



The Linton News team wishes all our readers a very Happy New Year

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THE LINTON NEWS

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Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time comes to Linton

LINTON and district Gardening club will host Gardeners' Question Time on Monday, 25th January as the programme is recorded for BBC Radio 4.

Gardeners' Question Time is a radio institution that has been running for over 60 years, nearly as long as our club! Over the years it has answered well over 30,000 questions. The panel members have been guests of a variety of gardening clubs and other groups, including Leyhill Open Prison, the Palace of Westminster and a nudist club in Wales.

On 25th January, the panel will be John Cushnie who has been answering gardeners' questions for 39 years, Anne Swithinbank who trained at the Royal

Botanic Gardens, Kew and now writes for magazines and Matthew Wilson who was curator at RHS Hyde Hall before he moved to become head of site and Curator at RHS Harlow Carr in 2004. The chairman will be Eric Robson.

In addition to the usual gardening Q&A session, when aired, this programme will also feature a visit to the Winter Gardens at Cambridge University Botanic Gardens.

The recording will start at 6.45pm at Linton village college. All are welcome to come and join us.

Tickets cost just £2.50 and this will include a drink. Tickets are available from the club secretary, Kirsten Newble on 892425. They will also be available



The Gardeners' Question Time team

Picture supplied by Somethinelse productions on behalf of Radio 4

at the club's regular meeting at 7.30pm on 12th January in the village hall.

On the night, doors will open at 5.30pm to ticket holders.

If you would like to ask a question please write it on your ticket and post it in the marked box as you enter, for it to be considered. You will know before the

recording starts if your question has been chosen for the panel to answer.

Kirsten Newble 892425

lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

We still need an editor

In fact, we urgently need an editor and less urgently we need a subeditor.

Once again I have to inform you that unless someone comes forward, willing to take on this quite busy, but very rewarding rôle, there will very soon be no Linton News.

From comments that the team receive regularly, we understand that you do read and enjoy this paper and we would like it to continue but we need help.

I have edited the LN for over five years and am caretaking the job for the moment but I cannot continue for much longer. Please, please I am sure there must be someone in Linton who can take this on.

This position would actually suit a person with limited mobility, who enjoys talking to people and using their computer, either playing games, searching the internet, writing or just communicating or researching. You do not have to come to us; we can come to you.

You will be supplied with all the tools you need, including a computer and training, and there is lots of support. The team does not actually bite you know!!!

I look forward hopefully to hearing from you. Editor, 891626 or e-mail lneditor@linton.info

Running for Children in Need



Lewis and David at the start of their run for a very good cause.

Picture supplied by Dawn Creek

BACK in October two local lads, Lewis Clarke and David Creek, decided to raise some money for Children in Need.

They came up with the idea of running from Linton to Cambridge. It was decided that they would run from Balsham Road in Linton to the JJB Sportswear shop in Cambridge, along the Roman road; a distance of approximately 11.8 miles.

The selected day in November dawned bright and sunny and David and Lewis set off at a good pace along the Balsham Road, past the scrap yard and Chilford Hall entrance to the Roman road. Along the Roman road they progressed to Fulbourn, through the village of Fulbourn, down Coldhams Lane and on to JJB Sports Wear. They arrived hot and sweaty and tired but sure in the knowledge that they had done their bit raising money for a good cause.

Between them they raised approximately £300 for Children in Need.

David and Lewis would like to thank all their sponsors, family and friends for their support.

Dawn Creek, Proud Mother of David

THE Linton News team is always delighted to hear of challenges taken, money raised and other interesting things that villagers have done. Please contact us at lneditor@linton.info or tel 891626. We also have some CRB checked photographers and if we have enough notice and someone is free, we can always help you to write an article. We look forward to hearing more about you in 2010.

Editor

All jazzed up; Linton WI in party mood

OUR last stroll took us to Ashdon, which means the hill of the trees. Tony Everitt guided us around the village and over the gently rolling countryside.

There is a field near the church said to be the site of the deserted mediaeval village of old Ashdon which fell into disuse after the 1348 Plague. Fire was set to the buildings to destroy the 'evil' and a new village took shape further afield, but a few timber framed homes remain.

Inside the church you can search for two little mice carved into the lectern and chair by the famous mouse man of Kilburn, Robert Thompson. We didn't see her, but the former manse has an old pond named The Lady Well, said to be haunted by the ghost of a lady who drowned when lightning frightened her horses.

The stroll ended at the quaint museum for coffee and excellent home-made cakes. This is a fabulous place, showing life

through more than four centuries drawn from the immediate area. Do go!

Our talented local jazz artist, Karen Sanderson, entertained us by playing her flute and singing after a delicious Christmas dinner created by some of the members. A big thank you to the chefs for an excellent meal. Later Karen had everyone singing with her.

The acoustics in the village hall are really quite amazing; it was beautiful to hear. Karen helped to form the Linton jazz band in 1998 and also teaches music in Haverhill. The band plays a mixture of jazz, blues, funk and anything in between.

It was lovely to have Jean Coxall, county chair, Ann Bullman, county treasurer and Ruth Bond, the WI national chair, as our guests. Ruth was declared the 10th most powerful person in the UK by Country Life magazine last September and the second most influential woman after our Queen. To quote Country Life "...this superwoman's particular bag

is Green Issues and the eradication of hazardous chemicals... Prince Charles and Tony Blair know the WI isn't to be messed with."

The next WI stroll will be on Thursday 21st January around Balsham with Jenny Gooch. Meet 10am at Dog and Duck.

The WI lunch club will meet at 12.30pm on Thursday 28th

January at the Dog and Duck.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd February featuring Coastal Wildlife; a talk by Barry Kaufman-Wright, a wildlife liaison officer. This is an open meeting.

Gentlemen and guests very welcome, there will be a small charge.

Trysha Hunt



Ruth Bond, WI national chair, shares a joke with Linton WI president, June Bunn

Picture by Bel Griffiths

Too good for jumble ...

SPECIAL for the new year, we have a modern white painted wooden swinging cradle on offer - in perfect condition. There are also some timber planks - 3 x 12ft 10in long and 2 x 8ft 6in long. They are all 6in wide x 1in deep.

The Proteam heated ailer raised £10 for St Mary's church and the TV stand made £15 for the Beavers.

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

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

The Bard of Linton

SOON it will be May the third
So why not vote for me?
I'd give you sunshine every day
And be a good MP

Free wine and beer for everyone
I promise this is true,
Raise your pension and your wage
All this I'll bring to you

Can it be done so easily?
I hear you all complain
No need to worry, I'll soon forget
When I'm on the gravy train



Aladdin ends an exciting year



LAST year ended with such excitement. Our Christmas production was out of this world as aliens crash-landed in school to hear about the story of Christmas.

The staff and I were all extremely proud of the children who were patient during the umpteen rehearsals and they all remembered their lines and dances. Well done!

My thanks go to the catering staff who excelled themselves this year cooking 142 delicious Christmas lunches for the children and then the following week accommodating four tables of diners from the community.

This year we had an alternative to the usual Christmas party as we were treated to a pantomime (funded by PSA). Aladdin, performed by Chaplins, was fantastic. The children screamed, shouted and sang to their hearts' content.

As if a pantomime was not enough, there was a surprise appearance from Father Christmas. The presents were well received by the children – I think Mr Coxall, our caretaker, is quite taken with the football table.

Just when you thought we couldn't possibly fit anything extra into the term, the Year One classes held an Oscar ceremony and ball. The children were presented with gold trophies



He's behind you: children join in the panto performance
Picture by Louise Clark

which they made for something they were proud of this term.

At this point, I want to thank all the staff and volunteers at the school for such dedication and hard work in providing these experiences for the children.

