

## Midnight Communion

24<sup>th</sup> December  
11.30pm  
URC Free Church

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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# A SAD FAREWELL TO JOHN AND CLARE

**WELL-KNOWN** Linton couple John and Clare Neville are heading for pastures new after more than 25 years of being a vital part of life in the village.

They are moving from their home in Hillway to the Suffolk village of Holton, about 10 miles from Southwold where they will be nearer their daughter Michelle and son Reuben.

There they are taking on a bungalow, which has, as estate agents say, "scope for improvement" and they already have plenty of ideas about what they want to do.

"We've made so many friends in Linton," said John, "but we both felt that after 25 years, it was time for a move. We're looking forward to the challenge of starting somewhere new and there will be so much to do in the bungalow."

Another advantage of the move is that it means they will only be about nine miles from the sea, one of their great loves.

Clare and John have had such an impact on the life of Linton that they will be sorely missed and here, two of the people who have worked closely with them over the years talk about how much they have given to Linton:

Fellow WI member Ann Simpkin says: "Clare would be the first to help anybody and everybody in times of trouble. Nothing would be too daunting to tackle."

"She and John would pitch in whether it was flooding or any other emergency. They could also often be seen working in Pocket Park."

"They spread their help further than Linton, helping to organise the Oxfam walk for several years. Christmas Day would see them cooking and serving



Moving times: John and Clare Neville are leaving Linton after 25 years

food for the homeless in Cambridge.

"On a more personal note, Clare has been so helpful to me following my bereavement and seemed to know when I needed company and when not."

"Many a time I have heard her say 'John will do it' and I have thought 'Poor John'. But he turns up with a ready and willing smile."

"To say we will miss them is an understatement but we wish them well and send them on their way with our love and good wishes."

John and Clare have also been closely involved from its beginning with the Granta Grapevine (Linton's talking newspaper for the blind). Colleague Mike Crofts writes:

"I have been part of the Granta Grapevine team since 1997 when Clare was chairman, news editor and reader. John was re-

cording engineer producing the master tape once a month and overseeing the copying process using a high-speed duplication machine."

"Clare has written a natural history item for the Linton News in the past and recorded a favourite bird and flower of the month for Granta Grapevine, which later became a local walk feature. My wife and I occasionally accompanied John and Clare on some of these walks, which I recorded for later inclusion as a 'live' piece for the magazine side."

"It was soon evident that they both shared a great love of the countryside and everything associated with it. They are both members of a number of natural history groups and other socially aware organisations in Linton and beyond. They love searching out local public footpaths and John

showed me a map where he had marked all the routes that they had walked - it looked like all of them to me. One thing they will be looking forward to when they move is exploring the footpaths of north west Suffolk."

"I shall miss Clare partly for her careful management of Granta Grapevine, her natural history knowledge and her home made delicacies, and John for many discussions on things mechanical and humorous."

"On behalf of the Granta Grapevine team and its listeners, I would like to wish them good fortune and happiness in their new home, and thank them both for the friendship, hard work and dedication they have put for many years into producing and maintaining the voice of the Linton News."

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

Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Mondays	Village Hall
Men's Keep Fit Club, 8pm, Mondays	LVC
Story Time, 2.15pm-2.45pm, Tuesdays	Library
Linton Chess Club, 7.30pm, Tuesdays	Village Hall
WEA, 10am, Tuesdays	Village Hall
IT Club, 7pm, Tuesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Linton Radio Race Car Club, 6pm-10pm, Wednesdays	VH
Tots in Tow, 10am-11.30am, Wednesdays in term time	VH
Little Acorns, 10am-11.30am, Thursdays	VH
Carpet Bowls, 7.30pm, Thursdays	VH
Bridge Club, 7pm, Fridays	Cathodeon Centre
Ladies' netball, 7pm-8.30pm, Mondays	Sports Centre
Weight Watchers, 7pm, Wednesdays	Cathodeon Centre
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm, Fridays	Village Hall
Badminton, 8-10pm Fridays	Sports Centre

### DECEMBER

<b>1-23 Art Exhibition</b>	<b>Darryl Nantais Gallery</b>
3 Farmers' Market, 10am	Linton Village College
3 Linton Music Society Choral workshop, 10.30am	S' Mary's
3 Linton Music Society Concert, 7.30pm	S' Mary's
3 Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers' Christmas Fair, 2pm	Village Hall
<b>4 Christingle candlelit service 3pm</b>	<b>S' Mary's</b>
<b>5 ACEs visit to Scotsdales, 11am</b>	<b>Dog and Duck</b>
<b>6 WI, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
8 Luncheon Club, 12.15pm	The Crown
<b>9 Conservative Ass' Drinks &amp; Nibbles, 7-9pm</b>	<b>18 West Wickham Road, Balsham</b>

<b>11 Camera Club, 10am</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
13 VIP, 1pm	Chalklands Community Centre
13 The Reading Group, 8pm	Dog and Duck
<b>13 Gardening Club, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
15 Parish council meeting, 8pm	Cathodeon Centre
<b>17 Balsham Singers concert, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Balsham Church</b>
18 Carol Service, 6pm	S' Mary's Church
18 Carols by Candlelight, 6pm URC Free Church, Horn Lane	
<b>20 Historical Society, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
21 CAMTAD Hearing help, 9am-12noon	Health Centre
24 Midnight Communion 11.30pm URC Free Church Horn Lane	
31 Aztec FC New Year's Eve Family Disco	LVC

### JANUARY 2006

<b>3 WI, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
7 Friends of S' Mary's Sherry & Savouries, 11am	Village Hall
<b>28 Burns' Night</b>	<b>Linton Heights Junior School</b>
<b>28 ACEs Sherry &amp; Shortcake morning</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>

**Refuse collection: 12<sup>th</sup> December & 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Recycling collection: 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December; 3<sup>rd</sup> January (box only); no collection on December 26<sup>th</sup>**

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.

The Linton News can also be read online at [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info)  
Extra copies may be obtained from BP garage on the by-pass.

## Prince's award gives a fillip to Sally



Gold standard: Sally Clifton

THE Duke of Edinburgh is famed for his *faux pas* but one of the things he got right was the initiation of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Linton girl Sally Clifton has taken full advantage of this wonderful opportunity and has recently passed her gold award. Sally, a former pupil of LVC and later at Hills Road College started working for the bronze award when she was 16. The targets, under the headings of service, skills and physical recreation included a first-time group expedition to Yorkshire when they lived rough, learning to work together and overcoming difficulties to reach their destination.

Over the period of time, Sally fitted in 12 month's community work with the local Rainbows group, which as a former Guide she enjoyed very much, and 18 months perfecting her skills on the flute to reach grade eight.

Then followed a second expedition over three days in the Lake District, and for her sport she chose trampolining which she still does for fun. All the while, records of activities had to be kept and her work appraised. For the gold award, Sally was lucky enough to visit Beopattutse School in South Africa where she taught social

subjects and maths, and then came the biggest challenge of five days and four nights in Snowdonia.

The group comprising two girls and four boys, mostly unknown to each other previously, travelled 80km camping in the wild, gradually improving their stamina and walking skills.

The weather was kind to them but they had to learn the discipline of early rising, and develop the will to overcome difficulties and complete shared tasks. Apart from the hazard of sunburn, they encountered no unforeseen problems, except for one scary moment when they met a stallion on the path which, having bitten one person, reared up and cornered Sally. Hero of the day Cameron used his walking pole to distract the animal and they escaped unharmed.

Sally, who has always sailed through her academic work, achieving four A grade A-levels, is at Durham University studying natural science. She says that working for the award was more of a challenge because she had to learn the social skills required to perform effectively as part of a team. She is looking forward to the presentation in a few months' time and describes the whole project as an amazing experience.

LNT

## Too good for jumble ...

AN exercise bike might be just the thing to reduce the effect of the Christmas feasting. This month's items to benefit Linton Guides are an adult size Weigler exercise bike, hardly used, and a white full-size baby's cot with a drop side, adjustable base, mattress and some bedding. Offers of £10 or more to Kate France on 891602 or send an email to [katefrance@linton48.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:katefrance@linton48.freeserve.co.uk)

Linton Brownies received a total of £22 for the plate and the crystal bowl. The ivory glove stretcher is still available for £7 o.n.o.

Bel and Chris Griffiths, of Joiners Court (894149), have a growing Christmas tree to give away. It is about 25ft high and getting too large for their garden. They can arrange to have it cut down and delivered locally. If interested, you are welcome to view it first.

Kate France 891602

## Desperately seeking firefighters

PLEASE, please, please will someone in Linton volunteer to help staff our local fire station? At the moment, we've got 10 retained fire-fighters and we need 18. If you're between 18 and 55, reasonably fit and live within three minutes' drive of the station, it's a job you can do in your spare time. You won't have to take time off work and you get paid. The public expect prompt attendance at a fire but the danger is that if we don't get the volunteers, we will lose this station.

