

**RED CROSS
WEEK
2ND-8TH MAY**

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THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info

**May
2004**

**Vol. 18 N° 2
Publication Date
Monday 3rd May**

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

SOPHIE TAKES THE PLUNGE

I HAD heard that we have a champion diver in the village but when I met her I found that she has already achieved so much more than that. Twelve-year-old Sophie Clark, a student at Linton Village College, is also a winning gymnast, good at team games and last year won the College's award for Sports Girl of the Year; but diving is her first love.

Surprisingly, Sophie doesn't enjoy swimming and was seven before she learned that skill, but she has never been afraid of heights and is described as "very brave". She started diving two years ago whilst on holiday and found that her gymnastic skills helped her technique. She decided to compete seriously and is now coached by James Etherington, a former international diver.

Sophie trains at the Cambridge Diving Development Centre at Parkside and holds all of the club's records for the junior and, amazingly, the senior tournaments. During the last year she won a national competition from the one metre board for under 14 newcomers and then took third place against experienced divers of the same age group. Her repertoire already includes

two-and-a-half somersaults in various formats; this accomplishment no doubt helping her to take third place in the contest for the BBC Cambridge Sports person of the year.

Naturally this hobby takes up a lot of time, involving the other members of Sophie's talented family who all give their support. Mum is a former gymnast, elder sister Amy is a gymnastic coach and judge and

Schoolwork is no problem to Sophie even though she has to take time off for competitions and occasional injuries. Her friends miss her when she has to be away but admire her physical strength and determination to win. Indeed, she must have made them very proud when she won silver in a national schools' contest.

So what does the future hold for Sophie? This year could be a special one, as in June she will be entering a national competition which could lead to internationals and eventually the Junior Olympic squad if she does well. Sophie hopes that diving will be a part of her life for a long time, although

Meet a talented youngster whom Gloria Fidler spoke to about her life and ambitions

younger brother Finn has followed his rôle model into diving. Dad, of course, has the unenviable task of driving them all around!



her aim is to go to university to study teaching. She has no regrets about choosing this intensive lifestyle and doesn't feel that the special diet and hours of regular training have taken away her childhood.

This charming and unspoilt young lady just regards her life as "different" with the added bonuses of keeping fit and the thrill of competition.

We will watch her future with interest. LNT

WHEELING OUT HELP FOR OXFAM



THE Co-operative Group is once again living up to its name and giving a generous helping hand to this year's Oxfam walkers. Bottled water and Fairtrade chocolate bars will be on offer to the first 1,000 walkers partaking. Walkers will be raising money for Oxfam's Emergencies Fund and bringing practical help to communities suffering from conflict and natural disaster.

Speaking on behalf of the Co-operative Group, Jackie Threadgold, Regional Secretary says: "As the UK's leading Fairtrade retailer, the Co-op is committed to improving conditions in developing countries. It's therefore appropriate that we are again providing substantial support for the Oxfam Walk which will not only raise money to provide practical help in developing countries but will also raise awareness of Third World issues."

Previously, more than 1,000 people including many family groups joined the walk and raised over £40,000 in a single day. This year, local organisers have great hopes that the

walk will break all previous records and raise £50,000. Cecilia Hollick, Walk Co-ordinator says "Every penny counts. If you raise £50, your money could buy 1,250 packs of oral rehydration salts which could save the lives of children suffering from diarrhoea after a disaster has occurred.

The walk takes place on Sunday 16th May from Chilford Hall, Linton. Walkers may choose between a seven, 14 or 21 mile route and enjoy the countryside in spring. To add to the enjoyment of the event, live music, children's entertainment and reasonably priced refreshments will be available at Chilford Hall and at checkpoints along the route. To make access to the starting point easier, there will be a free shuttle bus service from Cambridge and free car parking at Chilford Hall. So join the walkers, collect your free rations at the start and enjoy them along the way as you raise money for those who really need it.

For registration forms, check out the website at www.oxfam.org.uk/go/walk phone 01223 502798 or email oxfamwalk@btopenworld.com

WHEN THE SAINTS GO GO MARCHING IN

THIS is the theme of the annual Flower Festival to be held in S' Mary's Church Linton from 11th - 13th June. There will be more details nearer the time. Come to the coffee morning (see diary). If you would like

further information or would like to stage an appropriate flower arrangement, donate towards the flowers or help with the Flower Festival in any way please contact:

Judy Nightingale 891806

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

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

Weekly: Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays	Social Centre
Weekly: Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays	LVC
Weekly: WEA class, 10-11.45am, Tuesdays	Social Centre
Weekly: Story Time, 2-2.30pm, Tuesdays	Library
Weekly: Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6-10pm, Wednesdays	S C
Weekly: IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays	Social Centre
Weekly: Tots in Tow, 10-11.30am, Tuesdays	Social Centre
Weekly: Rock Cafe, 1.30pm-3pm, Wednesdays	SC
Weekly: Little Acorns, 10.00am-11.30am, Thursdays	SC
Weekly: Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays	Social Centre
Weekly: Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays	Cathodeon Centre

May

1	Coffee morning (Flower Festival), 10.30am, 65 High Street	
4	WI, 7.30pm	Social Centre
5	SCDC Housing Surgery, 1.30pm-3pm,	Social Centre
6	Parish Council Meeting, 8pm,	Cathodeon Centre
6	Luncheon Club, 12.15pm,	The Crown
8	Plant sale (Gardening Club), 10am-12noon	3 Mill Lane
8	Auction of Promises, 2-5pm,	Linton Heights Junior School
8	Camb. History Soc. Lecture, 2pm	W. Wickham Village hall
8	Friends of Guiding, Jumble Sale, 2pm	Infant School
9	Camera Club 10.30am	Social Centre
11	VIP Group 2.00pm	Chalklands
11	Gardening Club, 7.30pm,	Social Centre
12	Traidcraft, 1.30-3pm,	Social Centre
16	37 th Oxfam Walk,	Chilford hall
18	Historical Society, 7.30pm	Social Centre
19	SCDC Housing Surgery, 1.30-3pm	Social Centre
19	Flaxfields outing, 9.45am-3pm	Flaxfields
19	CAMTAD 9am-12noon,	Health Centre
19	Friends of S' Mary's AGM + speaker 7.30pm,	S' Mary's
20	Parish Council Meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
21	CAMTAD, 9.00am-12noon	Health Centre
22	Linton Music Society Concert, 7.30pm,	LVC
23	Aztec's Charity football match from 12.45pm	LVC
26	Citizens Advice, 1.30-3pm,	Social Centre
30	Wacky Races	The Crown

Refuse collection: 4th, 17th, 1st June

Recycling collection: 10th, 24th, 7th June

June

1	WI, 7:30pm	Social Centre
2	No Family Resource Centre,	Social Centre
3	Parish Council Meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
3	Luncheon Club, 12.15pm,	The Crown
7	ACE outing to S' Ives, 10.15am,	Social Centre

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

MORE HELP NEEDED

MARSHALS and stewards are urgently needed to help at the Oxfam Walk on 16th May 2004. Marshals ensure the safety of the walkers and provide encouragement along the route, and stewards help register walkers at checkpoints. The four checkpoints are at Chilford Hall, Little Walden, Hadstock and Hildersham where walkers (and stewards) can find welcome refreshments.

