

LOOK WHAT I'VE FOUND



Before ... the plot awaits the clear-up crew

OUR poster said 'Digging Fun' but we are going to rename this project 'The look what I've found weekend'.

Saturday 23rd October's weather forecast was storms, gales and horrendous rain - sounded like fun to us. Nevertheless about 10 adults and four children still turned up to clear the plot of land within the cemetery along Back Road where it joins Chalklands.

There was certainly a good spirit of laughter around as we tried to stop the children sliding down the bank, pulled up stinging nettles and dumped dried grass. Some of the buried treasure included bottles, cans, plastic bags, a dolls' pram and a head scarf. Funnily enough the children were more interested in the worms, snails and frogs.

We left for tea at the Village Hall, wet, dirty and pleased at the inroads we had made on clearing this piece of wasteland.

The next day brought forth glorious sunshine, three trips to Haverhill dump to get rid of about 40 bags of rubbish and lots more happy laughter and banter. We then concentrated

on the actual digging. We hadn't intended on clearing the middle 'dump' area, mainly because of the dangerous uneven surface and multitude of rubbish it had consumed over the years. (You may have noticed the bright orange fencing that we had put up to stop any children from breaking their legs.) However we even managed to tackle most of that too before retiring home weary but happy that we had improved this area for Linton, particularly for the residents of the two Chalklands bungalows adjacent to this land.

The following Wednesday came after only two days' rest and another group of volunteers came along to help plant the daffodil bulbs around the border, about 400 in all - bulbs that is, not volunteers. We also planted several bushes/trees around the edge under Susan Anderson's watchful eye after her generous contribution of the bushes in the first place.

I should just apologise here to anyone who came to the Village Hall in the afternoon expecting to see the Citizens Advice Bureau. I returned home at lunchtime to find my eight-



During ... the volunteers get to work

year-old son had (unbeknown to the babysitter) tipped out a full Coke bottle of worms that he had collected that morning all over my kitchen table, complete with the dirt he had dug up with one of my table mats - all our spades were still at the cemetery - and was proceeding to make a worm farm while the dog looked on licking her lips as these horrible things crawled around the table and onto the floor. Yuk!

As you can imagine all thoughts of Citizens Advice went right out of my head. So if you were let down by the CAB

that afternoon, I am truly sorry.

What will happen next, I hear you ask. Well, hopefully in the spring, there will be another load of topsoil delivered to smooth out the middle area which will possibly be grassed.

Susan is also going to plant two rowan trees at the front in line with the rest of the cemetery frontage. If anyone is up for some more weeding in the spring, please let me know and we will see if we can organise some more 'Digging Fun'.

Tracey Clayton

894656

The Family Resource Centre



After ... a new-look Linton

Pictures by Tracey Clayton

LINTON INFANTS FIND IT FUN TO STUDY

THE newly installed IT suite is great fun for the four to seven-year-olds at Linton Infants' School. Following the official opening on 5th November, a week of computer based projects went with a zip.

Most children were already familiar with IT concepts through using the classroom computers, laptops and instructing the "roamer" (a programmable toy). Working in pairs with 15 terminals gives everyone more time to experiment with different programmes and study wider concepts with the teacher's terminal linked to a white board. Using computer colours for art and design, the children enjoy

maths projects in many different circumstances.

Imaginative reading and writing programmes are linked into classroom projects covering a range of school subjects and the children have even been using the digital camera in their assignments.

Many parents accepted the invitation to join their children after school, when they too became absorbed in the wide range of computer programmes.

The purpose-built facilities, including a reception area and new offices for the headteacher and school secretary were opened by chair of governors, M^{rs} Sue Mudge, who said there were plans for the old offices to be used as a library area and teaching assistance for small groups.

Obtaining planning consent and finance were major hurdles during the four-year planning period. Construction work began with dismantling and removing the old demountable (mobile) classroom last February, revealing a cavity, believed to be part of the cellars of the old school house. This was soon filled and eventually seeded to make a pleasant play area for the youngest children.



Sam Howard and mum Sandra using the 'Early Essentials' software

Pictures by Norman Dann

The building work was undertaken during the spring and summer terms, when play times for the foundation year children were carefully supervised in a fenced area.

With the river to one side of the school and the busy High Street on the other, M^{rs} Mudge praised the work of ex-school governor M^{rs} Liz Hunt for her relentless pursuit of various authorities to install the railings, ensuring child safety and curtailing the persistent problems of vandalism in the school playground.

M^{rs} Hunt ceremonially cut a ribbon on the recently opened gates leading to the newly designated main entrance. M^{rs}

Mudge thanked the Parent Staff Association and the Crown Inn for their generous donations to the IT suite and the school governor who installed the computers and sorted out the wiring. She thanked Ridgeons for their gift of £100, the Linton News for supporting the purchase of plants and shrubs for the front playground, and the gang of volunteers who dug and cleared the borders before planting during the autumn half-term.

The new shed for bikes and scooters was supplied by the Safer Routes to School Initiative and is also much appreciated.

Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

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

Details of items in **bold type** may be found elsewhere in this edition
Also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info

Weekly: Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays Village Hall
Weekly: Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays LVC
Weekly: Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays
(not 28 Dec) Village Hall
Weekly: WEA class, 10-11.30am, Tuesdays Hildersham VH
Weekly: Story Time, 2.15-2.45pm, Tuesdays Library
Weekly: IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays Cathodeon Centre
Weekly: Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6-10pm, Wednesdays VH
Weekly: Tots in Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Rock Cafe, 1.30-3pm, Wednesdays in term time VH
Weekly: Little Acorns, 10am-11.30am, Thursdays VH
Weekly: Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays Village Hall
Weekly: Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays Cathodeon Centre

December

1 South Cambs Housing, 10-11.30am Village Hall
3 Blood Donor Session, 1-3.30pm & 4.30-7pm Village Hall
4 Farmers' Market, 10am LVC
4 Linton Granta Playgroup Christmas Fair, 2-4pm VH
4 Linton Music Society Concert, 7.30pm S' Mary's
5 Christingle Service, 3pm S' Mary's
5 **Camera Club Meeting, 9.30 for 10am** Village Hall
7 **WI, 7.30pm** Village Hall
9 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm The Crown
9 **ACE trip to Garden Centre 11am** Village Hall
10 **Amnesty Int. Ceilidh, 8pm** Michaelhouse Centre
11 **Christmas Disco (in aid of Indian Orphanage) 8pm** LVC
13 **Christmas auction, 8pm** Pear Tree, Hildersham
14 **Gardening Club, 7.30pm** Village Hall
14 VIP Group, 2pm Chalklands
14 Linton Heights Carol Service, 6.30pm S' Mary's
15 CAMTAD, 9am-12noon Health Centre
15 South Cambs Housing, 10-11.30am Village Hall
15 Citizens Advice Bureau, 1.30-3pm Village Hall
18 **Balsham Singers Concert, 7.30pm** Balsham Church
19 S' Mary's Christmas Party, Noon-2pm Infants' school
19 Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm, Linton Free Church
21 **Historical Society, 7.30pm** Village Hall
21 **Christmas Storytime, 2.15-3pm,** Library
24 Midnight Service, 11.30pm Linton Free Church
25 Family Service, 10.30am Linton Free Church
26 No Service Linton Free Church

Refuse collection: 13th, 20th
Recycling collection: 6th (full), 20th (green box only),
27th no collection

January

6 **WI, 7.30pm** Village Hall
8 Friends of S' Mary's Sherry & Savouries 11am-1pm VH

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

HOW CAN WE HELP?

THE trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2005. Briefly, the aims of the charity are to support the work of S' Mary's Church, the promotion of education and any other charitable purpose "for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton". In 2004, the benefaction gave grants totalling £5510 to: S' Mary's to support a youth worker; LVC for sound equipment, Linton Out of School Club for sandbox,

sand and activity tables; Curwen Print Study Centre for study days for local schools; Linton Activities and Care for the Elderly; Linton Helping Hands and a travel bursary to a girl guide.

