

Spring show
starts at
Nantais Gallery
23rd February

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Sale of Symonds House

SYMONDS House Nursing Home for the elderly is in the process of being sold. Residents and their relatives are being invited to meet the new owners, Raveedha Care Ltd, who already run Eastcotts Nursing Home in Kedington.

The sale is expected to completed at the end of March. The home is licensed by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate, an independent body funded by the government, which makes regular inspections of both the care of residents and the facilities.

It was almost 20 years ago that Cambridgeshire county council, who then owned Symonds House, decided to sell it to Symonds House Nursing Home Ltd, specially set up to buy the facility. Symonds House had been built as a Victorian workhouse and the council had acquired the site around 1929-1930 when the workhouse became the Linton Public Assistance Institution. It became Linton Hospital in 1944, known locally as the Hospital, and the county council turned it into a residential home for elderly people in the 1960s.

The current director, Dr Mukesh Rajani, said he and his four co-directors invested heavily to modernise the listed buildings when they first took over the home. They upgraded the facilities to residential home standards, converting the dormitories with eight or 10 beds to single rooms with en suite facilities. The work had to be done piecemeal over a period of time while caring for the 74 residents. At that time most of the staff lived in Linton and could walk to work, but now Dr Rajani says almost a third of around 70 staff (including part-timers) commute from Haverhill.

Ninety-four-year-old Reg Norden, a resident of Symonds House for 30 years, remembers sleeping in the dormitories, or 'bedrooms' as he calls them, when it was owned by the county council.

The home also has a day centre for elderly people organised by the county council, now transferred to the Primary Care Trust.

Garth Collard* says the brick and flint building was based on a standard workhouse design – a large rectangle divided into four squares with the Master's house at the centre. From his tower he could keep an eye on each quarter housing the different divisions:



A more unusual view of Symonds House and, inset, a picture of one of the long-time residents Reg Norden

Picture by Roger Lapwood

the women and very young children, the men, the boys and the girls.

Part of the workhouse was known locally as The Spike where unmarried girls who became pregnant were sent to have their babies. Eighty-nine-year-old Pinna Dockerill, who goes to the day centre three times a week said her mother, who worked at the Spike cleaning and scrubbing the floors used to say to her: "You get yourself into trouble, my girl, and into The Spike you'll go." How times have changed. Pinna is not 'in trouble' but she is often at The Spike, eating lunch in the room that was formerly the nursery.

A large wing housing the old laundry at the rear of Symonds House is derelict. Dr Rajani says they had plans to turn the buildings into warden-controlled accommodation in the 1990s but the work was never started. Perhaps the new owners will consider expanding the care home to take more residents, pursue plans for warden-controlled accommodation or even develop the buildings for sale as private housing.

(*Garth has extensive information on Symonds House and other places in the village. Please tell him what you would like to see in the Linton News – 12 Crossways, 892395.)

Kate France

What a change ... Maggie braves the clippers for £800

WE told you in the December edition that Maggie Orriss was intending to have her head shaved to raise money for a school expedition. Well, the deed was done as planned by Nina Dye, the first time she had ever cut off a young girl's hair in these circumstances.

Confident Maggie, surrounded by supportive relatives and friends said "This must be one of the stupidest things I have ever done," but she was smiling as she faced the scissors.

Her thick long hair was first put in a ponytail and she closed her eyes as this was gradually chopped off. Then came the clippers for the first shave across the top, Nina as nervous as Maggie. To the accompani-



Maggie gets a 'well-done' kiss from a family member

ment of unhelpful jokes from her friends, the shaving continued, the whole operation completed in five minutes.

There was a round of applause as Maggie covered her face with her hands, but she

surprised everyone by laughing, not crying, later donning an impressive black and white hat.

For the trip to Africa in July 2008, Maggie must raise £2,650. On the day of the "trim", she had already reached £600, and the event netted another £800. Hopefully the total is now even higher, and if you would like to make a contribution please phone Maggie on 891021.

LNT



Before: Maggie with long hair

Pictures by Ron Pitkin

Rising cello star is back in Linton



AT 7.30pm on Saturday 10th February in Linton village college, there will be a concert featuring John Myerscough on cello and Alasdair Beatson on piano.

John Myerscough, the winner of the Royal Overseas League gold medal and first prize in 2006, was heard last season in Linton in his role as cellist of the acclaimed Doric String Quartet.

He returns with pianist Alasdair Beatson in a recital which includes the *Brahms' Cello Sonata in E Minor Op 38* and *Mendelssohn's Sonata Op 58*.

Tickets are available at the door or can be obtained in advance or in person from Sweet Talk News at 77 Linton High Street (893480).

For a brochure for the whole season or for tickets, please contact: 894460 or 897983.

Hayley Donnan



John Myerscough in action

Picture by Richard Smith

Do you like to sing? Come and join our choir

THE choir of St Mary's Linton is a mixed group of adults and children and is seeking new members to help nourish the choral tradition at the parish church.

If you used to sing when you were younger or if you are new to singing (or new to the village) and want to have a go, there are opportunities coming up in the next few months when you can give the choir a try without an extensive time commitment. We would be glad to see you!

All voices are very welcome but we would particularly welcome interest from basses and tenors. You don't need to be able to read music but it helps.

If you are nervous or a bit rusty and would like some advice on whether you would benefit from singing with us please contact the choir's director, David Parry-Smith, on 894175 or dom@parry-smith.co.uk. Help is at hand and a structured singing course ("Voice for Life") is available.

The next major choral event is Stainer's *Crucifixion* to be performed at St Mary's at 6pm on Sunday 25th March. Rehearsals begin on Friday 2nd March at 8pm for one hour and continue on Fridays at the same time until the performance. Please contact David if you would like to take part. You would be most welcome to join us.

Jeanne Boutal-Chapman

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	Sports Centre
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Slimming World, 7.30pm Mondays	Cathodeon Centre
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	Village Hall
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Mondays and Wednesdays	SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays	SC
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
South Cambs housing surgery, 10-11.30am Tuesdays	VH (FF)
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
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays	(call 892076)
Tots-in-Tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays in term time	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Little Acorns, 10-11.30am Thursdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Children's trampolining, 3.30-4.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm Thursdays	SC
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/dance aerobics/TTB/spinning, 7-8pm various days,	(call 890248) SC

FEBRUARY

3 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
3 Horseheath races, 12 noon	By-pass racecourse
6 WI, 7.30pm	VH
7 Reading group, 8pm	Dog and Duck
10 Liberal Democrats' jumble sale, 2pm	VH
10 Linton Music Society concert, 7.30pm	LVC
11 Camera club, 10am	Coles Lane Car Park
13 VIP Group, 2pm	Chalklands
13 Gardening club, 7.30pm	VH
14 ACEs' Fairtrade tea, 2pm	VH
14 St Valentine's dinner and dance, 7.30pm	Chilford Hall
15 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
18 Cambridge glass fair, 10.30am-4pm	Chilford Hall
18 Friends of St Mary's organ recital, 3pm	St Mary's
19 Hildersham WI, 7.30pm	Hildersham village hall
20 Historical society, 7.30pm	VH
21 CAMTAD, hearing help, 9am-12noon	Health Centre
23 Spring show begins	Darryl Nantais Gallery
24 Horseheath races, 1pm	By-pass racecourse
24 Acoustic music, 9pm	King's Head, Hadstock

MARCH

1 Luncheon club, 12.15pm	Crown Inn
1 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
2 Women's World Day of Prayer, 10.30am	St Mary's
3 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
3 Dads and tots, 9.30am	VH
6 WI, 7.30pm	VH

Refuse collection: 5th, 19th February, 5th March
Recycling collection: 12th and 26th February

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.

Too good for jumble ...

PERFECT for making tasty meals, a family-size slow cooker in excellent condition is on offer for £10 or more; also a pale grey computer work station, worktop and two shelves (60cm wide, 51cm deep and 79cm high), with slide-out keyboard shelf and extension.

The cat basket, the Black & Decker sheet sander, two heart-shaped lockets and silver padlock and the Epson printer with external CD rewriter are still available. Think hard if you are interested in the bike for a 9-12 year old (needing small adjustment). It will surely be snapped up come the spring.