Moving into 2010, we wish you a happy new year from all of us at the school. The value of the month is happiness. Over the course of the month we will be looking at what makes us happy as well as how we can spread happiness. One way we are hoping to do this is by inviting you all to the Kings' Day event on 6th January when we celebrate Epiphany. The Bishop of Huntingdon will join us for the day. If you want to share the happiness, please join us – see the poster on our school website or the noticeboard on the fence outside the school for details.
Louise Clark, Headteacher

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Get back into shape

LINTON'S sports centre has a busy programme to keep you fit and active over the winter months and get you back into shape after Christmas.

The week starts with Dynamic Gymnastics for all ages on Mondays from 4-7pm. To book contact Nicky Lindsell on 892215 or Diane Clark on 890251.

Tennis sessions take place from 4-7pm. To book call Robert Jeffs on 07906 814108 or 01440 730069 or email robjeffs@googlemail.com

There are also karate classes from 7.30-8.30pm. To book call Alysia Stevenson on 07896 555524.

Tuesdays see Tae Kwon-Do evenings from 6-8pm. The person to contact is Jason Newton on 07745 436806.

Then on Wednesdays there are tennis sessions from 4-7pm. Again the contact is Robert Jeffs and the details are as above.

You can bounce back into shape with the Cangaroos trampolining club from 6.15-7.15pm and 7.15-8.15pm at our new gym. To book call Neil Pike on 07710 168869 or visit the website ww.cangaroos.org

Thursdays host the All For One fencing club from 3.15-4pm and 4-4.45pm. To book, call Sarah Paveley on 07837 933603 or email sarahpaveley@re-member.org.uk.

There are more Tae Kwon-Do sessions from 6-8pm. Contact Jason Newton on 07745 436806.

There is also more tennis with Mike's Tennis Academy for 11-14-year-olds from 6-7pm. All abilities are welcome. To book contact 07766 223528.

Finally on Sundays, there is badminton for ages eight to 16 from 10am-1pm. To book call Helen Critchell on 07748 984536.

**The sports centre will be closed on New Year's Day and will open again from 8am-5pm on Saturday 2nd January, from 8am-3pm on Sunday 3rd January and from 7.30am-10pm on Monday 4th January.*

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Travelling ACEs are back on the road again

THE ACEs were on their travels again on 9th December – a coach outing to Bury St Edmunds.

In crisp autumnal weather, with a low sun accentuating the rolling countryside, we took the scenic route past Ickworth. As we passed the open prison (threats to drop off anyone misbehaving) we considered previous occupants with some merriment.

Coming in to Bury past the brewery and priory, some decided to spend their time exploring the historic town. Most wanted to complete their Christmas preparations, and headed towards the market and the many excellent shops.

Cynthia and Linda were

hunting for small gifts to show the clients of the mobile warden scheme that we were thinking of them all. Our excursion resulted in an impressive array of bags, holly wreaths and other intriguing shopping – there might be some surprises on Christmas day.

The next meeting will be the annual fund-raiser (once known as 'Sherry and Shortbread'), from 10.30am-1pm, on Saturday 16th January at the village hall.

There will be stalls, an information stand, bring and buy, a raffle, and tombola. The entrance fee includes light refreshments, tea, coffee ... or perhaps something a little more warming?

This will be to help finance the work of the mobile warden – the other part of the ACEs charity.

This scheme is for folk who do not qualify for formal care services, giving regular contact and support helping them to remain living independently in their own homes.

There are currently a few spaces, so if you know anyone who might benefit from a little extra care, please let me know.

Call Enid on 891069 or Anne/Sue on 891001, and let us know if you need a lift. We welcome everyone to our event and wish you all a happy new year.

Enid Bald

Our pupils are wonderful

AFTER an exciting autumn term where the adults at Linton Heights started to develop our work with values, the pupils have much to look forward to in 2010 when they examine a different value each month.

Our early steps into working explicitly with values have been incredibly inspiring and motivating for all involved.

Adults as well as pupils continue to come up with such exciting ideas about developing our values-based school and celebrating our successes. We look forward to being able to share these with you as we walk through 2010.

As a lead in to this concept, we started to work with our pupils in December to instil the fact that they are

wonderful children.

Following three assemblies on the themes of wonderful people and our wonderful world, we invited the children to sign a board in the hall that said: "I am wonderful".

The great thing was that we nearly ran out of space for the children and adults to sign. This was such progress because, at the first of the three assemblies when the children were asked to put their hands up if they thought that they were wonderful, only about a quarter of them did.

Having given them the chance to talk about the lovely things that they do for each other, about 85% had put their hands up by the end of the assembly. Anyone who has ever spent any time at

Linton Heights knows what a good school it is and that values form an intrinsic part of the our daily life here.

Our overt examination and celebration of these values has already had such an impact on the adults by strengthening the feeling of community.

If we can achieve this in such a short space of time, we look forward to seeing the impact that values-education will have on our pupils too.

For those who may be wondering, the 10 values chosen by the pupils, staff, parents and governors are: love, caring, respect, happiness, friendship, honesty, responsibility, trust, cooperation and understanding.

Jennifer Malone,
Headteacher

La Pipelette (Chatterbox)

*Petit papa Noël,
Quand tu descendras du ciel avec tes jouets par milliers, n'oublie pas mon petit soulier ...
voilà la chanson que nous chantons à Noël:*

Noël, c'est quand Jésus est né, le 24 décembre de l'année zéro, je crois; s'il vivait encore, il aurait 2009 ans. J'aime bien aller prier à l'église pour dire merci pour les cadeaux que nous avons, et il faut penser aussi à ceux qui n'ont rien dans leur petit soulier. Alors à Noël, il faut aussi partager le plaisir d'avoir des cadeaux.

A bientôt et Bonne Année 2010.

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Readers write...Readers write...Readers...

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.

My respect for John Larcombe

Dear Editor
By chance I came across a story in your publication relating to an old school friend, Mr John Larcombe, who died tragically in a plane crash over France in 1990.

John and I attended Colwyn Bay grammar school back in the early 50s and his wife Marianne was the daughter of the landlord of our local pub, The Mountain View.

I was informed of John's tragic death by a mutual friend and I was reminded of a chat we had in The View when on leave from National Service.

I was about to be posted to Germany and John came up with the idea of my hitching a lift at weekends in a two-seater jet fighter to RAF Valley near where we lived. It never came to fruition since I was to remain in the UK for the rest of my service.

By coincidence, Marianne and I both became journalists.

The recognition of John's bravery by the village in France is somewhat fitting for a friend who had my deepest respect.

Elwyn Edwards, by e-mail
Formerly of Mochdre, Colwyn Bay

Happy Christmas from Clare

Dear Editor
I was sad to read that the new editor is having to stand down and sincerely hope someone else will come forward to take over.

It would be a terrible shame if the Linton News should cease to exist. It is now almost four years since I left Linton but I receive and read avidly my copy which is so kindly sent to me each month. I pass it on to another couple who also used to live in Linton and are now only about 10 miles from Holton, so you can see it is really appreciated.

Christmas is approaching fast so may I take this opportunity to wish all of the Linton News team plus the numerous friends I made in Linton an especially happy Christmas.

Perhaps I shall see some of you next year, when winter is over and visits are more easily made. We are only a few miles from Southwold, so if you are visiting let us know. If it is a coach load, give us ample warning; our bungalow is not very large!!

Clare Neville
Holton, Halesworth

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
I would like to say an enormous thank you to all the people who helped to support the concert given by Geoffrey Pratley, Peter O'Connor and me at St Botolph's church in Hadstock on 25th October. Over 70 people attended which enabled more than £500 to be raised for the fabric funds of St Botolph's church and the Friends of St Mary's church, Linton. Also, a number of people helped with ticket sales, cake baking, flower arranging, IT support, etc, and I would like you to know your efforts were greatly appreciated in making this such a successful event.

Sally Plummer, by e-mail

Don't be caught out by these fake prize draws and lottery scams

YOU are contacted about enticing odds in foreign lotteries. You may even be told you've already won! You just have to pay to get your prize or collect your winnings.

