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New look, new name for The Co-operative

TEN-year-old Cub Oliver Coston and seven year-old Beaver Theo Levine cut the ribbon on 23rd August to launch the £220,000 new look Co-op food store in the High Street. Linton Scout group has now received a £220 cheque for group funds to mark the grand opening.

Early in August, a crane had swung the new air conditioning unit on to the roof to replace the old out-of-date model. The store was closed from 15th August for a major re-fit; stripping and replacing the lights, ceiling tiles and

The store features the consumer-owned Co-operative Group's new identity, The Co-operative

floor covering, installing eco-friendly refrigeration units around the walls and updating the décor.

After a long weekend break, the staff returned to work on the Monday for a grand clean-up and shelf-filling to ensure the store was ready to receive produce at 6am on Thursday.

Store manager Kevin Nichols said although they had worked until 1am Thursday morning, it was worth the effort. "As a community retailer, it is appropriate we involve everyone in special events and we were delighted our local Scouts could play a



Picture submitted by Tracey Coston

Kevin Nichols, manager of the Linton shop assists the Cubs and Beavers in cutting the tape

central role in the relaunch of our store," he said.

Shopper Dr Valerie Urwin's first response was "It is clean, bright and spacious" and others agreed.

"I wondered how they had stretched the shop," said Michelle Miller. "New shop, new prices," thought Kay Storey as she found the price on her pack of minced meat had increased, but she did notice a fresher atmosphere generated by the new air conditioning.

Joan Stevens particularly likes the big freezers and wider aisles. She said: "You don't have to bend over now and when you have a chat, you are not in everybody's way. It's a definite improvement.

Rose Newman, a store su-

pervisor, said: "I'm proud to be part of the shop now." She is delighted with the new floors, ceiling and refrigerators which reflect the light and promote a more shopper-friendly layout.

The store features the consumer-owned Co-operative Group's new identity, The Co-operative, which aims to highlight improved service standards across its 4,500 outlets in the UK, including its travel, pharmacy, funeral and bank outlets, as well as its commitment to supporting local communities and ethical policies.

As the leading supermarket producer of Fairtrade, these products will be featured and the store will carry the retailer's own health and beauty

range with products that are not tested on animals.

Shoppers will also benefit from The Co-operative's policy on honest labelling which gives the full facts about its food and drink products, and can carry their shopping home in 100 per cent degradable bags.

LNT from information supplied by The Co-operative

WERE you held up in Green Lane off the High Street on 14th August? This is why. The lane was blocked off for an hour to allow a crane to swing the new air conditioning unit on to the Co-operative roof



Picture by Roger Lapwood

Champion opens Granta school



Granta headteacher Lucie Calow, with Paralympic champion Danny Crates at the opening

Picture supplied by the school

PARALYMPIC champion Danny Crates recently officiated at the opening of Granta, Linton's new purpose-built area special school, bringing to a conclusion the reorganisation and restructuring of special school provision in this part of the county.

The school, which provides a differentiated curriculum for pupils between three and 19, offers outstanding facilities. Visitors were able to see at first hand the exciting specialist rooms, hydro pool, therapy rooms and, most surprisingly, the sense of space that this futuristic building engenders.

The opening ceremony began with pupils from local schools singing *Let there be Love* followed by introductions from chairman of Cambridgeshire CC Tony Orgee and cabinet minister Jill Tuck, with a response from Lee Ginger, the chair of governors. The unveiling of the plaque was performed by Danny Crates together with children drawn from the early years, primary and secondary departments.

Having fulfilled his ambition to take the gold medal in Athens 2004, 800m runner Danny is looking forward to competing in Beijing 2008. He will be keeping in touch with Granta pupils throughout his build up to the games which will give the young people a personal stake in his success. Headteacher Lucie Calow said: "With his positive outlook, he is an inspiration for us all about how to make the best of life's opportunities."

Already proud of the close links established with local schools, staff and pupils at Granta are looking forward to the next phase in the school's development - to do a lot, to learn a lot and to achieve a lot!

The day marked the school's first birthday and, as such, was a fitting occasion for the celebration. The afternoon was spent enjoying special activities arranged for the pupils.

Linton Granta School

Defending the realm for 31 years

LINTON man John Franklin, 78, has been honoured with a medal for his 31-year-service in the Royal Observer Corps (ROC). Last month, he was awarded the 'In Defence of the Realm' medal, in appreciation of his service to the institution that provided national defence to the entire country.

The ROC was a defence warning organisation of civilian volunteers operating in the UK between 1925 and 1992. Created to provide a system for detecting, tracking and reporting aircraft over Britain, it evolved through several wars to become an invaluable back-up in our multi-layered defence networks protecting against invasion. During the Second World War, the ROC was dubbed 'the eyes and ears of the RAF'.

Crucially, the service complemented radar sightings with human identification, maintaining defence when radar stations were damaged. The role of guiding to safety those aircraft which were off course or damaged was also important. More than 7,000 aircraft have been saved by ROC intervention.

John William Franklin was working as administration officer for Cambridgeshire



Three decades of service: John Franklin with his medals

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Libraries and wanted to give something back to his country, so he volunteered for the ROC from 1958, aged 29, until his retirement in 1989, and was awarded his first medal after 25 years' service.

The Cold War initiated a change for the ROC, the threat of nuclear war triggering an ongoing nuclear reporting task. Posts covering the country would measure and report the onset, location and after-effects of a potential nuclear attack.

Radioactive fall-out forecasts would be passed to the

UK Warning and Monitoring Organisation and local authorities to tell people to seek shelter. John was driven by the knowledge that their work could save thousands of lives at any time.

John climbed the ranks to become Group officer in 1971, a position of equal rank to an RAF flight lieutenant. Covering an area including Cambridge and Saffron Walden, he became responsible for 60 volunteers. He lectured extensively to other ROC members and civilians about the issue of



Tribute: John's statuette

nuclear warfare.

Nato exercises saw him travelling long hours at night on his own, and Russian "Bear" bombers often were sent back by allied "terrier" aircraft.

"I took it in my stride", he says, so much that his resilience and willingness to progress through every difficult task earned him the nickname the 'cold-blooded one' among colleagues. Such was their respect for him that they awarded him a bronze statuette (above) on his retirement.

John expresses pride and

affection for the ROC and his MI5/MI6 pass has allowed him to show his sons many secret places of prestige over the years.

He became very passionate about everyone who took the training to ensure help could be given in the event of war breaking out.

John's wife Joan and two sons are extremely proud of his final medal, commemorating more than three decades of service, and he is a brilliant example of how there can never be a substitute for intuitive volunteers who are resilient, adaptable and determined to do their part to protect their country.

Owain Bury for LNT

Shop early for Christmas

PLEASE join us for coffee and biscuits on Wednesday 10th October at the Old Manor House, Green Lane, Linton (10.30am to 12noon) by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Powell.

Enjoy choosing your Christmas cards and stocking fillers at leisure, and at the same time help Save the Children.

If you cannot join us then, we will also be having a stall at the Christmas shopping evening from 6-9pm on Thursday 1st November at Balsham Place, High Street, Balsham.

Bernadette Milner
SCF (Linton and District)
290335

Too good for jumble ...

THERE were several calls for the greenhouse which raised £50 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance - any more greenhouses available? The golf shoes made a further £10 for the Trefoil Guild and £10 has gone to the RSPCA for the photocopier.

A folding bed (ideal for a child visitor) and an Epson Stylus printer with black and colour cartridges are offered this month. The ladies' bicycle and the Sega Mega Drive II with games are still available.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to benefit a charity, please phone:

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

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

COURTESY of Defra (the Department For Ruining Agriculture) another healthy dose of foot and mouth disease has occurred to remind Europe that British is best. Plus 10 years of massive investment in education can regularly be appreciated at one in the morning as the little darlings demonstrate their eloquence, and our transport links are second to none. So what about the health service? Apparently, a sum in the region of "£6-£18 billion pounds" has been poured into the service. That seems a rather vague estimate for one so prudent, Mr Brown.

A very good friend of mine recently experienced a stay in hospital for the first time. On the day he was admitted, I remarked that we are lucky to live near one of the world's best hospitals. What was thought to be a simple chest infection was, in fact, a large build-up of fluid in his lungs. He was given a bed in a ward, a drain was inserted to remove the fluid and he was told all would be fine in a matter of days. He wasn't told that, in his case, getting up and moving around was going to slow his recovery.

The ward seemed rather disorganised. The doctor told my friend to remind the nurses to flush his tube four times a day, only for the nurses to claim it wasn't their job and they weren't trained to do so anyway. On one memorable occasion, the nurses did manage a blood fountain – the result of their attempt at taking a blood sample.