Please contact me if you need assistance with an application, which should include the latest financial statement if you represent a group. The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 17th January 2005.

David Parry-Smith 894715
Chairman of the Trustees

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FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

by TONY SMITH

IT'S December already, which brings with it all the usual problems for me. Cold weather and I do not have a happy relationship but having been bombarded with adverts on TV heralding Christmas since 24th August, I feel a little relieved that it will soon be upon us.

Christmas seems a strange time of year as the shops always try to make us buy far too much, then tempt us back the day afterwards to buy even more, cheaper than before. These days it is hard to find something that makes it special, and I am sure I am not the only person whose mind wanders back to their childhood when we really did have snow, the shops were shut for more than a day and we had things to eat that were just not available the rest of the year. Chicken, turkey, ham, oranges, nuts, dates and figs and Vimto made Christmas a special occasion as we could not buy these luxuries all year round. They either were not in the shops, or simply just too expensive. Now, of course, we can have a Christmas dinner every day if we want.

So, what can we do to make it special? Well, I always try to cook sausage rolls and mince pies on Christmas Eve after getting up really early to go to the butcher's and the market, getting best cuts of meat and fresh fruit and vegetables as opposed to Aunt Bessie's and frozen sprouts.

We have a steady stream of friends who visit, but I'm not totally convinced it is just to wish Sue and I a happy time - I think the food has a lot to do with it! For me, Christmas will always be special no matter how hard modern life tries its best to change things, but for the first time I am beginning to understand the people who dislike this time of year so much. I notice that Andy has had his Father Christmas up on the side of his bungalow all year this year. It is like a broken watch, it has to be right some time!

Talking of understanding, I watched a TV programme recently called Grumpy Old Men. Never again! I found myself agreeing with everything they moaned and groaned about and realised I am now one of them, but it is not my fault. I believe it is down to a strange group of people whom others see as being 'Experts'. If I could have just one wish, it would be that this word is removed from the dictionary and next time you watch TV, try to count the number of 'experts' who are rolled out whenever a point of view has to be expressed or debated or an event has occurred. We all have a point of view about something, does this mean that we are all experts?

I now pass you over to a disability expert, who is not actually disabled at all, but has read about it a lot and works for an organisation for disabled people. I asked, "You provide homes for disabled people. What steps do you make to ensure that disabled people can access their local surroundings?"

His reply: "Just because a disabled person cannot access their town or village does not mean that we should not provide a home for them."

I asked: "So, as long the people are happy in their homes, access to local amenities is not important?" He replied: "We recognise that access is sometimes a problem, but it is not down to us to ensure that an infrastructure is in place to support them".

Well, if it is not their problem, who is responsible? This is why I have decided to start a group that will try to identify areas that need to be improved, not just for disabled and elderly people living in our villages, but for everyone who has an access or mobility problem, but more of that next month. It is an uphill task to try to get anything changed and some of you may have noticed that there has been a dropped kerb installed to the Health Centre. It has taken me two years and quite a lot of meetings and letter writing to get it done, but at last it is in place and I thank Dave the postman very much, as he told me that he was the one that finally pushed it through. So all credit to you Dave! Now, off to find an expert who is willing to take the credit for my Linton Disability Access Project!

The weather for December? Put your vests and thermals on, it's going to be rotten! Well, from this frozen grumpy old man, and on the eve of my first birthday of writing this column for your Linton News, may I just say 'Thank you' for the lovely things you have said about my adventures and thoughts over the year; some happy, some sad, but a cross-section of my life in our village. A special thought goes to the people who may find themselves alone over the festive period, and please can I wish you all, every single one of you, a Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and I'll try really hard to see you all in the New Year.

A CHILDREN'S WARD CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS loomed up, and I was night nurse of the children's ward. Day sister one night in November produced the 'Cot Knob Fairies'. These were treasured possessions of hers, which had been trotted out for more years than she cared to tell and tied on to the four corners of each cot every Christmas. To say they were past their prime would be flattery.

"Nurse," she said, "I think these need doing up a bit. See what you can do." The children's ward at Warley took up two rooms on the first floor of one block, and a room on the same floor was used for chronically sick women. By good luck, the new night nurse turned out to be a dear friend.

She bumped into the kitchen, which we shared, while I and my probationer were viewing with some dismay a pile of washing and about four dozen tawdry, bedraggled, dirty little dolls.

"I'm not going to do any washing," she said firmly, "but I'll iron and spruce up fairies. My ladies won't fidget much in the night, and it'll give me something to do."

Bless her kind heart! We just couldn't have managed without her. She eventually got one or two of her more able ladies to unpick the voluminous skirts of the fairies so they could be washed and stitched back in position. When the time came to tie them on to the cot knobs, their faces were clean, their skirts starched stiff and frilly, wings and wands and star head-dresses were glittering, so that when the ward fire flickered, little answering sparkles came from all round the ward, and the old magic of Christmas began to steal in.

Willing helpers during the day put up paper-chains and filled the stockings, and the Christmas tree, brought in during the night while the children were asleep, was already decorated, so all we had to do was switch on the lights.

On Christmas morning, as the first baby stirred, we shot round gently putting the stockings, which had been under the

THIS excerpt is part of a story which actually happened in 1944 and was serialised in a Woman and Home magazine in 1977. Our thanks to Joan Hodgson.

beds, on top of the beds and switched on the Christmas tree lights. Sitting feeding the babies, we had the immeasurable joy of watching the older children wake up. They were pretty well institutionalised, our children, and not particularly homesick. The sight of the Christmas tree was so exciting they could hardly speak at first. They just gazed and gazed, with large bright eyes, still half-asleep, until one of them discovered the stockings.

"We got stockings," came the cry, and the spell was broken. The ward lights went on, and they dug into the stockings. After all those years of war, people had been so generous and imaginative, and the toys were a great success.

One little boy brought a lump to my throat. Carried along by the general excitement, he'd unpacked his stocking and then, unable to believe his good fortune, he'd solemnly put all the toys back again before saying to me: "We can't keep them, can we, Nurse?"

After the sketchiest of washing sessions, the carol singers arrived. The nurses wore their cloaks red side out, and walked in twos. Into the ward they came, slowly and quietly, singing *Away in a manger* as we

turned off the main lights so that we were lit by the fire, the Christmas tree lights and the lanterns carried by the singers. "You're crying, Nurse!" accused one of the older kids as we pulled ourselves together to prepare breakfast.

By then they were all ready to shout "Happy Christmas!" to the day staff as they arrived and we went off to have our meal.

Going back on to the ward at about ten o'clock, we found as many children as possible up and dressed, and the beds pushed away against the walls, leaving a wide space in the middle of the room. This was lucky, because a great ringing of bells broke out, and two large fairies arrived on bicycles, just missing each other but managing somehow to fall off now and then. (Fairies still meant something magical and innocent in those days!)

They weren't the most beautiful creatures in the world, and their hairy legs sported remarkable sock suspenders, highly coloured socks and old tennis shoes. And then Santa Clause himself appeared, pulling a toboggan with real presents on it, all wrapped up with proper names written on each. I gathered he'd been most anxious to bring a donkey with him to pull the toboggan in lieu of reindeer, but the difficulties of this had eventually been brought home to him! But I had a report to write so quietly and reluctantly I had to leave this unforgettable Christmas morning.

Joan Hodgson 891360

SAD TO SAY GOODBYE

NOVEMBER saw the end of the line for me as the Scheme Manager at both of our Sheltered Housing Schemes.

I have enjoyed the role for a decade, moving from the initial post of relief warden rapidly to the position of Scheme Manager, originally at Flaxfields and then looking after Chalklands as well.