Unexpected winnings

Every day, people throughout the UK open their post, receive a telephone call, turn on their computers or switch on their mobile phones to find they have unexpectedly won an exciting prize in a draw, lottery, sweepstake or other form of promotion. While very few of these approaches are legitimate, others are a dishonest attempt to trap you into parting with your money.

Many common scams take the form of a fake prize draw or lottery scam designed to trick the unwary. Scams are usually based outside the UK, although they may use UK post office or mail boxes.

How do they work?

Typical scams may:
Offer access to a winning ticket or the prize in a bogus draw or fake lottery, or membership of a lottery syndicate in return for an 'administration' or 'registration' fee.

Require a purchase of some kind to receive a prize.
Require you to use a premium rate telephone number.
Suggest that there is a very short time in which to respond to claim your prize or winnings.

Require you to provide personal or financial information
Contain an invitation to send money out of the country, particularly to the Netherlands, Spain or Canada, by money transfer, or list the prizes in foreign currency.

More often than not, there is no prize or reward on offer. Anything that is 'won' is usually sub-standard, overpriced or misleadingly described and worth much less than the requested fee.

To avoid becoming a lottery scam or fake prize draw victim, remember these points:

Ask yourself 'How could I win a lottery prize if I haven't bought a ticket?'

Usually, if you win something you don't have to pay anything to receive your prize

Once you respond to bogus promotions, your name and address is likely to be placed on other lists for similar scams

Never reveal credit card or bank account details unless absolutely sure who you're dealing with. These details may be asked for as 'identification'.

Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it usually is!

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 1st February 2010
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 11th January
NEWS ITEMS Friday 15th January

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

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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 to enrol	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
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
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

For sports centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248

JANUARY

2	NO Farmers' market	
4	Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
3	Sing in the new year, 2.30pm	Lothbury centre, Weston Colville
5	WI 7.30pm	VH
6	Reading Group	Dog & Duck
7	Luncheon club, 12.15pm	The Crown
7	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
9	Friends' of St Mary's coffee and mince pies, 11am	VH
9	Late Christmas party, 7.15pm	Chilford Hall
11	Adult education classes start	
12	VIP meeting, 1pm	Chalklands CC
12	Beginners dance course, 7pm	Linton Heights
12	Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
13	Explore yoga, 7pm	Lothbury centre, Weston Colville
14	Improvers/intermediate dance course, 7pm	Linton Heights
16	ACEs annual fundraiser, 10.30am-1pm	VH
16	Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
16	CAMTAD, hearing help, 9.30am-12noon	Health centre
21	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
23	Lib Dem jumble sale, 2pm	VH
25	Gardeners' Question Time, from 5.30pm	LVC
30	Friends' of St Mary's winter lunch, 12.30pm	Chalklands CC

FEBRUARY

1	WI 7.30pm	VH
1	Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
3	Reading Group	Dog & Duck
4	Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
6	Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
9	VIP meeting, 1pm	Chalklands CC

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: 5th, 18th January and 1st February
Recycling collection: 11th, 25th January

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THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

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

THE expenses sheet for Julie Spence, chief constable of Cambridgeshire constabulary, shows that an average of almost £200 per week has been made available for such important things as art and flowers.

It is heartening to know that such a healthy pool of funds is available to our county's policing. The selling-off of the village police station will have alarmed many, as the sale of any organisation's assets usually indicates that they are in dire financial straits. Clearly, this is not the case at all, if the Cambridgeshire force can afford such luxuries on just a single member of its team.

While they pontificate over the pros and cons of a possible share of the fire station site, I wonder if, perhaps, they would like to consider the possibility of directing some of their excess funds our way? If the chief constable's bonus – sorry, expenses – could be trimmed, it would go part of the way to cover the salary of another constable.

Any change could be used to look into ways of policing our streets 24 hours a day. I appreciate that would entail some night shifts, but their time won't be wasted as a significant number of incidents seem to occur during the hours of darkness, when Linton effectively has no policing at all. Our PCSOs do a tremendous job, but are not permitted to work overnight, even though they know it is sometimes when they are needed most.

When a call is made to the police at night, resulting in the attendance of one or two of their officers, a lot of time passes until they appear as they have to come from either Sawston or Cambridge. Clearly, when there are no crimes to investigate during quieter periods, it could be seen that employing a constable is a waste of money. However, he or she can be put to good use by filling in the 15 or so forms that need completing each time a member of the day shift spots someone blowing their nose in a disorderly fashion.

With an election year looming, we can expect a lot of hyperbole from our politicians about how they 'hear what the man and woman on the street wants' with regard to more bobbies on the beat. However, haven't we heard all that before? The current regime assures us that there are more beat officers than ever before and that crime has fallen steadily since they took office. That may be true for the cities and other centres of population, but it doesn't seem that way in the more rural areas of the UK where, incidentally, their voters are rather thin on the ground.

If the village policeman/woman really is a thing of the past, then a complete overhaul of rural policing needs to be undertaken by whoever forms the next government. The 9 to 5 cover isn't enough for a village of this size, and Ms Spence would do well

to invest more time and money in the period when some of us would prefer to be sleeping, rather than dealing with drunken yobs tipping over wheelie bins and damaging cars.

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Can you lend a wheel to the less mobile?

THE Helping Hands service has been active in the community since 1985.

At the recent AGM, the co-ordinators for Linton and Abington reported an increased demand for the service in the last year. The overall number of drivers in the pool has fallen and new drivers are urgently required. Whilst retired people do offer a little spare time, age is usually unimportant.

Drivers give their time free but are paid an allowance of 40p per mile to cover petrol costs. Our co-ordinators organise lifts by allocating drivers to people who need help to get around, have mobility problems, or are very isolated. A minimum of 24 hours

notice of journeys is required from passengers. Emergency journeys only are covered at weekends.

Drivers need approval from their insurance company to undertake this work and Helping Hands provides the necessary forms.

Passengers are conveyed by drivers to and from their destination, and the service covers local hospital trips, health and day care centres, dental and optical appointments, shopping etc.

If you are willing to help as a volunteer/driver please contact Alex Todd, chairman Linton Helping Hands on 892979, or Bruce Conochie, co-ordinator on 894460.

Alex Todd

Linton Granta playgroup opens its new doors



With a little help, a few of the children perform the official opening ceremony

Picture by Vanessa Webb

LINTON Granta playgroup celebrated the opening of its new purpose built facilities on Tuesday 1st December. The children held a celebratory lunch with the parents; a good time and lots of food was had by all.

We even managed to do a bit of fund-raising as well. A big thank you to Michelle, Sam, Anna, T, Sarah and Janine for an excellent Grand Opening. More details to follow next month.

Linette Manns

E H Wilson, the Chinese gooseberry man



GEOFF Hales' Travelling Theatre entertained at the gardening club's Christmas meeting in December with his production telling the story of E H Wilson's four expeditions to China hunting for plants.

Wilson trained at Kew before being sent by them to China in search of the handkerchief tree. Upon finding the only place where the tree had previously been sighted he asked where it was. The owner of the garden pointed towards the beams in the nearby house! Not an encouraging start to a plant hunting career. Fortunately he continued his search and went on to find more handkerchief trees which yielded seeds. During this search he discovered his Chinese gooseberry, which we know as a kiwi fruit.