The more help the better! If you would like to help, please contact:

Ron on 01767 677945 or rgdimelow@aol.com

FROM PEAK TO PEAK

ANDRE and Debra Tournant are taking on the Three Peaks Challenge in June which involves climbing the highest peaks in Wales (Snowdon), England (Scafell Pike) and Scotland (Ben Nevis) in about 36 hours. We are hoping to raise at least £1,000 and are asking the village for help. If you would like to make a donation you can do so in the electrical shop or to 22 Horseheath Road, cash or cheque made out to Children's Hospitals Appeals. Please help to make this a successful fund-raising event for sick children. Many thanks - we'll keep you posted.

Debra Tournant 893431

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For the little things that make the big things happen

FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

I HAVE time on my hands to ponder. Spring, with all its magic, is now upon us and it never ceases to amaze me that every time I venture outside, nature has something new to show me. I love this time of year and my neighbours probably think I am surely mad as I stumble up and down the front of my garden looking for the signs of new growth that I may have missed an hour ago. There also seems an air of dissatisfaction with the decoration of the inside of the bungalow as well, as paint has been chosen and applied with some skill and much odour, last year's colours a distant memory.

I'm a bit hampered this year because it seems that I will not be able to trundle around the village in my wheelchair having had a near miss with a large white van in the latter part of last year, which has unfortunately left me having panic attacks whenever I go outside the safety of my immediate surroundings. So it's out with the crutches, only to find that because of my recent operation on my arm, I can only use one! Oh well, so be it, as for now that will have to do, leaving walking and exploring that I used to love so much to the more able-bodied people of the village. How lucky you are.

So, for the time being, thought replaces movement, and on my recent trips over to my parents who live at the outskirts of Haverhill, I find that new industry and housing are developing at a similar rate to my plants. Every day there seems to be new road layouts and signs announcing new warehousing, a hotel and houses being built. A question that I do not seem to be able to find an answer for is, why Haverhill? It's not as if it has a superb road or rail infrastructure to convey goods, vehicles and people to the motorways and ports. Haverhill has always been known for its manufacturing industries, but I am struggling to come to terms with what effects commuters and haulage will have on the villages and towns between all of the major routes used for distribution and day to day travel. Will we one day see direct links to Felixstowe and Stansted, M11 North and South? With the new runway being less than 12 miles away from us as the crow flies, I think there may be some substance to this potty theory.

April and May are notorious for bringing out the DIY in everyone, so please remember the tip to make liberal use of a bag of frozen peas to reduce swelling if you hit your thumb. To paraphrase John Lennon, "Give Peas a Chance."

Therefore, with not a care in the world and a song in my heart, may I just say that before they come to take me away for yet another visit to my second home, Addenbrooke's, that May is looking a little more settled with the possibility of around 16th producing the warmest moments of the month, leading to a gradual breakdown bringing heavy showers to us from the west, and leave you with the thought that much can be learnt by statistics. For example, 80% do not agree with that statement but 40% do!

Until next month, please look after one another, and I'll try really hard to be here for you then.

MORE LITTLE ACORNS

IN addition to our usual Thursday morning session at the Social Centre for 0-2 year olds, Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group have just introduced a new session especially for children 18 months and older (although younger ones are also welcome). The session will include structured, creative activities and a sit-down story time. Cost for single and the new family rate includes refreshments.

Through the month of May it will now run on Tuesdays, 10 am until 11.30 am from the Social Centre. Please put the following dates in your diary. Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th May. Also Tuesday 1st June which is half term.

Hopefully, given enough support, more dates will be added, so watch out in your June issue of the Linton News. If you need more information, please contact Kate on 894638.

AN HYPNOTIC QUESTION

THIS simplistic question is your key. If you have an idea of your goal it might be that hypnosis can assist you in finding your way forward. Six years ago I would have profoundly disagreed with this notion. Then, after being treated for pre-cancerous cells and contracting Bell's palsy, in utter desperation I let my mother practise hypnosis on me. What did I want to do? I wanted to get better, to regain my sense of self, and heal. I was instantly converted and I got better. I decided that there was more to hypno-psychotherapy than meets the eye, and embarked on a three year training course, agonised through my dissertation and, in 2002 I graduated with the National College of Hypnosis and Psychotherapy, I studied psychology concurrently, graduating with honours from The Open University in 2003.

I have been practising professionally in Linton for four years now and appear in the NHS Directory of Complementary and Alternative Practitioners. I work full time treating people of all ages including children. Also with individuals, couples and families, employing techniques as appropriate. An eclectic mix of

hypnosis, cognitive and behavioural therapy, dream analysis, metaphor exploration, etc., appears to work most successfully. Issues dealt with include 'stress', smoking, eating and weight issues, migraines, alcohol related problems, phobias, fear of public-speaking, enhancement of sporting skills, etc. If you have a problem (no matter how silly it sounds, or how deep-seated you may perceive it to be) there might well be a way forward for you. I can usually tell at once if I feel I can be of help, or refer you to someone whom I believe will have the necessary expertise to support you.

What strikes me again and again is a person's own strength. If they want their goal enough, they usually get it. Therapy supports them as they work towards this. Clients are (usually!) amazed at what they can achieve. Please feel free to call me on 897905 or 0798 0090 141, or e-mail c.pain@btopenworld.com. We all have scope to become more aware of and perhaps change our attitudes towards ourselves, other people and our 'issues'; I'm living proof!

Catherine Pain
BSc (Hons) Psych.,
DHP (NC), MNRHP.

LINTON AREA POOL PROJECT

UNFORTUNATELY our application for funding for the feasibility study from "Awards for All" was unsuccessful. However we are delighted to report that the Parish Council have decided to provide the matching funding necessary to activate the county's grant. We shall now agree the terms of

the study with the county officers with local input from the Parish Council and LAPP. It is so wonderfully encouraging for The Crown to share the proceeds of their Wacky Races with us. We thank them very much. Please support your pool by supporting the races!

Joan Smith 892904

BUSINESS AT THE WI

PRESIDENT Tricia Lewis welcomed members to the April Annual Meeting. Although we had no speaker, the meeting was eventful and interesting. Minutes were read and signed. Members' names had been entered into a draw for a year's subscription to WI Home & Country magazine and Dawn Scott was the winner. Our outings secretary Joan Pearman requested forms with cheques from those members going to Gressenhall Victorian Workhouse Museum on 30th June. A visit to M & S to be discussed later.

All Cambridgeshire WIs have been asked if they would fund raise for the new Cambridge County Federation WI House and several money raising events are being organised by our Linton branch. Bel Griffiths set the ball rolling with £80 raised at her 'Week-enders' party. Money raised from the sale of 'clear your attic' during the April meeting was also donated to this fund.

The Financial Statement was presented by June Bunn, our treasurer, then agreed and adopted by the members. Brenda Smith then read her secretarial report on events over the past year mentioning the thriving luncheon club which Eileen Impey had formed and which gives great pleasure to many of our members, especially those living on their own. Members had also enjoyed the many walks that Miriam Rixon had organised over the years. She mentioned

the committee meetings giving much fun and friendship.

Tricia Lewis then gave her President's report and thanked the committee for their support. Ann Simpkin was thanked for organising the programme for the year and standing in when Tricia was absent. Many members were mentioned, especially Brenda, the secretary and June as treasurer. Eileen was also thanked for her generous gift of fruit cakes over the year.

