

Linton Infants  
Summer Fair,  
5-7pm, Friday  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
at the school

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# THE LINTON NEWS

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## Your council tax increase – an apology

**N**EW government reforms have been introduced which end the current council tax benefit scheme system. From April district councils will implement their own localised council tax support schemes (LCTSS).

The amount of LCTSS for Linton is calculated as £9,792, and therefore most parish councils will see a reduction to their council tax base and will need to charge more per household just to keep the status quo. This is because the granting of discounts is treated as a reduction to the amount chargeable as opposed to council tax benefit which is treated as a reduction to the amount payable by the claimant. For the first two years of this scheme, South Cambs District Council will provide grants of 100% in the first year and 75% in the second year.

However we need to let you know that due to an administrative error the £9,792 of grant funding, which should have been deducted from our precept request, was not. The PC precept amount has been calculated with the inclusion of this figure and has resulted in an

extra average council tax increase of £5.88 per household over the year – around 11p per week based on a Band D house and I am extremely sorry for this error. Much discussion has taken place as to how this can be addressed. To simply send out revised council tax bills would cost us around £8,000.

The council has decided that the best value option to mitigate the error is to raise the precept by £9,792 to £168,128 and to ring fence the £9,792 and spend it on additional community projects and not on normal council business.

Some suggestions received so far are to continue the path in Rivey Lane towards Paynes Meadow, install seats and picnic benches on the Village Green or to update facilities in the village hall or Cathodeon Centre. We welcome your ideas and suggestions on how you would like this money to be spent for the benefit of the village.

Please send your suggestions to the Parish Council office or email [lintonpc@btconnect.com](mailto:lintonpc@btconnect.com)  
Clerk, Linton Parish Council

## Support Cambridgeshire's schools

LINTON village college has thrown its weight behind a Cambridge News campaign for a fairer deal for Cambridgeshire schools.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S schools are the worst funded of all 151 local authorities in England. On average schools in Cambridgeshire receive around £600 less per pupil than those in other counties. This is money that could be spent on extra teachers, teaching assistants or resources. The Cambridge News is calling on the Government to change the rules so that local schools receive the national average.

Caroline Derbyshire, LVC principal, is chairman of Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers which is also supporting the campaign. At a recent conference Ms Derbyshire arranged for all 32 secondary heads in Cambridgeshire

to wear T-shirts sponsored by the Cambridge News, with the number 151 highlighting the inequality and unfairness of the current system.

You can read a report, see the photo and sign the Cambridge News petition on the Cambridge News website.

You can also read an article from the Cambridge News about LVC twins Ed and Sam Richardson wearing their 151 T-shirts in support of the fair funding campaign.

Local primary heads from LVC's partner schools have also pledged their support and at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March they wore campaign T-shirts to show their support.

LVC

## Linton Health Centre update

1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – an important date for the NHS: reorganisation on a huge scale with many challenges ahead. Yet, at a local level, be assured that we are still here to provide the best possible medical care for our practice population.

GP Commissioning is at the forefront of the NHS changes. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have been formed to manage the NHS budget and, as a practice, we fall within the large Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CCG. The CCG is split into eight Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs) in order to provide a local perspective to the decision making process.

CATCH – Cambridgeshire Association to Commission Health - is the largest LCG with a population of around 220,000 and to which we belong. It has 28 member practices which work together in smaller locality groups on commissioning issues, all feeding their ideas back to CATCH. We work with other rural practices with similar issues and challenges: Sawston, Comberton, Harston, Bourn, Melbourn and three Royston practices.

The challenges for CCGs in managing the budgets are huge, especially in Cambridgeshire where we are seen as a healthy and wealthy population and therefore the funding has been

lower than elsewhere in the country. This filters down to practice level and in the reorganisation a practice like ours is set to lose over £200,000 in annual funding in the coming years. All practices will have to really engage in the commissioning process in order to make best use of the funds available and to maintain the level of service to patients.

See the CATCH video at [www.catchcambs.nhs.uk](http://www.catchcambs.nhs.uk) for more information on commissioning.

**The Bartlow Walk – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May:** We very much appreciate the support of the Bartlow Walk and hope this year to purchase a large screen

for the waiting room with the funds raised. This will enable us to provide information to patients on both national and local health campaigns, together with information about the practice itself and the services we provide. We also hope to purchase more home BP monitors, more nebulisers and more books for the children's waiting area. Sorry – no toys as this presents further difficulties for us in complying with infection control standards for the Care Quality Commission. Registration with the CQC was yet another change that came in to force on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Linton health centre

## Fire victims pledge support to increase on- call firefighter numbers

DEDICATED firefighters who fought one of the biggest fires in the region for decades have gained support from a grateful fire victim as crews attempt to swell their numbers.

Linton Fire Station is calling for local residents and workers to sign up as on-call firefighters – and Chilford Hall directors are supporting them every step of the way.

Glen Mejias, Director and General Manager at Chilford Hall, said: "In June last year, Chilford Hall suffered one of the largest and most serious fires in the history of the south Cambridgeshire community and the on-call firefighters from Linton Fire Station were an essential part of the team".

"On-call firefighters provide an essential and very valuable community service, particularly in rural areas. With first hand experience of how vital their role is, we are very thankful that their swift initial actions and liaison with other Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service crews helped to prevent the fire from spreading to other buildings onsite, limiting the damage and helping to control the blaze."

As fully trained professionals who save lives in their communities, on-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime or weekend cover. They carry a pager and respond to emergency incidents as and when they happen, just like the crew did in response to the Chilford Hall fire.

Living or working within five minutes of a local fire station, they receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit plus additional payments for attending drill nights and incidents.

If you would like further information about how you can support your community by becoming an on-call firefighter, please either call into Linton Fire Station on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm or contact Recruitment on 01480 444500. Alternatively log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk).

Glen added: "I would love to be an on-call firefighter and will be making enquiries at the Linton recruitment day on 8<sup>th</sup> June".

## Children need books

MOST of us would take it for granted that children need books as much as they need clothes. Our books are part of our identity, a special form of property which trigger thoughts and memories each time we look at them. Her Majesty, it is said, writes her name, after a fashion, in her Dick Francis novels, inscribing them *The Queen's Book*. Among children not being able to name a favourite book is often a tell-tale sign of a reading problem - although some, of course, are simply spoiled for choice.

So it is shocking to see surveys such as that carried out by the National Literacy Trust last year that showed that as many as a third of children do not have a single book of their own. You can bet your boots that reading difficulties will be much higher among this large group of children than in the other two-thirds and we can be pretty sure that some of them live in Linton.

So, about five years ago, Garth Collard and I decided to relaunch an idea I'd had while working with the Who Cares? Trust that every child should have some books of their own and that they should choose their own books, with suitable guidance. Everyone thinks this is a good idea and we have had support over the years from the Brownies, the Beavers, members of Activities and Care for the Elders, the Anderson Foundation and the ABC Charitable Trust. Garth donates fees from his history talks and some of the parents of children who I help make donations.