LNT

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WITH Christmas closing in and the shops trying to whip up as much frenzy in us they can, our own preparations here in the bungalow seem to be getting earlier with each year that passes. But Christmas is not in the forefront of our minds as other events that will take precedence are slowly unfolding. I look forward to next year with trepidation but anticipation, but as the proverb goes, a cat who meoweth much, catches very few mice. So for now, I'll leave it at that.

A good proportion of residents living in our villages are elderly and need help to get around at all times of the year, but over the winter months much more assistance and vigilance is required. We have been lucky in previous years because it has been relatively mild and for some inexplicable reason the Gog-Magog hills have deflected storms away from us and on to Norfolk. An interesting phenomena I have noticed is there is a distinct weather line on the brow of the hill of the dual carriage-way of the A1307 where it can be raining one moment, and sunny the next. Once I observed half a field covered in snow, half not. Strange goings on in these parts indeed.

Amateur weather forecasters around the country have been predicting that the very mild November we enjoyed will end in tears (you heard it first, of course, here in the Linton News), and rumours abound that even the Met office has been leaking stories that this winter will be the worst since 1947 and 1963. I don't remember the former, but I recall that in 1963 my uncle and aunt were stranded at my parents' home in Saffron Walden for over three weeks; they only lived in Barton, near Cambridge. Boxing Day evening that year saw the beginning of the snow; we were in the 'front room', reserved for high days and holidays, and I looked out of the window to find a blanket of white laying on the path. Mum, and dad took a look, and nan and grandad decided to make tracks home, down Radwinter Road, up Hollyhock Road and along Ashdon Road to their home in Whiteshot Way. By this time the heavy snow had turned into a blizzard.

The front room in our two up and two down was used much more over the next three weeks than ever I can remember up to then, until a brief respite enabled Tom and Barbara to go home. No gritting machines then, no modern technology to keep the roads open (or not, as the case may be), and we had no car or even telephone back then, only 18 inch icicles in our outside loo, one of which hit me on the head, which could account for many things, looking back.

Warning! There is a very high probability that the second week of this month is likely to be very cold, as polar low pressure systems are pushing south and we could be seeing temperatures as low as -15°C with arctic winds and heavy snow in northern areas. This will be a wake-up call to many people, as for years the energy companies have been just about managing to supply us. Energy 'experts' claim that one week of prolonged sub-zero temperatures will use up most of our energy reserves, so if the predictions are close to being right, please make sure your neighbours are safe, warm and secure. Most of Chalkland's electricity will be used up to light Dave's Christmas display, so by the time it reaches Paynes Meadow our lights will already be dim, but I have a camping stove, generators and alternative heating here, ready for most eventualities. It'll probably be a heatwave and we can all go to the seaside!

Please, even more so at this festive time of the year, take care of yourselves and one another, and from Sue, Steven and myself, a very Happy Christmas to you and I hope to see you again in 2006.

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## Art exhibitions for Christmas



An extract from a painting by Jane Buch supplied by the Darryl Nantais gallery

**THE Darryl Nantais Gallery wishes all our customers a very Happy Christmas and invites everyone to join us for wine and mince pies on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to mark the launch of our Christmas Exhibition.**

**We have a wide selection of paintings, prints, mirrors, sculptures, pottery and glassware for all your Christmas needs.**

**Don't forget our Christmas exhibition from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**

Karl Backhurst 891289

## Family resource centre to close the Rock Café

**SADLY** the Family Resource Centre has decided to close the Rock Café section of the centre. The Café (Resources Over Coffee and Kids) despite offering free internet access, citizens advice, housing surgeries, children's facilities and information in various forms has not been utilized by the Linton community for some months now. Therefore, the committee feels that its resources and staff can be used much more effectively to benefit the village in other projects.

This does not affect other resource centre projects like Tots in Tow, the toddler group that meets in the village hall on Wednesdays from 10-11.30am or Dads and Tots who meet monthly on a Saturday from 9.30-11am. The information resources are currently being updated on our website [www.lintoncornerstone.org/resourcecentre](http://www.lintoncornerstone.org/resourcecentre) and we are always happy to assist individuals with specific information. Citizens advice links are also available through our website.

The resource centre will continue to act as hosts for the SCDC housing surgery which will now take place fortnightly in the village hall upstairs meeting room at 10-11.30am on Wednesdays. May we request that clients waiting to see M<sup>r</sup> Clay from the housing surgery wait in the seated area of the foyer and are tolerant of prams and buggies as people enter and leave the toddler group. For more information please contact:

Tracey Clayton 894656

## Book festival progress



LINTON children's book festival gets the go-ahead! Funding from Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) local network fund has now been confirmed and plans for an inspiring programme of events are well under way, with several exciting speakers and performers already booked. The Linton bookfest website will be launched in the new year, and there will be regular updates in Linton News – look out for our logo (designed for us by local graphic artist Simon Lee). Please make a note in your 2006 diary: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May should be a festival weekend to remember.

We would also welcome involvement by any groups and societies in the village (not just those working with children). If you have ideas, or would like suggestions for book-related activities for your May programme please get in touch.

If you would like more information or want to get involved please contact: Anna McMahon 892977 or email [lintonbookfest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lintonbookfest@hotmail.co.uk)



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## A fanfare and a fable

**A** JOYOUS theme runs through the choice of music for this year's concert from the Balsham Singers. *A Fanfare For Christmas* by Christopher Brown is followed by a charming Christmas fable for narrator and choral backing by John Rutter and *Ave Rex* by Matthias.

The theme continues with Haydn's *Te Deum*, while *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* is one of several carols to be sung by the choir.

This year as requested there will be more carols for you to sing. The orchestra will add to the atmosphere.

This all takes place in Balsham parish church at 7.30pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Tickets can be bought on the door, at Balsham post office or from members of the Singers; interval refreshments included in the price.

For more information please contact:

Jean Mannion 893595  
Music Secretary, Balsham Singers

## Linton Granta badminton club seeks new members

ARE you an ultra-competitive, ultra fit, county standard badminton player? If the answer is yes to the above, then DON'T read any further!

If however you are someone who would like to play badminton in a friendly mixed ability and mixed gender club then come along to Linton Granta badminton

### IN BRIEF

#### Apples galore

WE had a really fun farmers' market in November with lots going on.

Mary Crouch won the £10 for the longest apple peel competition with a peel of 29 inches. Over 15 unknown varieties of apple have been sent off for expert identification by East of England Orchard and Apples Project in Norfolk.

Lastly, but not least we are delighted that well over £150 was raised in the raffle held by representatives of the Alzheimers Charity.

Jan Lupton

#### An invitation

BALSHAM and Linton Conservative Association invite you to Christmas drinks and nibbles with Jim Paice MP from 7-9pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 18 West Wickham Road, Balsham. By kind permission of C<sup>llr</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Richard Barrett; tickets in advance from:

Richard Barrett 290882,  
Vicky Ford 893025 or  
Joanna Sanders 893063

#### Burns' night

IT'S time to get out your kilts and sporrans as the Friends of Linton Heights junior school will again be running their popular Burns' Night celebration at Linton village college on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

Full details available in next month's Linton News, but you can expect haggis (both the traditional and vegetarian varieties), whisky, poetry, live music and plenty of dancing.

Put the date in your diaries now and get ready to enjoy one of the highlights of the Linton social calendar.