The 16in Philips TV raised £10 for St Mary's church bellringers, sale of another TV raised £15 for Tigist Semenew, the Ethiopian girl sponsored by the Guides through World Vision, and the two BT phones made £25 for ACE – Action in the Community for the Elderly. All profits go to a village or national charity chosen by the donor of the item. All enquiries please to:

Kate France 891602

or email katefrance@linton48.freemove.co.uk

Prepare to celebrate 20 years

LOOK out for information in our March edition regarding deadlines for the April issue. These will be earlier than normal as the April edition will be in full colour to celebrate our 20th year.

LNT

Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd.

PLODDING ALONG ...

A round-up of police matters in Linton

I AM pleased to announce that PC Addison-Atkinson is back as the Linton Neighbourhood Police Officer. He will be resuming the same three-week shift pattern part-time.

You also have a new Police Community Support Officer to assist PC Addison-Atkinson and me – PCSO7205 Dan Piper who will be covering the Linton and Fulbourn beats.

Credit card theft and ‘skimming’

In addition to your card being stolen it can be skimmed! Skimming happens when the magnetic strip on a credit or debit card is copied using a small card reader. This can happen in shops, restaurants or anywhere you pay with your card.

Your card is then “cloned”, using the details to make a counterfeit copy.

Here are some tips to avoid becoming a skimming victim:

**** Never let the card out of your sight when making a transaction**

**** Don’t carelessly throw away receipts (they carry information that a fraudster could use to buy things over the phone or Internet)**

**** Check your receipts against your statements carefully, and if you do not recognise a purchase, contact your card issuer immediately**

**** Sign new cards as soon as they arrive (some companies ask you to confirm receipt before they activate the card)**

**** Make sure you cut up your old cards as soon as the new ones become valid**

**** Don’t keep your cheque-book with your cards**

**** Report lost or stolen cards to your issuer immediately: a 24-hour emergency number is usually shown on your statement.**

Drive safely in adverse weather

If roads could be flooded, always check local radio and television before you leave the house to see if your route has been affected. Also leave early to allow time for an alternative route if you have to take one.

Make sure you have enough fuel in your car and do not try to drive through a flooded area. Instead, turn around and go another way.

Do not drive through flowing water and do not drive fast through low water as it could cause the vehicle to aquaplane when it loses contact with the road surface.

Finally, if you do have to drive through water, always check your brakes afterwards. Dawn Bamford PCSO 7051, Dawn.Bamford@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Your free guide to community transport

WHAT is a dial-a-ride service or a voluntary car scheme and am I eligible? If you’ve ever thought this, then help is at hand. Cambridgeshire County Council has just published their indispensable Community Transport guide for 2006/2007 – and it’s completely free.

The guide explains exactly what community transport is, who can use it and how it works alongside conventional public transport. It also lists by district details of all community transport schemes operating throughout Cambridgeshire.

Laid out in an accessible reference format, the guide is easy to read and understand. Three sections provide clear and concise information.

For a free copy, contact Gavin Moulton on 01223 717755, or write to him at Cambridgeshire county council, ET1015, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP, or email him at gavin.moulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Gavin Moulton

Are you a victim of anti-social behaviour?

IF something causes you, your family or neighbourhood harassment, alarm or distress, then it’s anti-social behaviour (ASB).

ASB can have a profound effect on individuals and communities. It can include verbal abuse, intimidating, aggressive and threatening behaviour, vandalism and noise nuisance.

It also includes environmental issues such as fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and dog fouling. This isn’t an exhaustive list as there are many other types of behaviour that are classed as anti-social.

If you are suffering from ASB, it is important you report the behaviour so the necessary

action can be taken to tackle it.

If incidents of ASB are not reported, then it’s possible the agencies responsible for tackling the behaviour will not be aware of the problems you are experiencing.

Anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Cambridgeshire Police on their non-emergency number 0845 456 456 4 or South Cambs district council on 08450 450 500. In an emergency, always call 999.

To discuss any ASB issues, contact the ASB caseworker for the South Cambs crime and disorder reduction partnership on 08450 450 500.

LNT



Tulips, an oil-on-board still life from the distinguished Cambridge artist Leigh Hunt

Debut coup for gallery

OUR village art gallery, which had to close for refurbishment within weeks of opening because of the 2001 floods continues to go from strength to strength. As well as the permanent displays of ceramics, glassware, prints and paintings, Karl and Nicola have planned some special shows for the coming months.

The spring show opens with a private viewing on 23rd February and continues until 31st March. This will feature Leigh Hunt, a distinguished landscape and still life painter in his debut exhibition at the Darryl Nantais gallery. Mr Hunt, who served in the Royal Navy, has had many showings in his long life and now lives in Cambridge.

That event will be followed from 4th May-2nd June by an exhibition of modern British artists. The work of top names including Sir Peter Blake, Donald Hamilton Fraser, Sir Terry Frost, Sandra Blow and Charlotte Cornish, will be on show. These are national and international artists who have exhibited at the Tate, making this display quite a coup for the gallery. There will also be a summer show from 15th June until the end of July, the theme of which is not quite finalised.

This asset to our village, which can also meet your framing and restoration needs, is there for all to enjoy, without an obligation to buy. Karl and Nicola invite you to look at the website www.nantais-gallery.co.uk, but why not pop in for a look around – you never know what might catch your eye?

LNT

Recycle with SOFA

CAMBRIDGE SOFA is a community re-use charity serving Cambridge and the surrounding rural communities of Cambridgeshire.

There are three main aims:

**** To help households in need by providing them with access to very low cost furniture, electrical appliances and other household goods**

**** To provide local people who have unwanted household items with a positive social and environmental alternative to dumping them**

**** To provide opportunities for volunteering.**

If you would like to donate unwanted furniture and elec-

trical goods, please call Cambridge 576535, or email to nicky@cambridgesofa.org.uk.

The charity is always interested in recruiting additional part-time volunteers – van drivers and assistants for delivery, store, electrical, reception and administrative work.

It is also interested in hearing from anyone who might be prepared to help manage Cambridge SOFA by becoming a trustee.

If you think you would like to be involved, please call Nicky or Steve on 414554.

There is more about the charity on their website www.cambridgesofa.org.uk.

Glass fair

THE ninth Cambridge glass fair, to be held from 10.30am–4pm on 18th February 2007 at Chilford Hall, promises to be the most exciting event so far.

If you are interested in superb early drinking glasses, pressed glass, stunning Lalique, Galle and Loetz, fantastic contemporary cameo and engraved pieces, then be sure to put this event in your diary.

For further information and details of exhibitors, please call Paul Bishop on 07887 762. 872

Publicise your event ... but heed the rules

RECENT changes have been made in the county council’s policy on road signs for community or charity events.

The new policy is set out below with the changes shown in bold.

Staff will use discretion when temporary signs are put up within villages or within a neighbourhood of towns or cities for a community or charity event, provided that they do not cause a hazard, and are well away from junctions and accesses.

Signs should not exceed 0.5 square metres, should not be put up for more than seven days before the event, or remain in place for more than 48 hours afterwards.

The signs should be erected within the village or town/city neighbourhood where the event is taking place. Normally, there should be no more than three signs per event.

Organisers of community or charity events should inform their local highways’

divisional office at least two weeks before erecting any temporary signs.

Where more extensive signing or direction signing is required, communities should seek the assistance of the AA or RAC, following guidelines for commercial events.

If you have any questions on the new policy please contact Mike Oakham, your divisional maintenance engineer at Whittlesford on 0845 045 5212.

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Let's make a record of vandals

Dear Editor
Are there records or statistics of car vandalism kept in Linton? We have had cars vandalised in the street outside our house five times in three years. We live in Symonds Lane and at around 1.30am on 2nd January, my son's car had both wing mirrors, rear wiper and door handle ripped off AGAIN and another visiting car had wing mirrors smashed. The police in Cambridge gave a crime number and as victims of crime, we were offered counselling. I wonder how many CCTV cameras could be bought with a counsellor's salary. I would be interested in keeping records so that, as a village, we have something to approach the authorities with. If it has happened to you please let me know on 890395 or send me an email at mblinton@btinternet.com and we could maybe pool information, appeal for witnesses, offer rewards etc.
Megan Baker by e-mail

Please keep coming

Dear Editor
It was good to see so many visitors from Linton and the surrounding villages at our Christmas services at Linton Free church in Horn Lane. A very warm welcome awaits you at future Sunday services starting at 10.30am. **Jean Silk on behalf of Linton Free Church. Honey Hill House, West Wrating, 290588**

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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.

