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What is going on at Sweet Talk News?

Ajay Joseph, a man with a mission

RESearch scientist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Ajay Joseph, has expanded his business from Sweet Talk News to the former Hale and Jacobs shop in Bartlow Road.

At the beginning of September residents were startled to see a new name for the Bartlow Road shop, Sweet Talk News Express, and wondered if Tesco had sneaked into Linton on the quiet. Ajay said the idea was to show the link to Sweet Talk News. He is going to hold a competition to think of a better name and is at the moment considering what the prize will be. The plan is to run the two shops in tandem, stocking newspapers, magazines, frozen food, groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables (replenished every two days).

The High Street shop will also stock tobacco, stationery, confectionery, alcohol and convenience items. Ajay is keen to emphasise that for customers' convenience newspaper payments can be made at either shop as they are computer linked.

As for future plans, Ajay would eventually like to have convenience stores in around 150 villages. He is planning a personal delivery service and a call centre for local services as he believes that local tradesmen and service engineers should be better utilised. The idea being that one phone call could request the services of a plumber, electrician, taxi or even a reservation in a restaurant. Watch this space, Ajay is a man with a mission.

Kate France LNT



Ajay, standing outside his new store in Bartlow Road

Picture by Georgina Page

In your own time ...

AJAY Joseph was brought up in a village near Bangalore in India and succeeded in graduating from St Aloysius College in Mangalore, at which point he had two career choices, to stay and work in India or apply for sponsorship to study overseas. Ajay decided on the latter and obtained sponsorship from the Nickel and Dime Store to enable him to start his Masters degree at Dundee University in Scotland. His fees and accommodation were paid for but he had to work 20 hours a week in a convenience store. Halfway through his degree he obtained further sponsorship from the American Food and Drug Administration (a department of the US government) to work on a scientific project in Little Rock, Arkansas for a year.

Ajay is currently working for Cambridge University at Addenbrooke's hospital with the Transitional Prostate Cancer Group undertaking research into cancer cell biology that can be translated into clinical practice.

In between his research work, Ajay manages to run Sweet Talk News, which he bought in January this year, as well as the newly acquired former Hale and Jacobs shop in Bartlow Road. Although he starts work in his two shops just after 4am every morning before going on to Addenbrooke's for 9am, Ajay still finds time for some leisure pursuits. He plays volleyball every Monday night for Cambridge University and has been playing cricket with Linton cricket club. Ajay has certainly achieved a lot, considering he is still only 25 years old. He realises how fortunate he has been so far and to give something back to society he funds the education of six children in India.

LNT

7 Green Lane, the residents

ALTHOUGH number 7 Green Lane, now being renovated, was considered absolutely unfit for habitation in 1901. William Biggs, widower, rented the property when he married Adelaide Fitch, widow. There was no running water or sanitation and was built with lath and plaster walls, which gave little protection against heat or cold. William had six surviving sons, half of whom had lived in the workhouse for sometime when his first wife became ill. She subsequently died in the workhouse giving birth to their son Harry. Adelaide had three girls and a boy. William's eldest son Joseph died in 1907 from tuberculosis.

William and Adelaide's only child, Edith, born in 1902 was the mother of Eunice Cornell who presently lives at 74 High Street.

Living in poverty with little chance of employment, three of



1908 picture of the Biggs/Fitch family outside No 7

Pictures kindly supplied by Esther Cornell

William's sons, Fuller, Edward and Herbert joined the army - Fuller and Herbert joined the Suffolk Regiment and Edward joined the Royal Garrison Artillery. At the outbreak of World War 1 a fourth son, Sidney, volunteered for the army, leaving one Biggs brother, Charlie, at home with the family.

Eunice Cornell's daughter Esther, an active Linton parish

councillor, has a comprehensive collection of pictures, cards and letters from that devastating war.

A letter from Herbert in 1914 states: "I don't think we shall be long before we are home again." Herbert died in 1915 in France. He did not meet any of his brothers in France, but he did meet a village friend from Coles Lane, Septimus Wright,



Edward Biggs in the early 1900s

father of three daughters, who died in 1917. Fuller was known to be serving in France, but the family then lost touch. Edward was killed in Belgium in 1915. Only Sidney returned home.

The family lived in Green Lane until the 1920s when William and Adelaide moved across the High Street to what is now number 115.

LNT

A spotlight on energy

AT Cambridgeshire county council's Trading Standards Service we have seen an increase in queries from residents about cold callers selling energy saving schemes, particularly loft insulation and solar energy, so we offer some advice. Look at the information provided by the Energy Saving Trust on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk or speak to an advisor on 0800 512012.

For supplier/installer information the Microgeneration Certification Scheme can provide a list of members online or by calling 0207 0901082.

Obtain three quotes to ensure the price and projected savings are competitive. Arrange a technical survey, rather than a visit, so the quote is accurate and ensure all quotes are in writing. Having chosen your installer, read the contract carefully and ensure their claims about savings and maintenance costs are included before signing, so that you have evidence. If you sign an agreement at home for solar energy, you should be given seven days to cancel. For advice on this, ring Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506.

For insulation, the Energy Saving Trust provides information on grants and offers that can help cover the cost and also a list of installers. It is advisable to use a member of the National Insulation Association, the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency or the British Board of Agreement, ideally one who has signed a professional code of practice and provides a 25 year guarantee.

Reducing your energy bills: Check with your current gas and electricity supplier that you are on their best rate. Then compare the prices of other suppliers. Switching supplier could save you around £237 a year if you haven't changed before. Compare prices on Consumer Focus's weekly pricing fact sheets at www.consumerfocus.org.uk or contact Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506. Most suppliers offer cheaper tariffs for vulnerable customers, enquire about these if you are over 60, on means tested benefits or are on low income. Your district council could offer advice on reducing the amount of energy you use by offering a home visit, or get tips by calling the Energy Saving Trust. For problems paying energy bills, seek help from your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, either in person or by phone on 08444 111 444.

If you feel that you have been mis-sold any product or service or have any other kind of consumer issue, contact our partner Consumer Direct for advice.

Catherine Pawson

Linton Health Centre – Flu clinics

Flu vaccine is recommended for everyone over the age of 65 and for those in certain at risk groups such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic respiratory disease, liver/kidney disease and those with a weak immune system.

Once again we will be running three Saturday flu clinics, on 8th October, 15th October and 5th November. We have over 2,000 patients to immunise, so do please try to attend one of the Saturday clinics if you possibly can so that we can minimise the impact on the nurses' weekday surgeries.

Linton and district historical society

AT 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th October, we welcome a popular speaker, Tony Kirby. Tony has spoken to us before on many aspects of the railways in Cambridgeshire, Tony's passion. Tony is also an expert in many aspects of local history and the heritage of our county. This time he will talk to us on market towns since 1750; Linton in years gone by was a leading market town in this part of the county.

So come and join us for an enjoyable evening amongst friends. Membership is still only £10 per year and there is a small charge of £2 for visitors.