As week two got under way, the chewing gum, cigarette ends and chocolate wrappers left on the floor of the lift three days earlier were still waiting for the cleaner to notice them. Being noticed is the key to getting things done. Having asked for a second time for his tablets, a visit to the nurses' station revealed the staff comparing period pains and not "just going to get them".

One day, the monotony was broken by a flurry of activity, as a man was wheeled in at speed with a crew of doctors and nurses in attendance. Fighting for breath, he was unable to answer their repeated questions about his name, the date or whether he could count back from 20. Suddenly, he was being asked if he wanted to go to intensive care. Still unable to answer, the man died before any more inane queries could be put to him. In the aftermath, my friend was able to glean that they have to ask about intensive care. Since when?

Having endured more than three weeks of having his swollen ankles ignored and his lungs drained in a ward described by someone from A&E as the worst in the hospital, a surgeon from Papworth took an interest in the lack of progress. He was given three choices – stay put with the lung drain for months, do nothing and expire, or go to Papworth for a short operation and then go home and recover.

Transport was duly arranged. Even that went wrong. He arrived eight hours late, much to everyone's chagrin, for the pre-op tests. Thankfully, the operation was a success, and Papworth agreed it would not be in his best interests to send him back to his local hospital to recover.

Back to the senior league

A HIGHLY satisfactory season for Linton village cricket club came to an end on Saturday 1st September, when the First XI secured the final batting point they needed to guarantee an immediate return to the CCA Senior League.

It could have been better had a late batting flurry from Daniel van Straaten and Mark Liles continued long enough to pull off the unlikely victory which would have sent them up as champions.

As it was, their final day opponents, Great Chishill, won the League 1 South championship but this took only the very slightest gloss off a season built on real cohesion which has been in short supply in recent years.

It has been a less successful season simply in respect of results for the Second XI, but there are green shoots of recovery to be seen in some really pleasing progress from a cadre of really promising youngsters.

Hans Pinkard

The K-Club takes a rest

MANY Linton News readers will recall the birth of Linton Action for Youth some 10 years ago. An important objective of LA4Y was to provide a local meeting place for youngsters in the Linton area, and from this the Drop-In Centre on the recreation ground was soon established.

Fund raising, of course, was a major consideration and it was recognised that, without a meaningful display of financial support from the public, external funding agencies might be reluctant to donate money themselves. Hence the setting-up in 1998 of Linton's very own private lottery – the K-Club.

Over the past nine years the Linton K-Club has collected membership subscriptions amounting to £34,600, and out of this sum £18,700 has been given away in prize money to lucky members. All the profits arising from the K-Club have been pumped back into Linton Action for Youth, which by the end of this year will amount to a total of £15,750.

However, nothing lasts for ever, and the K-Club is being allowed a well-earned break until somebody comes up with a suitably effective alternative fund raising vehicle.

As the promoter of the K-Club, I would like to thank every member, past and present, for their generosity in keeping the lottery going. I have made many friends over the years through my involvement and have never failed to be impressed by the goodwill of local people.

By the time you read this article the final Grand Draw of the final year will already have taken place, and I would like to congratulate the winners, whose names will be announced in next month's Linton News.

Peter Dixon

A BIG thank you to Peter Dixon for his excellent fund raising work for Linton Action For Youth. Peter has been a key factor in the success of LA4Y and has supported the project from the beginning. Look out for a new version of the K-Club in the next few months.

John Batchelor

These bikes are made for riding



Pictures by Andrew Down



Above: The start of the day as bellringers from Linton prepare to set off, and, inset, the bicycle made for three

LAST month a group of Cambridgeshire bellringers on cycles, led by Mike Ellis, took part in the annual event of visiting many churches to raise funds for the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. The funds raised from this event are split so that half goes to the church or chapel of your choice and the other half goes to the

central fund.

Most of us set off at 9am on Saturday 8th September from St Mary's, Linton, to Balsham, where we were joined by more ringers and cyclists including a triplet (a tandem for three). We rang call changes, Grandsire Doubles, St. Clement's Minor and other methods.

We then cycled to West

Wrattling, Weston Colville, Brinkley, Little Bradley on our way to Little and Great Thurlow where we rang some more methods. We stopped briefly at a local pub for lunch after which, refreshed, we carried on to Withersfield, West Wickham, Horseheath, Shudy Camps and Castle Camps, before arriving at Ashdon where we rang again.

After this we cycled our last stint, back to Linton visiting Bartlow and Hadstock on the way. We rode through some lovely villages and open countryside in good company and covered a distance of over 35 miles.

Thanks go to Penny Coggill who organised the bellfries for ringing and Mike Ellis for organising the route. If anyone would like to sponsor us, please make cheques payable to Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and send to Mike Ellis, 11 Horseheath Road, Linton CB21 4LU or Lian Watkin, 44 Chalklands, Linton CB21 4JH. Lian Watkin 892782

Why should I bother?

A plea on behalf of the Samaritans' Purse "Operation Christmas Child" Shoe Box Appeal



EVERY day it seems we are bombarded by cries for help from incredibly worthy charities all vying for our attention. You may well ask why I should add to the list? The answer is simple. About a year and a half ago, I met someone involved with Samaritans' Purse and was moved by both the work they do and the effect of their work on individual children.

Mehi is a typical example. He lives in a village in northern Romania where gypsy children can't go to school until they provide their own stationery. Imagine his delight then, when he found new pens, pencils and a notepad in his shoe box. "I've been given the best Christmas present ever," he said.

Creating a shoe box is a very personal way of showing your love and care for someone you will probably never meet. As my daughter Rebecca and I discovered in Uganda this summer, such people regard this very much as a sign of God's love for them. For many, it is their introduction to God's love.

All you need to get started are an empty shoe box covered in Christmas paper and a leaflet giving details of what to include. We've had great fun collecting small items and imagining the child who would receive them. Completed shoe boxes can be brought to St Mary's any Sunday morning until the beginning of November.

I hope that over the next few weeks, as the Christmas aisles appear in the supermarkets,

you will feel moved to buy a few items to put into a box – a simple way to make a real difference.

Leaflets and further information are available from St Mary's or me.

Pam Richardson 890921

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

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on Page 8. Please note: all letters for publication must be supplied with a full name and address to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited.

The debate goes on ...

Dear Editor
Regarding J Foster's letter on the proposed wind turbine farm for Linton; perhaps his good points have not gone far enough.

If people object to wind turbines, then where are the long-term alternatives to carbon zero electricity to come from? Efficiencies of 20% are mentioned as if this a reason for not having them. How efficient is the average car with respect to the energy in the fuel? Simple thermodynamics and mechanical constraints give a figure not much more than this. Do people give up driving?

I would rather have wind turbines that generate the electricity that is essential for modern living than climate-altering fossil fuel generation. Do the people look to themselves to save energy –

such as not using thermal bulbs (2% - 4% efficient) especially in high-power outside lighting which also negates the dark sky policy. Let us look to ourselves for energy saving measures if we do not want wind turbines with their attendant problems.

I do not know the scientific knowledge that the anti-windmill people possess, but I would like a more reasoned scientific basis for being without a relatively carbon efficient method of generating electricity via wind turbines. As Gradgrind in *Hard Times* says: 'Give me facts!'

I suggest, until we alter our prolific energy-wasting habits, let us put up with these wind turbines until there are viable alternative methods of electricity generation.
V Boyd
Address supplied

Dear Editor

We all want a sustainable, green world but the proposed Linton wind turbine power station won't help there. Eight turbines, placed just outside Linton, would require sinking 2,400 cubic metres of concrete into the fields to one side of us for a start. How good for the environment is that, let alone the 400ft tall bits we would see?

The health risk to the village, especially those attending Linton College, is completely unacceptable. Wild birds and bats would be killed; other wildlife would be forced to go elsewhere by intolerable noise and vibration. Their environment is being steadily diminished by concrete as it is. Perhaps worse, 35 years of internationally renowned work with rare breeds by Linton Zoo could go down the drain.

There is nothing good about these things. There are effective modern answers to sustainable energy which do work. As David Bellamy has said, only the developers gain anything from turbines. Enertrag stands to make a fortune, not from the sale of the tiny amount of electricity generated, but from market conditions which have been misguidedly distorted in their favour by law.

Meanwhile, if these old-fashioned monsters go up they will do long-term damage to our community and environment yet contribute nothing useful. How can anybody support them?