As only one committee member, Anne Parry-Smith, was standing down with Bel Griffiths as replacement, we voted for re-election en masse. Voting then took place for the President and although three names were put forward only Tricia accepted and was re-elected. Val Spencer, on behalf of the members, thanked Tricia and the committee for their hard work over the year. Business over, refreshments were served and a quiz on anagrams, arranged by Brenda, kept members busy and the raffle was then drawn. Margaret Clark mentioned how much those of us who had joined the County Federation trip to Kensington Palace and the BBC studios had enjoyed the day. At the studios, Blue Peter was in progress and Top of the Pops being rehearsed; news presenters were also spotted.

The meeting on 4th May is 'Resolutions' - the results to be presented at the AGM. Followed by an American quiz. Everyone welcome.

Cynthia Norris

LOOK OUT! ITS THE WACKY RACES AGAIN

FOR the third year running, The Crown are organising the enormously successful Wacky Races Charity Fun Run on Sunday 30th May. Last year the event raised almost £2500 and the winners made it on to the front pages of the Cambridge Evening News. Early signs are that even more people want to join in the fun this time, so we're looking to beat that figure again.

Entry and sponsor forms can be picked up from The Crown and must be returned before the event for eligibility. All entrants must be 18 years or over. The benefiting charities

this year will be Linton Infants PSA and the Linton Area Pool Project.

So get your thinking caps on and start building that Kart !! There are trophies for the winners and 'best fancy dress'. And there is an amazing sense of achievement just from actually getting around the course, albeit very bedraggled - and I'm speaking from experience. Spectators are once again challenged to line the route and cheer everyone on (but we would ask that no eggs or flour are thrown please as they hurt).

Louise Gooden
The Crown Inn



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DUE TO A NEW RIVERSIDE DINING ROOM DEVELOPMENT - PLEASE NOTE
Our bar & restaurant will be closed for business from
Monday 10th to Sunday 16th May
Bar will re-open Monday 17th May
Mid June opening of food operation and new riverside dining area!
We apologise for any inconvenience this seven week build may cause our customers and our end of the village but we are sure that it will be worthwhile
Watch this space - more news next month

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READERS WRITE

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters on page 6
Please note: All letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check their authenticity. Any letters without these details will not be printed.

BUS PASSING

Dear Editor
 I read Tracey Wilson's article in the Linton News but would point out there was no "careless parking" in the High Street, just road works. The reason for the chaos was the old problem of two buses trying to pass each other and we all know the High Street is just not wide enough to allow this.

Long may the bus service continue but I would ask Tracey Wilson to urge the bus company to alter its timetable to prevent buses needing to pass each other in such a narrow road.
 M R K Holden
 99 High Street

PLEASE TAKE CARE

Dear Editor
 Today, as a resident of Church Lane Linton, I was saddened to witness the first of the many fledgling birds killed in the lane every spring. Soon the birds will be joined by helpless frogs and toads squashed on the road as they try to reach the river.

As everyone knows this is a cul-de-sac and the road is the only footpath for people with their children and dogs. With extra care and much less speed by church-goers and parents taking children to and from school by car, wildlife would stand a chance and we who live in the lane would not be subjected to all these sad little corpses every spring.
 Mary Wrigley
 2 Church Lane

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LEAVE TREES TO FLOURISH IN PEACE

Dear Editor
 I am writing regarding the article in the Parish Council Matters section of the Linton News about the trees in the cemetery. I do not believe that removing any of the trees until the end of their natural life—some long way off yet—or pollarding any of them is desirable for the following reasons:

1. At present the lovely big trees make the cemetery a special and attractive place. Nature meant mature trees to be big. That is their glory, especially in a rural area. The pictures clearly show that removing and, particularly, pollarding the trees would make the cemetery resemble a World War 1 battlefield. It would take many years before the place looked presentable again.

2. Removing all the trees (Option 4) would make the cemetery as characterless as many urban ones. Replacement young trees would be as vulnerable to vandalism as they are elsewhere in the village.

3. My mother, who was fond of trees, is buried beneath the lime trees. I am sure that ours is not the only family who would be upset if any of the proposals went ahead. Apparently some people/families have complained about the lime dew, but I have not found this a problem.

4. Any tree surgery, such as suggested, would be likely to cause disturbance or even damage to graves, which would be upsetting to relatives.

5. Any of the proposals would have a profound effect on wildlife in the cemetery. At present, it is, as the Chairman said, a peaceful place. This is enhanced by the birdsong. The disturbance created by any of the proposals would mean a bleak, silent cemetery for a long time.

6. Tree surgery is expensive and the cost of any of the proposals would be large.

With so many houses with small gardens now there is little enough room in the village for lovely big trees, so let us preserve the ones we have.
 Margaret Cox
 Richmonds
 65 High Street

GOING TO THE DOGS

Dear Editor,
 I write in agreement with the Sarajane Howard Lilley letter in the April LN.

Linton seems to be suffering an increase of dogs alone or accompanied by owners who are quite happy to watch their pet foul other peoples gardens, foot path, door step etc, and walk away without clearing up after them.

This morning I was yet again greeted by my doorstep covered in dog excrement, and frankly have had enough of this general disregard by the dog owners. Dogs have no social conscience and cannot be expected to police themselves, therefore the owners are fully responsible for their pet's actions.

I now feel that I will have to adopt a Pavlovian teaching method for any dog, with or without its owner, that decides to treat my, or my fellow neighbour's property as an 'open toilet' - this may well result in a few confrontations - but I will take a leaf from the irresponsible owners of the offending animals, and not give a damn as to the outcome!

Linton has made adequate provision of 'Dog waste' bins so there is no excuse.

Many other residents of Linton suffer the same problem; I have even seen heaps of excrement 'placarded' by home owners, asking owners to clear up after their pet. All to no avail.

Dog owners of Linton - Get your act together!
 Name and address supplied

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
 Every year I am touched by the thanks and Christmas gift I receive from the Linton News committee, but also embarrassed! How can the minimal amount of time I give to the Linton News as one of the distributors of the paper compare with the hours of work the production of the paper demands of all those involved?

I know I am only one of the very many who are most grateful to each of the Linton News team for the contribution made to village life by our informative local paper. It's time a big thank you appeared in its columns!
 Anna Newton
 10 Horn Lane

CELEBRITY CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

THE Village will be on the move again on Sunday 23rd May when there will be a visit from Arsenal ex-Professional & Celebrity XI Squad 2004.

Aztec Junior Football Club will be the hosts at Linton village College. The match will run for the normal 90 minutes, but perhaps there will be a few surprises along the way. Also at half-time there will be an exhibition match by Aztec under-11 players (10 minutes each way).

This isn't just an event for football fans - there will also be a bouncy castle and slide, burger bar and beer tent, plus there will be a chance to do a bit of celebrity spotting as the away team will consist of a side made up of some of the following, subject to availability on the day:

Brian Hornsby, Danny O'Shea, Brian Sparrow, Ray Lee, Ian Allinson, Nicky Sullivan (all ex-Arsenal), Chris Whyte (ex-Arsenal & Leeds), Mark Burdis (Operation Good Guys & The Bill), Terry Marsh (ex-world champion boxer), Marvin Berglas (Marvin's Magic), Johnny Harrison (ex-Charlton), Gary McDonald (Eastenders & Thief Takers), Bobby Armit (former non-league player), Peter McGillicuddy (Dream Team), Matt Mansfield (pop singer), Leroy Thornhill (The Prodigy), Frank Thompson (Fever Pitch), Gary Beadle (Eastenders), Patrick Robinson (Casualty), Willie Ryan (jockey), Tony McGlone (jockey), Craig Lewis (Arsenal staff), Andy Ansah (ex-Southend & Dream Team) Ronnie O'Sullivan (world snooker champion), Ralf Little (Royle Family) John Ward (impressionist), Tommy Walsh (Ground Force), Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet), Phil Daniels (Scum & Quadrophenia), Mark Ramprakash (test cricketer), Martin Offiah (International rugby player). The appearance of a particular player cannot however be guaranteed.

