teaching. Planning is informed by good assessment procedures."

The personal development and well-being of pupils was also praised. "Pupils develop a strong sense of trust and enjoy school because they feel safe and well cared for. They have very good relationships with their teachers and support assistants."

Simon Cobby

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**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	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays	SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays	SC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Linton Granta toddlers, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time	LVC
Hadstock toddler group, 2-2.30pm Tuesdays term time Hadstock	VH
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesday	CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time	VH
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays	(call 892076)
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 9.45am & 11am Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Rhyme'n'rhythm tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time	URC hall
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays	SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays	VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays	SC

**For Sports Centre courses please call 890248**

**MARCH**

<b>1 Farmers' market, 9.30am</b>	<b>LVC</b>
<b>3 Camera club meeting, 7.15pm</b>	<b>CC</b>
<b>4 WI, 7.30pm</b>	<b>VH</b>
<b>5 Coffee morning, 10.30am</b>	<b>Hildersham VH</b>
5 Storytime, 2.15pm	Library
5 Reading group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
5 Poetry reading by the Poet Laureate, 2pm	LVC
6,7,8 Tastes of Anglia	Chilford Hall
6 Luncheon club, 12.15pm	The Crown
6 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
7 Women's World Day of Prayer, 10.30am	URC
8 Dads and tots, 9.30am	VH
<b>8 National car wash, 10am</b>	<b>Fire Station</b>
<b>8 Guides' jumble sale, 2pm</b>	<b>Infant school</b>
<b>9 Camera club outing, 9.30am</b>	<b>Coles Lane</b>
9 St John Passion, 6pm	St Mary's Pavilion
9 Junior cricket presentation, 4pm	Chalklands
11 VIP group, 2pm	VH
<b>11 Gardening club, 7.30pm</b>	<b>1 Mill Lane</b>
<b>12 NSPCC Bring and buy, 10.30am</b>	<b>LVC</b>
13 Battle of the bands, 7pm	Chilford Hall
14,15,16 Quilt fair	LVC
15 Linton Jazz concert, 7.30pm	Haverhill
15 Haverhill choral society concert, 7.30pm	Junior school
<b>18 Neighbourhood police panel meeting, 7.30pm</b>	<b>VH</b>
<b>18 Historical society, 7.30pm</b>	<b>HC</b>
19 CAMTAD Hearing Help, 9am-12noon	Library
19 Storytime, 2.15pm	Dog & Duck
<b>20 ACE visit to Anglesey Abbey, 10am</b>	<b>CC</b>
20 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	LVC
<b>29 Linton music society, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Infant school</b>
30 5km fun run, 11am	25 The Woodlands
<b>31 Trefoil guild, 7.45pm</b>	

**APRIL**

<b>1 WI, 7.30pm</b>	<b>VH</b>
3 Luncheon club, 12.15pm	The Crown
3 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
<b>5 Farmers' market, 9.30am</b>	<b>LVC</b>

KEY: CC Cathodeon Centre, HC Health Centre, LVC Linton Village College, SC Sports Centre, URC United Reform Church, VH Village Hall.

Refuse collection: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.  
Recycling collection: 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**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.

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# Play Daze opens its doors, not just for children



Coming down: a happy group of children enjoy the new facilities at Play Daze

Picture by Julian's photography

**A** BRAND new indoor soft play funhouse called Play Daze is the latest attraction to open in Linton.

Run by local husband and wife Andy and Julie Davies, this is a brand new venture for them at Unit 12c/d The Grip, that has taken 10 months hard work to get up and running, although they would both like to thank Merlem Properties for project managing the complete refit in just four weeks.

The main adventure play area is designed on an underwater sea world theme and features a four lane wavy slide and three tier adventure play area for four to 10-year-olds.

Toddlers up to four years old are well catered for in their own enclosed play area complete with ball pool and pedal cars.

Mums, dads and grandparents can relax with an excellent

cup of coffee and a slice of cake, or try a range of hot and cold meals complete with a specials board and kiddies' menu.

Play Daze is open seven days a week from 10am-6pm.

Children's birthday parties can be booked as well as a new Laser Tag party on 891470.

Plans are well in hand for a disco room catering for up to 12-year-olds and a plasma TV screen for accompanying adults.

So come on dads, give mum a well earned rest on Mothering Sunday. Bring the children and enjoy a full English breakfast available from 10am-12noon, or bring the whole family down over the Easter break.

Julie, Andy and the team will ensure a warm welcome awaits you.

LNT



## Harpist and percussion in concert

THE next concert from the Linton Music Society will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at Linton village college.

Combining two of Wales's brightest young talents, this performance promises to be an unforgettable experience.

The new Royal Harpist, Claire Jones, performs with a percussionist of outstanding ability, Dewi Ellis, who produces an amazing array of sounds, ranging from the emotional to the electrifying.

The evening will include performances of *The Santa Fé Suite* by William Mathias, Sonata in G Major second movement by CPE Bach and *Banjo and Fiddle* by William Kroll.

Tickets are available at the door or can be obtained in advance from Sweet Talk News 77 High Street Linton, telephone 893480.

A brochure is available for the whole season. For these or concert tickets please contact 894460 or 897983.

Hayley Donnan



## HOPE for healing... Linton churches healing services

LINTON Churches Together held their first healing service in Linton during October 2006. It was so well attended that they decided to continue them on a monthly basis. Responsible for setting up the services is Linton Free Church member and worship leader, Adrian Rose.

Adrian suffered severely for many years with the debilitating illness ME (chronic fatigue syndrome). In 2003 he had an amazing experience of divine healing which came about as a direct result of his attending a church healing service in Oakington near Cambridge and being prayed for. He had a book published in late 2005 called *"Love Never Fails"*, which has been bringing much hope and encouragement to others suffering with health problems that seem to have no cure.