We began with children in care, as they were the least likely to have support from home and the bulk of our grants have been made through Sue Hains of the Cambridgeshire Looked After Children's Teaching Service. However, books are such a vital focal point for family support that we extended the scheme to include any other children who might benefit. In addition to individual grants, we were able to give £300 to the village's primary schools at Christmas and to help some older children on an individual basis. We're much too small to be registered with the charities commission but do have some more money available which we will allocate as we become aware of the need. If anyone is interested in helping the charity to grow, please get in touch.

John Bald, Co-founder, A Book of My Own.

## Friends of Linton Library make progress



Andrew Gore of the Cathodeon Trust presents a cheque for £100 to Library Friends Chairman, John Bald

Picture supplied by John Bald

IT seems amazing that a year has gone by since the Friends were founded. We've learned more about what we can and can't do, have made some useful donations to the library stock and can begin to expand our activities. So Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May will see a second donations evening combined with our AGM. Please come along and bring any books you would like to donate - we enjoyed hearing each other's views about the books we were donating too. The library prefers new fiction and non-fiction up to four years old, but we have also passed on some older books among ourselves and have an informal system of giving each other first read before the books are processed.

Various suggestions for other activities will be considered, one of which is an informal group of people who are interested in teaching and learning foreign languages. Linton Linguists, perhaps.

We've had a request for Spanish, so there will be a short introduction to Spanish at this meeting. The tutor has been CRB checked, and parents, children and teachers are all welcome.

Anyone interested, please come to the AGM in the library at 7.30pm on May 15<sup>th</sup> or email [johnbald@talktalk.net](mailto:johnbald@talktalk.net) if you can't make it.

John Bald, Chair, Friends of Linton Library

## Too good for jumble...

There are many chairs on offer this month – a modern wooden carver in excellent condition, a comfortable old fireside chair and two fireside chairs in need of new covers. There is also an old pine chest 36in long x 18 in high x 18in wide and a patio heater, table model Hi-spot Minitic with refillable propane gas cylinder 19 in high. The pair of Hilarys blinds - wooden slatted forest green - totalling 5 ft. sq. and the brand new white acrylic bath panels, front panel 1700mm and end panel 750mm, height 525 mm are all still available.

The kitchen trolley raised £15 for Friends of Linton Library and the computer system made £40 for Linton Guides.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Kate France 891602 or email [kfrance@profsound-consult.com](mailto:kfrance@profsound-consult.com).

NB: The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.



## The value of assemblies at Linton Heights

DURING the spring term, our assemblies focused on the importance of having positive relationships and how we feel (and leave others feeling) during our day-to-day interactions with each other. We asked twenty-four pupils from across the school to tell us what they thought of our relationships and feelings assemblies and this is what they told us:

96% felt that the assemblies were helpful in explaining how important it is to be kind to other people and that they understood more about the effect that their behaviour can have on their relationships with friends and family members as well as on other people's feelings.

When asked what they have done differently as a result of our assemblies this is what some of our pupils told us:

"I've made friends come back together"

"I've been more kind and helpful to my family"

"I haven't really done anything differently but I just have the knowledge in my head what I have to do if I come across a situation"

"I have been nicer to my sister and listened to her more"

"I have been more grateful for what I have. It is a really good thing to learn about. I think I am a bit more tolerant!"

"I have learnt how people feel if I say things that may hurt their feelings so I think twice before I say stuff to someone"

Just a few reasons why values education is so important at Linton Heights.

Jennifer Malone, Headteacher



## Children and teachers have fun



HERE we are, into the last term of the school year and hasn't it flown past?

Our theme for this term is Flick of a Switch and our corridors have been transformed into an inventor's shed, a flying car and a train. The children will be exploring just what can happen after something as simple as flicking a switch. They will be encouraged to invent something and look into how feasible their invention really is. Watch out for us on Dragons' Den.

During our parent consultations which were held in March, we put a governor's dilemma to the parents: "We have a sum of money to spend but many areas need our attention, where would you spend the money?" The options were the swimming pool (improve and continue to use), iPads (purchase this new technology to support learning), the outdoor area (improve the outdoor equipment) or the library (purchase more books, improve the area). Many parents gave us their views and the overwhelming majority voted in favour of improving and updating our Outdoor Learning Environment. We will be looking for willing volunteers to help us with the planning and organisation of this project, if you would like to be involved please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Many hands make light work and as we are hoping this environment will benefit the wider community, we would welcome other points of view and opinions.

Don't forget to join us for our Summer Fair from 5pm to 7pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, at the school.

Linton CE Infant School

## PLODDING ALONG An update on police matters

### Police panel figures

YEAR-ON-YEAR quarterly crime figures for Linton ward have fallen from 43 to 34 but traffic incidents remain a key concern for officers at Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

These figures were published locally by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and also by the Home Office and they were presented to a Linton Panel meeting at Linton Heights School on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

The figures for individual types of crime are almost all in single figures.

The survey included earlier figures in 2012. The tally for crimes between September 2012 and November 2012 was 33. The various crime groups included burglaries (both domestic and other types of properties), violent crime, robbery, vehicle theft, cycle theft, criminal damage and other crime but the figures for most these crime groups were in single figures.

Linton may be a low-crime area but both police and the attendees at the meeting were still worried about traffic.

Sergeant Sandra Davies' list of concerns included the motorists who park on double yellow lines outside the Co-operative store and, more specifically, the building contractors at work on a site on Back Road. The contractors were warned about the risks of leaving mud on the road.

Many at the meeting criticized Cambridgeshire Constabulary over its increasing reliance on its website. They warned police officers that police messages were not hitting the people who needed to know. In reply Inspector Chris Savage said his budgets were being squeezed by cuts.

But public agencies can still work together. Local police officers saw that the traffic lights at Linton village college were out of sync. They turned to Highways staff at Cambridgeshire County Council. Council staff discovered that detection loops had slipped off their optimum setting.

Encouraged by this success Cambridgeshire County Council is calling on Lintonians to spot future road hazards. You can report them by email on [street.scene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:street.scene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Alternatively you can call 0345 045 5212.

LNT

### Thefts from garden sheds

IN recent weeks we have been suffering from thefts from garden sheds. Thieves target sheds because they often contain valuable items such as pedal cycles, lawn mowers and other tools. Everyday garden implements can be used by thieves to break into the owner's house.

#### To make your shed more secure:-

- Fit a good quality hasp and staple with close-shackled padlock to the door and secure it with either non-return screws or preferably coach bolts secured internally with a large washer.
- Hinges should be fitted with non-return screws.
- Shed windows can be fitted internally with a weld mesh
- Cover over any valuable items in the shed with old sacks or curtains.

- If valuable items are stored in the shed lay a small area of concrete within the shed and fix anchor points to which large items can be secured with a length of chain

- Fit a battery operated shed alarm. They are easy to fit and will make a loud noise if the shed is entered.