Tony Kelly

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Readers write

Two responses to the crayfish

Dear Editor  
In the harum-scarum century of gargantuan change, it's heart-warming to read Dean Godfrey's letter last month "Crayfish seen in the river" who asks if I could provide some insight .  
Well, our river is abundant with wonderful creatures for those like Dean who take the time to stop and stare. With a little practice one can also find freshwater shrimps, bullheads (millers' thumbs), increasing numbers of roach, sticklebacks and trout. The crayfish, also known as crawfish and crawdads, are as you might expect, related to the lobster of which more than half the species originate in North America.  
Crayfish have been present in our part of the Granta for a number of years but these are not the British native white-claw (austropotamobius pallipes) family. They are in fact the more aggressive and larger American Signal species, now common in the south of England and reputed to carry a fungal disease called aphanomyces astaci or crayfish plague deadly to the white-claw.  
Efforts to eradicate the Signal or that other North American import known as the mink have failed, leaving us to enjoy and observe the changes they bring. There may be benefits as yet unseen, for the crayfish is the preferred food of otters. I also enjoy crayfish sizzled in garlic and butter. Well spotted Dean! More on this subject next year.  
Darryl Nantais

Dear Editor,  
Further to your recent article concerning crayfish in the River Granta, I would ask you to consult the Environment agency's fisheries, recreation and biodiversity section at our Brompton office for specific local wildlife issues and details concerning native crayfish in our rivers and the threat from non-native crayfish species.  
Environment Agency, Brompton (Area Office):  
Bromholme Lane, Brompton, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4NE.  
Fax: 01480 413381, Tel 08708 506506 or e-mail: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or refer to the following webpage and respective links.  
www.greenbeltproject.org.uk/som0410.html  
Gary Morris, Technical Officer

It's a shame about Hallowe'en  
Dear Editor  
So that's another 31<sup>st</sup> October out of the way. I thought there was a tacit agreement that if a house was not displaying lights or a pumpkin it was not open to trick or treat. But no more, apparently – we now have to endure petty extortion in the guise of 'give us something nice or we'll annoy you' and emotional blackmail from parents 'It's for my cute little child'.  
It is a great shame that one of Linton's better customs has been broken. Let's hope no children are hurt going where they are not welcome and no one who is offended by these acts is traumatised.  
Name and address supplied

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor  
I should like to thank everyone who supported the coffee morning and sale of Christmas cards and goods at the Old Guildhall on 12<sup>th</sup> November in aid of Save the Children. The sum of £366 was raised to help vulnerable children around the world.  
Judith White, Save the Children (Linton & District branch) 4 Church Lane  
Dear Editor  
A donation of £32.50 was sent to the World Society for the Protection of Animals after the selling of bags of plums, and also £36.00 sent for the selling of raffle tickets. Thank-you all on behalf of the Bears.  
M<sup>rs</sup> Iris Tarver, 2 Finchams Close

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Helping hands need a helping hand

THE AGM of Linton and District Helping Hands was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Apologies for absence were read out including one from our chairperson who is recovering from a hip replacement operation. Everyone sent best wishes to her for a speedy recovery.  
New drivers were warmly welcomed and the minutes of the AGM 2004 were read and approved. The treasurer's report showed there is a healthy balance thanks to a generous donation from one of our drivers and the farmers' market.

The transport co-ordinator reported on the number of lifts that had been given which showed a continued demand for this help. It was agreed that as the cost of petrol had risen in the four years since the last rise in charges, it was time to increase the mileage charge. A minimum charge will apply for all lifts, including those within the village.  
All drivers and committee members were thanked for their continued support and help.  
We desperately need a new transport co-ordinator – please contact Joy Button if you feel you can help. Please remember, if you should require a lift it is necessary to give at least 24 hours notice. New drivers are always welcome. Contact numbers:  
Joy Button 892300,  
Pat Turner 892139 and  
Maureen Harper 891696

Just the place for late gifts  
ABINGTON Playgroup's Christmas Fair is a great chance to buy those final Christmas presents. At Great Abington primary school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December (5.30-8.30pm), stalls will include: Virgin Vie Cosmetics, Accessories by Pink Fluff, Cookery display by Pampered Chef, Usborne Books for Children, Weekenders clothing, toys by G9 Leisure, Suffolk Rocking Horse clothes, Phoenix cards ... and much more.

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A view of the National Parks  
TRYING to encourage the appropriate uses, such as cycling, climbing and rock-pooling for our national parks causes the custodians a huge dilemma. On the one hand they find themselves "selling" the twelve, soon to be thirteen outstanding sites, but on the other hand these areas need to be conserved. The Council for National Parks battles against the desire for quarrying, power-boating, holiday development and sites for phone masts and missile testing but obviously the revenue helps in the fight for conservation.  
Simon Odell, a volunteer with the CNP encouraged gardening club members to dig into their memories and challenged them to identify the different parks from photographs. Several looked surprisingly similar but all have their own characteristics and attractions. We saw the New Forest, the sole natural habitat of wild gladioli, the Peak District which is the second most popular national park in the world (after Mount Fuji) and the Lake District's deepest lake sporting a sunken wartime bomber which divers have enhanced by creating a gnome garden at 51 metres.  
Simon's knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject were obvious – could you follow in his footsteps as more speakers are needed?  
It is hoped that the December social evening will be slightly different this year, so we look forward to seeing all our members including some who have very recently joined.  
Please bring along a glass for the usual tippie and any donations of mince pies or jam tarts will be most appreciated.  
Gloria Fidler 891800

Send a cow to Africa

Shops and fairs through the ages in Cambridge

SEVENTEEN years ago a farmer had more cows than he needed, and by joining up with other like-minded farmers sent the cows out to Africa, and the charity "Send a Cow" was started. At our October meeting in Hildersham we welcomed our guest speaker M<sup>rs</sup> Caroline Middleton from the charity, who showed slides and told us of the amazing difference the scheme has made to so many families in Uganda living in abject poverty.  
During years of war and oppression most of the men have been killed, the younger women in the family have died and sadly still are dying, of Aids which left the grandmothers to look after the children by themselves.  
Now with the help from people like us, "Send a Cow" are able to provide a variety of farm animals and educate the

women in their care, which is giving them status in the community. With animal manure to replenish the ground they are also growing their own crops. The children are healthier and their learning skills are showing a vast improvement. Many families are now very independent and able to help others in need.  
A raffle was held which enabled members to raise enough money to send a flock of chickens. The evening finished with a special birthday cake and drinks to celebrate our president's \*\* birthday, and to say thank-you for all she does on our behalf.  
The vote of thanks was given by Pamela Parris and refreshments provided by M<sup>rs</sup> M Beckett and M<sup>rs</sup> B Meeks.  
Our next meeting will be the "members only" Christmas dinner.  
Pamela Parris

SHOPPING in Cambridge through the ages was the subject of Becky Proctor's talk at Linton WI in November.  
Becky is the assistant curator of the Cambridge folk museum on Castle Hill. The museum has recently had a full make-over and is well worth a visit.  
Becky told members about the Sturbridge Common market which was one of the biggest markets in Britain, famous at the time because of the fixing of the price of wool. It was the centre of trading for England; its demise was caused by the building of the railways. Becky also spoke about and showed slides of many of Cambridge city's old shops. She was thanked by Miriam Rixon.  
Future outings discussed were a county visit to Ethnic London and a dance workshop course by a Denman college tutor. The December meeting is the 'members only' Christmas party.  
At 7.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> January we welcome M<sup>rs</sup> P Gowlet who will talk about "Working within the parole system". New members and visitors welcome.  
Ann Simpkin 892090

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# Rocket men spotted in Linton

SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> November saw the sixteenth Sfirework display in Linton, continuing a long tradition of producing one of the best firework displays in the local area. This year Linton fireworks had a change to its previous format when the committee rose to a challenge to put on our normal show plus not one, but two live bands to precede the pyrotechnics.

A crowd of over 3500 people from Linton and the surrounding area witnessed a stunning display of fireworks and an enormous bonfire. Special thanks must go to Camgrain, Barclays Bank and Area Scaffolding for their generous sponsorship, to Charles Fairey for allowing us to use his field for setting off the fireworks and the Infants' School for allowing us to use their site for the bonfire. Thanks also to our bands, *Second Hand Baby* and *Mercurial* for the pre-fireworks entertainment and for showing us what talent there is in our village.

For those of you with an interest in the facts of this the sixteenth year, the bonfire contained in excess of 10 tons of material, fireworks costing £3,300 were set off by four (slightly eccentric?) local residents and a profit of around £6,600 looks to have been raised for the three Linton schools. A massive sum of over £80,000 has now been raised over the last 16 years.

A good night's work I hear some of you say. Well yes. An extremely tiring one too! But what may not be so obvious is the level of planning and hard work that goes on beforehand. There are at least four meetings sampling the excellent ale at the Dog and Duck making all those key decisions. How big should the fire

be? How much do we charge for a ticket? Do we have music for the fireworks? How many fireworks do we order? And most confusing of all, how big a generator is needed to power two urns full of mulled wine! This year was even more complicated owing to the demands of our musical entertainment. We started to feel some empathy for S<sup>ir</sup> Bob Geldof.

More seriously there are the Saturday and Sunday mornings in the weeks preceding the event which are spent attending crucial training and safety sessions to obtain the necessary clearance to light "Category 4" professional type fireworks. Ask any of our number who have ever been "over the river" and they will tell you it certainly gets the adrenaline going.

Less exciting but critical is the marking out for the turf cutters, collecting and returning the ever lengthening list of equipment we use every year and the number and variety of vehicles needed to get everything in the right place. The army would be impressed.

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.

And the rocket men? Ask anyone who attended.

Alan King, Event Director

# Animals and vandals vie for place on the river Ouse

This is fourth part of Darryl Nantais' poem, The Heron's Nest.