The healing services in Linton have regularly been attracting between 70 and 100 people from across the whole of East Anglia. Each service has a different speaker, some local, some travelling from further afield. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, we have the very well-known and respected Christian minister Rev Colin Urquhart. Colin is a world famous author with several best-selling titles to his name. This service will be held in the village college hall. Doors open for all services at 7.30pm and each service starts at 8pm. Admission is always free and we always have refreshments and a Christian book/CD stall.

For more details about these healing services, contact me:  
Adrian Rose 894859

## ...and the Big HOPE Taking you through Easter

THE young people from the Linton Churches Together Youth Project would like to invite the community of Linton to an alternative Easter service. It will be held at 7pm on Palm Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March in Linton village hall, Coles Lane.

You will be taken on a journey through Easter, from Palm Sunday - Maundy Thursday - Good Friday to the celebration of Easter Day; discovering what Easter is all about. The service will be led by young people aged 11-18. There will be drama, media, stories from the youngsters, songs and worship led by the IMPACT youth band.

The youth have put on a number of services over the last few years, often choosing to raise awareness and money for big issues of injustice, such as 'Make Poverty History', 'Stop the Traffic' and, most recently, 'Slum Survivor'. These services have always been well-attended and really good fun. This time the young people have chosen to share with you the good news and the hope of the Easter story.

The service will be suitable for families and all are warmly invited. It would be wonderful to see you there.

For more details contact me:  
Louise Rose (Linton Churches Together Youth Worker)  
894859  
or email [larose@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:larose@tiscali.co.uk)

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Web Site: [www.lintonhealth.co.uk](http://www.lintonhealth.co.uk)

## The Chestnut playgroup looks forward to growing things

AS usual both the children and staff at Chestnut playgroup have been very busy with numerous activities. A definite favourite was making their own stir-fry during the Chinese New Year celebrations, with many of the children bringing home tasty offerings several days in a row - delicious.

They also had great fun making a Chinese dragon which they proudly paraded about.

Some of the topics for the new term will be growing things, new life, and of course Easter, along with concentrating on several lovely books including *"Jim and the Beanstalk"* and *"Jasper's Beanstalk"* which tie in with the topic of growing things. The children will also get the chance to plant seeds and start to prepare the fantastic garden that they are lucky enough to have, for the season ahead.

We would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been filling the box in the library foyer with old printer cartridges and mobile phones. These are all sent away for recycling and in return the playgroup is given money which is always put to very good use buying new equipment. Everyone's help with this is much appreciated.

Keep up the good work !

Harriet Braithwaite 894780

## Climbing the walls



Peter Jackson answers questions from many interested members

Picture by Ron Pitkin

LAST month the gardening club welcomed back a popular speaker, Peter Jackson from Scotsdales garden centre, to share his insights on climbing and wall plants. He did not disappoint as he imparted his expertise during another informative talk, aided by both slides and specimens brought along, despite the difficult season.

Thirty-nine of Peter's favourite climbers, from several of the ever popular clematis and honeysuckles to the less familiar climbing fuchsia 'Lady Boothby', morning glory to hydrangea *seemanni* were introduced to the group. Peter then gave a wonderful talk about why he had chosen these climbers as his favourite specimens, with details of their particular strengths and where they thrived.

To his credit, Peter highlighted a suitable easy to care for climber for a variety of situations, even the difficult to cover north wall. Throughout the evening he also managed to answer a barrage of questions with the ease of someone who has been through the same difficulties and has thought about each problem in advance.

The club's next gathering will be at 7.30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March when Peter Walker will be presenting a talk entitled Ancient ancestors and distant cousins, about garden plants we are familiar with and their wild relatives. The club welcomes you to join us for what promises to be an interesting evening in the village hall.

Future dates for your diaries include our talk on 8<sup>th</sup> April by David Holmes on garden antiques, to which all are invited to bring along any old tools or other items of interest from your gardens, and the annual plant sale on 10<sup>th</sup> May for which contributions of plants, cakes and produce would be most welcome.

Kirsten Newble 892425  
[lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk)

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# New classes at Linton community sports centre

## Parent and child swimming taster session

WHY not come and introduce your child to water? With activities to music for water confidence and basic skills; a fun element for both parent and child.

24<sup>th</sup> March at the Granta school pool  
12noon – Parent and baby (6months-2years)  
12.30 – 1pm Parent and toddler (2-4years)

## New fitness class for mums and carers

From 10.30 – 11.30am on Mondays beginning after the Easter holiday. In this class you will have full use of the fitness suite under the supervision of our female trainer Vikki Green.

Vikki will help you with weight management and diet and improve cardio-vascular fitness and general well-being. The session is delivered in a class situation – to include warm up and cool down to music. You will have your own programme tailored to suit your needs.

## Easter holiday activities

Our children's activity programme is now available at the sports centre. We will be running sessions in archery, trampolining, football and tri-golf, along with a High School Musical dance camp and a multi-sport development camp. Brochures will be sent to primary and junior schools, or see our website for more details at [www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk](http://www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk)

If you are interested in any of these classes please contact:  
Claire Hoskin 890248

## Sport relief 2008

SPORT relief is fast approaching and if you think you are up for the challenge then please sign up to take part. As well as the event there will be a chance to try out different sports and look at the facilities available.

At 2pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Linton community sports centre, in the grounds of Linton village college, you can choose to run one, three or six miles in aid of sport relief 2008.

We have prizes available for the winners of each category, best fancy dress individual and best fancy dress group.

We will also have a

photographer taking pictures which will be available for purchase either on the day or afterwards.

Organisers would like to see as many people as possible but places are limited to 250.

We also hope to have a famous face or two to set you off on the run and even run with you (names will be confirmed nearer the time).

For more information, to register or to donate please go to [www.mysportrelief.com/linton](http://www.mysportrelief.com/linton).

Lets all make a difference.  
Jenny Furlow  
890248  
or 07752 495652

## Farmers' market news

WELL there is good news and more good news this month. The delicious Linzer Delicatessen potatoes that we unfortunately lost due to the farmer's retirement are now available from Liz on the vegetable stall. We gather that enterprising members of the WI arranged their own supply over Christmas but now they won't have to travel too far.

