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concert
7.30pm on Saturday
13th March
At Linton village college

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THE LINTON NEWS

March
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You can hear it on the Grapevine

THIS month sees the 20th anniversary of Granta Grapevine, the talking newspaper for Linton and district.

This newspaper is a 90-minute cassette tape with some of the text of the Linton News dictated on to one side and a magazine recorded on the other. It is available free to anyone who has a disability which makes reading the Linton News difficult for whatever reason.

The magazine side contains interviews and topical items recorded locally and also from the travels of the magazine team in the UK and abroad.

With the slow disappearance of the cassette tape as a recording medium, there is a need to look for a replacement and many talking newspapers are issuing material recorded on to memory sticks which can be sent by post to listeners.

The method of playback is to use specially built USB stick audio players.

We will be testing one this year, called a Boombox, which is available at low cost from a number of specialist suppliers including the RNIB.

We are very grateful to the Granta Masonic Lodge of Cambridgeshire for a generous donation which has enabled us to purchase a number of players.

The future of talking



Some members of the Granta Grapevine team with one of the new audio players.
L to R, Roger Lapwood, Linda Dumper, Andrew Dunn, Mike Crofts, Janet Conochie.

Picture by Roger Lapwood

newspapers will be interesting. With audio being produced digitally, it can be distributed via the internet. Younger partially sighted people are able to read the Linton News from the Linton website via voice synthesisers in their computers.

However most of our listeners do not have computers and they tell us that they not only prefer real human voices reading

to them but they also value greatly the magazine side.

So the future may look daunting but we know that the service we provide is appreciated and we intend to support our listeners with cassette players through to the eventual changeover to digital equipment when they are ready.

Among the anniversary events planned will be a special March tape, with

excerpts from the very first recording.

I would like to thank all the dedicated members of the Granta Grapevine team, past and present, and all those who have supported us and continue to do so.

If you know anyone who might find our service useful or if you have the time and would like help us in any way, please get in touch with me.

Mike Crofts 893619

This is the last chance to publicise your business, club or society

THE Linton directory is well under way. However I have noticed that there are many clubs and societies which have not contacted me with their details.

This is a message for you. You will not be in the directory! Do not assume that because you were in the last one that you will be in this one. Are your group's details on the directory on the Linton.info website? No? You will not be in the directory.

Please contact me at the address or telephone number on page 3 with your club/society details to be included in the directory. If you wish to be on the web directory, please contact the webmaster at webmaster@linton.info.

This is a list of the categories online: if you don't fit into one of them, please let us know!

- Emergency services: police, fire, ambulance, accident and emergency, gas, electric and flood
- County council and district council services
- Other advice and support services (coming soon)
- Transport information
- Linton churches, community organisations and political parties
- Music, theatre, cinema and art
- Clubs and societies
- Health and wellbeing
- Education
- Things to see and do
- Activities for children and young people
- Sport
- Pets and animals
- Restaurants, pubs and accommodation
- Local shops
- All other local businesses – accountants to zoos

Editor

Wind farm enquiry report



Some of the members of Linton parish council and residents at the recent enquiry, sketched by Trysha Hunt.

LOCAL residents attended the planning enquiry on the Linton wind farm led by government inspector Philip Major and assistant Paul Jackson.

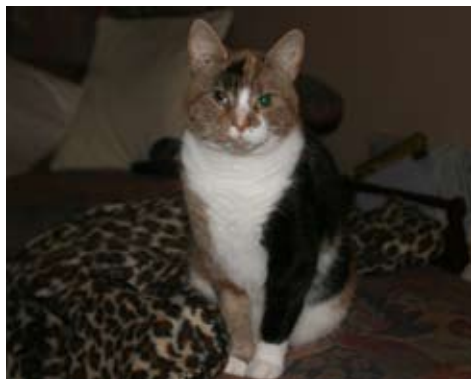
Of the 70 people who attended each morning and afternoon enquiry session, 23 voiced their opposition to the wind farm and were prepared to answer questions from Enertrag's representative. Objections covered Enertrag's failure to attend public meetings; distraction to drivers on the A1307; health issues from vibration, blade flicker and reflective flashing causing migraine and sleeplessness; poor access to the Camgrain site for construction traffic; low wind speed; effect on wildlife, the environment and animals at Linton zoo; interference with air traffic, sites of special scientific interest and the conservation area.

Many people objected to noise from the turbines, estimated to affect everything within a 2km radius, particularly the learning and health of children at Granta school, the village college and play schemes. Uttlesford district council's model shows noise greater than 40 decibels would affect the schools and around 600 homes. The constant sound was explained as more than twice that of traffic on the A1307 or the lion's roar. A substantial increase in noise was predicted for the whole area depending on wind direction.

Tony Kelly, press officer at the village college spoke in favour of the scheme saying young people should have more say, being more interested in the benefits of green energy and welcoming change.

LNT

A tale of two cats needing help



On the left, Torty, a resilient and resourceful cat, is looking for a new home after her accident while Chloe, right, has gone walkabout. Can you help with either of these cases?



WE are not about to start a column for stray and missing cats, but these two stories just caught our fancy.

June Keeble writes: A young pale tortoiseshell cat was found in Weston Colville last October after what appeared to be a bad car accident and was taken to David Urwin of Belgrave House veterinary surgery in Linton.

Unfortunately she lost her left hind leg and tail, but has slowly recovered her balance and is now in the care of a

foster home with a view to finding a new owner.

She has a pretty face, is full of fun, probably no more than three, very affectionate and clean, and her foster mum says she loves people and will happily climb up to sit on her lap.

David thinks Torty, as he has called her, would be a delightful pet for any adult who has no other animals. If you would like to know more, please call Belgrave House surgery at 139 High Street Linton, 893720.

Then there is Chloe, who has gone astray. Val Chase writes: Chloe, my two-year-old ginger cat arrived unexpectedly one day in June 2007, a gift from a friend, as a tiny kitten, bewildered and covered in fleas, from her home in Haverhill.

Now she is missing from her home in Meadow Lane. Chloe vanished last month and has not been seen since. I know I have photographs of her but it is not the same. You can't

cuddle a photograph.

So, if Chloe is wandering around near you, or if you have taken pity on her and are feeding her, please could you give me a call?

I know she might have had an accident and I have hunted down by the riverbank and looked under bushes, but I believe her to be a survivor and am sure she is still around.

Of course, by the time you read this, she may be back home. I do hope so
Val Chase 891148

Too good for jumble ...

A VIEWMASTER slide projector with screen and collapsible table and a Kenwood Chef (without attachments) are offered for sale this month.

The child's Hamax bicycle seat in good condition, an open pine corner cupboard with two shelves, 31in high, 24in wide, 12in deep and a Ginge classic cylinder push mower are still on offer.

The Learn Portuguese cassettes raised £10 for ACE.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone me.
Kate France 891602 or email katefrance@linton48.freeserve.co.uk

Please note that the donor will choose the charity to receive the money.

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the LN team.

Despite popular opinion, the ranta is NOT written by the same person each month. If you would like to rant in this paper please contact me at the address on page 3.

ON a recent visit to a large local supermarket I was surprised to hear an announcement over the public address system politely asking parents with young children standing in shopping trolleys, to ensure that the child either sat in the seat provided or was removed from the trolley. The announcement pointed out the obvious danger of youngsters being injured if they fell and the fact that, for this reason, store rules forbade them from standing in trolleys.

I was even more surprised to hear the same announcement repeated twice more in the hour that I was in the store and totally flabbergasted to hear a young mum telling her errant son that he must sit down "because the lady says so".

Many people regard health and safety notices, whether written or verbal, as being made by tiresome jobsworths with nothing better to do and therefore fit only to be disregarded. In this case my sympathy lies with the supermarket; clearly there is a danger to these children, especially if they are partially (or poorly) supervised, as is inevitably so if their parents are trying to shop. There is also a potential health risk to other users of the trolleys in which youngsters have deposited dirt from their shoes and/or sticky fingers and into which these unsuspecting people must now place their food. Worse still, any parent who is stupid enough to let their child stand up in a supermarket trolley will probably be more concerned with how much compensation they can extract should an accident occur, rather than the child's injuries.

One assumes that supermarkets could prohibit the carrying of any child in its trolleys. This would undoubtedly result in howls of disapproval and claims of discrimination from a large proportion of their customers; not a wise move. It would also lead to many more prams and buggies being pushed around the store which would no doubt make for an increase in shoplifting and result in a greater incidence of bruised legs amongst the older, less nimble, customers; again not a wise move. Stores might also consider refusing to serve any customer seen letting their child misbehave but who ever heard of a supermarket refusing a customer's money?

As a last resort they could consider employing a child-catcher in true pantomime tradition; imagine the fun this person would have rushing around, snatching unruly youngsters from under the noses of witless parents and holding them for a huge ransom, preferably paid to the staff Christmas party fund.

