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THE LINTON NEWS

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

January 2009
Vol. 22 N° 10
Publication Date
Monday 5th January

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

Bonne Année et meilleurs vœux pour 2009

French connection in Linton

You can't fail to notice that our first headline and good wishes for the new year are in French. Don't panic; this is so that our new editor Stephane Toussnel feels at home and can introduce himself to you.

It all started two years ago, when my wife and I came to visit the countryside where we were aiming to settle.

Sent out of Cambridge to find a place to live, we landed at the top of the High Street. It took less than a minute to meet a French school assistant. Further down, we found our way, thanks to another French-related person, André Tournant.

We then passed the Nantais Gallery, another French connection, this time to Daryl who you all know from his country diaries in this paper, definitely a sign for us.

An hour later, letting contract sorted, we laid the first stone in Linton ... and celebrated the event with a firework display in Cambridge – nothing related to Bastille Day.

On New Year's eve 2006, we were in the UK to help Nathalie, my wife, get ready for her new job, before finally settling here as a family in September 2007.

Now, dear reader, you get an answer to 'Why Linton?'

We'd been living in Venice for six years; a lovely city

in the French Riviera' and beforehand we lived in Montmartre in Paris.

We decided all together to grab the opportunity to live abroad; it was the right moment for us and our daughters Emma and Julie.

Today, you won't realise they are French even after a chat. They enjoy the life in Linton, their new friends, their school uniform, the bunk beds and the tooth fairy rather than the little mouse ...

Our black retriever, did the trip ... and quickly made friends; I can't tell you about English barking but he enjoys running around with me. Running, as well as badminton, helped me settle well, thanks to Saffron Striders.

We also enjoy gathering with friends at St Mary's church service who warmly welcome us.

Last but not least, she's more discreet than me, but Nathalie is the start of all that brings happiness to our lives and the reason I can write this today.

Bonne Année

Stephane



Our new editor Stephane with his wife, Nathalie, and his daughters Emma and Julie

Picture by Elite wedding photography

A step in the right direction with www.walkit.com

CAMBRIDGE city centre management, in partnership with Cambridge city council and Cambridgeshire county council has recently launched **walkit.com**, a new on-line route planner for Cambridge. It provides a simple way to plan journeys around the city on foot.

Walkit.com works in a similar way to the various route finders you can access when planning your road trips; however this time it gives you the route by foot.

The project is aimed at encouraging more people to walk around Cambridge. Routes can be generated by logging on to www.walkit.com/cambridge and typing start and end points, then pressing go. The route generated will detail the time it will take, the number of calories you can expect to burn and the carbon dioxide emissions you will save by walking.

Uniquely, the Cambridge version of walkit.com uses the city council's air quality data to produce low pollution routes, helping users to maximise the health benefits of walking.

If you require more information, please contact me.

Helen Green 457130 Partnership project officer.

Too good for jumble...

YOU could make your own bread this year with a Primer Home Bakery bread maker, or keep fit with a Carl Lewis cross trainer stepper or an Evolution X fitness vibration plate. Also new this year is a one-year-old Photosmart 7800 HP printer.

Still available are the Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 220 computer monitor, the 15in Dell computer, the almost new Fisher Price baby bath, the Casiotone CT 450 stereo keyboard with instructions – battery or mains operated and the set of Morse videos with a book about the stories. The Silver Cross pram is still on offer.

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.freemove.co.uk

It was a case of festive fun and Christmas cheer for the Linton Granta playgroup and toddlers



Father Christmas welcoming children into his grotto



Christmas angels after face painting

Pictures by Roger Lapwood

LINTON Granta playgroup and toddlers (LGPT) raised a staggering £830 during their Christmas fair on 6th December.

The playgroup was overwhelmed by the support they received from the local community and sponsors such as Granta Tech in Linton.

The Christmas fair was all about fun for the family with

face painting, biscuit decorating and eating and even a surprise visit from Father Christmas.

These funds are essential to the playgroup and help to assure the continued high quality care provided by the staff at LGPT. A member of the fundraising committee said: "The Christmas fair is one of our largest fundraising events of the

year and we are very grateful to the community for supporting us. This year was a great success that we are already planning next years event.

For more information concerning LGPT, please contact info@lintongrantaplaygroup.org.uk

Natalie Morris

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

WHAT is it that inspires someone to have a good rant? Often, it can be because all other approaches have not met with success, so 'going off on one' is felt to be a good way to let off steam and, hopefully, be taken more seriously. However, it can have an adverse affect, as offence can be taken rather than notice.

One can't help but wonder how those who choose to threaten BNP members decide on that particular course of action. After all, the protesters describe themselves as 'normal, decent citizens.'

Rants, both national and local, are born out of frustration. Sometimes they are hard hitting or slightly tongue in cheek, but the deliverer will have a passion for the theme and wishes to be heard by everyone.

The irresponsible minority of dog owners allowing their pets to foul our pavements and parks won't alter their habits just to meet the desires of a lone voice. However, if a number of people were to voice their concerns simultaneously, a more positive outcome would be likely.

The same is true when tackling the issue of selfish car drivers. If those who actually cared enough to make their voices heard were to speak out as one, our streets could become a lot safer. Until that time, the verges and yellow lines in Linton will continue to be used as parking spaces.

I'm sure I am not the only one to have witnessed traffic trying to squeeze through the small gap left by ignorant drivers outside Sweet Talk News. When cars are parked on the yellow lines outside that shop, it is difficult to see approaching vehicles in both directions. This area becomes a greater hazard when one of our racing drivers is behind the wheel.

The police don't appear to have the resources, or even the will sometimes, to deal properly with dangerous drivers, so it's up to us to impress on them that we wish our streets to become safer.

We are all aware of what can happen with speed and lapses in concentration. The new 50mph speed limit on the A1307 is intended to bring down the casualty rates, but many drivers are ignoring this and continue to break the law.

In a world of so many people with different agenda, it is difficult to make oneself heard over the cacophony of the *laissez-faire* brigade, happy not to rock the boat. However, with a few carefully chosen words, even an apparently small issue can become a priority for those with the power to take action on our behalf. That said, the traditional village jumble sale should stay just as it is - more power to your elbows, ladies!

If you have something you would like to rant about, please let us know and this could be your article in a future Linton News.

Help children in Africa

THE Co-workers of Mother Teresa is an ecumenical group which continues to meet monthly in the Linton and Abington area to knit or crochet blankets and clothes for children in African orphanages. We send our goods three times a year to a charity called *Feed the Children* which is based in Ruscombe, near Reading.

This organisation has contacts in many African countries, Afghanistan and Eastern Europe, and is able to distribute the goods where they are most needed.

During 2008, we have sent 15 sacks of blankets for adults and children, hats, baby clothes, and clothes for older children up to the age of 14, including V-necked school jumpers.

We are grateful to the many people who knit at home for us, and for donations of wool. If you would like to know more about our work, please contact me.

Maureen Harper 891696 or maureen.harper27@virgin.net

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Getting rid of that rubbish mountain

THERE is always a mountain of rubbish to dispose of after the Christmas and new year holiday, so South Cambridgeshire district council would like to pass on the following information regarding waste and recycling collections in January:

Householders can check the waste collection calendar in the autumn or winter South Cambs magazine, by calling 08450 450063 or by downloading the calendar from www.cambs.gov.uk

Christmas cards

WH Smith, Tesco, TK Maxx and Marks and Spencer will take your cards, giving a donation to The Woodland Trust, or you can put them in your green bin.