A very simple and cheap way to cut speeds ... and accidents



Ambulances attend the scene on the A1307 after the serious accident on 16th December

Dear Editor
On Saturday 16th December at about 9am. there was another serious accident on the A1307. Two ambulances, the fire brigade and two police cars attended. When are our elected representatives and the council going to do something positive that actually works

to reduce the number of accidents? It is not rocket science to realise that the majority of accidents are caused by excessive speed. The council has, in its wisdom, accepted there is a problem with speed and has installed illuminated 'slow' signs and painted SLOW on the road. These have made

no difference whatsoever. There is a very simple way to reduce the accidents on the bypass; reduce the speed limit to 50mph and install a speed camera just before the Bartlow Road crossroads. Also, it would help if there were continuous double white lines from the dual carriageway at the junction

with Hadstock Road to the 40mph speed signs just before The Grip. This should prevent injudicious overtaking by impatient drivers. This is a very simple, cheap and effective way to reduce accidents. Perhaps too simple!
David Champion, Bartlow Road 890121

A clearer warning is needed

Dear Editor
I would like to express my concern at the new one-way system at the junction of Coles Lane and Back Road. On more than one occasion, I have experienced an angry

driver who did not understand that they needed to give way. While discussing this with a friend, she also had the same experience. We both agreed that it is just a matter of time before there is an accident at this junction. A clearer warning or indication of the junction coming up needs to be considered, as visitors who are not familiar with the layout may treat this as a normal T junction.
W Bass, Balsham Road

Thanks to a very kind 'postman'

Dear Editor
I had taken the Park & Ride bus to the Grafton Centre in Cambridge and had three letters that I planned to post to my friends. Somehow, between getting off the bus and arriving at the post office I must have dropped them, so I retraced my steps to the bus stop but was unable to find them. Two of the letters had stamps on and the third needed to be weighed and sized and stamped. Imagine my surprise the following morning when I received three phone calls from my friends, thanking me for the letters which had arrived safely. The person who found them had posted them and even put a stamp on the unstamped envelope. Whoever you are, thank you so much ... maybe all is not lost in our "modern world"! *Jean Pitkin, Symonds Lane*

It's a great library, shame about the slope ...

Dear Editor
Linton is lucky to have a remarkable library, but there is one glaring shortcoming – ease of access for disabled or elderly people. The immediate approach to the entrance is rather intimidating – a steep angled slope with no support rails of any kind. Even in good weather, the slope is difficult for disabled people to negotiate by themselves. With snow or ice on the ground, it quickly becomes a treacherous 'no-go' area. Would it not be possible to install some form of railing to help disabled people make their way safely up the slope – and back down again – when they want to use the library?
Alan Judge, Joiners Court

When will we be told?

Dear Editor
I notice in the Parish Matters that district councillor Batchelor reminded the council that the consultation period for the gypsy and development plan ended on 24th November, and that Linton has been earmarked as a possible site. Has the parish council made any objections and when will they inform residents of this matter?
P Johansen by e-mail

Venison pie?

Dear Editor
Please may I ask for advice from your readers?
1. How do you trap or catch a muntjak?
2. Does anybody have a good recipe for venison pie?
All help gratefully appreciated.
M R K Holden, High Street, 891418

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A year in the life of the Abbey Gardens

 LAST month in a packed village hall, Gardening club members and visitors welcomed Iwan Hughes who showed us around the gardens of Anglesey Abbey.

In a talk originally planned to be solely about the winter garden by head gardener Richard Todd, his replacement Iwan, gave us a comprehensive view of the gardens all year, with some history of the abbey thrown in.

His relaxed and humorous manner charmed us with the life cycle of the gardens, starting in the winter when 4,000 blue and white hyacinth bulbs are planted for the delight of spring visitors.

Their design in formal beds, always in the same two colours, follows the original concept of Lord Fairhaven when he started to develop the gardens in 1926.

Work continues on the scented and colourful winter walk, opened about nine years ago and designed to have the wow factor, which now has tall Tibetan cherries with the red bark everyone wants to stroke, white Himalayan birch and the wall of fire created by

the cornus. The spectacular birch trees cheer up the gardeners in cold weather even when, to some strange looks from visitors, they have the task of washing them to remove the green algae which would spoil the starkness of their bare outlines. Underneath the trees and shrubs are planted the small blue and mauve irises so beloved of the rabbits.


All this beauty is followed by swaths of snowdrops in the dell, the burgeoning hyacinths and other popular spring bulbs, the wild flowers in the meadow, the herbaceous borders, roses and formal dahlia beds, always in yellow and red, again echoing Lord Fairhaven's initial plans.

So, something of interest all year, and a hint was dropped of secret plans afoot for further delights, which will no doubt tempt us to revisit this lovely garden.

This month we are hoping to have the talk which was cancelled last year due to the speaker's illness; Brian Waygood will tell us about the history of the Chelsea flower show since 1947.

Gloria Fidler 891800

Putting the house to bed

 'PUTTING the House to Bed' was the title of our talk – a good way to start the New Year.

Ann Simpkin, our president, welcomed everyone and wished them a happy new year, thanking all who had contributed to making the Christmas party such a success.

Our speaker was Veronica Bennett, who told us how the National Trust put their properties to bed over the winter period, cleaning them from attic to cellar to preserve them from dust and infestations that would ruin the artefacts.

What a mammoth task; there is a huge manual that informs the cleaners how to undertake the work and what materials to use. Once completed, all the items are covered in tissue paper, film net and covers. My

own feeble attempts at spring cleaning have been made to appear very inadequate! No wonder National Trust properties always look so spick and span.

Veronica made the cleaning and preserving of all these treasures a fascinating subject; if this work is not carried out, they will be lost to future generations. Thanks must go to the wonderful band of workers who undertake this work.

The competition 'Name the Building' was won by Cynthia Norris and Margaret Clark. Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 6th February and is an open meeting entitled Glories of India, a talk by Peter Richards. The competition is An Indian Treasure. All are welcome to join us.

Tricia Lewis 893609

A happy snappy new season



All lit up: the Dog and Duck at Christmas

Picture by Ron Pitkin

THE first meeting of the New Year for the Linton Camera club was an 'at home' session in the village hall. The festive season had given all the members many chances to record Christmas and New Year activities ... or in some cases non-activities!

Members had the opportunity to display their work on CDs, memory cards and 'dongles' and generally to chat over the lack of snow which would have prompted more seasonal pictures.


Progress throughout 2006 has been very encouraging with increased membership including a number of ladies. New members are always welcome whether they are a David Bailey or a beginner. Everyone learns something at the meetings from "what camera should I buy?" to "how can I remove this telegraph pole from my picture?"

This year promises to be an exciting time with interesting 'away days' planned to various locations, reaching a climax with the club's exhibition in October.

The next event will be on 11th February when we plan to visit the Botanic Gardens at Cambridge, meeting at 10am in Coles Lane car park to arrange transport. Car parking is free on Sundays but there will be a charge to go into the garden.

Ron Pitkin

Christmas magic in Hildersham

 WHAT nicer way to spend an evening, a few days away from Christmas, than sitting around an open log fire with a glass of warm mulled wine and nibbles, a Christmas tree in the corner of the room, and the company of one's friends in the home of our hostess Mrs Lynn Hartland of the Hildersham WI.

On this magical evening, our guest speaker was Mr John Whitmore, a member of the Magic Circle who talked with great enthusiasm and knowledge on the history of magic, from the time of Moses to the present day, while showing how the Cup and Ball trick has always been performed through the ages. During an interval, we enjoyed coffee and warm mince pies. To end this truly special evening, we were treated to our own magic show with John using and telling us the history behind some of his collection of antique magic tricks.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 19th February at Hildersham village hall with guest speaker Sue Schneider on Britain's Waterways. You will be made very welcome.