Are there any budding journalists out there who would like to come along to our history meetings and then write a short article for the Linton News each month? If so we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact me on 07875 469538

Andrew Westwood-Bate

History on your doorstep with the WEA

THE autumn term of the Linton WEA starts back at 10am until 11.45am, including a coffee break, on Tuesday 4th October for 10 weeks. However, as registration always takes a while on this first day, we would be grateful if you could arrive a little bit earlier. In a change to the advertised course due to the ill health of the planned lecturer, we are very pleased to welcome back an old friend who will present a very similar course to the one we were looking forward to.

History on your doorstep with Liz Carter will cover how to trace the history of your community/village using maps, surveys, printed resources and prime sources – from the modern day back to Roman times. Using local examples for countrywide application, these

will include many items from Linton and the surrounding villages. This is an ideal course for anyone interested in family, social or local history and there will be a unique opportunity to see many of the original documents. The course fee is £45 for the term. There will also be a course-related visit on a day extra to the course.

At Linton WEA we welcome our many students from Linton and the surrounding villages.

Newcomers are very welcome, there is a good mix of ages and a good cross-section of men and women. So why not come and join us?

For more details contact our Secretary, Marian Bryant at secretary@lintonwea.org.uk or 290420 or see www.lintonwea.org.uk

Andrew Westwood-Bate

Too good for jumble...

ITEMS on offer are two Dell full size keyboards and two Dell mice (or mice), the eMAC Mac OSX operating system Version 10.4.11 with Microsoft Office 2000 and Apple keyboard and a beech coloured computer workstation on wheels, three shelves (one pull-out).

Wanted: Another cot please.

The mirror raised £15 for 1st Linton Brownies and the flat screen computer monitor made £15 for Granta Grapevine.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Kate France 891602 or email kfrance@profsoundconsult.com

NB The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

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

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

I CAN'T believe how silly I've been. For years and years I've felt isolation, disharmony and general frustration in my community. It is with considerable relief that I wish to shout from the rooftops that I'm becoming part of the overwhelming majority, so I look forward to being welcomed everywhere I go.

I'm not going to start shopping at Tesco, or cross the palm of a certain Mr Murdoch with my silver or even join a trade union simply to convince myself that striking is great for the country and society as a whole. No, I'm going to get behind the wheel of my car and behave like the roads are there for me to be an idiot.

The first thing I will need is a nice shiny satnav system to partially block my visibility on my way to the yellow lines outside the Co-op. I'll only be there for a few minutes before I set off again on my merry way. The next bit of fun will be the junction with Coles Lane. Ignoring the give way sign, I'll probably avoid a collision thanks to the quick thinking of someone else and there will be a free space on the yellow lines outside Sweet Talk News. It will make the visibility worse but it'll only be for a few minutes again. Besides, it's okay for the builders, plumbers and other traders to briefly park there.

Hopefully the passage onto the A1307 will be simple and I'll be able to get up to 60mph before the wretched lights change at the village college, and maybe even overtake the silly saps still doing only 40mph.

When I get to work, I'll call my wife and check that she managed to drop the kids off at school and also ask whether she had a chance to check her text messages before getting back home. After all, it's so much easier when you're driving rather than being distracted by Jeremy Kyle.

On the way back from Cambridge, I think I'll start copying the police by indicating that I'll be taking the first exit at the roundabout...but take the second. What a jolly jape! Soon, I'll be back in the familiar territory of our High Street, so I'll put my foot down and take off my seatbelt, pretending just for a moment that I'm a member of the parish council.

In the evening I might fancy a beer at the pavilion on the rec, so I'll have to gently mosey by the concealed entrance to the Dog and Duck car park at only 30mph. All being well the gates to the playing fields will be open, so I'll be able to fly straight through without a thought for any children playing.

Life is going to be so much calmer for me from now on, now that I have finally come to the realisation that I don't have to bother about anyone else.

Health for life

HEALTH for life is a friendly local service that helps lonely or vulnerable people re-engage in local clubs and community groups. By meeting new friends and learning new skills their confidence grows, they have more purpose and structure in their lives and so they start to feel so much better about themselves.

The groups we are involved with include local scrabble and lunch clubs, badminton and other physical activities, walking, knitting, social and basically any others that are running that we can find. If we feel there is a need for a new type of group then we will set one up. All these activities are open to the public so no one is excluded from enjoying themselves. Everyone has a story to tell, a skill to share and an interest in meeting people.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with transport or to accompany someone who is feeling apprehensive. Some volunteers help facilitate our groups and all our volunteers enjoy the help they give. Here are some quotes from them illustrating just how they benefit from helping someone: "I feel I'm putting something back into the community; Just knowing that I'm helping to make a difference to someone; I enjoy meeting assorted people and I should have joined you years ago".

For more information please call one of us.

Sian on 07857 966475 or Anna on 811662

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

ON 1st September we had racially aggravated criminal damage at a business premises in the High Street. Investigations are under way. Then on 3rd September severe damage was caused to a BMW parked in Hillway. Every panel of the vehicle was keyed. Does anybody know anything about this damage please? We have had a number of vehicles damaged in the village recently but enquiries have proved negative.

A business premises off the A1307 was broken into and a quad bike, Stihl leaf blower and Stihl strimmer were stolen. The gates to the entrance of the track were forced open. Did anybody see a quad bike in the area of Linton around this time? It could possibly have been on a trailer. If anyone was on the A1307 on this day and saw anybody or a vehicle acting suspiciously we would appreciate their help.

PC Scott has been out doing speed checks in the villages of Linton and Balsham. We are happy to say there were no offences. Speed checks will continue between the villages and any offences will be dealt with.

Please note we have a police surgery on Monday 3rd October in the mobile police station. This will be parked up outside Hildersham village hall between 11am and 2pm. The surgery is open to everyone.

Local officers continue to patrol the hot spot areas in all villages where we get reports of antisocial behaviour. Please continue to report these incidents to us and if you know anything about these crimes, please contact us on 0345 456 4564.

The Linton News will be attending the next neighbourhood panel meeting and we hope to bring you a report next month.

I volunteered and had a wonderful time in Kenya

THIS summer I volunteered in Kenya for one month at the Children's Garden Home and school. This was set up by Moses and Silvia Ndungu, known to all 180 children as daddy and mummy. They offer love and education to neglected children.

The children welcomed me smiling and asking questions such as: "What crops do you grow in England? Do you have lions? Are there street children?" They were so accepting of me and keen to learn as much as they could.

Education is highly valued, so the children study hard and proudly told me their achievements. The staff share their range of skills with the children. These include traditional dance, choir, learning musical instruments and sports. I taught guitar, typed the exams and gave advice on the computers. I also taught them games including the card game called *Go Fish* which was a huge success.

During my visit the Children's Garden pupils performed traditional dances at the Kenyan National Music competition. Every time I saw the children dance I was completely amazed. The energy, rhythm and delight were remarkable.

Children's Garden is aiming for sustainability and hopes to become more self-sufficient. For instance the locals pay to grind maize using the posho mill. This generates a small profit. A well now supplies water but home plumbing remains a target. Currently they particularly need soap, footballs, textbooks, pens, chalk, paper, glue, guitars and speakers.

I will never forget my time in Children's Garden. I had become a member of their big, loving family. The children are so open and friendly, whilst the volunteer staff are devoted to bringing up the future generation of Kenya. I will visit again next year and you can find out more by logging on to www.childrensgarden.ou.ke

The price of food in Kenya has rocketed. Children's Garden is finding it difficult to manage since they survive solely on donations.