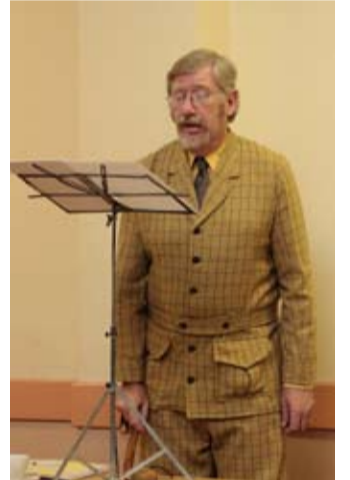
The first trip took him three years. When he returned he got married before turning tail back to China, this time in search of the yellow poppywort high in the mountains. During this trip he is reputed to have cured his mountain

sickness with opium pills and carried his terrified dog up and down precarious ladders to climb cliffs. His third and fourth trips were both for the arboretum in Harvard to collect bulbs of the magnificent regal lily. He had to repeat the trip as the bulbs, encased in clay, rotted on the journey home during his first attempt.

Wilson's plant-collecting travels ended after he broke his leg during a landslide in China. During his 11 years travelling in China he had collected over 65,000 specimens and sent back 1500 plant seeds. The trials and tribulations of plant collecting in the early twentieth century were certainly a contrast to our trips to the garden centre!

The fen warden will be joining us on 12th January to talk about Wicken Fen: past, present and future. New plans for the fen should make this an interesting evening. Do come and join us in the village hall at 7.30pm.

Kirsten Newble 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk



Geoff Hales, as E H Wilson describing his expeditions in China

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Sleepless nights could be a thing of the past

FAMILIES in Linton will soon be able to enjoy the benefits of internationally acclaimed Birthlight Baby and Toddler Yoga classes. The classes, which focus on the mutual needs of both infants and adults, will be run on Thursday mornings at Playdaze Funhouse, The Grip, from this month.

Baby Yoga is an extension of baby massage, providing gentle touch and movement

stimulation combined with gentle relaxation. The techniques help many common baby ailments such as sleeplessness and colic, whilst the gentle yoga and breathing help to rebalance postnatal mothers and give them an opportunity to recharge their batteries.

Once babies are mobile, they move on to toddler SMART Yoga (which stands for stretch, move and relax together). These classes are

unique in their focus on adult and child interaction and cater for all ages and stages from mobility to pre-school. Yoga based movements are taught through play, song and rhyme, and as children develop their language and concentration skills, simple stories are introduced.

The sessions are organised by Melanie Hamilton Davies, who has been teaching classes in the Newmarket area for

over seven years and trains other teachers. The teacher for the Linton sessions will be Tracey Marriot, who trained with Melanie. Although the classes are particularly useful for postnatal mothers, fathers and other adults caring for babies and young children are also welcome. For more information check out: www.birthlightclassesnewmarket.co.uk or call 01638 666742.

Tracey Marriot

Ballet, Tap and Modern Dance
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You need to get out more

MALE? Middle aged or getting close? Feeling a bit unfit after the winter holiday season? Worried about doing even less in the coming months? Want to do something about it but need some motivation?

Trying to keep fit on your own can be a bit soul destroying, so why not join the Linton village college Monday men's keep fit club? The club, now in its second decade, meets from 8-9.30pm every Monday. Members come from Linton and surrounding villages.

Our ages range from 30s-60s, but all ages are welcome. In fact, one of our long term members has just reached 70. We start in the sports centre's fitness suite, using the wide range of equipment available. We then go into the main sports

hall for circuit training, followed by basketball, or sometimes indoor racquet sports, to end the active part of the evening – and the club still finishes in the time honoured way with a beer. Our approach is all about encouraging each other, not mindless competition.

By using the sports centre for just one evening a week, the club offers a way to enjoy all its benefits for a modest outlay. Indoor fitness facilities are particularly attractive during the winter.

You can contact Bob Hammett on 891372 or Andrew Gore on 891970 for more information about the club, but new members are welcome to turn up unannounced any Monday.

Andrew Gore

Explore yoga with Rachel Hawes

A TEN week course begins at 7pm on Wednesday 13th January of a series of Hatha yoga classes suitable for all levels of fitness and experience – complete beginners are very welcome.

Each week we will explore a different theme through practice and discussion to become more aware of our bodies and of the underlying principles of yoga and to improve posture, strength and flexibility.

Rachel is a qualified yoga teacher with both the British Wheel of Yoga and Yoga Alliance. She has practised yoga since she was a child and has been teaching since 2005.

All the proceeds from this course go to Inspire's charitable work.

For more information please contact me.

Rachel 441106 or e-mail rachel@inspire.org.uk

Time to prepare for your spring wedding

CHILFORD Hall vineyard and conference centre in Linton will play host to the biennial wedding fair from 11am-4pm on Sunday 7th February. Admission and parking are free, and the fair will give local couples and their families the opportunity to meet suppliers and start planning every aspect of their special day.

Now celebrating its seventeenth year, the fair will consist of over 70 specialist stands offering products and services for weddings and civil ceremonies, ranging from photographers and florists to cars and travel companies.

Fashion shows will be taking place and music playing as visitors browse the halls. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

For further information on the wedding fair or to book a stand please call.

Rita Ravel 895600 or email rita@chilfordhall.co.uk.

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Standing room only

THERE was standing room only when Haverhill Choral Society packed Hundon church with Christmas crowds.

Over 100 people came to enjoy Haverhill Choral Society's (HCS) choral Christmas concert recently in Hundon All Saints church. The audience applauded renditions of fun classics like the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, sat silently through lullabies and sang heartily along with the carols.

As promised, HCS gave the audience a chance to join the choir as part of the BBC's national Sing *Hallelujah* campaign. Over half the congregation took up this opportunity, swelling the choir into the pews as they joined either to sing or to listen while *Hallelujah* was performed! *Hallelujah* also presented an opportunity to raise money for Children in Need; a total of £119.62 was raised on the night.

HCS would like to thank Nigel Brown for accompanying on the organ and a highly polished brass quintet, which entertained with medleys of festive tunes.

Anyone interested in joining the choir is welcome at our new rehearsal venue, Samuel Ward music department at 7.25pm Monday nights from 4th January. No audition necessary, all past or curious singers welcome!

Haverhill choral society celebrates 150 years in 2010; look out for details!

www.haverhillchoralsociety.co.uk

Virginia Rickman, haverhillchoralsociety@hotmail.co.uk or 0789 66 77 571

A new year for IT

LINTON IT club starts a new year looking forward to helping you with technology related problems. Last year the list of things tackled for members included accessing a local council planning system, calibrating a digital barometer and booking a holiday online, as well as the more usual computer tasks of getting an e-mail address and copying files to and from cds and memory sticks.

We have a close association with the camera club, so digital photography problems can be dealt with too. We are here to help where we can with

any technical difficulties as the club's name suggests – information technology. This service is all provided free thanks to the library service and those members who help others.

We do from time to time need more volunteers, so if you have a couple of hours to spare, please come and meet us. The club meets between 7 and 9pm every Tuesday evening in the library at the Cathodeon centre. Contact Mike Crofts on 893619 or Graham Potter on 893226 for further information, or Google Linton IT club.

Mike Crofts

Scam e-mails, traps for the unwary

THE problem.

SCAM emails can take several forms, including appearing to come from a bank, a building society or similar financial institution, or one of the online payment or auction sites, for example PayPal or eBay. Other messages appear to show that you have ordered an item, often an expensive electrical item.

These messages commonly contain an invitation to visit a website to confirm or check details. An alternative is a request that you run an application attached to the message.

You should be wary of invitations to visit websites or run attachments, particularly if phrases like security checks or security updates are used, or if you are invited to update your credit/debit information, verify your email address, verify your information, verify or track the status of your order.

The solution.

You should simply delete these messages. On no account should you visit the website apparently advertised or open any attachment to the message.

Don't become another statistic.

With a little spare space this month I thought it might be helpful to enforce the problems encountered when using e-mail. Even if you are not new to using this wonderful communication system, you could still be taken in.

Editor

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POT POURRI (60)
Christmas decorations
TWO people are in a room putting up decorations.
a) What is the chance (probability) that they are females?
However, if one of them is female,
b) calculate the chance that the other person is also female.
Given that the eldest is female,
c) what chance is there that they are both female? (Think!)