Christmas trees

Real trees can be added to your green bin as long as they are cut up and the lid still closes. You can also take trees to your local household waste recycling centre for composting.

Wrapping paper

Try to buy recyclable paper or reuse it. Thicker, better quality paper can be recycled, but thinner paper can't. If in doubt, please dispose of it in your black bin.

Recycling tips

Cardboard: take large boxes to your local household waste recycling centre. Flattened boxes can be put into your green bin.

Glass bottles and jars: rinse and put them in your green box or take them to a local recycling site.

Food waste: can be home composted or wrapped in newspaper and added to either your green or black bin.

Newspapers, magazines and paper: all of these can be put into your green box.

Plastic: make the most of your new plastic bottle collection service. All plastic bottles can now be added to your green box.

Tins, cans and foil: cans should be rinsed, crushed and put into your green box. If cooking foil can't be reused, rinse it and put it in the green box. Don't forget to recycle aerosol cans.

Excess waste

Bags of rubbish left by the side of wheeled bins will not be collected under any circumstances. Please recycle all you can. Any excess waste should be taken to the household waste and recycling centres at Milton and Thriplow.

Severe weather

In severe weather, collections may be later than usual. We will complete collections as soon as we can. Please call 08450 450063 for more information.

Bin not collected?

Call 08450 450 063 on the day the bin should have been collected, or by 3.30pm the following day.

For more information contact communications on 01954 713262 or email communications @scambs.gov.uk

Learn a new skill at an adult education class

SAWSTON and Linton village colleges adult education classes will start the week commencing 12th January. We have several exciting new courses planned.

On Tuesdays, for example, you could be studying anything from computing for beginners to Indian cookery, Wednesdays ballroom dancing to Latin for beginners, and Thursdays flower arranging to photography.

Fridays is languages day and at Saturday day schools there will be a whole range of subjects including food hygiene, first aid, furniture restoration, French polishing and bricklaying and many others.

If you wish to enrol, please phone 712424 or email sking@sawstonvc.org as soon as possible to reserve your place.

We look forward to welcoming you in the New Year.
Sue King

Sports centre news

HERE is an update on our aqua mobility and fitness classes. From January, all our classes will be on a course basis for 10 or 12 weeks depending on the class. Our Tuesday class is changing, with a new instructor too.

A reminder of those classes:

Monday: 12.05-1.05pm Aqua mobility, 6-7pm DanceFit

Tuesday: 7-8pm New class, new instructor - BodPower

Wednesday: 12.05-1.05 Aqua mobility, 7-8pm LoAerobics

Thursday: 7.15-8pm spin

For more information and to sign up for the classes, call the sports centre on 890248.

Personal training and therapy at Linton sports centre

We have recently acquired two new personal trainers and an alternative therapist for the centre. Jon and Matt will be able to cater to your personal fitness needs, and help you on your way to achieving your goals.

Jo is our therapist, who has previously been based in Haverhill. She will be able to soothe away those aches and pains and give you a little treat from her range of therapies.

For more information call the sports centre on 890248.

Fitness4Health

This is the GP referral scheme based at Linton community sports centre. You may be referred by your medical practitioner for a variety of health related reasons. This scheme is subsidised by SCDC and CPCT.

Visit Linton health centre (or other medical practice) for your doctor's referral.

Further details are available from the sports centre on 890248.

Mark Wilson
Manager, Linton community sports centre, 890248
www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk

'Parking at the centre is just not good enough'

CAR parking and safety were two of the topics raised at a recent Linton community sports centre user group meeting.

Members felt that not enough had been done by the school or sports centre to get round the problem of parking spaces while the building work was going on. One member had left the centre because of the problem.

Although there will be 18 spaces eventually, the current situation was not acceptable. Members would like the matter taken up with the management group, or perhaps the Granta school could offer some temporary spaces.

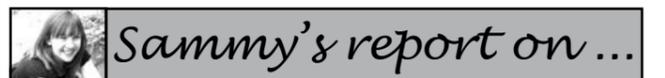
Concern was expressed about the access route. The wooden passageway was dark and difficult to negotiate for pupils coming in and out.

There was also the potential for an accident with only sufficient width for one person at a time. The ramp was also slippery when wet, although some anti-slip strips had been laid.

Members also said the fire exit routes were not adequate and not safe. Exits were marked, but at night there would be no lighting at the back of the fitness suite and there was a locked gate. They felt that if the fire brigade was asked to advise, these routes would be condemned. Something needed to be done and again members said the management group should take action.

For a full report of the meeting, please contact Mark Wilson at the sports centre on 890248.

Sue Albrow



SAMMY'S report will be back next next month.

What a swell party ... and all that jazz

OUR 65th birthday was celebrated with a splendid party at Chalklands community centre. A wonderful three course meal provided by the catering committee was much enjoyed by all members able to attend.

The room was beautifully decorated by the Chalklands residents and a bumper raffle was organised with many lovely prizes.

After our fill of good food and wine we were ready for the entertainment. This was provided by Karen Sanderson who sang and played her flute, providing jazz and Christmas tunes for us to join in with. A perfect end to a lovely evening.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on 6th January in the village hall when the speaker will be Rita Boniface who will talk on 'My hobby as a pilot'. Do come and join us; new members always welcome.

Tricia Lewis 893609



Time for fun: organising committee members ready for the revelries to start

Picture supplied by Linton WI

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

The numbers to call

REPORTING crimes and incidents to the police is a matter that has caused some confusion in the past. In our attempts to make sure we answer your calls and allow officers to be out of the police station patrolling, we have moved away from providing direct numbers to police stations.

The operators who take your call can often deal with your enquiry direct, update you on a crime or incident or record your crime. They will also be able to pass your call through to officers at the station or on their mobile phones. Below is a general guide to reporting.

Emergencies:

Dial 999 when lives are at risk of violence or serious injury, when serious crime is happening or when a criminal is still at the scene or nearby.

The police operator will need to take your name, address and details of what has happened. This will take time, but it is important to get all of the information so that we can send the appropriate resources to you if necessary.

Non-emergency cases (24 hours a day):

Call 0845 4564564. Your call will be answered by a trained operator. Please note, calls may be recorded for quality monitoring, training and evidential purposes.

General phone inquiries (24 hours a day):

Call 0845 4564564.

MINICOM Helpline for the deaf and hard of hearing, anywhere in the force area. Call 01480 422493

RNID TypeTalk is a national telephone relay service which enables, deaf, deaf/blind, hard of hearing and speech impaired people to communicate. To use the service, call 0800 515152

Contact online: www.cambs.police.uk

New rôle for Lesley

THE Bishop and the Archdeacon of Cambridge would like all people in the parishes of the Linton team to know that some time in February next year the present non-stipendiary minister curacy of the Rev Lesley Gore at St John's church, Hills Road, Cambridge will come to an end, and that she will finish the rest of her curacy under the training supervision of the Rev Graham Ridgwell.

Until a new team rector is appointed, and plans are made for the precise deployment of the clergy and lay members of the ministry team, Lesley's ministry as a curate will be for the most part in the parishes which the rector normally cares for, both liturgically and pastorally; Horseheath, Casile Camps and Shudy Camps, together with Bartlow at present.