The home team, currently a squad of about 18 who are being coached by Dusty Saunders and Robert Belsom, will be comprised of Aztec managers and adult club members - all of whom are busy filling sponsor sheets. More individual sponsors are positively encouraged.

The gates will open at 12.45pm and the match will be preceded by a display featuring the Majorettes from Haverhill, with a kick-off time of 2pm. Aztecs will be wearing their green, white and black strip and the referee for the match will be Les Westlake, supported by linesmen Nigel Lee and Matthew Lockwood.

Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of May from Peter Belsom 891273, and also from Sweet Talk News. Tickets will also be available on the gate, but numbers may have to be limited, so be sure to buy yours beforehand to avoid disappointment.

If any businesses would like to help sponsor the day, please call Peter Belsom on the above number.

This is a new and very special event for the village, so please go and support it. It is not often that we have such a large deputation of celebrities in our midst. Proceeds will be split between Aztecs JFC, Arsenal Charitable Trust and other charities.

Don't forget your cameras!
 Tracey Wilson

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
 I would like to say thank you to all the people who turned out for my 60th birthday celebrations and for all the gifts that I received.
 A big thank you to my wife and children for all their hard work and also to Brian Manley who very kindly organised the transport.
 Ron Jacobs
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MEXICO BOUND



Young leader Sian Thorne enjoying the Mexican evening with the Brownies.

FAJITAS, tortillas and enchiladas were included in the tasters for 1st Linton Brownies at their Mexican evening at Linton Infants' School on 22nd March.

In addition to eating Mexican food and playing Mexican games, the Brownies are taking part in a sponsored quiz on Mexico to help their Young Leader, 18 year old Sian Thorne to raise £1,300 for a trip to Mexico.

Sian has been selected by

Girl Guiding Anglia to join a party of 10 girls with two leaders to visit one of the four Guide world centres, Our Cabana, in Mexico in August. Her stay will include meeting and working with members of the Guide movement from various countries on a service project for the local community, as well as visiting the main sites of Mexico City, and perhaps the old Aztec city and pyramids at Teotihuacán.

Kate France 891602

LIFE BEFORE DEATH

BY the time you read this you will probably know the theme of this year's Christian Aid Week (9th to 15th May) 'We believe in life before death'.

For us as Christian Aid supporters these words express our purpose and goal – to give all people a chance of life in all its fullness.

During Christian Aid Week the focus will be on the theme words and what they mean to people in Tajikstan, Zambia, the Dominican Republic and the U.K.

For many, Christian Aid Week is not just about collecting money in red envelopes but expressing commitment to faith in God's promise of a fairer world. D' Daleep Mukarji, Christian Aid Director, thanks us all for our support.

Sadly as we look ahead to Christian Aid Week this year the needs of the poor in the world are as great as ever. A fifth of the population is surviving on less than 60 pence a day.

Let us do all that we can by our prayers, our concern, and our giving and collecting for Christian Aid again this year. More collectors are needed; please contact me if you are able to help.

The United Service of Thanksgiving for Christian Aid Week will take place at the URC Church in Horn Lane at 6pm on Sunday 16th May. The speaker will be Chris Emerson the Cambridgeshire Co-ordinator. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you...

Brenda Cole 892286

IS IT A CANON OR A NIKON



Photograph: Mike Crofts

CAMERA Club members braved the drizzle and poor light for the club's April awayday to Castle Hedingham and the Colne Valley Railway.

First stop was the castle, with members getting a few shots of flowering trees and the castle, before seeking a warming drink. The coffee was good but the ambient light was abominable for photography. Never daunted, with the help of flash, images of the banqueting hall and the garrison chamber were soon being compared.

The stop at the railway was brief, heavier rain forced a quick retreat to Linton where, on arrival, the sun began to shine.

In March, members enjoyed slightly better weather in a windswept Ely, with the magnificent Norman cathedral, aptly named The Ship of the Fens, the star attraction. His-

toric buildings and the River Ouse marina also offered good subjects. And, despite the weather, all agreed that some very good pictures had been taken.

The next meeting, at 10.30am on 9th May at the Social Centre, is a first for the club – we have village photographer Julian coming along to tell us the tricks of the portraiture trade. He will be advising members who will be taking portraits of a young man who has volunteered for an enormous amount of photographic attention.

If you are interested, please come along. Everyone is welcome. Or visit our website www.camclub.info or contact John Keeble for more information 894948 or email jkebble@clara.net

Alex Todd & Roger Lapwood

AN APOLOGY

Some articles have not appeared in this month's edition owing to problems with e-mail, therefore could you please include your telephone no. in all e-mails.

BOEING, BOEING, GONE!



The 1943 Boeing Stearman biplane in which you could fly if you are the successful bidder on 8th May

ONE of the first ever pupils at Linton Heights Junior School has given his support to the school's Auction of Promises by pledging a flight from Duxford in his 1943 Boeing Stearman biplane.

David Barrell, who now works as an engineer at McKenzie and Haywards Garage, was ten years old when the school opened in 1974. 'I was a pupil at Linton Junior School, now the Infants' School,' he explains. 'The new junior school at Linton Heights was under construction. I can distinctly remember talking about it excitedly in class, how we would be the first pupils in the new school. We started there in September after the summer holidays. For the first few weeks we had our lessons in the school hall as we were waiting for two mobile classrooms to be delivered.'

Even as a small boy, David was fascinated by planes, and he remembers looking skywards whenever he heard the sound of an aircraft approaching during playtime at Linton Heights. 'I always dreamed of being a pilot,' he says. 'Then one day in 1994 I was offered a ride in a wartime fighter plane out of Duxford. I thoroughly enjoyed it, so I saved like crazy and took flying lessons, gaining my pilot's licence in 1995.'

I started flying wartime aircraft two years later and managed to acquire a Boeing

Stearman biplane in 1999.' Who knows, perhaps this could also be the start of a lifetime hobby for whoever bids successfully for David's flight.

'This is an incredibly generous offer and a wonderful opportunity,' said Ian Coulson, who is co-ordinating the auction for the Friends of Linton Heights. 'We appealed through the Linton News for former pupils to come forward with pledges and we are delighted to have made contact with one of the very first pupils at the school.'

The Auction of Promises will take place at Linton Heights Junior School, Wheat-sheaf Way on Saturday 8th May. Viewing starts at 1pm with the first bidding at 2pm. Among the other promises to be going under the hammer are a tour of the Houses of Parliament, a day at BBC Radio Cambridge, horse-riding and computer lessons, three months' membership of a health club, a family photo portrait, waterskiing and dinghy sailing, and the autographs of England rugby stars Jason Leonard and Jason Robinson. You can also bid for a manicure, a massage, a watercolour by a local artist, home-made Victoria sponge cakes delivered to your home, or dinner for six prepared, served and cleared away by Tarts with Tops On.

Tony Kelly

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THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE – WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT

The Family Resource Centre has been open now for eighteen months. It takes place on Wednesdays during school term time at the Social Centre, Coles Lane, Linton. Let us update you as to the various visitors and groups that meet there.