However, the point of this rant is not to mock supermarkets but to comment on the failure of parents to ensure that their children understand that they, their parents, set the standards (not anonymous announcers, rules and regulations, etc) and parents must be obeyed. Blaming somebody else for spoiling your child's fun is not an easy way out but a sure route to problems for parents and society at some later date.

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Linton

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Co-workers of Mother Teresa

WE are an ecumenical group who meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Abington/Linton area. We knit children's clothes and blankets for African orphanages and send our goods via the charity Feed the Children based at Ruscombe near Reading, who not only accept cash donations but also goods in kind. During 2009 we were able to send 20 sacks of blankets and children's knits to Africa.

The greatest need at present is for blankets, three feet by four and six feet by four, and school v-neck jumpers for ages six - 14 years in navy, royal blue, bottle green, maroon, pink or yellow. We are grateful to all the home workers who continue to knit for us and are always glad to receive donations of wool and six inch squares for blankets.

For more information please contact me.

Maureen Harper 891696

Email maureen.harper27@virgin.net

You can now be extra green

WE all love food but sometimes we throw away food waste. This may be from meal preparation or leftovers.

All food waste can be placed in the green bin, including plate scrapings, meat and fish (uncooked and cooked) and fruit and vegetables.

It is important that all food waste makes it way into the green bin rather than the black bin. When food waste is placed into the black bin it ends up in a landfill site where it rots and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Food waste placed in the green bin is composted and turned into nutrient rich soil improver.

Some people do not want to place food waste straight into the green bin and prefer to place it in a bag or liner. In the past there has been confusion regarding the type of bag that can be used for food waste.

Residents with the best of intentions have purchased

cornstarch/potato starch liners that state that they are biodegradable and compatible with local authority composting schemes. However, cornstarch/potato starch liners do not break down during the composting process and cause contamination. We can only accept paper liners in the green bin as they do break down.

In response to residents asking which type of liner can be used and where they can buy them, we have teamed up with Healthy Planet Bags. Paper liners can now be purchased from Sweet Talk News in Linton, www.southcambscaddyliners.co.uk or call 02087 360033.

You can also try before you buy by calling the above number for a free sample.

Kylie Kavanagh
Waste, Recycling and
Minimisation Officer
South Cambs District
Council
0345 450063

La Pipelette (Chatterbox)

Les vacances et la famille

LES vacances, c'est une bonne chose. Après avoir bien travaillé à l'école, on se repose et après on peut retourner à l'école. On a l'esprit plus frais et alors on peut apprendre de nouvelles choses plus facilement.

On peut passer plus de temps avec sa famille, ça aussi c'est important. On peut faire des choses ensemble, faire des crêpes à la chandeleur.

Bientôt, il y aura Pâques. C'est un temps où on célèbre Jésus qui ressuscite et où on peut prier...et aussi avoir des œufs en chocolat. Ce sont de longues vacances, c'est bien.

The Bard of Linton

TO help my health this winter
I follow every rule
Listening to doctor's orders
To show that I'm no fool,
I had a little 'flu jab
A special one I'm sure
The nurse said it was for swine 'flu
So I oinked right out the door.

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PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

LEANNE and I have been doing a mixture of both day and late shifts this week and generally things have been ticking over well. Unfortunately earlier in the week a van was broken into on the High Street, Linton, and power tools were taken from the rear loading area. This crime happened in the day time and I would ask for everyone to keep an eye out for suspicious vehicles or people hanging around checking out property and vehicles.

We have also been continuing with speed checks in Hadstock Road, Linton. We recorded seven drivers in around 30 minutes breaking

the 30mph speed limit on that stretch of road and these will all shortly be receiving letters asking them to slow down in our neighbourhood. We will be continuing these checks on a regular basis.

If you see any suspicious behaviour around cash machines, please report it straight away by ringing 999.

If you have any information about these offences please contact DC Evans at Parkside Police Station on 03454 564564 or Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Your neighbourhood
policing team

A scam aimed at local businesses

Our local chemist was very concerned to receive a letter recently, and has asked us to print it as a warning. Hers was not the only local business to receive one.

If you receive one by post or email, please do the only sensible thing and put it in the bin.
Editor

Dear your name

I am Lee Yang a personal banker for the Nanyang Commercial Bank in China. I have asked a friend coming to the UK to post this letter on my behalf. I am getting in touch with you regarding the estate of a deceased client with similar last name and an investment placed under our banks management.

I would respectfully request that you keep the contents of this mail confidential and respect the integrity of the information you come by as a result of this mail. I contact you independently and no one is informed of this communication.

It goes on to say that money (millions of dollars) has been banked and not claimed, owing to the owner dying in an accident, therefore you are the beneficiary and he wants to split the money with you!

He continues: Nobody is getting hurt; this is a lifetime opportunity for us. I hold the KEY to these funds and as a Chinese National we see so much cash and funds being re-assigned daily I would want us to keep communication for now strictly by the above telephone and email.

LEE YANG

Fair Trade tea and other goodies

DURING Fair Trade fortnight, 22nd February to 7th March, you may take part in the Big Swap, a campaign to encourage people to change to buying Fair Trade goods. As a follow-up to this campaign there will be a Fair Trade evening in the pavilion behind St Mary's church at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th March.

As well as selling Traidcraft goods (food, clothes, cards) and Hatti bags, made in Nepal by disadvantaged women, there will be a talk, a quiz and video presentation about Fair Trade and its effect on the producers.

The evening will have a special focus on tea. Do you know that we drink 165 million cups of tea in the UK every day, but only 10% of this is fairly traded? By selecting Fair Trade goods when you shop you can help producers have a significantly better life - do come along and hear some of their stories.

The admission charge of £2 includes light refreshments. Linton Trefoil Guild hosts the evening and there will be a raffle.

Contact me for more information.

Jean Wheeler 893513

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Tues	9-5 pm	Tuesday & Wednesday
Wed	9-7 pm	Late opening until 7 pm on
Thurs	9-7 pm	Wednesday & Thursday
Fri	9-5 pm	
Sat	9-3 pm	

Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have been in touch with mum, Ellen Cooper, since my letter was published. I hope you will be pleased to see this lovely picture of her.



Ellen Cooper celebrating
Picture supplied by Mary Butler

On 13th January we celebrated her 100th birthday. We had a small party at the nursing home which she really enjoyed and she couldn't believe she had made it. Amongst her presents, which included lovely floral arrangements from our local church and her doctors' surgery, were congratulations from the Queen and the Secretary of State.

Our local newspaper took photographs, and she was thrilled to receive cards and

letters with local news from so many of her friends in Linton. Mary Butler, by e-mail

Inspiring women



One of the super views from the new building at LVC.

Picture by Wendy Foster

theWI YOU'D better watch out if you go to Clacton; it is home to the venomous viper and they like to bask in the sunshine on the sea wall! Barry Kaufmann-Wright, wildlife consultant for Natural England and DEFRA wildlife inspector, told us this during his informative Coastal Wildlife talk last month. He also introduced us to the pretty diving duck, the Goldeneye – it can swim upside down. Now is that stupid or very clever? Barry reckons that's stupid – easy prey.

Now you've probably seen the advert on the telly where a Chinaman is fishing with a cormorant, a supreme fisher, but did you know the cormorant has a rubber band tied around its neck to stop it from swallowing the fish? In the UK there are 9,018 breeding pairs and 24,200 wintering here, but I wonder if anyone here has ever used a cormorant instead of a fishing rod?

Stuart Tinsley, bursar at Linton village college, gave us an interesting tour of the newly constructed Newton building which houses the science department, gymnasium and dance studio. Both inside and out, architectural design details marry very well with the 1937 Grade 2 listed college buildings.

However, it was the eco-friendly 'E-Stack' ventilation system that can reduce energy consumption by up to 50% which held my attention. In summer the system ensures the rooms remain well ventilated by bringing in fresh air from below and allowing hot air to escape upwards. In winter, it also provides natural heat exchange, thereby allowing the interior to remain well ventilated while retaining as much heat as possible and wide awake students. The 'E-Stack' is another development from the University of Cambridge.

Note the new 'WI Inspiring Women' logo. The tree logo has gone. The WI feels that the new one is far more in keeping with its unique role in providing women with educational opportunities, the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. You've probably gathered if you read this column regularly that the WI is no longer Jam and Jerusalem.

Our next meetings are at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd March A Very Different War, a story of evacuees to the USA during WWII and at 12.30pm on Thursday 18th March the lunch club will meet at the Black Bull, Balsham.

On Wednesday 24th March we will walk to Catley Park; meet at the Dog and Duck at 10am.