She will not be 'based' liturgically in Linton, but Graham will allocate specific areas of work in all the parishes to suit her talents and training needs. As far as the parish of Linton is concerned this could mean in due course a pastoral involvement with the elderly, focused for example on Symonds House.

We hope particularly that people in Linton will understand that as a priest still in training, she will not simply be able to return to her former ministry as many of you will remember it.

Above all, we commend Lesley and her family to your prayers, as we continue to pray for you all.

Rev Graham Ridgwell

Diary in the post office

THERE is a diary in Linton post office in which every local club, organisation and society is invited to enter the dates and times of any meetings or functions. If you do not use this diary, the Linton News cannot guarantee to put all the dates into the diary on Page 3 each month. Please include the event, time and venue. The information in the diary is collected on the deadline day of each month. So please, can you ask the person responsible in your club, organisation or society to ensure that this is done. Currently, there are dates missing for many of the popular meetings in 2009.

LNT

LINTON DIARY

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

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

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

WEEKLY

Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
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
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays from 9/9 Dog & Duck	LVC
Linton Granta toddlers, 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
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays from 20 th Jan	VH
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time	VH
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays	(call 892076)
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 9.45am & 11am Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Rhyme'n'rhythm tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time	URC
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

For Sports Centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248

JANUARY

3 NO farmers' market	
3 Friends of St Mary's coffee morning, 11am	VH
5 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
6 Chestnut playgroup restarts	CC
6 WI, 7.30pm	VH
7 Village hall committee, 8pm	VH
8 Trefoil guild AGM, 7.45pm	3 Cambridge Road
8 Reading group, 8pm	Dog and Duck
8 Parish council, 8pm	CC
11 Camera club outing, 9.30am	VH
12 Adult BE classes start	SVC and LVC
13 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
16,17 Murder mystery, 7.30 for 8pm	St Mary's church hall, Sawston
17 ACES' bring-and-buy fundraiser, 10am-2pm	VH
20 Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
21 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon	Health centre
24 Burns' night, 7pm	Hadstock village hall
22 Parish council, 8pm	CC
31 Friends of St Mary's lunch, 12noon	Chalklands
31 Cambs hunt, 12noon	Horseheath race course

FEBRUARY

2 Camera club, 7.15	CC
5 Parish council, 8pm	CC
7 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
8 Camera club outing, 9.30am	VH
3 WI, 7.30pm	VH
10 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
15 Friends of St Mary's talk, 2.30pm	Church pavilion
17 Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
19 Ashdon gardening club, 7.15pm	Ashdon village hall
21 Cambridge glass fair, 10.30am	Chilford Hall

IF your club/society's date is not mentioned in the diary, it could be that it was not put in the village diary in the post office. See article on this page (left) to remedy the omission in time for the February issue of the Linton News.

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

Refuse collection: 5th, 19th January, 2nd February

Recycling collection: 12th, 26th January

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

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First tree festival lights up St Mary's

THE weekend of 12th-14th December saw a new venture for St Mary's Church in Linton in the form of a Christmas tree festival. Twenty-two real Christmas trees, generously donated by Tereza Votre Jewellery, were lit and decorated on the theme of Christmas carols, each tree being accepted by a different group, organisation, family or individual from within the village, church and neighbouring parishes.



Theme and variations: a few of the decorated trees that filled the church

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Choices ranged from a very chilly *In the Bleak Midwinter* and numerous other traditional carols through to modern chil-

dren's songs such as *Christmas Calypso*, complete with dancing angels, all the way to *Rocking around the Christmas Tree*,

decorated with microphones and guitar-playing angels.

Background music was provided by church organists and

pianists, with a delightful interlude from Linton Community College music students, led by Emma Mason.

On Saturday, in the infant school hall, lunches and teas were served while the adventurous were invited to take their chances on the tombola, bottle stall and raffle.

The weekend concluded on Sunday afternoon with a singalong of carols and festive readings; the unanimous verdict being that the festival had been a great success.

Gillian Powell

Football boot challenge



Is it a bird? No it's a pair of boots, but how did they reach these dizzy heights?

Picture by Josephine Paterson

HAS anyone else noticed that one of the trees in Linton recreation ground is bearing some unusual fruit?

Way up high in the tree next to the horsechestnut can now be seen a pair of black Nike football boots. They make an unusual and rather intriguing sight now that the leaves are gone.

The boots actually belong to a pupil at Linton village college who, in September, left his PE kit on the way home from school one day while he stopped to collect conkers. While the rest of the bag and its contents were found the following day, there was no sign of the football boots.

Now all is revealed; clearly these boots were made for climbing ... and they did, right to the top of the tree!

The pupil (and his mum) would really like to get them back but we are stuck. The boots are up very high, and suspended by their laces in the smaller and furthestmost branches of the tree. Do any very tall Lintonians have a very long ladder and a very long pole or a trained monkey that they could lend? Or perhaps someone has another creative solution?

Any offers of help gratefully received. Please contact me.

Josephine Paterson 893582

If the boots have gone from the tree by the time the LN is delivered, I would be grateful for any information about them, Jo.

Christmas decorations made to look simple

AT our December meeting, Penny Brown from The Flower Boutique visited the gardening club to demonstrate how to make beautiful table and mantelpiece decorations for Christmas. Her expertise made it look deceptively simple to create stunning arrangements for the festive season. She gave us some wonderful tips on how to spice up the things we can find in the garden, such as holly and ivy, to make our decorations more festive.



Penny Brown and Kirsten Newble with some of Penny's beautiful Christmas decorations.

Don't throw away the lower branches trimmed off your Christmas trees as they are great to add an instant Christmas feel to arrangements. A cunning way to replace berries lost to the birds in the garden is to thread cranberries on to wire before using them to perk up a wreath.

Penny also showed us how effective multiple similar arrangements in the same container were when seen as a group for a table centre or lined up along a mantelpiece.

Terracotta plant pots were filled with candles, greenery and pine cones then home dried slices of orange had a wire added, before being slotted into the arrangement to accent the terracotta colour. A hand-tied bouquet cut short

and used to crown a present style box was a wonderful finale.

Penny's demonstration was followed by a chance to catch up with friends over mince pies and mulled wine while finishing the quiz!

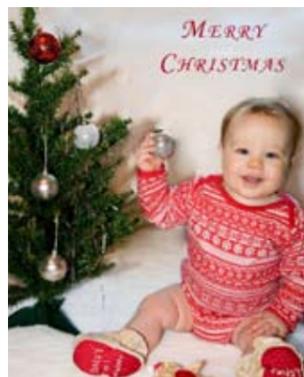
The ever popular Peter Jackson, from Scotsdales, will be the speaker for the club's

meeting on at 7.30pm on 13th January in the village hall. He will be speaking to us about plants for winter interest.

We look forward to welcoming both members and visitors for a great start to the New Year.

Kirsten Newble 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Heather says farewell



A festive Alex beside the tree

Picture by Heather Sturman

AFTER 10 years of headship at Linton infant school, Heather Sturman has decided to take a career break to be a full-time mother.

And who could blame her with such a beautiful addition to her family in the shape of Alex?

She wishes you all a happy and healthy 2009!

Try Music Matters!

If you are looking for a new, enjoyable and fun activity to do with your under fives for the new year - then why not try Music Matters!

Sessions run for children from 12 months upwards, and are a brilliant opportunity to spend quality time with your child, while encouraging its natural development. In our informal sessions, grown-ups and children sing a variety of songs and rhymes, play percussion instruments and respond to music through games and actions.