For more information and/or donations please contact me at www.jomaimaris@yahoo.co.uk

Jo Maimaris 07722584036

Welcome to our Year 3 pupils

WHAT a wonderful first few weeks we have had at Linton Heights with our new Year 3 pupils. I was amazed at how grown up the children were that first morning as they waved their parents off and walked confidently into school. I have never seen so many pupils able to manage the first day so well and, as some parents have acknowledged, this is due to the effective transition process that has been established between the infant school and Linton Heights.

In the summer term we always welcome the Year 2s to meet their new teachers and to watch one of the end-of-year productions. However, this year, the children also joined us for a project day as well as for sports day. This worked a treat for the children and the adults because, by September, we knew the children's names and they were very familiar with the school.

This year we are building on this positive work by starting the transition process in the autumn term. For example, Mrs Clark will be attending and then later delivering, an assembly at Linton Heights and I will be doing the same at the infant school. The Year 2 and Year 3 teachers will also be visiting each other during the school day to work in class with the children together.

I wanted to share with you some of the things that our Year 3 pupils are saying about being at Linton Heights:

"We both like all the smiles" from Elizabeth and Lucy.

"I am glad that I am at such a wonderful school. I might not have a bigger brother or sister but it must be fun" said Isobel.

"I love everything. I love the teachers. They are kind" said Julie.

"I like playing football at lunch time because it is fun" from Bart.

"I like being at Linton Heights because I like reading the books and I like the science" said Sophie.

"We make friends and we care for each other" from Tom.

"I like it here because there is really good food" by Joshua.

Jennifer Malone, Headteacher!

What is going on at the infant school?



YOU may have wandered past the school on your way around the village and wondered what's happening at the infant's. Builders' fencing was erected and lots of bright orange signs explaining how to get into the school.

Luckily, in the current financial climate, we have secured some additional funding to build a purpose designed foundation stage unit, which will consist of two reception classrooms with access to an outdoor play area. These will be sited where the offices currently sit.

Of course all building work comes with a small amount of disruption, but as we are all aware you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs and we are looking forward to a new enhanced learning environment for our youngest children.

Despite the fact that all the staff were prepared for this disruption, this did not stop the

whole team working through the holidays to ensure the learning experience for the children remained unaffected.

During the autumn term we will be focusing on a jaws and claws theme. So the school corridors have become a variety of habitats - a jungle, the African plains and a swamp. I watched as full scale trees were constructed from chicken wire, modroc (plaster of paris bandage) and real branches and tunnels appeared. Even jungle leaves grew. As ever the staff have created a truly magical place to learn.

I love the start of year with the anticipation of what's to come. So far I am aware of a cinema trip, followed by a critics competition; a trip to the West End to see the Lion King; a trip to Shepreth wild life park and Banham zoo to list a few. You may even hear the African drumming as you walk past.

Louise Clark, Headteacher

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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News. *Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested*

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
ON 23rd July I celebrated my 80th Birthday at Abington village hall and cricket club and almost all of my family and close friends were able to make it. I had decided that, instead of presents, I would ask for donations to be made and the proceeds shared between two charities that have been part of my life with members of my family: Cancer Research UK and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

I would like to thank everybody who came and made my day so special and also for the donations you made towards the charities. £500 was raised in all, which was wonderful and this was divided and sent to them.

During my planning of this event I spoke to Mandy Clarke asking her if she could do a buffet for me, as I have known Mandy for a long time and she is a marvellous chef. To my joy she said she could do this for me and I just want everyone to know how marvellous she is, together with her husband Graham who is her little helper. The buffet was absolutely fantastic with a variety of easy to eat foods, and catered for all tastes. From my great-grandchildren up to myself we were all absolutely ecstatic with what she had done. She made my little afternoon birthday celebration look like a royal garden party. Thank you so much Mandy.

I would also like to thank Brian and his keyboard playing and singing. The music was just right for the occasion and was a very popular choice amongst all. I would like to mention everybody but there is not enough paper for that. Thank you all for making my 80th birthday everything and more than I wanted it to be. Julie Hilliard

Admiral Residential Property Management sponsors local para-olympic athlete

LINTON based company, Admiral Residential Property Management is the proud sponsor of Cambridge's own world champion swimmer and para-olympic swimmer, Fran Williamson.

Fran, who is the current world champion ladies back stroke champion, is widely tipped for a medal in 2012.

"We like to support local athletes and Fran is a very determined and talented lady. We hope she will win a gold medal in the forthcoming 2012 para-olympics!" say directors Geoff and Merryl Bowen. "Please visit our website www.admiralresidential.co.uk to see the full video interview and to follow Fran."

Locally based, Admiral Residential is a market leading independent letting agent. Admiral has been letting flats and houses in and around Cambridge for 16 years and is currently looking for more properties to let in Linton.

Admiral Residential 891227

Third Christmas tree festival to be held

DUE to popular demand and following the huge success of the two previous events, we are pleased to announce that preparations are now under way for the third Linton Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's church.

This will take place from 9th-11th December and during this time the church will

be open for visitors to view a large array of beautifully and ingeniously decorated trees. Book the date in your diary now.

There will be further details next month but if any local businesses, playgroups, families or groups of friends would like to decorate a tree, please contact Rev Dr Steve

Working at the Met



WE welcomed nine visitors to our open evening, two members' husbands and seven ladies from Lode WI. Our stroll and lunch has been postponed this month due to other activities but there will be a Macmillan coffee morning arranged by Bel at 10.30am on Monday 3rd October at Nicholls Court.

Our guest speaker in September, Robert Burrige, gave us an eye-opening talk on his time as an armed policeman in the Metropolitan police. His job included protecting embassy buildings and prime ministers during Mrs Thatcher and Edward Heath's period at 10 Downing Street. Sometimes it would seem boring, but at times horrific when seeing devastation all around from a bomb explosion, and a policeman in tears with the head of a dog in his lap.

The training required was very strict, with mock incidents involving the SAS; not an enviable job. One incident when Bob was on duty at the Israeli Embassy, a van suddenly pulled up outside the gates, the driver got out leaving the door open and ran off. Naturally this alarmed him, and he alerted the bomb disposal squad, who arrived at the same time as the driver of the van returned having made a delivery, not realising the trouble he had caused and very lucky to still have a van.

His talk was fascinating, not just about his own experience but also those of his fellow officers. He left the Met having served for 22 years and now does voluntary work at the Colne Valley Railway; highly recommended for an enjoyable day out.

October is our members' harvest bring and share supper.
Cynthia Norris

Operation child

I AM a presenter for Samaritans Purse and Operation Christmas Child and would appreciate the opportunity to give a talk to your group or organisation about all we do, especially how we arrange sending shoe boxes of goodies to children living in countries of extreme poverty where they will have nothing for Christmas unless they receive a shoe box.

Please call me for more information.
Penny Cook 892203

Be active this autumn

MAKE the most of this autumn. Local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future has an action-packed line-up of events. For details, call 07833 598155 or email bookings@cambridgeppf.org

La Pipelette (Chatterbox)

Our apologies to La Pipelette, somewhere between receiving last month's article and publication the apostrophes went missing! Here it is again with them all in situ.
Editor

Avec la rentrée, les bonnes résolutions

LES colonnes du journal m'ont manqué et je fais donc mon retour avec la rentrée scolaire. Certains prennent de bonnes résolutions après les fêtes de fin d'année, d'autres à l'approche de l'été, pour moi tout recommence maintenant.