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th April our annual meeting takes place followed by entertainment. Trysha Hunt

We have news about additions to our team and changes to the deadline

WE will be bringing you news about the new editor, in fact editors. Two ladies have volunteered to take on the role of editor and we will introduce them next month. We also have a new sub-editor who will be helping to enhance the team.

NB We also need to point out that the deadline dates for the April issue have changed, please see below.

Editor

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 5th April 2010
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 8th March
NEWS ITEMS Friday 12th March

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER
Priority is given to Linton businesses
Our advertising Manager is Judith Rouse
email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR
Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
Editor: Wendy Foster
email: lneditor@linton.info phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

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

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

WEEKLY	
Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Jazzercise, 6.45pm Mondays and Wednesdays	Granta School
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	VH
Yoga, 7-8.30pm Mondays term time	Hadstock VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays	SC
Ladies' netball, 7.15-8.30pm Mondays	SC
Cempa wu-shu karate, 7-8pm Mondays (age 5 upwards)	LVC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
Aquacise Mon, Tues and Wed tel 890248	Granta school
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	Church pavilion
Linton Granta playgroup, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time	LVC
Hadstock toddler group, 2-3.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hadstock VH
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
Senior mobility, 1-2pm Tuesdays	Hildersham VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays	St Mary's
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008 919	CC
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 10.30am & 1.50pm Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Yoga class, 8-9pm Thursdays	SC
Mums and Tots Mocha house, 2-4pm Fridays	Church pavilion
Tots music group, 10.30 & 1.30 term time Fridays	URC
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Hadstock village green
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays	SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC
Adult tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays term time	VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays	SC
Mini kickers, 10-11am Saturdays term time	LVC
<i>For sports centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248</i>	

MARCH

1	Camera club, 7.30pm	CC
2	WI, 7.30pm	VH
2	Housing surgery, 10am	Chalklands
3	Lent lunch, 12noon	8 The Furrells
3	Reading group, 8pm	Dog & Duck
4	Luncheon club, 12noon	Dog & Duck
4	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
5	Women's world day of prayer, 7pm	URC
6	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
9	VIP meeting, 2pm	Chalklands CC
9	Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
10	Lent lunch, 12noon	11 Mill Lane
10	Storytime, 2.15pm	Library
11	Fairtrade evening, 7pm	St Mary's pavilion
13	Linton Jazz concert, 7.30pm	LVC
14	Camera club, 11am	Coles Lane
16	Housing surgery, 10am	VH
16	Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
17	CAMTAD, hearing help, 9am	Health Centre
17	Lent lunch, 12noon	10 Symonds Lane
18	NSPCC coffee morning, 10am	3 Mill Lane
18	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
20	Car wash, 10am	Fire Station
20	Linton Guides' jumble sale, 2pm	Infant school
21	St Mark's Passion, 6pm	St Mary's
24	Lent lunch, 12noon	7 Harefield Rise
25	ACE fish and chip lunch, 12noon	St Mary's pavilion
27	Junior cricket club, 9.30am	Cricket pavilion
27	Dads and Tots, 9.30am	VH
27	Linton music society concert, 7.30pm	LVC
31	Lent lunch, 12noon	St Mary's pavilion

APRIL

3	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
6	WI, 7.30pm	VH

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, SC sports centre, URC United Reform church, VH village hall

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.

Refuse collection: 1st, 15th, 29th March.

Recycling collection: 8th, 22nd March, 6th April

Evening class ideas welcome

SOME of you may well have sampled adult education opportunities at Sawston and Linton village colleges, known as the BE Partnership.


Following very successful autumn and spring programmes we are trying to find out what you would like us to offer in our autumn 2010 brochure.

Our summer programme will be issued very soon and you will find a few new things on offer like a five week Zumba course in June. This is a Latin-inspired fitness class.

Did you know for example that we offered day courses on bricklaying. How about building a barbeque, or repairing that garden wall yourself? Did you know that you can get horse care qualifications with us? Of course we include the usual languages; French, Italian and Spanish, together with loads of arts and crafts – from flower arranging to painting and pottery. We are also expanding our computing courses with some daytime provision.

If you have any ideas let us know and we will try to find tutors for them. If you would like further details on the few I have mentioned above then please contact the partnership team on 712424 or email community@sawstonvc.org

Val Tookey, Adult Manager



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Learning all about values



As a school, we are part of a scheme to develop the next generation of leaders and, therefore, were pleased to welcome Sharon Honig who wrote the following piece about life in our school.

'I was welcomed warmly to work with headteacher Louise Clark for a 3-day internship to get a real taste of infant school life. I saw many and varied tasks fulfilled by all staff, the leadership team and the governing body.

Day 1: My day started at 9am in the head's office setting out the plan for the week. I was to observe, follow, ask questions, discuss, read and make notes. The children were busy mostly in their classrooms, or trying out the new play-ground equipment at lunch break. One of the best things was watching the two assemblies.

On Monday it was the values assembly – a chance to think about the notion of happiness. I was able to note just how much the teaching and learning was affecting the children. When asked who could remember other values, a foundation child spontaneously raised his hand and recalled correctly that it had been unity before the break followed by friendship, respect and last month independence. The rest of the day was much more office-based, interspersed with cups of tea and a tour around the school before attending the evening governors' meeting.

Day 2: This was display day: The teaching assistants were busy at work transforming corridors and display boards, mounting lovely examples of the children's work which their teachers had been collecting, together with innovative interactive themes and basic skills to engage the children as they passed by.

I spent most of the day poised over the many important documents associated with Ofsted and in preparation for a series of meetings that were to be held with the senior leadership team and school improvement partner.

This was very informative and a good chance for us all to share our skills and expertise and support each other in our roles. I had a chance to visit the classrooms again and look through some of the school's resources.

Day 3: Golden Assembly was a treat to observe – the work celebrated was really impressive as was the children's appreciation of their classmates' efforts. I shall take away many of the good ideas I saw at Linton infant school and wish to thank everyone involved, all the children, assistants and staff for making me so welcome.'

Head-teacher Louise Clark writes: These three days were useful for both the visitor and us as it is always a time to reflect and improve our own practice further.

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Next question, please: the panel prepares to solve the audience's problems

Picture taken by Roger Lapwood

A PACKED hall at Linton village college greeted the panel as they took to the stage to record Gardeners' Question Time for Radio Four.

Linton gardening club hosted the event which brought Eric Robson, Anne Swithinbank, Matthew Wilson and Bob Flowerdew to the village to answer our questions.

It seems gardeners from all the clubs in the area have a lot on their minds as nearly 50 questions were submitted to the producers of which 12 were

selected to present to the panel and sadly a mere eight made it on to the final programme which was aired two weeks later.

Subjects vexing gardeners varied tremendously from pruning, to how to deal with dogs. Bob Flowerdew suggested that we do not follow in the footsteps of one questioner by trying to grow potatoes in straw; compost works far better.

Bob went on to surprise Peter Thomas by advising him to urinate over his raspberries in order to rid them of botrytis.

Matthew shared with us the reasons for our love of immaculate lawns and Anne advised us to whack our greengages with a stick in order to catch, in a suspended sheet, the fruit from high branches.

Thanks go to all who helped make this event such a success, from other clubs selling tickets at their meetings, to the help from LVC to ensure the technicians were happy and, of course, to the large number of volunteers who worked hard to make the whole event run so smoothly.

Kirsten Newble 892425

Linton girls are the champions

LINTON village college girls' basketball team has repeated its success of two years ago by winning the Cambridge and district Under-16 championship at Long Road sixth form college.

The team, captained by Charlie Johnson, won their semi-final match 26-6 against Swavesey village college to reach the closely contested final against Meridian school,

Royston.

Despite holding a comfortable 12-6 lead with five minutes to go, LVC were taken to the wire as Meridian came within one basket of levelling the match before Emily Coppen scored in the final minute to secure victory by 14-10.

The other members of the winning team were Alice Schulz, Daisy Cookson, Elise Fletcher, Ellesha Smith and

Katie Schulz.

John Maddock, head of PE at LVC, said: "This is an excellent achievement by a small group of dedicated players who have worked hard at improving their basketball."

The finals week was also a great success for the village college, with the Under-14 girls and Under-16 boys both reaching the semi-finals.

Tony Kelly 891233 ext 158



Magnificent seven: the championship-winning team

Picture supplied by LVC

Come and sing and have fun

ST Mary's church launched its new junior choir last September and the choristers sang their first services over Christmas. Learning to walk and sing at the same time as part of the Christmas carol service was all part of the fun!

Now, we have eight regular and committed young people who meet together each Tuesday evening. Currently their ages range from seven to 12 but younger and older children are welcome.

Rehearsals include voice production, breathing and posture exercises, speaking together and quick quizzes to encourage rapid learning of new music. So far the choir has sung texts in English, Latin and German and the children really enjoy playing with the sounds we need to make in different languages.