We must not forget that these turbines will go up if Enertrag's proposal gets through the planning process. Although the environmental arguments against Enertrag may seem overwhelming, such a planning application could succeed unless we fight it all the way. We must focus on that and make our voice heard. Join SLWF now. Tony Dron, South Road, Great Abington

Dear Editor

I would like to add my feelings to the wind farm proposal. I have visited the Swaffham wind farm and found that the noise level is quite low, just swish, swish. The siting of the Linton wind farm is so far beyond the pylons and the grain silo and Linton bypass, that nobody will be able to hear the noise.

We have learned to live with the modern world and must not stand in the way of a very green proposal for our energy. It will not supply all our needs, but every contribution helps. In 20 years time if something new and better comes along, eg wave power, the wind turbines could come down with no harm to anybody. Contrast this with

the damage of nuclear energy or the disadvantages of buying our fuel from another country.

We shall see these turbines from a distance; they are quite peaceful and calming to watch. They are not nearly as dangerous to life as our own bypass is; people and animals will soon adapt and could even enjoy their peaceful movement.

I wish Enertrag UK success with their application and we should give them our full support. We turn against the wind farm at our peril when the alternatives are much worse. Say yes to wind.

Ann Simpkin,
address supplied
Right idea, wrong place:
See Page 7

Dear Editor

I wish to thank all for the lovely cards and presents that were given to me on my special birthday. I hope you all enjoyed the party as much as I did. I also want to thank my daughter and son-in-law, Jacqueline and Ian, for all their hard work and kindness shown to me by organising the surprise party.
Alice White

Dear Editor

I would like to thank all the kind people who sent 'get well' cards and good wishes following my recent accident. Walking and writing are still difficult, so please be patient. I will be back in circulation in a few weeks.
Pam Kenyon

Has anyone seen Polly Phonic?

Dear Editor

Our daughter Lilly, like most toddlers, has her collection of friends from whom she is inseparable. Polly Phonic, who is a white fluffy toy eagle chick, standing about six to eight inches tall, is a particular favourite.

Recently, we stayed with friends in Hadstock and visited Linton to feed the ducks on the way to seeing more friends. On Sunday August 26th we drove from Audley End to Linton. We stopped outside the King's Head in Hadstock (great food, by the way). Michelle can remember Lilly holding her beloved Polly Phonic while we were there.

From there, we drove to Linton. I parked outside the Dog and Duck and then we walked up the High Street towards Coles Lane, turning right into the footpath next to the doctor's house before walking towards the church and down to feed the ducks.

Lilly and our friend's children had a lovely time "feeding" the ducks. Actually, Lilly and Ashley ate most of the bread themselves while Lulu paddled in the river! And the ducks? Well, they're well fed and didn't seem that hungry! With everyone happy, we went on to visit friends in Linton.

It was only a day later when we'd driven home to Sussex that we realised 'Oh No, Polly Phonic is missing!'

Did you find her? Did anyone find her? We're pretty sure that she was dropped either outside Small Gifts, or while we were walking to the river. I've even been back to search ...

Lilly has asked for Polly Phonic a few times and we'd love to reunite the two of them. If you can help, we'd all be truly grateful. Thanks in advance,

Will Burr, Michelle and Lilly Norman.
32 Warelands, Hammonds Ridge,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9QD
01444 250399 or 07976 969822

LINTON DIARY

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

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

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

WEEKLY

- Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays SC
- Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141) SC
- Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays VH
- Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH
- Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays SC
- Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays SC
- WEA, 10am Tuesdays, from 2nd October VH
- Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays CC
- Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays SC
- Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays SC
- IT club, 7pm Tuesdays CC
- Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time VH
- Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
- Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays SC
- Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076) SC
- Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time VH
- Music Matters, 10am & 11am Thursdays VH
- LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays SC
- Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
- Rhyme'n'rhythm tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time URC hall
- Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays SC
- Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
- Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays VH
- Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays SC
- Adult social tennis, 2-3pm Saturdays SC
- Boxercise/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days, call 890248 SC

OCTOBER

- 1 Camera club meeting, 7.15pm VH
- 2 WI, 7.30pm VH
- 3 Granta playgroup AGM, 8pm Portacabin, LVC
- 3 Reading group, 8pm Dog & Duck
- 4 Luncheon club, 12noon The Crown
- 4,18 Parish council meetings, 8pm CC
- 6 Butties, books and bric-a-brac, 11am VH
- 9 VIP group, 2pm Chalklands
- 9 Gardening club AGM, 7.30pm VH
- 10 Save the Children sale, 10.30am Old Manor House, Green Lane VH
- 11 Blood donor sessions, 1-3.30pm & 4.30-7pm VH
- 12 Ruby and her horses, 7 for 7.30pm Hildersham VH
- 13 Camera club photo exhibition, 11.30am-4pm VH
- 13 Music society concert, 7.30pm St Mary's
- 15 Hildersham WI, 7.30pm Hildersham VH
- 16 Historical society AGM, 7.30pm VH
- 16 Pampered Chef cooking show, 7.30pm St Mary's pavilion
- 17 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon HC
- 17 Granta Grapevine AGM, 2.30pm Chalklands
- 18 ACE fish and chip lunch, 12 for 12.30pm Chalklands
- 18 Granta playgroup open morning, 10am-12noon Portacabin LVC
- 20 Village hall jumble sale, 2pm VH
- 23 English Courtyard open day, 2-7pm VH
- 26-28 'Slums in Linton', see publicity Linton
- 28 Camera club, 9am Coles Lane

NOVEMBER

- 1 Luncheon club, 12noon The Crown
- 3 Firework display, gates open 6pm Infant school

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

Refuse collection: 1st and 15th and 29th Oct.
Recycling collection: 8th and 22th Oct, 5th Nov.

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

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Sparkle at our big fireworks display

IN support of the village schools we are proud to announce the 18th Linton fireworks display on Saturday 3rd November.

Over the years, we have raised more than £80,000 split between Linton infant school, the Heights junior school and Linton village college. Several thousand pounds have also been donated to smaller organisations, such as local Scout and Guide groups.

We draw a crowd of 4,000 plus and over the years have showcased home-grown musical talent from classical to rock. This year, we are kindly spon-

sored by Camgrain who have donated in excess of £11,000 since 1996.

The display takes place on the meadow at the infant school and the gates open at 6pm. The bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm and the fireworks soon after when everyone is in.

As well as our biggest ever firework display, there is food at the huge barbecues and other refreshments, including mulled wine. We will also have the popular annual guy competition. Guys can be brought to the field dur-

ing the day right up to 6pm.

Please could Linton residents leave cars at home to minimise congestion. No fireworks can be brought into the display, including sparklers. Glo-toys are available from the Linton Heights' stall.

Buy your tickets in advance from any of the three Linton schools, Sweet Talk News, Hale and Jacobs in Linton, Balsham and Linton post offices and the farm shop at Hill Farm, Castle Camps.

Advance tickets are priced at £7.50 for a family of five (two adults and three chil-

dren) and £2.50 for an individual. Tickets on the night will be available at the gate for £9 and £3 respectively. One benefit of an advance ticket is avoiding queues.

As last year, we are unable to accept any material for the bonfire; we wish to ensure it has burned out by the end of the evening, so controlling material helps.

We look forward to seeing friends old and new at the display. For further information, please contact me, Alasdair Forbes (event director) on 01799 584699, or Alison Collison on 894346

The secret life of Aunt Jessie ...



HIDDEN histories or should I say secret lives? We were given a look behind the scenes by our speaker, Margaret Clark. Firstly our president, Ann Simpkin, welcomed everyone, and two new members were introduced. The minutes were read by June Bunn, standing in for Brenda Smith. The coffee mornings have raised £96.50 and are continuing. The theatre outing to Southwold was a great day out and the play was excellent.

A few tickets remain for *Peter Pan on Ice*. Reminders were given out for Felbrigg Hall on 3rd October, open house at Girton on 22nd and 23rd October and our harvest supper on 2nd October. Members are asked to bring cutlery and a savoury dish; the committee will provide desserts.

Margaret Clark then began to tell us about her Aunt Jessie who was her mother's sister. She was one of seven and went into domestic service at 15. She went to work for the MP Parker Bowles and as far as Margaret's mother knew married a New Zealand author and lived a bohemian lifestyle in Peacehaven. No one in her family heard anything about her from then on and Margaret often heard her mother say: "I wonder what happened to Jessie?"

She had apparently assumed an aristocratic background, telling everyone she had a charmed childhood - first, five years in Ireland with horses, staff, land etc, then moving to London aged five and mixing in wealthy circles. She adopted a posh voice and airs and graces and made a good marriage to someone who mixed with the Bloomsbury set. She was helped by Lady Ottoline Morrell because of her interest in young writers and poets.

Lady Morrell invited Jessie and her husband to her soirées at Bedford Square and Garsington Manor, mixing with famous people such as DH Lawrence, who became a friend of Jessie, Virginia Woolf and Siegfried Sassoon. Jessie and her husband entertained many of these people at their smallholding and home at Peacehaven.