Solution to No 59 – A possible ball?
THE clue to realizing whether the ball may be made from hexagons and squares is that faces plus corners minus edges always equals 2. Using this fact and that all corners and edges must meet with no gaps, hence the adjoining angles must be noted (2 hexagons + 1 square = 360 deg), we find that 8 hexagons and 6 squares meet the requirement.
The old style football had 12 pentagons and 20 hexagons which is becoming superseded.
Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF...
A warm welcome from the Friends
START the New Year off by dropping in to the village hall between 11am and 12.30 pm on Saturday 9th January and meet the Friends of St Mary's. Admission is £3 to include coffee, mince pie and savouries. Raffle, bring and buy (no rubbish please) and second-hand books will be on sale.
Margaret Clark 892093

Time for you
CHRISTMAS is now over and it is time for you to do something for yourself. If you are looking for some 'me' time it is not too late to enrol on an adult education class. Classes run by Linton and Sawston village colleges start the week commencing 11th January.
To enrol, or for more information, please visit our website www.bepartnership.org, email community@sawstonvc.org or telephone 712424.
We look forward to welcoming you to one of our centres.
Sue King

Singing in the New Year
WHY not celebrate 2010 by sharing inspiring songs from different cultural traditions.
Join us at the Lothbury Centre, Weston Colville from 2.30-5.30pm on Sunday 3rd January.
Everybody welcome, whether you see yourself as a singer or not.
For more information and booking please call me.
Rachel Hawes 864515 or email rachel@inspire.org.uk

Dancing classes with Esme
ESME not only holds dancing classes for children at the village hall, but she also teaches adult tap from 7.15-8pm on a Friday evening. The next term begins on 15th January and she would welcome dancers of all ages, all abilities to all of her classes.
For more information please contact me.
Esme 07719 816548

Late Christmas party with Jukebox Heroes
JOIN us at Chilford Hall for one last chance to party on 9th January with Jukebox Heroes and the Original Sin DJ who will cover all your favourite dance floor classics, disco, pop and rock and roll.
A glass of Chilford punch is available on arrival at 7.15pm, with half a bottle of house white or red wine, Christmas crackers and whizzy balloons on the table.
For further information please contact us.
Chilford Hall, 895600

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Powerful drama at LVC



College pupils enacting an extraordinary play

Picture by Roger Lapwood

FOR their annual drama production, Linton village college decided to tackle the sensitive subject of cerebral palsy by performing Chris Hawes play *On My Own Two Feet*. Under the direction of Pete Robins they produced an extraordinary ensemble piece with scenes of anger, despair, humour and raw emotion.

The story revolved around Kevin, a victim of cerebral palsy, his mother and father and a collection of 'professionals' all involved in trying to decide Kevin's fate. He is released from his disabilities for the purpose of the play and delivers, between scenes, a commentary of his life. We shared his loneliness, anger, frustration, determination and wicked sense of humour.

Josh Till gave a brilliantly diverse performance as Kevin. His agonising scenes of physical effort to move and speak, alongside his comedic narration drew enormous sympathy and respect from the audience. Kevin's situation had a deep impact on other people in his life. Dane Karaman as Terry, Kevin's father, gave a highly intelligent performance as the young dad suddenly faced with the burden of a disabled child, searching for a way out at first and then learning to understand and love his son. His mother, played by Lauren Goldie was wracked with the guilt of not being able to keep her son at home and hard hitting portrayals of social workers, educational psychologists and doctors all contributed to this harrowing sit up and pay attention story.

A turning point was the lump in the throat scene when Ms Hibbert his teacher, brightly and sensitively portrayed by Emily Westland, broke down some learning barriers so Kevin could start to be himself.

To complete this absorbing piece of theatre were disturbing elements of the absurd in the form of *Clockwork Orange*-like demonic surgeons, dream sequences and blood red lighting effects.

An incredibly moving final scene when Terry asked 'Whose bloody fault is it?' left a number of members of the audience in tears when Kevin blamed himself 'on that fateful day' of his birth.

The cast and technical team lead by Barnaby Palmer should be congratulated on producing theatre of such quality. If you missed it, you missed out!

Jane Bowen

Hope and a break for carers

CROSSROADS CARE Cambridgeshire
Crossroads Care Cambridgeshire is a charity that exists to relieve the stresses of unpaid carers of all ages who have a caring commitment to a relative, neighbour or friend needing support because of their sickness, age or disability.

DID you know? One person in eight is a carer. The number of carers in the UK is likely to double over the next 10 years. There are 50,000 carers in Cambridgeshire. Most are friends and family, some are elderly or unwell themselves and at least 1300 are children or young people. Over a third of carers have not had a break in the last two years. If every carer stopped caring, it would cost the government an extra £87 billion per year.

A carer's life is often restricted by the need to be on call 24 hours a day because the person they look after cannot be safely left alone for long periods. Carers are often under a great deal of physical and emotional strain through the demanding work of caring for someone heavily dependent upon them. They might be trying to hold down a paid job and have other family commitments.

In 2008/09 Crossroads Care provided 69,000 hours of support across Cambridgeshire, allowing over 1000 carers the opportunity to have breaks by providing care in their own homes, activities, day groups, clubs for children with autistic spectrum condition, a young carers project and a Macmillan Crossroads Cancer and Palliative Care service.

If you care for someone and would like more information about the services available or if you are interested in joining our organisation as a carer support worker please contact us for an informal chat.

0845 241 0954

Email: info@crossroadscarecambridgeshire.org.uk
www.crossroadscarecambridgeshire.org.uk

Cricket in Linton is thriving



The under-14 team who were crowned champions

Picture supplied by Hans Pinkard

A MOMENTOUS AGM for Linton village cricket club saw a change of president, and the creation of a new club.

The first business of the meeting was to say a huge thank you to Marianne Larcombe, who stepped down after 18 years as club president. Marianne was presented with a framed limited edition print of "The Meadow" by local artist, Neil Gardner, and was elected to Honorary Life Membership of LVCC. Barry Bowen has been elected as Marianne's successor.

The meeting went on to adopt the new constitution required formally to merge the junior and adult sections of the club and to cement their position as a holder of Clubmark accreditation and as a focus club for South Cambridgeshire. Both of these accolades pay testimony to the brilliant work being done in youth development at Linton. You can see from the picture that the hard work and dedication is paying off with our U14 team recently crowned champions of their league.

A new management team was also appointed.

As a Clubmark accredited club, LVCC has made a commitment to fostering the game of cricket at all levels of ability, so there's never been a better time to try your hand at the game, or even return from the longest of sabbaticals.

Please see our website at <http://lintonvillage.play-cricket.com> for more details.
Hans Pinkard

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For further information please contact either
Marion : 01223 897945 (school time) or Jane : 01223 503972 (other times)



Chef's corner

WE have allowed Joel a rest this month as he was very busy with all the Christmas dinners he had to serve, so we are bringing you recipes from Jan Lupton, who runs the farmers' market in the village. They look very good to me! Editor

Sausage and cider casserole

Ingredients

500 g pork sausages
400 ml dry cider (for a stronger cider taste use more cider and reduce to 400 ml first)
1 or 2 large cooking or eating apples, cored and sliced
1 large onion or 2 leeks, chopped
125g smoked bacon, chopped (optional)
1 ½ tablespoons plain flour
A bay leaf
Salt and black pepper
Herbs are optional but you could try a combination of a few fresh sage leaves, a few sprigs of thyme or a teaspoon of lightly bruised (not crushed) juniper berries

Method

Use a large, heavy pan or casserole. Brown the sausages in a little oil for 10 minutes, remove sausages and set aside.

Add onion/leek and bacon to the pan and cook gently for around 10 minutes until softened, add apple, cook for a few minutes and return sausages to the pan.