I am transferring my skills to Addenbrooke's Hospital, but will miss the help of my "band of workers": Wendy Boardman, Audrey Law, Jean Ingram, Hazel Lunn.

Another thank-you goes to the Health Centre, the doctors, nurses, receptionists and dispensary, for their unhindered assistance.

SCDC deserve thanks for their support and sponsorship in promoting the advanced specialised qualifications that helped me in performing my role in this section of the community. I will miss the old workplace.

Jacque Wilson Flaxfields

K-CLUB WINNERS

The winners of the December K-Club monthly draw:
1st prize (£50) Sarah Crouch (No. 033)
2nd prize (£25) M^{rs} S Bowie (No. 378)
3rd prize (£10) B N Turvey (No. 036)

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READERS WRITE

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

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
 I am delighted to be able to write to you in order to express my thanks as Chairman of Linton Fireworks 2004 to all my fellow committee members, helpers and PSA/Friends committees from Linton's three schools for their hard work and dedication to ensure this year's event was our best ever.

I must also publicly thank through your pages our Sponsors, Camgrain, Barclays Bank and Spicers of Sawston for financial contributions, Charles Fairey and the Infants' school for use of their land plus the other local and national companies who lend expensive equipment without which our event would be much harder work.

This year's event attracted a record crowd of over 4500 and it looks likely we will end with a profit total in excess of £8100 to be distributed to the three Linton schools. Our total funds raised during the event's 15-year history has now topped £73,500.

All this would not of course have been achieved without the tremendous support of the public from Linton and the surrounding area who purchase tickets every year.

The dedication and sheer physical effort of everyone on the committee plus the support of those local residents who turn out every year to assist on the day is to be commended, and there is no doubt our local schools would not be so well blessed with those items that

sadly are regarded as "extras" in these times of ever tighter budgetary constraints. This is not to say that we could not do with some more help - please volunteer. It may be hard work but it really is great fun!

If you fancy joining in please contact me via one of the schools.
 Alan J King
 Chairman Linton Fireworks Committee 2001-2004

A longer report can be seen, along with a picture, on the Linton News website.

Dear Editor
 The children and staff of the Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers would like to say a big thank-you to all of you who have helped to support us by collecting the "teenie tots" tokens from the Cambridge Evening News. We will let you know how we get on.
 Sarah Meeks & Anna Wright on behalf of the playgroup

Would Eva Rickett and Roy Barker please contact the Linton News with their address and/or phone numbers so we can publish their letters. LNT

DISCO AID FOR ORPHANS

A DISCO will be held at Linton Village College at 8pm on Saturday 11th December. All proceeds will go to an Indian Orphanage. For tickets and more information, please contact: Gary Dixon 890226 or 890220

FLYING HIGH

A DAMP evening didn't put off our members and several visitors and they were rewarded by friendship and a good speaker. Everyone was delighted by our 'new baby' attending in his pram and very attentive he was too!

Tickets for the Christmas meal were on sale and soon 40-plus were sold. The catering committee are already planning a tasty feast, so it is a treat to look forward to.

The new County Federation office is up and running at Girton and several members have taken advantage of the open days to visit and have a look round.

Margaret Clark reported on an excellent County trip to Norwich and June Bunn won a round of applause for being joint winner of the Barbara Maynard Cup with a beautiful cushion she made.

Captain Jason Kirby from 67 Special Operation Squadron, USAF Mildenhall then

charmed all with his friendly manner and slide-accompanied talk. A pilot with more than 2000 hours of military flying time to his credit, he described his work and the extent of the flights he made (we were relieved to hear Linton was off limits!), 90% of which are made at night. He and his family obviously enjoy living in England despite our winters and driving on twisty, congested roads and will be sorry when they have to leave.

He dealt with numerous questions before presenting sew-on badges to our delighted president and speaker's secretary and to the Institute a print of his aircraft with a handwritten message of thanks for warm English hospitality. A good reminder for us to extend a hand of friendship to all.

Next meeting is the Christmas dinner at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th December. Please remember your cutlery, glass and a small gift.

Clare Neville 893251

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

THE best made plans sometimes have to be changed, and due to unforeseen circumstances we found ourselves without a guest speaker at the last Hildersham meeting.

It always amazes me how versatile and interesting our own members are. We were delighted when we were given a very enlightening off-the-cuff talk by Joy Stern on her ACE (Association for Cultural Exchange) trip to St Petersburg, explaining the aims of the ACE in giving grants to various groups abroad in need of help, for example, music groups needing instrument repairs.

A party of 14 like-minded holiday makers in all were taken around St Petersburg, visiting the amazing and extravagantly decorated gold-leaf buildings and palaces of the Romanov dynasty, rulers of Russia from 1613 to the Russian revolution in 1917. Also a

number of museums were visited and operas listened to, albeit they were sung in Russian, with wonderful male basses but lacking good tenors.

Sadly they missed the arranged ballet, due to the principal dancer having broken her leg, though a visit to the Kirov ballet school was very impressive. Sixty children at the age of 12 enter the school - 30 girls and 30 boys. Over the next six years they are assessed and the weakest eliminated. By the age of 18, the best and last girl and boy remain.

We had many questions for Joy concerning the general life of the Russian people. The whole talk was listened to and appreciated with great interest by everyone.

The vote of thanks was given on behalf of everyone by Sarah Hall, finishing with tea and yummy things to eat.

Pamela J Parris 892026

FOLLOWING IN HIS HERO'S WINNING FOOTSTEPS



Jason in action
 Picture: Messina Cheng

A YOUNG man going places... and he's already travelled a great deal in his quest to become a badminton superstar.

Eleven-year-old Jason Lai and his older sister Jaclyn started playing badminton in Hong Kong when, as young children, they joined in with the friendly games played by their mother and her friends.

Two years ago, the family moved to Linton and Jason was taken with Jaclyn to her coaching sessions in Cambridge. He was allowed to have a go and when the coach saw his potential, he accepted him into the training programme.

Since then, Jason and Jaclyn have been trained by the county coach at Burwell Village College, and they are both county champions in the under-13 and under-15 age groups respectively. Jason's achievements in reaching the finals in several doubles tournaments, two of which he won, have netted him a grant from SCDC, which goes some way towards the cost of training and travelling.

His mother, Messina, is a great supporter and drives him to venues anywhere in England and Wales. The

season spans April to September and during October and November there are tournaments every weekend. At Easter, they travelled to Belgium where Jason was the runner-up in the singles and winner in the doubles. As an acknowledgement of these successes Jason has received an invitation from the Badminton Association to start a trial programme.

Last year, Messina applied for a grant from "Awards for All" and started a badminton club at Linton Village College sports centre which has been a great success, with more than 20 children attending regularly.

They are in the process of registering the club with the Badminton Association in order to apply for funds to secure the services of a coach, so we may yet see some

more local youngsters excelling at this game. The success of the British couple at the Olympics this year may well have whetted some appetites.

Jason has made many friends at tournaments from various counties, although surprisingly badminton is not a favourite sport at his level with other Cambridgeshire children. He would like to become a professional player and travel the world, but realises it will be difficult to do all the necessary training and still fit in his schoolwork. He has to be disciplined enough to do his homework before the fun can begin! If he doesn't change his mind about his vocation in the meantime, he hopes to train in China during his gap year.

However, there has been one big disappointment for Jason, when last year he was unable to join his mother and sister watching the All England Championships in Birmingham.

They met Lin Dan, the Chinese world No 1, but Jason has had to be content with the DVDs of his hero in action bought for him as a consolation. Perhaps one day...

LNT

FACTS BEHIND THE CONFUSION

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the future of Marshalls Aerospace and a move to Duxford, a packed meeting at Whittlesford village hall heard in October.