We also think about what the words mean in English, especially some of the awkward words that we still use in church today. Recently, for example we have discussed words like 'humility' (popular in some worship songs) and 'righteousness', a tricky word to say let alone sing.

On 7th February the junior choir joined with the adult choir to sing their first choral evensong. This required learning (from scratch in three weeks) how to sing traditional Anglican chant. It involves being able to count syllables and follow the pointing scheme in the Psalter so that the correct number of syllables is sung to each note of the chant.

There will be a lot more of this to come but the choristers made a very confident sound at evensong.

While the junior choir is finding its feet and learning the basics necessary to provide musical support to Anglican worship, the Sunday commitment is low – just once or twice a month as a choir – once in the morning and once in the evening. However, the main weekly rehearsal on Tuesday is essential.

David Parry-Smith 894715

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Stop bugging me

THERE is no need for your precious plants to be decimated by bugs if you are prepared to ask the right questions and treat plants with the correct biological control at the most suitable time.

So said Peter Jackson from Scotsdales, one of our favourite speakers, who last month told us at the gardening club all he knows on the subject.

As gardeners use fewer chemicals, pests have been rubbing their legs with glee, so to speak, but biological control is gaining momentum as natural beneficial insects are identified as predators. Nematodes and beneficial wasps can be bought from suppliers and kept in your fridge until the time is right to water them on to the soil.

Perhaps soon those slug-munched hosta leaves and busy lizzies notched by vine weevils will be a thing of the past. Even the Wimbledon grass courts benefit from nematodes, which deter infestations of ants.

The big bonus is that pests treated in this way are not harmful to other wildlife, pets or children. Unfortunately there is no killer yet for the scarlet lily beetle, although we were pleased to hear that work is under way on a predator for the current problems with chestnut trees.

Our plant sale will be held on Saturday 8th May. We are always grateful for any donations so perhaps members could think about potting up or splitting plants when the weather allows. (It surely cannot rain/snow for much longer).

Also, may I remind keen photographers that the categories for the show (31st July) will be: water, nature up close, seeds or seed heads, a weathervane.

On 9th March the speaker at the village hall will be Roy Nunn talking about clematis throughout the year. All are welcome.

Kirsten Newble 892425 email
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Fish, chips and railway history for ACEs

THE ACEs came back with something a little different – we are becoming renowned for this – a rather special speaker. Dr Hilary Custance Green is a Jack of all Trades with careers as a sculptor, a researcher into the mechanisms of attention and brain function and as an author. All very disparate, you might think, but Hilary illustrated how they each interlink and complement each other. The association between engineering, balance, and sculpture is not obvious until explained by an expert. How does a carved figure manage not to fall over? I have imagined that the Angel of the North would fly (being the shape of a crashed aircraft) if not firmly anchored...

Hilary's different experiences over a broad range of functions and creativity were reflected, and related to various aspects of her life. Hilary read from her recent book *Unseen Unsung*, which relates how Luca, an opera singer, is buried in rubble and saved by a mysterious girl. This was linked to the recent tragedy in Haiti – illustrating that all of life is intertwined. A thoughtful and interesting view of life; Linton is home to such fascinating people!

Hilary has written another book, *A Small Rain*, and both are available through Threadgold Press; not far to go, just to 36 Symond's Lane....

The next event will be a fish and chips lunch, meeting at 12noon for a 12.30pm start on Thursday 25th March at the church pavilion. The speaker is Tony Kirby, speaking on *Railways of South Cambridgeshire, Past and Present*. Train spotter or just a passenger – you will all find something of interest in the talk.

Call Enid on 891069 or Anne/Sue on 891001, if you need a lift. We welcome everyone and hope to see you then. Let us hope that spring will also be there.

Enid Bald

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New children's centre

WE are delighted to have our new office open in the Cathodeon Centre, Linton library. Sure Start children's centres are places where all families with children under five can find easier access to health and family support, help with finding jobs and training, drop-in sessions and activities for children and information about local child care and early education.

It is an exciting, innovative venture for Linton as well as all the surrounding villages. We would like to thank all the local community groups, churches, parents, schools and voluntary organisations who have pulled together to make it happen.

The children's centre office is open from 2pm-6pm on Wednesdays and from 9am-12noon on Thursdays and Fridays for any parents or carers with children under five to call in with their queries. Our administrator there is called Debby Jepps – you'll often find her there at other times as well.

We are slowly in the process of putting together groups in the local area and have already started Bumps to Babies on Thursday afternoons from 1.15pm- 2.45pm at the Cathodeon Centre. There are many more in the pipeline. We welcome suggestions from the local community to inform us where you would like groups to take place and what you feel are the needs in your local area.

In addition, our family involvement worker, Tina Hickey, is able to do home visits if any family has particular needs and would benefit from additional support.

Debby, Tina and myself would be delighted to see you if you are able to call in for a chat.

For more information please contact Debby Jepps 07768 008 919

Theresa Bateman, Children's Centre Manager

A heart-warming story

FOR some, New Year's Day is a time for rest and recuperation after a late night of partying and indulgences. For others, like Kat Mack, it was a day never to be forgotten.

Kat came to Linton only a few weeks earlier, to be with her family in the latter stages of her pregnancy. She had moved from Surrey, where she ran the children's services of a local charity for people with special needs.

At 4am on 1st January, there was a phone call from the police in Woking. Kat's brother Jon had been found at the side of the road in freezing temperatures, having fallen from his bicycle when the front wheel struck a deep pothole. Her mother rushed to be with him in hospital....and shortly afterwards Kat went into labour, two weeks early.

Kat's dad was on hand to take her to the hospital, where it became clear that her first child was not going to wait long to make an appearance. Just before her son was born, her mum made it back to the delivery unit, and out popped 7lb 11oz Kobey Cyrus. Mother and baby are doing really well.

Thankfully, Jon, who sustained head injuries and a broken arm, is recovering well and is happy being an uncle.

Over the following weeks, the other four ladies in her antenatal group also gave birth with varying levels of drama. They all get together once a week for lunch at the Dog and Duck, and their babies are collectively called the Linton Wanderers.

New Year's Day will never be the same for Kat, and this proud Linton mum has the perfect excuse for some special celebrations each time we start a new calendar.

A Linton Wanderers dad



A smiling mum and her baby

POT POURRI (62)

How high is the bucket?

A CYLINDRICAL bucket had some water in it when a ball fell inside. The diameters of the ball and the bucket are the same.

The top of the ball was level with the top of the bucket. It was noticed that the volume of the ball and the remaining water was the same. If I tell you that the diameter is a perfect cube and the height a perfect square (measured in centimeters); what is the height of the cylindrical bucket?

Solution to No.61- FarFarAway approximation?

There are eight and one third FarFarAway furlongs to the mile.
Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF...

Water for a different purpose

LINTON firemen will be holding a car wash at the fire station from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 20th March, there will be refreshments available.

Money raised will go to the firefighters charity. Please support us.

Mark Collins

Spring art exhibition

THE Darryl Nantais Gallery has a spring exhibition, featuring work by Abigail Boisot, Janet Rogers and Ophelia Redpath and also a mixed exhibition in the upstairs gallery.

The exhibition will run from 6th March until 24th April. For more information please contact the Darryl Nantais gallery, 891289 or go to www.nantais-gallery.co.uk

Dads and tots sessions back after a break

ALL dads with pre-school children, toddlers and babies are welcome to dads and tots from 9.30am to 11am on Saturday 27th March at the village hall.

Bacon sandwiches, toast, coffee, tea and squash are on offer – all for £2 per family.

Sarah Thorne

Sports centre news

LOTS of Easter fun activities at Linton community sports centre. They will be for all age groups, and includes tot's tumble, climbing, trampolining, archery, rugby, aerobics, boxercise, fitness, fun club amongst others.

Boxercise for adults has started again at Linton community sports centre on Tuesdays from 7.05-7.55pm. All are welcome.

Call the sports centre to book your induction.

For more information on the above please check the web site linton-sport-fitness.co.uk or call 890248

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In your own time

One of the LN team suggested that we do articles about the things that people do in their spare time. That means that we would like you to let us know what you do. We will help you to write an article, or interview you and we will also take a picture. Please contact us with information on your hobbies; the more unusual the better.

Anne Bradley kindly agreed to be our first feature.

WE lead such busy lives these days with, for example, work or looking after the family, that it is important to be able to indulge in a little me' time in the form of a hobby or an absorbing pastime.

One person who makes the most of her spare time is Anne Bradley, who lives in Linton and may be known to a few of you as either your or your children's piano teacher. Apart from teaching people to play the piano, Anne has another string to her bow, so to speak, as she plays the viola in the City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra.