Il est important de tenir ses engagements car écrire dans le journal est une chance et un échange. On écrit pour être lu, sinon cela n'a pas de sens. Mais si on n'écrit pas, on n'a même pas cette chance.

Dire que nous sommes déjà en Septembre et que maintenant tout va être tourné vers Noël. Le temps passe très vite et l'été ne semble pas avoir été l'été. Alors espérons tous que l'automne n'en sera pas un et que le soleil sera de retour. Que le temps prenne lui aussi de bonne résolution pour chasser les nuages de notre esprit.

A bientôt.

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 7th November 2011

DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 17th October

NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 19th October

ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER

We currently have no advertising space

Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse
email: adds@linton.info

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR

Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office

Editor: Wendy Foster email: lneditor@linton.info
phone 891626

For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office, failure to do so could mean non-entry to the diary here.

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

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY

Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Pilates classes, 11.15 - 12.15pm, Mondays	VH
Chestnut baby/toddler group, Mondays term time, 9.30-11.30am	CC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays	St Mary's
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only	VH
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays Apr-Oct	Bowls pavilion
Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm Wednesdays (term time only)	Library
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
The karate club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays	VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Ashdon Baptist church
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call Linton village college sports centre on 890248

OCTOBER

1 Farmers' Market, 9.30am	LVC
3 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
4 WI, 7.30pm	VH
6 Linton lunch club, 12noon	Black Bull Balsham
6 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
8 Nearly new clothes sale, 12noon-4pm	CP
8 Flu clinic	HC
10 ACE lunch, 12 for 12.30pm	CP
11 Gardening club AGM, 7.30pm	VH
11 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
14 Arthur Rank fundraising, 3pm	Mays Ave Community Hall, Balsham
15 Friends St Mary's coffee morning, 10.30-12noon	CP
15 Flu clinic	HC
15 Camera club exhibition, 10am	VH
17 Mothers Union talk, 8pm	CP
18 History society 7.30pm	VH
18 Alzheimers society, 10am-2pm	HC
19-30 Cambridge festival of ideas	University Sedgwick Site
20 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
20 Granta Grapevine AGM, 7.30pm	Chalklands
20 Ashdon gardening club, 7.45pm	Ashdon VH
20 CAMTAD training course starts	Cambridge
22 Linton Brownies jumble sale, 2pm	VH
22 Linton music society, 7.30pm	St Mary's

NOVEMBER

1 WI, 7.30pm	VH
3 Linton lunch club, 12noon	Black Bull Balsham
5 Farmers' Market, 9.30am	LVC
5 Mother's Union toys and book sale, 11.30am	VH
6 Minuet to Mazurka talk, 3pm	CP

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

Refuse collection: 10th & 24th October, 7th November

Recycling collection: 3rd, 17th & 31st October

KEY: CC Cathodeon centre, CP church pavilion, D&D Dog and Duck, HC health centre, LH Linton Heights school, LVC Linton village college, RG recreation ground, URC United Reform church, VH village hall

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Site. For more information and a programme, please call: 766766 or visit www.cam.ac.uk/festivalofideas

Throughout the festival, we will debate some of the biggest questions in modern times. As the population hits seven billion, we ask can the Earth sustain this many people and is reproductive freedom a fundamental liberty?

Is Wikileaks causing a net revolution or setting the stage for net censorship?

What is the future of communication; will the English

language ever become extinct and why are so many other languages under threat?

We are delighted to welcome world-renowned speakers to take part in this year's festival, including Holly Walsh (Mock the Week and Never Mind the Buzzcocks), Professor Marcus du Sautoy from the University of Oxford and the University's own vice-chancellor, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz.

Explore the big ideas in the arts, humanities and social sciences for free at the 2011 Cambridge Festival of Ideas.

Fly-fishing and ferrets ... it's all in a day's camera work



FORTUNATELY the weather stayed fine for our August meeting which began and ended at the Black Bull in Balsham, where 25 members took part in a photographic treasure hunt – cryptic clues were provided and four teams scoured the village of Balsham for the answers.

Prizes in the form of chocolate were presented to the winning team, despite one of the clues being unanswerable due to the chairman's lack of knowledge in the mathematics department.

It was a fun evening, which ended at the bar in the Bull which can't be bad.

Several intrepid members attended the Fenland Show at Stow cum Quy over the Bank Holiday weekend. The weather was typically Bank Holiday style, cold, windy and overcast but we were undeterred and had an enjoyable day out.

There were plenty of photographic opportunities with ferrets, terrier racing, fly-fishing, gun dog displays and heavy horses.

We are now gearing up for our annual exhibition which this year will be held on 15th October in the village hall. Our standards become ever higher and the quality of some of the work is truly outstanding. Make sure you make this a date for your diary.

In addition to 200 plus photos on display, there will be a refreshment bar serving home-made cakes, a raffle in aid of Alzheimer's Research Trust and the opportunity to win a framed picture of your choice. See you there.

Our next meeting is on 3rd October at the Cathodeon centre and our away day is to Wandebury date tba.

Please see website at www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk for details.

Sarah Hurcum

Getting to know you: club members visit the Fenland Show
Picture by Sarah Hurcum

Sure Start premises taking shape

THE day we have all been waiting for is almost here. Soon we will open up our new Sure Start premises at the Cathodeon centre. Building work finishes at the beginning of October, then we can move furniture, computers and resources in. We hope to have the office up and running after half term. The new premises consist of a large office, an activity room and a kitchen with a new foyer shared with the library.



Building work is nearly finished at the Cathodeon Centre

Picture supplied by Theresa Bateman

It is nearly two years since the children's centre was designated. In the autumn we will have a formal visit from Cambridgeshire county council to check that we are providing the full core offer for children's centres. That will be so much easier now we have our own space to work from.

During September we were busily sending out fliers about our new programme up to Christmas. Please do phone for a copy if you haven't seen a brochure already.

As usual Fun at One will take place at the Cathodeon centre on Monday afternoons, Bumps to babies and breast-feeding support on Thursday afternoons and we will be running a Chattertots group in Abington from 31st October. We will also run a first aid course at 6.30pm on 28th November and speech and language drop-ins at 9.30am on 2nd November and 14th December.

During office opening hours we are there to help families who have children

under five with any enquiries they may have about education, health services, childcare and returning to work, local groups or family issues.

We look forward to meeting you at one of our activities. Look out for news of our opening ceremony later in the year.

If you would like further information on the Children's Centre and what we do, please call us on 893594 or 475921 or email lintonchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Theresa Bateman

A fair, fare reduction on National Express

THE 50% reduction on National Express coach journeys for the disabled and over 60s will end on 31st October. At the Comprehensive Spending Review the government announced its intention to withdraw the scheme from the end of October this year.

I wrote to our MP, James Paice, asking him to look into the situation and encourage the Department for Transport to work with the coach industry to reduce the impact of the scheme's removal or at least delay the scheme's withdrawal until the full impact on

people in rural areas is understood.