The other good news is that we have found a true winner with the Green Tye micro brewery run by Will Compton – having tried all the beers over the five years of running markets, this one is truly the best.  
Jan Lupton

## The Trefoil guild, it's official



Daphne Abbott and Linda Lerner at the presentation

Picture by Jean Wheeler

AT a meeting in January, the chairman of Linton Trefoil Guild, Mrs Daphne Abbott, was presented with the Guild's Registration Certificate by Mrs Linda Lerner, County Trefoil Guild chairman. A letter of welcome from the National Trefoil Guild chairman, Miss Elizabeth Ferrier, was read. Guide promises were renewed as badges and membership cards were presented to three new Trefoil Guild members.

Earlier in the evening, Helen Maimaris had recounted some of her experiences on a Guide trip to Mexico. She had been part of a group of Cambridgeshire Guides to visit Our Cabana in Mexico. Our Cabana is one of the four world Guide centres. During her stay she had the opportunity to take part in service projects involving local people.

The Trefoil Guild is a group of adults who support girlguiding and meet monthly with a variety of speakers and projects. New members are welcome. For more information please contact:

Daphne 892418 or Jean 893513

## Jumble sale to pay for Guides

ALTHOUGH some of the flyers delivered round the village request clothes, shoes and blankets that are for registered charities, many come from businesses that make a profit by selling in the markets abroad – not always even in third world countries.

The Guides' jumble sale at 2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Infant school is to raise money for the

£23.50 annual capitation fee we have to pay for each of the 58 Linton Guides. We do appreciate your support in turning out your unwanted items which will be gratefully received in the hall from 10am. If you have jumble to be collected, please telephone 891602 or 891925 to arrange a convenient time.

Kate France

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## POT POURRI (38)

### How much water?

AN open cylindrical can, height 10cm, radius 5cm, is completely filled with water then tilted so that its axis makes an angle of 30 degrees to the vertical.

How much water remains in the can due to the tilt, as a percentage of the original amount and/or the volume?

(There are several ways of doing the calculation; one is particularly easy. It may be useful to do the maths using different methods and hope the results agree).

Solution to No.37 – The highest car?

S(t) is tallest of the 20 smallest cars selected in the columns and naturally the smallest in its column. Conversely, of the 12 cars in the rows, T(s) is the smallest of the tall cars, however it is the tallest in its row.

Now consider X, a car parked at the intersection of S(t) column and T(s) row. X must be smaller than T(s) as T(s) is the tallest in the row of X & T(s).

Similar reasoning shows that S(t) is smaller than X as S(t) is the smallest car in the column of X and S(t).

Thus  $X < T(s)$  and  $S(t) < X$  (the symbol  $<$  means 'less than') i.e.  $S(t) < X < T(s)$ .

In other words, T(s) is taller than S(t). Or put in plain language, the smallest of the tallest cars is taller than the tallest of the smallest cars.

Urania

## ACE goes to Anglesey Abbey

ON 20<sup>th</sup> March there will be coach trip to Anglesey Abbey, leaving The Dog and Duck at 10am, with pick-ups at Chalklands, Crabtree Croft., etc. Transport to these points is available.

The probable cost will be around £7. To book, contact Sue/Tina on 891001 or Enid on 891069.

Enid Bald

## Cemetery tidy-up day

THIS year the tidy-up day at the cemetery will be from 10am on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. All helpers will be welcome. If the weather is unsuitable the date will be 22<sup>nd</sup> March, same time and place.

For more information please contact one of the cemetery group, Enid Bald, Judy Rossiter or Mike Gee via the Linton Parish council office 891001.

Tina Stock, Admin assistant to parish clerk

## NSPCC Coffee Morning

THE NSPCC coffee morning and bring and buy will be held at 1 Mill Lane from 10.30am to 12noon on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Please come and enjoy coffee and a chat, buy some bargains and help to support disadvantaged children in the Eastern region.

Susan Anderson 891623

## National car wash

THE next national car wash will be held between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Linton fire station in aid of the firefighters' charity. Refreshments will be on sale.

Mark Collins

## Neighbourhood police panel meeting

LINTON'S next neighbourhood panel meeting with the police will start at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at Linton Heights junior school (doors open 7pm). This is such an important meeting where everyone can have their say and be heard by the police. Do go along and have your say.

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# Baby can't wait for rookie photographers

THIS month some of the Linton Camera club members (including one new member) dipped their lenses into the complex world of portrait photography.

Our local professional, Julian Edwards, was at the village hall with his backdrop, lights and expertise. Assisted by his very knowledgeable son Jason, they explained our ISOs and ASAs and encouraged us to be more creative with different camera settings, rather than rely on the comfort zone of "auto".

Julian's daughter Gemma, who was going to pose for us, went into labour in the early hours of that morning but my sister Beverley stepped in capably and energetically to enjoy the limelight. Mother and baby Holly are doing well – another lovely model for Julian and Jason to photograph!

Some of our photos were



A portrait of the camera club with model Beverly, in front.

excellent and some were not so good, but we all came away feeling we had learned something that will help to hone our skills for future projects.

The next meeting will be our club night at the Cathodeon Centre from 7.15-9.15pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the next away-day is on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

Picture by Julian's Photography March with a trip to the Raptor Centre, St Ives Road, Woodhurst – meet at the Coles Lane car park at 9.30am.

For further details please phone Roger Lapwood on 891104 or me on 891988, or visit our website at [www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk) Tracey Wilson

## Stretch and de-stress with Lynda's Yoga

IN September I started two new Yoga classes in this area, both of which are now friendly, relaxed and supportive groups. I am a British Wheel of Yoga teacher with 30 years experience and it is my hope these classes continue for years to come.