Classes are pre-booked in blocks of five sessions, with the flexibility of using the first session as a 'trial' before committing yourself. Music Matters! is unique to Linton, so why not bring your little ones along for some fun? Classes will restart from Thursday 8th January at Linton village hall. To find out more, please contact me.

Emma Mason 893140

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Looking to the future at Flaxfields



WORK on the redevelopment of Flaxfields has been proceeding apace and Linton News reader and estate resident, Colin Sneezum, has been charting the progress with his camera.



The old bedsits, including the bungalow, pictured far left, of long-time Flaxfields' resident Mrs Agnes Smoothy, now in Symonds House, were all demolished recently

Find out all about the buildings of East Anglia

FOR spring 2009, Linton WEA (Workers' Educational Association) branch welcomes a new lecturer to our regular 10 weekly sessions.

Mr Chris Walker comes with an excellent reputation generated from classes he has taught across the eastern region.

We are studying a new subject as we tackle the Architecture of East Anglia: a brief guide to its history. We will be looking at the underlying reasons for forms of construction and appearance of buildings in the region from 1066 up to the modern day; each week covers a different period and style.

We start our 10-week term in Linton village hall at 10am on Tuesday 20th January. Each session lasts until 11.45 am, with a break for a cup of coffee and a chance to catch up on the local news halfway through.

The WEA nationally has set the course fee. Here at Linton,

we endeavour to offset the fees by including a course outing at a greatly reduced price.

We hope that during this time of severe belt tightening across the financial spectrum, our band of loyal and greatly valued members and, of course, any potential new members will join us for the term.

We remind you that there are two schemes available to help people feeling the financial pinch that will enable them still to be able to attend our courses. These matters are always dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Full details can be found on the Linton WEA website or can be discussed by contacting the branch treasurer at lintonwea.org.uk

For all enquiries about the course, please contact the branch treasurer on 892430 or info@lintonwea.org.uk

Andrew Westwood-Bate

Come and enjoy a day's first-class racing

HORSE racing at Horseheath has been a regular feature in the early months of the year for more than 25 years; the undulating course is widely acknowledged as one of the premier courses in the country

It provides some excellent viewing of the action, which attracts some of the country's finest stars.

The first of the meetings which attracts a large entry of horses will be run by the Cambridgeshire Hunt with Enfield Chace.

The first of the seven races kicks off at 12 noon on Saturday 31st January; contact Wendy Ward on 01954 718111, or email wendy.ward3@sky.com

The second meeting run by the Thurlow Hunt starts at 1pm on Saturday 21st February; contact Emma

Topham-Smith on 01284 388355 or e-mail emmie@topham-smith.co.uk

The third is run by the Puckeridge Hunt and starts at 1.30pm on Saturday 28th March. There will also be two pony races at the end of this meeting. Contact Michelle Harvey on 01279 508363 or e-mail miller@fsmail.net

There will be plenty of varied trade stands, a licensed bar, food stalls, bookmakers and a tote, and a funfair for the children.

There are entrance charges for adults but children can get in free. Parking is also free. The racecourse is situated off the Haverhill - Linton bypass. Hope to see you at Horseheath racecourse for a fun day out for all the family.

Wendy Ward

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POT POURRI (48)

Gas or electricity?

WHICH is more economical when making pots of tea – gas or electricity? The following data is given:

The amount of water used: 1.35 litres

Temperature (start) of water: 18C

Temperature (final) of water: 98C

Gas costs 4.3p per kW(kiloWatt)

Electricity costs 15.2p per kWh(kiloWatt hour)

Assume there is no heat loss to the environment – all the energy goes to heating the water. Additional information resides with your utility bill.

Solution to No 47 – Simple Number Theory?

i) $2 + 2 = 2 \times 2 = 4$ also $0 + 0 = 0 \times 0 = 0$

ii) $1 + 2 + 3 = 1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$ (known as a perfect number)

iii) 0

iv) $(2 \times 2) + (2 \times 2) = 4 + 4 = 8 = 2 \times (2 \times 2)$

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chestnut playgroup raises £300

CHESTNUT playgroup held a successful Christmas fayre on Saturday 22nd November, raising more than £300 for playgroup funds. Among the attractions were a raffle, biscuit decorating, craft stalls and face painting.

There was also a very special visit from Father Christmas. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us.

Children and staff will be returning on Tuesday 6th January and they will be looking at New Year celebrations, including how the Chinese mark the arrival of another 12 months.

New stall at farmers' market

THERE is no farmers' market in January, but if you go to the February one and have a fancy for sewn or knitted goods, there will be a new stall selling gloves, scarves, soft toys, hand puppets, cushions and so on.

Toast the Burns' Night haggis

HADSTOCK will be celebrating Burns' Night with a traditional haggis dinner, complete with neeps 'n' tatties. The haggis will be addressed and toasted with Burns' immortal verses and after dinner there will be country dancing to music provided by The Lairds. All this and much more, plus a tot or two of whisky, is included in the ticket price of £17.50. To join in the fun, call Jamie Spencer on 890186 (9am-6pm) for tickets, but please don't delay as numbers are strictly limited.

Richard Partridge

TV's garden star at Ashdon

ASHDON gardening club is having an open meeting at 7.45pm on Thursday, 19th February in the Ashdon village hall when the speaker will be the writer and TV presenter Christine Walkden, who many may remember from her own lively TV series, *Christine's Garden*.

Tickets for this are now on sale at the cost of £6, available from the chairman Hilary Haynes, Fallowden Farm, Ashdon, Essex CB10 2HL with cheques made payable to Ashdon gardening club, or in the new year from Ashdon post office. Hilary Haynes 01799 584357

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Youth band makes its fans very proud

SOLACE, a six-piece youth band, which has emerged from The Beacon Community Trust youth group, IMPACT, gave all those involved in Christian youth work in Linton something to be proud of on Saturday 6th December, when they supported the popular Christian rock band

YFriday in Hadleigh near Ipswich.

The event was held in Hadleigh's very large United Reformed church and was part of a six-date tour by YFriday to showcase new material from their latest album before its release early next year.

Solace, comprising Emma Rice (14), Sophie Munday (15), Andy Mudge (16), James Turner (16), Thom Wilson (16) and Nicole Tweed (17) led a packed house in half an hour of worship to begin the evening and they set the scene brilliantly, leaving all who travelled from

Linton to support them feeling extremely proud.

It was hard to believe that this was the first major live appearance by Solace, who have been playing together for only three months. It's exciting to think what they could achieve in the future.

Adrian Rose 894859



Brilliant scene setters: Solace in action at their debut live performance

Picture by 'Henry Wilson photographer'

Are you missing out?

EVERY year millions of pounds worth of social security benefits go unclaimed because people do not know what they are entitled to, or how to claim.

Older people and people with disabilities living in rural communities face particular difficulties.

The Village Benefits Advice Service (VBAS) helps people living in rural areas of Cambridgeshire to claim their share of these benefits by offering advice and assistance.

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Introducing the friends of Granta school

FRIENDS of Granta school (FOGS) is a parent association which has been going for just over one year. We are a registered charity and our aims are to fundraise for much needed items which the education authority will not pay for, to be a support group for the special needs students, their parents and the Granta school staff, and to provide a social forum for Granta.