Pamela Parris

The result of that wretched quiz!

WITH the help of the Linton News, more than 100 people racked their brains over the Friends of St Mary's Christmas quiz and the winner, with 157 out of 160 questions right, was Wendy Foster with the help of her family.

The Friends' Linton calendar was also much appreciated by more than 150 people and many were sent abroad to friends and relatives. It was so successful that the Friends are exploring the possibility of an even better one for next year. The calendar and quiz raised more than £500 for Friends' funds.

The Friends have an enormous challenge ahead in con-

tributing substantially to urgent repairs to St Mary's. The next major item looming is repair to stonework and metalwork, and repointing of flintwork on the south clerestory at an estimated cost of £40,000.

Recently, the Friends have been greatly encouraged by gifts amounting to nearly £6,000 from the estate of Kathleen Starling and in memory of Nancy Lavender.

To keep pace with repairs, a mediaeval church like St Mary's needs about £20,000 a year. Thank you Linton News for your interest, encouragement and support.

Alan Clarkson

Views from the ground and air

GARTH Collard continues to guide us around Linton and at the December meeting of the Historical society took us to Cambridge Road (including the railway), Catley Park and Little Linton, finishing at the recreation ground. This fascinating talk showed many of the changes that have taken place over the years.

At the January meeting, members were taken on a tour entitled A Historic Walk through Great Abington. Our speaker was Jennifer Hirsh and she explained that their history group is composed of four people who undertake local history research. Jennifer began

her talk with an aerial view of the Abingtons and started the walk at the bridge between Great and Little Abington, taking us along the High Street, to the church, the land settlement and finally to what is now TWI.

Visitors from Abington in the audience added to Jennifer's informative talk.

The speaker for the next meeting, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th February in Linton village hall, will be Neil Lanham on "The Suffolk Horseman – the importance of his costume and his unique identity". All are most welcome.

Anne Parry-Smith


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Ladies, a date for your diary

At 8pm on Friday 16th March, Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers will be holding their annual Ladies' Night at Linton village college. So, if you fancy a decadent evening of wine, chocolate, jewellery, beauty and other pampering ideas, book a babysitter now ... partners, perhaps?

While it is one of the playgroup's annual fundraising events, it provides an opportunity for mums to relax, spoil themselves and meet other mums from the village without children in tow. All ladies are welcome, not just mums of pre-school children, so bring your friends along and indulge.

On 13th December last year, the playgroup children staged their Christmas show to the delight of the audience of proud parents, grandparents and carers. They performed Christmas songs in groups and there were several solo artists. The children dressed up in a variety of festive outfits.

Thank you to the staff for all their hard work rehearsing in the weeks up to the show and also on the day. A belated Happy New Year from everyone at the group.

Please remember our Toddler Sessions run from 10-11.30am on Mondays (for ages up to three) and Tuesdays (a more structured session for children aged 18 months to three) in the grounds of the village college. There is always a warm welcome. For more details, contact Kate Kell on 894970 or visit the website www.Lintongrantaplaygroup.co.uk

Fiona Tideswell

Cubs looking for an 'action man'

FIRSTLY a big thank-you to all who supported our annual Duck Race this year in July. It was our best ever turnout, and £420 was raised for the benefit of Linton's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The 1st Linton Scout Group was formed in 1937 and is now one of the most successful groups in the Granta district, with ever-growing waiting lists. Please see our website at: www.lintonscouts.co.uk.

However, we need your help. Our regular helper at cubs, Jon, has volunteered to run a new Venture Scout unit for the older boys; a big commitment every Friday night.

It means that he may not

always make the cubs' meetings on a Thursday night as well. We want to ensure that Sean, our cub leader, has some regular help in order that we can continue to do the sorts of activities that the boys enjoy.

We would love to hear from you if you would be willing to commit some time to the cubs on a Thursday evening between 6.15 and 7.30pm, especially if you are a qualified scout leader; or otherwise an enthusiastic parent.

For further information please phone Doug Taylor, chairman of the group on 891997.

Josephine Paterson, secretary to 1st Linton Scouts committee)

POT POURRI (26)

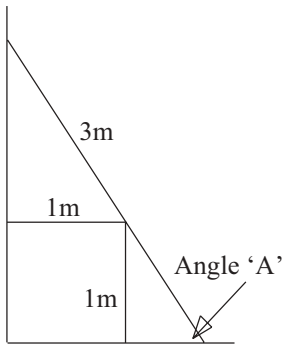
The Ladder

THE diagram shows a ladder resting against a wall and floor.

However, there is a box underneath the ladder which has one corner just touching the underside of the ladder.

If the box has the dimensions shown (1m x 1m) and the ladder is 3m long, what is the angle A that the ladder makes with the floor?

The angle is expected to be accurate to fractions of a degree.



Solution to No 25 - The shop payers

THE amounts Alpha, Beta and Gamma paid could be (1,3,8), (3,8,21) or (3,5,16). As the question asked for less than 35, the solution is 3,8,21 respectively, although the other amounts are technically correct.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Green poultry' at the market

AT the Farmers Market on 3rd February, we have all the usual stalls plus 'green poultry' traders, who will be selling free range chickens, guinea fowl, barbury ducks and geese together with, at last, a new specialist cheese supplier. A lady called Adrienne Cameron is also joining us; she makes hand-made confectionery such as peanut brittle, marshmallow and Rocky Road (an Australian recipe).

We will also be running our pancake event in February, and in either March or April we will be joined by a master composter, who will show us just what we should put in our compost bins.

Jan Lupton

Organ recital for church funds

WOULD you like to hear David Parry-Smith playing a panorama of organ music at St Mary's church? If so, do come along at 3pm on Sunday 18th February to hear works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Dupré, Duruflé and contemporary composer Judith Bingham.

It's all in a good cause – helping to keep our beautiful church in good repair – and tickets cost £5 on the door, tea and cakes included.

Margaret Clark

Music nights at the King's Head

THE new landlords at the King's Head in Hadstock have begun hosting monthly music nights. Popular Cambridge rhythm, roots and blues band The Late Risers will play at the newly refurbished pub at about 9pm on Saturday 24th February. Admission is free and further dates and bands will be announced in the March issue of the Linton News.

For further information call:

Michelina Craft and Richard Partridge 897840

January winners of K-club draw

THE winners of the January K-Club monthly draw were:

- 1st prize (£50) Miss F A Woodhead (No. 080)
- 2nd prize (£25) Ms Glennis Virgo (No. 053)
- 3rd prize (£10) Jane Rayner (No. 124)

Peter Dixon

Mr Rainbow entertains

CHALKLANDS Residents' Association held their Christmas party for the children of Chalklands and Paynes Meadow estates on Sunday 17th December.

Fun was had by all present when Mr Rainbow entertained 16 children, all of whom were willing to be his helper and loved it when the rabbit finally came out of the hat!

A disco was provided by Roger and Ebony Carder and lots of the residents helped with the catering. A visit from Father Christmas completed the afternoon.

Ann Simpkin
892090



Party time: children being entertained by Mr Rainbow

Picture by Maureen Williams

Help save Milton Country Park

THE New Year started with sad news about the Country Park at Milton, located just to the north-east of Cambridge.

As you are probably all aware, the park is under threat of closure in August unless funds or another organisation can be found to take it over from South Cambs district council.

Now is the time for all local people to stand up and be counted in the fight to retain the park and its value for the local community.

Please go to our website at www.savemiltoncountrypark.com and add your name to the petition and then contact your friends and colleagues and ask them to do the same.

Please visit and support this park and other local parks.

Mark Taylor, access officer, Cambridge council 457075

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Come and pray with us

THE Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated this year on Friday 2nd March. The service this year has been prepared by women from Paraguay, with the theme 'United under God's Tent'.

The service will be held in Linton at 10.30am at St Mary's and coffee will be served afterwards. Everyone, children and men as well as women, from Linton and the neighbouring villages is invited to attend this ecumenical, international service.

Paraguay is located in the heart of South America, landlocked by Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia. There is a large gap between the rich and the poor, the main cause of which is the unequal distribution of land. The Paraguayan harp is the country's most common instrument; soccer has become the national sport.