**Marking property** makes it possible to return it to the rightful owner and can also help the police in securing a conviction.

**If you want to secure your valuables** have a look at the following websites:

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) or [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com)

Please keep the calls coming in to the neighbourhood policing team regarding suspicious activity in your area by emailing [linton.npt@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:linton.npt@cambs.pnn.police.uk) or by ringing 101.

Leanne Fisher and Chris Pulley, PCSOs for the Linton Safer Neighbourhood Team

AT Conkers Children's Centre we like to promote the value of healthy living as often as we can, eg by inviting the speech and language therapist to drop in or by doing display boards with a health related topic.

Our most recent event was our very popular Wildplay activity at Easter where around 30 children descended onto Camping Close to become wildlife detectives. There were trails for them to explore, items to collect and investigate through their own magnifying glass and butterflies to decorate and brighten up the day. The session was consumed by children running around making their own discoveries and a great time was had by all.

If you would like to find out when the next outdoor session

is taking place please contact the office.

At Conkers we have had to say a farewell to Maddie MacMahon our breastfeeding counsellor. Maddie has helped so many mothers and we wish her all the very best on her new ventures.

At Conkers Debby Jepps will now be available as a breastfeeding peer supporter during the baby group on a Thursday afternoon. If you have a baby who is under one we warmly invite you to come to Bumps to Babies - this takes place from 1.15 - 2.45pm on Thursdays at Conkers.

If you would like to register or receive any more information then please contact the office on 893594.

Debbie Jepps



Children at Conkers Wildplay

Picture taken by Debbie Jepps

## New Enterprise Feature

THE Linton News Team is aware of an increasing number of people being made redundant and starting a new business or just taking the plunge to try something different. To help with local lift-off we are planning to trial a New Enterprise Feature.

New ventures in Bartlow, Hadstock, Hildersham or Linton, our delivery area, started no more than one year previously are invited to submit their business start date with their name, business function, address, phone number and email address.

The LN is proposing to offer just one free insertion in the New Enterprise

Feature quoting the company name, business function, village and one contact direction - a phone number, address or email address, ie:

Jo Bloggs, Baker, Hildersham, 01223 896823

We are also considering highlighting resident owners of lesser known existing businesses in the locality and LN distribution area that have not been featured before.

Please send your views on these ideas to [lneditor@linton.info](mailto:lneditor@linton.info) or leave a note in the Linton News box at the Post Office.

LNT

### Scam warning

*WE have had a great deal of information from the police this month and we have tried to include most of it. Please see the scam warning on page 6.*

Editor

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# Take a long hard look at your garden

TAKE a detailed look at your garden this spring before the exuberant lush green foliage and blossom transforms its outline.

This was the message delivered by Helen Riches, of BBC Gardeners World magazine fame, to the gardening club this month in her talk on how to give your garden a thorough MOT.

One of those interesting moments when an idea that seems so obvious once revealed was when Helen encouraged us to take copious photos of our garden in order to clear and, hopefully objectively, see where it needs attention. Helen showed us photographs of her garden that had been scribbled on to show how she wanted to re-shape a shrub, remove plants and introduce new forms through new planting to balance a bed.

Most of us have digital cameras and printers at

home so we could take a simple tool from the garden designer's box and give it a go.

This season's final meeting will hopefully prove that my garden's weeds are really meant to be there.

Julie Dore will present her fascinating talk, One person's weed is another person's medicine, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May in the village hall.

All are most welcome to join us.

The plant sale will be held from 10am-12noon on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 3 Mill Lane. Do come along and enjoy finding some new additions for your garden or to sample some of our wonderful produce. Donations of plants, produce, or cakes would be most appreciated and may be delivered to 3 Mill Lane on Friday evening. Thank you.

Kirsten Newble, 892425, lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk



# What's that smell in the kitchen?

OUR speaker at the annual meeting of Linton WI in April was Gerald Dodd, who gave a fascinating and humorous account of his life, entitled *What's that smell in the kitchen*, beginning as a chef and finishing up as a teacher trainer.

One of Gerald's many interests outside work is vexillology (a study of and flying flags). He has 60 flags and he showed us the Guernsey flag with its golden cross of Normandy on St George's cross. He told us that the Union Jack was so named because the Union Flag was run up the jack staff on Royal Navy ships, in fact our national flag is the Union Flag.

After putting on his chef's jacket, apron and hat, Gerald entertained and challenged us with a food quiz, all the while telling jokes and giving cookery tips and recipes. Few of us knew that Bombay duck is a fish; that a spatchcock is a flattened chicken or where creme brulée originated. The answer is Trinity College in Cambridge.

We then enjoyed an Easter cake made by member Eileen Impey and said goodbye to Joan Camus who is leaving the village.

The speaker at our next meeting, on 7<sup>th</sup> May, is Mrs Wendy Marshgreen on the subject of *The Art of Accessorising*.  
Sally Proberts

# Bonfire advice from Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

IF you are going to have a bonfire this summer, please ensure you take care when doing so.

Before lighting, check children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.

Never leave unattended and dampen down with water if you have to leave it.

Do not light in unsuitable weather – especially on windy days and take care that the smoke is not a nuisance to others, or obstructing traffic.

Never burn flammable liquids or burn aerosols, paint, foam furniture or tyres.

Build bonfires clear of buildings, including garden sheds and hedges.

Thank you to residents who attended car washes held at many of our community fire stations in March, which raised more than £1,500 for the Fire Fighters Charity.

Community groups can now bid to secure a slice of £36,000 from the service's new community fund to help tackle arson in the county, closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> June. For information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk)

In May the last of six new rescue pumps will provide Cambridgeshire with more life saving equipment for fire crews who are first to arrive at the scene of incidents.

During March 13 new on-call fire fighters were welcomed into the service at various stations across the county. If you are interested in becoming an on-call fire fighter, please call 01480 444500 and see the front page of this paper.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.

Leanne Ehren

Media and Communication Officer

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**THE LINTON NEWS** Next Publication 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013  
**DEADLINES for ADVERTS** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
**NEWS ITEMS** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May  
**ITEMS FOR ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
Limited space on waiting list for Linton businesses  
Changes to ads can be sent to: Judith Rouse  
email: [adds@linton.info](mailto:adds@linton.info)  
**ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR**  
Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office  
Editor: Wendy Foster email: [lneditor@linton.info](mailto:lneditor@linton.info)  
phone 891626  
**For distribution queries contact: Kate France 891602**

## LINTON DIARY

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

Please refrain from putting commercial/business dates into the Linton diary, these will not appear in the Linton News.

Only dates for clubs and groups will go in.  
You may also send an email with your event details to [diary@linton.info](mailto:diary@linton.info), or use the form on [www.linton.info](http://www.linton.info).

Call 971797 for an audio version of the Linton News  
Details of items in bold type may be found elsewhere in this edition.