Resources

We set up around 9.30am and run till 3pm. There is always someone there to make you a coffee and let you browse or help if required.

We aim to hold as much information as we can about groups and activities in and around Linton. A range of leaflets is available on tourist information, concentrating on the lesser known (and lesser priced) activities and days out. Generally we try to keep travelling time to within one hour, much appreciated by the young and old alike. We are always on the look out for new places so if you discover somewhere that impresses you locally don't forget to let us know about it. If you can get a supply of flyers or leaflets even better.

We have a range of folders that includes info. on groups and websites about local hobbies and organisations, health and social issues, sporting activities, adult education, London tourism, local travel, pre-school and parenting etc. We hold a supply of the Linton directories produced by the Linton News (and we are very proud to have helped supply information to enhance this booklet).

We have fifteen notice boards packed with useful information and details of what's happening in and around Linton. The Linton News has the biggest board and spare copies of the News are also available here.

Want to advertise your event here? Or got something new to share? Come along on Wednesday or contact Tracey (details at the end of this article)

Tots in tow

Still going strong and coming up for twelve years since this started, a warm welcome awaits at this group for carers of babies and pre-school children. Expectant mothers are also very welcome. Drop in for a cup of tea and a chat, make new friends and let your children mix with others and play with an assortment of toys. Each week there is an activity table, song time and a visit from Humpty Dumpty with those famous chocolate buttons. Look out for the new story corner. This group starts at 10am and finishes at 11.30, although it's not unusual for us still to be there at midday if we're having a good time. A small charge is applicable (per family not per head).

The Rock Café

Resources Over Coffee & Kids Officially from 1.30-3pm. Despite its name our café is available to the whole community and not aimed at teenagers. The café is an ideal place to meet up with friends, have a cuppa and check out the latest information. Pre-school children are welcome and with the new entrance and toilet for the disabled this group is accessible to all. We welcome anyone who wants to come earlier and bring their own lunch (we stock beverages and snacks). We are open to suggestions for anything that you would like to see happen here in the afternoons. Want an excuse to see the Social Centre's new floor? Make the time to come and see it at the Rock Café.

Watching your weight (or just pretending)?

Our scales don't lie. Come and join our unofficial healthy eating club. A number of us locals are weighing in each week under Beverley's watchful eye. We keep a confidential record and you pay as much as you like each week, (most of us pay £1). When you have had enough or reached your ideal weight, we return the money to you to spend however you choose. We don't want to make money out of you but like to encourage you if weight is a burning issue. Mostly it's just for fun. We don't give out advice and you must always consult your doctor before embarking on any strict diet especially if you are suffering from health problems. We also stock a range of free leaflets (all approved by the nutritionist at Linton Health Centre), to help get you started. Available 9.30am-3pm.

Parentalk

Parentalk is designed to give small groups of parents a chance to share experiences, learn from each other and discover how to enjoy parenthood. The course lasts eight weeks, is video-led, informal, free and great fun. Why not get a group of eight to 10 friends together and run the course in your own home? To find out more phone Sarah on 891952 or check out the board at the Centre. There is a series of Parentalk books that enhance the course (although you don't need to attend the course to appreciate them) that are available to borrow or purchase. We also lend out other books and videos around the general theme of 'family life' Donations of this type of resource are always welcome.

Citizens Advice

The Citizens Advice Bureau is a general advice agency, acting as a 'one stop shop'. Clients are interviewed by volunteer advisors who have undergone an extensive training programme. Free, independent, impartial and confidential advice and information is available on a range of subjects including benefits, consumer rights, debt, family & relationship problems, housing, legal issues and employment. Privacy is limited in the main hall but if you want complete confidentiality an appointment can be made for the CAB to telephone you or make a home visit. Pick up a leaflet to find out how the Citizens Advice Service could help you today or in the future. Unfortunately this is only available on the last Wednesday of every month from 1.30-3pm. However if enough interest is generated we can always increase these sessions and Citizens Advice have a very good website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Connexions

The connexions service will be at the Rock Café on alternate Wednesdays to give impartial advice and guidance in career decisions and plans, training opportunities, job search, skills assessment, psychometric testing, redundancy counselling and returning to work. Please note that this is a service for adults and not school leavers.

Housing surgery

Mr Charles Clay from South Cambridgeshire District Council is at the Rock Café on alternate Wednesdays to give advice on various topics concerned with housing, from benefits to nuisance neighbours. You do not have to be a council tenant to receive this advice.

Traidcraft

Fair Trade representatives are practical people who've signed up to a fairer deal for 'third world' families, by raising awareness of Traidcraft and selling on to friends and family. Jean Wheeler is usually here on the second Wednesday of each month (1.30-3pm) to display a range of produce, gifts and confectionery, all available to buy on the spot or order if it's something more special. Come and investigate Traidcraft and go home with the satisfaction that you are directly helping families in the developing world.

The young parent project - Romsey Mill

The Young Parent Project in Cambridge gives advice and support to teenage parents including referrals from Linton. We collect any unwanted baby equipment, baby clothes (up to one year), maternity clothes, and baby toys to pass on to this worthwhile and unique charity. Please ensure all items are in good condition and have instructions where possible.

Contact Tracey about donations.

Room for more

We have access to the Social Centre's smaller room upstairs where groups could meet for seminars, talks or courses. If you have an idea that could benefit the community and need some help to get it off the ground, give Tracey a call and we will try to help.

Do you volunteer for a community group in Linton?

If so you may have occasion to borrow our laminator (A4 and A3). Contact Tracey to arrange this.

We are always on the look out for more volunteers to help keep our info. up to date, make tea or take a more active role within the Family Resource Centre. If you think you might like to get involved please contact me:

Tracey Clayton 894656

Email

traceyclayton@btinternet.com
The Family Resource Centre was established by Cornerstone Community Church, Linton in 2002 to support family life.

THE CUTTING ROOM IS 10 YEARS OLD

CAN you believe The Cutting Room, in Bartlow Road, has now been trading for 10 years, and proudly displays a certificate on the wall from Stephen Sossler, an industry representative, congratulating the salon on 10 years of excellence. Pippa Moore, owner and chief stylist said: "It doesn't seem like 10 years until you realise that the toddlers who used to sit on my high chair are now coming in by themselves."

To commemorate their decade of trading, Pippa has given the Salon a new modern look with new decorations to appeal

to both young and not so young clients, with window blinds kindly donated by local supplier The Whole Spectrum.

The staff at the Cutting Room are encouraged by the continued patronage of many customers, and hope that they like the new look. New clients would be made very welcome. Why not phone 890890 and make an appointment with Pippa or stylists Sarah or Claire to celebrate this milestone. Discount for Senior Citizens on Monday, Tuesday and late night Wednesday.

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HE'S BEHIND YOU



Local doctor setting the village a good example

Picture by R Lapwood

FOLLOWING his daughter, Esther, during the Linton half marathon which took place on 28th March, Dr Roger Bertram is seen here practising for the London marathon which he

completed in 5 hours and 41 minutes. Well done to him and all other Linton participants in this great British event. Does this include you? Please let us know. LNT

WILDLIFE THROUGH THE LENS

THE speaker at the April Gardening Club meeting had not had a good day. Earlier, his projector had blown up and he arrived straight from a hospital visit following an injury to his arm, but none of this detracted from his presentation on wild flowers and birds. Barry Kaufmann-Wright, a former policeman, is now wildlife protection officer with the Essex Police, so we also had glimpses into all that goes on behind the scenes to preserve wildlife from some very determined criminals.

only lizard orchids in England, which are otherwise found mainly in France.