One class is held in Linton village hall on Wednesday afternoons between 1 and 2.45pm, and the other is at Hildersham village hall on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30pm. Both are all ability groups, working in stages, so that people work at a comfortable level for them, in a tranquil and non-competitive atmosphere, whilst still having a thorough workout.

The word Yoga means "union" – of mind body and spirit. With Yoga postures, breathing and relaxation techniques we work towards balance, harmony and control in our own journey of self-discovery.

The current term closes 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March

respectively for the Easter holiday. The Summer 10 week term starts on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Do come along and try yoga for yourself, it really does help us to keep fit and active on all levels, whilst helping us to cope with the everyday stresses of modern living.

"True balance is not a position of rigidity, but one of great ease, a flowing with every moment, giving, taking and constantly seeking oneness.

In the whole of creation, all life serves and complements each other.

Life is wonderful!  
Just be what you truly are and find oneness with all."

"Irrigators guide the water; fletchers straighten arrows; carpenters bend wood; wise men shape themselves."

Phone 891525, mobile 07772 031470, e-mail [lyndasaltmarsh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyndasaltmarsh@hotmail.co.uk)

## Look who's coming to Linton



IT has been an exciting time for the Linton Children's Book Festival as we finalise our

programme. In addition to the diverse line-up of speakers already in place, we are thrilled to announce that it is Axel Scheffler – award-winning illustrator of "The Gruffalo" and many other childrens' classics, who will be giving a talk on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at the Infant school. We are also delighted to confirm the appearance of Val Bloom, the acclaimed author, poet and broadcaster on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at LVC.

There will be lots going on in the local schools in the week running up to the Festival – including a special show by Spill the Beans (hilarious performance poets) at the Granta school. Also the Linton amateur dramatic society, Theatre Workshop, has promised a treat for local cubs and brownies!

You can find out more by logging onto our website at [www.lintonbookfest.org](http://www.lintonbookfest.org) – or keep an eye on our blog at [www.lintonbookfest.blogspot.com](http://www.lintonbookfest.blogspot.com) for all the latest news.

Volunteers to help organise and run the Festival would be welcomed!

Josephine Paterson, 893582



## Chef's corner

with Joel

### A fishy tale

DO you ever go to the shops or market and buy some fish because it looked so good, then realise when you get it home, that there is far too much for your needs?

Do you leave the extra bits in the fridge until they walk to the bin?

Do you cook it all with the good intention of a sandwich filling, and never use it?

Do you simply throw it away?

Does your cat benefit?

What I might suggest, as soon as you get home, is to cut off the bits that you know you don't need, then wrap it in cling film and freeze it. This will ensure its freshness, and you can do this every time you prepare various fish dishes until you have several pieces of mixed fish (a seafood cocktail).

Essentially this dish is taken from the fishing towns and villages in and around the Provençal region in France. It's simple and quick to prepare and delicious.

I would also add that it is not just about the fish in a "fish stew" but the combination of the tomatoes, garlic, basil and saffron (if used).

### Bouillabaisse

500-750g mixed fish (tuna, cod, mackerel, salmon, whatever)

250g bag mixed pre-cooked seafood (prawns, mussels, clams etc. or lobster !)

1/2 litre fish or chicken stock

1 good glass white wine

800g tinned chopped tomatoes

1 tablespoon tomato puree

4 cloves crushed garlic

1 large chopped onion

2 large chopped carrots

3 chopped sticks celery

1 medium chopped leek

2 bay leaves, a good handful of basil, a good handful of chopped flat leaf parsley.

1/2 tsp saffron threads. These can be expensive so are not always included.

### What to do

Firstly allow your fish to defrost overnight in the fridge. Slowly sweat down all the chopped vegetables in a large heavy bottomed saucepan.

Add the wine, tomatoes, stock and purée.

Allow this to simmer slowly .

Add the herbs (save some parsley for the garnish).

This should now be taking you back to the south of France with its fabulous flavours.

It's now that you can add the fish (not the already cooked shellfish).

This will take about 10-15 mins at a slow simmer.

Now you can add the seafood cocktail and cook for a further 2 mins.

Check for salt and pepper and serve into a terrine. Sprinkle over the remaining parsley, then everybody around the table can eat Provençal style with big chunks of white bread rolls.

If you fancied a little drop of the old vine? Some may say a powerful drop to match the strong flavours of the Provençal, but I feel a refreshing wine would work very well and be a perfect partner to the bouillabaisse. Try a Spanish Torres Rosé, that's my tip.

Cheers.

Joel

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# Diary of an ordinand continued

WELL, what has Kathy been up to in pursuit of her dream since we first spoke to her? We left her facing a weekend away where she discussed her placement at Basildon's St Martin's church and presented an essay which touched on that, but was mostly about her time at Arthur Rank Hospice.

This experience had a deep effect on Kathy, during which she reflected that the caring staff, at the beginning of the circle, do all they can to improve the patients' quality of life, but the process must continue with the patients' acknowledgement of their own mortality. In a society where death is more remote than in the past, it is the mourning relatives who then need help, as many are not familiar with the burial service and procedures. Kathy became aware that she must address both these issues so she can help to smooth the path that completes the circle.

That essay was well

received by her mentors and Kathy was pleased with her high mark. She is up to date with her assignments, and although tired, for her dyslexia hinders reading, she is aware that she must spend even more time in preparation as the finish line is getting closer. Husband Michael is very supportive, even though Kathy admits that the project has taken over their lives.

At a course recently she had to assess how the last three years has changed her (more of that next time) and, although she is used to giving talks on her interests, more work must now be done on the presentation of sermons, hopefully to capture the congregation's interest! Good reports from all her tutors have been presented for consideration, and the essay on Christian doctrine is well under way for submission in April.

As chairman of Tots-in-tow playgroup, Kathy still



**Kathy: taking a break**

Picture by Julian's Photography

makes time to be involved in all their activities, and she recently conducted a service of songs and prayer for the families of children baptized in the last four years.