They had seven children who were all brought up on Jessie's stories of life in Ireland and her privileged background. No one knew of her real childhood of poverty in London, which only came to light when her granddaughter contacted a cousin to find out more about her grandmother. Margaret met the granddaughter and this story was told. Our grateful thanks go to Margaret for sharing this amazing life with us.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 2nd October when we will have our harvest supper with entertainment. Please come and join us; old and new members always welcome.

Tricia Lewis

... and a mystery surprise



A MYSTERY outing surprised the Hildersham WI committee when the members arranged the evening's entertainment. Arriving at Linton college car park, most of us accompanied by our husbands, we walked to the green and came upon the bowls club. Although the evening weather was a little chilly, our spirits were warm and we were eager to learn how to play bowls.

After some tuition, we were ready to play. The camaraderie was high but so was the enthusiasm to get our bowls as close to the jack as possible; sometimes we wondered whose jack we were aiming for! It came to light that among the men and women, we may have some future bowls players. I am not saying who proved to be the best although it seemed a close run game.

Just as the rain started, it was time to retreat to the clubhouse to enjoy tasty refreshments thus ending a very enjoyable evening. Our grateful thanks to our members, especially Betty, and the Linton bowls club.

Our next meeting will be on 15th October when our guest speaker will be Barbara Ferei talking about 'A Siberian Charity Event' at Hildersham village hall. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Pamela J Parris

A GRAND DAY OUT

This month Wendy Foster, editor of the Linton News, shares her visit to Bury St Edmunds with you. Does no-one else go anywhere that they would like to share with our readers? If you do, please let us know.

AT around 10.30am on a very wet Wednesday three friends and I went to Bury St Edmunds. The rain did ease off occasionally but there were no dry spells at all.

Our first stop was for coffee with friends newly moved to Bury, who made us very welcome. We eventually tore ourselves away and braved the weather again after lots of coffee, marvellous shortbread and much friendly chatter.

I parked in Eastgate Bridge car park as the walk from there to the town goes through the Abbey gardens. As usual, these were a stunning splash of colour despite the rain.

Our first visit was to the cathedral. The death of Edmund, king of the East Angles, at the hands of the Danes in 869 led to the building of an abbey to house his remains. St James church was built within the precincts of the abbey, becoming a cathedral in 1914. We took our time admiring the newly refurbished tower, the kneelers which represent every town and village in the diocese, the painted ceilings, and the colourful stained glass windows, most of which are Victorian.

There was an art exhibition in the cloisters and refectory; three of us paint so this was a bonus. In the cathedral there was also a display of children's paintings. Some of these young artists were



Yours truly in the abbey gardens with the abbey in the background, which look good even in the rain.

Picture by Lian Watkin

doing them while we were there.

The refectory is a new building and provides a good menu for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Naturally we took advantage of this and enjoyed a lovely lunch. (Brilliant toilets here too).

We completed our viewing of the art exhibition, many of the paintings making us wonder if we had taken up the wrong hobby, but fortunately there were some which gave us hope!

We then made our way up Abbeygate Street to a very depleted market owing to the rain. Into M&S as one of us wanted to buy crisps to go with the wine she and a friend

would share while watching the England v Germany football match that evening. (England lost!)

Needless to say we all succumbed to a little retail therapy here and also in the fabric shop close by.

We made our (still wet) way back to the car via an art supplies shop, a tea and cake shop and another clothing shop. (Yes, retail therapy in them all!)

We arrived home around 6pm having enjoyed a lovely girlie day out but one which could easily have included husbands.

There are many other places to visit in Bury St Edmunds; why don't you go and see for yourselves?

Wendy Foster

Bookfest will be back next year

BY popular demand, Linton Children's Book Festival will be back next year. Planned for the weekend of 10th - 11th May and with funding application underway, the team are looking forward to doing it all again!

With your help we could make it even better than 2006, and so want your views on what activities to arrange, and which speakers and performers you would like to see in 2008.

If you have any suggestions, something to contribute, or just want to get involved, please come to the public meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 10th October in the village hall.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you want a reminder of what it was all about please look at our website www.lintonbookfest.org and for further information, please contact me:

Josephine Paterson
893582 or e-mail
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A day at the seaside: Christina Graham and Pam Potter, with John Linsdell and Arthur Read

Pictures by Enid Bald

Didn't we have a luvverly time ...

LINTON ACEs have had their annual trip to the seaside – Felixstowe this time. Here, traditional beach huts and pier share the seashore with modern entertainments and the leisure centre.

The town is historic and was the last place in mainland Britain to be invaded (by the Dutch in 1667). The harbour area has Land-

guard Fort and museum, Second World War guns and a bird sanctuary.

There was something for everyone to do, although many preferred just to stroll along the seafront and beach, enjoying the weather and company.

The day started out damp but swiftly turned sunny and warm enough for the excellent ice cream.

The sea was chilly, so only a few hardy souls went paddling; the other tender toes were not tempted – a little global warming would have been welcome.

I should have been working in San Francisco but the Golden Gate was no match for the company of our golden group – come and join us next time.

The next event is a fish

and chips lunch at Chalklands at 12 for 12.30pm on Thursday 18th October. The speaker is John Bald on Nelson and Collingwood – Master Mariners and Mastermind. Watch out for his TV appearance.

Contact Sue/Tina on 891001 or me, if you need a lift.

Enid Bald 891069

IT expertise

GRANTA-TECH, a local IT business launched in April, is building a solid reputation for excellent customer service.

Its inconspicuous office is the floor above the newly renovated Sweet Talk News. Run by Simon Ward and his partner, the services include computer repairs, upgrades, sales, and the installation of wireless broadband and networks.

Repairs often take just a couple of hours. Simon collects and returns, installs and upgrades by himself and for no extra cost when he has made a sale. On-site PC registry and internal desktop cleaning is now offered.

The services are split almost equally between business and home users. Village newcomers to wireless networks have increased significantly.

Trading largely within a 20-mile radius, Granta-Tech also advertises in Saffron Walden

and Haverhill, yet it is testament to positive word of mouth referrals that Simon delivers service also to some users in London and Norwich.

Simon told the LN that his commitment to home calls and free advice sets him above PC chain stores.

He is proud of his expertise and his 15-year background in the IT world make him a knowledgeable resource for the local consumer.

Simon is keen to stress that Granta-Tech is to remain a small "local business for the local community". He is passionate about passing on skills but also encouraging people to learn them for themselves.

For more details, visit info@grantatech.co.uk, or www.grantatech.co.uk. You can also call Simon on 893269 from 9am-7pm, Monday-Saturday.

LNT

Not on Sundays

LINTON'S Sunday mail collections are being withdrawn from Sunday 28th October in line with the Royal Mail's countrywide cessation of the service.

The Royal Mail argues that demand for a Sunday collection is limited and just isn't efficient, costing far more to collect than weekday mail. This also applies to bank holidays.

A spokesman said: "Royal Mail operates in a fully competitive postal market and needs to work efficiently to ensure its customers continue to receive a high quality of service into the future."

"Royal Mail collects from 115,000 post boxes Monday to Saturday and from just 18,000 post boxes on Sundays. Demand for a Sunday service, introduced in 1990,

is limited and accounts for less than one per cent of all mail posted each week – and the small volumes means it costs four times as much to handle this mail as items collected on other days."

With the latest change, Britain joins many other European countries who do not collect on Sundays – France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Finland.

Only Sweden, Holland and Greece have Sunday collections.

The spokesman also said that the latest 'Quality of Service' figures for the CB postcode (ie the percentage of first class mail delivered the next working day) was 92.5 per cent for the first quarter of 2007-8. The target is 91.5 per cent.

LNT

POT POURRI (33)

The efficiency of windmills

ASSUMING optimum conditions apply to the siting of eight windmills, what is the probability that at least one windmill will achieve its rated output? It is assumed that each windmill has an overall power efficiency of 23%.

Solution to No 32 - Sharing Money
Mary started with £49 and George had £35

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plans for retirement homes

PLANS are being submitted for 10 two-bedroom homes on land at Horseheath Road, Linton, by retirement property specialist English Courtyard. The properties are leasehold and the principal occupant must be at least 55 (planning authorities determine the exact details).

The fabric of each development, including exterior maintenance and upkeep of gardens and grounds, is the responsibility of English Courtyard's appointed management company.