Mr Paice advised that the Coach Concessionary Travel scheme, is not a government funded scheme but the government is proposing to withdraw this non-statutory contribution to coach operators. Does this seem like a contradictory statement to you too? However, he does emphasise that the national concession for free travel on local bus services for over 60s will continue.

LNT

Games galore for just £1 a session

THE Linton youth club meets in the Red Zone at Linton village college every Thursday during term time. Young people in Year 7 are welcome to attend from 6.30-7.30pm and those in Year 8 and above can attend from 7.45-9.00pm. We have pool, table tennis, table football, Wii, games, music, sports, crafts, tuck bar and much more, all for £1 per session.

If you would like more information, please contact Sharon on 07824 820465.

Do you have a hobby or skill that you could share with young people? We are looking for keen volunteers to help out on Thursday evenings. If you are interested, please contact Sharon on 07824 820465. We will need to complete a CRB check for this position.

The club staff and young people would like to thank Linton parish council for their financial support, which enabled the club to stay open last term and this coming term.

Sharon Punchard

Brownies' jumble

WEDNESDAY Brownies are holding a jumble sale at 2pm on Saturday 22nd October in the village hall. Jumble can be left from 10am.

Daphne Brazier 892276

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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais
Illustrated by Maureen Williams

The good, the bad and the ugly ...

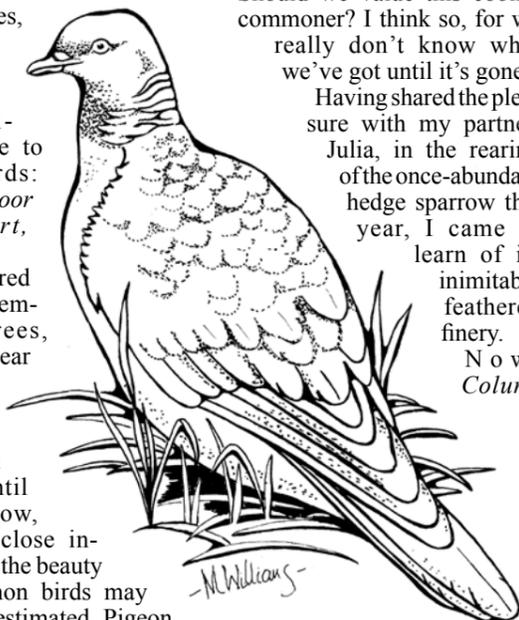
ONE single golden leaf sways from side to side as it falls from a tall tree to earth, signifying autumn. And soon the rest follow, day by day with memories of spring past and the promise of harvest swallowed down the mouth of time. Come on Nantais! Raise your sleepy head for it's 6am and there's work to be done. Although I leave little time for bed bugs or idleitis, early starts elude me, except during summer.

Now don't read too much into this but our sun has been rather lazy of late. In fact, we are in the longest lackadaisical period by that great celestial ball since 1913. Whether this has any bearing on our tropospheric weather I cannot say, for there seems little proven correlation between the sun's activity and fine days.

However, with harvest almost over, pigeons reap rich pickings – some of the few that carry out strategic gleaning, yet-not unhindered! And when

the sated birds roost on boughs, I've been told by a wise woman from the Yorkshire Dales, they hum a rhythmic yet solemn tune to the words: "These poor feet hurt, Betty".

Scattered in the cemetery trees, one can hear these calls, often from dawn until dusk. Now, without close inspection, the beauty of common birds may be underestimated. Pigeon plumage is a subtle array of greys with pastel, viridian, blues and pinks and almost parrot-like. There's an endearing



new-born baby quality in their eyes, saying: "Please feed me". Should we value this cooing commoner? I think so, for we really don't know what we've got until it's gone!

Having shared the pleasure with my partner, Julia, in the rearing of the once-abundant hedge sparrow this year, I came to learn of its inimitable feathered finery.

Now, Colum-

ba palumbus is enjoying a renaissance. Commonly known as the wood pigeon, he can be a

messy chap, but if you've ever wondered about their droppings; in a pithy phrase: the darker material of the guano is a number two and the white topping is basically urine.

Not quite so innocent are the risks to human health, staining and erosion, indeed certain artists have envisaged by modification, pigeon droppings turned out as soap.

More seriously, these little plops can be home to a fungus known as *histoplasma capsulatum*, which after prolonged contact may cause a disease called Histoplasmosis, often referred to as cave sickness.

Presumably the term originated after observing the effects of an exceedingly high exposure to bat guano concentrations rather than a few pigeon poops. "Ah," my daughter explained: "in life, some days we are the pigeon and on others, the statue."

Until next month, stay clear of those crimson rambblers.

Russian choir heads back for a return visit

LINTON Music Society READERS will be pleased to know that following their resounding success of last year the Russian choir, Voskresenije, will be making a return visit to Linton this autumn.

Under the direction of their conductor Jurik Maruk, the professional singers will give a concert of orthodox sacred music and Russian folk songs in St Mary's church on Saturday 22nd October.

Also following on the success last year of The Xmas Factor competition for choirs of all ages singing a carol of their choice, we are repeating it this year on 11th December in St Mary's church.

Details from Linda Bird, 141 High St Linton 893600 or email lindabird@waitrose.com

Bruce Conochie

Alzheimer's: come and see how we can help

THE Alzheimer's society works with anyone who is confused and forgetful, their carers and families, not just people with Alzheimer's disease.

We are here to provide information, to help people to understand confusion and find strategies to cope, to provide someone who understands to talk to and to provide friendship and opportunities to meet other people in a similar situation.

From 10am-2pm on 18th October, we will be at Linton health centre in Coles Lane. Staff will be present to help you.

We can also help with financial issues, carers' assessments as well as provide you with information and support. We will have a confidential area where

we can chat if needed.

Carers and people with dementia can meet and chat over coffee. If we can help in any way or you would like to find out more about our groups, please call our office on 863854.

Daniel Schaffer

Gardening reminder ...

THE gardening club's new season starts on 11th October with the AGM

this year featuring a fun quiz prepared by Ron Pitkin using photographs of members' gardens to ask: "Whose garden?"

Did you guess who owned the garden featured in August's article? Come and see if you are right. We look forward to welcoming everyone for another wonderful season starting on at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th October in the village hall.

Kirsten Newble, 892425

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POT POURRI (79)

The in-between ball size

IMAGINE three balls on a flat surface, all touching each other – the large ball having a radius R, the medium ball having R/4 with a small ball in the gap between the two and touching both balls. (Remember – all the balls are on a horizontal surface and touching each other). Relative to the large ball's radius, what is the small ball's radius?

Solution to 78: What size packing?

The solution to the packing problem involved using Pythagoras's Theorem in three dimensions. The small balls have radii of 15.79cms.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Chestnuts are back ...

CHESTNUT playgroup is back for the autumn term. We welcome all returning children and have been gradually getting to know the new starters. Our topic for this term is *All About Me*, which has provided a great base to get to know the new children and learn about ourselves, our bodies, family and friends.

As well as new children, we have been joined by three new members of staff. Kerrie Mortlock as playgroup leader and Sarah Blackham and Kim Quillen as playgroup assistants. Between them they have a wealth of experience and have already introduced some exciting new ideas for the playgroup.