*EMOLLIENT* mists caress affectionately whilst rooks hop high up and down from twig to twig. As if to say "we're so ennui" and terns too, with enormity. Since Albert rests within his grave, with seven years of happy days, I've learned the language of Indian ways to use upon these gentle waves. When black wings clip the solar rays or a throaty screech may resonate, intrinsically my soul awakes in the warmth of this affinity. And though not all may understand, 'tis none lesser in your hand, to see the world through others' eyes where Allah, God and Buddhas rise. Yet corvine calls and flight display can calm the soul of modern ways and gently wrap with soothing air and free us from the tyrant cares.

Cows emerge, and rise from knees, their placid praying stance 'neath trees, rumbling with their heavy hooves as the mist and morning move. Cackles from a village cock or hen, discordant sound upon the fen conclude the hour be barely ten. Yet still the mists like wafting sheets neatly fall with flowing pleats, contoured on the river bank where beams of timbers deeply sank cradle trees that grow in rank. Consumed by life and time the crank that turns against our rebellious jest from Eden to The Heron's Nest.

Here where angels and demons appear appealing and forbidden, the cyclical life austere and overridden by the glory and joy of sunrise. The vanity twinkles in our eyes. An early morning wasp whizzed by at five o'clock, wings fairly dry. No signpost he nor map to read that I can see. But who can tell what smell or compass guides him armed and still so pompous with a sting to cause a rumpus. So many signs of all this life, abundantly I sigh in strife to think one day all this will die and with it all the questions why? So summer I approach with hope and value all this blood to coast. Not I deny the chicken roast upon an aromatic host. Up there just below rooks' lookout post jabbing at the wood to seek, the pecker with adapted beak clings with perpendicularity. Rattling out his speedy beat in spotted red and green attire did friction I have pondered if conditions likened to rubbing sticks might indeed not wishing myth actually cause a fire?

So as I sit and twiddle stick that writes these lines with tap and click, I ask again of brain so rum, where do all these words come from? Not

even as a child I'd say did I ever stop to play, but to observe all other days and ask of life without judgement on all that passed, with eyebrows raised! Concerned with things like thinning willow shade and mankind distraught at what he'd made determined to accelerate, enslaving other men to create. Do we have to know pleasure to understand pain? Do we have to know drought to appreciate rain? So when the ink runs dry within my brain and readers see the pages plain and poison runs through all our drains perhaps men will think again. To follow this the poet's path and dwell upon a crimson coat dissecting every tiny note and understand what nature wrote has burdened many iron goat!

And so it's true this Ouse may beckon folk, some come here to elope, and some remain and moor their hopes in cruises, barges and narrow boats. Some come here but once a year, leaving river folk with tasks to clear their emptiness in tins of beer, that kill the creatures living here. I speak for fox and duck and geese who have not means to call police. When such as I saw the other day some evil gang did bangers lay, to scare our innocent cows away. No doubt a harmless prank 'tis said not grave to harm the cattle head! No jail would amend this crime or save from grief another time. If an answer we dare seek 'tis there before the yellow beak.

Tranquillity was fragile as a whisper in a crowded room. Then old man's pepper swayed high as if with pride displaying its subtle green bloom. Something black slithered and snaked, rising and falling with shimmering nape. Innocent of great escape for she was born free beside the lake. Unlike her ancestors born for fur, for her I'm sure this did not occur. She wanders here with musk to spray and grows stronger day by day, longing to find a mate. She spies this biped crouching low, her curiosity her greatest foe. Her downfall will indeed be this when hunters learn how she is inquisitive! Not doomed to live in abject fear if such a feeling she may bear and all too if fate be more for all the children that she bore. Ravenous by nature, beautiful by chance. What power vies to ravage itself in this phylogenetical dance?

## Charlotte's

FOLLOWING my article on the Linton village college sports centre in the September issue, I have been talking to Chloe Westley, a pupil at Linton, about her amazing swimming career. Chloe, 14, has been swimming since she was nine. In such a short space of time she is now in a national swimming group.

She is currently training hard at West Suffolk swimming club preparing for a Barcelona camp, and although she is very talented she is extremely modest,

and even though she is in my year at school I had no idea of her great achievements.

In her five years of swimming she says her best achievement so far has been making it into the National Championships in 2003, in which she came seventh in Britain. She has also come third twice at the Midland Championships.

The school is known to be very lenient to people with fantastic extracurricular activities so if Chloe has an important competition to take part in or an

## Chatroom

excessive training programme to follow, the school is very easy-going and allows her the time she needs to succeed.

Even though she must have much less time for homework than most of the pupils in the school, Chloe is in the top set for the subjects she's taking for GCSEs, and although she could have a great career in swimming when she leaves school she says she would like to pursue a career in medicine, perhaps to be a doctor.

Charlotte

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## Linton Cricket Club

### AGM

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**Team effort:** Sue Golding (centre front), Jane Rootes (centre left) and Su Matthews (centre right) celebrate a great fund-raising achievement when more than 70 family and friends joined Sue on a 10km sponsored stride from Milton Country Park to raise money for Cancer Research. Sue had been kept in the dark about the huge support so when she arrived and was greeted by a cheering crowd dressed in pink, the colour of the Breast Cancer campaign, it was an emotional moment for everyone. 'Team Golding' raised a magnificent £2,300



# Celebrating Sue's life

WHEN Sue Golding set out from her home in Linton in October, she thought she was just off for a Sunday stroll in the countryside with her family. But her friends had a surprise in store for her...

Sue, a mother of two young children, has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer since May. Her optimism, fighting spirit and undiminished sense of humour during this very difficult time have been a real inspiration to everyone who knows her.

Seizing an opportunity provided by national Breast Cancer Awareness month, two of Sue's closest friends, Jane Rootes and Su Matthews, decided to demonstrate to Sue how much she is valued by those around her. They secretly arranged for a Linton 'team' to take part in a 10km sponsored stride from Milton country park, organised by Cancer Research.

More than 70 people, including children, managed to keep the secret: Sue

**Local man with a dramatic story to tell**

LINTON man Adrian Rose, 34, is a man with a story to tell Adrian suffered with the illness ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (in its severest form) for nearly eight years before finally getting the breakthrough he had been living for.

This breakthrough came about as a result of Adrian attending a local church healing service. Prayers at the end sparked a recovery in Adrian which was so dramatic that he has felt the need to write a detailed account of it to encourage others, and has done so in a book called Love Never Fails. If you would like to know more about Adrian's story or how to obtain a copy of his book, you can write to Adrian at the following address: 10 Brinkman Road, Linton, Cambridge, CB1 6XF. Alternatively visit his website [www.adrian-rose.com](http://www.adrian-rose.com).

knew nothing about it until her husband Trevor guided her, blindfolded, into the Park's study centre. She was greeted by a cheering crowd dressed in pink, the colour of the breast cancer campaign. It was an emotional moment for everyone.

'Team Golding' raised a magnificent £2,300 for breast cancer research, but just as importantly we celebrated the courage of a woman we are proud to call our friend. Sue has recently completed

six months of chemotherapy. We wish her all the best for the rest of her treatment and look forward to her return to good health.

Sue said: "Thank you to everyone who gave up their Sunday and turned up to support me and to raise money for Cancer Research. I was overwhelmed and very touched by everyone's kindness and generosity."

If you would like to raise money to fight cancer, contact the local area office of Cancer Research UK on 01284 766 311.

## Beethoven and Mozart will start 2006

LINTON Music Society's first concert of 2006 will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Linton Village College when Rafal Zambrzycki-Payne (violin) and Richard Hyung-Ki Joo (piano) play sonatas by Mozart Beethoven and Ravel.


## Wanted: a new web wonder

THE designer and maintainer of the Linton News website, Mandy Honeyman, is leaving and we would love to find someone to take her place.

If you're into computers and that kind of thing, take a look at our website at [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info) to see if it's the kind of challenge you would like to take on. If it is, please call our editor Wendy Foster (contact numbers on P8).

**POT POURRI 12**  
**Just what is an average?**  
THERE are several different types of 'average' which can be applied to numerical data.  
The normal meaning is of adding the data values as a total, then dividing the resultant sum by the number of data items, eg the average of a rolling dice is (1+2+3+4+5+6)/6 = 3.5. Perhaps a result that does not mean much.  
Consider a simple pair of examples that seem to confuse the unwary.  
1) If half a journey is done at 30mph and the rest at 60mph, what is the average speed?  
2) If a journey covers 12miles and the first four miles is at 30mph, the next six miles at 60mph and the last part at 20mph, what was the average speed of the completed journey?  
SOLUTION to No 11: Saving Fuel – What is the Minimum Distance?  
ANSWER: 160 km.