English Courtyard is holding an information day at the village hall from 2-7pm on Tuesday 23rd October. If you require further information, please call Mark Griffiths at English Courtyard on 01483 227570 or visit www.englishcourtyard.co.uk

Butties, books and bric-a-brac

A NEW venture for the Friends of St Mary's will be held from 11am-1.30pm on Saturday 6th October at the village hall. Good clean books and bric-a-brac for sale can be delivered to the hall from 9.30 on; bacon butties and tea/coffee served from 11am onwards. No admission charge.

Margaret Clark 892093

Is your driving licence legal?

AFTER the postcode change, you may not be aware that you must have your driving licence updated by the DVLC. This should be done immediately there is any change and that includes a postcode change. Failure to do this, and I quote from the driver licensing information booklet, could cost a £1,000 fine. This includes upgrading to photocard licences. Ring the DVLC on 08702 4000 10 for further information.

The Editor

'Pampered Chef' evening

AT 7.30pm on 16th October, a 'Pampered Chef' cooking show is being held in the newly opened St Mary's church pavilion. Tickets will cost £5 and this includes refreshments. Proceeds will go to the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre.

Jacque Wilson 893477

The sounds of Russia ...

THE Linton Music Society brings a taste of Russia to St Mary's this month when the ensemble *Voskreseniye* performs at the church at 7.30pm on Saturday 13th October. *Voskreseniye*, which means Resurrection, is based in St Petersburg and performs regularly in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France and Britain. This choir of nine professional singers captivate their audience with the austere beauty of Orthodox sacred music and the freshness and fun of Russian folk songs.

Hayley Donnan

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More than just photos at the show

LINTON Camera Club will be opening the doors to its annual exhibition at the village hall on Saturday 13th October with a free draw in which three winners will be able to choose a photograph each from the exhibition, and receive it as a framed A4 print.

There will be more than 200 photographs on display including a special series entitled 'Linton Then And Now' as well as a 'Fun Corner' where anyone can dress up and take photos, and Richard Smith's digital advice stand.

The exhibition will be an eclectic show spanning the wide interests of club members including portraits, action shots, landscapes, humour, wildlife, local scenes and faraway places.

Upstairs you will find non-stop image shows by club members on the subjects of Travels in India, Las Vegas 2007, The Moment of Change in Papua, New Guinea, Winter at Niagara Falls and A Navajo Journey.

Event co-ordinator Ron Pitkin said: "It will be an excellent show, full of interest and everyone will be most welcome." The exhibition is open from 11.30am-4pm and entry is free. There will be refreshments and a raffle for the Alzheimer's research trust.

Recent club outings saw banger racing manager and club member Dave Stone



Picture power: these photos by Anne Guillmet (left) and Ron Pitkin (below) are two examples of the photos that will be on display at the Camera club exhibition

invite us to the highlight of the racing year. It was an exciting day with non-stop photographic opportunities.

Club members also visited the Haddenham heavy horse and steam show – another good day for pictures of the horses, engines, and roundabouts.

October's events include the first Monday club night and photography in Cambridge. For details, see the LN diary, contact Roger Lapwood (891104) or Tracey Wilson (891988), or you can visit www.lintoncameracub.org.uk

Maureen Williams



Playgroup moves into its new Portacabin home



Learning and having fun

THE Portacabin has landed! On Monday 10th September, staff at Linton Granta Playgroup opened the doors of their temporary home to the children.

Over the summer, 'Bob The Builder' had demolished the old playgroup building and refurbished the Portacabin to make a new facility for the academic year.

Many of the children are new starters but for those who are returning for their official pre-school year, there were notable changes, not least the stack of crates brimming with new toys.

Even parents dropping their children off for the first time wanted a guided tour and it was likened to both a 'Tardis' and a five-star hotel.

A permanent home is to be built over the next year. In the meantime, our toddler groups will continue to run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in term-time (from 10-11.30 am.) All tinies, tots and toddlers are welcome with their carers and a friendly welcome is guaranteed. For more information, please contact our chair Kate Kell on 894970 or visit our website www.lintongrantaplaygroup.co.uk

The Granta playgroup annual meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday 2nd October in the Portacabin, and our open morning is from 10am-12noon on Thursday 18th October.



Settling down

Pictures by Kate Kell

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Chef's corner
with Joel

This will be your dream dessert ...

I USED to go to a restaurant called the Criterion in the heart of the West End at Piccadilly Circus. I would order lemon tart. It's one of my great favourites – in my opinion, the only way to finish a great meal.

It's a real chef's pudding. Any chef worthy of his or her name will have a lemon tart on the menu. Christine will have to take the credit for this recipe as she is my pastry chef.

This dessert should be served on its own with no distractions; if you need an accompaniment, please make it a sharp fruit such as raspberry. Never insult it with cream.

Burned lemon tart (serves 8/10)

The pastry (you will need a 20cm flan ring)

- 500g sieved plain flour
- 200g sieved icing sugar
- 250g diced butter
- Two egg yolks
- Grated zest of one lemon
- Splash of water

MIX the flour and sugar, then gently rub in the diced butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolks and zest. Make it into a dough-like consistency (add water if need be). Leave in the fridge for about one hour.

Roll out the pastry to about 1/2 cm and large enough to fill your flan ring.

Push the pastry well into the ring and flute, but do not trim the top edges.

Line the ring with greaseproof paper and add some baking beans or rice kernels.

This will need to be baked blind for about 10 minutes in an oven set at 180C (Gas mark 4). This is when you would trim the edges of the pastry.

The filling

- Eight eggs
- Three large lemons (200 ml juice required)
- 350g caster sugar
- 1 tbsp double cream

BREAK the eggs and mix with the sugar, then whisk until smooth. Finely grate the lemons into the mix. Add the juice and the cream, keeping it smooth. Pour the mixture into the pastry case and cook for about 20-25 minutes at about 200C (Gas mark 6).

The tart should be removed while it is still slightly soft in the centre. Allow to stand and cool. Dust with some icing sugar and caramelise with a blowtorch when serving. Always serve it at room temperature.

I promise this will be one of the best desserts you will have created.

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Wind farm: right idea, wrong place

AT the village hall last month, the Stop Linton Wind Farm group held a well-attended public meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed wind farm. This group consists of concerned citizens, basically pro-green, who are worried about the future of Linton and surrounding areas, and their inhabitants.

Because of low wind speed inland, compared with the 80% of potential wind offshore, the site of the projected eight industrial wind turbines, up to 130 metres high (twice the height of nearby pylons) with blades spanning 90 metres in diameter, is considered by the group to be inappropriate.

The developers claim that the turbines could create carbon-free energy without adverse impact, but Mike Barnard, who helped to stop the proposed wind farm at Boxworth, set out to negate this statement. He said that DTI figures show that this region has the lowest wind speed in the country, therefore the structures must be tall, but are still relatively inefficient. He claims that wind energy is expensive compared with other forms of power, but the developers are attracted by the subsidies offered, paid for by electricity users.

If built, there will be an impact on the landscape which changes the character of the site and could set a precedent for further development. Wildlife, the zoo, TV and phone signals, house prices and drivers of nearby vehicles could all be adversely affected, large quantities of under-surface concrete could contribute to flooding problems, but the biggest impact may be noise.

Although the noise level may be low directly underneath a turbine, from further away there can be a much greater effect. Sue Harrison, an A&E consultant, spoke of some research which showed the adverse effects of low frequency sound causing sleep deprivation, headaches, thickening of the blood vessels and other body changes.



Scene from the future? A simulation of how Linton would look with the wind turbines

Picture submitted by Sue Heathcote

Jane Davis, who lived 930 metres from 100-metre high turbines erected at Deeping St James in Lincolnshire, played a recording of the noise generated. Her family had an extreme experience of noise and vibration causing illness and sleep deprivation which resulted in their having to leave their farm for good. Current figures show that 20% of wind farms have a noise issue.

In conclusion, the group believes that harnessing wind energy is the right idea, but that this site is not a suitable place for its implementation.

Anyone wishing to support the Stop Linton Wind Farm should go to www.stoplwf.org.uk or e-mail enquiry@stoplwf.org.uk.

If you wish to support the wind farm scheme, please contact Enertrag, 01379 642564, or go to www.enertraguk.com.

LNT

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY

by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

A life vying for space ... and a meal

BRIGHT beads of crimson berries spangled over the river. All that was green as the sun sank low turned fire-red. The old sawn and fallen tree sprouted a single stem, topped with shining leaves. Was this its final breath, its wave goodbye before, the remaining trunk, it was thinned by mining woodlice carving ever deeper tunnels in the trunk to dust?

It's a funny place to find ourselves, spinning about space on a giant ball. Still, there's lots to do and see; just tickle the nerves of curiosity and every microcosm becomes a magical fairground of wonders. The diversity of substance, chemical reaction and life is awesome.