**WEEKLY**

Cricket practice sessions, Sunday, 1pm & Thursdays 6pm	LVC
Conkers childrens' centre, 9.30am-12.30pm, Wed-Fri	CC
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays.	VH
Chestnutbaby/toddlergroup, 9.30-11.30am Mondays term time	CC
Linton Granta football bingo, 7pm Mondays	Pavilion
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, Tuesdays, 10am, term-time	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	CP
Linton Granta toddlers, 9.30-11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Granta bridge club, 2pm Tuesdays	VH
Table tennis club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	URC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays (893509)	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Tots in tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays, term time only	VH
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Bumps to babies, 1.15-2.45pm Thursdays	CC
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	CP
St Mary's church choir, 7-8.30pm Fridays	St Mary's
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call LVC sports centre on 890248

**MAY**

1 Reading group, 8pm	D&D
2 Luncheon club, 12noon	Old Red Lion, Horseheath
4 Library storytime, 2pm-2.30pm	Library
4 Farmers' and arts & craft market, 9am	LVC
5 <b>Bartlow walk, 10am</b>	<b>Bartlow</b>
6 Camera club, 7.15pm	CC
7 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
7 <b>WI, 7.30pm</b>	<b>VH</b>
7 <b>Book festival meeting, 8pm</b>	<b>CP</b>
9 <b>ACE Posh Ploughman's Lunch, 12.30pm</b>	<b>URC Hall</b>
9 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC
14 <b>Gardening club, 7.30pm</b>	<b>VH</b>
14 Asthma UK Fair, 10am-4pm	Chilford Hall
14 Storytime, 2pm	Library
15 CAMTAD hearing help, 9.30am-12noon	HC
15 <b>Friends of Linton Library AGM, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
17 <b>Linton infants PTA Summer Fair, 5pm</b>	<b>Infant school</b>
18 <b>Balsham Singers' Concert, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Church, Balsham</b>
21 History society, 7.30pm	VH
23 Parish council meeting, 7.30pm	VH
30 Village hall trustees AGM, 8pm	VH upstairs

**JUNE**

1 Farmer's market and arts & craft market, 9am	LVC
4 Storytime, 2pm	Library
5 Reading group, 8pm	D&D
6 Luncheon club, 12noon	Old Red Lion, Horseheath
6 Parish Council meeting, 8pm	CC

For Cathodeon Centre bookings contact Sue Mudge, 07765 369266

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

Library times: Mon closed; Tues 10am-5pm; Wed 4pm-7pm; Thurs 2pm-5pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.

Linton refuse collection: 7<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> May & 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Linton recycling collection: 13<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May

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# Much ado about nothing



Scene from the play by Sawston Dramawise

Picture by Frances Brownlie

CONGRATULATIONS to Sawston's performing arts group Dramawise on winning the youth trophy for ensemble work and the overall first trophy for their production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the 49th Sawston Drama Festival. They were thrilled to be placed first as all the other entrants were adult drama groups.

Dramawise were praised for putting over this very difficult play, making it easy to understand and their attention to detail. They have been invited to perform at the National Drama festivals final, where only the best groups from all over England are invited.

On Saturday 29th June and Sunday 30th June, students will be performing their end of year shows at Whittlesford Millenium hall. Seniors will be presenting the musical *The Boyfriend*, and the juniors a new musical *The Rats*, which has been especially written for them.

Receiving constructive feedback is a regular part of our drama sessions. Students learn that this is a helpful part of learning and not something to be offended by or taken personally. They practice developing healthy work habits of being on time for rehearsals and performances, respecting the contributions of others and putting effort into the success of the final piece.

In the performing arts, the reward for dedication is the warm feeling of an audience's applause, which makes all your efforts worthwhile.

Dramawise takes place at the Free Church, High Street, Sawston on Friday nights during term time and is for ages four to 17. For more information contact frances.wyse@btinternet.com  
Frances Brownlie

# A magical history tour....

ACES were right - too cold for a coach trip - instead we had a soup and rolls lunch with a mystery presentation. We were pleased to welcome Fabio Tartarini from the University Magic society, who entertained us with *The Roots of Magic - history, illusion and a bit of science*.

Magic began as part of religious life. Cave paintings and Egyptian murals depict magical and shamanistic practices. Illusions are documented in the Bible. The trick of swapping the head of a white duck and a black hen (documented around 3,000 years ago) was replicated in a recent magic show - astonishing the audience just as it did centuries before. Some famous magicians and their innovations were illustrated along with the ways these might be achieved, distraction and sleight of hand are the core, no matter how complex the delivery. Escapology was included using film of Houdini and Paul Daniels repeated another historic trick - how did that ring appear in the orange?

Fabio showed examples of magic through the ages, but was careful not to give away how they were done. Some illusions on the television might not be as quite as they appear - electronics might have taken over from smoke and mirrors.

The next event will be a Posh Ploughman's lunch. This will be on the 9th May at the URC Hall. Rex Freeman will give instruction on how to grow old disgracefully - as if we needed any more encouragement.

Events are for all older people. Lifts are available.

Enid Bald 891069

## Distribution of funds by the Anderson Trust

*AS directed by the terms of the Anderson Trust the trustees approved the 2013 distribution of the £6,990 interest received from investments to the following applicants:*

*£1,000 to Linton CE Infant School for development of a prayer space and training for key staff:*

*£5,000 to the Beacon Trust towards salary and ongoing costs for a youth worker:*

*£400 to St Mary's church - cost of core materials for Messy Church:*

*£340 to Linton Heights PTF - purchase of books for the school library: and lastly -*

*£250 to the Chestnut Playgroup - seats and tools for work in the garden.*

*The Anderson Trust was established in 1998 as a result of the sale of Church Cottage in Linton, the former home of Professor Charles and Mrs Mary Anderson.*

*The trust terms specify that funds should be devoted to promoting the Christian religion in and from the Parish of St Mary's Linton; to sustain the church of St Mary's and worship therein; to promote education for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton, particularly for the benefit of the church school and of religious teaching in Linton and for any other charitable purpose for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton.*  
Kate France

# In your own time ... It's a very small world



Ron Pitkin with his model of *The House that Moved*

Picture taken by Sarah Hurcum

"SMALL is beautiful" - so said Prof. J Schumacher in 1977. Ron Pitkin would agree as he is busy building his third dolls' house.

Ron retired as New Products Development Manager with General Motors in 1993 and since then has designed and built two farm houses for his granddaughter. She is now grown up but both houses have been played with by her and are still in pristine condition at her home, where they are on display and will be kept for posterity.

At present Ron is working on a tudor house, a copy of which became known as *The House that Moved*. It was built in Exeter in the reign of Henry VII but was jacked up and moved in 1961 to make way for a new inner bypass. Ron has built the model not from

a kit but to detailed plans and to the usual scale for dolls' houses of 1/12, which makes a convenient conversion from feet to inches. The timber structure and internal beams are reasonably accurate and are representative of similar structures of the period.

This is the biggest house he has built and was started in 2009. The roof is clad with 896 tiles, all hand cut from mahogany. It is still in construction as Ron has many other interests including photography, watercolour painting and building Stirling and hot air engines in miniature.