Chestnut's parent and toddler group has also returned, running on a Monday from 9.30am-11.30am during term time at the Cathodeon centre. We have already seen some new faces as well as regulars from last year. Open to all children up to school age, we have lots of activities, crafts, snacks and use of the garden. We still have a few playgroup places available for this year. If interested, please contact our admissions officer Karen Graves on 891416.

Minuets and mazurkas thanks to the piano

AT 3pm on Sunday 6th November, Dr Kenneth Clark, a member of St Mary's choir, will give a talk in the church pavilion, with the title *Minuet to Mazurka*.

Since its invention some 300 years ago, the piano has developed into an instrument with a large musical literature. This talk will draw upon the curious lives and personalities of some who have devoted themselves to the higher flights of pianism. Admission price is £4 with all profits going to the Friends of St Mary's. The Friends will be holding a coffee morning from 10.30am-12noon on 15th October in the Church pavilion to launch their 2012 calendar and new Christmas cards.

Margaret Clark

Follow your club ...

FOLLOW the Linton Granta football club at: www.lintongrantafc.co.uk There are match reports, upcoming fixtures and the all-important results available for the 1st team, reserves and A team.

Fundraiser in Balsham

THERE will be an Arthur Rank fundraising event at Mays Avenue Community Hall in Balsham at 3pm on Friday 14th October. Afternoon teas will be served (sandwiches cake and tea £2.50) also a raffle and a bring and buy stall.

Penny Cook

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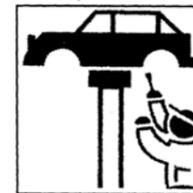
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Fri	9-5 pm	
Sat	9-3 pm	



The Derbyshire Post



LINTON village college is in a pretty area of rural Cambridgeshire. There isn't much of a cultural mix in the local villages and for this reason the school's link with a South African Township school is vital to us. Soshanguve Township is a sprawling mass of breeze-block buildings and some informal dwellings called shacks, made of corrugated metal. It houses millions of black South Africans: there are no white people living there at all. The reason for this is that during the apartheid years, black South Africans were not allowed to live in white areas. They lived away from the city and journeyed to work each day crowded into large taxis. Since the end of apartheid and Nelson Mandela's presidency, there are no laws governing where people of different race and colour can live in South Africa but the settlements have changed very little. More shacks have been converted to houses, KFC and McDonalds have moved in and the standard of living for many has improved. However, the area is still exclusively black and, in places, depressingly poor.

Our visits to the township are special because we stay with families close to the school. This in itself is something of an event: news spreads that a group of white English people are in town and we become a spectacle to be waved at, honked at and photographed.

We arrived on Nelson Mandela Day, 18th July which is his birthday, but is not a holiday. Instead, he has decreed that South African citizens should do 67 minutes of community service during the day: a minute for each of the 67 years that Mandela served his country. On the following days, we unpacked the sports equipment we had brought and began to coach 30 designated young people to become sports leaders. The Boeathutse learners were very keen and picked up sports leadership skills with impressive speed.

The hardest part of the experience for some is staying in the homes which can be crowded and noisy. The food can be challenging: boiled chicken feet are a delicacy, for example, but that is what is special about it. The warmth of the welcome more than compensates for any slight discomfort.

We hope we have left something behind that lasts: the laptops we gave to teachers should improve research and teaching, the sports equipment should enable a greater variety of activities, and the money we donated to the feeding scheme will be used to create a dining shelter for the poorest children. I know that the trip has made a difference to Linton. Our experiences there are ones we will never forget.

Caroline Derbyshire

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/1402/11 Listed building addition or extension. Dr R Wadwhani, 108 High Street. Alterations – traditional painted sign on front elevation of building.
- S/1494/11 A&L Bryant & Stebbings, 1 Rivey Way. Extension to existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling.
- S/1734/11 Tim Plumridge, 41 High Street. Replacement shopfront.
- S/1768/11 Dr Chris & Yali Tyler-Smith & Xue, 14 High Street. Replace kitchen roof with natural slate and install flue, replace canopy to front door and remove glazed porch.
- S/1771/11 Listed building addition or extension. Dr Chris & Yali Tyler-Smith & Xue, 14 High Street. Internal and external alterations – Remove modern ceiling in kitchen and partitions to create shower and boiler room with flue. Replace stairs. Remove modern fitted furniture and partition between bedrooms and block door. Replace kitchen roof with natural slate and replace canopy to front door.
- S/1775/11 Mr Sonnan, The Rectory, Church Lane. Permitted development class A (The enlargement, improvement or alterations to a house such as rear of side extensions as well as general alterations such as new windows and doors)

Remembering our past

TO mark the Melvyn Bragg BBC *Two Reel History* season in September on British life in the 20th century and International Home Movie day, there will be a screening of British Film Institute (BFI), East Anglian films and Cambridge Super 8 Group home movies from 1pm-2.30pm on 12th October at the Arts Picturehouse. Add your own memories, inspired by the films, to the Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network who will be attending (see www.ccan.co.uk). Tickets are £4.60, senior citizens £3.60 to include free tea/coffee.

International Home Movie Day is a celebration of amateur films and filmmaking held annually at venues worldwide. Events provide the opportunity for individuals and families to see and share their own home movies with an audience from their community, and discover why and learn how best to care for them. The Cambridge Home Movie Day will be from 10am-5pm on 15th October at Cambridge Central Library. If you have any Super 8 films collecting dust, please bring them along. www.homemovieday.com/index.html

Andrew Westwood-Bate

Do you know about CAMTAD?

CAMTAD stands for the Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness. Not many people realise that hearing loss can be seriously disabling and, as the population ages, more people are finding their lives limited by not being able to hear and communicate. People seem a lot older or more confused than they really are, if they can't hear.

CAMTAD is a charity that was started in the Cambridge area in 1978 to help people with hearing problems. We have a hearing help session at Linton health centre every third Wednesday of the month from 9.30 am-12 noon, staffed

by local volunteers, where people can come and have a chat about hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries.

New volunteers are needed. There is a training course starting on 20th October in Cambridge. It is a half day a week for six weeks and gives a thorough understanding of deafness and hearing aids. You will also have the chance to meet other volunteers and become part of a team. For more information call 416141 or e-mail admin@camtadcamb.org.uk

Or go to our website at www.camtadcamb.org.uk

Hunstanton, heritage and lavender

THE weather was rather overcast when the ACEs' coach set off for Hunstanton, but we were hopeful of improvement from Sunny Hunny. It did brighten a little but the resort now has a new name – Windy Hunny. We toughed it out, feeling that the bracing sea air was doing us good and many walked along the beach, through the gardens or along the cliff top, before breezing into somewhere for lunch. Suitably fortified, there were the shops and historic sights to tackle. Yes, Hunstanton has its own heritage trail, but with nowhere near as much historical interest as ours.

Then on to Norfolk Lavender. Now the sun beamed down on us, so we basked and chatted, soothed by the delicious scent - after exploring the gardens, collecting plants, shopping and afternoon tea, of course. I did note some making their way to the distillery. However, they were extracting herbal oils, not brewing hooch; hope you were not too disappointed.