So now it's head down to complete the essay, watched by Marmalade the cat, who has recently suffered a sad mishap. News of his progress as well as Kathy's will feature in the May edition.

LNT

## LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

### The tail of the mouse

THERE on the floor tiles sat the most beautiful long-tailed field mouse I ever saw. Also known as a wood-mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*, it wore a fine dark grey-brown coat with a bib of white. His long and hairless prehensile tail framed a little body with sticking out ears and a tiny twitching nose. Most endearing are their eyes, so large for one so tiny; they sparkled like the glass ones on my old teddy bear.

I'm afraid his arrival was not unaccompanied, but transported by some feline friends of mine for a rather cruel game. Sparky and Mr Muffles grumbled disapprovingly, whilst I gently protected their furry shuttlecock with my hand. Sensing my unfavourable opinion they withdrew whilst I discovered that remarkably, the mouse had not suffered a single scratch, yet was obviously an unwilling participant in this particular tournament.

With warmth from my palm and a few drops of Linton water the little creature, no bigger than my thumb, perked up and was ready to hop home. His tiny heart raced like a Kawasaki two-stroke twin engine. When I set him down in the grass, he ran off faster than any wind-up toy and disappeared into the undergrowth to live another day, complete with

his tail! I mention the latter for if you happen to meet one, avoid holding it by its tail, as like some lizards, shedding the end to make their escape is not uncommon.

Now it is said that the dear field mouse is a very intelligent chap and proven to work out a

bring back food for mum.

Next day in glorious sunshine I surveyed our village with watchful eyes. A walk to Borley Wood bore much delight, accompanied by the sounds of St Mary's church bells. Blessed with feet to carry me up the hill I revered the travellers joy and unfolding arum.

This early spring-like weather had chaffinch and robin singing their songs with all the might of their lungs whilst I smelled the scent of fox and deer, and sneaked (though I've heard snuck) upon a herd of the latter, passing through.

The joy of our community, the surrounding farmland, river, streets, houses, hills and woods and walkways make Linton a real jewel. The views to and from the water tower are stunning.

As the writer of this diary for many years I try hard to be only a humble observer, but a wave of interest by developers all over our lovely village is nibbling it away, field by field, plot by plot.

Many natural habitats for hedgehogs, newts, hare and fox have now disappeared. So unless we hang on to it, in two shakes of a lamb's tail, its beauty could all be gone.



plan of action long before implementing one. I suspect that having more natural enemies than almost any other living creature, a strong survival strategy would be a good idea.

Of course being the focus of so many hungry mouths, an incredible breeding rate ensures continuity. Once they have a mate they can give birth to as many as five, deaf, blind and bald babies every four weeks or so, and 20 days later, the little ones are fully grown.

The dads are very caring and go out of their way, often to great dangerous lengths, to

## Local home under new management



**Helen Melhuish, new manager at Symonds House**  
Picture by Julian's Photography

*THE new manager at Symonds House nursing home, Helen Melhuish, is a qualified nurse, having trained and worked in the NHS, served four years in Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, trained as a health visitor and is a qualified teacher in child health and development for students in further education. She is married with three grown up daughters and began her job at Symonds House just before Christmas.*

*Among her first tasks was a review of all areas for the next CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection). The inspectors check standards of health and personal care, daily life and social activities, environment, staffing, management and administration in the home. Each area is assessed on a scale of one to four; one finding major shortfalls and four being commendable.*

*There is no warning of the inspectors' visit and the report is made on the situation on that day, so Mrs Melhuish was soon looking for areas which needed attention.*

*As a nurse and teacher, Mrs Melhuish is keen for staff throughout the home to feel part of a valued team and is encouraging them to work for higher national vocational qualifications, which she says will benefit both the individuals and the residents. She is currently looking for a few new permanent staff and some temporary staff to cover for maternity leave.*

*As manager she is involved in plans for refurbishment, both inside and outside the Grade II listed building. Some windows are to be replaced, new carpets laid, two showers installed and rooms redecorated. There are plans for improving the gardens with the possibility of building a conservatory and making the day units more independent.*

*And what of those interesting old derelict buildings at the back, towards Crabtree Croft? Mrs Melhuish says there are no definite plans but they could be expanded for more residents - or maybe they will be renovated for staff accommodation.*

Kate France

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### Spring Exhibition at the gallery

FROM 8<sup>th</sup> March until 19<sup>th</sup> April with a preview from 6-10pm on 7<sup>th</sup>, the Darryl Nantais gallery will be holding its spring exhibition featuring local artist Ophelia Redpath with others.

A selective collection of work by Dylan Izaak, whose fun cartoon style images are very popular, Leila Solomon, who specialises in modern and richly worked textile panels and cushions, incredible life-like, serene figurative prints by Ian Faulkner, landscape oils by Darryl Nantais inspired by the local landscape, Janet Rogers' uniquely textured works on paper and Leigh Hunt's beautifully impressionist style landscapes and flowers.

For more information please contact the gallery on 891289 or visit the website at [www.nantais-gallery.co.uk](http://www.nantais-gallery.co.uk)

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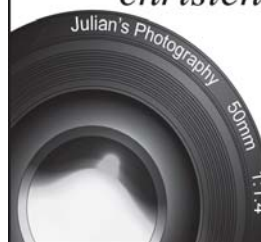


**GARTH would like your help in identifying the people in this photograph from his collection. It was taken around 1936 at the opening of the water tower and pumping station.**

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# The Derbyshire Post

**B**ACK in the 1970s, when platforms were high, hair was long and I was still learning to tie my own shoelaces, schools were part of local authority dominated communities. The 1980s and 90s were decades of change – schools began to manage their own finances, some went Grant Maintained, moving away from local authority control and became employers and property owners and everywhere the emphasis was on competition – national testing, performance tables and open enrolment all encouraged this atmosphere.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s competition reached a peak as popular schools were encouraged to expand and poorly performing schools were closed down.