She has played with this orchestra for eight years under its previous names of Barton Strings and then Cambridge String Players. The City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra gives seven concerts every year in West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge with practice every Tuesday evening.

Anne is also a member of the Belsize Baroque Group in



Anne with her viola

Picture by Georgina Page

London and plays with them whenever she is free but often finds that the baroque concerts conflict with the West Road concerts in Cambridge.

Anne also loves to sing and her holidays are often taken up with singing with *ad hoc* choirs in Europe, where she has sung in such wonderful places as The Basilica at Assisi and Bach's Church of St Thomas in Leipzig.

LN

A hoax or an old wives' tale?

ACCORDING to a recent circular e-mail starting in America, the following happened in 1919, when the flu was estimated to have killed more than 40 million people worldwide.

There was a doctor who visited many farmers to see if he could help them combat the flu. Many of the farmers and their families had contracted it and many died. The doctor came upon one farm and to his surprise, everyone was very healthy. When the doctor asked what the farmer was doing that was different, the wife replied that she had placed an unpeeled onion in a dish in each room of the house. The doctor couldn't believe it and asked if he could have one of the onions and place it under the microscope. He did this, and found the flu virus in the onion. It had obviously absorbed the bacteria, therefore keeping the family healthy.

The email continues: I heard this story from my hairdresser in Arizona who said that several years ago many of her employees and customers were coming down with the flu. The next year she placed several bowls with onions around her shop. To her surprise, none of her staff got sick. The moral of the story is, buy some onions and place them in bowls around your home. If you work at a desk, place one or two in your office; try it and see what happens. We did it last year and we never got the flu. If this helps you and your loved ones from getting sick, fantastic. If you do get the flu, it just might be a mild case. Whatever, what have you to lose? Just a few bucks on onions!

A postscript claims that leftover onions are poisonous, saying: I have used a leftover onion, as sometimes I don't use a whole one and save the other half for later. With this information I will buy smaller onions in the future!

Kate France

Bigger and better bookfest



THANKS to local regional grants and sponsors, the next Linton Children's Book Festival will be going ahead between 3rd and 9th May. For the younger children we are delighted to confirm appearances by John Foster, funny poet-performer, who returns to our book festival by popular demand as well as the Fairyland Trust, Maggie Beatson and Louise Comfort who create magical fairy pop-up books will be coming. Not only will they be talking to the audience about how they make these delightful books, they will also be running fairy making workshops for the children in the afternoon. Beast quest fans will love the treasure hunt as well as other workshops, a Japanese puppet show and music sessions. The children attending the infant school can also expect a visit from famous illustrator James Mayhew (*Katie and the Dinosaurs*), and on Saturday afternoon author Simon Chapman will come and show us *How to survive in the Wild*.

By special request, older children will be able to meet Pete Johnson, author of *How to train your parents* and get the opportunity to learn how to draw Manga cartoons or have a Manga artist draw them. We are very excited to have the involvement of 17-year-old Adham Smart, winner of the Foyle Young Poet of the Year in 2009 who will be running a poetry workshop. On Sunday 9th May football fans shouldn't miss the opportunity to meet Narinder Dhani author of *Bend it like Beckham* and join in the Indian dancing workshops just for fun. Or come and meet Paul Cooper author of *Pigs in Planes*, bring him your favourite jokes and make your own paper planes.

Our committee is thrilled to announce exciting alliances this year. With the Darryl Nantais gallery we are planning to bring the Peter Blake art bus to Linton and with the help of members of Linton Jazz and the Linton Music Society, a performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. Expect to hear much more about these two events in later issues of Linton News.

Unfortunately it has come to our attention that events arranged for Saturday 8th May will clash with the AZTEC's mini-soccer presentation afternoon. We are very sorry if your family will be affected and will do all we can to accommodate this.

For further information do look at our website www.linton-bookfest.org and if you are a Facebook user become a "fan" and get all the latest news and updates as they happen. If you would like to sponsor us please contact me.

Josephine Paterson, 893582, josephine@mjsquare.com
Co-ordinator Linton children's book festival

Linton farmers' market success

THE Linton farmers' market which is based at the village college starts its seventh year this month. The market, which started in a much smaller form at Chilford Hall, still has some of the original traders attending. Amongst these are James Coe and Priors Hall Farm.

The market has grown over the years and you can get an indication of what is on offer from those listed. There is game from Radwinter Wild Game, mushrooms from Coldham Wood Farm, organic bread from Cobs Organic Bakery and speciality cheeses selected by Meril Deal. Also available are beef, free range ducks, chicken and eggs, apples and apple juice from David Upson, rare breed pork from Spaynes Hall Farm and curry sauces handmade by Khalid Mear. Other specialities include cup cakes, handmade award winning dessert pies, handmade soaps and creams, more cakes from June and honey from Lyndsey, vegetables, bedding and perennial plants, to name a few.

In a separate area there is a small gift and craft room where local craftspeople are able to exhibit.

Teas and coffees are available. The market is open to the public from 9.30am to 12.30pm on the first Saturday of every month. Other venues include Wimpole Hall, Impington and Great Shelford.

We would be very interested to hear from a local charitable group that may like to supply the refreshments for the monthly market from around 9am to 12noon.

The website is at www.farmersfayres.co.uk

Jan Lupton



Chef's corner

WALKING to pick the children up from school the other day, I was pondering as to what recipe to share this month. Then it occurred to me how easy it is to create a restaurant meal at home, at the same time allowing you to relax and enjoy the day with your family and friends.

The trick here is, as in most things, in the preparation. The day before, the vegetables can be prepared. In our case we blanched a whole cauliflower pre-cut and washed some baby carrots, braised half a red cabbage and cooled it overnight. All veg can be kept overnight in the fridge with some peeled potatoes submerged in water.

Beef Wellington

Ingredients for six people

When buying the fillet steak get the best you can afford. Allow approximately 6oz or 220 g per person and always allow for one extra person.

250g ready-made puff pastry.

1.5kg Aberdeen Angus fillet steak joint trimmed of any fat. Ask for the middle piece, not the tail or head (tournedos)

200g fresh chicken livers

1 small onion and about 15 cup mushrooms

2 cloves of garlic crushed

½ a small glass of Madeira or sweet sherry (100 ml)

Heat a little oil in a large sauté pan on a medium heat. Add the fillet steak and sear for 2-3 minutes on all sides. Place the steak in the fridge.

Chop the onion and mushrooms finely and sauté in the same pan with the garlic until soft. Add the chicken livers and cook gently for a further 4-5 minutes. Add the Madeira and deglaze the pan. Blend the mixture into a rough paste with a generous twist of black pepper and a pinch of salt.

Roll out the pastry quite thinly (about 3mm) into a rectangle. Spread the mushroom mix onto the pastry leaving 3cms free at the edges. Place the steak down the middle of the pastry and fold over to cover the meat like a parcel. Use egg wash or milk to help stick the pastry together; discard any surplus pastry. Place parcel into a pre-heated oven 225°C for about 40-50 minutes or a little longer if you like your beef well done.

The vegetables can be prepared during this time and a simple gravy will accompany the Wellington very nicely. At this point a bottle of Fleurie can be left to breathe and no one would blame you for tasting a little.

When the pastry is golden brown take it out of the oven and leave to rest for 5-10 mins giving enough time to dish the meal up and carve the meat last as a focal point.

Marvellous

Joel

Don't forget you can access all Joel's recipes at www.chefscorner.co.uk

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Children enjoy mess and music at Chestnuts playgroup



Emma Mason entertaining the children during music week

Picture by Anya Brooks

CHESTNUTS playgroup would like to welcome Kate Clark, Julia Catteral, and Nicola Harwood to their hard working team of playgroup assistants. We hope they are settling in well and enjoying their new role.

The children of Chestnuts playgroup would also like to thank Emma Mason who joined them for an exciting session of musicality during music week; this was very much enjoyed by everyone. The week before half-term the topic was messy play, which as the title suggests proved to be an exciting week of creativity.

The children enjoyed painting with cars and thunderbirds, which proved very popular with the boys. There was also a jelly bath, which I had the pleasure of experiencing with some of the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed the freedom of this topic, which encouraged their creative development.

If you would like your child to benefit from this nurturing environment, where the staff encourage your child to express its individuality and develop within a safe, friendly, and stimulating setting, with a huge emphasis on play, places are now available for September.

We are situated in the heart of the village at the Cathodeon Centre; our secure garden provides a safe haven for our children to explore in all weathers.

Our sessions run from 9.30-12noon Monday-Friday with extended lunch sessions until 1.30pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We have strong links with Linton infant school, which is vital in assisting in the transition of our older children, as they prepare to go there in September.

Children are welcome from 2½ years old. Please do not hesitate to contact our admissions' clerk Karen Graves on 891416. We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Jones 891972

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Women's World day of prayer

ON Friday 5th March over three million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women in Cameroon.