Reports in local newspapers from an unfinished and leaked study had caused alarm and the meeting was called to find out the facts.

These are that Cambridgeshire planners want to build 4000 homes on the Marshalls airport site up to 2016, with 8000 more later.

This means Marshalls has to move - but where to? Is a move to Duxford, or possibly Wyton, on the cards?

Furthermore, the South Cambs local plan contains two policies highly relevant to Duxford: that it is to remain a museum, and that the Cambridge green belt reaches down to the north side of the A505.

Local people had many concerns over the whole affair, including house price blight, inadequate public transport, road congestion, the proximity of homes and the M11 to the proposed runway, unacceptable noise levels from engine tests, and flight paths cutting across those from Stansted.

The meeting broke up with the intention of forming a local action group. A few weeks later, an information meeting was held for South Cambs councillors by Marshalls when it was stressed that no final decision had been reached and studies were continuing.

Joan Smith and John Batchelor

This article may be seen in full on the LN website.

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A COLD, WET DAY ON THE RIVER CAM



Mike Clay poised for a shot

Picture by Tracey Wilson

ON a rather dank drizzly Sunday morning, the camera club met and decided to brave the weather and go off to Cambridge. We gathered at the footbridge on Chesterton Road. The river was a hive of activity, narrow boats negotiating the lock, eights testing their skills, single boats and, of course, the fishermen. The tow-path was equally frenetic, joggers, cyclists, children, dogs and of course the camera club members clicking away. So, lots of photo opportunities. The weather seemed to brighten up and it was not so damp after all.

This was my first outing with the club. Everyone was so friendly and also informative, eager to pass on nuggets of information which can be so useful to the beginner. By noon we had a good collection of river scenes, and feeling a little cold, we decided to warm up in

the Fort S' George with a nice cup of hot coffee. A most enjoyable morning, and if you are interested in photography, why not come along and join us on our next awayday.

Our next meeting, which will be held in the Village Hall at 9.30 for 10am on Sunday 5th December, is our Christmas celebration, when we will be showing the pick of our year's photos to other members while enjoying a little Christmas fare.

If you would like more information on Linton Camera Club, our website is www.camclub.info and this can also be reached via the Linton News website. Alternatively, some members are in the library on a Tuesday night during the IT club session, or you can telephone Roger Lapwood on 891104 or Ron Pitkin on 891845.

Jo Leggo

A CEILIDH FOR AMNESTY

AMNESTY International (Cambridge Group) invites you to celebrate Human Rights Day at a Ceilidh with Fendragon Band, from 8 – 11pm on Friday

10th December at the Michaelhouse Centre. Tickets and information from:

Anna Newton
891770

DINING, SINGING AND SHOPPING

IT is that season when I beg funds for Linton Activities and Care for the Elderly. The Warden Scheme supports older people to live independently in their own homes; it is mainly funded through Linton Parish Council, SCDC and Cambridge County Council and run through Age Concern Cambridge. This year, the Social Link has had awards from Community and Voluntary Forum Eastern Region (COVER), BBC Radio Trustline, CEN Community Awards, Awards for All and the Anderson Benefaction. Grateful thanks to all who have supported us.

Our Fish and Chips lunch on 22nd October was popular, attracting 60 people. Garth Collard talked on "Fetes and Festivals of Linton", with fascinating photographs and stories. That the inspection of one of the largest schools in the UK had to be re-arranged to enable Garth to be with us was a minor matter – I know the leader quite well! Garth's excellent talk was

well worth it. Faces from the past were recognised and fond memories recalled.

Our latest event was the SCDC concert on 15th November with the splendid Coldstream Guards, on duty a few days earlier at Remembrance Day. Tickets were free (thank you Joan Smith), ACE sponsored the coach. We had a tour before the concert and were back in time for tea. The music ranged from sing-along show tunes to classical with an expected emphasis on wartime and military pieces – one arranged by "Wiffen", perhaps a Linton connection there?

There will be a trip to a Garden Centre leaving the Village Hall at 11am on 9th December for Christmas shopping; names to Gill/Dawn on 891001. There will be a fundraising event early in the New Year, sherry (or coffee for the sober) and shortbread with stalls, bring and buy, and a raffle. Watch this paper for details. Merry Christmas!
Enid Bald 891069

CELEBRATE WITH A SONG

BALSHAM Singers are holding "A celebration with Orchestra and Soloist" at 7.30pm on Saturday 18th December in Balsham Church.

Completely new to Balsham will be a performance of Hubert Parry's "Ode on the Nativity". Parry, perhaps better known for "Jerusalem" wrote this work for a choral festival. Orchestra, soprano soloist and chorus combine to great effect to rejoice in the celebration of the nativity.

In keeping with tradition, the singers will perform a variety of carols including "Silent

Night" John Rutter's tuneful "Candlelight Carol" and Walton's exuberant "What Cheer?". A welcome new addition will be children from the Meadow School singing a selection of carols and other pieces. There will also be carols for all to sing.

Mince pies and festive drinks will be served in the interval. Come and make this a very special occasion for the singers and audience alike.

Tickets are available from Balsham Post Office or members of Balsham Singers.
Bruce Conochie 894460

LINTON'S BLANKETS HAVE ARRIVED

A YEAR ago you kindly contributed 120 blankets, from the Linton area, for Malawi. Last May, we were able to distribute some of the 700 blankets collected for us in the UK and transported out to Malawi by the Nchima Trust.

We ourselves handed out blankets and duvets to the remaining 50 odd old and disabled folks attending our twice weekly feeding session who did not receive them on a previous visit in May 2003. The recipients were so grateful.

They have to try to keep warm during the colder nights of the months from April to August. They sleep on a simple grass mat on the dirt floor, in the thin clothes they wear all day. Their houses seldom have effective doors and glass is rare in windows.

Taking blankets to Africa may seem akin to hauling sand to Arabia. However, if you are used to hot nights and days the relatively cold nights of the winter months are hard on these frail, ill fed members of this

community. Later when we had left, M^r Lulanga and all the community leaders organised a general handout to all the orphan families in the group, cutting the double blankets in two to make sure everyone was included.

Here in the UK we very often send off things to other countries in response to an appeal, not knowing where they actually end up. To be able to follow the items right through to the point where they are distributed is a great privilege.

I hope everyone who donated and collected blankets and duvets will enjoy seeing the photos of them being handed to needy people at the grass roots.

This donation really has gone to the people for whom they were intended. We followed them all the way for you.

Thank you for all your generosity and hard work.

Roger Flambert,
via Bob & Dawn Scott 894338
For pictures of this, please see the LN website.

LIFE ON THE CUT

A COUPLE who have spent many years with a narrowboat on the canals, M^r & M^{rs} Schneider, gave the Historical Society an insight into the history of our canals which began with the Romans, although they have not left much documentation of this. Canals were cut through land to connect with river-ways and formed valuable navigation routes for trade which lasted for many years until the railways and the industrial revolution arrived.

Narrow boats are nowadays built of metal (initially wood) and are highly decorated with traditional designs. Originally pulled by children, then horses along the canal towpaths where on arrival at a tunnel, the children took the horses over the top, while men were employed to 'walk' the boats through the tunnel, lying on wide planks and using their feet on the tunnel walls. Nowadays engines do the work.

Families would live aboard while travelling the country, children being taught on board, until it was realised their education was sadly neglected. Several systems were devised to give the 'barges' schooling

along the routes, but eventually railways took over the transportation of goods and boat families faded out.

The UK has a unique canal and lock system with a variety of locks, and weighbridges to calculate toll fees, aqueducts, split bridges and lifts. We were shown slides of many of the lock systems and the routes now used mainly for leisure purposes and it would seem a most relaxing way to explore our countryside with much flora and fauna along the banks as well as the many buildings which have been converted to museums full of boating memorabilia and history of the canal and river systems. On a point of interest, Birmingham has more canals than Venice.