However in recent years the climate has been changing once more and many schools have moved away from the open hostility of years ago to a new era of collaboration.

Linton village college is no exception to this rule and we have many collaborative partnerships which work to raise the achievement of students and to support community learners, not just in our own catchment area, but in our partner communities too.

Our closest partner, because it is our closest neighbour, is the Granta school. The village college provides site management and catering for Granta and we work together on projects to help individual children. Some of the most able students at Granta work in our exam classes. Some of our students with special educational needs can access the facilities and expertise at Granta. This kind of informal shared provision gives us a flexibility to stretch and support children as and when we need to.

Our six primary partners work very closely with us on a range of projects. In recent years we have co-ordinated Year 6 – 7 transition with them, have organised Business and Enterprise and French lessons and recently Year 3 students from each school came to LVC to work on a medley of winter sports with our Year 10 sports' co-ordinators. This was just delightful to see especially, since one of those sports' co-ordinators was a student from Granta.

All of the Linton cluster schools are part of a locality team with the Sawston cluster schools. As a locality we make it our business to make sure that every child in our area is safe, healthy, achieving, enjoying and being prepared for future economic well-being. We do this by making sure that we direct the resources that we get in the best way possible, and by managing a team of professionals who work with these children and their families who need more support. This is a shift in emphasis from caring about 'the children in your own school' to collaborating to care for the children across the whole locality. Competition just doesn't come into it because the responsibility is wider.

We have a number of other partnerships with Sawston – the Broadening Education (BE) Partnership provides both communities with adult education and arts development and we also work together as schools on training events and on courses for students. Sawston students come to us for engineering and Linton students go to Sawston for health and social care classes.

Our partnerships continue to expand and develop. The introduction of the 14 – 19 diplomas and young apprenticeships will see us collaborate with schools across Cambridgeshire and over the border into Suffolk too.

As the role of the local authority changes, these partnerships are ever more important to us. We are making our own communities it seems.

Caroline Derbyshire  
Principal

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# The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

## Borley Wood, an ancient woodland in Linton

**B**ORLEY Wood is located close to the boundary of Balsham parish and almost backs on to the Roman road. It was part of the Barham Manorial Estate from the time of the Norman conquest and is still owned by Pembroke College in Cambridge, the present landlords of Great Barham Hall farm.

The wood covers an area of about 140 acres today but was only 100 acres before 1772 when an additional 40 acres were added by the purchase of the adjacent Michaelotts Wood.

Timber accounted for over 25% of the total yearly manorial income until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and there were annual wood feasts to celebrate the felling of trees in Borley Wood.

One such feast was held at the Bell Inn in November 1790 when licensee John Goodey sold to Barham tenants 141 tickets, costing 2d to 4d each for those who partook of the feast laid on by Mrs. Lonsdale. Much of the timber in the form of bark went to the local tanning industry.

Borley Wood was full of game and poaching was one of the main rural crimes in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Gamekeepers were armed and often the poachers thought that the odds of being apprehended could be reduced if they assaulted the keepers. At around 1am on 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1859 a violent poaching affray took place in Borley Wood. Alleged to be present were Richard



Workers cutting the undergrowth in Borley Wood, taken around 1912

Picture courtesy of the Cambridge Collection

Ellam aged 38 years, John Daniels aged 50 years, Henry Fuller aged 35 years, Charles Marsh aged 40 years and James Marsh aged 27 years. They were all charged with poaching, being armed with guns and wounding a keeper with intent to maim. The accused were all notorious poachers and resided in Balsham and West Wrattling.

Keeper Stephen Cottage of Linton and his two sons heard gunfire in the wood and spotted the five men. However, the keepers were soon overwhelmed and then severely beaten. Stephen Cottage had his left ear cut through, numerous cuts and bruises to his head and body and a deep scar over his left eye.

The next day Superintendent Yeo from Linton police station arrested the five men, and weapons were discovered in two of the houses. Fuller and Ellam, both from Balsham claimed they had been in bed that night!

Numerous local witnesses supported their alibis and the jury at the Assizes in Cambridge in February 1860 acquitted three of the accused. Charles Marsh was sentenced to 18 months hard labour and his brother James to four years since they had been carrying the guns.

Pembroke College inherited the Barham Estate in 1807 and proceeded ruthlessly to exploit the timber reserves throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, felling oak, ash, beech, larch, elm and spruce fir trees in yearly sales of 100 to 150 trees. Pembroke secured £150 to £250 yearly from the sales of timber, mainly oak. By 1908 the yearly sum had fallen to under £30 a year and the wood was exhausted. Replanting had been

totally neglected.

About 10 acres of underwood for hurdles, poles and thatching rods was cut twice a year, but by 1936 even the underwood was of no commercial value. The war and the urgent demand for timber finally destroyed the wood and the college decided that it could not afford to replant and re-stock.

In October 1959 Borley Wood was let to the Forestry Commission on a 149 year lease at a nominal rent. However, the sporting rights were retained by the college. By 1971 matters had improved and some two thirds of the wood had been replanted largely with ash, oak, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, Spanish chestnut and larch trees.



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# Parish Council Matters

## News on A1307 update

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

EVER since there has been vehicles and roads there have been accidents. My great great grandfather was killed in Linton on the Cambridge Road in 1865, after the wheels of the wagon he was driving crushed his chest. Since then there have been great strides in all kinds of transport, but sadly, the rising levels of traffic have led to ever more frequent tragedies on our major road.

There must have been a brief golden age of trouble free travel back in the 1960's, which some residents may remember. The village thankfully got a by-pass, but it also had a railway. Alas, soon after the road was completed an incredibly short sighted man called Dr Beeching decided that we didn't need the railway, so he shut it. Now, nearly fifty years later, we can all see the consequences.

Haverhill is the fastest growing town in Suffolk. There is just one road that connects it to the national network (A11 and M11) and that is the A1307. Haverhill will continue to grow at a phenomenal rate - a single planning application passed by St Edmundsbury district council in December will see an increase of HGV traffic by 250 per day, many of which will use the A1307.