Emma Wilcock, president of the national committee of the Women's World day of prayer movement said: "This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote girls' school in Tonga and continuing round the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland."

The Republic of Cameroon is said to be 'Africa in miniature'. It is country of great cultural diversity with more than 240 ethnic groups and languages. The constitution promotes equality between men and women but traditional rights and attitudes discriminate against women in many areas of life. However, giant steps have been taken towards assuring women's rights and women are involved in the struggle for peace, justice and integrity.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend.

The prayer meeting in Linton will be held at the URC at 7pm with refreshments afterwards. For more details contact me
Julia Burdett 893307

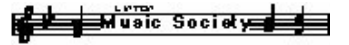
Alysia cooks up a fundraising run

ALYSIA Stevenson, creator of delicious school meals at Granta school in Linton is going to run the London Marathon on Saturday 25th April this year. She is hoping to raise funds for the National Autism Society and also for Friends of Granta School. FOGS spends the money it raises on the special needs children at Granta, buying much needed equipment, taking the children on social outings and providing a forum and support for the whole school community.

If you would like to support Alysia's fantastic effort, please go to www.justgiving.com/granta to donate online. All money donated this way gives gift aid tax back which is worth 28p for every £1 given.

Caroline Ilott 896890

An entrancing evening of music from the Jenkinson Farr Duo



CONTINUING their 50th anniversary season, the Linton music society welcomes the multi-award winning Jenkinson Farr Duo. Katherine Jenkinson (cello) and Alison Farr (piano) met as students at the Royal Academy of Music and have now been playing together for 10 years. During this time, they have become experts in the cello/piano repertoire and have had music composed especially for them. They have played at The Wigmore Hall, St Martin-in-the-fields and the Southbank Centre.

The irresistible programme includes Vivaldi's *Sonata No6 Rv46*, Shostakovich's *Sonata for cello and piano Op 40*, Fauré's *Elegie* and Beethoven's *Sonata in D Major Op 102 No 2*.

"...no matter how varied the techniques and musical expressions required, these grand performers mastered the style with awe-inspiring understanding and amazing phrasing and articulation." said Dr RJ Westwell.

The concert takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday 27th March at Linton village college. Tickets £10, under 16s £2 are available at the door or in advance either by telephoning 893480 or from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street, Linton.

Further information about all concerts and the Linton music society is available on our website at www.linton-music.org.uk

Junior cricket club is ready to welcome you



The U15 squad, coaches, tea ladies and specialist batting coach celebrate after receiving their awards.

Picture by Charlotte Foster.

DESPITE the wintry weather over the last few weekends our young cricketers have been warming up with indoor net training at the village sports centre. Our annual registration morning will be held between 10am and 12.30pm on Saturday 27th March, when players will have the opportunity to sign up for the coming season

and purchase kit. This year we hope to offer a scheme where second-hand kit can be sold on as well as new.

As part of our ongoing efforts to raise funds for the club we held our second race night last May. More than 100 willing punters enjoyed a fish and chip supper, licensed bar and Alan Jones' extraordinary

talents as the evening's commentator and MC whilst watching and betting on the races.

The evening was so successful that by popular demand a further race night has been arranged for Friday 14th May. This year we are hoping to raise money to replace the outdoor nets at the college a project, which will benefit the school and village as a whole. Make sure you book it in your diaries now!

Any offers of help would be welcomed with open arms whether your strength is in helping to organise the event or in securing sponsorship or prizes. We are always looking for new ideas and new input.

For more information please contact me:

Esther Cox 891499
esther_cox@btconnect.com

Local teenager is anti-bullying ambassador

A FOURTEEN-year-old schoolboy from Linton has been appointed as a media ambassador by a national charity set up to tackle bullying.

Charlie Bowden, a student at Linton village college (LVC), was chosen by Beatbullying as a result of his involvement in the cybermentors scheme, which trains young people to support their peers through a social networking website.

The rise of the internet and mobile technology has led to

an increase in cyber-bullying, with young people being bullied by email, text and on internet forums, sometimes making it difficult for victims to escape. The cybermentors scheme aims to challenge this by providing a safe space where people can chat online either to teenage mentors or adult counsellors.

As part of his ambassador's role, Charlie took part in the annual summit meeting of the UK Council for child internet

safety, attended by prime minister Gordon Brown and leading internet providers. He has given interviews to both The Guardian and News of the World, and later this month will be visiting Google to discuss how their web content can be made safer for children and young people.

Charlie is one of more than 50 trained cybermentors at LVC. He visits the Cybermentors website (www.cybermentors.org.uk) several times a

week and even gave up time to chat on Christmas Day. "I don't mind giving a few hours of my time if it helps someone who is lonely or upset about being bullied," he says "It is important to talk to people, to listen to them, to let them know that you are there and to reassure them that they have done nothing wrong and that they are not alone."

Tony Kelly
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The Derbyshire Post



The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Linton at the time of the French revolution and Napoleonic wars

WE have had a very quiet few months at the college. Of course, our students have been their usual lively and enthusiastic selves and teaching and learning has continued as normal but visitors to the site will have been able to hear, for the first time in many months, the blackbirds singing on the walnut tree in the Henry Morris garden and the rooks croaking overhead. This is because they have not been competing with the sound of delivery lorries, diggers and drills. However, the peace and tranquillity we've been enjoying will not last long.

In March, builders return to the campus to move our mobiles and refurbish them to become a temporary staffroom, learning support area and library.

Then during the Easter holiday, the hoardings go up around the old Vic Hallam building (the grotty one made of wood) and then, joy of joys, demolition starts. The Vic Hallam was meant to last 10 years at most. It has served 40+ and seeing it being dismantled will give me great pleasure.

The demolition phase will last a month and then once the site has been cleared, the archaeologists return. They will work throughout May and June and we await their findings with bated breath. When the old Horsa building came down they found a significant Roman dwelling and Neolithic remains, so we are hoping for similar treasures.

In August, archaeology permitting, we begin a 58 week long construction phase. This building work will radically alter the appearance of the college – visitors will enter the college through a new reception area positioned more centrally on the site and new offices will spring up. The students will also benefit from the new social areas and the split-level school library that comes with the build. We will take possession of phase 2, it is anticipated, in September 2011.

So lots to look forward to at the end of a rather noisy tunnel.
Caroline Derbyshire, Principal



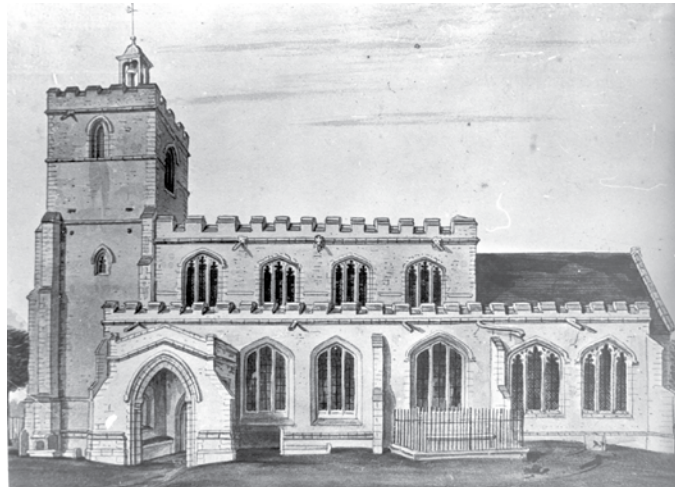
The projected view of the Linton village college site when the building work is completed

Picture supplied by LVC

FROM 1789 to the Great Exhibition of 1851, Edmund Fisher senior and junior were the vicars in Linton and resided in the Great House, now known as Linton House. They played a dominant role in Linton affairs. Linton House became known as the vicarage since there was no house suitable for the vicar at this time. Fisher senior bought the house for £375. He was already vicar of Duxford and in 1764 had married Sarah Trott, the only child of the wealthy Richard Trott of Duxford. Richard Trott owned 1100 acres in Duxford including much of the present airport land.

Two years after the death of his wife in 1787 and within weeks of the death of his father-in-law, Edmund senior moved to Linton with his four children. Mary was 24 years old and Judith 17, Edmund junior 15 and Ann only 13. Mary took over the running of the house and acted as mother to the children.

Linton church was very different from the present building. Above the chancel arch, facing the nave, were a series of boards engraved with gilded letters depicting the ten commandments. Much of the church was in a very poor state. The windows were largely boarded up and there was very little coloured glass. A large three-decker pulpit dominated the nave and it was attached to a large pier on the south side. This pillar contained a staircase leading to the pulpit. You can



Linton church as it would have looked in 1803 and, below, the Fisher memorial plaque

Pictures supplied by Garth Collard



bath and were quite ruthless in arresting potential agitators. Nelson's victory over the larger Franco-Spanish fleet at the Battle of the Nile in 1798 saved England from bankruptcy in 1798 by pro-

still see the outline of the arch if you stand in the south aisle.