We have raised money with raffles, a very successful summer fete last June and most recently a Christmas fair. This event alone raised £500. We invite bids for the FOGS' funds from students and staff, and so far we have funded small and large items, from footballs to special needs bicycles, Christmas outings and sensory equipment to playground equipment. One parent did the Great North Run last year and raised nearly £900 by himself. We also hosted an autumn disco, which was very much enjoyed by children, parents and staff – the karaoke was outstanding!

One of our projects for 2009 is to make over the sixth form garden at Granta. At present it is a very boring space and worst of all, it is not suitable for wheelchair users. We will be fundraising hard for this one. If anyone feels generous, please consider donating to FOGS. This can be done online at justgiving.com/grantaschool; every penny donated this way means we can get 25% gift aid back from the taxman.

We will be having a summer fete and Christmas fair again this year and we will let you know the dates in good time. These events are not just for Granta school and LVC, but are open to everyone and we particularly value the wonderful local support we get from the Linton community.

If anyone would like to know any more about FOGS or Granta school, please contact the chairman, Caroline Ilott at caroline@ilott.demon.co.uk

Happy new year from FOGS!

Caroline Ilott

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Chef's corner

JOEL sends his apologies this month but as we were leading up to Christmas when we prepared the paper, I am sure you can understand he was extremely busy. He hopes to be back next month. In the meantime, I am writing one of my favourite recipes for using up cooked chicken or turkey. It is also a low calorie dish, so you can feel very saintly as you eat it, especially considering all that excess over Christmas! Editor

Sicilian style turkey

Ingredients

25g (1oz) butter
1 onion, sliced
75g (3oz) button mushrooms, sliced
25g (1oz) plain flour
Half teasp ground ginger
Half teasp grated nutmeg
150ml (1/4 pt) chicken stock
150ml (1/4 pt) skimmed milk
350g (12oz) cooked turkey meat, chopped
salt and pepper
15g (1/2 oz) flaked almonds, toasted

Method

Melt the butter in a large pan, add the onion and mushrooms and fry for about five minutes or until soft. Add the flour, ginger and nutmeg. Cook for one minute. Gradually blend in the stock and milk. Bring to the boil, stirring, then add the turkey and salt and pepper to taste, cover and simmer for about 20 minutes. Pile the mixture into a hot serving dish and sprinkle with the toasted almonds. Serve with noodles or rice and salad.

And for dessert? Use up some of that fruit sitting uneaten in the fruit bowl because you had too many chocolates!

Murder mystery in Sawston

ON Friday 16th and Saturday 17th January at 7.30 for 8pm, the Sky Blue Theatre company is presenting two murder mystery evenings at St Mary's church hall Sawston. Our new 2009 play is called *The Auction* and you, too, can bid for some of our wonderful items. Come and enjoy an excellent evening's entertainment chock full of laughter. Sit and have a two course meal, try to guess who the murderer is, look out for the clues and have lots of laughter. Dramawise will be presenting the raffle. The money raised from this will be going towards their Edinburgh trip. Why not have a table with your friends? A bar with wine and orange juice will be available but seating is limited. Tickets available from me.

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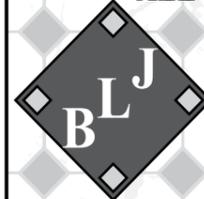
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Dragons and dancers ...



Dancing days: dragon dancers and, below, the Coton Morris men

THE Camera club had earmarked the Mill Road Winter Fair on 6th December for an awayday and it was not disappointing. Blue sky, sunshine and a crisp clear day meant it was ideal for the annual event, which is now a firm fixture in Cambridge diaries.

Mill Road is one of the real old roads in Cambridge (I know the area well because as a child I used to go to the Saturday morning ABC Minors at the old Playhouse cinema on the corner of Covent Garden, where the Salvation Army now has its charity shop). How it's

changed – there is an amazing selection of all sorts of shops and restaurants where you can buy pretty much anything from any part of the world – Chinese, Turkish, Italian, Indian, in addition to a wide range of health food, Asian furniture, wine, flowers, and vegetables.

We arrived early and had to leave by about midday so missed the Dragon dance and some of the other street activities, but were happy to see that everyone was entering into the spirit of the occasion, some dressed in colourful fancy dress. There were cookery and music

Pictures by Tracey Wilson
demonstrations from around the world – beautiful national costumes – and some free gifts as well. It's hard to remember everything we heard and saw; there was so much. The atmosphere was friendly, happy and vibrant. Suffice to say that next year, I intend to return to enjoy the full day.

Anyone wanting to find out more about Linton Camera club is welcome to ring Roger Lapwood 891104 or Tracey Wilson 891988. We have an exciting and interesting programme for 2009, so do think about joining us.
Jan Shambrook



Celebrate with us

THE Friends of St Mary's are 21 this year and a full calendar of events has been arranged. We start with a coffee, mince pie and savouries morning from 11am-12.30pm on Saturday 3rd January in the village hall. Admission £3 includes all you can eat and drink.

Then at 12noon for 12.30pm on Saturday 31st January in the Chalklands community room another foodie event – lunch. Admission is £8.50 to include main course, dessert, fruit juice and coffee. Guests may bring their own wine. Tickets to be booked in advance from Mrs Monica Clarkson, 892988.

These events are not for members of the Friends only; all are welcome.

Margaret Clark

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais Illustrated by Maureen Williams

A sprite, camouflaged in cloud

HE slid through that doorway of remaining moments of light and into the night like a sprite. The mist gathered in ghostly ribbons by the Granta beyond the churchyard and woven there, with ember-like eyes that raged on detection and a downy grey coat sparkling in dusky dew, was the old grey fox. He appeared to hover, camouflaged in cloud; though nimble, he was no contender for a quick-eyed experienced wildlife sentinel such as me.

Even his posture portrayed an intent to elude me, ready-set like an athlete, but many years practice would enhance my advantage in strategically outwitting one witty and wily such as he! Before his evasive move, I'd already anticipated the escape route. A quick sprint and my lamp showered his well-pawed path in light. He leapt, rising on air to the wall top, tiptoeing his way like a ballerina, surveying this and that way, checking if I was still on his tail. I was!

The old boy intentionally slipped off the flinted wall before the pavilion and vanished silently into the darkness. He doubled back, over the footbridge, taking the grassy path to the A1307, darting across the highway and weaving his way back up Long Road and over the hill, where foxes always seem to live. 'Tis there, where once land trembled under steam and steel, we met

some nights later.

This time the venerable fox stood his ground, sketching in the air with pointed snout, drawing on memories of my scent. Slowly, he turned and skipped over the fields, looking behind every few paces, checking if I was following; I wasn't. His fearless nonchalance reflected his knowing my curiosity was about his life and his wretched ways and I meant him no harm. Perhaps he considered too the amazing outcome of our genetic paths of existence by chance or design, that

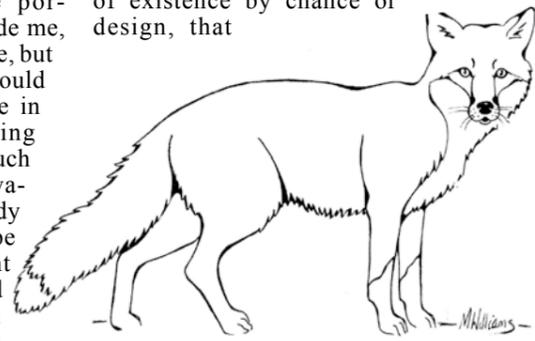
gathering food in the wild, although he's coming into the village more frequently to rummage in bins for easy pickings and off-guard sleepy rare ducks. Curious Mr Fox, adorable Monsieur Reynard must wonder why he and his family are so persecuted and exiled to a life of secrecy! Only when one strikes fortune enough to see a whole family of bushy-tailed *Vulpes fulva* gathered and chatting, are we endeared by their true value.