Ann King 897832

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From one game to another ...

I ENTERED a competition in one of my dad’s football books and I won a trip to see Tottenham Hotspur train at Spurs Lodge and meet the players. When I first arrived we had to wait until our name was called so we could get in. We were told we were not allowed to talk or shout to the players until they had finished training, but we were allowed to take photos.

The day was cold and windy. As I was so cold one of the ladies went and got me one of the players’ coat. My dad kept saying “rain, rain, rain” so that the player would go looking for his coat, but it didn’t.

The players then played a game against each other which I watched. One of the players skidded off the pitch and



Zoe pictured with her favourite Spurs player Edgar Davids
Picture by Zoe’s dad Steve

crashed into a barrier right in front of me. I tried to take a picture but he slid so fast I only got a picture of the skid mark!

The players’ drinks were right in front of me so I took some good pictures when they came for a drink. I also took a picture of their Christmas tree as I thought it was pretty. When the game had finished I was allowed to get autographs and photos of the players.

First I got a picture of me with Robbie Keane, and then I got a picture of Tottenham’s manager Martin Jol. Then my Dad took lots of pictures of me with different players and they all signed their autographs for me. At the end of the day I was given a goody bag and a drink and some biscuits. I had a really good time.

Zoe Clayton aged 7

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Aztecs U16 captain
Peter Croucher
(right) welcomes
visiting captain
Shaun Smith.
Referee
Michael Chapman
looks on

Picture by
David Wright



THE Aztecs Under16 football team can at last play matches in Linton. Their first home game took place on Sunday 14th January on one of two pitches on a field specially acquired for the purpose when building work began on the special needs school adjacent to Linton village college. It has taken until now for the grass to be ready for use.

For the first part of the season, Aztecs U16 and the club’s other teams have been playing their home games elsewhere, which has been very difficult to organise.

Now the club can play at the LVC again, everyone is delighted. The new pitches are excellent and are looked after by the LVC sports centre.

Unfortunately, Aztecs lost their first game 3-1. Willingham’s scorers were Ryan Buyke and Daniel Sherlock, who netted twice. In reply, Aztecs scored with a free kick placed perfectly in the top corner by Sam Simmons.

David Wright 01279 714501

Playground improvements

EXCITING plans are under way to develop and improve the outside play area at the front of the Linton infant school.

The Foundation Stage curriculum requires the youngest children to spend part of each day outside, and teachers are keen to extend provision for this. In consultation with the Parent Staff Association, teachers created an action plan which included:

- ** A wooden climbing structure and a lidded sandpit
- ** A new water tray
- ** Creation of a digging area and quiet places
- ** Replacement of wooden panels
- ** A new mural and the planting of a hedge along the front fence.

The hedge will not only soften the appearance at the front of the school but will also

provide a valuable teaching resource for all year groups.

It is envisaged that once it is finished, all children will have access to the new equipment and play area at different times of the week.

The PSA organised a work-ing party for two Saturdays in January and are busy fundraising to pay for a profes-sional company to install special-ist equipment, hopefully at the end of February. We are very grateful to the PSA for their support in helping to make our plans a reality.

We always welcome dona-tions of out-grown toys such as dolls, farm animals, dinosaurs, cars and, at the moment, we are especially in need of wheeled outdoor toys such as pushchairs, trikes and wheelbarrows,

We encourage the children to play creatively with big boxes, old saucepans, pipes, blankets etc. If you have any resources which you feel may be of use to us please contact the school office on 891421.

Clare Kimber, foundation stage teacher

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Chef’s corner
with Joel

SO the winter is upon us. The January sales have all but been Sand gone – however, we know the sales are all-year round, don’t we? The festive season is well and truly over. Oh God, how do we pull through it? If you haven’t quit smoking or taken to the fitness suite at the college, you may as well indulge in another classic dish, which uses the slow cooking process.

This particular dish will mean a trip to your favourite local butcher to buy the cuts of meat required. Our beef today is some of the best in the world, having come out of the BSE scares of yesteryear with animal welfare a major priority of all those who handle the cattle.

Braised oxtail in red wine

Preparation time 10 minutes the night before, 30 minutes on the day of cooking.

Cooking time approx. 3.5-4 hours

Ingredients: (serves 4)

- 3 whole oxtails (ask your butcher to trim the fat from the tails)
- 225g medium sized red onion, chopped
- 200g stalks of celery, chopped
- 200g leeks chopped with 1 clove of garlic
- 100g beef dripping
- 400g tomatoes, chopped
- A sprig of fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf and a good tablespoon of chopped parsley
- 600ml red wine
- 1000ml good beef stock

Method:

1. The night before the dish is to be cooked, separate the tails by cutting through the digits (only use the thick ends of the tail as the thin ends can be frozen for the day you want a homemade oxtail soup).
 2. Marinade the pieces of tail in the red wine and some of the stock to cover it all.
 3. Cover with cling film and leave in a fridge overnight.
 3. The next day pre-heat your oven to 200C.
 4. Remove the tails from the marinade and season well with freshly ground black pepper.
 5. In a large pan, fry the tails in the dripping on both sides until golden brown, then drain.
 6. Fry all the vegetables in the same pan with the tail residue until soft.
 7. Add the tomatoes and the herbs and cook at a simmer.
 8. Replace the tails and the rest of the stock and cover with a lid, braise for three hours.
 9. Remove the tails from the sauce and rest to one side. Pass the sauce through a sieve into a separate pan to keep warm.
 10. In the original pan reduce the marinade down to about a pint then add it to the sauce.
 11. Remove any residual fat from the surface by skimming, and test for flavour and consistency.
 12. Replace the tails and simmer gently (when the meat is falling away from the bone, it’s ready to serve).
- A serving suggestion would be to place two tail pieces on each plate with some of the sauce, some crushed buttered potatoes and roasted root vegetables. *Bon appétit*
- I will be featuring seasonal dishes throughout the year including vegetarian and desserts.

Joel Palmer

Answers to the January anagrams

Carol singing	Happy New Year	Stocking
Santa Claus	Christmas pudding	Chimney
The Holly and the Ivy	Reindeer	Mince pies
Decorations	Presents	Overeating
Merry Christmas	Sleigh	Bankruptcy

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ACEs raise cash for mobile warden

AFTER gales and so much rain, it was a relief to have a (mainly) dry day for the ACEs’ annual fundraiser to support the work of the mobile warden ... with a warming drink to cheer us up. Thank you to every one who came along and supported us.

Thanks too, to those who had stalls – Age Concern with booklets and information; Margaret Clark with her crafts and cards; Friends of St Mary’s gallantly manned by the Clarksons; Darryl Nantais showing his talents; and Alzheimer’s Society and Helping Hands so cheerfully run by Carol and Alex Todd – so much good work in Linton! There was also a raffle, with prizes from whisky to an Irish rubber duck (the things one acquires in hotels ...), bring and buy, bookstall and the splendid Audrey and Jean on the tombola. Thank you Cynthia, Joan, Jan, Janet, Linda, Hazel, Marlene and Pam for your hard work, and to all who contributed to such a sociable day.

Lesley Morgan was introduced – we hope ACEs can be part of an oral history project, capturing your memories and stories, and the changes you have seen in your life and Lesley will facilitate this. If you would like to be part of the project and have your memories preserved, let us know. As we hope to have trips out and gather over afternoon tea, this could be good fun.

On 13th December, we had our annual trip to Scotsdales to see the displays and to stock up on presents. The clients of the mobile warden scheme were given a gift of a cyclamen from ACEs. We did not forget to thank our warden for her excellent work, which has such a positive effect on the lives of so many who want to remain independent in their own homes in Linton.

The next event is a Fairtrade tea, organised by the Co-op at 2pm on 14th February at the village hall. It will feature a talk on the history of the Co-operative Society and the Fairtrade movement. We are hoping for samples of their range of foods, and as this event is on Valentine’s Day, we will find out what else Fairtrade can ethically supply – roses? chocolates? Check it out.

We look forward to seeing you. Remember, everyone over 60 is welcome!