The next meeting will be a soup and roll lunch, at the church pavilion starting at 12.30pm on Monday 10th October. The talk will be on the Countryside Restoration Trust, which promotes sympathetic farming and restores landscape to protect and encourage wildlife. That should appeal to those of us with a farming background, or who have an interest in our countryside and its future.

All of our elders are welcome to join us – contact 891069 if you need a lift.

Enid Bald

Aztec's fun day success



The U13 Aztec's tournament team

Picture by Mick Linsdell

ON behalf of the Aztec's committee I would like to thank everyone who assisted in making the Aztec's fun day a success, from committee members, managers, referees, programme sponsors and especially the parents and players.

We had the largest number of teams ever entered this year, starting with the U7s being involved for the first time, through all the age groups up to the U17s.

Even the downpour in the afternoon couldn't dampen the spirit of the day.

The raffle prize winners have all been contacted and the list of winners can be found on the club website. We welcome any comments or suggestions to enable us to make next year's fun day even better. Please email info@aztec-sjfc.co.uk

Malcolm Peters, Chairman Aztecs JFC

Consultation on the removal of subsidised bus service funding

Your views are important

CAMBRIDGESHIRE county council wants to hear your views on changes and reductions being proposed to bus services, which are supported by financial contributions from council funds. This will help us decide on how we implement the financial savings and where possible find local solutions. The proposals can be accessed by contacting Cambridgeshire county council direct or online.

A questionnaire has been compiled to gather your views, which can be accessed at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview

If you do not wish to complete this questionnaire online, paper copies are available by contacting us using one of the following means.

By email: bus.tenders@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

By telephone: 0345 045 0675

By post: Cambridgeshire county council, CC1301,

Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.

The closing date for responses to the questionnaire is 4pm on Friday 9th December.

If you represent a group of people, we would be grateful if you could distribute the above details to your members.

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Parish Council Matters

Our young people

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

GOVERNMENT cut backs have hit nearly everywhere, including funding for our youth clubs. We think it is important that our young people in Linton have a great choice of clubs and facilities that provide so many benefits and enjoyment to our varied community. Under threat was the youth club held at the village college but the parish council is helping them with funding to enable their continuation this coming year.

The young people will also raise funds throughout the year to help provide activities.

We hope they have a good year.

The skateramp has now been repaired. Several skateboarders have attended our parish council meetings to give input to the discussions on the future of the skateramp and its funding. Without us getting together the council wouldn't know exactly what provisions our young people would like.

It is always good when people from the village attend the meetings. We want to hear from you, no matter how old or young you are. We do listen!



Various stages during the recent repair and refurbishment of the skateramp to the finished item shown above and then back in action

All pictures by Trysha Hunt

The skateramp is now in constant use and by all ages, and using not only skateboards but BMX bikes, roller blades and scooters. It was lovely to see a huge age range the other Sunday, from tiny tots and teens to young adults, all using it happily together. They are over the moon with it!

Cllr Trysha Hunt



The artwork which has been retained on one side of the skateramp



School for councillors

DURING July six Linton parish council members completed a councillor professional development course run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

This was to improve our knowledge and understanding of council procedures, to develop a broader understanding of how an effective council operates and of the legal framework involved and to provide us with new skills.

After attending the three sessions we were awarded a certificate of professional development and ... a pile of paperwork in a big fat file!

Many topics and issues were covered during the intensive course and one of these was statutory powers.

Interesting statutory powers

Many of you will know already that under the statutory powers of parish and town councils there is the power to provide allotments. But there are also some lovely old statutory powers that perhaps few people are aware of.

We have the power to provide a public clock, but nowadays most people are their own wandering timepieces. Most of us have wristwatches, mobile phones, clocks on car dashboards. Do we need public clocks anymore? I must admit I always glance at the clock, set in a cottage wall, at the top of our High Street as I pass, but only to see if it is correct.

We have the power to provide a mortuary and post mortem rooms here in Linton. Hopefully there will never be that need.

Or how about the provision of a boating pool?

Another interesting one is the power to provide public baths and wash houses, dating from the Public Health Act 1936. It originated from a communal need for cleanliness.

Nowadays we probably all have our own bath/shower rooms with plumbed-in running water and most of us have a clothes washing machine, but in fact these are all fairly 'modern' additions to our lives. Some will remember the old tin bath in front of a fire and the communal outside loos shared by a number of homes, with newspaper for loo paper.

And we do still have pumps in villages, but they are now just decorative interesting items.

Public baths and wash houses were first established in 1828 by the Liverpool Corporation which is long before the Act came to power.

The popularity of wash houses was spurred by Kitty Wilkinson in 1832 during a cholera epidemic. She offered the use of her yard to neighbours to wash their clothes at a charge of a penny a week and showed them how to use a chloride of lime (bleach) to get them clean. She became known as 'saint of the slums.'

There is one wash house site in Linton. It's in a cottage garden on Market Lane, but now forms a beautiful secluded retreat.

In Whitechapel, London, in the mid 1800s, males could have a 1st or 2nd class bath with either hot or cold water and one or two towels, costing between one and six pennies.

When I lived in Hull during the late 1960s slipper baths in the public bathhouses were often the only way many people could bathe.

Now though the Act is often used to provide swimming pools. And yes, as a bye-law, the above mentioned boating pool and use of pleasure boats within areas of public bathing can be provided by councils.

Cllr Trysha Hunt

The little ones play area

BACK in May there was a request from David Walker, who has two young children, for new play equipment in the fenced play area of the recreation ground.

This is a great idea as there are now some really fun and colourfully designed play pieces that would be a wonderful addition for the young children.

David is now looking into suitable play equipment, costs and possible available grants to help with this project.

Maybe you too have some

ideas and would like to help? Unfortunately, from the inception to the completion, these things take time. But it will be worth the waiting.

It is good that there are people in Linton who have the vision for the future and are willing to work towards this.

A new bench is to be installed in the venture play area and next to the railings of the little ones play area. This will be a much longed for resting place for grandparents and all those with weary feet.

Cllr Trysha Hunt

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com

Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

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

Dates for full council meetings:

6th and 20th October, 3rd and 17th November 2011

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

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 4th August 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, G Potter, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance together with eight members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Linsdell and Mannassi.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July: The district council tree officer and the development and flood risk officer from the environment agency had met with Mr Richardson to discuss the cricket clubs request to erect a temporary cricket screen on the river bank. It had been agreed that in order to level the areas of spoil around the trees that hand digging into the spoil at the required distance from the tree and at the required depth at first would establish if there were roots in this spoil. If no roots were encountered then levelling should be able to occur, if structural roots were discovered then another site visit by the tree officer would be required. Some tree work was agreed and Cllr Bald intended to ask the community payback team to undertake this work with her supervision. Application forms for consent for works adjacent to a designated main river had been sent to the cricket club for completion.

Planning application - S/1407/11 land to north of numbers 36 to 42 (even) Back Road and numbers 2 to 8 (even) Whyts Acre, and to the west of numbers 27 to 51 (odd) Chalklands and numbers 1 to 7 Paynes Meadow, change of use from agriculture to public open space and allotments with vehicular access to Back Road: Mr Wilson, a resident of Back Road, spoke of his objection to the application. His main areas of concern were the visual impact of the allotment site, use of the Bridleway as a vehicular access and the impact on his property, parking and the suitability of land. Mr Collins of Back Road had similar concerns. Mrs Eddy of Paynes Meadow also objected to the proposal. Mr Wilson of Joiners Road had concerns regarding funding for the project.