Add flour and stir until all the juices are absorbed, add the cider and herbs, stir to ensure that there are no lumps of flour, bring contents to boiling point, put on the lid and simmer gently on a low setting for 1 hour.

Check seasoning (you may not need salt if the bacon is salty)

Serve with mashed potato.

Beef in beer

AS a bonus we have included this recipe which we have been unable to fit in before.

Serves 4-6

Ingredients

900g (2lb) stewing steak
300ml (½ pint) stout or best bitter.
225g (8oz) button mushrooms halved
4 medium onions
15g (½ oz) butter
2 tbsp plain flour
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 tbsp soft brown sugar
½ tsp mustard
bay leaf

Method

Pre heat the oven to 180C, 350F Gas 4

Cut the steak into 5cm (2in) cubes, slice the onions and halve the mushrooms if large.

Heat the butter and oil in a large casserole dish and cook the meat for 10 minutes until brown and sealed.

Remove the steak, add the onions and fry until transparent then add the mushrooms.

Add the flour and stir well

Return the meat to the pan, add the beer, mustard, bay leaf and sugar and stir well.

Cover and cook in the oven for about 2½ hours or until tender. Serve with mashed potatoes and assorted vegetables.

Jan Lupton

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Club activities include visits by specialists, shows and talks by members and photographic awaydays. Members at all levels of experience will be welcomed, including beginners who have no vast experience of taking pictures and look for help in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Club night is from 7.15pm - 9.15pm on the first Monday of each month and we meet at the Cathodeon Centre, Horseheath Road, Linton. Awaydays are normally on Sundays.

We also hold a free exhibition of our work each October in Linton village hall.

Please see our website for details of the previous year's activities; next year's programme will be decided at the beginning of the New Year. Alan Lawley will be giving an illustrated talk at our January meeting.

www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk

Tracey Wilson 891988

Aspects of life

This month we have a new contributor, we are calling her column Aspects of life; we would love to have your comments on this article.

Editor

HOW about making your new year's resolutions work for you - being **SMART**.

Every year it's the same story. New year's day dawns and our resolutions get broken even when we really wanted to make a change. So how can we make them work?

If you have been brave enough to look at your life and decide that you want to change something there may be ways that you can make those resolutions work for you. Firstly get **SMART** about your goals.

Be Specific about your goals. Don't make statements about things being better, or about being thinner or fitter. Make your resolutions very clear: "I am going to be fit enough to complete a 3k fun run".

Make sure you can Measure your progress. It's difficult to measure progress against the wish: "I want to be a better parent" and you may well beat yourself up most days for not being a good parent. Instead make your goal: "I'm going to spend 30 minutes every day sitting down with my children". Maybe some days you only manage five or 15 minutes. At least you can see how much time you are able to give to your goal. It's measurable and you can see what progress you are making.

Make it possible that you can Achieve your goal. There is not much chance that you can achieve world peace all by yourself. What about peace in your own life for a start? You could try improving your own communication skills at an adult education class so that you feel more confident in expressing yourself to friends and family.

Be Realistic - you might be past the age of being an olympic 100 metre athlete but you might be able to learn a new sport and enjoy it.

Put a Timeframe on achieving your goals: "By the end of the year I will weigh two stone less than I do now".

Remember to take good care of yourself too. We might try to make changes but we are only human.

Emily Goodenough



Above Tracey's picture of Graham Potter, her portrayal of the letter G and below a picture taken for her entry to a black and white competition



Tree festival success



Just a few of the beautifully decorated trees which adorned the church.

Picture by Roger Lapwood

FROM 11th to 13th December, St Mary's church was the venue for Linton's second Christmas tree festival. This year the number of trees was extended to 30, all decorated and brightly lit by individuals, families, groups and businesses from the village community.

From superheroes and robots to Raymond Briggs' *The Snowman*, children's stories and 70 years of scouting in Linton, each tree represented the interests or professions of every playgroup in Linton and Bartlow, Linton infant and junior schools and uniformed organisations as well as local businesses such as Paintins Funeral Directors, So Special Occasions and Igenetics and

groups from within St Mary's and the URC churches.

Visitors viewing the trees were also treated to atmospheric background music provided by musicians from within the church. On Saturday stalls, a musical interlude by the new church buskers and refreshments in the infant school provided added entertainment and sustenance, with the appearance of Father Christmas and his elf delighting the younger visitors.

The new Team Rector, Rev Dr Steve Griffiths, declared the festival a great success and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the community of Linton and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Gillian Powell
893664

An early warning of the seventh annual Bartlow three counties charity walk

PLANNING is already under way for the 2010 Bartlow three counties charity walk and the organisers would like to publish the date of the event as early as possible to get it into everyone's diaries. This year the Bartlow walk will be held on 2nd May, the usual May bank holiday Sunday and as ever, it is the first local event of the season.

For our regulars, the event will follow the established pattern although, as you will see below, we have some ideas for new variations on old themes. And to first-timers we say welcome to what our regulars tell us is simply a top family day out for a good cause.

The Bartlow walk raises funds for local causes through the sponsorship raised by the sterling efforts of participants and through the generosity of local businesses. This year we will offer four walks, all through beautiful local countryside, and by special agreement with local land-owners:

The classic 13 mile three counties walk which takes walkers from Bartlow to the point near Castle Camps where Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex meet and back via Ashdon windmill and the three hills.

The 8½ mile family route which incorporates the picturesque first and last stages of the long route and

appeals to those who are not regular walkers and to younger families who see 13 miles as just too much of a challenge.

By popular request from our more senior citizens, this year we will offer a new 5½ mile option after which we'll give you a lift back to Bartlow from Castle Camps High Street before or after you've had lunch at the Cock Inn.

The enormously popular 1½ mile junior nature trail for the very young, incorporating a nature quiz, a balloon release from the top of the three hills and many other games. In dry weather this is a pushchair-tolerant route.

The 2009 Good Causes were:

- Linton health centre
- Addenbrooke's paediatric gastro-enterology unit
- Bartlow church restoration fund

A record 660 walkers joined more local businesses than ever before to raise a total of £12,750, bringing the six year total for the walk to £50,000. For more details (and to download a sponsorship form) visit our website: bartlow.org.uk - or look out for our distinctive dayglo yellow posters - or simply call 891732.

Graham Howat, walk organiser

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The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Religious houses in Linton

LAST month's edition of the Linton News reported the visit to the college of Baroness Shirley Williams of Crosby, former Secretary of State for Education. The Baroness opened our new Newton Building and then presented certificates to our class of 2009 school leavers. It was a very busy, but successful set of events, made all the more frenetic by the Baroness's desire to talk to everyone she met. She didn't waste a minute of her time with us, absorbing information quickly, charming all she spoke to and emptying the contents of her handbag at least three times to search for something that she wanted to refer to. We saw all the evidence of the sharp intelligence and endearing academic scattiness that made her so famous.

The Baroness was not the only politician to visit us that week. James Paice MP made time in his busy schedule to come to the college and he also made a very positive impression on all he spoke to, warmly congratulating the college for its reputation and successes. He had come to hear our students give a presentation on the cyber bullying mentor training that they have been doing and he remarked to me how articulate and caring our young mentors are. 58 of the students at LVC have been trained to be cyber mentors. They have worked with experts from Beat Bully to hone their supporting and advisory skills when they are contacted by any child who feels under threat by bullying texts, emails or messages posted on social networking sites. Unfortunately the expansion of methods of communication via new technologies has also increased the ways in which bullies can intimidate their victims. In this way, cyber bullying can seem to follow a young person everywhere.

We don't tolerate bullying at LVC, but we are not so naïve as to think that it doesn't exist where any group of children are brought together. However, we are also committed to making sure that we are part of the solution and not the problem. The cyber mentoring scheme has raised awareness of this issue in the school and made sure that the children themselves are that solution. Mr Paice promised to take news of the success of the scheme back to Parliament.