Bernard Richardson gave a warm vote of thanks after many questions had been answered. The next meeting is on 21st December, when Garth Collard will continue his illustrated talk on Linton High Street from the Market Place to the Green Hill. On 18th January 2005 Mike Thurlow will talk on The Victorian kitchen garden. All welcome.

Joan Pearman 890746

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CHRISTMAS PRESENT WITH A DIFFERENCE

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Recently relocated to Linton, Hussar is an internet services company offering family web sites - ideal for keeping people in touch through news, pictures and photos and message boards.

A family web site is an effective way of sharing stories, organising family events and dates, sharing photographs and so much more. A family web site is available anytime, anywhere in the world, providing a central place for relatives to communicate which is more personalised, exclusive and reliable than swapping emails. The Hussar sites are professionally built with an advanced functionality which most average home users could not build from scratch, but are simplicity itself to use.

The web site packages provide all of the steps to get a .me.uk site up and running. The process starts with domain registration and hosting, build and publication of the web site from a choice of three style templates created by Hussar, the setting up of users and emailing. The family user has control of all content, using simple web pages to upload text and images, and control access, supported by Hussar.

The message board areas are

secure and the whole site can be password protected to ensure security. Other options available include audio and video functions to play messages and clips - ideal for special birthday greetings, Christmas wishes and messages of congratulations or celebration, sympathy or support.

The sites are affordably priced, costing less than an average games machine! The ease of use and unique shared content make them an exciting and novel family gift - ideal for Christmas 2004. The basic site package can be set-up within two working days of registration so orders for Christmas have a deadline of 22nd December. An artistic registration and set-up certificate is sent out on completion, which you can give as a gift.

As an established company, Hussar provide technical services for internet, systems and facilities. Our many long-term commercial customers are primarily located in the South East and we offer services in partnership with our clients supporting web presence and systems integration.

For more information contact:

Jon Pugh 897879

email

jon@hussarweb.co.uk or

visit

www.familyname.co.uk

DEAN'S SUCCESS



Dean receiving his trophy

Picture by Sebastian Studios

FANCY a slap-up fried breakfast in the small hours of the morning in the precincts of fishy Billingsgate market? No, me neither, but it was all part of 17-year-old Dean Jarvis's training as a chef at a leading London hotel, Claridge's of Mayfair.

With the chef de parti, Dean and another student were invited to tour the London markets. They started at Smithfield meat market, then Covent Garden for fruit and veg, where they checked and sometimes sampled the produce. They saw 50 different varieties of apple, and grapefruit as big as pumpkins, which according to Dean didn't taste very good, finishing at Billingsgate fish market and breakfast.

Starting with three months'

basic training at Bournemouth and Poole College, followed by three months at Claridge's and three months in the larder, Dean, of The Grove, Linton, was awarded the Taste of England trophy, presented by Chef Director M^r Mark Hix at the prize-giving in October.

In the New Year, Dean will be back at the Bournemouth college for three months before returning to Claridge's for six months learning about fish and sauces followed by six weeks in pastry. When asked what was good about working at Claridge's, he said, "Everything," even living away from home in a student hostel and working a 41-hour week, though he's still not too sure about that early fishy fry-up.

Kate France 891602

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

A CHRISTMAS Special Storytime will be taking place at Linton library on Tuesday 21st December.

There will be stories, rhymes, songs and art activities for up to five-year-olds and their parents/carers. The session is free, and there is no

need to book. It will also be a great opportunity to choose some books to borrow from the library for the Christmas break.

Regular Storytime will then be taking a break over Christmas and will be back on 11th January 2005.

Hilary Crooks 894373

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COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH IN LINTON

OVER the past three years I have been running a small acupuncture practice here in Linton, with my partner Cindy who gives Shiatsu massage.

For some time we had been looking for new premises to expand our practice. We are happy to say that this search has now come to fruition and that our new centre, Linton Complementary Health Centre, will open at the beginning of December at 2b Bartlow Road, Linton. It's a convenient and smart little place, and we're really excited to be expanding the horizons of holistic health here in Linton.

With us will be Soraya Bish, osteopath and Meena Sharma, homeopath. As well as regular

treatment days, we are doing a special day for mothers and children. As an integrated team we aim to direct clients to the most appropriate treatment for their condition.

Do pop in and see us during our drop-in hours (from 1st December 2004) of 2.30-4pm Monday or 9-11am Friday, or come to our open day from 10am-12noon and 2.30-5.30pm on 8th January, to meet the therapists and see the centre. Warm festive wishes to all, and please visit our website at:

www.lintonhealth.co.uk
enquiries@lintonhealth.co.uk
Peter White MBACc and
Cindy Faulkner MRSS
0845 430 9120

THE BELLS' PROGRESS



The bells waiting for transport with helpers Mike Ellis, Brian Cox and Keith Nightingale

Picture by Diana Leighton

FRIDAY 12th October saw the end of the first phase of refurbishing the Linton church bells when they were transported to Whites, the bell-hangers at Appleton near Oxford.

Three days earlier, they had been lowered from the tower by a team consisting of Graham Clifton from Whites and local labour from the ringers and friends. Chain hoists were attached to the recently installed lifting beams and the trap doors in the three floors between the bells and the ground were opened; looking down nearly 50ft from the top to the ground floor really tested our head for heights.

One by one, starting with the largest bell, the tenor weighing 16 cwt (0.8 tonne), they were lifted from their bearings, swung over the trap and lowered to the

ground. We knew that the tenor which is 1.05m diameter would be a tight fit through one of the traps which is only 1.02m across, but with judicious tilting it scraped through. After this, the smaller bells presented no problems and by lunchtime all five were on pallets on the ground. Our thanks to all who helped make this a smooth operation, especially the coffee provider.

While the bells are assembled with their new fittings, the ringers will be clearing up and painting both the ringing chamber and the bell-frame ready for the bells' return, due next March. The new bell to increase the peal to a ring of six will be cast at Whitechapel foundry on 3rd December - full details next month.

Keith Nightingale 891806

WE'RE THE BEST AT RECYCLING

SOUTH Cambridgeshire District Council has been named as the best at recycling in the country. The District Council won the Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative award at the letsrecycle.com Awards for

Excellence in recycling and waste management.

Nearly 51% at the end of September 2004, an incredible achievement for all South Cambs residents.

For full article please see website

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THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

CHRISTMAS is nearly here again and the long autumn term is almost over. It has been more eventful than most because of the many developments at the College. The new road is now complete and is already proving popular with users of the sports centre since it provides direct, well-lit access and removes the need for that walk through the back of the site. Once the new school is built, we will also have extensive and properly-lit evening and weekend parking as well.

As you may have seen, the archeologists have also been busy exploring the areas where the new school and car parks will be built. So far, they have found Neolithic storage pits for dressed flints, evidence of Iron Age and Roman farmsteads and some artefacts. The nicest individual find is a well-preserved Roman brooch complete with pin and spring. This and other finds such as shards of pottery will be displayed at the College once the work is complete.

Work is now due to begin on the astro turf pitch, the fitness room extension and the new changing rooms at the beginning of January. Also as we move into the spring, the new fields will be graded, levelled and seeded. The building of the special school will also begin in February so we are in for a very busy period in the spring and early summer. As with all developments, considerable difficulties have to be overcome but the results will be outstanding.

Meanwhile, our students continue to excel in their many different ways. The year 10 rugby team for example have gained the attention of the national press as the 'giant killers' of the game in schools. They have worked their way up the national field, beating famous rugby private schools. Still with rugby, the year 8 team recently won the county tournament, following on from their illustrious Linton forebears who have achieved the same accolade many times in the past. Boys and girls have also done outstandingly well in hockey and the girls are storming ahead in netball.