We are all only too well aware of the recurrent accidents on the A1307. Too often the accident is recorded as due to 'driver error'. Police have already confirmed that the road is tricky to drive, therefore there is less room for human error. Most people can suffer the odd lapse of concentration (unless you are completely perfect!) but undoubtedly the poor standard of driving is a contributory factor. Words to describe some of it would be unprintable. What can be done to improve the safety record of this road is a matter of hot debate. Not surprisingly, many people have an opinion on what needs to be done, and many of their ideas could help with the solution. Exiting the village can be a nightmare, and with vehicle numbers so high some drivers are taking unacceptable risks to enter the traffic flow at peak times.

limit review of the road. After new guidance from the Department for Transport, all A and B roads are to have their speed limits reviewed.

The A1307 was chosen as the first road in Cambridgeshire to be assessed. Whether any change to the speed limit will make a difference to the accident statistics of the road remains to be seen. There are many issues to consider - enforcement, whether the lower speed will actually create fewer breaks in the traffic etc. Of course, we need to think about all the road users and to bear in mind that it is easier and safer for pedestrians to cross a road when traffic is slower.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall, parish, district and county councillors who represent all the villages that surround the A1307 met Cambridgeshire Police and officers from Cambridgeshire county council to discuss the results of the recent speed limit review. The assessment criteria for the review were formulated by the Transport Research Laboratory to include a detailed scoring process for type of road traffic, current collision rate and the mean (average) speed.



Queuing traffic on A1307

Policy dictates that the speed limit on any road must be self-enforcing. This means that drivers must perceive that the speed limit is appropriate, and take account of houses on both sides of the road, the number of side roads, lighting, crossings etc. In order to make these changes in, say the Horseheath section, which is not well lit and has few junctions, there would need to be expensive engineering measures to make a 50mph limit self-enforcing. For the Linton sections, vehicle speed is slower (possibly because of the congestion!) and there is more housing development, so changes to the limit could be achieved without high expenditure.

For the Linton sections the detailed results presented by the county council are as follows:-

Dual carriageway by Dalehead Foods - The current mean speed is 60mph and the collision rate 35.1. At this review the county council recommend no further action is taken to reduce the limit.

Single carriageway between Linton Village College and Granta Garage - The current mean speed is still being assessed and further testing will be undertaken. The collision rate is 35.1. Although this is the same as the Dalehead section there are additional factors to take into consideration, such as the number of junctions, pedestrian crossings etc. This area has been recommended for further investigation to look at the causes of accidents and to identify exactly what measures would be required to implement a 30mph speed limit.

Single carriageway from Granta Garage until the Dene Road dual carriageway - The current mean speed is 54mph and the collision rate is 50.3. The recommendation is to introduce a 50mph speed limit, without any engineering measures in the

near future. The police do have their reservations as to whether this will make a difference to the accident rate, or how enforceable it will be. When it is reduced to 50mph it will no longer be monitored by the mobile speed camera as the road circumstances have changed!! In effect, this change in speed limit will be seen as a test of the criteria and what the effects will be.



Bus entering Bartlow Road

Photos supplied by Access 1307 taken by Dr Marshall

Interestingly the parish plan actually quoted some of these scenarios when it was formulated some years ago. At that time the residents of the village did want speed limits changed. All the proposed alterations will go through a consultation period, with the public being asked for their views, so it is very important to understand the implications of the options. For some sections there will be funding requirements and they will go through a bidding process with all the other road schemes in Cambridgeshire.

If there are no objections, the schemes that do not require funding for additional measures, such as the Linton single carriageway, will be implemented as soon as possible. If there are objections, the decision will be made by the area joint committee for South Cambridgeshire.

If these changes are implemented, if road users abide by them and if they effect the accident rate, only time will tell. Road accidents are devastating and the suffering they cause families and friends lasts a lifetime. Please take care and stay safe.

CLlr E Cornell



Lorry blocking top of Linton High Street

Since the installation of the pedestrian crossing, villagers are finding it easier to cross the road on foot although, since the occasional vehicle is still going through on red, it is not without risk! For those who use the crossing near the Granta Garage, the situation is not as good; the island is constantly being hit, so for a large percentage of time it is totally unusable.

At present there are no plans to improve any of the A1307 junctions. However, the county council has undertaken a speed

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# Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

MINUTES of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008.

**Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice-chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, B Hammett, R Hickford, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Daly, Gee, Krarup and White and Mrs K France (press).**

## Reports from Co-ordinators

**Open Spaces** - Concerns were raised regarding the condition of pavements. It was agreed to collate information and discuss this matter in February.

**Recreation Ground** - Cllr Potter requested confirmation that Herald will be removing suckers from the trees.

**Cemetery** - Cllr Bald reported that everything is in hand and a clear-up day is planned in the spring.

**Rights of Way** - Cllr Rossiter reported that she has been contacted by Kate Day in response to her email regarding footpaths 18 (churchyard) and 24 (Bakers Lane). Some funding may be possible.

**Venture Playground** - Cllr Hammett has contacted Wicksteed Leisure and Anglian Playgrounds to identify the repairs required. However it is thought that Zurich's insurance check was based on a previous one.

**Leadwell Meadows** - Herald are due to undertake planned work tomorrow (4<sup>th</sup> January). Cllrs Rossiter and Cox to oversee. The riverbank has been cleared close to the monitoring station.

**Churchyard** - Cllr Cox reported that the work being undertaken by Landmark Restoration is very satisfactory. Cllr Cornell reported that the application for the new footpath had been discussed at the planning meeting but no comments have been made due to the lack of information regarding materials to be used.

**A1307** - Cllr Cornell reported that at the recent neighbourhood policing meeting it was confirmed that the reduction of speeding is still a priority. A speed limit review meeting is planned for 29<sup>th</sup> January.