The beautifully photographed birds included greenfinches, blue-tits and woodpeckers, and to introduce the 'Ahh' factor there had to be some owls! Apparently the dunnock has the most interesting sex life of any bird as he has several mates, but has to pay for this pleasure by hatching the eggs and raising the young. Such is life!

East Anglia has a wealth of wild flowers, many of which like the chalky soil and members came up with some local names for them such as "Parson in the pulpit" for the very poisonous arum lily and "Jack in bed by noon" for the goat's beard. It is claimed that Newmarket racecourse boasts the

Please remember the plant and produce sale at 10am on Saturday 8th May at 3 Mill Lane. Donations will be gratefully received and everyone is invited to come and buy.

There is an extra meeting this season on 11th May so all are welcome to hear John Webster talk on Herbs and their folklore.

Gloria Fidler 891800

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/0478/04/F D^s F & F Reimann, Emson's Farmhouse, 18 Bartlow Road, Linton. Addition of pitched roof to flat roofed garage.
- S/0611/04/F M^s & M^s K Ward, 20 The Woodlands, Linton. Extension.
- S/0614/04/F Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Linton Police Station, Cambridge Road, Linton. Provision of ramped access to building.
- S/0643/04/F M^s & M^s K Powell, 11 The Woodlands, Linton. Addition of pitched roof to garage.
- S/0663/04/O M^s & M^s Elsom, Plot 2 Granta Vale, Linton. Dwelling (Revised design to include conservatory)
- S/0754/04/F Bennett PLC, 11 The Woodlands, Linton. Addition of pitched roof to garage.
- S/0755/04/F M^s A C White, 12 Cambridge Road, Linton. Addition of pitched roof to existing dwelling.

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This is not a full list - just a brief guide

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CAMBS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AS part of the local history month and in association with West Wickham Local History Society, Cambridgeshire Local History Society presents 'A celebration of local history' as part of its AGM 2004 and Local History Awards. This will feature photographic displays from the surrounding villages of Abington, Balsham, Hildersham, Linton and West Wrating.

The lecture by Janet Morris will be on the history of Horseheath Hall at 2pm on Saturday 8th May at West Wickham Village Hall. Doors open from 11.30am to allow a wider local audience to view photographs before the AGM. Everyone is warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served from midday. For further information please contact: Secretary 811703

FLAXFIELDS OUTING

FLAXFIELDS are going to Bury S' Edmunds on Wednesday 19th May departing Linton 9.45am, returning 3pm. For further information please contact me:

Jacque Wilson 893477

K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of the March K-Club monthly draw:

1st prize (£50) **Pam Kenyon** (No. 039)

2nd prize (£25) **B Oglesby** (No. 191)

3rd prize (£10) **John Cunningham** (No. 159)

A MOST interesting evening was spent rambling through Old Cambridge from 1850-1940 with slides shown by M^r Chris Jakes of the Cambridge Collection. The collection is the largest and busiest in the country, and consists of over 400,000 negatives and slides. He gave a brief history of the development of the Cambridge Free Library, which started in Jesus Lane, on the site of the Old Friends Meeting House in 1855. Before customers were admitted they had to wash their hands and choose the books from a catalogue which were then brought to them to be read only in the library. In 1930 the library moved to the back of the Guildhall and in 1975 to its present site in Lion Yard.

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

IT's a wonderful time of year, waiting for that first sound of the cuckoo! Suddenly, as if washed with multiple shades of green and yellow the East Anglian landscape is adorned with its summer coat. Awakened by an abundance of bird-song, bushy tailed squirrels can be seen swinging upside down from bird-feeders. It's a time of rebirth and new growth which affects us all in one way or another! Throughout the wildlife kingdom new bonds are formed and old ones restored to ensure the survival of the species. The warm sunny days help us to forget the passing of time.

It is said that during the last ice age a number of animals crossed the continental land bridge. We can imagine brown bears and beavers stomping about on land we now assume to be our gardens! If some of the reference is true then of course many of the creatures one would have spotted 15 thousand years ago around Linton are now extinct. As long as I can remember I have heard reports of a mysterious giant black cat roaming the valley. My only problem with this particular tale is that the cat must be of a great age by now!

The introduction of mammals, birds and reptiles to new environments may all be part of a grand scheme, thus ensuring a rich diversity. Generally, because of our own concept of time and minimal survival requirements by way of observa-

tion, we actually notice very little change. The differences creep up on us slowly and silently, such as the almost disappearance of the water vole from our local river bank.

It may not be too long before completely new species are created by man, perhaps perfectly designed to blend with locally existing wildlife, replace lost creatures, renew balance or to enhance a particular habitat. Now, if that thought sends a shiver down your well developed spine then spare one for the wee shrew, whose tiny little voice is normally only heard by children, which is why I am speaking up for it here!

Who knows what gigantic part this minuscule creature plays as it silently lives under constant threat from our good intentions to make the place look 'smart'. Remember 'smart' undoubtedly has destroyed valuable habitat, but can create new ones too. However, do try to leave a wild area in your garden. Of course it is not just animals that get introduced to previously uninhabited areas. Exotic flowers are also planted, sometimes

creating more problems than their beauty merits!

This time of year and especially over Easter we may have purchased or received gifts of flowers unwittingly putting our domestic cats at risk, or so folklore says! My curiosity hasn't killed the cat for our well informed local veterinary surgeon explained the killer lily phenomena and armed me with oodles of reference. Some indicated that one bite on that gorgeous Easter or Tiger lily and ol' pussikins is destined for a very rough time and even a painful passage to feline heaven unless treatment is administered quickly. Kidney failure or heart muscle damage would be the most likely result. The golden rule is; beware of lilies with six petals, but of this we cannot be sure. It turns out that lily munching cats are extremely rare and incidents of death by lily are almost unknown or unproven! My research resulted in ambiguity, but here are a few of the lilies reputed to be poisonous to cats, although apparently not dogs: The day lily *hemerocallis* species, Easter lily *lilium longiflorum*, Tiger Lily *lilium tigrinum* and the Japanese show lily *lilium lancifolium* but please remember cats do have nine lives during which they seem intent on sleeping or teaching us the real meaning of independence. I recently read that dogs have owners but cats have staff!



A JOURNEY AROUND OLD CAMBRIDGE

Part of Roman Cambridge (*Duroloponis*) can be traced to Shelley Row where the road follows the ditch embankment of the Roman town. From here we proceeded through Cambridge, from Huntingdon Road, the Castle Hill area, seeing the shops and premises which existed in the 1880's and were demolished in the 1930's. The Assize Court was on the site of the present Shire Hall car park when the last part of the Castle was demolished in 1950. The County Gaol closed in 1916 and was demolished in 1930 when Shire Hall was built.

Down past S' Peters' Church and Kettles Yard to the Folk Museum which opened in 1927. This junction of Castle Hill and Magdalene Street had

the first traffic lights installed in 1927 providing a great interest to sightseers.

S' Clements Church in Bridge Street was on the site of the Danish Settlement in Cambridge. Quayside eventually reverted from a commercial to leisure site. Sidney Street, the old Dorothy shop and restaurant, Hobson's Street where the old Cinema was originally a garage and where the first talking film was shown.