Take a good magnifying glass and lamp. Now, armed like Sherlock Holmes, step outside into the garden and prepare to be amazed at this rarely seen world.

Your compost heap, shrubs and borders provide wonderful micro-habitats, but on rotting fence posts and underneath stones and flower pots, you may find the strangest of mini-beasts.

Magnified, the false scorpions, millipedes and centipedes provide a miniature prehistoric-like drama. These great predators share our almost invisible world. There's no ownership, no leases or letting, but there is occupancy, and woe betide the unwelcome guest. Of course, most creatures are well-trunked, it was thinned by come – as meals! And there you have it, right down the food chain, all life is vying for space and a meal. These woodlice, or *armadillidium*, are wisely called 'Slaters' in Scotland, probably due to their slate colour, and there are a couple of remarkable points about these roly-polys.

They are born with six pairs of legs but within a year, they have seven. As well as absorbing moisture through their exoskeleton by use of uropods and capillary action, they take water via their anuses. Rather than spending a penny as usual by changing ammonia into urea or uric acid, they simply exude their nitrogenous waste as ammonia gas. Was it a well known pop-theropod who sang *Life's a gas*?



A Suffolk narrative in song and story

Ruby and her horses

THIS is a true life narrative about Ruby's love of and involvement with horses that continued throughout her life. It is set against the hard life in the agricultural depression of the 1920s and 30s at Red House Farm in Kersey. It was a time about which she said: "If you hadn't got anything, you were lucky because you hadn't got the worry of it; for, sure as eggs are eggs, you'd lose it."



Ruby on one of her horses

The evening will have some toe-tapping button accordion music and a show of digitally enhanced photographs mostly taken by Ruby on her box Brownie. Then Neil will tell spellbinding tales of years gone by, each followed by an unaccompanied song from Andrew in his nutbrown east Suffolk voice.

This is your chance to experience a unique evening's entertainment by today's standards, but one that would have

been commonplace in Hildersham's recreation hut when it was first built in 1920, when the buildings would ring with the sound of music, stories, singing and laughter, as the country folk tried to put aside their woes and hard life for an hour or two.

Hildersham village hall has been a loyal and trusted servant of the village for 87 years, but sadly needs to be replaced with a new one that will serve the village for just as long.

We do hope that that you will come and have a great time at 7 for 7.30pm on Friday 12th October at Hildersham village hall and support a very worthy cause as well. Tickets cost j£10 each and there will be wine and nibbles. For further information, please contact:

Andrew Westwood-Bate
892430 or email
info@hildersham.org.uk

52 cars washed, £341 raised



Members of Linton fire service wash cars for charity

Picture by Roger Lapwood

ON a fine Saturday in September, the crew at Linton fire station opened their doors and invited members of the public to get their cars washed.

The car washing started at 10am and the last car was washed at 4.10pm. Throughout the day, the crew washed a total of 52 cars, ranging from small hatchbacks to big 4x4s. For all their hard work, the fire fighters raised an astonishing £341.

While cars were being washed, the drivers could go into the station and get a cup of

tea and hot food, which was prepared by Mags Hill and was most appreciated by all.

Proceeds are being sent to the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, which helps sick and injured fire fighters and their families. I would like to thank the Linton Co-op for providing tea and coffee and C. Hollands & Son for the bacon and sausages.

Last and by no means least, thank you to Annie, Lee, James, and Charlie for all their efforts.

M Collins

Look out for Linton 'slums'

AROUND one billion people – that's about one sixth of the world's population – live in slums. Life in townships, favelas (a favela is the Brazilian equivalent of a shanty town which is generally found on the edge of a city) and temporary settlements across the world is hard. Running water, electricity, employment, schools and other basic services are rare, the cramped conditions mean that disease is often rife, and the 'temporary' nature of the accommodation means that the threat of bulldozers tearing down slum settlements is always present. This is the reality of life for one in six of the world's population.

The young people of Linton Churches Together Youth Project have been challenged to spend a few days the way a billion spend a lifetime. They will undertake a simulated experience of life in a slum in order to increase awareness of the issue, and raise money towards work in poor communities. The simulation will take place in Linton during the weekend of 26th-28th October. Look out for publicity around the village about where this will be happening, and please support this initiative by sponsoring our young people and visiting the slum to gain a better understanding about the grim reality of life for many of the poorest people on the planet.

Sharon Whittle 893976, Julia Burdett 893307
Youth Workers, Linton Churches Together Youth Project



The Derbyshire Post

THE penultimate Wednesday of August is always a strange day for headteachers. You arrive at school bright and early, feeling not unlike a 16-year-old; nerves are clenching your stomach at the prospect of downloading this year's GCSE results. It is a feeling that you had hoped to leave behind after your own exam days, but let me assure you that teachers go through the same emotions once more every year at this time.

Once the results are in and analysed, a Press statement released and the next day prepared for, it is the end of a full working day. During this time, you will have been asked on at least five occasions if you are enjoying your holiday. You are very evidently at work, but the question is always asked without irony and I inevitably keep the myth of the long vacation in place, by saying "Yes, it's lovely to get a rest", whether I've managed to get away or not.

The following day is one of the best of the year. Students come in around 10am to collect their results and the jubilation that so often results is just delightful to watch. I recommend exams day to anyone as a spectator sport. It is heightened drama; tense families trying not to interfere, tense students trying to appear nonchalant, tense teachers trying not to look as if they already know the outcomes, which by this stage in the morning they do and then the cathartic release. Whooping, tears of joy, slightly hysterical phone calls and hugs show an energy that I would love to be able to bottle. And that is just the teachers. This year was particularly magical because the results were so very good and everyone felt like a winner.

I say the results were very good, brilliant even, but I am afraid you will have to trust me on that. It is very difficult for anyone nowadays to know what really good is. Every newspaper reports the matter differently in its tables. According to our local papers, LVC got the best results in Cambridgeshire. This is using the 5 A* to C measure. It is also the measure used by The Independent, which would place us in the top 200 schools in the country. That is what I mean by brilliant. The Guardian also places us in the top 200, but uses a calculation based on a variety of other factors. The Times is only interested in the number of A* and A grades schools get and we make the top 500 in this category, losing out to other schools on this measure who actually did not do as well as us in terms of 5 A* to C.

The other confusing factor here is the way that 'state school' is defined in each paper. The vast majority of state schools at the top of the tables are selective schools and grammars. It just isn't fair to compare a non-selective, comprehensive school like Linton with a grammar school that can deselect students incapable of C grades in the first place. That is a pure logic, however, not presented by the tables and to my mind, it makes a complete nonsense of them.

But anyway, on the only measure that I am interested in, your local comprehensive came out as best in the county for, I believe, the first time ever: 82% 5 A* to C means that most of our students achieved better than they or we thought they could. That is brilliant, believe it or not.

Caroline Derbyshire

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/1579/07/A CWS Retail Financial Services, Co-op Food Store, 104-106 High Street, Linton. Signs
- S/1592/07/LB Mr & Mrs C & R Wellings, Former Maltings building and outbuilding R/O 94 & 96 High Street, Linton. Alterations to former maltings and conversion to two 2-bedroom dwellings. Alterations to outbuilding to provide 3 additional parking bays.
- S/1593/07/F R Wellings, Maltings Building 94-96 High Street, Linton. Conversion of building to 2 residential units and conversion of outhouse to garages.
- S/1605/07/F Mr Abrams, 11 Rivey Way, Linton. Extensions.
- S/1636/07/F Mr & Mrs D West, 20 Finchams Close, Linton. Extensions.

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The Way We Were by Garth Collard

The Green Hill: dodgy customers, beer at a penny a pint and VE Day celebrations

AT the top of the High Street, facing you on the opposite side of the A1307 is a cream coloured building which until 1997 was the Green Hill public house. A massive fire in 1709 destroyed 19 houses in this immediate area so we know that the present building dates from the early part of the 18th century. The first publican was Jonathan Baker who purchased the newly built house for a mere £20. His will, made in 1764, provides the first written evidence of the actual use of the Green Hill public house name.

The main waggon and coach road from Cambridge to Saffron Walden, Haverhill and Colchester passed by the pub and it soon became an extremely profitable business site. The Gibson family of Saffron Walden bought it in 1806 and paid £500, which was an enormous sum of money for that time.

The pub continued to prosper but by the mid 19th century seems to have attracted a more dubious clientele. In October 1847, a notorious individual, posing as a deaf and dumb fortune teller, was arrested by local police while living at the Green Hill. In March 1852, two couples from the Bristol area stayed there, the men claiming to be rag and bone dealers and the ladies sellers of lace.