Eventually it will be a gift to his first great grandchild Imogen who is only 18 months old at the moment. For Ron the phrase it's a small world has taken on a whole new meaning.

Sarah Hurcum

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75g caster sugar  
185g plain flour  
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
30g chopped walnuts, toasted  
190g dark choc bits  
Preheat oven to moderately hot.

smooth. Stir in sifted dry ingredients, nuts and chocolate bits.  
Drop level tablespoons of mixture about 5cm apart on greased oven trays, press down lightly.  
Bake in moderately hot oven for 12 minutes or until browned lightly.  
Stand cookies two minutes before lifting onto wire tray and allow to cool if you can.

Beat butter, essence, sugars and egg in a small bowl until

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# Linton Country Diary by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams



## The season of hope

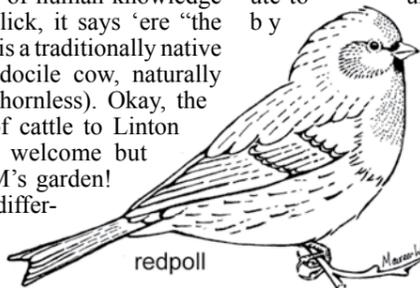
THE diary entry date is 7.23am Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013. One hand taps an iPad, the other hugs a mug of English breakfast tea. A window ajar allows a blend of cool dawn air and chorus. A jubilant song thrush competes for ace position in my audile image.

However, our illustrious illustrator claims first prize for revealing last month's siskins are superseded by redpolls, thus causing such green enviable excitement the moss upon my wall mysteriously vanished. Do'h! Time now 7.40am. The fact is, dear readers that I know little about redpolls save for the logical – a biological life form with feathers, possibly red. Visiting Maureen's bird-table suggests agile feeders of

Scandinavian origin on a diet of seed. Now, she didn't actually mention the table so a couple of clicks will reveal, well, almost the sum of human knowledge Click Click, it says 'ere "the red poll is a traditionally native British docile cow, naturally polled (hornless). Okay, the return of cattle to Linton is most welcome but not in M's garden! What a difference a space

makes. Click, and the redpoll is, all we surmised, yet not entirely red; just a patch on its head. Now, the oracle continues to say several species of these northern woodland breeding birds exist with

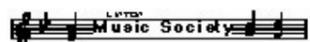
a photograph of one from Finland. The truth is, information at ones fingertips is useful but what joy to extract and contribute to understanding real life observation. I didn't really imagine cows swinging from Maureen's bird-table did I? 7.52am, actually I did, but it's time to close that window, cool turned cold. Gardeners tell of weeks behind sowing. Kicking my way recently down our village lanes, looking for what at first I cannot see.



redpoll

Let me explain - our brains love regularity, continuity and structure - so much so it often sees what it expects to see and unless one tells it to expect something completely or even ever-so-slightly different it honestly can't be bothered, (7.56am ) hence replaced by what it already knows. 7.58am – I had a hunch something was odd for the time of year, I felt receptive, then eureka! I observed an abundance of dried leaves beneath hedgerow seemingly lacking worm or chemical activity. This phenomenon exaggerated by the lack of green shoots. Last time I noted such oddity so late in the year, t'was followed by a long hot late summer. 8am. Wishful thinking? Sigh!

### Instant Sunshine



YES, it's Instant Sunshine! Sounds like a holiday in the Seychelles or the latest offering from Kelloggs. But actually they're probably more of a cross between Flanders & Swan and the Cirque du Soleil. Various described as the cutting edge of comic song or the evening wear window at Moss Bros, Instant Sunshine is three dinner-jacketed men of a certain age, singing their own original humorous songs, gently mocking the British way of life.

Expert comic timing-----genuinely literate cabaret. New York Times.

See them at 7.30pm on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May at Linton village college. Tickets are



The members of Instant Sunshine

Picture supplied by Instant Sunshine

available at the door or in advance, in person or by telephone, from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street.

Prices are £12 for adults, £10 for concessions and £2 for students under 18.

For more information contact me:

Linda Bird at lindabird@waitrose.com

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### Local event celebrates National Baby Massage Week

A FREE information event and taster session is taking place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at the Spotted Giraffe Cafe soft play centre in Linton, to celebrate National Baby Massage Week.

Parents can attend to learn more about the benefits of baby massage. The event will be run by Linton mum, Sophie Phillips, a fully qualified baby massage instructor trained by the International Association of Infant Massage (IAIM). Sophie said: "Baby massage draws on techniques from Indian and Swedish massage, yoga and reflexology. It brings huge benefits for both the child and parents – helping parents bond with their baby, reducing crying, promoting better sleep, aiding digestion, and relieving colic and teething pains. Above all, it helps the baby to feel loved.

We are inviting the mums and dads of Linton and the surrounding area to find out more about our local classes and see what we do." Attendance is free, however you are invited to make a donation to the Rosie Hospital Campaign.

To book a place at the Baby Massage event, please contact Sophie on 07766 702307 or email info@SocialLittleThings.co.uk

Sophie Phillips

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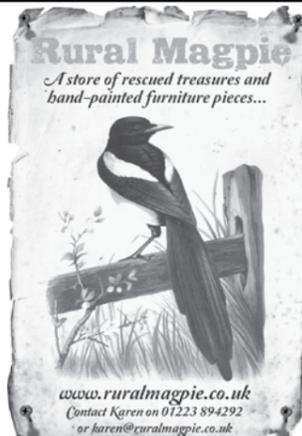
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# The Derbyshire Post



WE have had a really exciting early spring at LVC: the production of *Guys and Dolls* brought the community together in a wonderful celebration of the talent of our young people: a large number of the staff volunteered their time to help with the front of house, behind the stage with the set, by playing in the band, by selling refreshments or by directing and the audience was packed on both Friday and Saturday nights. The show was also previewed by children from Granta school and some of the senior citizens in the community. This kind of event reveals a village college at its very best. Our director, Laura Cassidy, deserves a special mention. She broke her leg a few weeks before the performance but remained completely committed to the notion that the show must go on and hobbled her way through rehearsals and ignored her own discomfort.

This month we also received the news that Linton village college has been awarded Teaching School Status. This means that we will be leading an alliance of schools in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk with a view to training teachers to teach: both new entrants to the profession and those progressing in their careers to leadership roles. It is a great honour to be one of the 350 primary and secondary schools nationally that are recognised as strong enough to take on this responsibility. We are looking forward to it. We have built an alliance of many first class education providers: Suffolk and Cambs local authorities, the Faculty of Education at Cambridge University, Sawston village college, Thurston community college, Castle Manor Partnership, the Granta School and Linton infant school.

There has been much to celebrate, I just wish that the warmth of feeling that we have about our village college was matched by some warmer weather!