The chair explained that the council was bound to provide allotments under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act. Many attempts had been made to acquire land since the allotment site, now Granta Leys, had been sold by the district council in 1994. The land now earmarked was the only piece of land on offer and as such the parish council had a duty to do all it could to secure it as an allotment site. Plans for the remaining area of the field were for a public open space for general use, walking, picnics etc. It was also hoped that a community orchard and possibly a tree belt to give privacy to the neighbouring houses could be planted.

Reports from co-ordinators: Recreation ground: A request from the landlord of Dovehouse Close for safety screening to be erected as protection against damage by cricket balls had been received. Cllr Potter commented that although the council owned the land the pitches were leased to the cricket club and it should be their responsibility. It was agreed to respond that the parish council would not be erecting nets as cricket had been played there long before the houses had been built and the cricket club were always very prompt in repairing any damage caused. However if it continued to be an issue then the matter would be referred to the cricket club.

Cllr Potter reported that three benches were damaged and he was in the process of getting them repaired.

Venture playground: Mr Walker of Rivey Close explained why he had requested the council to consider updating the play equipment in the small fenced playground. He felt that the slide and climbing frame could be replaced however the climbing net could be retained. The swings were in constant use and more could be added. He had identified three items of play equipment with costings for consideration. He was asked to consult with other parents, to choose the preferred option and to report back. In the meantime the clerk would investigate grant funding opportunities.

Churchyard: Following the acceptance of the quotation from Mr Westlake to paint the churchyard gates the work would commence

later this month. Cllr Cox confirmed that work had commenced on the rebuilding of the churchyard wall.

S106 payments: Cllr Bald requested that a list of projects which may benefit from S106 funding be collated. It was also agreed to request input and advice from councillors Bear and Batchelor.

Written reports from council representatives: Cllr Manley had issued a report following his attendance at the 'opportunities to develop playing fields and open spaces' seminar.

Correspondence received for discussion and decision: The district council was in the process of considering the delegation of their grass cutting services. It was agreed to respond that the parish council would not be willing to take on grounds maintenance work. The preference would be for the district council to continue to offer a grounds maintenance service with one central contract as at present with the same level of service.

Moore Stephens had commented on the annual return for year ended 31st March 2011 as follows: 'on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.' This comment was noted.

A request had been received from Alison Walker for co-option to the council. Cllr Cornell proposed that Alison Walker be co-opted to the council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by the meeting.

The cricket club had provided information on their president's day and wacky walk on 7th August. Following the receipt of the risk assessment and a signed copy of the third party use of council facilities form the request to use the recreation ground was granted.

The county council had written regarding the preparation for the winter season and the offer of training for a more formal treatment of the public highway. It was agreed to ask Mr Tofts to attend this training accompanied by Cllr Potter.

The county council had written regarding the Library service review and for proposals for the cabinet to consider on 27th September. The Friends of Linton Library had anticipated that they could provide some voluntary help. The parish council would continue to support the operation of the Library. However there was no clear indication of how the parish council should support it and it was essential to safeguard the position without committing any funding at this time. It was also essential that trained staff were available to access the computers at each session.

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 1st September 2011.

Present: R Hickford (chairman), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, Ms T Hunt, B Manley, G Potter, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). Mrs K France (press) and Mrs A Walker were in attendance together with six members of the public.

Public forum: Three members of the public raised their concerns regarding the council's proposal for allotments and recreational land off Back Road.

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Cornell, Gee, Linsdell and Mannassi.

Welcome: Alison Walker was welcomed to the council and the declaration of acceptance of office form was signed.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open spaces and environment: Cllr Bald reported that the community payback team would be undertaking various tree works in the village. A meeting with the Paynes Meadow and Chalklands residents would take place on 5th September to discuss ideas for the public open space. All welcome to attend.

Recreation ground: Cllr Hunt proposed that an eco-rest bench (£206.96) and a black baltic steel vandal proof litter bin (£217) be purchased and sited on the recreation ground near to the small play area. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox and resolved by the meeting.

Cllr Bald proposed that a seat be sited by the tarmac area on the recreation ground and a bench be sited by the Jubilee stone.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Wilson. Cllr Potter suggested that sponsorship could be invited for these and this was felt to be a good idea. Cllr Manley suggested that a seat would be preferable to a bench.

Cllr Bald amended the proposal that a phoenix seat (£363) be sited by the Jubilee stone facing away from the river. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by the meeting. No decision on a seat by the tarmac area was made. The clerk would seek quotes for this work.

Venture playground: The work to refurbish the skate ramp was almost complete. Cllr Hunt confirmed that the art work on the side panels would be retained where possible.

Leadwell Meadows, river and wildlife: A resident had sent in a further request for fencing. It was agreed to reiterate the previous comment that the council did not intend to fence the area.

Churchyard: Cllr Cox reported that permission had been received from the district council conservation officer to continue the work to rebuild the wall up to the capping stones. A meeting would take place to discuss the future of the broken headstones. Mr Westlake had finished painting the churchyard gates.

A1307, traffic and recreation ground parking: Cllr Champion reported that the uneven surfaces and ruts in Meadow Lane were causing problems and making it more difficult to push wheelchairs to the Granta school.

Meadow Lane was also used by children who could walk, albeit with difficulty, who had serious psychological problems and would be at risk if they were to walk along the A1307 to the High Street. They too would benefit from an even walking surface.

Consideration of tree planting requirements for autumn 2011 and spring 2012: Cllr Bald had issued a report and a plan. Cllr Bald proposed that the north east corner of the recreation ground be tidied and any dead trees or vegetation be removed and replanted, from the district council's allocation, with four or five whitebeams and one black poplar. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox and resolved by the meeting.

Cllr Bald proposed that a Jubilee oak, from the district council's allocation, be planted beside the river at the bottom of the tarmac area. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by the meeting.

Cllr Bald proposed that three birches and two alders be planted in the area by the bridge to replace those that had died. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and resolved by the meeting.

Written reports from council representatives: A report on the meeting of Chalklands and Paynes Meadow residents association had been issued by Cllr Bald.

A report on the meeting of 8th August to discuss traffic and parking on the recreation ground had been issued by Cllr Hickford.

Correspondence received for discussion and decision: Cllr Champion was appointed Cathodeon trustee to replace Mr Krarup who had resigned.

District council training and information sessions regarding planning would be taking place at Cambourne on 11th October. Cllrs Bald and Hunt would attend.

Moore Stephens had given additional comments in respect of the annual return: 'We have received several copies of minutes of the council. These have only been reviewed in respect of the matter for which they were requested, that is the progress of the risk assessment procedures, and not in respect of any other item of account. We note that the risk assessment procedures are considerably improved.'

Reports from councillors (for information only): Cllr Manley reported that the disabled parking bay outside 17 High Street was no longer required as the resident had moved. The clerk would contact highways to advise and to also enquire about the bays in Horn Lane and Tower View Green.

Cllr Bald reported that Mr Hampson, from the district council, had agreed to meet regarding planning issues. The dates he could offer were 12th, 13th and 19th October at 6pm. All interested parties should contact the clerk.

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

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