**The K-Club winners**  
THE K-Club winners from the November draw were:  
1<sup>st</sup> prize (£50)  
**Paul Whiffen** (No. 226)  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£25)  
**Bob Simmonds** (No. 246)  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£10)  
**Vanessa Nichols** (No. 412)

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# Seasonal wishes from Linton Zoo



Tania and 10-day-old Tela enjoy the winter sunshine  
Pictures by Kim Simmons

THANKS to everyone who has been saving their used stamps for the ‘shellshock’ campaign; please keep them coming. You can drop them in at the gate as you pass during opening hours every day (except for Christmas Day or Boxing Day when we are closed). We have raised over £4,000 at the zoo so far. The stamps will help towards this ongoing fund-raising project.

We also have bags of our special “Zoo Poo”, consisting of tapir and zebra stable waste for composting. This mixture does wonders for your gardens; it is a brilliant non-peat soil improver! Available at the zoo gate, just pop in when you are passing by. The money raised from the sale of compost also helps the conservation fund.

If you are looking for an unusual Christmas gift don’t forget the animal sponsorship

scheme. Details and forms can be found on our website [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com)

Annual unlimited admission tickets also make great gifts. We can prepare the packs

at fairly short notice if needed. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Linton Zoo.

Kim Simmons 891308



Tree ferns which were donated from a customs seizure, thrive on the ‘zoo poo’

## All good (and some not so good) things must come to an end

SO here I am approaching my final month in India. It’s hard to say exactly how I feel about it. Part of me (if I’m to be honest, probably the larger part) is excited about getting back to family and friends, all of whom I have missed hugely. The other part is sorry that the adventure is drawing to a close.

They say that when a person is kidnapped they often form a special bond with the kidnapper, and although I’m not being held against my will I feel this is the best way to translate my feelings on my stay here. India, or at least Madras (as it certainly wouldn’t be fair to make judgment on the whole country after living in just one of its cities), can juggle your emotions on pretty much a daily basis. You can wake up one day, go to work and manage to achieve very little due to numerous hold-ups, and be driven mad by the frustration of not getting even close to fulfilling your personal work plan. Another day, you can take the time gifted to you by the hold-ups and enjoy a leisurely break and wonder how you got so irritated by having so much free time forced upon you.

It may sound as if I have been unhappy here or that I really don’t like the place. This is not the case and although I can’t say that I love it, I could never say that I hate it here either. If I had come to India on holiday I can truthfully say that I’d have enjoyed it as much as anywhere. However, I have been here on a strict budget and have had little choice but to live as a local. This has presented

me with a mixed, confused and a far from definite view of the city.

There is mild racism, in that the colour of my skin determines how much I have to pay for things. This too swings both ways as I am often given preferential treatment by the locals, whether it be queue hopping or being offered the only available chair. I could carry on giving you examples of the good and bad on offer here but it would be like trying to explain a rollercoaster ride. If you haven’t taken the ride no amount of talking about it will ever come close to making you understand the feeling you get when you’re on it.

Not everything here is so confusing. The children I have had the pleasure of working with are an amazing bunch, and I have no doubt that I shall miss them enormously. The same too can be said about the friends I’ve made here. I know in my heart this isn’t the last time I’ll come to India as I have far more reasons for coming back than I do for staying away. The lows will be forgotten in a short space of time but the highs will be with me for the rest of my life, and for this I thank the people of Madras for accepting me into their city and playing host to me over the past year. I only hope that if any person from Madras (or anywhere else in the world for that matter) visits England, they are offered the same kindness and hospitality that has been shown to me here in Chennai.

Gary Dixon

## Linton’s ‘portrait gallery’

THANKS to our successful photographic exhibition, the November meeting saw us with three new members – all with an interest in the digital side of photography.

This month the club decided to hold a portrait session in the village hall and some of us took it in turns to be the “model” along with Josie, one member’s daughter. We were also very lucky that Julian Edwards kindly lent us a backdrop, and I think most members of the club were pleased with their efforts.

These photos, along with our favourites from the year, will be shown at the next meeting which will be a social occasion in the upstairs room at the village hall. We have decided to go back to our original date of the second Sunday in the month, so the Christmas event will be held at 10am on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Members are encouraged to bring ideas of venues for next year’s away days (and something tasty to eat or drink). Check out our website to see examples of our favourite photos at [www.lintoncameracub.org.uk](http://www.lintoncameracub.org.uk) For more information please contact Roger Lapwood on 891104 or Ron Pitkin on 891845.

Tracey Wilson



A portrait of Alex Todd  
Picture by Richard Smith

## The more the merrier

OVER Christmas we’ll dispose of up to 30% more glass bottles and aluminium and steel drink cans than usual. As part of your Christmas preparations, here are South Cambridgeshire’s waste and recycling arrangements.

A revised black wheeled bin collection service will operate throughout the Christmas period. Green wheeled bin collections will be temporarily suspended.

Everyone will receive the current green box collection service, apart from those on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December. Additional resources will be provided on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January to collect extra glass cans and paper.

Any excess waste can be taken to the household waste recycling centres at Milton and Thriplow.

Householders should check their collection calendars in *South Cambs magazine* or on [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

Chop up your tree and place in the green bin, providing the branches/trunk are not more than three inches thick. Alternatively, take it to a household waste recycling centre.

Christmas cards may be put into your green wheeled bin for composting.

SCDC

## Be safe in these darker days

WOULD you like to buy a Christmas gift for family or friends to ensure they can be seen on dark winter days, which will benefit Magpas who train first responders to carry out first aid for local people in emergency situations?

Mitsa Promotions of S’ Ives are producing high-visibility vests and donating £1 to Magpas

for every vest sold. One of Linton’s first responders, Bob Hammett, thoroughly approves of the vests, available in all sizes, particularly useful for making pedestrians and cyclists more visible. Details are available from: Mitsa Promotions on 01480 495025.

Kate France 891602



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# Shock news in 1647 ... Christmas is banned!

IT was the year they banned Christmas. Behind the move was Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans, who were appalled by the revelry of Christmas custom – so they outlawed it.

For 13 years from 1647, Parliament sat on Christmas Day and soldiers ensured shops were open and churches closed. Evergreens were banned and mince pies were forbidden as they were seen as a temptation to wickedness and over-indulgence.

But the people loved their Christmas and continued to celebrate it in the privacy of the own homes. More than 100,000 people from Kent signed a petition, saying “if they could not have their Christmas Day, they would have the king back on the throne.”

Finally in 1660, with the monarchy restored and Charles II on the throne, the festival of Christmas came back. Earlier

in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, another group of people were persecuted and had their religion and beliefs banned for more than 250 years. After the Reformation and Henry VIII's split from Rome, the Catholics in England from 1558 to 1829 were prohibited by a protestant parliament from any practice of their faith.

This greatly affected the surrounding villages of Hildersham and Sawston, as the Paris and Huddleston families were leading Catholics in Cambridgeshire. However, as they were both closely involved with the royal family with roles such as the Master of the Wardrobe or Privy Chamber, they survived relatively unscathed.

As it was a crime to be a Catholic, one of the theories of why the Christmas song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was

written was as a “catechism song” to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith. Each line of the song's rhythm is supposed to represent a different Catholic belief, such as the gospels, the beatitudes and the 10 commandments, although much of the symbolism is, in truth, just as relevant to Protestants.

The next meeting of Linton History Society is at 7.30pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December in Linton village hall when chairman Garth Collard takes us on our next tour of Linton in an illustrated talk, *The History of the Grip and the Hadstock Road areas of Linton*.

It's our Christmas meeting so the talk will be followed by mince pies and a glass of wine. Why not join us for a great evening?

Andrew Westwood-Bate  
892430



## How to help Bogdan ...

*THIS is Bogdan, a Romanian child found abandoned after the fall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Bogdan is suffering from water on the brain, which results in severe swelling of the head.*

*To find out how you can help Bogdan and hundreds like him, read the January issue of the Linton News. LNT*

## Flying start for debating contest

PUPILS from Bassingbourn, Comberton, Gamlingay and Impington village colleges got this year's South Cambridgeshire district council debating competition off to a flying start. After two passionate debates arguing whether the Government should censor violent or explicit song lyrics, Comberton and Impington teams were declared winners, going through to the second round.

In the other first-round debates, Bassingbourn's second team beat Wilbraham's youth group, Linton saw off Impington's second team and Comberton's second team beat Grantchester youth group. Due to uneven team numbers, the 1st Sawston Guides go through to the second round in January on a bye. The topic will be that everyone should be paid to stay at school until they are 18.

The competition, which is organised by South Cambs. district council as part of “local democracy week” in October, is intended to give young people a chance to have their say and to get involved in local democracy. The first prize is a trophy and £500 for the school, club or youth group, plus £50 each for the debaters. Runners-up win £250 for their school, club or youth group.