On a totally different note, the College's team of anti-bullying mentors, 58 14-years olds, have won the national Princess Diana Award for service to their community and again received coverage in the national press for all the work they have done in this vital area of school life.

These are just a few examples of achievements in a full and varied term. From all of us at the College, have a wonderful Christmas.
Clive Bush, Principal

PHOTOS TELL A TALE

NOT a flower or vegetable on show but our time spent looking at prize-winning photographs created by Andy Hanson was definitely not wasted.

Helped by his wife Daphne, these two photo show judges passed on the secrets of producing thought-provoking images, and cheerily admitted to their "cheats" (or alterations as Andy prefers) used to stunning technical effect.

Andy's talk was entitled "Photography - luck or art form?" but by the end, no one had quite answered the question. There is an element of luck, mainly due to perfect light or a living creature being in the right place at the right time.

However, beautifully-constructed photographs, some coloured, some black and white, passed before our eyes showing views from Scotland, the Greek Islands, the south of France and some unusual views inside Tate Modern looking towards St Paul's, including one of two diners cunningly entitled "Tête à Tête".

The technically-minded had their questions answered, but most of us just marvelled at the impressive images.

At the 14th December social evening, a Christmas flower demonstration by Margaret Holmes will anticipate the festivities and Cynthia's mulled wine will as usual add to the occasion.

Please remember to bring a glass if possible, and donations of tarts or mince pies will be welcome. We look forward to seeing all our members and any visitors who would like to join us.

Gloria Fidler, 891800

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

FAREWELL! The crimson light sparkled between the leaves at the back of Chalklands. Falling seeds and rose petals clicked on release, tapping the ground as I began making notes for this last chapter in the current series of the Linton country diary.

Of all the natural odours, the odoriferous rotting vegetation, dying autumnal matter, drenched and mouldering, is perhaps Nature's ironic tease of nostalgia. The lichen glows and grows brightly in the long sun rays of winter on the headstones as I pause to remember Alice my neighbour, a super woman of Linton who left this life in October.

Royal blue skies now fill our early evenings and the scene is set for the coming of Christmas. Families of scavenging starlings roam roof-tops, and from baring trees the rooks' caw resounds around our village like a room emptied of soft sound-absorbing furnishings. "Time passing; tempus fugit," says local artist Richard Reed as he arrests another beautiful summer view of Linton. Yet now, looking closer at many of our local trees and shrubs, one can see the new buds charged ready, packed by the force of life, waiting to burst forth with new growth.

Over the years, we have lifted Linton's jewellery box lid to find fascinating features, mysteries and wildlife. We have sought the truth about Millers Thumbs, Troglodytidae flying high and the drunken blackbirds

falling off boughs! Ever so slightly, we have peeped at the miracles and miraculous bids for survival about us. Ghost stories and the unexplained. Exhaustive studies inevitably cause me to wonder if Nature is consummate art or a cynical and terrifying jester.

Down at the Dog and Duck, the old-time Fleet Streeter in me gathers more information. The informers usually start the conversation by "Did you know?" This month reports a new sighting of the koi carp still at large since chance or fate brought her freedom after the last great flood of Linton. Other stories emerged of a plastic heron being mobbed by sparrows and apparently the giant black panther still roams the night. I have to say I've seen a few love black moggies but none more than

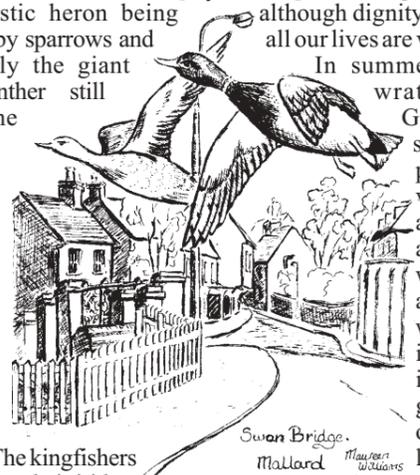
shoulder height! The kingfishers are flashing their iridescence along the banks of our Granta and the infamous St Mary's rabbit's offspring have bred further to produce a superb soft brown-coated family. Yet before Santa and his or her merry helpers invade the High Street, I have to say goodbye until January 2006. I do hope you have enjoyed the diary!

I love Linton, its people, the culture and its nature. I spend a good deal of time cleaning up the river banks, but thank goodness nothing like the giant roll of chickenwire and angle-iron dumped on the roundabout in Haverhill. A clear case of visual vandalism and metal pollution! If only art could be measured in decibels. Anyway, let's hope the council soon clears it away.

It is without doubt that Linton is abundant with wildlife but remember that we humans are a part of that equation and although dignity is valuable, all our lives are valuable too.

In summerwear, the wrath of The Griffin may strike, so experience our village with any available sense wide open and in the words immortalised upon the golden stone of Chalklands "All you can imagine is possible". Happy Christmas everyone!

P.S. See anything unusual? Is the river being tampered with or blocked? Have you spotted a white squirrel? Then give me a call on: 890386.



Swan Bridge. Mallard Maureen Williams

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/2126/04/CAC P Sargent, 9 High St., Linton. Total demolition of former garage/workshop building.
- S/2127/04/F P Sargent, 9 High St., Linton. 4 Houses.
- S/2192/04/F M^{rs} M Clarke, 34 The Woodlands, Linton. Extension.
- S/2194/04/F E Johnson and Son, Unit 5 The Grip Industrial Est., Hadstock Road, Linton. Bungalow.
- S/2230/04/O M^r & M^{rs} C Elsom, R/O 17 Cambridge Road, Linton. Bungalow.
- S/2308/04/F M^r Chipps, 37 Wheatsheaf Way, Linton. Extension.
- S/2330/04/LB M^r & M^{rs} Buckton, Priors End, 36 The Grip, Linton. Alterations- Conversion of lean-to porch to entrance hall and utility with plain tiled pitched roof. Construct part glazed extension for new entrance hall and shower room with rooflight. Conversion of first floor bedroom to bathroom. Changes to outbuilding to form studio with altered fenestration and new natural slate roof replacing corrugated material.
- S/2331/04/F M^r & M^{rs} Buckton, Priors End, 36 The Grip, Linton. Extensions to dwelling and alterations to outbuilding.

AIR AMBULANCE SWOOPS IN

ON Wednesday 27th October, a cool and breezy autumn morning, about 100 well wrapped-up adults and children gathered in the Recreation Ground at Hildersham for the arrival of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. The plan was for it to touch down, pick up a cheque for £2041.00, raised by the regulars at the village pub, The Pear Tree, and then allow the crowd a chance to see the helicopter close up.

However, bad weather meant the Air Ambulance had been even busier than usual. After about an hour's wait, we were told the helicopter was at last refuelling and would be with us as soon as possible. Then above the howling wind,

the deafening noise of a powerful jet engine seemed to dominate the scene and a sleek yellow machine roared overhead, banked steeply over the cricket meadow before sweeping past us all again in a display of precision flying.

The crowd was caught in the warm downdraft, filled with the sweet smell of high-octane aviation fuel. The helicopter delicately hovered as dozens of photographs were taken, before gently touching down. Diane Jamieson, landlady of the Pear Tree, moved forward to present the cheque as the co-pilot climbed out and came over to meet her. Then the crew were off again on another vital rescue mission.

Most of the money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance is raised at The Pear Tree Christmas auction, being held this year at 8pm on Monday 13th December. A sausage and mash supper is served at 9.30 and everyone is warmly invited to this highlight in the Hildersham social calendar.

Andrew Westwood-Bate
For full story and pictures, see the LN website.

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THE LINTON NEWS
Next Publication Date 6th December 2004
DEADLINES for both ADVERTS and NEWS ITEMS
Friday 19th November 2004

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Parish Council Matters

PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE LOCAL RIGHTS OF WAY

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

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

INVOLVEMENT in village life through voluntary work can be really fulfilling, but it does have its drawbacks. This government is keen to involve volunteers in issues previously reserved for paid employees – patient forums, involvement in health and social issues, boards of governors, etc. This is all very community spirited but are we now being expected to take on too much?