And furthermore, if you believe laughter is confined to a few selected bipeds, then take heed of foxes playing in the snow. Still, one cannot help but feel aggrieved when our shy sly friend comes into our village to help himself to our precious waterfowl.

In much of England, the countryside-crunch has long since rendered our carnivorous canines almost impotent to expand their border-less empires.

We've borrowed their territory, not shared it! We've taken nature's gifts without reciprocation. My rescued pet fox Warren ultimately rejected my company in favour of a life in the spinney with his own kind back in the wild; exactly where he belonged.

But not before helping himself to lunch; my pet duck! *Bon appétit Warren!*



he was a fox and I human. Was there any significance to our crossing in a lonely field on a small island somewhere on a planet spinning through a tiny universe in an infinite mystery?

We may indeed share an affinity, but it's more likely an attraction of a subtle dowsing of fragrant crispy recipes created by our busy Chinese take-away that awakens the interest, permeating the Linton evening air. Poor old man, but he's still fit, a little weary perhaps of shot and dog yet one of the lucky ones. Still

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LAST year I wrote about the great tree fiasco and how the Whispering Shade limes had been replaced at the college because of the attraction they held for bumble bees and the subsequent hazard created for students. Finally, we have a happy ending to the story. No buzzing creatures are involved and I will leave former science technician Barbara Collar, who organised the planting of the trees, to explain ...

Enhancing the college with trees we hope you will grow to love

THE school buildings are not the only part of the college being refurbished at this time. The planners have planted many trees; mainly around the perimeter to enhance the overall appearance of the site.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the sponsored trees, which were removed to relocate the drive have been replaced. There are 50 trees in all and we now have an avenue of white prunus down the main drive to complement those that have been there for some years. A line of acers in front of the college and over by the tennis courts adds to a mixed planting of trees to create a woodland area.

We hope these trees will provide natural cover for pupils at the college for generations to come. They have been selected to give a variety of colour throughout the year and I hope that as they mature, the residents of Linton will grow to love them as they did the original lombardy poplars.

To those of you who sponsored a tree, I will be contacting you in the spring to rededicate the replacement trees.

Barbara Collar

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/1885/08/F Mr & Mrs D W Burberry, 21 Lonsdale, Linton. Extensions and alterations.
- S/1950/08/F Mr & Ms J Barthorpe & M Rhodes, 4 Market Lane, Linton. Conversion of outbuilding to form garage and store at ground floor with annexe above.
- S/1952/08/LB Mr & Ms J Barthorpe & M Rhodes, 4 Market Lane, Linton. Internal and external alterations and conversion of outbuilding to garage, shower room and study/guest room with three new roof lights.
- S/2000/08/F Mr Glyn Cropper, 29 High Street, Linton. Erection of two storey outbuilding.
- S/2001/08/CAC Mr Glyn Cropper, 29 High Street, Linton. Total demolition of two storey outbuilding.
- S/2076/08/LB Mrs Francis Bickerstaff, 4 Church Lane, Linton. Alterations - install flue liners to three ground floor hearths and chimney pot. Lay pamment floor in kitchen, wc lobby, breakfast and front room. Reinstate lath and plaster to first floor partition in bedroom to form study.

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The Way We Were
by Garth Collard

An early Linton doctor and the scourge of smallpox

IN 1774 Jacob Eve widower, surgeon and apothecary (druggist) moved from West Wrattling with his two sons to reside at 29 High Street (opposite Horn Lane). His eldest son Edward Eve became the main Linton parish doctor after his father died in 1795.

Edward was married to Sarah Chalk, the daughter of a prosperous carrier called Robert Chalk who lived at Summerfield in Mill Lane, and the couple had three sons.

Edward Eve treated the deserving poor (the very old, the sick and orphans) and was paid by the Linton overseers who administered the parish poor rate.

Some of the bills he submitted to the overseers for payment in 1806 have survived, and his fees do seem to have been rather high. Bear in mind that the average farm wage at that time was only 8/- (40p) a week. Items billed included—a nervous mixture 2/6d, a box of pacific pills 2/-, a blister for widow Cowling's son 1/6d, pearl barley and gum Arabic 4d, a gargle for the throat 1/6d, six fever powders 2/- and a box of digestive for Kitty Winter 6d. You can see from this list of prices that most ordinary villagers avoided go-



The doctor's residence, then a chemist's shop, where Edward Eve lived in 1809

Picture courtesy the Cambridge collection

ing to the doctor!

However, there was one disease which killed rich and poor indiscriminately; the dreaded smallpox. Epidemics frequently swept the nation and more than 60% of the populace caught smallpox at some period during their life, and more than one third would die. In Linton from the 1730s, the pest house in Symond's Lane housed the worst cases. Doctors inoculated patients with the smallpox virus but this invariably killed them.

The eventual cure for smallpox was found by Edward Jenner, a doctor from Berkeley in Gloucestershire who in 1796 discovered the link between cowpox in dairy maids and their apparent immunity to smallpox. Jenner first inoculated eight-year-old James Phipps with cowpox germs, and then

administered a small dose of the smallpox virus some six weeks later. The boy survived and Jenner published his revolutionary findings in 1798. Medical opinion was outraged. Most doctors rejected and ridiculed his beliefs and very soon cartoons appeared showing cows' heads growing from every part of the vaccinated patient.

In Cambridge the opposition was extremely hostile and letters attacking the new practice appeared in the Cambridge press. However in Linton, Edward Eve, a progressive surgeon stoutly defended Jenner. Eve and his partner John Caldicott wrote a letter to the editor of the Cambridge Chronicle in January 1809: "Sir, our practice in Linton has shown the new cowpox inoculation of Dr Jenner to be a great blessing.

Within the last month we have treated nearly 500 patients for the smallpox and the only effect was a slight inflammation round the incision which went off in a few days, sometimes a small pustule, but no eruption or fever whatever.

"As some of the patients had been vaccinated seven years ago in 1802 it tends to discredit the opinion so industriously propagated, that cowpox is only a temporary security. Several other patients who had been vaccinated have freely mixed with those who were affected by the smallpox and in every instance resisted the infection."

Remember, the population of the village was only around 1,200 people in 1809 so almost half had been vaccinated.

Edward Eve died peacefully at his Linton residence in 1818. It took until 1840 for the medical profession finally to accept vaccination for smallpox as the standard treatment, and it was only in 1853 that vaccination became compulsory.

It seems so sad that it was not until 1980 that the World Health Organisation was able to declare the eradication of smallpox worldwide. Our two Linton surgeons were certainly ahead of their time.

A year of anniversaries at the historical society

THE year 2009 has several important anniversaries locally. It is the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Ely and the 800th anniversary of the foundation of Cambridge University.

In September, it is nationally the 70th anniversary of the WW2 evacuees some of whom descended on Linton and the surrounding villages, while in April it is the 70th anniversary of the death of Dr William Mortlock Palmer, who was not only our much loved doctor (especially by all the local school children) between 1900 and 1925, but also a great Cambridgeshire antiquarian of much distinction. We will hear more about him later in the year.