## Correspondence list for discussion

Item 13 - Atlas Tree Surgery quotation for tree work in churchyard £780 + VAT. It was agreed to accept this quotation.

## Reports from the district councillors

Cllr Bear reported on the Christmas and New Year refuse collections and said that district council was being urged to make better arrangements next year. Residents could make their comments known by emailing envhealth@scams.gov.uk or by writing to the Health and Environment Services department of the council.

Cllr Batchelor reported that the audit commission was returning to the council the following week and that any comments about the council should be sent directly to them. The district council had been awarded a 1% increase in government funding for the coming financial year, and an appeal seeking a review of the increase had been submitted.

**Cllr Gore arrived. The vice-chair vacated the chair and Cllr Gore took the chair in her place.**

## Coles Lane car park

The chair confirmed that a further quotation to resurface the car park has been received. However there were differences between the various quotations as to the type of surface to be used and the matter was being investigated. Cllr Cornell reported that some of the surface drainage grilles were missing. The clerk reported that there had been an increase in fly tipping in the area of the recycling bins and that the district council were called regularly to remove the rubbish. Cllr Batchelor confirmed that the possibility of kerbside plastic collections had been dropped by the district council for the time being, although the matter might be reviewed once a recycling plant, due to open in Thetford in 2010, had opened. It was agreed to investigate the costs of and liability for collecting fly tipping from the car park, and to arrange a meeting with the highways department to try and find an alternative site for recycling.

## Consideration of budget proposal from precept meeting

Cllr Urwin reported that as the new grass maintenance tender was lower than expected, the grass maintenance budget could be reduced. However it was agreed that as this was based on a significantly different contract, so that extra works might be required during the first year, the grass maintenance budget should remain unchanged. Cllr Gee proposed that the budget proposal including the recommendation to raise a precept of £134,570, an increase of 5.5% on the current financial year, be adopted. This motion was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

## Written reports from council representatives

Cllr Rossiter had previously issued a report following her attendance at the CALC meeting. Concerns were raised that

Item 19 - Paynes Meadow request for the shingle area to be concreted carried forward from last meeting. Following discussion it was felt that this area remains the responsibility of the developer. The approved plans and S106 agreement will be checked to determine responsibility and the materials to be used.

Item 26 - Landmark Restoration quotation for repairs to gate post and piers in churchyard - £1450 (incl VAT). It was agreed that although this quotation forms part of the continuing work being done and will match with existing work another quotation should be sought. Cllr Cox agreed to obtain another quotation.

Item 31 - Cllr Rossiter reported that the SCDC public consultations diary is not being updated.

## Flaxfields update

SCDC have acknowledged receipt of our letter regarding planning issues and had hoped to respond by Christmas. Cllr Gore and Cornell have drafted a letter raising all our concerns regarding Flaxfields. This letter will be emailed out to all for comment.

An amendment was made to the minutes dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 regarding Flaxfields. If you wish to read the amendment the minutes can be seen at the parish council offices.

MINUTES of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

**Present: Ms E Cornell (vice-chair), M Gee, R Hickford, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White; Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance.**

**In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair opened the meeting at 8pm.**

**Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cox, Bald, Daly, Hammett and Krarup. Cllr Gore had advised that he would be late.**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008**

Under item 171 Recreation Ground - Cllr Potter confirmed that the tree suckers had been removed.

Under item 171 Leadwell Meadows - Cllr White had reported that the area had been left untidy following the recent remedial works. The clerk had contacted Herald who had agreed to rectify matters and Cllr White would monitor the situation when the work was completed.

## Report from Police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues

Cllr Hickford reported that PCSO Zally Huseyin had been due to attend the meeting but had been called away on other duties due to the recent spate of distraction burglaries. Notes on the neighbourhood panel meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December had been circulated. Cllr Cornell drew attention to section 5, priority setting. Each village had been asked to name a location that they wish to be targeted for speeding. It was agreed to suggest a) Horseheath Road and b) Hadstock Road as complaints from residents had been received.

## Report from the county councillor

Cllr Batchelor reported that a new chief executive had been appointed and would take up his position in April. The county council was receiving a 2% increase in government funding for the coming financial year, which would result in a need to make savings whilst trying to maintain services. He was hopeful that the installation of the proposed bus stop in Back Road was now being actively addressed. The Linton Village College planning application had been approved without any changes. He confirmed that Keith Fauch was acting in a temporary capacity as highways maintenance engineer. The clerk and Cllr Cornell expressed their gratitude for the way in which he was undertaking his duties.

parish councils were in danger of being sidelined by neighbourhood panels and other agencies such as local area agreements (LAA). Cllr Rossiter asked other councillors to contribute to the future consideration of this topic.

## Meeting with pavilion and recreation ground users on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008

Cllr Cornell had issued a report containing items to be addressed at the meeting. These included concerns raised by residents and councillors. Cllrs Gore, Hickford, Linsdell and Potter would be in attendance.

## Correspondence list for discussion

Item 8 - Offer to provide a village map - It was agreed to obtain a quotation.

Item 19 - District council request for response regarding its progress following the previous visit by the audit commission. Councillors were requested to send any observations to the clerk within the following seven days so that a response could be formulated.

## Reports from councillors (for information only)

Cllr Gore confirmed that a further letter regarding ownership of the land at the bottom of The Grove had been sent and that advice was being sought regarding the quotation for the path to the clapper stile and the churchyard path. John Cobb and Sons would be contacted so that councillors could view examples of their work locally.

Cllr Cornell reported that a meeting of the allotment working party had been arranged for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm upstairs in the Village Hall and that a quotation to pave the shingle area at Paynes Meadow was being sought.

Note: Copies of reports and documents referred to in these minutes can be inspected at the council's office.

## Tidying the cemetery

**VOLUNTEERS** needed to help tidy the cemetery following the winter winds. The Linton parish council cemetery working party would welcome any aid, complete with brooms etc, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 10am for an hour or so. If the weather is bad, then we will try again on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

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