Enid Bald

Local slimmers put their weight behind NSPCC

BIG-HEARTED Cambridge slimmers are shedding pounds to raise money for abused and at-risk children. Now they’re inviting anyone who wants to slim to join in.

Slimmers at Tracy Stressing’s Slimming World groups, held at 7pm on Mondays at Linton Cathodeon centre and at 6.30pm on Wednesday at Trumpington village hall, are embarking on a six week sponsored Slimathon to raise money for the NSPCC.

“The more people who take part in the Slimathon, the more money we can raise for the children,” says Tracy. “Even if someone only has a few pounds to lose, we would love them to join in. Every little bit will help. It’s for just six weeks, any time during February and March. In this short time, many people will lose a stone and come down a size or even two in clothes.”

The event is open to everyone, not just Slimming World members. If you want to lose weight and play an active part in raising funds to help children, just pop into Tracy’s groups for a sponsorship form and have a free weigh-in at the beginning and end of the six weeks.

Tracy ran several competitions last year including “woman of the year” and the winner was Linton’s Rosemarie North. For further details, contact Tracy on 01763 247252 or visit www.slimming-world.com

Tracy Stressing



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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

The magnificent red kite sails again

THE antenna man swung the dish down towards the ground, sullenly looking at the meter saying solemnly: “Sorry Darryl, I just can’t get a signal,” pointing to some cemetery trees. “No Sky for me,” I replied.

We often know how things work, yet ‘why’ is the greater question, and for me usually answered with quixotic futility or by a divine conclusion and sleep. But, how many times a day do you ask yourself a question to which you have no immediate answer? Thoughts like: why is the sky blue? If we evolved from apes, why are they still around? Why do overfed cats insist on dumping mice on our doorstep? Why does water stick to itself, or why does our river, that once powered a whole mill, not generate a single kilowatt for our village? And why is there a red kite *milvus milvus* flying high above me off Back Road on a warm winter’s afternoon?

The edible snail (*helix pomatia*) I spoke about last month was expected to be hibernating, its appearance and crunchy demise beneath my boot was, weather-wise, rather prophetic, so something is afoot! With all these creatures staying up during winter, what are they going to eat? Or will most be eaten by this endless range of reintroduced predators?

Few people are concerned about the monophyletic lineage of red kites, but we do know they successfully hybridised with black kites *milvus migrans*. Historically, red kites were common in England until during the 16th century when a series of Vermin Acts



were introduced requiring red kite eradication. Having been seriously persecuted, Shakespeare’s “city of kites and crows” would never be the same again! Yet, saved from extinction by quick-thinking Welsh farmers, they’re now being reintroduced to a completely different environment from that of their ancestors.

So, there against a cobalt blue sky it soared like an eagle, with a hint of the vulture look! Two metres of wingspan and relatively small body allowing a lethargic glide with barely a beat of its wings. A magnificent bird sailing upon thermal currents above Rivey Hill.

Despite being armed with a horrendously hooked beak, a large kill is rare. I have observed it to be a lazy bird, following corvines for carrion and easy pickings. You can often see its bright yellow legs dangling down and note too its forked tail, unlike that of the buzzard which is more fan-like.

I’d planned an explanation for blue skies but the big bird rather overshadowed my enthusiasm and I’ve run out of space until next month.

However, my good friend Lord Read of The Furrells asks: Why don’t we see any storks in Britain? I can report finding an

article in The Guardian dated 2004 in which it claimed the first pair of wild nesting white storks in Britain for 600 years. Until next month, look out for the kites and if you see them, let me know at enquiries@nantais.co.uk.



Zuri, the latest lion cub, has a sleep with his toys

Picture by Kim Simmons

Exciting times at the zoo

HAVING had a fantastic 2006, we are now looking forward to the season ahead. Lots of interactive keeper talks and animal encounters are planned and we hope that visitors and school groups will take advantage of all the extra free facilities available to enhance their visit.

We had a super breeding season in 2006 with many special births and hatchings. These included several lemur species, tiger and lion cubs, baby giant tortoises, various parrots and macaws, owls and Parma wallabies. Very soon the lemur babies and owlets will start to arrive; this is a very exciting time of the year.

Our newly introduced “keeper experience” sessions have proved very popular and are ideal as gifts for both adults and children. For anyone stuck for gift ideas for Valentine’s

day or Easter, a keeper experience session may be the answer. The sessions have been designed for people who want a little bit more than just a zoo visit. They are geared mainly around the lemurs and are perfect for anyone interested in wildlife, zoos and conservation.

Our lion cub Zuri, born in July, can now be seen in his new accommodation with Safina, born at the zoo in 2005. This new African lion enclosure is part of our big cat housing modernisation plan for 2007. Talks on lion conservation, close encounters and feeds are also planned for later this year.

For more information please go to www.lintonzoo.com or telephone 891308 for general information and for playgroups, school party or outreach packs.

Kim Simmons

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The Derbyshire Post

THE life of principal of a village college is rarely a dull one. Before I took up this post, I anticipated that the job would be full of variety and would focus on teaching and learning, student achievement, on recruiting staff and sorting out personnel issues, managing budgets and talking to parents. I was right, I have done all of these things, but there are some aspects of the job that no qualifications or courses could have prepared me for. Take, for example, the question of the sleepy bees....

In 2001, the college purchased a number of silver lime trees. The idea behind the scheme was a delightful one. The trees that marked the old poplar drive had become damaged and dangerous and had to be taken down, so Barbara Collar, a science technician and great enthusiast for plant life urged Clive Bush to replace them. People were invited to purchase, or even adopt, a tree and many families dedicated their lime to a loved one. The trees took on a special significance for all who were involved and a plaque to show who had purchased which tree was given pride of place on the wall near to the drive.

In 2005, the county council builders arrived to construct the all-weather pitch, the tennis courts and Granta school. Inevitably, the work was going to disturb the trees, so the trees were carefully labelled and removed to a nursery for the duration of the work. The groundsmen, however, had a concern; lime trees are not usually considered suitable for planting in schools, they said. A letter was quickly dispatched to Kew Gardens for confirmation and by the time I had arrived in January 2006, a reply was waiting for me. The letter confirmed our worst fears; silver limes are a health risk to children. I was rather puzzled – there isn't much that children can eat on them, there are no obvious skin irritants in the bark or leaves, so what was the problem? Well, apparently, bees are the problem. Bees love silver lime trees and are so intoxicated by them that they swoon into drowsiness and fall helplessly into a heap on to the ground beneath them. Sleepy bees and children just don't mix.

This was a crisis. The trees could not be replanted, the owners of the trees would need to be informed and I would have to break the news to Barbara. I felt terrible – almost the first thing I would have to deal with as principal. I put off the meeting with Barbara for as long as my conscience would allow and then finally showed her the letter from Kew. Fortunately for me, she had already seen a copy of it and had got beyond the initial shock. Together we looked for a happy ending; if the trees and their buzzing admirers could not be accommodated at the college, perhaps we could find another home for them. Barbara wrote a number of letters to local parklands and we were delighted when the Alper family at Chilford Hall agreed to adopt both the trees and any accompanying bees. Tree owners have been given the choice of keeping their dedication with the Chilford limes or having it reset by a new tree in the college grounds.

You couldn't make it up ...

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/2319/06/F R Abrams, 7 Granta Leys, Linton. Extension.

S/0019/07/F Mrs S Bennett, The Shrubbery, 8 Mill Lane, Linton. Extension.

S/0020/07/LB Mrs S Bennett, The Shrubbery, 8 Mill Lane, Linton. Alterations. Replacement of cellar steps, remove walls to kitchen and store to create enlarged kitchen and formal dining room and install new door to hallway. Create new lead roofed bay window in dining area. Block door opening to drawing room and form larder. Convert part of garden store to WC and extend to provide back hall and new study/garden room with 4 light window and pyramidal rooflight in lead flat roof. Install new door opening in lean-to shed to form workshop. Provide window at first floor in bedroom 4. Install new roof structure to barn.

S/0043/07/F TJ Oldfield & JL Hall, 51 Back Road, Linton. Wind turbine and replacement garage.

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

The Bell Inn, wine-thieves ... and Prince Charles

LOCALS always remind me that the Bell Inn's restaurant achieved national fame when Prince Charles became a frequent visitor whilst studying at Trinity College in Cambridge.