The Linton and district historical society begins the new year on Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm at Linton village hall when we welcome back Christopher Jakes from the Cambridgeshire Collection.

He will be showing us a photographic history of Cambridge University to help celebrate its 800th year. In February, we will look more closely at the history of education at the university.

You are all very welcome. Our annual membership fee is just £8 for the season; that's still less than a guinea for a grand night out. Or you can come along to individual meetings for £2.

So why don't you join us for a guaranteed enjoyable evening among friends. The society is currently working on a wide range of projects. If there are any researchers out there, whether local,



Dr Palmer setting out in his car

Picture supplied by Andrew Westwood-Bate

family, village or social historians, we would love you to come and help us.

Finally, we are still looking for a budding journalist to come along to our meetings and write a very short article for the Linton News each month; we might even give you free annual membership.

If you are interested, we would be very pleased to welcome you. Would you please contact either Garth Collard on Cambridge 892395 or Andrew on Cambridge 892430 if you have any other questions about the society.

Andrew Westwood-Bate

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THE LINTON NEWS
Next Publication Date 2nd February 2009
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 12th January
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Parish Council Matters

The future of Linton police station

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

YOU may have read in the local newspapers during November that the Police Authority has decided to sell the police station to a social housing landlord. Although we were aware that the Authority was considering transferring the police houses, neither the parish council nor our county or district councillors were given any notice at all of this other decision. It means the present police station will close by the beginning of 2010.

The Police Authority is not the same as the Cambridgeshire police force. According to the Authority's website, Police Authorities "are independent bodies made up of local people who oversee the work of their local Constabulary. We have a range of financial and legal powers but our principal responsibility is to maintain an efficient and effective police service in Cambridgeshire." The Authority is made up of magistrates, lay members and appointed councillors. One of their responsibilities is to provide operational accommodation for the police - i.e. police stations.

After learning of this

decision, we immediately contacted the Police Authority seeking information. We received a short response from the Authority which talked about maintaining a police "presence" in very vague terms.

You will not be surprised to know that when I reported on this to the Parish Council there was considerable upset about the complete lack of consultation with the community and great concern at the proposal itself.

County councillor Batchelor arranged a meeting on 1 December for all the parish councils served from Linton police station with Inspector Savage, which councillor Hickford and I attended on behalf of Linton. Nearly all the parish councils were represented at the meeting and everyone present agreed on the importance of maintaining a visible police presence in the village. We wanted a police station. What seemed quite remarkable was that Inspector Savage, who is responsible for community policing in the Sawston sector, which includes Linton, appears not to have been consulted either. In fact, it is not clear the extent to which

anyone in the police force was consulted about the closure decision (Melbourn is in the same position). Effectively, Inspector Savage has been given 12 months to achieve a solution, not much time to come up with a functioning alternative.

Just before our meeting with Inspector Savage, the Chairman of the Police Authority had agreed to hold a meeting with Mr. Batchelor later in December, after Parish Matters went to press. Inspector Savage has agreed to have another meeting with parish council representatives in the new year.

If we are to retain a real police presence in Linton, we have to help Inspector Savage come up with a plan quickly. Possible alternative locations suggested included the fire station site, the village college and the Cathodeon centre. We need to hear your views as soon as possible about what you think is needed and where, so we can feed them into the future discussions we will be having. Please write to the parish office as quickly as possible. We will keep you aware of developments.

Andrew Gore
Council Chairman



Linton police station as it looks today

Picture by Sue Parry

Precept - what you need to know

If you look at your council tax statement you will see that the total charge you have to pay is divided in to five different figures. The last amount on your statement, labelled Linton, is the money that South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) collects from Linton residents on our behalf. This amount of money is what is identified as the Precept. The parish council has to determine each year how much they think they will need for the following financial year. The number of requests for financial help that we receive from local residents will influence this decision. It is not too late to ask for help for your organisation for next year.

Why is the precept for the current year, April 2008 - March 2009, £134,570?

There are some commitments that are essential and occur every year such as grass cutting, administration costs, litter picking, publishing minutes and more recently street lighting.

This year we allowed over £73,000 for essential expenses.

A percentage of our precept has to be earmarked each year for essential maintenance and to cover unexpected repair bills for equipment owned by the parish, due unfortunately in many cases to vandalism.

This year we allowed over £7,000 for repairs and maintenance.

Hence at least 60% of the Precept was for essential items of expenditure.

The remaining 40% of the precept requested was for a variety of projects. In some cases this was to fund the entire project, as in the case of the CCTV cameras on the recreation ground. In other cases, it was to help build up sufficient funds for large projects such as additional play equipment, churchyard repairs, completing the Stantons Lane bridge area and extending the tarmac path by the river at Kingfisher Walk.

This year we allowed over £26,000 for specific projects.

In order to be able to respond to urgent and worthwhile requests throughout the year, which we consider would enhance our environment, we have a fund entitled, unsurprisingly, Village Enhancement.

This year we allowed £6,000 for village enhancement projects.

In addition to funding specific projects that aim to improve the area and amenities for all Linton residents, we are also able to fund activities or projects for the benefit of specific groups in our area by using what is termed Section 137 payments. There is a limit to the total value of these payments that we can make each year, which is related to the number of electorates. This year 16 different local groups have benefited so far from payments made out of the Precept.

This year we allowed over £18,000 for section 137 payments.

Next year's Precept?

The decision regarding the final amount of money we will be requesting from SCDC as our precept has not yet been made. You still have time to let us know whether your local group needs help with a specific project or whether you have thoughts on a project that will benefit the village as a whole.

We will be setting next year's precept very early in January.

If your local group requires help please let us know **now**. We need proof that your group is up and running correctly, is local, and benefits local people together with a request for a specific item with costing and a copy of your annual accounts. It is possible we may be able to part fund an item even if we cannot fund it totally. We cannot promise that there will be funding for every request but we will certainly help if we can. Tell us clearly why you need funds and how it will benefit your group. If you are unclear whether you are eligible please ask our clerk or any councillor.

Please act **now** if you would like your request to be considered for funding in the next financial year. Once the precept is set we will not necessarily have surplus funds to finance new requests.

If you have an idea don't delay write to us by early January, at the very latest, with details of your request. We would very much like to help your group with your money.

Cllr Val Urwin
Chair Finance Committee

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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 6th November.

Present: Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, S Daly, M Gee, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter and Mrs S Parry (clerk to the council). Mrs K France (press) was also in attendance together with five members of the public.

Public Forum: Mrs Debbie O'Brien of Dolphin Close spoke under item 154, S/1642/08/F. She explained the history behind the application for change of use of school land to garden land and the plans to secure a building covenant which will prevent any future building development. Liza Read of Little Linton, spoke under item 157, of the noise and health issues from wind turbines if permission for the proposed application for wind farm is given.

In the absence of the chair the vice chair opened the meeting at 8.20pm. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cox, Gore and Urwin.

Before the following two planning discussions Cllrs Cornell and Hickford left the meeting having expressed a prejudicial interest as governors of Linton Heights junior school Cllr Daly expressed a personal interest as an owner of a neighbouring property. In the absence of Cllr Cornell, Cllr Linsdell took the chair.