It has been a very good experience for our students to meet two politicians in the flesh. So much of what we read about anyone who takes on a position in public life nowadays is negative and cynical and we are all bombarded with stories of scandals and corruption, of false expenses claims and shady dealings. The result of this cynicism can mean a lack of trust in people to make things better, hence a challenge to the whole notion of citizenship and democracy. That's hardly the message we should be promoting

IN the middle ages and early Tudor times there were two religious houses in Linton which was very unusual for a village of its size. There was a Benedictine French priory situated opposite Sweet Talk News on the site of the later Linton House. There was also a Carmelite Priory and nunnery located adjacent to Barham Hall (where the Hall farm is today on the right hand side of the road to Bartlow).

Hermits chose to live on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land following the example of Elijah in the Old Testament. They had a strict rule of life and had few possessions. Their lives were dedicated to spreading the word of God and they relied on begging and donations to survive. They lived a life of poverty and were recognised as an order by the Pope in 1226. Later they were persecuted by the Turks and they resettled in Europe firstly in Italy near Bologne and Florence, then they came to England by 1245 and built a small friary at Aylesford in Kent.

In our region they settled at Welthenham near Bury St Edmunds and a small group then came to Linton where the



Barham Hall in the 1700s.

Picture courtesy Pembroke college

Lords of Barham granted them 32 acres of land in 1247. Much of this land was poor quality heathland near Borley Wood. They built a chapel close to the manor house at Barham and old maps show that there was a Friar's Yard and a Friar's Green on the site. In 1539 the chapel, which was then a thatched building, was purchased by the Millicent Lords of Barham from the Crown. The chapel was incorporated into their mansion house, and was still in existence in the 1770s when it was seen by the antiquarian,

Robert Cole.

The friars also owned a small farmhouse at the bottom of Green Lane where Beech Way is today. The row of thatched cottages on the left of the lane were probably built for their farm labourers, the present cottages are 16thC buildings. The last building on the left was called Friars in the 1600s.

The friars wore a simple blue habit with a cross on their breast and often carried a staff with a cross. The Carmelites grew much of their own food and also tended over 100 sheep.



Map from a pre-enclosure indenture. Friars Greene with a parcel of the late Old Highway thereunto adjoining.

Map courtesy Reg Stevens

They had their own seal which Robert Cole gave to the British Museum and it is now in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. The seal depicts St Margaret carrying a cross with which she killed a serpent and the motto inscribed was in capital letters as follows: *S PRIORIS SCE CRUCIS DE BEREHAUM* (The seal of the Priory of the Holy Cross at Bergham/Barham).

After 1807 all the records of the friary and Barham Manor were lodged in Pembroke College.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/1255/09/F Mr C O'Malley, 7 Bakers Lane, Linton, Dwelling.
- S/1650/09/F Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Fire Station, Balsham Road, Linton, Installation of disabled ramp.
- S/1651/09/A Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Fire Station, Balsham Road, Linton, Signage.
- S/1662/09/LDC Mr Robert Smart, 3 Stantons, Linton, Proposed lawful development for extensions to dwelling.
- S/1678/09/F Mr Mr Christopher Mason, 2 Maple Close, Linton, Extension.
- S/1729/09/LB Dr & Mrs J Reader, 5 Coles Lane, Linton, Removal of lean-to and construct kitchen extension (Regularisation of unauthorised works).
- S/1757/09/F CL Thomas, 21 Crossways, Linton, Extension.

Come to our Lent lunches

OVER the last ten years, simple soup, bread and cheese lunches, held on Wednesdays in Lent, have raised roughly £1,000 a year for people in need. Last year we gave over £1,700 to The Adenbrooke's Teenage Cancer Trust.

This year we shall be giving money to the work of the Arthur Rank Hospice. Many people have reasons for being extremely grateful to the hospice for their excellent work, particularly with those who are terminally ill and near to the end of their lives. The hospice needs all the financial help it can get to continue this wonderful work.

Our Wednesday lunches are open to everyone. We ask for a donation and, in return, offer hospitality and a simple lunch of home-made soup, bread, cheese and coffee in seven different venues around Linton. Even if you can only come to one you will be most welcome but please come to as many as you can between 12noon and 1.30pm.

The first few dates and places are as follows:
17th February, Monica and Alan Clarkson, 4 Harefield Rise
24th February, Lesley and Andrew Gore, 38 Symonds Lane
3rd March, Rosemary and Richard Read, 8 The Furrells

We will keep you informed of the rest.
On the last occasion there will be a speaker, at 1pm, from the Arthur Rank Trust to tell us about their work. We hope to be able to hand over a cheque for well over £1,000. It's up to you!
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in schools. The cyber mentoring scheme is all about taking personal action to improve things for others, and, that too is what motivates the best politicians.

Caroline Derbyshire
Principal

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Parish Council Matters New playground equipment

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

AFTER what seems a long wait, the funding is in place for the new playground equipment at the Recreation ground. All the play equipment has been ordered and the manufacturers are now busily producing the two new pieces for installation.

Here is some of the history as to how this new play equipment came to be required. A pupil from the Heights junior school, representing a group of friends, came to a parish council meeting and, under the public forum item on the agenda, requested some more exciting playground equipment at the Recreation ground. The chairman, at the time, enquired if she had any idea what sort of play equipment they were looking for and at the time she said a "twirly thing". Well after that reply and much discussion on what a "twirly thing" was, the chairman asked if she could do some research on the matter and come back to the parish council with her findings.



Use your strength and hold your balance on the Supernova

Over the next few weeks she arranged with her friends to have a look through all the playground equipment brochures that were available. After identifying the sort of equipment they would like they set off on a bright Sunday morning - with the help of two very young at heart adults - on an adventure to test out how the playground equipment would stand up to their rigorous scrutiny.

One of the pieces of play equipment that they had selected was a Supernova. The description by the manufacturer says that the Supernova can be used to practice balance. A single child can engage in exploring its possibilities, but together with a whole group of children this play item expresses its real potential. The large slanting ring is set in motion by the children. Turning, spinning, balancing or just enjoying the ride are among its countless play options.

The other piece of play equipment is called the Nereide. Now this is a different piece of kit altogether, you will have to look at the picture and try to figure out how much fun your children will have exploring all the different things they can do on the Nereide, with the two arms coming out from the centre and the spinners on each arm - what fun the children will have with those. The centre triangle has a seat that provides a place to sit, lay or climb on and to watch your friends on the spinners while waiting for your turn. So if you just want to hang around on the seat or have lots of fun on the 'twirly thing', the Nereide is the piece of equipment to get your hands on.

We have now received all the funding from the various sources and businesses and I would like to thank them all for their confidence they have shown in this project. First there is the parish council who has precepted money for this equipment over the last few years. Then we were lucky enough to be selected by the Donarborn Community Fund for a grant of £5000 to go towards this project. This fund is managed by the Cambridge Community Foundation who very kindly helped in the securing of this grant.



Lots more options for fun on the Nereide

Pictures courtesy of Kompan Ltd

We now come on to the local business Camgrain who has been very generous in donating £4000 towards the equipment. We were very pleased when Camgrain said they would sponsor this project, as they are an important business in the area and employ most of their staff from the local vicinity. Last but not least we were able to secure a grant from Awards for All, part of the Big Lottery Fund. This grant for just over £5000 enabled us to be in the position to place the order for the play equipment.

Depending on the weather, and the manufacturers work load, by the time you read this article they should have started the installation of the new playground equipment at the Recreation ground.

I would also like to thank all the people and companies who have helped in getting this project off the ground.

Cllr Bob Hammett

Camgrain - putting British back into our bread...