The market square, greatly changed after the fire which demolished houses which stood right up to the walls of Gt. S' Mary's Church, the building and re-building of the Guildhall, the moving of Hobson's conduit, replaced with the Victorian fountain.

David's bookshop which started as a stall on the Market. On through Market Street, Kings Parade where originally there were shops on the now green in front of Kings College, Trumpington Street where Addenbrooke's Hospital originated, and so to Petty Cury with all its old shops now demolished, as was the Lion Hotel to make way for the Lion Yard. And now we face more changes to come - with no doubt more photos and slides to add to the Cambridge collection.

Next month, on 18th May, Garth Collard will give an illustrated talk on Linton Inns and Pubs from the 16th Century. All are welcome.

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THE LINTON NEWS
Next Publication Date 7th June 2004
DEADLINES for both ADVERTS and NEWS ITEMS
Friday 21st May 2004

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Parish Council Matters

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

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

I STARTED this year with trepidation, following as I do in the wake of D' Urwin – a hard act to follow! Her dedication to the welfare of Linton and ability to analyse problems has resulted in the initiation of many projects (the University involvement in finding the reasons for the 2001 flood – and hopefully the solution - many traffic initiatives, the Golden Jubilee project, and many more) which she continues to follow through, tenaciously. Thank you for your hard work and achievements, Val.

Since the last Parish Meeting, we have new Councillors, Esther Cornell, Bob Hammett and Roger Hickford. They take the places of Derek Birch, Linda Read, Mike Ballentine, who are much missed. We retain the majority of elected councillors, so we are still within the standard set for Quality Parish Council status. Sadly ex-Councillors have passed away, John Hall and Ron Hatfield, our sympathies to the families. However, working towards QPC status has given us all more statutory requirements and responsibilities to meet, resulting in us working even harder for the benefit of you all.

I had hoped to have a quiet year, but it has proved rather eventful. I will summarise the main areas in which we have been involved during the year:

1. One major change has been initiated – we have a page which goes out with the Lin-

ton News, giving the minutes of the meetings, articles, updates, information on public meetings and on your councillors and of course, the view from the chair (groan) a less formal look at village life, not yet up to Alistair Cooke's standards as you may have noticed! Again, informing the village of our activities is another requirement for QPC status. We are open to comments on how to make this better (tell my editor – Gill) but we hope it shows the wide range of work we do and many projects that we are involved with.

2. The Traffic Working Party has put in sterling work. LPC works closely with the Linton Steering Group, Action A1307, Pavements are for People, and Cambs County Council, this collaboration resulting in an ongoing Action Plan, which is reviewed regularly. Steadily our needs are being addressed. We now have changed parking restrictions on the High Street, Chalklands and Joiners Road, improved road markings, signage and protection of bus stops, a better pedestrian refuge on the A1307 and we will have interactive speed signs on the A1307 installed soon. We had put together an extensive disability access and safety scheme (thanks to M^{rs} Anderson, M^r Booth and M^r Smith for their help) of road and pavement improvements, and plans for a mini roundabout at the Balsam Road/High Street junction, both of which just missed the cut for this year's funding. This was a great disappointment and could have solved and prevented many problems. Better access to the Village College from Stantons Lane is currently being addressed. The Safer Routes to School scheme was initiated and is proceeding well, following a huge amount of work involving all schools. We continue to press for a roundabout at Bartlow Road junction with A1307. Currently, all groups are work-



ENID BALD

ing on the traffic aspects of the proposed Special Needs school at the LVC site, both within the site and on the A1307, as traffic control in this area will affect the industrial areas as well as impacting on the village in several ways. The collaboration of all traffic groups in Linton and CCC, with public backing through the Parish Plan results, is a force to be reckoned with – expect more changes in traffic control and safety soon. Thanks for the hard work of so many, including Mark Kemp and our MP, James Paice.

3. Planning issues have figured highly, as they often do. We had a public meeting on the future of land next to Paynes Meadow, which showed how Linton cares for those needing homes as well as the wildlife and ancient hedging in the area. Affordable housing is being constructed on the Back Road, which we endeavoured to keep in the rental sector for Linton people. Access is directly onto Back Road so that the development did not affect the peace and safety of Crabtree Croft. A Papworth house and 4 new bungalows are being built as part of the Flaxfields re-development, although plans for the care flats are still awaited. We will continue to try to influence planners to have only development suitable to, and meeting the needs of, Linton and its residents, but your in-

put is important

Currently we are commenting on plans for the SEN school and changes at the LVC site (quite a list!). As this project will affect the whole of Linton, particularly the football clubs, I would urge you all to write comments about the plans. We held a public meeting on 21st April and comments arising from that have already been sent to the Cambs Education Authority and others. If there are to be changes of such significance, they must be to the benefit of Linton.

4. The environment is always a concern, with LPC continuing to work to improve areas through planting of trees (thanks to Susan Anderson and her group of diggers) and bulbs, clearing of debris (thanks to Darryl, and Colin Tofts) and ongoing maintenance and improvement projects. We even have a new roadsweepers cart! However, our work is not helped by the arson attacks on waste bins, which will have to be replaced through your rates; money that could have been better spent than on rectifying wanton mischief. We are still looking for allotment land and land for other recreation, planted areas, more and improved walks for the benefit of all. A heritage trail has been proposed as have changes to the cemetery, including reduction of the lime trees. We await your comments. LPC has now taken

over responsibility for the churchyard and a liaison group formed.

We now have a group especially aimed at environmental issues – Linton Woodland, Water and Wildlife group ('3W's'). It is good to know that projects can now be tackled by more than the stalwarts who make up the LPC working parties and the other dedicated people who give their time to care for Linton. I urge your support for this group and request more volunteers to help them in their work (contact Judy Rossiter).

5. Policing continues to be an issue, especially the perceived lack of police presence combined with heavily increased police precept (due to government underfunding of this area). Parking restrictions and traffic safety measures are not effective without enforcement. We considered the funding of PCSOs specifically for Linton, but public opinion was against this; we continue to monitor the situation. We will keep a rolling brief on the efficacy of their work (their obvious presence being reduced since they have been given a car!) but police presence is related to the number of crimes or incidents actually reported to them, so your input is needed.

6. LPC continues its support for societies and groups in the village, across a wide range of interests and age groups. The work done by these groups is a central part of village life. On a personal note, I thank LPC on behalf of Activities and Care for the Elderly (ACE), for which I am particularly grateful. LPC has continued to support the Linton Area Pool Project, with money to fund a feasibility study. The development at LVC offers a chance to identify a site for a swimming pool for public use. The Parish Council is also looking at the possibility of providing a youth shelter or place for the young to gather, rather than on Copperfields.

7. Linton now has wheelie bins! After many initial problems, the system now seems to be working, but how much better it would have been if we had been consulted earlier. We also have more possibilities to recycle our waste; a welcome and environmentally friendly innovation.

8. This year also saw the Parish Plan come to fruition with much hard work from so many in the village, not least those who completed the questionnaires. We now have hard data to back almost every aspect of village life, to help us press for improvements, to back funding applications and to fight any unwelcome proposals. Well done to all involved. It was quite comforting to see that the same issues that LPC have been addressing for years were also raised by the Parish Plan, although several new topics have also been raised, which will keep us busy! Your Parish Council has been trying to do what we think is best for the village - we now have documented evidence of what Linton wants, too. We have a clear plan for the future and together we can work towards attaining this.