S/1640/08/RM Land rear of Newdigate House - approval of all reserved matters relating to the erection of 11 dwelling units. Cllr Rossiter explained that most of our previous concerns had been taken on board. It was agreed that no recommendation would be given.

S/1642/08/F Linton Heights junior school - Mr J O'Brien, change of use of school land to garden land. After much discussion it was agreed that council would support this application subject to the building covenant being in place to prevent any future development.

Cllrs Cornell and Hickford rejoined the meeting

Reports from co-ordinators: Recreation Ground: Cllr Linsdell reported on a site meeting with John Taylor of Atkins regarding the drainage problem at the Meadow Lane gates. A pipe will be inserted under the foot path into an existing culvert. This water would then drain via a soak-away to the recreation ground. A quotation would follow.

Leadwell meadows: Cllr Rossiter reported the meadows have had their annual cut.

Glebe land: Cllr Rossiter reported that this needed to be cut. Cllr Potter offered the use of the tractor owned by the football club.

A1307: Cllr Cornell reported that the Haverhill planning consultation is due to open. The 50mph speed limit signs from the Granta garage to the Dene crossroads should be in place by the end of this month. The minor accident rate along this road appears to be increasing.

Allotments: Cllr Linsdell reported that a letter had been sent to SCDC asking for advice regarding the next step in the quest for allotments and clarification on the offer from Mr Balaam.

Play equipment: Cllr Hammett had issued a report regarding progressing the application to Cambs community foundation for play equipment. He proposed that he be allowed to submit a request for the next stage of the application. Cllr Potter seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed by the meeting. It was agreed that this item be placed on the next agenda to agree further opportunities for funding.

Noise concerns in the community: Cllr Bald had issued a report highlighting several causes of noise pollution in the village. These included the Camgrain driers, aircraft noise, the A1307 and people noise. Cllr Bald urged residents to contact the environmental health department if they had any concerns. Camgrain are addressing the noise problems and the following work is planned: better noise attenuation for the on-site generator, the nine drier fans installed with acoustic silencers in 1998 are to be upgraded with additional silencers to reduce noise reflected back off silos towards Linton. By mid November a steel gantry should be in place at the gap in the embankment. This will allow infilling of the sides and top with straw bales leaving only a narrow entrance for grain lorries.

This year Camgrain in Linton has been drying for both its sites and by next year the Little Wibraham site will be fully operational.

The A1307, a relatively new road, would benefit by further planting especially in the area of both schools. The county council recommends planting as a way to help slow traffic on the open road, and that landowners should be encouraged to plant more trees and hedges in places where it will not cause visibility issues.

Stantons Lane bridge: The quotations to install wings were considered and much discussion took place regarding the need for these enhancements. Cllr Bald proposed that we accept the quotation from Newmech Engineering for £5,500 subject to a scaled drawing being received. Cllr Hickford seconded the proposal. A vote took place with five votes in favour, four votes against and one abstention. **Proposal carried.**

Quotations for electrical work in the area of the skate ramp were considered. Cllr Hickford proposed that we accept the quotation from P&C Electrical Ltd. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gee. A vote took place with seven votes in favour and three abstentions. **Proposal carried.**

Rivey Lane steps: Cllr Gore had issued a report following a site meeting with David Rutland of SCDC. Cllr Hickford proposed that the most viable option would be to replace the existing steps with new ones, with six inch risers and 18 inch treads, and a hand rail as now, leaving the mud strip alongside, but better graded than currently. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Rossiter and agreed unanimously by the meeting. **Proposal carried.**

Repairs to bowling green: Three quotations were considered. Cllr Krarup proposed that we accept the quotation from PG Bailey and Son Ltd. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Rossiter and agreed unanimously by the meeting. **Proposal carried.**

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton,
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Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

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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 20th November.

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

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Cox, Daly and Gee and district councillor Bear.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: Closure of present Linton police station: the chair reported on the proposed relocation of the police station within the village. After enquiries by himself and the clerk, the Cambridgeshire police authority's communications officer had confirmed that the police houses would be transferred to a social landlord by the end of 2009, and the police station closed and relocated to another building in the village offering a different type of service to that currently provided. Councillors expressed dismay at the lack of prior consultation regarding the proposal, the first notice being a report in the local newspaper, and concern about the form a replacement police station might take. Several councillors expressed the view that the fire station might be an appropriate relocation site. Cllr Batchelor had arranged a meet-

ing with Inspector Chris Savage and representatives from local parishes on Monday 1st December at 2pm in the village hall. It was agreed that Cllrs Hickford and Gore should attend on behalf of the parish council. It was also agreed to consult residents through an article in Parish Matters.

Report from the county councillor: Cllr Batchelor reported that he had been contacted a resident of Coles Lane following an accident there, suggesting that traffic calming measures be put in place to reduce the speed of traffic at the junction with the High Street. Cllr Cornell said that pedestrian safety at the junction was also a concern. Cllr Urwin noted that as the county council had designed and were responsible for the one way system, they might be asked to pay for any necessary works. It was agreed that Cllr Batchelor and the parish council contact the county council to see what could be done to address these issues, including changing the High Street 'give way' sign to a 'stop' sign, indicative white lining and the placing of railings on the corner to ensure that pedestrians crossed further up Coles Lane.

Bus service 46 to Newmarket would continue to run, but on Tuesdays only. Service 19, the village shuttle service, was also poorly used at present.

Improvement works on the A1307 at the Park Hill junction, Horseheath were due to start on 5th January and last for eight weeks. It was hoped to avoid rush hour road restrictions.

Possible changes to health centre dispensing rules would not affect patients in Linton.

Cemetery regulations: Cllr Bald proposed that the cemetery regulations, previously circulated, be formally adopted, subject to review in 12 months time. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Linsdell and agreed by the meeting.

Correspondence received and for discussion: Cambridgeshire county council re street lighting maintenance arrangement with the county council for the coming year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Urwin and agreed by the meeting.

GH Smith quotation for £828 to supply and install a notice board at Parsonage Way. Cllr Urwin proposed that the quotation be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bald and agreed by the meeting with one abstention. It was agreed that Cllr Urwin contact the county council highways department for advice regarding a suitable location for the notice board.

J Taylor email regarding various complaints including bus shelter no smoking signs. Cllr Linsdell agreed to put up more signs on the Swan bridge shelter.

SCDC, acknowledgment of the council's letter of 29th October regarding allotment land. Cllr Rossiter reported that at a recent Cambridgeshire and Peterborough association of local councils meeting, SCDC had stated that they were actively helping and encouraging parishes to consider requests for allotments.

Quotation from Atkins for £1295.41 + VAT re drainage works at Meadow Lane gate. Cllr Linsdell proposed that the quotation be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cornell and agreed by the meeting. It was agreed that Atkins be asked to confirm that the proposed works would resolve the drainage problem.

Email from the Trustees of Linton Action for Youth regarding the provision of full accounts for the years 1998-2004. The trustees have refused to supply the Council with full accounts for those years.

Reports from councillors: Cllr Bald reported that a car had mounted the garden wall of Swan House, Symonds Lane on the evening of 16th October and caused considerable damage including the demolition of a lamp post, highlighting the need for a safety barrier there as detailed in the recent funding bid to the Area Joint Committee.

Cllr Cornell reported that residents were concerned that cars were being parked in an unsafe manner on corners in Chalklands. It was agreed to ask the Police community support officers to monitor the situation.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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

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