In fact, they were passing counterfeit coins in local shops and the police discovered more than 50 'bad' shillings (5p) and half crowns (12p) in their rooms. Further unsavoury incidents in 1857 led to the pub losing its licence and subsequently much of its passing trade. However, a revival in its fortunes occurred when



Mixed history: the Green Hill, sold for £20 after it was built in the early 18th century, is decorated in 1990 for the Queen Mother's 90th birthday

Picture by Garth Collard

the local Grip brewer Henry Prior bought the premises in March 1867.

He produced cheap beer at around 1p a pint and the average male drank 34 gallons of the stuff annually. The Green Hill was close to the new railway opened in 1865 and by 1900 was valued at £2,000, twice the value of any other Linton pub.

Henry Prior made the Green Hill a respectable institution. Annual dinners were held here for the Linton cricket club which had been founded in 1852 and the Oddfellows Friendly Society, founded in 1841.

The clientele consisted of commercial travellers, cyclists and visitors, in contrast to the labouring classes who packed out the other Linton pubs and beer houses.

By 1900, the Green Hill provided good quality food, posting and stabling facilities and could accommodate six overnight guests.

Henry Prior sold the Green Hill to Christmas breweries of Haverhill in 1907, and they in turn sold it to Greene King in 1920. There were 10 pubs in Linton at this time. Locals recall the names of well-known publicans such as Tom Street, Fred Challis and Jack Ramsey.

VE Day in Linton was celebrated here and at the Dog and Duck, the only two pubs in the village able to secure a supply of beer.

Mona Challis, of Saffron Walden, told me how the Smith brothers, of Chilford Hall farm, used their tractor and trailer to fetch the beer from the Panton Street brewery in Cambridge.

The pub was extended in 1981 but changing public tastes and the huge investment required to update the facilities led to the decision by Greene King to close the Green Hill and redevelop the site.

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Parish Council Matters

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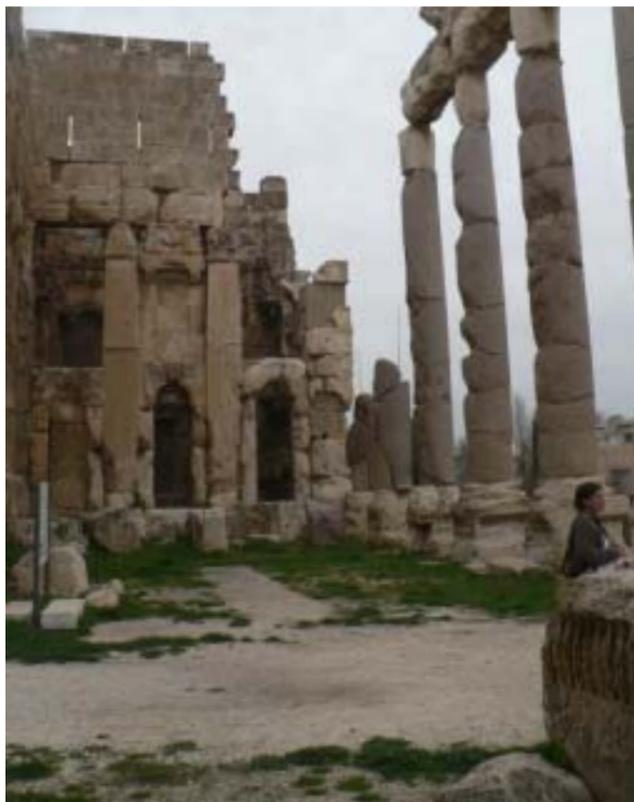
Linton to the Lebanon

Last spring our oldest friends invited us to join them on a trip to visit their daughter and her new baby. Nothing remarkable about that except that their daughter lives in Beirut and the Lebanon was then just recovering from the latest war with their nearest neighbour, Israel.

Although we had to delay our departure because of the war, we bought our tickets and booked our hotel without encountering any difficulties but, as the Foreign Office advised against visiting the Lebanon unless absolutely necessary, we were unable to buy any travel insurance. We convinced ourselves it was worth the risk for a five day visit and a chance to see somewhere new.

We arrived safely in Beirut about 11 o'clock in the evening and after some sticky moments when the Passport Control Officer found the Israeli stamps in my passport, I had forgotten we had passed through Israel when visiting Petra from Egypt a few years earlier, our friends' daughter dropped us off at our hotel.

Over the next few days, having seen and greatly admired the baby, we left the proud grandparents and set off to explore the city and to see some of the fantastic archaeological sites in Byblos and the Bekaa Valley, where we politely refused the offers of Hezbollah T-shirts. Everywhere we went, the Lebanese, having established we were English, were unfailingly courteous and made a great fuss of us, ensuring we were very well looked after and thanking us profusely for visiting their country. We saw fewer tourists there than one sees in Linton on a wet Monday in November. We found ourselves wondering why the Foreign Office was so against anyone visiting the Lebanon.



Temple of Jupiter, Baalbeck

Picture by Tony Krarup

Slowly, it dawned on us why the Foreign Office advised people not to visit the Lebanon. The ignoring of traffic rules was one of the more obvious ways in which the country was running out of control. It was symptomatic of a people who were not bound by the conventions and laws that we accept as normal. It was the tip of the iceberg concealing political struggles between - mainly religious - factions. This was well illustrated by the fact that both the President and the Prime Minister, who represent two different religious sects, had each sent a separate delegation to a conference of African States.

We tend to forget, or fail to recognize, that for our rules and laws to be effective, we have to agree to abide by them. The majority of us do and then wring our hands over the tiny minority who don't.

Tiny minority? Unfortunately not so tiny if we include - besides the authors of the more obvious graffiti and senseless vandalism - those who persist in dropping litter, parking on double yellow lines or on the pavement and irresponsible owners allowing their dogs to foul footpaths.

Not in Linton? Walk past the Co-Op and see how many cars are parked on the double yellow lines. Walk across the Recreation Ground and see how much litter and broken glass there is only yards from a rubbish bin. Too lazy to walk a few yards? Or just too unfit?

Here in Linton there's no need to be unfit. We have a first

class Sports Centre surrounded by all weather pitches and tennis courts which can be used by the whole community (<http://www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk>). Look elsewhere in this paper to see the diary of events listing the keep fit clubs and the badminton, netball, Tae Kwon Do, tennis and carpet bowls groups. We also have the Aztecs football club in the winter and the cricket club in the summer with the bowls club all year round. Just down the road in Haverhill, the Abbeycroft Leisure Centre (<http://www.acleisure.com/havlc.asp>) is open to all with free parking and the chance twice a week to play racquet games or do aerobics for two or three hours followed by a swim all for £3 including coffee and biscuits (if you are over 50). If sport is not your thing, how about tap dancing? If you don't fancy anything organised, use the yellow book of Linton walks to help you explore round the village or failing all else, just try leaving the car at home and walk to the Co-Op or the school. My 90 year old neighbour walks the length of the village to see a sick friend so I'm sure many of us can do the same! I'm hoping my fellow Councillors will lead the way in walking to the Parish Council meetings in future!

We are all being urged to take more exercise and, believe me, you really do feel better for it - see the smiles on the faces of the people leaving the keep fit club at Linton Sports Centre on a Monday night - so brighten up your life and get back your youth!

Let's see if we can't make Linton an even nicer place to live - no more litter, thoughtful parking and a fitter and happier population.

Cllr Tony Krarup



Temple of The Sun, Baalbek

Picture by Tony Krarup

Driving in Beirut is something else, everyone drives fast, lane discipline is non-existent, and many of the private vehicles are big 4x4s so crossing the road is exciting to say the least. A working horn is absolutely obligatory and is used in place of brakes, gears or indicators. Red lights elicit more horn blowing but hardly any less speed and generally stopping is unthinkable. One way streets are also ignored when they can afford a short cut to the driver's destination.

WATER TOWER

Linton Parish Council have submitted an application to English Heritage to request protection and listing for the Water Tower. We would like to thank the Linton Camera Club for all the fantastic photos that they provided, all have been used in the application. We would also like to thank Garth Collard who provided the historical background that has also been submitted. We will keep you informed of progress and hope that English Heritage will agree that it needs protecting for future generations.

Cllr Esther Cornell

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
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 Clerk to the Council - Mrs Sue Parry
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 Office hours : Monday 9am-12noon, & 4-5.45pm,
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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Linton parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 2nd August 2007.

Present: Councillors A Gore (Chair), Ms E Cornell (Vice Chair), Mrs E Bald, M Gee, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White; Mrs S Parry - Clerk.

Mrs K France (Press) and nine members of the public were in attendance.