Caroline Derbyshire

## Computing help with the WEA

THE Linton WEA in association with Hildersham History Records HLF project *Hildersham - A century of change between 1800 - 1900 - A village transformed* is going to put on a selection of individual courses over the summer months to help local people gain new IT skills that will help develop skills and knowledge in areas which play a vital part of everyday life.

Courses include the following:

- *Digital Scrapbooking and Personal Archiving*

Learn to create a digital scrapbook – this course will be a great way to begin digitally documenting your personal and family history.

- *Get to know your own Laptop*

Bring in your laptop to gain general confidence in using your computer, find where things are and how to use them. We will be answering your particular questions and passing on our own hints and tips on how to do things more easily.

- *Digital Photography*

For beginners who own a digital camera and want to maximise its potential.

All these courses will be held at Hildersham village hall. To find out more details please visit either [www.lintonwea.org.uk/courses.htm](http://www.lintonwea.org.uk/courses.htm) or [www.hildersham.org.uk/history.htm](http://www.hildersham.org.uk/history.htm) or [info@lintonwea.org.uk](mailto:info@lintonwea.org.uk)

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**S/0655/13/FL** Mr & Ms J&C Long & Alberg, **117 High Street.**  
Two storey rear extension and internal alterations to create annexe.

**S/0663/13/FL** Extensions

**S/0686/13/LB** Mr & Ms J&C Long & Alberg, **117 High Street.** Demolish lean-to, internal alterations and two storey extension - re-open first floor doorway, move kitchen partition and form ground floor shower room.



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# The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

## The Linton beef scandals

IN the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries inspection of shops was rigorous in checking correct labelling of food products. A village policeman acted as weights and measures inspector to check the labelling of food and accuracy of shopkeepers' scales.

Much of the meat and fruit sold was imported and was much cheaper than the English equivalent. The recent horsemeat scandal would have been unlikely to have gone undetected for long in earlier times. County food inspectors regularly inspected shops and prosecuted if cheaper foreign produce was not correctly labelled.

In Linton the best quality meat was sold by John Osmond, the butcher at 32 High Street, who had a large slatted timber barn at the rear of the premises which served as his slaughterhouse.

Older villagers have told me that all the upper classes dealt with Mr Osmond. On April 18<sup>th</sup> 1928 villagers were shocked to hear that the Linton court had found the case proved against Mr Osmond for selling unlabelled imported Australian



Left: pre WWI, Osmond, Butchers at 32 High Street and right: Cullings Butcher also at 32 High Street in the mid 1930s, with Maurice Wright on the left



Pictures kindly supplied by the Cambridge Collection

beef which he was selling as English. He was fined four shillings plus costs.

Osmond lost trade and sold the business in 1935 to Len Culling who sold the premises in the 1950s to Meeks, a local builder, who let the shop to Barclays's Bank.

The slaughterhouse became a builders' store and workshop. Most of the ground to the rear – as far as Amhurst – was divided into pens for the butcher's stock. The barn, converted to a house was recently re-named *The Workshop* because

the builder used it as such.

Sometimes prosecutions failed. In November 1929 Herbert Stanley Coxall, a Linton High Street grocer was prosecuted for selling cheaper Dutch tomatoes as English produce. There was a 1d difference in the price. An inspector saw Mrs Coxall in the shop with trays of tomatoes on view. She said some were English and some Dutch and she had put

the foreign produce to one side and forgotten to label them but her customers always knew the difference.

The case was dismissed on a legal technicality. Under the Mislabeling of Goods Act, the inspector should have counted the unlabelled tomatoes and weighed them since a shopkeeper could not be prosecuted if the weight of the tomatoes did not exceed 14lbs.

## LVC Saturday workshops

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11 <sup>th</sup> May	Indian Massage	10am – 4pm
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18 <sup>th</sup> May	Indian Cookery	9.30am – 3pm
	Homeopathy	10am – 1.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Indian Cookery	9.30am – 3pm
	Homeopathy	10am – 1.30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Indian Cookery	9.30am – 3pm
	Homeopathy	10am – 1.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Homeopathy	10am-1.30pm
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## Scam, a warning

A WHITE male aged about late 40s, 5ft 10 with short mousey hair, clean shaven. He speaks with an English accent. He carries a bag containing scales to weigh gold/silver. Prior to him attending, someone delivers glossy A4 size brochures which are coloured and professional looking. Details of the brochure are as follows:

*Lochaber Highland Estates*

*I am in your area for the following week and wish to purchase the following items: Unwanted or damaged jewellery, silver or silver plate. All types of watches in any condition. Medals and coins.*

*Also required in any condition: .....*

*If you have any items not listed here that you think we would be interested in please contact Paul on 07733 335801.*

The victim gave him some gold jewellery which he paid for. After he left she noticed three rings that she wanted to keep were missing, the man hadn't paid for the rings. He even went upstairs with the lady to look at her jewellery. The internet has been checked regarding the Lochaber Highland Estates and there is no mention relating to buying and selling of any of the items above. The company is related to scams. Please be careful when dealing with such people who offer good money for your unwanted old jewellery. If you do receive anything that you're not sure of go with your gut instinct and ignore it. If they turn up on your doorstep you don't have to answer the door.

PCSOs Chris Pulley and Leanne Fisher, Linton Safer Neighbourhood Team.

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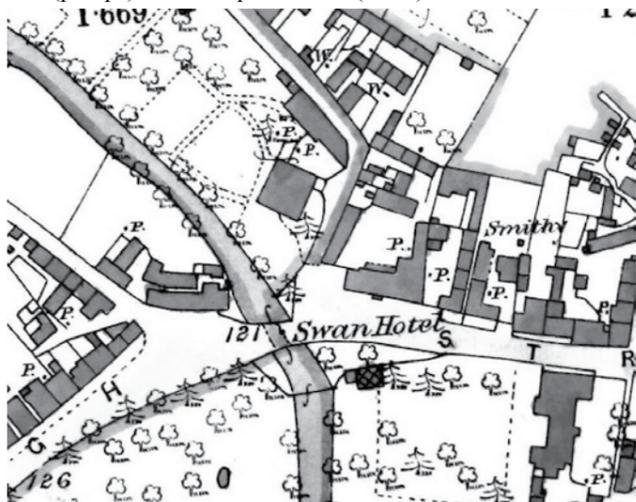
# Parish Council Matters

## Living in Linton over 100 years ago

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

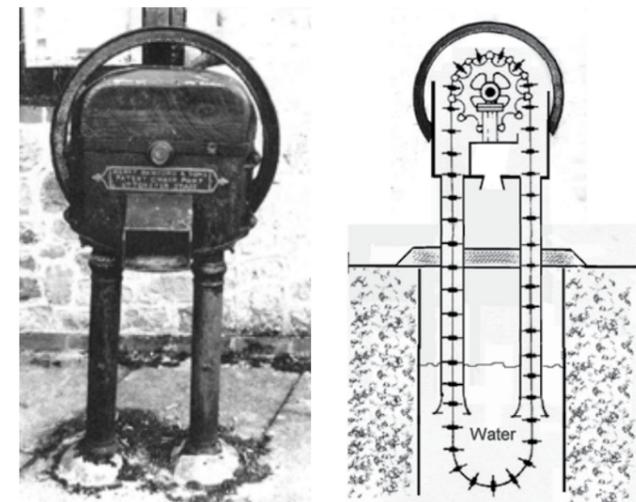
HAVE you ever thought what it would have been like to have lived in Linton just over 100 years ago?