Greene King closed the Bell in 1989 after it became unprofitable and later sold it as a private dwelling – No 95 High Street – for £225,000 in 1992. The site is well documented in the archives of Pembroke College and Greene King.

The 15th or early 16th century grade II listed building is quite small, and smallness points to age. At the rear is a newel staircase with a central oak post built outside the house, the steps being built into the wall as it was made. The present doorway on the street was inserted in the main chimney stack during the 19th century.

The owners in Tudor times were the Malyn family and the first record of the site being used as an inn was in 1670 when John Goodey owned the Sign of the Bell. The tenant licensee was John Burgoyne and a Wood Feast was held here for the tenants of the



The Bell Inn about 1920 after the timbers had been uncovered

Picture courtesy of Cambridge Collection

Barham Manor estate (the Linton lands to the east of the water tower). Timber for fuel, building and tanning bark was plentiful in Linton and provided landowners with a third of their total income. The feast was an expression of the gratitude of John Millicent, the lord of the Barham manor.

An inn was an up-market premises and the Bell was therefore a respectable hostelry with a better class of clientele.

Harder times came about, and in the 19th century the Bell

was more often referred to as a public house and the customers were travellers and labourers, like those of most Linton pubs.

In March, 1829 a massive corn stack fire in what is now the health centre car park came close to destroying the Bell, and two local residents took advantage of the chaos to steal a four gallon cask of currant wine from Edward Pilgrim, the landlord.

They had pretended they were taking it to a place of

safety, but instead concealed it under a muck heap in a yard off Coles Lane. When caught and sentenced Mark Pammenter and James Mansfield were fortunate to receive a six months' term of hard labour, since the two fire-raisers were hanged outside Cambridge castle.

Throughout the 19th century the beautiful exterior timbers were covered in plaster and only revealed after 1918 when Greene King bought the Bell for £700 from the Haverhill based Christmas chain of pubs.

Greene King had spent £1694 on renovations by 1921 and the pub was thereafter referred to as an inn.

The Bell had been a popular venue for soldiers travelling between their bases at Hounslow and Norwich during the Napoleonic wars, and the renovations uncovered a painted inscription on one of the internal oaken beams which read, *M.S. 48th Reg. 1814.*

In its heyday the Bell had accommodation for six guests and stabling for 20 horses.

In the gated rear yard, the Norden family operated their smithy business until the late 1920s.

LibDems' sale is back ... but the date is changed

FOR many years the LibDem jumble sale has been a fixture in the New Year calendar.

This year's marks a radical change - it's happening in February instead, in Linton village hall at 2pm on Saturday 10th February.

But regular bargain hunters can be assured it's still going to be one of the best jumble sales in Linton, warm and useful as a pair of old gloves.

Some other jumble sales may have withered over the years, but the LibDem sale is as well supported as ever.

Trisha Bear

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Parish Council Matters

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

Update on the one-way system



The junction of Coles Lane with the High Street

Picture by Sue Parry

IT was agreed at the council meeting held on 7th December 2006 that the following issues, primarily regarding signage, should be brought to the attention of the county council for their consideration. On numerous occasions we have been informed that strangers to the village are unclear which way to go after joining the one-way system at Coles Lane. We have tried to address this problem as follows:

1) Balsham Road/High Street junction.

1a) Approaching junction from Balsham Road

The large sign facing Balsham Road has been vandalised, and the existing text needs to be renewed/repainted and the words 'Haverhill/A1307' need to be added. This would then link in with the 'Haverhill' sign at the Bartlow Road/Horseheath Road junction. There needs to be a street sign at the junction

stating 'High Street' and ideally a brown sign directing to the right stating 'village centre' or 'Linton village centre'.

1b) Approaching junction from Horseheath Road

As for 1a. In addition add '(A11)' to the existing 'Balsham' sign to keep traffic on the B1052 to the A11 and attempt to keep traffic away from the High Street - Coles Lane - Back Road (west) route to the A11. It is considered that there has been an increase in traffic using this village route since the installation of the new road junction on the A1307 outside the college.

2) High Street/Green Lane junction.

Needs sign (816.1) to indicate Green Lane is a cul-de-sac and ideally a sign to include 'leading to Beech Way'.

3) High Street/Mill Lane junction

'Heavy vehicle' sign is damaged and needs repairing. Can the Mill Lane sign also include an indication that this road is unsuitable for heavy vehicles?

4) High Street/Church Lane junction.

Need to check for redundant signs in Church Lane itself eg 'at any time' signs.

5) High Street/Coles Lane junction.

5a) Approaching junction from the east.

There should be signage to indicate that two-way traffic is ahead and that the approaching traffic has priority. Could 'give way' signs be fixed to the back of the existing 'no entry' signs in addition to existing 'give way' sign.

There should be a sign indicating 'A1307' straight ahead and/or a sign stating 'all routes' (sign 521) straight

ahead which would stop motorists using Coles Lane/Back Road when diverted off the A1307 due to an accident.

There needs to be something clearly visible to indicate that if you turn right there is immediately a 'pedestrian crossing' point. Suggestion is that the road could be painted in some way connecting the two dropped kerbs. Care would have to be taken that this did not give pedestrians the feeling of priority.

5b) Approaching junction from the west.

Need new sign facing saying 'Coles Lane'. The light on the left-hand side 'no entry' sign is not correct and needs to be realigned.

Remove the 'yellow dot' sign on the right-hand side. Suggestion is that sign 562 or 563 could be utilised. There needs to be something clearly visible to indicate that when you turn left there is immediately a 'pedestrian crossing' point. Suggestion is that the road could be painted in some way connecting the two dropped kerbs as above.

6) Coles Lane/Diddell Court junction.

'Keep clear' sign and road junction sign need repainting.

Just up from the junction the 'one way' sign on the left-hand side could be removed plus the 'at any time' sign on the right-hand side.

7) Coles Lane car park junction.

Just up from the junction the 'at any time' sign on the left hand side could be removed, the hedge on the right hand side will need to be maintained as landowner can not now reach it safely due to steepness of the bank. The pavement on the left-hand side needs repairing. The road surface at the edge on the right-hand side is not ideal and will need to be monitored.

8) Coles Lane/Back Road junction.

8a) Approaching junction from Coles Lane,

It was thought that there should be some clear indication that the one-way system did go to the right which was visible when approaching the junction. Perhaps a large RH arrow painted on the road with a smaller LH one to indicate that you can turn left also. (Sign 505.1)

The 'yellow spot' sign should be removed and replaced with a sign 'all routes' + 'High Street' to the right.

8b) Approaching junction from Back Road.

The second 'give way' sign is permanently illuminated with one bulb broken (S2083). This sign and the 'no right turn' sign are too far away from Coles Lane. An alternative site should be found. Just along from the junction the new 'one way' sign on the left is not numbered.

9) Back Road/Balsham Road junction.

9a) Approaching junction from Back Road.

Remove yellow dot sign and replace with larger sign indicating 'Balsham, Chilford Hall, (A11)' to the left and 'High Street, Haverhill, Cambridge, A1307' to the right. There should be clear indication that left or right at this junction is two-way traffic. (Sign 522).

9b) Approaching junction from Balsham.

The 'no right turn' needs to be further up Balsham Road. Suggest marking 'no entry' on the road at the beginning of Back Road. Just down Balsham Road from this junction the crossing point for pedestrians needs to be signed from both directions. An 'at any time' sign needs to be removed.

Cllr Val Urwin

A1307 – county council drags its heels

TRAVELLING frequently to Stansted Airport may not seem connected to safety on the A1307 – but it is.

Anybody who has made the journey avoiding the M11 because of possible hold ups, will have noted that the alternative route via Littlebury and Newport to Stansted Mountfitchet (B1383) has a general 50mph limit with lower speeds through the intervening villages.

Now all those who are concerned about safety on the A1307 have wanted similar restrictions from Four Wentways to Haverhill, but regularly Cambridge county council highways turn down the request.

When the suggestion was first mooted several years ago highways said that it could not be done because of government regulations. When challenged, highways came back with the excuse that it was not county council policy! Well that might be so, but if Essex county council can do it, why not Cambridgehire – policy or not.