The latest idea is that Parish Councils be given powers to issue fixed penalty fines. OK, if we can keep the revenue, then fining all who drop litter, ride bikes on pavements or without lights, make excessive noise, fail to clean up after their dog, etc, would be great. We could spend the money to provide better facilities, complete repairs and fulfil all the items on our "wish list". No more stringent budgets and scrimping to try to make Linton a better place. Indeed, we could raise so much money that we need not set a Parish rate at all! However, a couple of thoughts leap unbidden to mind; who will issue the penalties, who would collect them? Is this not what we pay the police service to do? We pay income and council taxes for their services; a heavy burden. If the PC takes over this work will we get a rebate on our taxes? I think not. I reckon that as soon as we levy the first fine, vengeance will soon follow in true job style. What we actually need is a more effective police presence.

So, not content with a ram-raid, the Co-op has now been burgled. Having seen how vulnerable our village store is, where were our police to prevent this repeat crime? Do we have a beat officer? – negative. Do we have an effective PCSO presence? – negative. In our language a double negative makes a positive statement...as we say in the north-east, "Aye, right"....enough said. Enid Bald

THE PARISH Council has a deep respect for our ancient and well-worn routes but, at the same time, we need paths that are both functional and pleasurable for the 21st century. Most distance walking for today is for recreation and hence, the shortest route is no longer necessarily the most desirable. Our little linking routes throughout the village are invaluable and a time saving convenience for getting about in the village but when we head for the hills our need is for a leisurely, enjoyable route, one that will keep us away from traffic as far as possible and as near as is practical to the attractive features of our landscape, be it a section of woodland, riverbank or hedgerow with its harvest of brambles, sloes and hips or springtime blossom.

If we can agree on routes which suit our local landowners, residents and ramblers alike, these paths would become permanent features and not subject to ploughing and that wretched boot-clogging performance of tramping down the path each year.

We all know the paths are not meant to be ploughed but equally we realise that these paths often followed hedgerows long since removed and with agricultural tackle of current dimensions it is impractical to expect fields to be cultivated avoiding them.

The June edition of Parish Matters sought your views on the rights of way around Linton. The changes under re-

view can be divided into three types. Firstly, to legally establish the status-quo (in some instances permissive paths have been used for over 30 years but are still not registered as the

moths the Parish Council has held discussions with many of those involved to find out just what changes might be possible.

The proposals under consid-

Close and following the hedge-row to Mill Lane in exchange for removing the cross field paths as described by the Chair-man in June Parish Matters;

c) The landowner would

like a section of FP1 and part of FP2 to be upgraded to a bridleway which would enable riders to get about the village without going down the High Street. To offset this, BW6 would be removed – it goes nowhere and is therefore, useless;

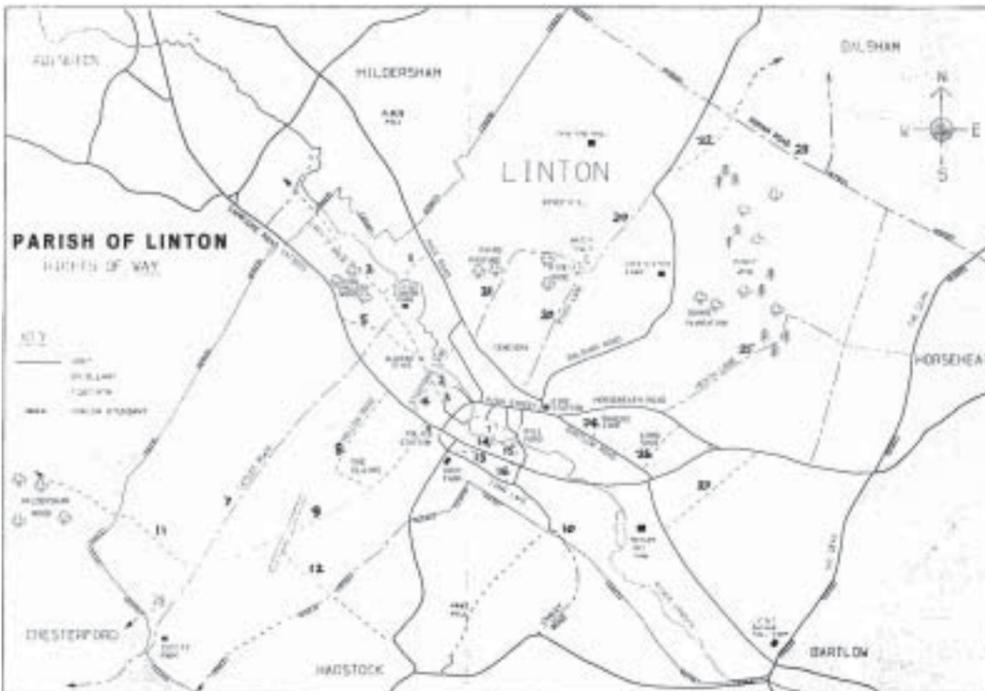
e) The walkers would like a link to/from the Icknield Way to/from the Catley Park route (BW7) in exchange for walking through the dangerous and derelict buildings there;

f) FP5 can only be negotiated by stiles at present. On completion of the required landscaping for the SEN school a new walk would be possible alongside the screening belt of trees thus avoiding the need to negotiate stiles and therefore better for parents with buggies and the less active!

As you can see these modest changes have much to recommend them to a wide variety of interests. If all involved could agree, these walks would be improved for the majority of people who use them. However, we need to convince those opposed to any alterations that they are not detrimental and that there are advantages to all concerned whilst protecting our historic legacy.

More details are available from the Parish Clerk and if have views either for or against please advise her as soon as possible.

DR JUDY ROSSITER
Rights-of-Way
Co-ordinator



VILLAGE RIGHTS-OF-WAY MAP

official route). Secondly, seeking changes to paths to provide better walks for local residents and thirdly, re-routing some cross-field paths to field edges to assist local farmers by removing the need for reinstatement of paths following cultivations. During the past few

eration at the moment are as follows:-

a) regularising of the well used routes known as Heath Land (BR 25) and Haws Hill (Hadstock FP 30);

b) The PC would like a wider better surfaced path beside the river north of Camping

like the cross-field path (FP22) to/from Yole Farm to follow the line of the hedgerows and join with the Roman Road route as at present. If this was agreed, it might be possible to continue the path on the inside of the hedge to avoid the section of road walking;

d) The horse-riders would

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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

During the Meeting held on 21st October, 2004, 12 Councillors heard the Crime Report obtained from the Police website for both August and September. C^{llr} Hickford had issued a written report regarding his letters to the Police and the Police Authority. He added that responses to his letters had now been received regarding the lack of a Community Beat Officer, none of which were constructive. He then reported on his recent attendance at a meeting to consider the extension of the Section 30 order for Copperfields. Despite the Committee agreeing that an extension was preferable, the Police had subsequently decided not to pursue an extension.

Discussion took place regarding the implications of this, and the meeting agreed with C^{llr} Hickford that this was regrettable. It was noted that Inspector Raine had intimated, should problems recur, a new Section 30 Order would take only 2/3 days to instigate. It was further noted that 4 separate incidents which had taken place on the periphery of the Section 30 Order, at Linton Cop, had failed to make their way onto the Crime List.

C^{llr} Batchelor added that the Police considered they could not gauge the success of the recent Section 30 Order until it was no longer in place. As a result of the discussion it was unanimously agreed that C^{llr} Hickford be requested to continue the campaign to obtain a replacement Community Beat Manager through whatever means at his disposal.