To end my report on behalf of all Councillors, I would like to express our sincere thanks to our clerk, Gill Barker. She works tirelessly for the village, manages us, and keeps us all well informed with Council and village issues.

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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

THE Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st April. There were 12 councillors attending. M^{rs} Bald declared an interest under Item 274 – Payments Due, as she is Chair of the Linton Mobile Warden Scheme.

Under matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting C^{llr} Hammett proposed that a letter be sent to the School Council at Linton Heights advising them of procedures regarding their request for 'Slow Down' traffic signs, and at what stage their request currently was. It was noted that the children on the Council would not necessarily understand the inevitable delays this type of request encountered. The letter should try to explain this. This was agreed by the meeting.

C^{llr} Cornell reported that the PCSO's had recently been seen 'walking' in the village. It was



New double yellow lines

to be hoped that enforcement of the new double yellow lines in the High Street would be a priority as there had been flagrant misuse reported. As a result of discussion it was proposed that a further letter should be sent to the Police seeking their assistance in ensuring the correct use of the new prohibition order for parking in the High Street, also requesting that the Co-op be given 'no parking' cones to place on the double yellow immediately outside the premises, to try to ensure it was always clear for lorries to use.

The Planning Minutes were considered with no queries.

Reports from Co-ordinators followed:-

Open Spaces - Co-ordinator C^{llr} Clay - C^{llr} Gore reported with regard the area around the

village sign, now showing some daffodils. It was proposed that when they have finished flowering they should be moved to around the base of the sign itself to facilitate grass



Village sign

cutting. This was agreed. It was then suggested that some areas of the grass had died off and required work. It was agreed that C^{llrs} Gore and Cox would organise this. They were thanked for volunteering.

Recreation ground - Co-ordinator C^{llr} Kenyon had issued a written report. It was agreed that a letter should be written to a neighbour requesting re-instatement of a boundary fence. It was further agreed that the maintenance contractors would be requested to deal with excess ivy on the recreation ground trees and that the Golden Jubilee tree which had died would be replaced.

Cemetery - Co-ordinator C^{llr} Gee had nothing to report at this time other than to remind council that the views of residents regarding the trees in the cemetery were being sought in the next issue of Parish Matters.

Rights of Way - Co-ordinator C^{llr} Rossiter had issued a written report. Item 1, regarding a meeting of footpath co-ordinators with a local landowner on 29th April, was discussed and as a result it was agreed to invite another landowner locally, in an effort to look at a wider rationalisation of footpaths all at one time. Item 2, regarding the extension to the footpath from Granta Leys through to Kingfisher Walk, was discussed further and C^{llr} Gore reported on the

status of the project. As a result of discussion it was agreed that identification of the original builder of the site was paramount. Once that was to hand the issue could be progressed with The Treasury.

Venture Playground - Co-ordinator C^{llr} Hammett had nothing to report at this time.

Leadwell Meadows - C^{llr} Cox reported he was in receipt of notes and reports from the newly formed Linton Woodland, Water and Wildlife Group (formerly the Linton Environment Action Group) now to be known as the Linton 3W's, who had ideas for the improvement of this area. Discussion took place regarding some of the ideas and as a result it was agreed that C^{llr} Cox would liaise with them and together a report would be brought before Council for decision. It was noted that the '3W's' had already spent time clearing rubbish out of the river at the Recreation Ground and the meeting passed on its thanks for that. It was agreed the group required encouragement and more volunteers. Insurance provision whilst they were working around the village was to be checked and provided, either their own, or possibly under the umbrella of the Council.

Parish Plan - Co-ordinator C^{llr} Rossiter reported that the Parish Plan would shortly be circulated to councillors for reading prior to the meeting scheduled on 15th April, where it would be on the Agenda for consideration.

The Chairman then drew attention to a report circulated by C^{llr} Albrow regarding community education provision in the village. This reported that the Linton Bottisham Burwell 'patch' was to change and Linton would now be linked with Sawston only. C^{llr} Gore queried whether, given the level of monetary and administration changes, there would be any noticeable change to the way the service was provided in Linton? C^{llr} Albrow reported

that users should, hopefully, notice no difference at all. C^{llr} Cornell queried whether the brochure advertising courses available would still show courses available in Bottisham and Burwell? C^{llr} Albrow reported that in future the brochure would show courses available in Linton and Sawston only. The Chairman thanked C^{llr} Albrow for attending all the meetings.

The payments due list was circulated. The Clerk reported on each item. C^{llr} Hickford queried the level of rise in insurance provision. The Clerk reported it was 11.5% following on from a year in which it had risen by 40%. Discussion took place regarding this and as a result it was agreed that C^{llr} Hickford would assist the Clerk in obtaining 3 new quotes to ensure Best Value was being achieved. It was agreed that the current payment should be made in the mean time. As a result of this, C^{llr} Alper proposed that the payments, as listed, be made. This was seconded by C^{llr} Gore and agreed by the meeting. C^{llrs} Gore and Cox signed the cheques.

All items from Correspondence Sheet 18 were noted. Of

appeal had been upheld.

Item 48 - information from ACRE and Calor Gas regarding the Village of the Year competition. Discussion took place and it was agreed that C^{llrs} Albrow (Youth), Bald (Elderly) and Gee (Businesses) would assist the Clerk in organising an entry.

Item 50 - a letter from a resident regarding the temporary bridge repairs at Stantons Lane. The Clerk reported that it was now unclear as to whether there was to be a new bridge and she was trying to obtain an answer to this. If the new bridge was delayed or not

Park off Coles Lane, which SCDC owned. It had already been noted that there was little space here, so knowing in advance the size of the plastic bank and exactly where they would place it was paramount. It was further suggested that how often it would be emptied and whether there would be any crushing equipment available should also be queried. The Clerk was to discuss this with the SCDC officer concerned and report back. In principle, however, Councillors would like to see a plastics bank available in the village.

The meeting closed at 21.15.



Stantons Lane "The Bridge" in question

taking place then permanent repairs to the current one was necessary immediately on the grounds of Health & Safety. It was agreed the letter would be replied to on that basis.

Items 52-55 - Replies from various departments of County Council advising they would be sending representatives to the Public Meeting to discuss the LVC refurbishment proposals. The meeting was being held on Wednesday 21st April at LVC at 7.30 pm.

Item 56 - A letter of complaint regarding waste collection from Horn Lane. This correspondence had been noted and passed on to the District Councillor who was investigating.

In any other business the Chairman reported that SCDC had contacted the Parish office with regard the placement of a recycling bank for plastics in the village. It was envisaged this would be placed in the Car

QUEENS GOLDEN JUBILEE CHILDRENS COMMEMORATIVE COINS

THE PARISH Council still have a number of unclaimed coins for Linton children at the Parish Office. Of the 600 or more coins requested, some 150 are still with us.

Please can parents who have not yet collected their coins make arrangements to do so by the end of May. Call in to the office anytime during opening hours, ask a friend to do so on your behalf, or if this is difficult, ring Gill and discuss alternatives.

Any unclaimed coins will then be advertised as available for elderly residents of the village who may like one, on a first come first served basis.

Watch this space!



Wacky Batman & Robin 2002 particular interest:-

Item 41 - a letter from the Crown with details of the Wacky Races, being held this year on Sunday 30th May. It was queried whether there would be a Parish Council entry? There was no response at this time.

Item 43 - a letter from The Planning Inspectorate with details of the Planning appeal in respect of land at The Beeches which had been refused planning permission by SCDC. The

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