Incidentally anyone driving on the B1383, which has well spaced '50' reminders in red for the whole length of the journey, must be impressed by the fact that almost all drivers appear to keep the speed limit which is more than can be said for the A1307, despite a plethora of ugly *slow* signs complete with windmills and solar panels.

Although government has stated that there must be a change in policy, the county council has dragged its heels. They promised to review their speed limit policy by this Christmas but now have put it back to the summer, despite a third-of-a-mile section of the A1307 seeing four deaths in the past 12 months.

One other thing, if there is a 20mph limit through the centre of Sawston, why can't we have it in Linton High Street?

Cllr Mike Gee

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MINUTES of the meeting of the Linton parish council held on Thursday 7th December 2006.

Present: Mrs E Bald, M Clay, Ms E Cornell, A Gore, B Hammett, Mrs P Kenyon, T Krarup, J Linsdell, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin, Dr D White, D Willingham, Mrs K France, Press, Mrs S Parry (clerk), county councillor J Batchelor and seven members of the public.

In the absence of the chair and vice chair it was proposed by Cllr Urwin, seconded by Cllr Hammett and agreed by the meeting that Cllr Gore should take the chair.

Public forum

Residents of Horseheath Road were very concerned about the increased speed and volume of traffic using Horseheath Road in both directions during the early morning and evenings. They felt that it was being used as a rat run to avoid the traffic lights on the A1307. There was great concern regarding the safety of children on their way to school.

A resident from Back Road reported that they were not opposed to a development at Flaxfields. It is the size, scale and



Homes which are due to be demolished

height that they have objections to. It was felt that a flat 'green' roof would be more appropriate and would be more sympathetic to the surroundings. A flat roof would reduce the number of flats by seven. According to Hereward Housing a minimum of 30 is required to make the project viable. It was suggested that a representative attend and speak at the planning committee meeting at Cambourne.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cox, Gee and Potter.

Declarations of interest. Cllrs Bald, Gore and Hammett declared a prejudicial interest in



Pictures by Sue Parry

the Flaxfields development.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2006. The minutes were approved and signed.

Consideration of the minutes of the planning meeting of 16th November 2006. These were considered and no amendments made. At this point Cllrs Bald, Gore and Hammett left the meeting.

S/2105/06/F Very sheltered housing scheme including 42 flats, communal areas and car parking following demolition of existing dwellings at 17-33 (odd) and 24-34 (even) Flaxfields.

This council is concerned that insufficient detail is currently available to make an informed decision and therefore request that this application is not considered until the following information is made available to all consultees for a further 21 days:

a) comments from listed building officers

b) comments from Ccc highways locally regarding: i) the most suitable route for building material access; ii) the effect on Flaxfields; iii) the effect on the junction with Back Road following completion of development

c) comments from the fire service regarding accessibility for the whole site, and we request a copy of their critical incident policy

d) comments from the environment agency regarding expected light pollution

e) comments from housing department supporting need for 42 units

Cllr Rossiter proposed, it was seconded by Cllr Clay that council objects to the application as it stands.

For six, against two, abstention one, proposal carried.

This council objects to the application for the following reasons:

a) the size of the development is not in keeping with the location. We request the current specification regarding density per hectare

b) the size of the development will not enhance the setting

of the listed building situated at 12 Symonds Lane

c) there is insufficient detail to confirm that this development will not increase the risk of flooding to the south from field water run-off, as happened in the 2001 flood. We request that the environment agency supply proof of flooding in this area during the 2001 flood

d) there is no report attached with the application detailing exactly what the current demand in Linton is for this number of units

e) there are no details with this application relating to proposed materials so we cannot assess the impact on the street scene

f) the car parking is insufficient and would therefore materially affect the neighbouring properties. We are aware that many carers live in Haverhill and as such would be using their cars

g) Hereward Housing have confirmed that a development of



Bungalows which are to be demolished

30 units would be a possible alternative

h) contravenes policy HG9 regarding care homes

This council would request that Hereward Housing redesign this development reducing the units to 30, reducing the overall height and footprint accordingly and positioning the development further away from the boundary to allow sufficient garden area around the development for the residents' enjoyment and gainful exercise.

Conditions

Should this application be approved we would request the following conditions are attached to the approval:

a) approval is dependent on listed building officers giving approval

b) approval is dependent on highways clearly stating that the expected increase in traffic

would have no adverse effect on Flaxfields itself and would not create an unsafe situation at the junction with Back Road

c) any damage to the highway caused by building vehicles in Flaxfields and elsewhere in Linton is rectified on completion of the development by the developers to the satisfaction of Linton parish council

d) Linton parish council is consulted on materials to be used

e) the route for building vehicles to and from the site avoids the conservation area in Linton

f) should the 'rainwater harvesting system' prove insufficient to cope with water run-off creating an otherwise non-existing problem for residents south of the development, the developers will rectify the situation at their expense within an acceptable time frame for all parties involved

g) the 'eco friendly' features of this development are not altered following approval



Bungalows which are to be demolished

h) residents must be elderly, ie over 60 and/or disabled

i) priority is given to Linton residents or those with Linton connections

j) an acceptable S106 is agreed

k) the link footpath from Flaxfields to Symonds Lane is upgraded

l) a further environmental wildlife assessment is made prior to demolition.

At this point Cllrs Bald, Gore and Hammett rejoined the meeting.

Co-ordinators' reports

i) Open spaces (M Clay) Holes in the road were reported on the east side of Symonds Lane between The Grove and Back Road

ii) Recreation ground (Mrs P Kenyon) Moles continue to be a

nuisance. The football pitch is very wet and virtually unplayable

iii) Cemetery (M Gee) Nothing to report

iv) Rights of way (Dr J Rossiter) A letter will be written to John Cooper, Rights of Way officer, asking him to suggest a sum to be precepted to address the problems with footpath five behind Granta school. She will be meeting with Mr Fairey on 8th December to discuss the problems with the bridge by the mill

v) Venture playground (B Hammett) Still no contact from Clever Curves regarding the skate ramp

vi) Leadwell Meadows (Dr J Rossiter) Contact Herald to ensure that they liaise with Cllr Rossiter prior to the start of the planned work

vii) Glebe Land (Dr J Rossiter) Nettles need to be cut. Chase Herald to find out when they intend to cut these

viii) Churchyard (Dr B Cox) Cllr Gore recommended to council that a faculty be sought from the diocese to remove three trees. A pollarded lime, a multiple group of trees near to the new wall and a pollarded lime opposite the southern porch. The costs are likely to be in the region of £1400. This was proposed by Cllr Kenyon and agreed by the meeting

ix) Communications (M Gee) Nothing to report

x) A1307 (E Cornell) The results of the speed survey undertaken by cc should be available in January.

Traffic

1) Report from traffic working party meeting – decision required re signage document. It was agreed that this document reflecting the views of the council be sent to

Alistair Frost at Ccc.

2) Other traffic issues including Items 54 and 71. Following on from the public forum Cllr Urwin replied that council were aware that during the improvements on the A1307 and the building of the new school there may be a knock-on effect to the village. Rat-running was anticipated during the construction period but was not expected to continue.

The potential problem had been raised at the time but the cc agreed to address the issue when and if it was proven. District councillor Batchelor agreed to pursue this issue of rat-running and speeding on Horseheath Road.

Correspondence

(Of particular interest)

Item 47: Mr Savill, re allotments – Two sites were suggested, a field off Long Lane close to the A1307 and land adjacent to the Woodlands. Cllr Hammett will contact the landowners to ascertain whether any of this land could be made available.

Item 64: M Chadwick – permission requested to decorate Horn Lane bridge for a wedding. Council agreed without hesitation to the request.

Councillors' reports

(For information only)

Cllr Rossiter asked if the outstanding flint work required at Horn Lane bridge could be considered. She will contact Mr Jackson who is currently repairing the churchyard walls to obtain a quotation.

The environment agency will be removing the fallen tree from the river at the bottom of Camp Close.

The meeting closed at 22.00.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL
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www.lintonpc.org.uk

Clerk to the Council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon, & 4–5.45pm,
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