We take for granted the water appearing at the turn of a tap, and the convenience of the flushing toilet. But the water and sewerage system were not laid on in the village until the 1930s. So where did the water come from? If you look at the section of the 1885 Ordnance Survey map produced here you can see many 'Ps' (pumps) and a couple of 'Ws' (wells).



Ordnance Survey 1885

In examination of the whole map of the village it is possible to identify over 156 wells and pumps. Of course the map did not identify all the wells (which fed the pumps), as demonstrated by the well opening up under the feet of a worker at Symonds House a few years back. This well did not appear on any map. Also not shown is the pump which was situated opposite the Swan Hotel. This in 1885, was of an unusual design, it was a chain pump (see picture and diagram), which used a continuous chain with discs at intervals, which drew water up through pipes when a handle was turned.



A chain pump

Unfortunately, it evidently was very noisy, as the occupants of the Swan Hotel complained about its use during the night. This pump was mostly used to fill the water cart that sprayed water

onto the High Street to clean the street which was rather dusty and dirty, and not properly surfaced at the time.



The water cart outside Bull House

At a meeting of the recently formed parish council in 1896, Mr Holtum stated on behalf of the committee responsible for street watering: "That the well, used for filling the water cart had been sunk three feet deeper and a water pump erected in place of the chain pump". These pumps and wells were not always free from pollution, due to contamination from 'night soil' (sewage), which was either deposited in pits or collected in a cart by an employee of the council (who deposited it in a place not known). In 1899 there was a council minute to the effect that a proposal to provide a deep water well and pump at the Balsham Road corner was no longer necessary as the wells where the outbreak of typhoid fever occurred were declared satisfactory. The river was also in a pretty poor state and often referred to as 'an open sewer'. My house, 'Richmonds' (at the time called Linton Gully), had a rather ingenious system in that water from the roof gully was collected in a tank in the roof and used to operate a Victorian flushing 'Throne' toilet, the effluent from which was carried by a conduit straight down to the river!

However, despite these rather primitive features, Linton was well served by shops and trades so that almost all one required for living could be found within the village, and it was not necessary to take the train or horse-drawn transport into Cambridge to obtain goods. At present in Linton we have some dozen or so shops, but as revealed by the 1881 census there was a multitude of small businesses and trades available to the inhabitants. A list of some of the occupations, and the number of people in them, follows: three postmen, one letter carrier, one carrier, one fly cart proprietor, two carmen, 11 laundresses, two chemist & druggists, two confectioners, one news agent, two corn merchants, two coal merchants, one draper, two grocers & drapers, two grocers, three tailors, 18 dress makers, six milliners, seven seamstresses, one hairdresser, one ironmonger, five corn millers, one nurseryman, one rag & bone merchant, three watchmakers, six innkeepers & publicans, one brewer & hotel keeper, four brewers, three licensed victuallers, three beer house keepers, one maltster, one baker & publican, one cooper, seven bakers, five butchers, two fishmongers, 12 farmers, eight blacksmiths, one white smith & insurance agent, seven boot & shoe makers, 18 bricklayers, two builders, two lathrenders, 18 carpenters and sawyers, three plumbers, two house decorators, four painters & glaziers, one mantle maker, two chimney sweeps, four coach makers, one farrier, five harness makers, two rope makers, one tanner, four thatchers, five wheelwrights, two doctors, one solicitor, one cattle dealer and three nurses.

Of a population in 1881 of 1754, there were over 200 farm labourers, a reflection of the labour intensive industry that was farming a century ago. There were also 38 registered paupers.

Despite our current fascination with period TV dramas and films, I think that I prefer to live in the present.

Cllr Brian Cox

## Community

SINCE moving to Linton two years ago, and being a member of the parish council for a year now, I have been overwhelmed with the sense of community that Linton has. With the parish council being such an influential part of the community, it is always important for the community to be actively involved in what happens in the village.

Mr Walker is a prime example of this active involvement in the community. He single handedly spearheaded the play area redevelopment by gaining grants and along with others raised a large amount of money so that he could achieve his goal. This has made the play area a huge asset to the community as a whole.

While there are too many examples of individuals and groups to name them all, this type of community involvement is pretty much unheard of, not only in Cambridgeshire but across the UK. This great sense of Lintonian community involvement first became apparent to me at a consultation about the recreation ground parking. With many people turning up to voice their opinions and views on the matter, this provided me with my first taste of direct democracy which had eluded me up until that point. I had been naïve in thinking the community was, to put it, helpless in the decision making. However as a member of the parish council I can honestly say that every voice and opinion

was heard and every one was valued in our discussions and our decision was one that reflected the views of the people. We don't just work for you, as I have found out, we work with you.

In the future the community will be an integral part of plans being made in Linton, with the new local plan, and neighbourhood plan, as well as possible consultations considering the A1307 and local transport. These consultations and public feedback make the council's

job much easier, our jobs much more legitimate and provides the community with a sense that Linton is changing because the people of Linton want it to not because it has to.

Linton has a fantastic community spirit and I hope this continues long into the future making Linton better not only today but also laying the foundations for the future generations to be prosperous and happy living here.

Cllr Keiran Wakley



New play equipment and plaques

Pictures taken by Sue Parry



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# Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**Present:** R Hickford (chairman and district councillor), D Champion, Ms E Cornell, Mrs S Dew, B Manley, D Penfold, G Potter, K Wakley, Mrs A Walker and Mrs A Meeks (assistant to the clerk). Mrs K France (press) was also in attendance with four members of the public.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Bald, Cox, Hunt, Mannassi, Poulter, Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk).

**Disclosure of interest:** Under the Cathodeon Centre item Cllr Champion declared an interest as a trustee of the Cathodeon Centre.

**Chairman's comments:** The chairman confirmed the status of Linton parish council as being non political by default.

**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February:** Under the item on safety measures in Hadstock Road, Cllr Champion advised that traffic speed counters would be fitted in due course at the following locations: Hadstock Road near to the zoo, Horseheath Road near Lonsdale, Back Road near Symonds Lane and Balsham Road near Wheatsheaf Way. Speed checks would be continuing in Hadstock Road. Details of the Speedwatch programme were being obtained.