The tower was completely blocked off and above the tower arch was the west gallery, rebuilt by Fisher senior in 1789-1790. The royal coat of arms was fixed to the front of this gallery and there was a gilt faced clock above the gallery.

The richer classes feared a French invasion and a blood-

protecting English trade routes in the Mediterranean. All over England the public rejoiced and there were celebrations in Linton on the front lawns of Linton House. The Cambridge Chronicle reported the event; "The celebrations included a firework display the like of which had never been seen in the village". The Fishers were distantly related to Nelson.

Edmund Fisher senior resigned as vicar in March 1800 but lived on in Linton House until his death in March 1819 at the age of 90.

Edmund Fisher junior, the new vicar, was 26 years old and married Mary Collin, the daughter of a Saffron Walden land agent, in April 1800. Edmund junior needed to be more dynamic than his father since the church was now challenged by a vibrant Congregational church led by Thomas Hopkins. Edmund Fisher junior was threatened by the social and revolutionary movements arising from the French wars. He strengthened the church by founding a Sunday school in 1807 and a national day school for pupils aged five – 13 years. He was a JP and dealt harshly with agitators.

Two of Edmund Fisher junior's four children survived him; his sons Richard Trott Fisher and Horatio Nelson Fisher, the latter born in 1806 soon after Trafalgar. Edmund's wife died in 1807 at the age of 27, leaving four children under the age of six. Fisher never remarried and depended in later life on the support of his unmarried daughter Mary. Edmund Fisher junior retired in 1844 and was loved and respected by the whole community. He died in December 1851.

There is a memorial plaque to him in the church. "To the memory of Edmund Fisher, vicar of this parish 1800 – 1844."

Cambridge United's mini kickers are back in training

CAMBRIDGE United youth development mini kickers are back at Linton village college. The sessions, from 10-11am, started on 20th February and will run for 16 weeks, minus the two weeks for Easter. These

sessions are open to boys and girls aged four to six years of all abilities and consist of fun story based games which help to develop the technical ability of each mini kicker.

Promising older players are

given the opportunity to push forward their development within our youth development scheme which consists of 21 centres across Mid-Anglia for ages six to 12 years old.

Anyone interested in

taking part should make contact with Julie at Cambridge United Youth Development, on 729204 or e-mail youth.development@cambridge-united.co.uk

Julie Ankers

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/1908/09/F Cambridge Constabulary, 29 High Street, Linton. Alterations to outbuilding. Conversion of existing garage/store to garage, garden room, shower room and guest room/study space.
- S/1909/09/F Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Fire Station, Balsham Road, Linton. Part change of use of Linton Fire Station to provide an office for the police, render to side of door.
- S/0042/10/F Highcliffe Properties Ltd, Land to the north of 20 Back Road, Linton. Erection of bungalow and garage (to extend the time limit for implementation).
- S/0133/10/F Mr Roy Palmer, 115 High Street, Linton. Extension
- S/0144/10/F Mr Philip Murray, 21 Parsonage Way, Linton. Loft conversion with dormers and roof windows.

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Deadline reminder

A LAST reminder that the deadlines for the April issue has changed as follows:
Ads 8th March, articles 12th March.

The earlier you send your articles to me the more likely they are to go into the paper. This issue is very full and several pictures have been left out.

Editor

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Parish Council Matters

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

A recent member...

AS I write this I will have been part of the parish council team for nine months. I am also 'new' to Linton village - having only lived here three years! Many of you may not know me and I would like to introduce myself. I'm originally from London and have also lived in Yorkshire and Surrey. I am now settled very happily in Linton, near to my family, and have made lovely friends through some of the many excellent clubs, associations and activities that thrive here.

I studied Fine Art and History of Art at university and taught both adults and secondary pupils. After a few years I developed an interest in pupils

with learning difficulties and returned to university to work for an advanced diploma in special educational needs. I then taught teenagers with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties in residential schools. A tough job, but at times extremely rewarding, especially when ex pupils, years later, returned to thank me. I was also a child protection officer and served on the board of governors at my last school.

After 26 years I retired from teaching and concentrated more on art and photography, having studied for a licentiate-ship to the Royal Photographic Society. But I've only just bought a digital camera! And

have yet to get to grips with the technology! Gardening became a great interest and one of the most exciting times in my life was creating and winning a medal for designing a courtyard garden at the Chelsea Flower Show during the millennium. And now I probably have the smallest yard in the whole of Linton!

A completely different and moving experience for me was going to Tamilnadu, Southern India, just after the horrific tsunami disaster in 2004. 8,000 residents were killed and 50,000 displaced. I went with the Kings World Trust helping rebuild the fishing village of Kuthankuli and provide neces-

sary equipment for the villagers' livelihood.

I also travelled around three other states to help and see the work going on in children's homes, schools, colleges and an old people's day centre. I learnt a great deal and it was a time I shall never forget.

I was co-opted onto the parish council and am slowly learning about the many roles and responsibilities this entails. It's been an interesting time with the ongoing wind farm and village green debates/situations and also being part of the open spaces and planning teams. This is a lovely thriving village and I hope to serve you well.

Cllr Trysha Hunt

Camping Close

THE parish council's application to register Camping Close as our village green has now been advertised. There has been just one objection received, from Cambridgeshire County Council, essentially in their capacity as Education Authority. The county council's countryside access team, though, have been very helpful.

The objection has been submitted because the county council does not accept that the land has been used as the parish council application claims - namely for sports, events, games, pastimes and general recreation activities such as picnics and dog walking over the last 20 years and more. They also say that these activities have only taken place over part of Camping Close, and generally with the consent of the county council or the school.

The parish council is pursuing the application, which could possibly lead to a public inquiry. We would like to submit further evidence, so we would ask as many residents as possible to complete evidence questionnaires confirming that they have been using Camping Close, especially over the last 20 years or so, for recreation of any sort. Just pop into the parish council office or leave a message or an email and we will send you a form to complete. We would also be interested in copies of any photos or films of you using Camping Close. The more evidence we can compile, the greater the chance that the Education Authority will think again, so that a public enquiry can be avoided.

Parish Council

...So what is a parish council?

BEING a new councillor I realised that perhaps some people may not know what our parish council does. For example - young people grow up and start to develop an interest in their communities; but what is what? Hopefully I can try and explain some of it here.

It is vital our community understands and supports the parish council.

We are part of three tiers of local government - Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council then the parish council. The parish council is the closest tier of local government to the people, to you, to Linton. We try to maintain a close relationship with the village and are here for the general benefit of the community.

The parish council deals with many aspects of community life.

We are responsible for the Cemetery and some of the public open spaces including the Recreation ground, Leadwell Meadows and the Glebe Land. We support local groups and clubs financially where possible. We suggest street names for new developments and

maintain public seats and bus shelters. The new bus shelter and seat by the Swan bridge was provided after a request from Linton's Women's Institute. The seat is enjoyed by young and old.

There are 15 councillors and most importantly the parish clerk who provides administrative support for the council's activities. One of the responsibilities of the clerk is to advise the council on whether its decisions are lawful and to recommend ways in which decisions can be implemented.

Within the parish council are two sub committees, finance and planning. The planning committee is notified of any planning applications affecting Linton and we are able to make comments which the planning authority must take into account.

Then there are 18 working groups, e.g. open spaces, A1307, recreation ground and rights of way are just four.

And finally there are council representatives for another 14 aspects of our village life - police liaison, wildlife, village hall, Cathodeon centre and public transport to name just

a few. So, where does the money come from to do these things? The main finance comes from a small levy made on our council tax. This is currently called the precept. Other monies come from various fees and grants etc.

Councillors are unpaid representatives but the clerk is employed to carry out its business.

You can attend council meetings as observers - every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting in the Cathodeon centre to 'Have your say.' Then there's an annual parish meeting where all residents may attend and raise issues of local concern.

An agenda, outlining business to be discussed, and the minutes are displayed on three parish council notice boards (you'll find one outside the village hall, one on the Swan bridge and one at the bottom of Parsonage Way) and on the website. The office (above the village hall) is also open every morning where you are very welcome.

Cllr Trysha Hunt

?? The red telephone box ??



Trysha Hunt questioning the future use of our iconic red telephone kiosks

Picture by Bel Griffiths

NOW that virtually everyone owns a mobile telephone or a land line the red public payphones are disappearing rapidly through lack of use. But they have become cultural icons along with the red double-decker buses, black taxis, The Beatles and cucumber sandwiches! The architect Giles Gilbert Scott was their designer - the first in 1920 was called the K1. The K3 appeared in 1929 and the K6 in 1935. Scott also designed Battersea Power Station, now Tate Modern; the new Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and closer to home, the University Library in Cambridge.