CC D^r Bear had issued a written report. It was noted that Linton Fire Service was urgently seeking new recruits for the Linton station and sought

press support to ensure this was widely known. D^r Bear added that whilst attending a recent meeting at the County to which the Police Authority were making a report, he did raise the issue of policing in Linton. The only response from the representative present was that the Parish Council should voice its concern at consultative meetings. C^{llr}'s Hickford and Cornell stated that this was always the case.

DC Batchelor then reported on the proposal for 18,000 more houses in the region. The Regional Planning Panel had met last week to agree recommendations to the Regional Assembly on 5th November. The recommendation being put forward is for NO additional houses. C^{llr} Batchelor added that hopefully the Assembly would confirm this recommendation. However, it is a dangerous position to take up as the government can impose these houses on the region. The Panel were also recommending the rejection of the second runway at Stansted.

C^{llr} Batchelor also reported with regard the proposal for Marshall's to move to Duxford. There was a meeting hosted by the Parish Council in Whittlesford last week, which was very well attended, to discuss this issue. C^{llr} Batchelor explained that there were 2 preferred sites, Duxford and Wyton. Both were currently being investigated by Marshalls. No actual planning application would be submitted until Marshalls had reached a conclusion which would include the option to stay where they were. C^{llr} Batchelor would keep the Council appraised of events.

There followed a number of written reports from Council representatives:-

a) Written report from C^{llr} Hickford - Police Liaison - dealt with earlier;

b) Written report from C^{llr} Clay - Village Hall (Social Centre) - There were no queries with the report which detailed the recent refurbishments and the Renaming Day held recently. It also sought Parish Council funding toward redecorating the stairwell leading to the Parish Office, the only part of the building still requiring refurbishment. Dis-

cussion took place regarding this and it was agreed that the Village Hall should obtain quotations and pass them to the Parish Council Precept meeting for consideration in next year's funding;

c) Written report from Chairman - SCDC Council Tax consultations - The Chairman added that early consultation was always of value. C^{llr} Batchelor reported that over 2,500 responses to the SCDC questionnaire had been received, the majority of which preferred a SCDC Council Tax element of £140;

d) Written report from Chairman - Hundred Houses AGM - There were no queries and the Chairman noted that in view of the proposal to extend the Hundred Houses site at Paynes Meadow, it was useful to keep up to date;

e) Written report from Tree Warden - Parish Planting - 3 suggestions as follows:

i) to plant trees already in stock to the south of Recreation Ground gates. This was agreed by the meeting;

ii) Problems with variety of hedge stock planted around Pumping Station on Recreation required addressing and the suggestion of replacing with native species was agreed by the meeting;

iii) Continuation of new hedge at northern boundary of cemetery was also agreed by the meeting;

The Clerk reported that the CCC hedging pack which used to be available at reduced cost had been withdrawn. As a result C^{llr} Cox proposed a budget of up to £100 for plants. This was seconded by C^{llr} Clay and agreed by the meeting.

The Tree Warden's report also outlined that the Linton News would like to donate some trees to the village. The News team, with M^{rs} Anderson's guidance, had put forward some suggested sites. Discussion took place regarding them. It was generally agreed that the suggestion of planting close to the Pavilion was not prudent bearing in mind the possibility of an extension to the premises. The meeting agreed that it was possible to extend the Jubilee Crescent, or indeed, to plant in Hogs Holme Field. It was also suggested that there were

'pockets' and corners on the Recreation Ground where trees could be planted. Three sites were identified and were to be offered to the Linton News for consideration;



JUBILEE CRESCENT

f) Written report from C^{llr} Rossiter - Rights of Way - The report and accompanying map detailed proposed changes to the local footpath network for comment by each councillor. These comments should be returned to either the Clerk or C^{llr} Rossiter prior to the next meeting.

Council then considered the proposal for Night Flying at Stansted Airport. Copies of information from the BAA and the Stop Stansted Expansion group had been circulated to all councillors. D^r Bear reported that the main problem with noise was as a result of take-offs and that the majority of take offs were to be in a southwest direction and should, therefore, have little effect locally. Discussion took place during which C^{llr} Alper reported that an adverse impact on a settlement usually occurred if the aircraft were at less than 3,000 ft when flying over. Most of the aircraft over Linton are well above 3,000 ft when they fly over this village.

As a result of discussion C^{llr} Alper proposed that this Council write to the Stop Stansted Expansion Group expressing this Council's support for their comments vis a vie night flying. This was seconded by C^{llr} Cox and agreed by a vote of 9 to 1.

Council then considered the Minutes of the Traffic Working Party which included further consideration of their request regarding Route Study modelling work. The Chairman reminded councillors of the discussions at the previous meeting at which it had been

explained that the County Council, having spent £15,000 on this work, have no funds left to extend the Route Study modelling work to incorporate Little Linton junction. The Chairman then also noted that this Council has previously agreed that treatment of this junction is necessary to alleviate problems for Dalehead Foods, Camgrain and Little Linton residents, which could then be incorporate with a review of the proposed new junction for the SEN and speed reduction measures with regard the dual carriageway. The Clerk reported that costings regarding the extra modelling work suggested by the Traffic Working Party were now available at £2,500. Contact had been made with some funding sources but no definitive reply had yet been given. Discussion took place during which it was reported that this was a small window of opportunity. The results to this extra modelling work had to be available for the Area Joint Committee meeting in December, where it was already known that funding may well be agreed for certain measures already proposed on A1307 that these results could impact on. C^{llr} Cox stated that as such this opportunity could not be missed and proposed that this Council make available a budget of £2,500 to ensure the work was completed, whilst funding toward it was chased elsewhere. This was seconded by C^{llr} Alper. Further discussion took place during which it was queried what junctions the model had already investigated. C^{llr} Cornell reported that it had looked at all the major junctions, including the Hildersham crossroads, High Street, proposed new entrance to LVC, Hadstock Road, Bartlow and Dene crossroads. The work required was very involved and labour intensive collecting the data. It was queried who carried out the work and it was reported it was carried out by an independent company on behalf of the CCC. C^{llr} Batchelor did not take part in the debate and would not vote, as he is a member of the Area Joint Committee who may well have to make decisions based on the results put forward. The proposal was agreed by 6 votes

to nil, with 3 abstentions. The Chairman then drew attention to the second recommendation regarding Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Bids for 2005/06 financial year, being the Linton Disabled Access Project, which had narrowly missed the 'cut' for funding last year. This was noted and agreed by the meeting unanimously.

The Steering Group minutes were not yet available and would be listed for the next meeting.

In correspondence, the Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke had request the PC to allow dog waste bins to be located at the entrances to the Roman Road. They were to be funded by the Friends. Discussion took place during which the Clerk reported that it appeared SCDC had agreed to organise emptying the bins. As such, the request was agreed.

There was information from CCC regarding research into potential 'lost' historical paths locally. The Clerk reported that C^{llr} Rossiter, Rights of Way Co-ordinator, had responded on behalf of the Council.

In Any other business C^{llr} Kenyon reported that a newly planted tree within the Venture Playground had been partially vandalised. C^{llr} Kenyon had taken steps to try to ensure the tree's future. The Chairman thanked C^{llr} Kenyon on behalf of the meeting.

C^{llr} Cornell reported that the Plastics recycling bin was now operating more efficiently and being emptied on schedule.

C^{llr} Batchelor reported that SCDC officers had confirmed that the proposed wheelie bin collection over the Christmas period would stay as reported in the SCDC magazine.

C^{llr} Cox reported that further to the planning application for a kitchen extractor fan at the Dog and Duck Public House being refused by SCDC, and enforcement notice for its removal had already been issued. Discussion took place regarding this and it was agreed that this was designed to ensure that all participants communicated with each other and that remedial works could be organised. The situation would be monitored and dialogue encouraged from all sides.

The meeting closed at 21.30.

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