Melanie Baker, S. Cambs debate organiser 01954 713354

## Curtain up on Act 1 for drama group

THE adult section of the Linton Drama Group has had its first meeting. The evening was a great success and a core of founder members has now been established to build on for the future.

The group will be named the Linton Theatre Workshop and has already elected its first committee, opened a bank account, adopted a constitution and applied for start-up funding. It plans to hold a few professionally run workshops before Christmas to get the ball rolling' followed by auditions and rehearsals for the first play. A second meeting has been called to decide on the play and to start planning the production.

Linton Theatre Workshop has been instigated by local arts development manager Dan Schumann in partnership with South Cambridgeshire district council and Linton Village College, who will provide a home for the group.

Dan said: “I am really pleased and excited that our efforts have paid off and Linton has now got an adult drama group of its own.

“I am told there has been nothing like this in Linton for the last 30 years. This just goes to show that having the district council and the college working in partnership, and having me here on the ground making things happen and supporting local people can bring about real results which are locally important.”

If you would like more information on Linton Theatre Workshop, please contact Dan on 01223 712825 or dschumann@sawstonvc.org

Dan Schumann

## Older residents know all the answers

WHERE has the year gone? The last ACEs lunch (for about 60 people – we ran out of soup bowls!) was on Trafalgar Day, when our splendid local historian Garth Collard gave a talk on “How well do you know Linton?” This included slides of unexpected or unusual views of our village and its historic buildings, causing much debate, some dissent and a good deal of good-humoured banter.

Garth even managed to make a connection between Linton and Nelson – he was related to the wife of a Linton clergyman, and there was a garden party at the then vicarage to celebrate his victory at the Battle of the Nile. We knew Linton would be at the heart of British history.

The next ACEs outing will be to

Scotsdales garden centre, for shopping or just admiring their festive displays. This will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, leaving from the Dog and Duck at 11am, then Back Road junctions with Chalklands and Flaxfields at about 11.15. Call Sue or Dawn on 891001 to book places or to arrange lifts

Our first event for the New Year will be a sherry and shortcake morning on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January. This will have a raffle, bring-and-buy, tombola, stalls, etc, and will be to raise funds to support the work of our Mobile Warden. Watch out for the posters for more details.

We at ACEs wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an active New Year.

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## What a beautiful way to relax ...

IF you ever feel the need to take time out, relax and be pampered, then Linton is the place for you.

Two beauty clinics are now offering a wide range of treatments in the village – Suzanna Morris at Posh and Pampered at 113 High Street (890303) and Annette Jackson at Annette's Beauty and Well Being at The Bank House, 37 High Street (891900).

A revamped Posh and Pam-

pered occupies three floors, has a crèche, champagne lounge and hairdresser. It offers a wide range of Pamper Packages and also does human hair extensions.

Suzanna is at pains to point out that Posh and Pampered is for all ages, and to show people what is on offer, there is an open day on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> (9am-8pm) with free wine.

Annette's Beauty and Well Being offers a full range of services, including electrolysis,

manicures, pedicures, waxing and facials. There are also holistic therapies, including Reiki, reflexology, Indian head massage, Hopi ear candling, aromatherapy and hot stone therapy.

Annette is having an open afternoon on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> with wine and mince pies. She welcomes customers with the message “Why not take time out from the bustle of everyday life ... and feel heavenly.”

LNT

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## THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

So we get to the last Bush Telegraph – a strange feeling after so many years of contributing to the Linton News, being part of the community of Linton and principal of the village college. In some ways it is fitting to end as I began back in 1994 with educational controversy! Back then it was a Conservative government promoting their flagship of an idea of grant maintained schools; that is schools that employed their own staff, owned their own land and controlled their own admissions policies wholly outside the control or influence of the local authority. As you may remember the college became such a school in 1996 and as a Foundation School retains many of those marks of independence. At that time the labour party bitterly opposed the change – but that was a long time ago and the present government is currently locked in a battle with its own supporters to create a very similar approach, this time called Trust Schools. It is as usual rather a lot of fuss about nothing however, since all secondary schools are now able to become Foundation schools if they so wish (and the evidence is that most do), own their land, employ their staff etc and all schools do and will have to comply with national guidelines regarding admissions. Perhaps the key differences are that as a grant maintained school we were properly funded because we lost none of our budget to the Local Authority. The present suggestions do not include increases in budget, even though the influence of the Local Authority will diminish.

Funding: now that was always a bone of contention for LVC as a Cambridgeshire school and I upset some readers by constantly banging on about it over the years. I fought many battles with local and national politicians too and it must be admitted that we gained some ground. Things are much better than they were even five years ago.

In spite of my obsession with the job (and funding), and it *has* been a fantastic privilege to lead such a dynamic and high achieving school, I hope readers will appreciate just what a gem they have in the Linton News. There are very few villages or even small towns that have such a high quality local newspaper and one that genuinely welcomes the views and contributions of its readers. I have enjoyed being one such contributor and I hope at least some of what I have said in over a hundred Bush Telegraphs has been of interest.

But back to the College; I leave it in good hands in the form of Caroline Derbyshire. As an ex-Cambridgeshire teacher and Linton resident, she understands the unique provision we have in this county. I leave her with the headache and the excitement of the building programme that, although not fully completed until 2010, will result in one of the best equipped and most up-to-date schools in the country. I also leave her a wonderful group of students and staff whom I will miss enormously. I have had great support in what is sometimes a tough job and it has been a real pleasure to receive so much thanks and so many good wishes as I move on from what has been my work and to a large extent my life over the last twelve years.

Clive Bush

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- S/2153/05/F Mrs Mazumdar, 18 Market Lane, Linton.** Addition of dormer windows to dwelling and extensions to garage for playroom and cycle store.
- S/2176/05/F R Wellings, 94 High Street, Linton.** Change of use from office to dwelling.

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## The Way We Were by Garth Collard

### The Linton riots of 1832



High Street/Coles Lane

Pictures from Garth's collection

THE recent outbreak of serious disorder in Birmingham and throughout France highlights the difficulties faced by the forces of law and order, even in nations with large well-equipped police forces. Deep rooted causes of discontent seem to have sparked these riots especially in areas of severe social and economic deprivation. Can you imagine such a situation occurring in Linton?

In December 1832 there was a serious riot in Linton followed six months later by a major outbreak of violence in Hildersham. There were no county police forces at this time and each village relied on appointing a handful of special constables to keep order. The early 1830s were a time of huge social and economic discontent in England, especially in rural areas. Rick burning was commonplace, unemployment was widespread and the poor were close to the bread line. In Linton, over three quarters of the householders were unable to pay the Poor Rate which funded the local distribution of food and provided monetary support for the poor and the unemployed. The system of making up the wages of workers to a basic level led not only to very high rates, but also to a truculent work force which demanded hand-outs as their right. The ruling classes feared a French style revolution and were increasingly subjected to verbal abuse by the younger males in the village. Young men, no longer dependent on local farmers for an income, lost their respect for the ruling classes and were free to vent their anger without fear of any financial penalties.

An attempt to enforce Sunday drinking laws in Linton sparked off the riot. The landlord of the Crown Inn (number 35 High Street today) was prosecuted by Constable Mason for serving drinks to labourers during divine service. (Please note that the present day Crown Inn was not a pub at this time.) The Linton magistrates held their petty session court at the Crown Inn and the two magistrates on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1832, Lord Godolphin of the Gogs Mansion House and Henry Adeane of Babraham Hall found the landlord guilty as charged. Meanwhile, a huge crowd had assembled outside the Inn and were incensed when the guilty verdict was announced. They tried to seize and manhandle Constable Mason as he emerged from the court, so the two magistrates hastily enlisted additional Special Constables to escort him to safety. The scuffles grew more violent and both magistrates were severely manhandled. A badly shaken Lord Godolphin managed to retreat to the safety of the Inn, and the solid gates of the courtyard arch were slammed shut. The rioters used mud and gravel from the unsurfaced High Street to throw missiles at the retreating forces of law and order. The beleaguered constables rushed towards the bridge and sought safety in the courtyard of the Reverend

Fisher's house (the present day residence of Dr Bertram at Linton House). The crowd smashed down the stout gates of the house and Mr Adeane was hit by some large stones whilst sheltering in the yard. One cut his scalp and a second inflicted a deep wound above his left ear. He was very fortunate in having the local doctor, Mr Holmes in close attendance. Fortunately the vicar was a highly respected gentleman and he managed to restrain and pacify the worst elements in the crowd. The ringleaders retreated and a

large reward of £100 was offered by the authorities for any information which led to the conviction of individual rioters. Villagers responded to this monetary bribe and a large force of constables arrested the 11 leaders at their homes the following day.