The parish council are adopting, for £1 each, our two Grade 2 Listed telephone boxes in Church Lane and High Street, near Market Lane. BT has informed us they are not used sufficiently and will remove the telephony service, but there is the possibility they will be retained in the ownership of BT.

So, what do you think we should do with them? Boxes may become history so why not use them to show something of the history of Linton - a small museum?

Other parishes have used them for art installations or notice boards and in Somerset one village turned theirs into a small library after losing their mobile one. Over 100 books were stocked. Users simply stock it with a book they have read, swapping for one they have not. The children in another village created historical manikins from the past to stand in their boxes.

In the age of the cell phone the beloved kiosks can find new significance as a cultural icon. Tell us your ideas! (The parish council post box is on the railings outside the village hall.) Or write to the Linton News with suggestions.

Cllr Trysha Hunt

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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 7th January 2010.

Present: Ms E Cornell (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), Dr B Cox, M Gee, A Gore, B Hammett, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from councillor Williams.

Reports from co-ordinators:

Open Spaces: Cllr Bald reported that she was seeking approval from the Environment Agency to plant the areas adjacent to Stanton's Lane bridge. Cllr Gore requested that the gaps along the new footpath at the bottom of Granta Leys be filled by planting.

Recreation ground: Discussion took place regarding the removal of graffiti on the tarmac area using chemicals. It was agreed to wait until the spring, as the frost could possibly break down the paint, which was the recommendation from the district council.

Rights-of-way: The clerk confirmed that no comments had been received regarding the proposed changes.

Venture playground: Cllr Hammett reported that the new play equipment was due to be installed from 25th January and that it would take two weeks. Concerns were raised regarding the possible damage to the Recreation ground at this time of the year. Cllr Hammett would be liaising with the contractor.

Glebe Land: Cllr Rossiter reported that she had cut down a dead tree.

Churchyard: Cllr Cox proposed that the council bear the cost of the planning application fees to rebuild the flint wall up to a maximum of £100. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Rossiter and agreed by the meeting.

Cllr Cox reported that Atlas Tree Surgery hoped to commence work to remove the limes later in the month. He confirmed that two holly trees and one rowan would be planted in their place.

A1307: Cllr Bald proposed that the council takes on the maintenance of any newly planted hedges. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Rossiter and agreed by the meeting.

Cllr Cornell reported that the A1307 group had met and a report would follow.

Allotments: A copy of a letter sent to the district council from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners had been received. It detailed and confirmed that a clear audit trail had been carried out. Cllr Cornell reiterated that the council would again be writing to landowners with a plea for land. It was agreed to include a timescale for response.

Wind farm appeal:

Discussion took place to consider whether the council should engage an independent highways officer to commission a report. It was felt that as the majority of residents were opposed to the wind farm this expenditure could be justified. Cllr Cornell would contact other local parish councils to ensure that they were not commissioning a report too.

Cllr Bald proposed that an independent highways officer be engaged to commission a report up to the cost of £1000. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hickford. A vote took place with nine votes in favour, one against and two abstentions. Proposal carried.

Correspondence received and for discussion:

A letter of objection had been received from the county council regarding the parish council's application to register land known as Camping Close as a village green. Cllrs Cornell, Bald and Hickford and the clerk had met with Stephen Thoday of the county council on 5th January to discuss this objection and to clarify the situation. It had been wrongly reported that the application would definitely go to a full inquiry. No decision had yet been taken and any decision to go to inquiry would be made at officer level in March. If the application was to go to inquiry the case would not be heard until towards the end of the year. It was felt that the objection was rather woolly and only a holding objection. It was agreed to write requesting the precise nature of the objection. Cllr Bald confirmed that the council needed to focus on the last 20 years of use for further evidence.

The county council was planning a bulk purchase of salt bins which were available to order at a reduced cost. Cllr Hickford proposed that seven bins be ordered. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gee and agreed by the meeting. The likely locations, depending on approval by the county council highways department, would be in the area of Swan Bridge, the bottom of Coles Lane, the Lonsdale area, the entrance to the Woodlands, the area by the Church, the green outside Linton Heights junior school and the bottom of Joiners Road at the junction with the Market Lane footpath.

The clerk reported that no progress had been made regarding the adoption of telephone kiosks.

It was agreed to forward the letter from the district council regarding 'The Big Tidy Up' campaign to local groups to see if they were interested in participating.

Reports from councillors (for information only):

Cllr Cox reported that complaints had been received regarding the use of the public notice boards to advertise long term activities which were taking up space for one off events.

Cllr Potter reported that a soffit on the pavilion was still in need of being replaced and three roof tiles were broken.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
Cambridge CB21 4JS Tel: 891001

Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry

Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

**Office hours: Monday 9am–12noon, and
4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon**

Or by appointment

Dates for full council meetings:

March 4th and 18th, April 8th and 22nd 2010

All meetings held at the Cathodeon centre following the public forum commencing at 8pm

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 21st January 2010.

Present: Ms E Cornell (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), Dr B Cox, A Gore, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Mrs J Williams and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor and Mrs K France (press) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Gee, Hammett, Hickford and district councillor Bear.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January:

Cllr Bald reported that approval had been received from the Environment Agency for planting by the Stanton's Lane bridge.

In relation to the wind farm appeal the clerk reported that it would not be possible to hire a highways consultant due to the tight timescale.

Cllr Bald reported that noise maps from the consultant employed by Uttlesford District Council had just been received stating that turbine noise levels at 40 decibels, which is in excess of the limit recommended by the World Health Authority, were predicted to affect 270 homes in Linton. As yet no recordings for turbines of the size planned for Linton were available. Further investigation would be required.

Cllr Bald reported that the planning application S/1255/09/F for a dwelling at 7 Bakers Lane had been approved despite objections from residents and the parish council. However 17 conditions had been imposed on the application one of which was 'No development shall commence until public footpath no.24, Linton, has been satisfactorily diverted under S.257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. (Reason - to ensure that the proposed new route of the footpath is acceptable to the highway authority and

to the public). Clarification was being sought. Councillors were asked to monitor the situation to ensure that all conditions were being met.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues:

Cllr Cornell had attended the recent Neighbourhood Police Panel meeting in Fulbourn. She reported that criminal damage had increased in Linton although many people lacked confidence in the police and did not report all instances.

Report from the county councillor:

Cllr Batchelor reported that the county must reduce its budget by 35% over the next three years and all services were under threat. One million pounds had been added for additional costs for highways maintenance. Capital bids to resurface the High Street and Coles Lane had been unsuccessful.

Report from the district councillors:

Cllr Batchelor reported that residents of Crabtree Croft were being offered security lighting.

An interim injunction had been served which challenged the legality of the wind farm appeal. This may result in a delay to the start of the enquiry. The timetable of events was still to be determined. Cllr Cornell confirmed that the parish council had registered to speak on community concerns and the A1307.

The notes from the district council liaison meeting on 25th November were discussed. These included changes to Section 106 agreements brought about by the Recreation and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document. The new document means that a planning gain of approximately £3000, depending on the size of the house, will be paid for each house built. This excludes affordable housing. The money must be spent on recreation facilities which can include allotments and play equipment.

Written reports from council representatives:

A report on Highway Maintenance Recycling had been received from Cllr Hunt.

Correspondence received and for discussion:

Cllr Gore reported that he and the clerk had met with Magnus McManus of Kester Cunningham John (solicitors) to explain the council's position on the proposed lease of Coles Lane car park. Mr McManus would be negotiating directly with the district council.

Cllr Bald proposed that the council grant permission to Mr V Harris for use of the Recreation ground for his fun fair from 19th to 22nd May inclusive. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and agreed by the meeting.

Reports from councillors (for information only):

Cllr Rossiter requested permission to plant shrubs on the bank by the steps to Dolphin Close. The clerk replied that permission would also be required from the county council as the landowner.

The clerk reported that new locations for some of the proposed salt bins would need to be sought. Bins could not be sited for use on a road that was already on the gritting list, and must be placed on county council land. The highways officer had reiterated that it was an offence to use this supply to grit pavements etc.

Cllr Cornell reported that she had received a cine film that had already been converted to DVD for the film archive, it showed the floods and carnival of 1968.

Cllr Linsdell asked of Cllr Cox if he had had any success in determining the position regarding the flood survey. He replied no progress had been made but he was still investigating.

Cllr Bald reported that an art bus would be parked outside the Art Gallery on 7th and 8th May in conjunction with the Children's Book Festival.

Note: Copies of the full minutes, reports and documents referred to above can be inspected at the parish council office.

Parish councillor vacancies

There are two vacancies on the parish council for councillors. If you are interested and would like more information please contact the parish council office.



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