Public Forum

All had attended to voice their disapproval regarding the new planning application for Flaxfields. Mr S Wells of 26 Symonds Lane and Mrs D Auger of 24 Symonds Lane still considered the new application to be overdevelopment of the site. Mr A Baker of 55 Back Road said that it did not comply with Planning Policy Guidance 3 (PPG3) and that public open space was still very limited. Mr N Carver of Morley House, Symonds Lane, a listed building, commented that the revised plans were so similar to those previously submitted they were an insult to SCDC planners. He also said the hedge line on the landscape plan was inaccurate and that this ancient hedge was a crucial buffer zone to protect wildlife and privacy; it was shown on his deeds. Concern was also expressed by residents regarding the run off of water.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cox, Hammett, Hickford and Krarup

Matters arising from Meeting 19th July

The Clerk confirmed that the grass maintenance contract will expire on 31st March 2008. It was agreed to set up a working party to formulate a new specification. Councillors were asked to contact the clerk before the next meeting (6th September) if they wished to join the working party.

Cllr Hickford had submitted a written report which had been circulated stating that he had cleared glass from the recreation ground. Councillors thanked him for this work in his absence.

Matters arising from Planning Meeting 19th July

S/1327/07/F Very Sheltered Housing Scheme including 40 Flats with Community Facilities, Car Parking and Landscaping, following the Demolition of Existing Dwellings at 17-33 Odd and 18-34 Even Flaxfields, Linton. Following a discussion Cllr Gee proposed that the meeting adopt the recommendations for refusal of the application formulated by the Planning Committee and the needs analysis prepared by the Chairman. It was agreed that some further explanatory matters would be formulated after the meeting and circulated to members of the Planning Committee before submission to the District Council.

Reports from Co-ordinators

ii) Recreation Ground - Cllr Krarup had submitted a written report which was circulated. Cllr Gore reported that he had met with members of the bowling club regarding cracks in the perimeter wall to the green. It was agreed that a meeting with the Council's insurers and the bowling green contractors should be arranged to look at this problem. Cllr Gore also suggested that the drain under the recreation ground was probably the responsibility of the highways department or Anglian Water and that they should be involved in any plans to deal with the problem with the drain.

iii) Cemetery - Cllr Cornell agreed to trim the willow tree in the ashes plot.

iv) Rights of Way - Correspondence item 33 and 34 - National Grid/Essex CC response to temporary closure of rights of way due to overhead power line refurbishment, were noted. Correspondence items 42 and 43 - re various footpaths. It was agreed that Cllr Rossiter would draft a letter of response. Cllr Rossiter reported that she had met with Herald Contractors to discuss various quotations.

viii) Churchyard - Consideration of quotations for repairs to Churchyard wall. Correspondence items 36 and 37 - A Cox and Sons Ltd and Landmark Restoration, containing quotations for

repairs to the flint wall in the churchyard. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the quotation from Landmark Restoration be accepted. It was further agreed that Cllrs Cox and Gore should meet with the successful contractor to discuss remedial work to the section recently repaired. Cllr White was concerned that the new railings had not been painted. It was agreed that he should liaise with Cllr Cox regarding this issue.

x) A1307 - Cllr Cornell had submitted a written report which was circulated. The occurrence of two accidents on the previous day, one of which was a fatal accident, had resulted in the closure of the A1307 and the diversion of HGVs through the village, causing traffic problems. It was agreed to write to the County Council asking them to re route HGVs via the A11/A14 instead and seek support for this request from local parishes.

Closure of Co-op for refurbishment; provision for cardboard and trolley storage - this had been raised by e-mail by Cllr Hickford. It was agreed to write to the Co-op requesting provision for an internal cardboard store during the refit.

Correspondence List

Item 27 - CCC re Cambs Design Guide for streets and the public realm. It was agreed to download or obtain a hard copy to consider its relevance with a view to it being discussed by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 6th September.

Item 50 - Cambs Constabulary - info re Linton Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 18th September. This was noted and the Chair requested that as many Councillors as possible attend.

Item 53 - South Cambridgeshire District Council, Annual Report Consultation. It was agreed that Linton parish council did not wish such a report to be prepared and that the District Council be advised of its view.

Reports from Councillors (for Information only)

Cllr Cornell drew attention to a letter from Enertrag regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required for the proposed wind farm. Enertrag had requested that the Parish Council put forward any photomontage viewpoints they considered should be included as part of the EIA. The closing date for submissions was 14th September 2007. It was agreed that members should advise the clerk prior to the planning meeting on 6th September of any viewpoints they thought Enertrag should include. The Chair asked that copies of any documents prepared in connection with the proposed wind farm be passed to the Clerk.

Copies of reports and documents referred to in these minutes can be inspected at the Council's office including full details of payments agreed.

Our response to SCDC regarding Flaxfields

The site plan for this application is inaccurate, it does not show the Papworth bungalow that was built in 2004 and the landscaping plan shows photos that are over 4 years old. We feel that this may give an inaccurate impression of the surroundings especially when the large parking area shown on the periphery of the site is no longer in existence.

We regret that there has been no response to the hastily convened and inadequate consultation with Hereward Housing. The Design Statement claims that the design team were keen to involve the local community. This was not the case as can be seen from the dismissive tone of their email to the parish council. The statement claims to have made changes following a meeting with two representatives from the parish council. All the changes mentioned were in place at that meeting thus reducing it to the status of a preview and not a consultation.

The advantage of the additional land offered by the District Council, from the demolition of three further bungalows, appears to have resulted in only a minimal reduction in the height and bulk of the building which remains substantially the same as that refused in the earlier application. The paper from the planning consultants (RPS) contains misleading comments, it refers to the site as 'urban' which it patently is not, being one street away from fields contained in an area of best landscape value; and that it is 'paradoxically characterised by low density,

spacious, traditional two storey semi-detached housing', and hence far from urban. The RPS paper claims that in the revised scheme "the overall scale of the care home has also been significantly reduced". In fact the footprint of the home is bigger than previously, however that is to be expected with additional land. Nevertheless, according to the design statement the roof area of both plans are identical 1932m².

The report claims that the reduction in units from 42 to 40 has "allowed for the bulk of the overall building to be significantly reduced, particularly in scale and height". Approximately one fifth of the roof area has been reduced by one metre; the remaining roofs are identical in height as are most of the elevations. The report states that "the scaling down of the care home has allowed for the footprint of the building to be set further away from the site boundaries". The rearrangement has indeed allowed for a welcome perimeter path around the site but this has been achieved by moving the whole and enlarged footprint to the west and not by scaling down.

The design team cannot claim to have reduced the height or the bulk of the building but merely to have rearranged it on the site, and hence all the Parish Council's and District Council's concerns regarding the overbearing scale of the building remain as before.

To re-submit a plan with so few changes to one which was so emphatically rejected by the District Council on its first application seems, to the parish council, to be wasteful in terms of time and resources and shows a contemptuous disregard for the District Councils opinions.

This site was originally identified as a location for a 30 unit extra care scheme. Linton parish council still has serious concerns about the need for a 40 unit scheme. We do not think that it is acceptable that the number of rented or low-cost units will be confirmed after planning permission is granted, these need to be determined and guaranteed before the permission is considered.

The planning committee still feels that the application remains in contravention of the planning policies contained in the original objection

1) Linton parish council does not feel that the design is in keeping with surrounding properties and landscape in terms of scale, form, layout and materials. Regardless of the small reduction in height, the building still has 3 storeys and the introduction of a building such as proposed in a bungalow area is not in keeping in terms of scale and form. The new design is exactly the same height when viewed from Symonds Lane albeit a few feet further away.

2) Boundary treatment is intended to provide privacy and a high standard of visual amenity. We believe it is impossible to provide privacy from balconies on a building of such a height. We do not believe that a windowless brick and timber facade is a visual amenity and will have a detrimental impact on the street scene in Symonds Lane.

3) We are concerned that the greatly increased traffic movements will impact on the surrounding area contravening the need for safe and convenient access and wish it to be noted that adjacent, local footpaths off the site are not suitable for elderly pedestrians or mobility vehicles and considerable work would be required to make them suitable for use. (see attached photo)

The Parish Council appreciates the plan shows living room windows angled to avoid overlooking but the kitchen and many of the bedroom windows will overlook neighbouring properties, and we note that some bedrooms appear to have no windows at all viz units 02 and 09.

There are flats located beside the plant room and the laundry which we believe will be noisy unless specifically sound-proofed. The flats at the south end of the lower ground floor will look out onto a retaining wall and this area would seem to be a better location for plant and a laundry room.

There is a discrepancy in the Site Layout Plan and the Landscape Plan over the two fine trees north of bungalows 18 and 22. The former indicates their retention whilst the latter proposed their removal. The parish council would wish to see these trees protected and retained, as the tree officer requested in the previous application.

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