The ringleaders were all charged with public order offences at the county assizes held at Cambridge Castle in March, 1833. Local names featured amongst the prisoners: Elijah Pammenter 22 years of age, Samuel Pammenter 38, William Brown 27, Richard Hill 25, George Whiffin 25, Thomas Turner 25, William Pammenter 29, Thomas Crane 25 (the stone thrower), Charles Brown 25, John Wright and William Whiffin 43. The latter was

accused of urging the mob to fetch guns. Ten men were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms with hard labour of between one and two years. There was no question of sentence remission in those days. Surprisingly, Whiffin was the only one acquitted due to lack of solid identification evidence.

The Hildersham affray involved a crowd of over one hundred men who assembled outside Mr Mabbutt's beer house, but the incident was nowhere near as serious as that in Linton. Two workers from Bartlow had tried to

secure reaping work in Hildersham and this was naturally resented by local farm workers during a time of high unemployment. No members of the ruling classes were assaulted and so the magistrates dismissed the case against the four young Hildersham men who had been charged with assault.

Both incidents demonstrate the precarious nature of society at this time. Inequalities of wealth were so great that periodic breakdowns in law and order were inevitable. Even after the Great Parliamentary Reform Act of 1832, there were only 56 qualified voters in Linton out of a population of more than 1,700 people. The Abingtons had a mere 11 voters, Hildersham six, Horseheath 19 and Balsham 27. A county police force was finally established by 1850 and this helped to bring greater order to rural communities. A police station was built in Symonds Lane in 1855 to serve Linton and the surrounding villages, and no further riots took place in Linton after that time.

### Linton Community Sports Centre

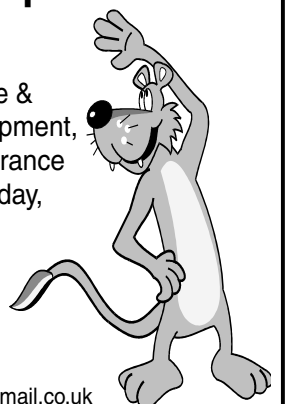
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#### THE LINTON NEWS

Next Publication Date 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2006

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# Parish Council Matters

## Behind the Scenes - Everone Welcome!

FOR anyone who imagines that the Parish Council is composed of fifteen M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Averages, think again! We are a disparate group bringing a wide variety of opinions and offering a wide range of skills to the service of the community of Linton. When there are controversial issues to be decided we have to put our own preferences aside and consider a resolution which is best for the community as a whole!

As you will all be aware there are two meetings each month. One, often referred to as 'house-keeping' deals mainly with the routine village business by a system of co-ordinators, while the other concentrates on reports to the Parish Council from its representatives. It is at this meeting that councillors contribute according to their interests.

In addition to reports from our County Councillor and District Councillor there is a report from the police or, more usually, our Police Liaison Officer. This role was adopted by a member who was particularly keen to have a greater police presence within the village, those of you who see P.C. Addison-Atkinson around and about must be grateful for his determination. He used every means at his disposal from petitions, to the local press to get a policeman back in the village.

Another councillor arrived on the council as a result of the A1307 campaign. This was an initiative taken by a group of residents in villages linked by the road, which we all know to be so hazardous. By having a representative reporting back to the Parish Council we are

able to keep in touch with the views and ideas of neighbouring villages and it is hoped that by working in unison there will eventually be major improvements. In the meantime we should thank the group for their efforts in securing interactive signs along the length of the road from Abington to Haverhill.

The elderly residents of the village will all be well aware of another councillor who takes a special interest in them. The Activities and Care for the Elderly (ACE) is a recent addition to the charitable groups on the Parish Council's list. The service this group offers is help and support to those that need it and is warmly appreciated by all those using this service, for which there is a long waiting list. Setting up and establishing the group has required a

great deal of commitment, many hours of work and attendance at numerous related meetings.

The Parish Council also has a representative on another local charity, the Linton Area Pool Project (LAPP). Sadly this has not been such a success story. Again, many hours of meetings, reams of paperwork all devoted to the cause, but so far there is only the promise of a large space next to the Community Sports Centre. In addition to a very small fund to build, or dig a pool. Efforts have been made to seek funding and your Member of Parliament has been pressed to find out why the National Lottery is no longer supporting projects such as these, which could do so much to provide a focus for the community and an opportunity for healthy ex-

ercise. This project desperately needs more enthusiastic support if it is ever going to succeed!

The Parish Council also has a representative on Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils (CALC), affiliated to the National Association (NALC). Their meetings are a forum for councils to discuss common problems and are an important source of information and support for much of the council's work. They are keen to promote the concept of Quality Parish Status (QPS), there are now seven villages in the county who have qualified for this title. You may remember the 'Linton in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' survey that was part of this process. As indeed is the addition of Parish Matters to the Linton News, which was another requirement.

When our new clerk has completed her training the council will review the pros-and-cons of applying for this status.

The council is also affiliated to, or a member of, a number of other organisations which relate to the village, such as The Ramblers Associations, The Friends of the Fleam Dyke and Roman Road (a section of which runs through the north of the parish), and The Cam Valley Forum (the Granta being a tributary). Councillors with an interest in these aspects try to attend some meetings and report back to the Parish Council.

What have we overlooked? Have you any concerns which should be considered by the Parish Council? Let us know!

Judy Rossiter

## Lest we Forget



### Linton War Memorial - In need of renovation

AS you are all aware Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November was Remembrance Sunday, the day put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and free-

dom we enjoy today. Traditionally it is requested that the Chairman of the Parish Council reads a lesson at the service held in the church and afterwards at the war

memorial in the cemetery. Three things caught my attention this year that I thought should be shared with parishioners:

One thing that was sadly missed last year, and commented on by people at the memorial, but reinstated this year, were the rifles proudly being presented by the Air Training Corps (ATC). The ATC were on parade attending services in the morning and afternoon in keeping with the tradition that has been in place since I've been associated with them.

Although there are arguments for and against this, it does seem that fitting that, following their presence at the church entrance they stand at the four corners of the memorial with the rifles held low, pointing towards the ground. Although I'm on the civilian committee of the ATC, it is with pleasure that I see young people from this village, smartly turned out in their ATC uniforms giving the occasion a military touch. It was also a pleasure to see youngsters from the scouts, beavers and cubs lined up in their uniforms, but it did seem that

there were fewer 'old soldiers' on parade this year.

The second observation was the lack of a bugle or trumpet to play the 'last post'. We all stood to observe the two minutes silence expecting the lonely note from a musical instrument, but alas all was silent. I was informed that due to other duties and not being anywhere near Linton, the British Legion representative was unable to find a replacement in time. Hopefully the lonely note will return next year.

The third, and hopefully a task that the Parish Council can take on board, was that during the roll call of men who had given their lives, there was some stumbling over names. It was afterwards when I realised that the person chosen to do this memorable task due to the clarity and volume of his voice, had remarked to someone standing close to him that he was having difficulty reading some of the names as they were indistinct. On hearing his remark I took a closer look at the memorial. I was in agreement; it is starting to look very shabby-a problem I hope we can soon rectify.

Graham Potter, Chairman

## ELECTION SPECIAL....

IN May of next year all 15 of our Parish Councillors come up for re-election. Some may choose to stand again, others may choose to step down. In any event all competition is healthy. If you think that you would make a good candidate and have expertise that you could bring to the council or simply that you could do better, why not come along to a Parish Meeting for a 'taster session.' Of course it's not just about meetings. Councillors do a great deal behind the scenes and give up much of their spare time voluntarily for the community. Parish Meetings are held at the Cathodeon Centre at 8pm on the first and third Thursday of the month (except August and December when there is only one meeting).

To become a Parish Councillor you must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be over 21 years of age
- Be a British, Irish, Commonwealth or EU Citizen
- Additionally you must either be:
  - A registered elector within the Parish
  - Have occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises during

the previous twelve months in the Parish

- Have had your principal or only place of work in the Parish for the previous twelve months.
- Have lived in or within 4.8 kilometres of the Parish for the previous twelve months.

Now is a good time to think about becoming a Parish Councillor. If you would like further information call into the Parish Office at the Village Hall or telephone 01223 891001. If we can't help we can put you in touch with a Councillor who can!



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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilmin

THE minutes of the meeting of Linton Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 8<sup>pm</sup>.

During Public Forum, M<sup>rs</sup> France reported that she had today directed two fire engines to the Cathodeon Centre. She commented on the lack of signage in the village. C<sup>llr</sup> Potter replied that this matter will be addressed under Item 107.

C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor commented that the fire engines were probably from Suffolk as Linton had insufficient fire fighters to operate between 9<sup>am</sup> and 5<sup>pm</sup>.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Under Item 4 the apostrophe was removed from Coopers Court. The minutes were approved and signed.