Under the district councillor report item, Cllr Hickford said advice had just been received regarding extending the village framework to include Paynes Meadow (exception site) and the village green (Camping Close). It was not recommended and the papers would be in the post-out for the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Report from Cathodeon trustees** (deferred from meetings of 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February): Cllr Champion said that on checking his notes of 7<sup>th</sup> February he had only been requested to provide council with a three year business plan and estimates, not to produce an agreement. On checking with the clerk no agreement concerning responsibilities could be found, with everything seemingly undertaken on goodwill and trust to date. On behalf of the trustees Cllr Champion said that before any proposed agreement was brought to council it would have to be agreed by all the trustees and this matter would be on the agenda for their next meeting.

The chair asked for a proposed draft management agreement to be brought to council to comment on before finalisation by the trustees and this was agreed, noting that the trustees did not meet nearly as often as council. Cllr Potter said he had relevant papers which he would make available to Cllr Champion and the clerk. It was agreed to put this item back on the agenda for a May meeting.

Cllr Champion advised that the trees had been cut at a cost to the trustees due to the imminent nesting season.

**Allotments update:** The allotment association had responded to the request for an estimate of the amount of land required. With an immediate need for a potential 80 residents (at 12 plots per acre but with some choosing a half plot) and provision for a car park, toilets, paths and admin/stores, the minimum would be five acres.

Cllr Champion considered that with smaller plots as recommended by Cheffins 15 to 18 plots per acre could be achieved. He thought council should only be negotiating for land needed for an allotment site, and if permission was granted for development the developers would only want to build by Horseheath Road and this would open the floodgates and create a precedent.

The chair said council would listen to the landowner to see if there was a benefit to the community on any development but that council would be going for compulsory purchase for the allotment land required. A meeting was due to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> March between Carter Jonas and the Diocese with the chair and vice chair present. It was agreed that this meeting would be minuted with the content made public at the next council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The chair made it clear that any benefit to the community would need to be substantial for it to come back to council for debate and for it to defer the progressing of compulsory purchase. Ms Irana Morrish advised that the allotment association had produced a map which she agreed to provide to the clerk.

Ms Monica Poulter, who represented support community action for responsible development (SCARD), asked on what basis development was being discussed - noting a lack of response from Carter Jonas, the site being outside village boundary and the traffic issues involved. The chair detailed the recent change of position at South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) on the strategic housing land availability assessment sites (SHLAA) in that it cannot demonstrate the five-year land supply required by the national planning policy framework (NPPF). Developers were using this as a loophole to push through development and Carter Jonas was revisiting sites. The Horseheath Road site and the Station Road site had not had as robust objections from Cambridgeshire county council highways as other SHLAA sites. It was clarified that 10 houses plus was considered a large development.

The chair commented on the police houses site and the balance needed between development and infrastructure. If the A1307 was upgraded and made safer by improvements, much more development would be possible.

Cllr Cornell clarified that talking to landowners on development to get allotments had been considered by council in the past, quoting the Balsham Road site which had gone to SCDC planning.

The chair repeated the default position of council compulsorily purchasing the allotment land identified by the allotment association. However the same land looked likely to be subject to a planning application.

## LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk

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Dates for full council meetings:  
9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013

All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre  
commencing at 8pm

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

**Present:** R Hickford (chairman and district councillor), arrived at 8.10pm, Mrs E Bald (vice chairman), Dr B Cox, B Manley, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter, P Poulter, K Wakley, Mrs A Walker and Mrs S Parry (clerk). District councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were also in attendance with three members of the public.

In the absence of the chairman the vice chairman opened the meeting of the parish council at 8.05pm.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Champion, Cornell, Dew, Hunt, Penfold and county councillor Batchelor. Cllr Wilson was also absent.

**Declarations of interest:** Under the allotments item, Cllr Poulter declared a pecuniary interest as a resident and owner of a property in Lonsdale bordering the proposed allotment site.

**Chairman's comments:** The vice chairman reported that very favourable comments had been received following work in the Cemetery by the community payback group and it was hoped that they would be able to undertake longer term projects there soon.

Cllr Walker was asked to report on the neighbourhood police panel meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Walker reported that crime numbers were almost unchanged on the previous three months, 34 compared to 33; anti-social behaviour was up, 20 compared to 18, however 14 incidents related to one individual (charges were being brought). During the recent week of action on Hadstock

Road to A1307 - 91 fixed penalty notices had been served for speeding and further checks would be carried out. In a recent survey Linton village college (LVC) pupils had stated that their main concerns were anti-social behaviour etc on the recreation ground and they would like to see a higher police presence there. Traffic counters had been placed on Bartlow, Back and Balsham Roads however a different system of counting was required in Hadstock Road and this was being investigated. Cllr Walker would provide clarification as to whether the traffic counters were recording the number or the speed of vehicles. She would also request a copy of the LVC survey.

**Written report from the county councillor:** Noted.

**Written reports from the district councillors:** Noted.

**Allotments update:** An email had been received from the Diocesan office acknowledging that traffic was a major issue with any proposed development on the site. A traffic report had been commissioned which stated that even with the development, traffic levels would still be within acceptable limits. The county council highways team had been consulted to get their view on the proposals but no response had been received. On Monday the Diocese had learned that the county archaeologist required archaeological excavations to be undertaken before any planning proposals were submitted. The Diocesan office also stated it was sympathetic to the parish council's need to provide allotments and would be happy to try and help find a solution. Once further progress with the matters above had been made they would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with the parish council to discuss a way forward. Much discussion took place and although council were pleased to have had a response from the Diocesan office they felt that it did not offer the opportunity for robust negotiation. Cllr Mannassi proposed that the council reverts to its default position whereby it continues with compulsory purchase on land identified by the allotment association. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Walker.

Cllr Potter proposed an amendment to the proposal being that the council reverts to its default position whereby it continues with compulsory purchase on land identified by the allotment association because the Diocese had not entered into robust negotiation. The amended proposal was seconded by Cllr Manley. A vote to accept this amendment took place with five votes in favour, two votes against and one abstention.

Further discussion took place. Cllr Poulter left the room. A vote on the amended proposal took place with four votes in favour and three votes against. Proposal carried. Cllr Poulter returned to the meeting.

**Pavilion lease update:** Cllr Manley reported that the chairman, secretary and treasurer of Linton Granta football club were happy to accept the amended lease. He therefore proposed that the council accepts the amended lease. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Poulter and resolved by Council.

**Correspondence received for consideration:** The county council had requested financial help for repairs to Bakers Lane. It was agreed to contact the county council rights-of-way officer stating that Bakers Lane was a private road, and although the parish council was unwilling to pay for road planings it would be willing to liaise and help with respect to the distribution of planings via the community payback team.

Cambridgeshire libraries had requested a donation for the Summer Reading Challenge. Cllr Bald proposed that £200 be granted for the Summer Reading Challenge. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Wakley and resolved by the meeting.

CGM Ltd had sent a further response to complaints. Cllr Bald reported that a dead lime tree in the cemetery had been felled earlier in the week and two others were being closely monitored. The district council tree officer was investigating the use of Glyphosate by CGM Ltd as a possible cause. It was agreed that Cllr Bald draft a further letter to CGM Ltd.

The district council response to the local green spaces consultation was noted.

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

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