LINTON is a rural community and one of the factors that has protected the village from development is the active use of its farmland. Only one hundred years ago the village depended on farming for employment and many residents will have had relatives who were farm workers, most of mine were and my grandfather was even born at Heath Farm. As the world and technology have changed so has farm work, although it is no longer a major employer it is still very important. We often remark on how lucky we are to have such beautiful walks and landscape and this thankfully is because the fields have not been sold off for housing or even a Sainsbury's supermarket - without farming Linton would look very different.

When the development of a grain storage facility was proposed in the early '80s it was considered the type of commercial development expected in a rural village with good traffic links. For 25 years the facility ran with no major complaints on noise and the first time it became a problem was in 2008. The summer of 2008 was one of the wettest on record, for those of us who holiday in the UK this was quite a problem but for the farmers of East Anglia it could have been disastrous - a wet harvest can seriously put the livelihoods of farmers at risk. During that wet summer, Camgrain saw an unprecedented number of farmers want to join their cooperative and therefore a much larger drying operation was necessary.

In the summer of 2008, Camgrain did breach their planning conditions on noise levels. Their planning conditions state that at two measuring points on the outskirts of the village the noise

should not exceed 38dBA, however at the two points noise was measured at 39dBA and 40-41dBA. The scale for noise actually means that an increase of 10dBA is a tenfold increase so to understand how loud 38dBA is, these are some examples:

- Pneumatic drill 120dBA Fridge 38-43dBA
- Conversation 70dBA Bedroom at night 30dBA
- Bosch dishwasher 54dBA

The increased noise did become an issue for some residents and the matter was brought before the parish council in its public forum. The subject has also been discussed on the pages of the Linton News and therefore I felt that as chairman of the parish council and never one to shy from controversy it would be good to meet with the Managing Director of Camgrain to discuss the matter and ascertain the current situation. Therefore on the 27th November I met with Philip Darke for a meeting and tour of the facility.

Following the noise issues, improvements have been made and significant investment made. As well as improvements to the machinery there have been some changes onsite. When drying takes place large insulated doors on the main entrance are shut at night to stop the tunnel effect of noise coming from the driveway. Sophisticated noise measuring equipment has been introduced with monitoring points within the village and this is on constant display in the control room. With these improvements Camgrain are managing to work within the noise levels set by their original planning application and they are constantly monitoring these.

I cannot just write an article on the problems that Camgrain

have had as I feel it would be unfair considering their achievements. The carbon footprint of British food manufacture is of concern and many of the ingredients used travel for many miles - called 'food miles'. I have recently become amazed at how far some of these travel and thanks to my daughter's education at Linton village college, I now understand just how important it is to source local ingredients. I actually didn't realise that before 2007 most of the bread we ate contained foreign imported wheat. Camgrain's business has been very successful and is something that the village of Linton should be proud of. Sainsbury's already source all the wheat for its in-store bakeries from Camgrain and is due to become the first retailer to use 100% British flour in its own-label bread, in the past this wheat has been sourced from Canada. Camgrain are making a significant contribution to the reduction of the carbon footprint of food manufacture and for too many reasons to list this is very important to the future of our world.

The nature of grain storage and drying does mean that noise is created but this should be of negligible effect to the village and is only heard very late in the night when it is not constantly drowned out by the noise from the A1307...or even the High Street! Hopefully the noise problems caused in the summer of 2008 have now been resolved but please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss the matter further with either the parish council or Camgrain.

Cllr Esther Cornell, 893745
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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 19th November 2009.

Present: Ms E Cornell (chair), M Gee, A Gore, B Hammett, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup (from 8.40pm), J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Mrs J Williams and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bald, Cox and Urwin.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: Cllr Hickford reported that following concerns of the lack of 'joined up thinking' regarding communication, and a lack of action by the police on the erection of a tree house on the Recreation ground, an investigation was taking place.

Report from the county councillor: Cllr Batchelor reported that the closing date for objections to the application for village green status for Camping Close was the 27th November. The Countryside Access Team at the county council was recommending approval whilst the county council Education Department was objecting. A public enquiry would be held in the spring.

The Medium Sized Safety Funding scheme for road improvements would be discussed by Cabinet in December. Six of the forty proposals focused improvements or speed reductions on the A1307. This included works at the Bartlow crossroads, Dalehead junction and Babraham. He reported the most likely to succeed would be a speed reduction to 30mph from 40mph at the High Street junction.

Plans to introduce a 'no cold calling zone' for Crabtree Croft were in progress.

Reports from the district councillors: Cllr Bear reported that the future of Chairman's Delegation Meetings would be discussed on 2nd December.

The district council had accepted responsibility for the upkeep of the bank between the Cemetery and Chalklands. This will be added to the maintenance contract.

Cllr Batchelor reported that following the appeal the application for the Wadlow Wind Farm had been passed on 'national interest'. The district council was taking advice as to whether it would be in the interest of ratepayers to pursue their objections to the Linton Wind Farm.

Review and adoption of updated Cemetery Regulations: The chair thanked Cllr Gore for his work on these and it was resolved that, following minor amendments, the updated Regulations be adopted.

Resolution moved on notice: The following was proposed by Cllr Gore, seconded by Cllr Gee and agreed by the meeting.

"Upon the council adopting new Financial Regulations, the council's Standing Orders be amended as follows:

Delete Standing Orders 54, 55 and 56

Amend Standing Order 77 by deleting the present text and substituting the following:

"The council shall maintain Financial Regulations for the general financial management of the council, annual estimates, budgetary control, accounting and audit, banking, payment of accounts, orders for goods and services, assets, insurance, risk management and such other matters as it considers necessary.

The council shall cause a review of its Financial Regulations to be carried out from time to time and in any event at intervals of not more than three years."

Note: Pursuant to Standing Order 80 if the resolution is duly proposed and seconded at the meeting it shall stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the council. (For 3rd December meeting agenda).

Churchyard walls: It was agreed that a further report from Hugo Prime FRICS regarding the churchyard walls be sought subject to a maximum cost of £600.

Written reports from council representatives: Cllr Rossiter had issued a report in response to an item of correspondence from the Diocesan surveyor requesting that 'members of the public be made aware that there was no right of way from the Glebe Land through the vicarage garden.' It was agreed to advise the Diocese

that as it was their land it was their responsibility to ensure that this did not happen.

Refurbishment of the five Cemetery benches: The three quotations for work were considered and it was agreed to accept the quote for £585.50 from Steve Jackson Ltd.

Correspondence received and for discussion: Cambridgeshire county council had extended an invitation to councillors to a demonstration of recycling equipment on 16th December at their Whittlesford depot. Cllr Hunt would attend.

Reports from councillors (for information only): Cllr Hammett reported that Camgrain had invited councillors to attend a cheque presentation ceremony for funding towards the new playground equipment. Their offer was to be accepted, date and time to be arranged.

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

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:

January 7th and 21st, February 4th and 18th 2010

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

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WE currently have a vacancy on the parish council. If you have expertise that you could bring to the council or if you think that you could do better, why not volunteer. It's not just about attending meetings, councillors do a great deal behind the scenes and give much of their spare time voluntarily for the community. Parish meetings are held at the Cathodeon centre at 8pm on the first and third Thursday of the month (except August and December when there is only one meeting).

To become a parish councillor you must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be over 18 years of age.
 - Be a British, Irish, Commonwealth or EU Citizen.
- Additionally you must either be:
- A registered elector within the parish.
 - Have occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises during the previous twelve months in the parish.
 - Have had your principal or only place of work in the parish for the previous twelve months.
 - Have lived in or within 4.8 kilometres of the parish for the previous twelve months.

Please consider becoming a parish councillor. If you would like further information call into the parish council office at the village hall, email or telephone (details on left). If we can't help we can put you in touch with a councillor who can!

Parish council office

Police station to relocate



FOLLOWING the sale in February of the Cambridge Road police station and police houses, a new home has been found for the police station at the fire station.

The plan on the left shows the proposed layout and parking facilities at the fire station

Picture courtesy of South Cambridgeshire district council

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