Under Item 88 C<sup>llr</sup> Kenyon commented that the barriers were there to make cyclists dismount. The barrier at Camping Close had been removed and needed to be re-erected.



Safety Barriers at Camping Close

C<sup>llr</sup> Cox reported that cyclists were not dismounting in the churchyard and their speed was becoming a problem.

C<sup>llr</sup> Potter commented that the clerk would check with the Highways Department regarding disability access.

Consideration of the minutes of the Planning meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005. These were considered and agreed.

Reports from Co-ordinators: Open Spaces - C<sup>llr</sup> Clay reported that the concrete plinth on Horseheath Rd had been removed as requested. The waste bin had also been re sited. C<sup>llr</sup> Clay reported that a red Nova has been continually parked on the grass at the junction of Rivey Way and Back Rd. The Clerk to check with SCDC if this is permitted.

Recreation Ground - A written report from C<sup>llr</sup> Kenyon had been distributed. The Clerk to check with Herald when the brambles will be cut.

C<sup>llr</sup> Potter reported that all dog bins had been ordered. C<sup>llr</sup> Potter reported that a bottle had been thrown through the roof of the pavilion. The tiles had been replaced but the soffit board was still broken.

Cemetery - A written report from C<sup>llr</sup> Gee had been distributed. A long discussion took place regarding the safety of gravestones. C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell outlined the problems regarding the testing of gravestones and the costs involved and suggested that a working party be formed. C<sup>llr</sup> Potter commented that in the absence of C<sup>llr</sup> Gee it would be better to pass our comments to him and to let him decide the next step. It would also be helpful to have an article in the Linton News. Rights of Way - A written report from C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter had been distributed. C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter commented on the problems she was experiencing regarding Rights-of-Way and Higher Level Entry Schemes of Environmental Stewardship. C<sup>llrs</sup> Alper and Gore agreed that she should pursue this item with local landowners.

Venture Playground - C<sup>llr</sup> Hammett reported that the elephant was now back in use. Repairs to the toddler swing had also been completed.

Leadwell Meadow - C<sup>llr</sup> Cox reported that the Meadow had now been cut but still required some attention. He re-iterated his concerns regarding the monitoring of work. The 3Ws will be volunteering their help later this month. C<sup>llr</sup> Cox also reported that the Anderson Trust had been approached regarding the funding of restoration and repair of the fencing and gates in the Churchyard. C<sup>llr</sup> Kenyon reported that she was too old to remain a trustee of the Anderson Trust.

Parish Plan - C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter had nothing to report. Glebe Land - C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter had previously distributed a report. C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter proposed the Parish Council subscribe to the Cam Valley Forum at an annual cost of £10. This item will be forwarded to the Finance committee. C<sup>llr</sup> Bald reported that the Environmental Agency

had been working in the village this week. No Japanese Knotweed had been found but some Himalayan Balsam had been found and removed.

Churchyard - C<sup>llr</sup> Gore confirmed that he would be convening a meeting of the Churchyard Working Party.

All items from Correspondence Sheet 7 were noted. Of particular interest:

Item 23 - CALC - Health and Safety checklist - this will be made an agenda item.

Item 28 - Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke - letter regarding dog bins. Councilors had no objection to the request to install dog bins. The Clerk to write and offer our full support.

Item 47 - M<sup>r</sup> Belsom - letter re request for tree surgery. The Clerk to write suggesting he contact M<sup>r</sup> Clay at SCDC regarding this issue.

Item 53 - Norman Dann - request for backing regarding a picture book by Garth Collard. Councillors agreed that M<sup>r</sup> Collard be given our full support.

Item 55 - June Hall's request for funding for Visually Impaired Club. It was agreed that this be forwarded to the precept meeting. The Clerk to write to Mrs Hall informing her of action being taken.

Item 58 - CCC - Bus service tenders 2006. C<sup>llr</sup> Gore reported that he had attended a meeting in Balsham regarding public transport. He will be issuing a report.

Item 61 - Tracy Harrison - letter regarding the signage in the village. C<sup>llr</sup> Potter informed the meeting that the Clerk was looking into missing signs in the village; including the Village Hall, Cathodeon Centre and village sign off A1307.

Under Matters Arising (for information only), C<sup>llr</sup> Potter reported that repairs to the Jubilee Stone were being investigated.

C<sup>llr</sup> Clay reported on the S106 agreement, which will be forwarded to Full Council when a more realistic offer has been made.

C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell informed Councillors that there is a meeting of Access 1307 in the upstairs meeting room in the Village Hall tomorrow (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October). All are welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 21.25

THE minutes of the meeting of Linton Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 8.00<sup>pm</sup>

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The minutes were approved and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 not already listed:

Under 107 Item 61 C<sup>llr</sup> Potter asked if Councillors would like the signage to the village to be improved. It was agreed that as residents had requested this then it should be pursued. It was agreed to contact David Lines at the Highways Department to seek his advice.

Under 105 (i) The red Nova car had been removed.

Under 105 (ii) C<sup>llr</sup> Potter reported on the installation of two of the dog bins .

Under 105 (iii) The Clerk had received an email from C<sup>llr</sup> Gee regarding the cemetery. He was happy for a working party to be set up to check the gravestones. The working party will meet as a matter of urgency.



Health & Safety Guidelines for gravestones

Report from the County Councillor:

C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor reported on a proposal to locate a Haverhill to Cambridge Park and Ride site near Linton. It is unlikely that a suitable site will be found and information suggests that a cycle rack may be installed near to the police houses. C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor also reported that the A1307 is due for sewage works, near to the new development. C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor had chaired a meeting in Balsham regarding public transport services. It was suggested that a shuttle bus service would operate from the surrounding villages to Linton where the main buses to and from Cambridge and Haverhill would have a pick up point. Dan Schumann of Broadening Education Partnership would like to talk

to Councillors regarding a heritage trail in the village. Clerk to invite him.

Report from District Councillors: C<sup>llr</sup> Smith confirmed that capping cuts will affect the contribution toward the ACE Scheme. SCDC are reviewing the grounds maintenance contract. C<sup>llr</sup> Smith also outlined possible changes to the election process. C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor reported that Environmental Health will suffer under the capping cuts with some services that were normally free being charged and some fees for other services will be increased.

C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter reported that lottery funding was unavailable for the swimming pool. She was arranging a meeting with Clive Bush, LVC and Lucy Callow, Granta School to ensure that the pool site is safeguarded. C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor confirmed that the site is safeguarded.

Written reports from Council representatives:

C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell had circulated a report on Access 1307 meeting. C<sup>llr</sup> Hammett asked why a Park and Ride site at Four Went Ways was dismissed. C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell replied that it was felt that this would encourage more traffic through Linton. C<sup>llr</sup> Rossiter asked if signs reporting the number of fatalities and injuries on the A1307 could be installed. C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell replied that research was still ongoing as to if this system was effective.

C<sup>llr</sup> Gore distributed a report on Bus services in the Linton area.

Consideration of Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The minutes were considered and agreed.

Precept Meeting - The date was set for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 8<sup>pm</sup> in the upstairs meeting room of the Village Hall.

All items from Correspondence Sheet 8 were noted. Of particular interest:

Item 1 - Minutes of CALC AGM regarding Quality Parish Status. Item 18- Invoice and report from Moore Stephens regarding audit. The Clerk outlined the work involved in respect to compiling and the completion of Health and Safety Risk Assessment Log Sheets.

Item 24 - Chalklands Residents Association request for bus stop. Forwarded to Traffic Working Party (TWP).

Matters Arising for information only. C<sup>llr</sup> Potter drew attention to the Model Standing Orders which will be an agenda item for the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

C<sup>llr</sup> Cornell reported that she had been contacted by a resident regarding damage to the Recreation Ground by contractors installing the new path to the Clapper Stile. C<sup>llr</sup> Potter was aware of this and would monitor the situation.

C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor reported a tree in the cemetery which may be dead. The Clerk had contacted the Tree Warden who thought that it may just have lost its leaves early. John Hellingworth, Trees and Landscape Officer at SCDC, will be asked for his views.

C<sup>llr</sup> Hammett asked if a pedestrian crossing could be installed at the entrance to the Infants School and in Coles L<sup>a</sup> by the Health Centre junction. C<sup>llr</sup> Urwin reported that this had already been suggested but was thought not to be appropriate by the Highways Department.

C<sup>llr</sup> Hickford reported that Aztecs will be contacting the Parish Council regarding suitable land for football pitches.

C<sup>llr</sup> Batchelor asked if the white lines at the junction of Chalklands and Paynes Meadow could be formalised as enforcement cannot be made. The item will be passed to the TWP.

The meeting closed at 21.05

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